



BAYLOR

Division of Student Life

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Message from Kevin:



Northrise University: Hope and a Future for Zambia

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). While on a recent Global Engagement Mission visioning trip to Zambia with Becky Kennedy, as well as other Baylor colleagues, I was reminded of this verse. The purpose of our trip was to engage in a series of in-country experiences and discussions with key Zambian educators and business men and women to explore how we might further develop the Baylor-Northrise University Partnership—a partnership, as Becky describes below, that was born from a discussion years before.

Two years ago when I met Charlie and Debbie Stroupe and Moffat and Doreen Zimba at Olive Branch, it was apparent that this would not be our only conversation. It was also evident to all present that God was beginning to shape something that none of us could quite explain or imagine. Dr. Moffat and Doreen Zimba are the president and provost of Northrise University, respectively. Charlie and Debbie Stroupe are parents of Baylor alums and donors to several Baylor programs. What has emerged over the last two years has become a new model for Baylor Missions to integrate faith fully, learning and service within a broader Christian worldview (our purpose statement) as we have chosen to invest in a relationship with the only Christian university in Zambia.

Currently celebrating its 10th anniversary, Northrise University is a young and growing institution of higher education in a country where there are limited opportunities to attend college. By expanding Northrise University's capacity to provide an academically rigorous and spiritually faith formative education, we can help impact future generations of leaders who will shape the trajectory of the country while at the same time expanding our global presence and ability to impact human flourishing in Africa. About the benefits of working with Northrise University, Becky writes:

First, it provides a collaboration between Student Life and Academic Affairs. This holistic approach to the integration of faith, learning, and service is something that Baylor strives to achieve in and out of the classroom. It allows both "sides of the house" to use expertise toward a common purpose, though our outcomes may be slightly different. Second, it provides an opportunity for Baylor students to experience global engagement from an academic and Christian service perspective, not to mention expanding our Baylor brand to a global audience. Third, through hard work and vision, we have secured external funding. To date, this is the largest non-endowed gift to Baylor Missions that covers a five-year period. Without the burden of reallocating current funds, we have been able to implement and scale in a shorter time period. Finally, and most importantly, it gives us the chance to create shared value with Christian higher education colleagues (brothers and sisters) in a developing country with unique challenges as well as skills from which we could learn. To borrow a quote typically used in a different context, "They get us." The opportunity for research, Christian service/mission, teaching, knowledge exchange seem endless. I am truly excited for our faculty, staff and students to share in this experience.

One cannot help but sense that God has great plans for Northrise University to help provide hope and a future for Zambians. As such, it is our wonderful privilege to work alongside our Northrise colleagues in discerning and living out the plans that God has for us.

Please know that we appreciated your prayers and were grateful for your support during our time away. Because of exceptional colleagues like you, we have been able to undertake this important visioning trip to Zambia.

With appreciation,

Vulnerable children served through Arise Ministries led by a Northrise graduate



Meeting with Northrise faculty



Team devotion time



African wildlife



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Division of Student Life

Peer Leader Program



Fall 2014 is well underway for the Peer Leader Program. Before classes had even started, New Student Experience peer leaders were undergoing training and then serving as Welcome Week leaders. They had a successful training that included a session led by Dr. Lenore Wright on facilitation tips, time spent planning their first New Student Experience class session with their faculty partner, and of course a couple icebreakers.



Meanwhile, Health & Wellness and Community Engagement & Service peer leaders began their inaugural work. All peer leader iterations will gather together for a retreat at Baylor Challenge Course at the end of September.



Jennifer Hobbs

The Baylor Counseling Center is excited to announce the arrival of Jennifer Hobbs, who will be interning with us for the next year. Jennifer Hobbs is Baylor University Counseling Center's first MSW generalist intern from the Baylor School of Social Work. She is a MSW candidate concentrating on physical and mental health; she plans to graduate in 2016. Jennifer is interested in becoming a clinical social worker.

Jennifer is married to Mark Hobbs, a 2005 Baylor Law graduate and local attorney. They have two exuberant and creative daughters, ages 8 and 10. Jennifer graduated in 1996 from Abilene Christian University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. After graduating from ACU, Jennifer worked for several years as a legislative aide and executive assistant in Austin for various members of the Texas Legislature. She is originally from Texarkana, Texas, and has lived in the Waco area for the past 12 years. Mark and Jennifer are members of Calvary Baptist Church. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and movie nights with the family.



