Supportive Alumni

A number of years ago I had a colleague tell me the difference in a good university and a great university is the support of its alumni. Arguably, there are a number of other factors that separate good from great when it comes to institutions of higher education, but I would rank alumni support as being near the top.

Recently, our university has experienced a resurgence in alumni involvement. This is evidenced through an increase in alumni giving and participation in university-related events. Our division has experienced this generosity firsthand. For example, alumni interest in our Baylor Missions programs has resulted in greater financial support for students and participation by alumni in several trips. At a recent Student Life Advisory Board meeting, a husband/wife team, both alums, shared their experiences in accompanying a missions team to Africa. It was a moving account of how our students touched their lives as well as the lives of those they went to serve. In yet another display of alumni support, 30 former Student Body Presidents and Permanent Class Presidents returned to campus in February to participate in a workshop that focused on improving communication within each alumni class and developing stronger support for the university among their peers. The following week, another group of over 25 alumni gathered as the inaugural Baylor Alumni Network Advisory Board. This board will provide advice to the Baylor Alumni Network on how to continue to expand university outreach efforts on behalf of alumni around the world. These are just three examples of how our alumni are engaging at deeper levels with the university.

Yes, supportive alumni do make a difference in the life of a university. And, here at Baylor, we are the benefactors of a growing group of alums who are providing additional support through sharing their time, talent, treasure, and touch with the university. This is what we refer to as "That Good Old Baylor Line"--a tradition that has shaped our past, supports us in the present, and will play a critical role in lighting the way to a bright future.

Please join me in showing our appreciation to the alumni of Baylor University.

Truly,
Baylor Greeks Receive National Awards

Recognition has once again found its way to Baylor’s campus through the efforts and achievements of our fraternities and sororities. Delta Epsilon Psi, Pi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Iota Alpha each received awards highlighting their accomplishments over the previous year. Sigma Iota Alpha sorority returned from their Founder’s Convention with Most Improved Undergraduate Chapter of the Year. Baylor graduate Mayra Maldonado (’13), 2012 Baylor Greek Woman of the Year, was also awarded the Unicorn Award: Undergraduate of the Year for her commitment to academic excellence. The last award given to Sigma Iota Alpha was to chapter advisor and alumna, Alma Sanchez. She was awarded the Young Alumna of the Year award for her contribution toward reestablishing the Gamma Lambda Graduate Alumnae Chapter.

Delta Epsilon Psi fraternity left their National Convention with the awards for Chapter of the Year and Rookie of the Year. The chapter has worked diligently to strengthen their chapter along with contributing to their philanthropy. Jonathan Jaoude, a junior from Houston, chaired major fundraising events that raised over $10,000 dollars for charity on behalf of the chapter. These accomplishments were few of many that helped Jaoude earn the recognition of Rookie of the Year.

Pi Kappa Phi fraternity also brought home four awards dedicated to their achievements in philanthropy from their Mid-Year Leadership Conference. The chapter received the Centennial Society Award for raising over $100 dollars per man for their philanthropy, Push America. They also accepted two awards for placing in the top ten chapters in the nation for per-man fundraising and total fundraising. Their dedication to their philanthropy also resulted in The Gold Star Award, that is given to chapters which fulfill over 90 percent of the objectives set by their national headquarters. The men of Pi Kappa Phi continue to strive as a chapter while building a Baylor tradition with their War of the Roses competition that benefits Push America.

Delta Epsilon Psi, Pi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Iota Alpha are just a few of our chapters to receive national awards in recent years. We continue to see Baylor organizations make every effort to reach the top within their respective national organization and represent Baylor University on the national stage.
All-Greek Leadership Retreat

As the New Year rang in, so did the leadership for our Baylor Greek-letter organizations. Greek Life hosted their 2014 Greek Leadership Retreat on January 24th and 25th with author and inspirational keynote speaker Dr. Kevin Snyder. This two-day event, the first over-night retreat to be done by Greek Life, focused on taking pride in Greek involvement and the benefits of membership. The first night included community building activities, sessions on risk management, media relations, and Baylor Greek history, along with a time for reflection. The retreat continued with a discussion on leadership skills and goal setting for the students. Chapter presidents and council executive board members were encouraged by Snyder to have deeper connections within their organizations and have greater community impact. This retreat created opportunities for our leaders not only to meet one another but to build relationships in order to continue to strengthen the Baylor Greek Community. As the semester continues, our chapter presidents and council leaders will strive to apply what they have learned from this retreat and impact the Baylor community.
Welcome Weekend

At the beginning of this semester the Department of New Student Programs (NSP) hosted Welcome Weekend for incoming first-year and transfer students admitted to Baylor in the spring semester. Welcome Weekend is a three-day transition program that includes social activities and informational sessions. New students were put into small groups where they learned more about the spirit and traditions of Baylor, meaningful service, and how to develop friendships. Highlights from the program included: attending a Baylor Men’s Basketball game, exploration of the downtown Waco community, and a Green & Gold Celebration dinner.

