In addition to the exciting start of the new semester comes the Student Life Fall Kick-Off Luncheon. The luncheon will take place on Tuesday, September 13, at 11:30 in Foster 250. We are pleased to announce the guest speaker for this event is author Dr. Alvin Sanders. Well known for his book, *Bridging the Diversity Gap: Leading Toward God’s Multi-Ethnic Kingdom*, Dr. Sanders uses his platform to educate leaders on how best to lead a multi-ethnic America to work together to further the Kingdom of God. He will be speaking to students, faculty and staff with a full schedule beginning Monday evening and culminating at Chapel on Wednesday. During his time on campus, we are privileged Dr. Sanders will speak at this year’s luncheon for Student Life staff.

If you plan to attend and haven’t already done so, RSVP by 5 p.m. today at [https://baylor.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MErF0ic51sncgZ](https://baylor.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MErF0ic51sncgZ).
Construction has begun on a new office suite for all of the Multicultural Affairs staff together in one location in the Bill Daniel Student Center. That staff is currently spread across three areas of 2nd and 3rd floors. Space on the 1st floor that was formerly occupied by Student Government and Chamber of Commerce should be ready for move-in sometime around mid-late October.

With the move of New Student Programs to the East Village Dining Commons at the start of the summer, the BDSC basement has undergone moderate renovations and now has many new occupants. Student Government now has individual offices for the major student body officers and the student regent plus a small conference/meeting room. Chamber of Commerce, Student Productions, and Multicultural Greek Councils now have new and expanded space in the basement as well.

First floor space that once was home to a campus beauty parlor and that in recent years has been offices for Multicultural Greek Councils is now under renovation to become a new convenience store to serve students and guests in the BDSC. The new store will hopefully open within the next month.
As the finale to Summer Institute 2016 staff training and to celebrate the grand re-opening of Campus Living & Learning’s Penland offices, CL&L staff came together on Friday, July 29, to participate in the 1st Annual CL&L Office Olympics. Competitions included ID Card Toss, Binder Clip Diving, Rubber Band Archery, and Mental Gymnastics. Medals were awarded to both individual winners and the all-around best team.

**Baylor Representatives at the Sixth Annual President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge National Gathering**

Three Baylor staff members and two Truett Seminary students, representing Baylor Formation and the Department of Multicultural Affairs, will be traveling to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. on September 22-23 to attend the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge National Gathering, which is hosted by Interfaith Youth Core, the U.S. Department of Education, and the White House. Dr. Burt Burleson (University Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual Life), along with Dr. Josh Ritter (Baylor Formation), Sharyl Loeung (Multicultural Affairs), and Caitlin Brown and Metta Budikarto (Truett Seminary students who serve as Ministry Associates for Baylor Formation Cross Cultural Engagement) will be representing Baylor at this annual event focused on sharing experiences, learning from experts, and meeting administration officials who share a commitment to community engagement with an interfaith engagement component. This past year, Baylor Formation and the Department of Multicultural Affairs partnered to begin Better Together BU, a campus group that is part of Interfaith Youth Core’s national network of Better Together groups. That group participated in Better Together Day during the spring semester, raising awareness and support for the international refugee crisis (a continued focus of work this fall), and won the IFYC Honorable Mention for Rookie of the year. Josh, Sharyl, Caitlin, and Metta will be leading a presentation at the President’s Gathering about their experiences doing interfaith work at a faith-based institution, drawing from their work with Better Together BU and other cross cultural initiatives.

**Baylor Public Deliberation Initiative Fall 2016 Special Election Series**

The fall line-up of Public Deliberation Initiative Forums will focus on election issues, to help our community think through and prepare for this eventful time in our country’s political environment: September 19 – Racial Climate on College Campuses, October 24 – America’s Role in the World, and November 14 – Getting American Politics Working Again. These forums will all take place in the Bobo Spiritual Life Center at 5:30 p.m. This semester, they will also be launching a Facilitator Certificate Training Program to educate further those interested in models of public deliberation and how to facilitate the forums. Upcoming training dates include: September 16 and October 1. Dr. Josh Ritter and Erin Paysueur, co-leaders for Baylor’s Public Deliberation Initiative, began this collaboration between Baylor Formation and the Office of Community Engagement and Service two years ago and have worked hard this summer to expand the scope of the initiative by adding an Advisory Board comprised of Baylor and Waco community participants. They have also added a Student Leadership Council and are continuing to form more community partnerships. The Public Deliberation Initiative also continues to serve as one of the Kettering Foundation’s National Centers for Public Life, and the Initiative is contributing to the development an upcoming National Issue guide focused on food security and food access. Check out [www.baylorpdi.wordpress.com](http://www.baylorpdi.wordpress.com) to see how Baylor PDI has grown and what is in store for the semester!
The LEAD LLC started the new academic year hitting the ground running! The Sunday before Move-In, more than 80 LEAD upperclassmen returned to campus for two and a half days of LEAD training coordinated by the eight LEAD Student Directors. The training comprised of leadership workshops, facilitated by Student Life professionals from across the division, and various teambuilding activities. Those upperclassmen then put their leadership skills into action by moving in the 200 LEAD first-years in the rain!

Move-In Day ended with the annual LEAD Welcome Dinner and Parent’s Dessert Reception. Over 400 families and students gathered in Barfield Drawing Room to hear more about the LEAD Program and activities the students would be a part of throughout the year.

The next weekend, the LEAD first-years participated in another community tradition by tackling the challenge course at Eastland Lakes. Led by LEAD’s partners in Outdoor Adventure, the first-years worked their way through a series of rope course challenges before competing in the raft race at the Marina.

The LEAD Faculty-in-Residence, Dr. Karon LeCompte, also hosted her first event of the year - Questions That Matter (QTM). QTM is a program where faculty and administrators engage in leadership discussions with a small group of residents over dinner. The first guest of the year was Dr. Kevin Jackson, who spoke about the importance of personal integrity.
Front Row - left to right: Stephanie Harrison, Lauren Christian, Megan Michener, Lauren Samuelson, Briana Gearhart, Deanna Calder, Erin Gaddis, Chelsey Art, Ashleigh Bailey (non-cohort)
Back Row - left to right: Toni Nogalski, Kristin Koch, Carly Zerr, Megan Foo, Megan Harper, Nick Blair, Zachary Jackson, Nate Hutcherson