CES Peer Leader Program Provides Campus Outreach & Expertise in Service

Community Engagement & Service launched its new peer leader program this fall with 10 new peer leaders. These students serve as campus ambassadors for service and as consultants to individuals and groups in engaging students in community efforts. Peer leaders take a leadership course, LDS 3305: Peer Leadership for Community Engagement & Service, which provides the theoretical foundations for community engagement work, and serve two hours weekly with the CES office offering consultations and doing presentations around campus.

The inaugural group of CES peer leaders are: Carson Fuhs, Zachary Gee, Elena Leon, Nick Lopez, Marisela Martin, Jaziah Masters, Julie Pitre, Annabel Simpson, Othniel Tay, and Kari Van Nest.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, as requests have already come in for training sessions and presentations. Available presentations include:

- An overview of CES and available resources (for anyone)
- Service opportunities (for individual students or service coordinators)
- Five Benchmarks of Effective Service (for service coordinators)
- Community Partner Etiquette (for student leaders or service coordinators)
- Reflection and meaning-making (for individual students or service coordinators)

We also offer a number of interactive exercises including service stories, cultural simulations, poverty awareness simulations, and more. To request a presentation or training session, interested departments or groups can contact Erin Payseur or Tomeka Morrison.

The CES peer leader program is offered in conjunction with the Academy of Leader Development peer leader program.



The 2014 CES Peer Leaders pictured are: (back row): Kari Van Nest, Jaziah Masters, Othniel Tay, Nick Lopez, Carson Fuhs, Zach Gee; (front row): Elena Leon, Annabel Simpson, Julie Pitre, Marisela Martin.

FGCS Outreach

Many exciting new initiatives are taking place to enhance the college experience for First Generation College students (FGCS). AmeriCorps VISTAs, Perla Alarcon (Success Center) and Melinda Zanner (Student Learning and Engagement) have been partnering with many other offices to provide resources and a stronger support system for FGCS. The year started off strong with personal room visits during move-in, raising awareness of FGCS to residence hall staff and providing opportunities for students to meet in the dining halls. Small groups, interviews, and one-on-ones have been used to understand better the challenges FGCS face and allow a more focused pursuit of meeting those challenges. Faculty partnerships have also been established to grow the FGCS support network and enhance programming efforts. Plans for a FGCS Peer program have begun with identifying and speaking with potential leaders. Perla and Melinda have also been partnering with the offices of Community Service and Engagement, Admissions, and the Waco Foundation to extend outreach to first gens in the Waco community. The VISTAs will be working throughout the year with local high schools and the Avance Waco program to help students become college ready.



CONGRATULATIONS to **VAN & RAYMOND DAVIS** for celebrating 30 years of marriage. A lifetime achievement full of adventure, fun, and excitement. Life with Van surely is unbelievably believable!





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MOVE IN DAYS 2014 – This year we saw the largest freshman class EVER in the History of Baylor move into the Residence halls. They brought clothes and computers, TVs and couches; it took 2,878 super heroes to carry it in, break it down, recycle the paper, haul it off, and clean it up.

KEEP CALM AND MOVE IN

Our message from the Baylor community to the parents as they drove onto campus in the morning and away after the Parents Send Off Party. Thanks to all of YOU – Student Life, who made this a huge success! We can't do it without your help, sweat and heart.

LATE NIGHT AT THE SLC – This year **Late Night** was the day after the Traditions Rally and two days before the first on-campus football game in over 80 years. There were over **5,549** students who participated in LATE NIGHT AT THE SLC. Plenty of activity with the 167-team dodgeball tournament going on, kayak clinics in the pool, games in the racquetball courts, rock climbing, spirit and sport organizations showing their stuff, and a band with pizza out on the back porch. A good time was had by all.





*Jeremy Yarbrough
Coordinator for Outdoor Adventure
Campus Recreation*

Jeremy has been involved in outdoor education and leadership for the past 14 years. After earning his degree in recreation at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, he worked for three years in the technology field then made a defining career change. He moved to Durango, Colorado, and served as the Director at Cross Bar X Youth Ranch. Jeremy spent eight incredible years leading backpacking trips in the mountains, outdoor skills in the field, and challenge course programs with at-risk youth. Using the outdoors and adventure as effective avenues for teaching and connection ignited a passion that eventually led to pursuing his Masters in Experiential Education at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. Following his experiences in the Midwest, he moved back to Texas to oversee the Outdoor Adventure LLC at Baylor where for the past four years he has enjoyed investing in students and their outdoor pursuits as well as seeing their personal growth. He also enjoys teaching Wilderness First Aid Courses as a NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) instructor when he has the opportunity.

