



Student Life Newsletter

The mission of the Division of Student Life is to enhance 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 8, January 18, 2007

A NOTE FROM DUB

Endings, Beginnings, and the Middle

There is in Roman mythology a god named Janus. You may recall him; he was the god of gates and doorways, beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted as a man with two faces - one looking forward and one back. Our month, January, is derived from Janus. It seems appropriate, doesn't it? January is a time of endings and beginnings. We say goodbye to a year past, reflecting on all that has happened - we look back - and we focus on our hopes for the new year, resolving to accomplish new goals or to focus our attention in a new way - we look ahead.

For our students and us, January is also the middle. The middle of the academic year; a time to check where we are and what we still need to do. If you're like me, you are thankful for all that we have accomplished in the past semester and in 2006. And yet, there are some important things that are unfinished, work yet left to do. The regular pattern of university life provides a good cycle of intense work bordered by periods of rest, relaxation, and reflection. We have accomplished much this year, and we have important work that remains. I hope that this will be our condition for as long as we mark Januarys.

And, as we work through all of those months and years we mustn't forget that our God is "the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) That is a good word no matter where you are - beginning, middle, or end.

STAFF TRANSITIONS



Lydia Stones,
Registered Nurse

ACADEMIC SUCCESS FAIR

HOSTED BY CAMPUS LIVING AND LEARNING

Campus Living and Learning is preparing to host their fifth annual Academic Success Fair. This year's event will be Wednesday, January 31, in the Barfield Drawing Room from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The fair provides students with a unique opportunity to interact with faculty, staff, and fellow students about their academic endeavors. The event is set up like a trade show where students collect pamphlets and promotional items as they move among the booths. Once students gather signatures from the three types of groups represented - academic departments, student support programs, and academic clubs - they can register for great prizes including t-shirts, massages, dinner certificates, movie passes, and even free textbooks for a semester from the Baylor Bookstore. The first 500 participants to turn in their registration forms also receive free ice cream from the Season's Creamery. Student Life staff are asked to encourage students to attend the event, where they can meet with representatives from over 30 departments and organizations including the Academy for Leader Development, Academic Advisement, Academic Support Programs, Career Counseling, Career Services, Libraries, Study Abroad and Exchange Programs, and various academic clubs and departments.

STRENGTHS REFRESHER INFORMATION

Do you wonder what all the strengths talk is about? Do you remember your "Top 5" strengths, but forget how they might apply to different aspects of your life? Do you wish you had a better knowledge of all 34 strengths, so that you could better converse with staff and students about their strengths?

If "YES" is your answer to one or more of the questions above, please join us for a StrengthsRefresher session exclusively for Student Life staff. We will reintroduce the 34 strengths and talk practically about how the strengths are relevant to you and the people with whom you have daily interaction.

Join us Friday, February 23, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Baines Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center (SUB). Please RSVP and submit any questions to Matthew_Bonow@baylor.edu. We look forward to seeing you!

2007 ORIENTATION DATES



BAYLOR ORIENTATION

*Summer 1 Session	May 28	Monday
Transfer Orientation	June 12-13	Tues-Wed
Fall Freshman Session 1	June 13-14	Wed-Thurs
Fall Freshman Session 2	June 14-15	Thurs-Fri
Fall Freshman Session 3	June 18-19	Mon-Tues
Fall Freshman Session 4	June 19-20	Tues-Wed
Fall Freshman Session 5	June 20-21	Wed-Thurs
Fall Freshman Session 6	June 21-22	Thurs-Fri
Fall Freshman Session 7	June 25-26	Mon-Tues
Fall Freshman Session 8	June 26-27	Tues-Wed
Fall Freshman Session 9	June 27-28	Wed-Thurs
Fall Freshman Session 10	June 28-29	Thurs-Fri
*Summer 2 Session	July 2-3	Mon-Tues
** August Orientation	August 15	Wednesday

RESERVATIONS

Reservations for all sessions (except August) may be submitted online at the Orientation Web site www.baylor.edu/orientation beginning March 1, 2007.

*Summer 1 and Summer 2 Orientations are only for students enrolled in those terms.

**August Orientation is an option available to students who choose Alternate Registration. Students participating in Alternate Registration will receive an invitation to August Orientation.

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL

On January 14, the Freshman Class Council Service Community was recognized by Caritas for their leadership in coordinating the Food for Families Canned Food Drive on campus, targeting the residence halls and calling on their classmates to donate food for our Waco community. FCC Service was honored with the Chairman's Cup for donating the most food items for an organization their size. The Food for Families Food Drive is a regional event held the past 16 years to benefit the various food pantries serving our area.

