Marching Forward

Between spring break, the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball tournaments, and a myriad of events and activities, March is an exciting and busy month. For our students, it signals moving past the mid-point in the semester. They are in essence—marching on. For many, the cadence of the march is clear. For others, they struggle to find their rhythm. Regardless, we are here to provide support, encouragement and guidance and to do so in a way that helps our students become more of the person God has designed them to be. Do know as we march on together that I appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Truly,

Community Leader (CL) Updates

At the beginning of March, Campus Living & Learning offered 152 students community leader positions for the 2014-15 academic year. Of the 152 positions, 54 of them will be community leaders who are returning for their second or third year. We also received a record number of applications this year with 350 students applying to serve in the leadership role. We are looking forwarding to having them participate in the upcoming Student Learning & Engagement Commissioning Service on April 9th along with the students who were selected as leaders within the LEAD LLC, as Peer Leaders, and as Orientation and Line Camp leaders.
Presentations and Recognitions

NASPA
Matt Kwiatkowski and Tiffany Lowe each presented a session at NASPA 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland. Entitled “Job One: Understanding and Optimizing the Work Experiences of New Professionals in Student Affairs,” Matt’s session reviewed findings of “Job One 2.0: Understanding the Next Generation of Student Affairs Professionals” and focused on new professionals formulating their professional identity and reconciling personal and professional beliefs with job expectations. Tiffany’s session, entitled “Lean Out: Men Engaging in the Lean In Phenomenon,” sought to engage men in the Lean In dialogue, its ramifications for the field of student affairs, and how men can become better critical allies to fight sexism in higher education.

Dr. Dana Lee Haines, Associate Director of Student Activities-Business Administration, Baylor University and Dr. Abbygail Langham, Director of Assessment & Strategic Planning, Division of Student Affairs, Auburn University presented "Navigating the Development of Learning Outcomes," at the NASPA 2014 Annual Conference, March 15-19, in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Langham and Dr. Haines were honored as their session was selected as 1 of 3 Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Knowledge Community Sponsored Programs of the 100 sessions presented in this category during the conference.

Campus Visits
In collaboration with Admissions and Campus Visits, CL&L began providing a session for prospective students visiting campus. Focusing on housing types, living-learning programs and in-hall leadership opportunities, CL&L staff present every Monday and Friday, while Admissions staff present Tuesday-Thursday. Since September of 2013, CL&L staff have given 25 presentations to more than 1,200 prospective students and their parents/guests.
Enhancing Diversity within Student Leadership: Reflections & Lessons

Reflecting on Baylor’s mission to build worldwide leaders and help students fulfill their call to service, the Academy for Leader Development actively creates opportunities for student leadership development. We are mindful that we want leadership opportunities for everyone in our student body. Currently, equity in student leadership is a myth. So – a culture change needs to take place.

The Academy is intentionally trying to foster a culture shift by being mindful of the difference between equity and equality. We believe building efforts to support students who have not had the same privileges and advantages as others is a key component to this culture change. Shelton Lewis, Director of the Leadership LLC (LEAD), goes about this by what he calls “seed planting.” He intentionally spends time nurturing and mentoring those he identifies as having leadership potential. Many of these students do not see this potential in themselves but need someone to help empower them and identify how to embark on this leadership journey. Likewise, Lizzy Davis, coordinator of the Peer Leader Program within the Academy, puts effort into nurturing each individual and personally asking people to consider taking on a leadership role. A proactive approach like speaking into the lives of individual students and helping them realize their potential will springboard your ability to include students of all backgrounds in your organization.

Currently, 40.2% of the students involved with the Peer Leader Program come from diverse backgrounds. Similarly, 49.4% of students involved with LEAD are underrepresented students. With the university’s minority enrollment at 33.9% for 2013, the Academy is pleased to be more diverse than the general student body.

We also believe that the make-up of the leadership team can play a large role in a culture change; 62% of the LEAD Executive Team and 67% of the Peer Leader Steering Committee are from diverse backgrounds. It is important that a student organizational structure is truly representative of the students we serve.

With this being said, we hope we can all offer better ways to support our students and their leadership development. Equity is not a quick change, but one that will require thoughtful effort and intentionality. Through this deliberate work, we can more thoroughly accomplish Baylor’s mission.
South Russell Construction

Courtyard private entries to faculty and hall director apartments

New front entry under construction

Basement level of new lobby to basement stairs

New stairs from lobby to basement
Spring Break with Campus Recreation

Quick Facts and Stats
3 Trips
37 Baylor Students, Staff, and Faculty
- Backpacking in the Grand Canyon
- Backpacking in Buckskin Gulch in Arizona
- Canoeing the Green River in Moab, Utah
1490+ Human Powered Miles Hiked or Canoed
7000+ Miles Driven
8000+ Laughs shared
10+ Tons of fun had!

Buckskin

Moab, Utah

Students at Buckskin

Moab, Utah
Intramurals

It is a busy time for Baylor Intramural Sports! As we return from spring break, there are multiple sports currently in session including soccer, table tennis, co-rec sand volleyball, and co-rec tennis. The All-University Intramural Basketball Tournament concluded with the following teams bringing home 1st place: KOT Blue (Men’s Division 1), ZZZ Lunch Date (Men’s Division 2), Chi O A (Women’s Division 1), Ooooh Sic’Em (Women’s Division 2). Congratulations to all teams!

We are currently accepting registration for Softball. The deadline to register and pay for the Track Meet was Wednesday, March 26 and the deadline for Softball is Wednesday, April 2. More information about upcoming sports can be found here: http://www.baylor.edu/campusrec/intramurals/index.php?id=69264
On March 4, Bob Fu spoke as part of the Academy Lecture Series conveying to students the importance of religious freedom in China. Having been persecuted as a Christian there, he shared his personal connection with the issue. As a pastor in China, he was jailed and then released on house-arrest. Since his wife was pregnant with their second child and facing a forced abortion, they escaped and fled to Hong Kong where they caught the last flight out before Britain turned Hong Kong over to China. Eventually, Bob Fu founded the organization China Aid to bring a voice to Christians being oppressed in China.

He challenged the Academy lecture attendees not to allow the magnitude of national and global issues to overwhelm them to the point of inaction. Additionally, he encouraged students not to think they are inadequate in combating social problems. Instead he advocated that they find a small area to contribute and extend their involvement from that point. In discussing religious freedom in China, he provided ways students could contribute. First of all, he strongly emphasized the power of prayer and its effectiveness in the pursuit of justice and freedom. Other avenues he presented to the students included contacting their senators as well as accessing a website where they can write letters of encouragement to pastors in Chinese prisons. In doing so, he demonstrated how the small steps they take as students can make a lasting impact in the vast issues they see around them today.