Staying Centered During a Busy Time

It is that wonderful and somewhat chaotic time of the year when we embrace the start of the fall semester. With this shift comes an increased sense of busyness; and, if we are not careful, busyness can overtake our desire to be intentional in how we approach our personal and professional life. A sermon I heard recently touched on this. As you may recall, Luke 18:35-43 describes how those surrounding Jesus were in a hurry to get him to the next destination and ignored the pleas of a blind man sitting on the side of the road. But Jesus stopped and commanded that the blind man be brought to him. He healed him and through this healing God was glorified.

This story has a number of lessons—one of the primary being it is important to stay focused on our overriding sense of purpose, especially when crowds of people, needs, and ideas are pushing and pulling us in various directions. To keep ourselves centered personally, we turn to the Bible, our church, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the wise counsel and advice we gain from our loved ones, friends, and colleagues.

Centeredness also applies to our professional work. To this end, it will be important to remain focused on our division’s mission which reminds us of who we are, vision which describes what we aspire to be, and our values which frame how we will conduct ourselves in living out our mission and vision, available online at http://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=99890.

So, as we start the fall semester, I encourage you continually to seek centeredness in your personal and professional life. In doing so, you will be better able to make decisions and take actions that reflect a stronger sense of purpose in your own life as well as live out the division’s mission, vision, and values through your daily interactions with students, parents, and colleagues.

Here’s to a great fall semester!

Truly,
Kevin
Dave Kennedy is now the Assistant Director for Administration and Communication. He brings more than 15-years of administrative experience in higher education to Campus Recreation. A native of beautiful upstate New York (not NYC!), he served in leadership roles at private institutions in Minnesota and California before making Central Texas and Baylor University his home. Dave holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, a master’s in college student affairs, and is working to complete a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at Texas A & M University. An avid sports fan, Dave enjoys playing and coaching basketball and soccer and is an active member of Fellowship Bible Church where he leads a weekly basketball ministry, teaches elementary and high school Sunday School classes, and plays guitar on the worship team. Dave has been married to his wonderful wife, Cindy, for 20 years and has four very active children (Lillian, Kaija, Eli, and Ainsley). “May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.” – Ps. 25:21

Evie Swanson is the new Residence Hall Director for Brooks Flats. She just graduated from Murray State University (Murray, Kentucky) with her Master of Science in Human Development and Leadership, including a concentration in college student personnel. While at Murray State she was a residence director for a residential college-style community. Evie is from Minnesota, where she attended Hamline University in St. Paul to earn her B.A. in psychology and religion.

Daniel Haddad is the new Interim Residence Hall Director for University Parks Apartments. Many of you probably remember Daniel from his undergraduate days at Baylor. Besides being a community leader in Martin Hall, he was also heavily involved with Chamber, New Student Programs, and the vice president’s office. This spring Daniel graduated from Colorado State University with a MS in student affairs where he had an assistantship in first and second year programs.
The next generation of Baylor students will move into the refurbished South Russell Hall on August 21. A redesigned lobby with grand staircase to the basement, new elevator, community kitchen, expanded hall office, and a spiritual reflection room will greet residents as they check into their new home. The basement area will, for the first time, be a fully accessible space with classrooms, study lounges, recreation room, and fitness room. Residential floors feature all new student room furniture and fixtures, new laundry rooms, new and expanded study lounges, redesigned community baths, and new décor colors.
On Thursday, August 7, representatives from Baylor joined the architects, general contractor, and sub-contractors at East Village on the site for the new Elliston Chapel to share aspirations and pray God’s blessing on the safety of the project. The program was led by Chaplain Burt Burleson and Vice President for Student Life Kevin Jackson.
Welcome 2014 HESA Cohort

Left to right: Back row: Brandon Lokey - Student Activities, Student Productions; Pierce Shivers - Student Activities, Student Union; Marie Crommett - Student Activities, Greek Life; Jessica Roshak - Greek Life-Panhellenic; Chelsea Brown - Multicultural Affairs; Lauren Gray - New Student Programs; Sarah Caldwell - ECS; Lisa Perry - Student Activities, Campus Programs-Traditional Programs

Front row: Justin Hardegree - Admissions; Megan Lamb - CL&L, North Village; Molly Depew - CL&L, North Village; Allison Everett - Spiritual Life; Zandra Cook - Campus Visits; Katy Flinn - Global Community LLC; Amiee Brassart - CL&L for Community Development