The last several days have been, to quote a phrase, “the best of times and the worst of times.” On March 7th, we received the announcement that a historic agreement has been reached with the association formerly known as the BAA. The prior week, we learned a student leader had been arrested for an alleged sexual assault. Both relate to matters of extreme importance for our university. The former signals hope for a better day. The latter is a reminder of the difficult challenges we face in preventing deeply hurtful behavior that changes the course of our students’ lives.

Because our university, along with many others, is grappling with how best to respond to the hurtful behaviors that occur as a result of Title IX violations, I was asked to testify on March 8 in Austin as part of a hearing held by the State House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education. The purpose of the hearing was to receive recommendations on the prevention and elimination of sexual violence on college campuses. Testimony was also provided by representatives from the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. Below is a link to the news story filed by the Texas Tribune about my testimony:

http://www.texastribune.org/2016/03/08/baylor-officials-discuss-handling-sexual-assault-h/

As we look to the future, it is of the utmost importance that we do everything reasonably possible to prevent behaviors that are hurtful in any form, especially those that may lead to acts of interpersonal violence. For, as we know, in order for students to learn and develop to their God-given potential, they must feel safe and be safe as members of our community. To this end, I am asking each of you, through your respective spheres of influence, to seek ways to encourage our students to care for one another and show leadership in their interactions with others who may be in vulnerable situations. I also ask for your continued prayers as we draw upon our strength as a caring Christian community to stand firm against these vexing behaviors. Together, we can usher in a better day. A day that will truly represent not just the best of times, but the best of ourselves as reflected in how we treat one another with a care and compassion that only comes through believing that each person is made in the image of God—Imago Dei.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

Here’s to that better day,
**Academy for Leader Development Leadership Lecture Series**

**Civil Rights Activist**

**Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian**

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

*Waco Hall*

*6 p.m.*

“Creating Legacy of Change.”

This event is free and open to the public, but tickets will be required for entrance. Tickets are available at the Bill Daniel Student Center and Waco Hall one hour before the event.

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**CES Unveils President’s Volunteer Service Award Certification**

We are excited to announce that the Office of Community Engagement and Service has officially become a certifying organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The PVSA recognizes individuals who have obtained a designated number of service hours over a year, ranging from bronze to gold levels. By becoming a certifying organization, CES is able to celebrate those students who live out the mission of the university by engaging in service to their community. Using our CONNECT platform, CES will verify service hours submitted by students to award the PVSA. For additional information about the PVSA or about using CONNECT to submit service hours, contact Macy Warburton at Macy_Warburton@baylor.edu or call 254-710-7687.

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**Baylor PDI Engages Students in Campus Carry Deliberation**

Baylor Public Deliberation Initiative (PDI) hosted its first spring forum on January 25, on campus carry. In conjunction with Baylor Student Government and the This Matters series, the forum allowed participants to deliberate on campus carry and to provide input on whether Baylor should opt-in to campus carry under Senate Bill 11. Over 50 participants showed up and weighed three different options: allowing individuals to protect themselves and others, focusing on the educational environment, and investing in campus security and violence prevention efforts. Many students explored aspects of the issue they had not previously considered. Data was collected and presented to Student Government prior to their vote to recommend opting out of campus carry.

The February PDI forum was on Race & Ethnic Relations. The forum was held on *Monday, February 29* in the Bobo Spiritual Life Center. For additional information or to assist in facilitation of a forum, contact Josh_Ritter@baylor.edu or Erin_Payseur@baylor.edu. For information on previous forums, visit the Baylor PDI blog at https://baylorpdi.wordpress.com/.
Penland refurbishment continues on schedule. New HVAC units were installed on the roof over Christmas break and air now in operation for approximately 50% of the building.

Lobby – sheetrock mostly complete; ceiling grids installed; overhead electrical and HVAC ducting in progress

First floor office-classroom corridor

New CL&L office millwork going in

First floor faculty-staff apartment corridor

Faculty apartment kitchen millwork mostly installed

Old elevator demolition complete; new elevator installation begins mid-February

Residential corridor – old tiled walls covered with new sheetrock, HVAC ducting and overhead electrical in progress, new doors/frames going in for student rooms
Health, Equanimity and Wellness Presents

Brown Bag Book Group

March 22: Introduction & Capacity (CH 1)
March 29: Relationships & Calling (CH 2 & 3)
April 5: Editing & Thoughts (CH 4 & 5)
April 12: Traditions & Time (CH 6 & 7)
April 19: Decisions & Communication (CH 8 & 9)
April 26: Worth & Conclusion (CH 10)

This brown bag lunch time will be filled with conversation on how to Break Busy in your life. This is a direct correlation with our efforts on how to have a Life – Work Balance. The group will be led by Elisa Dunman and Kim Scott each Tuesday. The book is written primarily with women in mind, but no one will be excluded. If you are interested, contact Donna_Haberman@baylor.edu by Thursday, March 17. Donna will send you an outlook invitation, reminders, videos, and study guide.

SLC Video Released

The new McLane Student Life Center video is now available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5DUuodGly8.

