



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006



Henry Chan/Lariat staff

External Vice President Allan Marshall keeps connected with fellow students at Baylor through his online blog at www.honestallan.blogspot.com. Marshall aspires to be the president of a major university one day.

Wireside Chat

External VP blogs to keep touch with peers

By Kelly Coleman
Editor in chief

If only all elected officials were so transparent. Quite the opposite of the stereotypical smooth-talking, evasive politician, External Vice President Allan Marshall is letting his constituents know exactly what he's up to - and they don't even have to ask. He debuted an EVP blog www.honestallan.blogspot.com, formally known as "Honest Allan's Fireside Chats," in July to chronicle his thoughts, goals, meetings, plans and everything else he wants students to know.

"It answers the question 'Why do I serve?'" Marshall said. "I hadn't heard of anyone doing this. It's a firsthand, honest dialogue where I'm open about everything that's going on." Marshall's inspiration for the Web journal came from a veteran journalist. "I got the idea from NBC news because Brian Williams keeps a blog," Marshall said. "And (Dean for Student Learning and Engagement) Frank Shushok suggested that it would be worthwhile to the students." Marshall, who's pictured with his distinctive black fedora on his profile, mixes pop culture, history, humor,

inspiration and more on his page in order to connect with students. He calls his Ford Focus the EVP mobile in one journal and uses this analogy to talk about his focus for his tenure as EVP. In another entry he relays the heroic message at the root of "Spider-Man 2" to encourage Baylor students to be heroes to the Waco community. Marshall also reaches back in the history books to show examples of how America's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, connected with the citizens - one of Marshall's top goals.

Please see **EVP**, page 11

Sloan leaves chancellor post vacant

Analiz González
Staff writer

The chancellor position will remain vacant after Robert B. Sloan Jr. steps down to assume his new post as president of Houston Baptist University on Sept. 1. But the vacancy won't be anything new in Baylor history. In fact, the chancellor's position was not filled for the first time until 1948, 103 years after the university was chartered. And it has been vacant in the years 1963-1981, 1985-1995 and 2000-2005.

The chancellor spot is only for former presidents who want to assume the spot. It enables them to continue contributing to Baylor through fundraising and recruiting while a new president assumes executive authority, said Paul Carr, interim vice president for marketing and communications. Sloan spent most of his time as chancellor working to obtain the George W. Bush Presidential Library and promoting Baylor 2012. Baylor 2012 is a plan to



Sloan

make Baylor a tier-one school while maintaining its Christian heritage. Sloan, 57, said working as chancellor enabled him to maintain contacts for the university, communicate with Baylor alumni and prospective students and do a lot of public relations. "Sloan spent a lot of his time as chancellor outside the office doing fundraising and he was a visiting scholar in the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Scotland in the spring," said Tommye Lou Davis, chief of staff to the chancellor and Bush Library Project director. "He will be greatly missed, but as far as the changes in the office, we will continue the fundraising component and the Bush Library Project." Davis said she doesn't expect her role to change with Sloan's absence. She will remain in the same office building, but will now report directly to President John Lilley.

Please see **SLOAN**, page 11

BU moves up research lists

By Donelle Sauer
Contributor

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently revised its classification system, advancing Baylor's credentials in research and giving Baylor another lure for the George W. Bush Presidential Library. The Carnegie classification, the most widely used categorization scheme in higher education, added three new categories of doctorate-granting institutions: research universities with "very high" research activity; research universities with "high" research activities; and doctoral/research universities. Baylor's classification was changed from "doctoral intensive" to "research university" status with "high research activity." The new classification moves Baylor into a category with such universities as Auburn University, Boston College University, the University of Oklahoma and Texas Tech University.

"Most schools moved down in their ranking. Baylor is one of the few schools that moved towards higher research activity. It is quite an accomplishment," said Dr. Larry Lyon, vice provost for institutional effectiveness and graduate school dean. Lyon said he thinks the new title will help in the bid for the presidential library. The latest media coverage of the library was about a meeting at Stanford University. Lyon said the meeting discussed a research component being a major part of the library. Of the three remaining finalists (Southern Methodist University and the University of Dallas), Baylor is the only school with a research title. Baylor's Director of Sponsored Programs Russell Brewer was employed at Texas A&M University when the school received the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Brewer said one of the components of a presidential library

Please see **LISTS**, page 11

Five departments combine under one roof in Success Center

By Kelly Coleman
Editor in chief

Fundraising for the Paul L. Foster Success Center is complete after a \$2.5 million anonymous donation was announced following the Baylor Board of Regents' three-day retreat in July. The anonymous gift, combined with a \$3 million donation from Baylor alumnus Paul Foster, president and CEO of Western Refining Co. in El Paso, will create a new Success Cen-

ter located in the Sid Richardson Science Building that will house all five departments of the center - academic advisement, academic support programs, access and learning accommodation, career counseling and career services. "It will be a great convenience for everyone to have one place for one-stop shopping," President John Lilley said. "This is a great unified solution." Construction on the center is "moving forward promptly," Lilley said.

Brandon Miller, assistant vice president of the Baylor Success Center, said the center has something to offer to every type of student. "The services and programs of the Paul L. Foster Success Center impact new students, current students, graduate students and alumni," Miller said. "These programs and services can assist not only students who are struggling academically but can help B students become A students."

Please see **CENTER**, page 6



With the money donated by Baylor alumnus Paul L. Foster and an anonymous donor, Sid Richardson Science Building will be remodeled and chanded into the Success Center.

Courtesy illustration