NSP Graduate Apprentice Joshua McPhatter stated, “Our goal was for new students to learn about the ins and outs of student life at Baylor University. Our leaders, staff, and campus partners did a wonderful job creating a welcoming environment. We hope students will continue to feel connected and thrive throughout their time at Baylor.” Welcome Weekend 2014 served over 60 incoming students for the spring and saw the most consistent attendance at events. NSP is proud of the record attendance of this program and looks forward to its continued growth.

Front Row L to R: Misha DeLong, Chelsea Sanchez, Kiresha Johnson, Liz Green, Coretta Dickens
Back Row L to R: Nathan Shelburne, Nathan Holles, Ricky Cooper, Omar Ibarra, Joshua McPhatter, Tripp Purks
Residential Refurbishment Projects

South Russell Refurbishment Continues
The current year-long refurbishment of South Russell continues on schedule with the target of July 1 for substantial completion. Pictures don’t do justice to the ongoing progress since most internal spaces are not yet a “finishes” stage. Plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, mechanical equipment installation, wall framing, and some sheetrock work are among the major work currently in progress. On January 28, tours of the 1st floor and basement were done with leadership from Student Life, Student Learning & Engagement, and CL&L as well as with partners from Academic Affairs and some CL&L staff.

New elevator arrives on site, installation begins

Framing for porch at new faculty-in-residence apartment courtyard entry

North Russell Refurbishment Project
Since August, various steps have been in motion to prepare for launching the second refurbishment project on older residence halls, North Russell. From pre-design walk-throughs to a series of multiple design meetings (Student Life, ITS, Mechanical/Engineering), a lot of preparatory effort has already been expending. As with South Russell, the architects are KSQ, the construction company Linbeck, and the project managers in Facility Design & Construction Services are coordinating the process carefully. Final design meetings are slated for March 6, emptying of the current building contents should take place during the last two weeks of May, and construction should begin on June 1.

Collins Dining Hall
After careful study by the University and Aramark, it was decided in late fall that the Collins Dining Hall would be slated for closure after the current school year. With Penland Dining Hall coming down soon for major summer renovations, it appears that Collins will remain open for most or all of this summer in order to provide sufficient dining service for summer school, Orientation, Line Camps, and summer conferences. Once the facility closes for dining, repurposing of the space is anticipated. Various focus groups with Collins staff and residents have occurred in recent months, and a first meeting happened on February 21 that included KSQ Architects, Baylor Facility Design & Construction Services, and Student Life to begin developing the plan for repurposing. Various options and timetables are still being studied, but re-use is focused on providing much-needed community space for Collins Residence Hall. Some of the potential new features could include a large multi-purpose lounge, recreational/work-out space, reflection room, quiet study space, coffee bar, offices, meeting rooms, and public restrooms (which are inadequate in Collins currently). There could be some moderate refurbishment done as early as late summer in order to open most of the space for Collins residents to use next school year, and more significant refurbishment could be part of the Collins residential refurbishment which is slated to be in two to four years.
SSEO Shuttle Ridership on the Rise

While most of us are sleeping, Safety and Security Education Officers (SSEO) work between the hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m., serving a critical role as another set of eyes and ears in the overall safety net of campus. In addition to foot monitoring, the SSEOs operate a golf cart shuttle for residents (254-265-0690). The ridership this past fall has experienced an increase of over 700 riders compared to the previous two years.

Day of Week Ridership: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are the most popular nights for ridership. Friday and Saturday have the lowest ridership, but there was significant rise in weekend use with an average increase of 139 riders over the weekend.

Pickup/Drop-off Locations: The most popular pickup location is Moody Library. The most popular drop-off location is the South Zone, with Collins being the most popular hall. There was a sizable increase of pickups and drop-offs in the East Zone due to East Village.

