Division-wide Conversations on Our Acts of Determination

Over the course of the last several months, our Division Strategic Work Committees have been working diligently to draft a set of recommendations for each of our Acts of Determination. As a reminder, Acts of Determination are prioritized division-wide initiatives that we will focus on over the next two to three years to achieve our division strategic goals of calling, wholeness, community, and global citizenship. Below are descriptions of the committees and the names of their facilitators. Each committee also has members representing a broad cross section of the division.

Comprehensive Multi-Year Leadership Program (Matt Burchett and Jeff Doyle) – research and develop recommendations for a comprehensive framework of leadership and service to instill Baylor graduates with the ability to lead and serve.

Cross-Cultural Competency Training (Liz Palacios and Ashley Thornton) – research and develop recommendations for cultivating student understanding of the rich diversity God has created by enhancing the ability of our students and staff to talk and work across differences.

Stronger Sense of Health, Equanimity, and Wellness (Kim Scott and Martha Lou Scott) – research and develop recommendations for equipping students to thrive by fostering educational initiatives that help students develop a stronger sense of health, equanimity, and wellness by guiding students as they mature in stewardship of themselves and care for community.

Synergistic Spaces (Burt Burleson) – research and develop recommendations for creating vibrant learning and faith formative environments.

Our next step will be to host a series of division-wide conversations over the summer during which time staff, students, and faculty partners will be invited to gather, hear the draft recommendations on a specific Act of Determination from a featured Division Strategic Work Committee, and provide responses to the recommended initiatives. An online feedback mechanism will be available as well. At the end of the feedback collection stage, the information will be compiled and discussed within the respective Division Strategic Work Committee. Once the committees have thoroughly reviewed the feedback they have received, a final set of recommendations for each Act of Determination will be submitted to the deans, associate vice president, and vice president for discussion. Following that review, the recommendations will be discussed with our deans and department heads and a prioritized set of recommended initiatives will be created and shared with the division.

Within the next two weeks, you will receive information about the dates of upcoming division-wide conversations. In the meantime, please feel free to contact your dean/associate vice president or me if you have any questions. I look forward to the conversations we will have about our future.

Truly,
On Wednesday April 9th, 2014, staff and student leaders gathered together to commission the incoming student leaders who represent Student Learning and Engagement. This annual event is coordinated by staff members from the Academy for Leader Development, Campus Living & Learning, and New Student Programs. Over 300 student leaders attended, representing multiple leadership positions including Baylor Line Camp Leaders, Community Leaders (both new and returning), Community Leader Mentors, LEAD LLC Leadership Teams, Orientation Leaders, and Peer Leaders. During the service, students and staff were privileged to hear inspiring words on leading with integrity and humility from Bethany McCraw, Associate Dean for Student Conduct Administration, participate in a time of corporate worship, and receive a formal commission for their further service to Baylor students. This event remains a wonderful tradition and an special time to honor and celebrate the service of these decimated student leaders!

2014 Summer Leadership Team

New Student Programs proudly presents the 2014 Summer Leadership Team
Steppin’ Out

Steppin’ Out this semester was a huge success! Around 2,600 Baylor students participated in service on Saturday, April 5th by serving at local churches, organizations and individual homes. Groups of individual students as well as groups of student organizations got the chance to engage in our larger Waco community together as a university and show care for our neighbors by picking up trash along the river, painting houses, working in community gardens, and much more. A big thank you goes out to all those who participated in helping make our city a better community!

International Justice Mission

The Office of Community Engagement & Service and IJM-Baylor hosts Justice Week each year to raise awareness and educate students on campus about issues related to injustice and oppression. Through lectures offered by nationally-recognized speakers to high-class student performances that illustrate various forms of oppression, the week is intended to equip and inspire students to stand up against the injustices of our day. This year’s Justice Week concluded March 21-25, 2014, and was highlighted by a Justice Market and Concert, Other Side of Waco Tours, a lecture given by Dr. Tomi Grover on Human Trafficking, and the widely-successful inaugural IJM-Baylor In the Name of Justice: Stories & Prayers interactive prayer service hosted in conjunction with the Department of Spiritual Life. Other partners included The Academy for Leader Development, Aramark, Baylor ChinaAid, Baylor Student Government, Mission Waco, Uproar Records, and The Wells Project.
South Russell Construction

- It takes a village to frame new front steps!
- Millwork begins installation in lobby community kitchen
- New front steps with ADA access to come
- Lobby community kitchen
- Model student room with flooring and furniture
- Student room vanity
There is a smell in every area of Student Life; I know you’ve probably smelled it and I know I have on a daily basis. No, it’s not the smell of the gym after a day of workouts, or the smell of chlorine at the pool or even a trash can in one of the offices with a half-eaten tuna sandwich (with Miracle Whip) from someone’s lunch. It’s a sweet smell that permeates every area of Student Life. It’s a fragrance you can’t buy at Dillard’s or Nordstrom; but I can tell you, it’s free yet also priceless, and it doesn’t come in a bottle.

This smell I am talking about is the fragrance of the “sweet aroma” of Christ which I often experience from the staff who work in every aspect of Student Life. I was reminded the other day of 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, where Paul writes to believers, “that we are a fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.” I am so blessed to work alongside the community of Student Life at Baylor, for many of the encounters I’ve had with various people have left a lingering sweet aroma on my being, reminding me that God is here. It’s not necessarily that these encounters occur only when I am talking about God with someone, though I do cherish the times when I get to hear what God is doing in people’s lives. But more often it’s the kind word, an uplifting encounter, a caring expression of the heart, the grace and compassion of those who work in Student Life that draws me to praise God for the “Sweet Fragrance” that I smell everywhere. Paul later states in this passage, “that we are not ‘peddlers’ of God’s word, but as people of sincerity, commissioned by God.” When I encounter the aroma of Christ at Student Life, it comes from a heart of sincerity and intentionality, a heart that authentically cares about people, a heart like Jesus’s. It’s that aroma that helps me carry on when I am tired, stressed, or being busy at the end of the semester where God speaks to me through the heart of another.

So, as you walk around the offices of Student Life today, stop for a moment and smell that “sweet aroma” that is all around you, and give Him praise.

Thanks to all of you for the hard work you do that makes Student Life “smell good.”

Lauri Rogers Psy.D.
Counseling Center
Many intramural sports came to a close in the past month. Champions were crowned for Intramural Table tennis, Co-Rec Tennis, Soccer, and Track!

The men’s and women’s table tennis champions were ATO’s Jerod Frank and Molly Walker from Kappa Kappa Gamma. The winner of the co-rec tennis tournament was Team 5th Years with Ashley Warren and Brian Schwarzlose. The women’s division track champions were Chi Omega in 1st place, Pi Beta Phi in 2nd place, and Kappa Alpha Theta in 3rd place. Alpha Tau Omega took 1st place in the men’s division, and Phi Kappa Chi took 2nd place, followed by Fatal Attraction taking 3rd place.

Soccer championship games took place on April 9, and the following teams earned 1st place in their respective divisions: KOT A (Men’s Division 1), Deltasig (Men’s Division 2), Kappa A (Women’s Division 1), and ADPi B (Women’s Division 2). Congratulations to all!

We are currently in the middle of intramural co-rec sand volleyball and intramural softball. Baylor Intramural Sports is looking forward to ending the year with a bang!