



Student Life Newsletter

The mission of the Division of Student Life is to enrich the Baylor experience through life changing programs and services resulting in an integrated education known for leadership, service, Christian faith, and the total development of students.

Volume 2, Number 7, December 19, 2006

A NOTE FROM DUB

The campus has quieted from the bustle of the semester. Students have returned to their homes to spend time with family and friends...and sleep. We, too, are quieted from the busyness of the semester. Some have already begun their holiday; the rest of us will join in a few days. I hope you enjoy some rest from your work and that you are renewed in every way.

I want you to know how encouraging it is to see the efforts of our work teams begin to bear fruit.

The Alcohol Work Team did an excellent job with Alcohol Awareness and Education Week. The events and activities of the week did make a difference in our students' lives. You couldn't help but understand more about the pain caused by alcohol use and abuse when walking by the Memorial Wall in front of the SLC. As more and more names were added through the week, people would linger longer and longer reflecting on the loss and considering her or his responsibility concerning this issue.

You see in the newsletter information from our Involvement/Engagement Work Team and from our Spiritual Formation Work Team. I hope you will read what they offer us and engage yourself as you feel led.

The Staff Development Work Team has put together a series of staff development programs for the spring semester. You'll note that the first is over lunch on Tuesday, January 23. The programs will be the fourth Tuesday of each month (January through April). The team is scheduling the programs at different times so that we might find the best pattern for future sessions.

And, the Student Development Across the Years, Cultural Awareness, Eating Disorders, and Future teams are also making progress on their goals.

Our work together is important, and it is good work that we are doing.

Among all of the Christmas gifts you receive may there be hope, joy, peace, and love.

Merry Christmas!

SAVE THE DATE!

Student Life Staff Development
and Luncheon

Tuesday, January 23rd

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

More information will be sent in early January.

BAYLOR PHARMACY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Baylor University Pharmacy will close at 5 p.m., Friday, December 15, for the Christmas break. It will re-open Tuesday, January 2, 2007, at 8 a.m. You may reach the Pharmacy at 710-4991.



McLANE STUDENT LIFE CENTER SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Student Life Center (SLC) pool is closed for
maintenance until January 3rd.

Sunday, December 18 – Friday December 22

SLC Gym and Fitness Center will be open
8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday, December 23 – Monday, January 1

The entire SLC will be closed for maintenance.

Tuesday, January 2 – Friday, January 5

The SLC will be open 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Please check www.baylor.edu/campusrec for a
complete holiday calendar for the SLC.

HEALTH SERVICES

Louise Saunders, Director of Nurses, is retiring as of January 2, 2007. Louise arrived at Baylor in 1981 and has worked 26 years in the Health Center. Her leaving is bittersweet. As much as she will be missed, we know Louise is anxious to spend time with her family members and all of her grandchildren.

Nancy Keating, currently the Assistant Director of Nurses at the Health Center, will be filling the position of Director of Nurses, beginning January 3, 2007. Staff members in the Health Center are excited to have someone with Nancy's experience and credentials to fill the position Louise held for so many years.

STRENGTHS E-MAILS

Right before finals, New Student Programs sent out nearly 30,000 Strengths e-mails to about 8,000 current students (each student receiving approximately four different e-mails). The purpose behind the e-mails was to have Baylor staff members encourage students to practice good study habits during final exams using their top five strengths as a guide. There were not e-mails for all 34 strengths, but a majority of the strengths were represented. We received positive feedback from many students. Here is one student's e-mail response:

Just wanted to reply that I truly appreciate these e-mails as they bring more purpose to students' lives and their development. I am glad we are continuing to use these now, and build our education outside of the classroom and become better, stronger people! Thanks again!
Callie Luera
Junior, Marketing Major

A HUGE thanks to the following staff members who participated in writing strengths e-mails:

Meghan Becker – Woo
Matt Bonow – Includer, Positivity
Nadine Bruner – Connectedness
Jeff Crownover – Restorative
Sally Firmin – Developer
Terri Garrett – Harmony
Rebecca Kennedy – Individualization, Maximizer
Karin Klinger – Adaptability, Empathy
Jim Marsh – Belief
Joyce Miller – Learner
David Murdock – Analytical
Dub Oliver – Arranger
Erica Spencer – Intellection
Frank Shushok – Futuristic
Tricia Tolbert – Discipline, Input
Scott Wade – Achiever, Strategic
Jeff Walter – Consistency
Byron Weathersbee – Ideation

If you are interested in writing encouraging e-mails to students based on particular strengths, please contact Matthew Bonow at 710-4277 or Matthew.Bonow@baylor.edu.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION WORK TEAM UPDATE

Over the past couple of months members of the Student Life Spiritual Formation Work Team have been meeting to discuss issues surrounding the spiritual formation of our students and the goals we have for our work as a team. One of our first tasks was to develop a mission statement. It reads:

“The Division of Student Life seeks to foster an environment in which students actively consider the meaning of being transformed into the likeness of Christ. Students will be challenged to explore this transformation in their lives - personality, relationships, vocation, gifts, and strengths. Our desire is to graduate Christ-followers whose lives exemplify love.”

We will intentionally encourage and facilitate spiritual growth which is:

- Upward – in relationship to God
- Inward – in relationship to Self
- Outward – in relationship to Others

Opportunities for Involvement:

One of the key components of a spiritual formation strategy we are developing is a campus-wide prayer initiative. If you are interested in knowing how you can be involved in this effort, please contact Nadine Bruner (Nadine.Bruner@baylor.edu).

We are also soliciting your thoughts on the following questions:

- 1) What do we want our students to understand about spiritual formation (ideas, concepts, and practices)?
- 2) What are the unique challenges our students are facing as they relate to their spiritual formation?
- 3) Often times we ask ourselves “How can we help students find the answers to the questions they are asking?” However, part of our task should also be to encourage students to ask different questions than the ones they bring. What are the questions we should be encouraging them to ask?

Please e-mail your responses and thoughts to Michael.Riemer@baylor.edu Thank you in advance for your help!

The Spiritual Formation Work Team

--Meghan Becker, Melissa Benham, Matt Bonow, Nadine Bruner, Dana Lee Haines, Don Mattingly, Sarah Montoya, Michael Riemer, and Ben Robert

INVOLVEMENT/ENGAGEMENT WORK TEAM

Recently, the Involvement/Engagement Work Team has been examining and discussing the ways that our students interact and engage with our campus community. Through their academic pursuits and their involvement outside the classroom, we desire for our students to engage fully in their learning and development. To understand better our students and their environment, the work team has looked at data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The NSSE is used to collect information from colleges and universities in order to measure the extent to which students engage in the educational process. Specifically, the NSSE examines five benchmarks: Level of Academic Challenge, Active and Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interactions, Enriching Educational Experiences, and Supportive Campus Environments. In future newsletters we will be sharing with you additional information about the five clusters and how Baylor has recently scored in these benchmarks. Our hope is to share this valuable data with our division and provide some thoughtful insights on ways we can foster higher levels of student engagement in learning.