Moody: Moody Library
South: Memorial, Alexander, Allen, Dawson, Collins
Central: Brooks Flats, Brooks College, Kokernot, Martin, Penland
North: North and South Russell, North Village
East: East Village, Arbors, Fairmont, Gables
Other: SUB, SLC, Academic Buildings
In late fall 2013, a new Student Dining Advisory Committee was formed. After an application process, eleven students were selected to serve on the 2013-14 committee and held their inaugural kick-off meeting in early December. Pictured (left to right) are Richard Horace, Annalesha Sims, Alisha Henderson, Chase Hardy, Gretchen Mikulich, and Brantley McDaniel along with committee conveners Jessica Woods (Aramark Dining Marketing Manager) and Brett Perlowski (Aramark Director of Baylor Dining). Not pictured are students Cynthia Choi, Taylor Demons, Natalie Dukes, Caroline Nelson, and Mia Peartree.

On February 11, the committee convened in Perry’s Place of the Memorial Dining Hall for the first of three monthly meetings for the spring. Topics discussed in that meeting included an overview of a new “Takeaways” student catering initiative presented by Aramark Catering Director Kyle McElroy, a review of the annual residential dining survey (926 responders on 17 customer satisfaction topics), a presentation of current designs and plans for the upcoming Penland Dining Hall renovation, discussion of several new dining apps for Apple devices, and various miscellaneous topics of interest to the students.

Other meetings this semester are planned for March in the BDSC Dining area and for April in the Penland Dining Hall.

The East Village Residential Community opened this past fall and is experiencing an exciting first year in operation. South Russell is current closed for a year-long refurbishment that will reopen that hall in fall 2014 and will then be followed in 2014-15 by refurbishment of North Russell, and hopefully by the remainder of our older residence halls over the following eight years or so. Against the backdrop of those major on-campus housing milestones and facing the annual adjustment of resident placements during the refurbishment program, the University recently engaged the services of a professional education housing consultant to help determine future on-campus housing needs and feasibility. Anderson Strickler, LLC from Gaithersburg, Maryland, was chosen to lead this process.

Ellen Ulf from Anderson Strickler was on the campus on February 4 and 5, hosted by Facility Design & Construction Services and Student Life as she began her research work in helping Baylor determine what future housing might look like, where it might be located, how we might accomplish that, and when we might approach such growth. During her two days in Waco, Ms. Ulf toured on-campus housing, met with officials of the university, held four student focus groups (first-year students in traditional halls, first-year students in living-learning programs, upper-division students living on campus, upper division students living off campus), held another focus group with residence hall staff and academic living-learning partners, and began off-campus market analysis.
New Hires

**Beth Ingram, CL&L Budget Coordinator**
Beth is a graduate of Houston Baptist University with a double major in Accounting and Finance. Beth comes to CL&L with a wealth of experience having served as Coordinator of Budget and Assessment for five years in the Department of Campus Recreation. Prior to working at Baylor, Beth worked in Houston for Sugarland Properties as the Controller. She is married to Robert Ingram who also works at Baylor as the Director of the Baylor Business Network. Beth has three daughters and three grandchildren. As empty nesters, Robert and Beth love cheering for Baylor teams, biking, hiking, and spending as much time as possible with their children, grandchildren and extended family. Beth’s first day with CL&L will be February 24th.

**Jodie Orr, Interim CL&L Student Outreach Coordinator**
Ms. Jodie Orr joined Campus Living & Learning on January 15 as the Interim CL&L Student Outreach Coordinator. Jodie is a recent graduate of Baylor with a BBA in Marketing, Brand Engagement and Promotion through the Hankamer School of Business. Jodie served as Director of Project Greenway and President of Uproar Records, Baylor’s student-run record label, while a student at Baylor. In addition to her work with musicians, Jodie interned at an independent film company in New York City, helping to market the film, “I’m In Love With A Church Girl.” When asked what she has enjoyed about her first month as a Baylor employee, Jodie shared that she enjoys the energizing, inspiring and motivating collaborative conversations that she has experienced with colleagues.