CL&L Hosted SMU Students

On Friday, February 12, Campus Living & Learning hosted a group of housing staff and students from Southern Methodist University to learn more about Baylor’s three residential colleges—Brooks, Honors, and Teal. The group toured each of the communities and met with hall directors, program directors, student leaders, and faculty-in-residence. Through this visit, the group from SMU sought to learn more about how Baylor and CL&L had created successful partnerships to build our residential colleges as they recently transitioned to a residential college model for their on-campus housing.
Congratulations to the Who’s Who Recipients

Who’s Who was held on Friday, February 26, in Miller Chapel. Congratulations to all the 2016 recipients. For a list of this year’s recipients, visit http://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=99443.

Intramural Sports

Baylor Intramural Sports spring semester is starting off strong. So far, they have finished basketball and raqueteball and are currently in season with soccer and wallyball. Staff consists of about 70 students, 6 of them supervisors, and the rest as officials for soccer and walleyball. They look forward to co-recreational sand volleyball, spikeball, softball, track meets, singles tennis and the homerun derby. For the rest of the semester, they hope to continue to increase participation and continue to offer Baylor students an opportunity to engage in healthy competition while developing their character and maintaining their integrity and sportsmanship.

Multicultural Affairs Announcements

Dr. Kelley Kimple will be presenting during the poster session at the Texas A&M Campus Climate conference in College Station (in March) and the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) annual conference in San Francisco (in May). Her presentation is based on her dissertation research entitled “The Racial Identity of Multiracial College Students at Predominantly White Institutions.” This qualitative phenomenological study was created to understand the trials and tribulations of how the majority of the biracial/multiracial college student participants felt forced by their peers and society to identify as only one of the racial identities that makeup their racial background. The research also looked at the affects this has on their ability to be accepted socially, as well as, their academic success.

Breana Allen was named junior of the year for Big 12 at the spring conference in Kansas. This honor also comes with a scholarship amount for outstanding grades and involvement on campus.

Student Learning & Engagement Assessment Team

Corina Kaul is in her final year of Ph.D. coursework in educational psychology. She earned her M.A. in educational psychology from Baylor in 2014 and her B.S. in management, marketing, and psychology from the University of Oregon. Corina's research interests include low-income gifted students, the psychosocial development of high ability students, first-generation college students, faith and learning in higher education, and student affairs professionals as scholar-practitioners. Her research has been published or accepted by Gifted Child Today, Journal for the Education of the Gifted, Christian Higher Education, and TEMPO. In addition to working for the Student Learning & Engagement, she is assisting the School of Education's Center for Community Learning and Enrichment in planning and hosting the University for Young People. Corina and her husband, Grant, moved to Waco in 2000 when he became the Senior Pastor of Fellowship Bible Church. She is blessed to be the mother of four children ages 20, 18, 16, and 12, including a daughter who is graduating from college and a son who is graduating from high school this spring.
Jeff Strietzel is in his second semester of the Higher Education Studies and Leadership Ph.D. program here at Baylor. He earned a B.A. in religious studies at Moody Bible Institute (Chicago, IL, 2007) and an M.A. in higher education and student development at Taylor University (Upland, IN, 2013). Jeff’s passion for college life stems from his extracurricular and student leadership experiences; and he finds satisfaction in sharing life with all types of people, living life as ministry, and making places better than when he arrived. Jeff has served as a youth pastor, residence hall director, assistant director of residence life, and now serves as a graduate apprentice in both the Office of the Vice President for Student Life and Student Learning & Engagement. His research interests include higher education leadership, student success, and student affairs professionals as scholar-practitioners. Jeff and his wife, Julie, live near campus and have two wonderful daughters, Lanae (3) and Alexenna (1), as well as another girl on the way (due June 3!). Jeff and Julie are finding that parenting is one of the most joyous and significant learning experiences of all.

Dr. LaNette Thompson is a part-time Coordinator for Student Life Assessment. Dr. Thompson has a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Baylor in 2005, a B.A. in speech communications from Baylor, and a M.A. in interdisciplinary studies from UT-Arlington. She has taught an undergraduate course at Baylor on adult learning and worked as a transition coach for student veterans for the past three years. Before that, for over 25 years, LaNette and her husband, Marvin, who pastors a downtown Waco church, lived in various West African countries as missionaries (e.g. Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal). There she learned to speak French and Bambara/Jula (the language of Mali). LaNette and Marvin have two of her children currently serving overseas in missionary roles in addition to a third child in seminary in Denver. During her recent time in Waco, Dr. Thompson has led multiple workshops for Baylor faculty and staff on cross-cultural understanding and tips for effective cross-cultural interactions. Her dissertation focused on teaching non-literate adults in oral cultures. Last year she wrote a book called *Trust the Story*, for the International Mission Board. In her newly created position, she will be overseeing the process for several departments’ Council for Advancement of Standards (CAS) Reviews, coordinating Student Life projects needed for the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) re-accreditation process, and assisting in the leadership of the Student Life Assessment Committee.