



# BAYLOR

## Division of Student Life

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### Message from Kevin:



#### *Strategic Plan, Acts of Determination, and the Road Ahead*

It is hard to believe it has been five months since we hosted our summer meetings to discuss the Acts of Determination (AoD) recommendations compiled by division work teams. As you may recall, the summer discussions focused on cross-cultural competency education; developing a multiyear leadership program; health, equanimity and wellness; and synergistic spaces. During the fall semester, feedback from the summer meetings was discussed within each work team and a final set of AoD recommendations was submitted to deans and department heads for review and prioritization. At the January deans' and department heads' retreat, the prioritized AoD recommendations were discussed and ideas for implementation shared. The next step in the process is the creation of an advisory committee who will provide advice and suggestions on aligning organizational processes, structures, and resources to achieve the desired future described in the division strategic plan and prioritized acts of determination. I look forward to working with the advisory committee during the spring semester and will report back to you in May as to the outcome of our efforts. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we consider the road ahead.

With warm regards,



*Founders Day, February 1, 2015. Celebrating 170 years of Baylor University.*





### *New Hires*



***Sheila Towner***  
***Administrative Assistant***  
***Honors Residential College***

Sheila was born in Waco and has lived in the area most of her life. She lives in Lorena with her husband, Lewis, and two daughters, Courtney and Casey. In addition to being a wife and mother, she is a student at Tarleton State University where she is pursuing a BBA degree in accounting. She and her family attend Downsville Baptist Church. Sheila enjoys reading and working in the yard and is thankful for God's grace in her life!



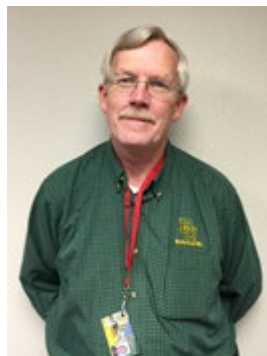
***Yazmin Strauss***  
***Administrative Assistant***  
***Teal Residential College***

Yazmin recently moved from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she earned an associate's degree in mass media communications from Pennsylvania College of Technology. She plans on resuming classes online to complete a bachelor's in business administration with a marketing concentration this summer. Deciding to move to Texas was a big decision for Yazmin; and she's excited to contribute, learn, and grow from her employment here at Baylor. She looks forward to interacting with students, faculty, and staff. Yazmin enjoys spending time with her daughter, Zeniyah, and their wild puppy, Spartan. She also likes cooking, painting, exploring the outdoors, football, and going to museums.



***Shelia Busby***  
***Assistant to the Dean for Student Development***

Shelia is a native Texan hailing from the nearby town of Mexia. Shelia spent most of her professional career with a Fortune 500 Company in Plano where she held various positions during her 27 years there. She is a devoted mother, sister, aunt, friend, and doting "Granny." "My greatest joy comes from serving others and spending quality time with family. One of my favorite past times is following the Lady Bears Basketball team with my sisters."



***Joe Herbelin***  
***Safety and Security Education Officer***  
***Campus Living and Learning***

Joe earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University). He spent 27 years as a Probation Officer for McLennan County. He is excited to be joining the Baylor community as a SSEO, but this is not his first association with the school. His wife, Patricia, is a Baylor grad, and his oldest daughter will graduate from Baylor in May. He has another daughter at Arkansas State University. When they get some time to themselves, Joe and his wife enjoy visiting historical sites in Texas and watching reenactments. Joe's first day was January 12.



### *Staff Transition*



**Becky Kennedy**  
*Assistant Dean of Spiritual Life  
and Missions*

#### *Spiritual Life*

Spiritual Life is excited to announce Becky Kennedy as the new Assistant Dean of Spiritual Life and Missions. Becky's tenure in the division, her experience in leading a thriving missions department, and her recent professional development in Baylor's Executive MBA program have equipped her well for this position and calling. In her new role, Becky will manage many of the ongoing administrative processes of the Chaplain's office, and of course, she will continue to lead their efforts in developing strategic partnerships in, and overseeing the direction of, missions both domestic and abroad.

### *Campus Living & Learning Staffing Updates*



**Courtney Streat**  
*Assignments Associate*  
*Campus Living & Learning*

Courtney has been in this role on an temporary basis since February 2014. Courtney was born and grew up in the Dallas area and earned her BA in anthropology from Baylor. Courtney is excited to permanently join the Baylor family and comes with an impressive amount of Baylor experience, having served in Human Resources, the Counseling Center, and the Vice President for Student Life office. Courtney takes enjoyment in reading, home décor, and roughhousing with her nephews.



**Chris Kuhl**  
*Residence Hall Director, North Russell*  
*Campus Living & Learning*

At the end of Spring 2015, Residence Hall Director Chris Kuhl will transition from Penland Hall to the newly-refurbished North Russell Hall. After one year as Coordinator of Housing/RHD at Eastern University and three years as a RHD in Penland Hall, Chris is excited to work with the new Baylor & Beyond Living-Learning Center, focusing on his love for and experience with helping students challenge their world views through engaging cultures other than their own.

### *CL&L Relocation*

While Penland Hall is offline for refurbishment in 2015-16, CL&L will relocate until Penland reopens in August 2016. Their new office location will be in two trailers, located in the parking lot of the Castelow building (off 3rd Street). Their mailbox number and phone numbers will remain the same during this time, and they are currently working on a messaging plan to inform incoming and returning students. Campus Living & Learning will return to Penland Hall when it reopens in August 2016.







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### ***ELLISTON CHAPEL MOVES FORWARD QUICKLY***

Primary building framing is basically complete with roofing, framing of the steeple, and installation of mechanical systems in progress. Dry-in of the building should be complete later this month, and the entire facility is still scheduled for completion and opening around late March.