**Courtney Streat, Interim Assignment Associate**
Ms. Courtney Streat began work in Campus Living & Learning on February 3 as an Interim Assignment Associate. Courtney is a Baylor graduate with a B.A. in Anthropology, and is no stranger to Student Life. While a student at Baylor, Courtney worked in the Office of the Vice President for Student Life, and was active in several student promotions including “My Sister, Myself” and “Bears Do Something.” Courtney also served as an interim staff member in the Baylor Counseling Center, helping to manage appointments, organize client documentation, and assist students and parents throughout the process of receiving assistance.
Heather Foit, Assistant to the Dean for Student Learning & Engagement

Student Learning & Engagement has hired Heather Foit as the Assistant to the Dean for Student Learning & Engagement. Heather comes to Student Learning & Engagement from the Baylor Admissions Department where she worked as a data specialist this past year. Prior to that, Heather worked for four years as an Administrative Assistant at First Woodway Christian School. Heather’s previous professional roles have included time as a real estate agent, a cosmetology instructor at McLennan Community College, and a hair stylist. Heather graduated from Robinson High School and McLennan Community College. She has been married for 21 years and has two daughters, one enrolled at MCC and another at Midway Middle School. In her free time Heather enjoys attending various sporting events, four-wheeling, and joining her family on hunting outings.

Leia Duncan, Interim Brooks College Hall Director

Leia Duncan has worked in Campus Living and Learning for the past 18 months, and is currently serving as the Hall Director for Brooks Residential College. Prior to moving to Texas in 2012, Leia worked as a Residence Hall Director for three years at Lee University in East Tennessee, the school at which she received her MA in Youth and Family Ministry in 2005. Leia is originally from London, England, where she worked as a Secondary School English Teacher after gaining her BA in English Literature from Anglia Ruskin University, and a Post Graduate Degree in Secondary Education from the Institute of Education, University of London.

Family Corner

Logan Walter (one of Jeff Walter’s sons) got married on January 25th in Austin. Here’s a photo of the groom’s cake. Logan Baylor Intramural Sports is in the midst of basketball season! We have very competitive teams that will be advancing to the playoffs this week. The All-University Intramural Basketball Tournament begins on February 17, 2014 and lasts through the week of February 24th. Come out and support these teams during their games at the Student Life Center!
Baylor Intramural Sports is in the midst of basketball season! We have very competitive teams that will be advancing to the playoffs this week. The All-University Intramural Basketball Tournament begins on February 17 and lasts through the week of February 24th. Come out and support these teams during their games at the Student Life Center!

Intramural Wallyball concluded last week with Pi Phi C winning the Women’s wallyball division and Phi Chi taking 1st place in the Men’s wallyball division. Thank you to all teams who participated this season!
Annual SWACUHO Conference

Baylor University staff made a strong showing at the recent Annual SWACUHO Conference in Fort Worth, February 16-19. The delegation also presented or facilitated 9 separate program sessions. The Baylor delegation included:

**Back Row** (left to right):
Jorge Burmicky, Lisa Murphy, Sakina Trevathan, Melissa Morie, Rob Engblom, Drew Gehman, Chris Kirk, Curtis Odle, Jared Payton

**Front Row** (left to right):
Leslie Moore, Katelyn Hiatt, Bethany McCraw, Julie Bales, Jasmine Wilson, Michelle Diaz

**Not Shown:**
Gary Emmons, Matt Neidig, Adam Courtney

**Presentations**

*Sink, Tread or Swim* – Rob Engblom

*Building Strong Partnerships: Student Conduct and Housing Connecting to Address Students of Concern* – Melissa Morie and Bethany McCraw

*Mental Health Roundtable* – Bethany McCraw

*What Are They Looking For? A Senior Housing Officer Panel for New Professionals* – Rob Engblom

*Facilities Management: It Doesn’t Have to be the Wild West* – Curtis Odle, Gary Emmons, and Julia Bales

*A Shocking Success: How a Living and Learning Center Helps Transfer Students* – Jared Payton and Michelle Diaz

*Strengthen Your Connections: Developing Students through Recruitment and Selection* – Melissa Morie

*Tending to Vital Hearts: Helping Student Paraprofessionals Develop Self-Care Habits* – Drew Gehman and Julia Bales
Top Program

SWACUHO Top Program Award
On February 17, Julia Bales, CL&L Residence Hall Director for North Russell; Curtis Odle, CL&L Assistant Director for Facilities and Operations and Gary Emmons, Baylor Facilities Services Operations Manager, presented *Facilities Management: It Doesn’t Have to be the Wild West* at the Annual SWACUHO Conference in Fort Worth. The presentation was awarded the Top Program Award which celebrates the best presentation of the conference. The award was presented at the closing banquet.