Jeremy's adventure-loving wife Riki and their three amazing kids (Micah, Payton, and Grayson) are very much a part of this pursuit. Jeremy's philosophy that challenge is always the catalyst for growth has developed from both what he has witnessed in his work and in his personal life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

New Academy Website

The Academy for Leader Development has been long overdue for an updated website. Initially, the site was confusing to navigate and looked bland because of the outdated template the content was being displayed on. Over the last couple of months, Joshua Donath and Austin Kertesz worked with Electronic Communications to redesign the site to present the Academy and its programs better. Exciting new features of the website include a "Becoming a Partner Form" for organizations and departments interested in partnering with the Academy to bring a speaker to campus as part of the Academy Lecture Series. To view the site, visit www.baylor.edu/Leadership.



Staff Publications



Jennie Massey
Assistant Dean
Student Learning & Engagement

Massey, J., Field, S. and Chan, Y. (2014). Partnering for economic development: How town-gown relations impact local economic development in small and medium cities. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*. 44:2 151-169

ABSTRACT: Universities play an increasingly prominent role in shaping regional, social, and economic development. In Canada, however, spatial, economic, and social differences between universities and their host communities continue to challenge positive town-gown relationships and undermine the benefits associated with high concentrations of prospective young, “creative” graduates.

The purpose of this article is to identify the factors that lead to positive town-gown relations and, subsequently, encourage graduate retention. Through this research, university and town administrators were found to play key roles in establishing a positive relationship between students and community members. Local employment opportunities were also found to help students build an experiential relationship with their localities and make them more likely to settle there after graduation.

Massey, J. Brooks, M. and Burrow, J. (2014). Evaluating the effectiveness of mental health first aid training among student affairs staff at a Canadian university. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*. 51:3 233-246

ABSTRACT: This study evaluates the effectiveness of providing the mental health first aid training program to student affairs staff. The objective of the training was to increase knowledge of mental health, enhance sensitivity, and raise confidence to intervene and assist individuals experiencing a mental health issue. We found the training successfully met its objectives and offers great potential to student affairs practitioners.

Special Recognition

Jennie Massey has been appointed as the Local Arrangement Co-coordinator for 2016 ACPA National Convention to be held in Montreal Canada. In this role, Jennie will partner with colleagues in Québec to provide leadership for registration, hospitality, and signage related to the local needs from the convention planning team. She will be responsible for distributing convention updates; developing and staffing the hospitality desk, registration desk, and headquarters; and working with the local convention and business bureaus to provide comprehensive information on all local opportunities for convention attendees. In conjunction with her Canadian counter parts, Jennie will pull together local resources (maps, entertainment, restaurants, museums, tours, religious services, etc.) for the convention website and for distribution at the convention.



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Academy Lecture Series Presents Suzii Paynter



The Academy for Leader Development is excited to host Suzii Paynter as part the Academy Lecture Series on Thursday, October 2, 7:30 p.m. in Miller Chapel. Suzii Paynter of Austin, became the third executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship following a unanimous vote by the CBF Coordinating Council in February 2013. Previously, Paynter served as the director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and director of the Advocacy Care Center of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT). As a leader at the BGCT since 2001, Paynter envisioned, created, and managed large-scale programs and projects that focused on ministering alongside and advocating for the least of these. Her experience and accomplishments reflect her commitment to the missional and cooperative work of Baptists at all levels – local, state, national, regional, and international, as well as ecumenical and interfaith ministry.

Over the past decade, Paynter has gained a national reputation for her advocacy on important ethical issues such as religious liberty, hunger and poverty, environmental justice, human trafficking and immigration reform. She has been recognized by religious and secular organizations nationwide. Paynter's work has been highlighted on television programs, including Moyers on America, and in print publications, such as

the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New Yorker*.

For her lecture in October, she will be focusing on the topic of serving the impoverished and hungry. Hope to see you there!