Dr. Emma Wood, Psychologist and Coordinator of Outreach, and HESA graduate apprentice for Outreach, Kristin Abbott have been selected to present *Thriving in Assessment: Strategies for Measuring the Unmeasurable*, as a 60-minute interactive session at the 15th Annual Texas A&M University Assessment Conference to be held February 22-24, 2015, at the College Station Hilton.



[New TACUSPA Newsletter](#)



### *Academy for Leader Development Conference and Celebration*

The Academy for Leader Development wrapped up the fall semester with its annual celebration on December 2, highlighting the journey its students have taken in their leadership development. Through its conference style setup on the fifth floor of Cashion, attendees were able to explore different areas exhibiting the variety of projects developed by students. More than 200 students presented on projects displaying what they learned from both coursework and leadership positions they held this past semester. Booths were setup from which first-year students showcased their electronic leadership portfolios to faculty, staff, and students who wandered between the different presentations. These portfolios comprised of reflections on their leadership philosophies, mission for their life, and take-aways from Academy lectures. Encouraging first-year students to engage thoughtfully with these questions at the beginning of their Baylor journey will guide them in forming a more meaningful Baylor experience.



Sophomores and juniors presented their peer leader projects, that included reflections on their leadership positions within the Academy as well as videos of TED Talks they created summarizing what they learned throughout the semester. Having just finished the first semester in establishing their programs, the Health & Wellness and Community Engagement & Service Peer Leaders reflected on their personal growth and impact on educating their peers. Students finishing their studies in the leadership minor presented their capstone projects describing action plans they created to advocate for change on a social issue of their choice. Overall, the event provided an energizing

atmosphere in which students were given the opportunity to demonstrate the growth and competencies they gained throughout the semester to their peers and others in the Baylor community.

#### ***Cultural Competency Opportunities***

As we continue to seek opportunities for developing cultural awareness and competency, please consider exploring non-traditional experiences such as going to the movies with colleagues or reading a book! We already had a group see *Selma* and had a great debrief afterwards. There is also the movie *Black or White* currently showing. Whether you read a book or see a great movie on cultural issues, we welcome your reviews to share with others. Don't forget we have a book club starting up on *Thursday, February 26*. For additional information, contact [Cara\\_Cliburn@baylor.edu](mailto:Cara_Cliburn@baylor.edu). Get conversations started!



## Division of Student Life

### *Campus Living & Learning Announces Two New Residential Living-Learning Programs*

Campus Living & Learning and the Provost's Office are pleased to announce two new residential Living-Learning Programs for Fall 2015. South Russell will serve as the home to students in the Education Living-Learning Center and North Russell will house the Baylor & Beyond Living-Learning Center.

A *Call for Proposals* was provided to faculty last fall, inviting departments or schools/colleges to submit proposals to partner with Campus Living & Learning for a living-learning center within the newly refurbished buildings of North and South Russell. Of the submitted proposals, the two above were selected by a review committee comprised of faculty and staff members from Academic Affairs and Student Life.

#### **South Russell**

In partnership with the School of Education, the mission of the **Education Living-Learning Center (LLC)** is to provide the opportunity for future educators to live together in community and grow personally and professionally as they develop a love of learning and service through teaching others. The Education LLC will offer a dynamic campus home for students aspiring to work in the field of education or other career fields aimed at learning and education. The Education LLC will create a community of learners who are like-minded and equipped to transform the world. In addition to living in an education community, students will also have the opportunity to take some of their required education classes in the LLC in South Russell Hall. This ensures that students will develop their skills as future educators and collaborate with peers and faculty on a daily basis. Dr. Mona Choucair, Senior Lecturer in Education and English, will serve as the Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) for South Russell and the Education LLC. For more information, please visit the Education LLC [website](#).

#### **North Russell**

The **Baylor and Beyond Living-Learning Center (LLC)** will be a comprehensive and intentional model where residents will learn and care for each other and their communities, embrace their civic and global responsibilities, and broaden their cultural understanding. Students will be immersed in Baylor culture and traditions, while also thinking broadly about their communities across campus, the city, the state, and in the world. In addition to connecting students' educational experiences to their academic and creative strengths beyond the classroom, students will be encouraged to develop cultural competency for worldwide leadership through service to others, language acquisition, mission, and study-abroad opportunities, and local and international undergraduate research. The concept for the Baylor & Beyond LLC stems from the success of its predecessor, the Global Community LLC. The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and the College of Arts & Sciences, in cooperation with the Center for Global Engagement, will serve as first-level partners for this community. Dr. Jennifer Good, Associate Professor for Modern Languages and Cultures (German) and current Faculty-in-Residence for Brooks Flats and the Global Community LLC, will transition into the FIR role for North Russell and the new Baylor & Beyond LLC program. For more information, visit the Baylor and Beyond LLC [website](#).

The opening of these two living-learning centers will bring Baylor's total [residential colleges and living-learning centers](#) to 11 and the number of [faculty-in-residence](#) to 13.



### *Family Corner*

#### *Welcome Georgia Claire!!*



Austin Kertesz, Student Outreach Coordinator in Student Learning and Engagement, and wife Arielle welcomed their baby girl on Wednesday, December 17, at 11:40 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz and measured 21.5 inches. Congratulations, Austin and Arielle!

#### *Welcome Natalia Michelle!!*



Liz Palacios' daughter Michelle and son-in-law Alex welcomed their baby girl Natalia Michelle Gonzalez on December 1. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz and measured 19 inches.

#### *Welcome Winnie Beth!!*



Winnie Beth Wood joined Emma, Russ, and Sophie Wood on December 17, at 9:30 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz and measured 19 1/2 inches.