SPECIAL GOODBYE TO AMY REEVES

The Department of Student Activities would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to Amy Reeves, a dear friend and colleague who will be leaving Baylor at the end of this month to become the Director of Student Life at Front Range Community College in Denver, Colorado. Please join us in thanking Amy for the many contributions she's made here at Baylor over the past two and a half years and wish her many blessings during this exciting time of transition and opportunity.

NEW STUDENT PROGRAM BEGINS RECRUITMENT OF SUMMER STAFF

BaylorBound events and Welcome Week 2007 are just around the corner! We are excited about the upcoming months of preparation and look forward to serving our University with you!

BaylorBound Student Leader and Welcome Week Student Staff applications are due Thursday, January 25! If you know of any students who may want to participate in welcoming the class of 2011 and transfer students, please encourage them to apply!

The BaylorBound Leader and WW Staff application are available online in ONE application! The following link will provide information about the positions available for the summer of 2007: www.baylor.edu/welcomeweek/staff.

BaylorBound Leaders and Welcome Week Staff will possess the necessary skills and abilities to lead new students down a road of discovery in a thoughtful and meaningful way. Leaders and staff members will participate in one or more of the new student programs offered with distinctive themes but one objective: to welcome students to Baylor University! Each program is designed to help new students succeed at Baylor through focusing on student strengths rather than weaknesses. Through training and experience, leaders and staff will become better equipped to teach strengths, facilitate small group activities, and engage in conversation with students about identity, influence, and impact.

IMMORTAL TEN SCULPTURES



Dub Oliver recently met with Sculptor Bruce Green in his studio in Clifton to discuss plans for completion of the Immortal Ten sculpture in Traditions Square.

ALL UNIVERSITY SING TICKETS

Sing tickets go on sale to students, faculty and staff beginning January 18, in the Bill Daniel Student Center Ticket Office. Tickets are available to the general public on Friday, January 19. The Sing performance dates are February 15, 16, 17, 23, and 24, at 6:30 p.m. The ticket cost is \$16, \$18, and \$20 (a student, faculty, and staff discount is available). For additional information, call 710-3210 or go to http://www.baylor.edu/special_performances/index.php?id=21539. The production team for All University Sing 2007 thanks its 2006-07 supporters.

STUDENT LIFE WEB SITE

All Student Life Newsletters may be viewed on our Student Life Web site. The address is http://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=34407.

WELCOME WEEKEND 2007



New Students and WW Leaders at the Zoo

On January 5, we welcomed a host of new students to campus for a day of orientation and a weekend of relationship building. Friday evening, Welcome Weekend activities kicked off with a rousing Traditions program and a great Italian meal. The evening festivities closed with an energetic

presentation of the school song and a tutorial of the beloved Sic 'Em.

The next day, Welcome Weekend participants met at Caritas to serve the community of Waco and demonstrate the passion for community service evident here at Baylor. Following Caritas, new students ate lunch with our fantastic Welcome Weekend leaders before heading off to the Cameron Park Zoo for a cool, but rewarding, afternoon of great conversations and fun exhibits. Saturday night we warmed up with some Uncle Dan's BBQ at Dr. Dub Oliver's home and later capped off the evening with games in the Den of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Our student leaders, or Welcome Weekend Leaders, were instrumental in all of the weekend activities, but especially on Sunday afternoon as they walked students all over campus to find out their classrooms and learn more about Baylor. The Welcome Weekend activities ended with a coffee stop at Common Grounds. While the weekend was a huge success, the most rewarding part was watching our student leaders minister to new students and bring them into the community of Baylor in significant ways. New Student Programs wishes to thank all of those who made Orientation and Welcome Weekend a success.

INVOLVEMENT/ENGAGEMENT WORK TEAM

One of the benchmarks measured by the NSSE (National Survey on Student Engagement) is Supportive Campus Environment. This benchmark focuses on the academic and social support offered to students on campus as well as the quality of the relationships students form with other students, faculty, and staff members. This is important because student performance and satisfaction will both be increased on campuses that are committed not only to academic success, but also to the development of positive working and social relationships. In the area of Supportive Campus Environment, Baylor's overall mean score was higher than our selected peers, Carnegie peers, and the overall NSSE 2006 at both the freshman and senior years. This does not mean that we cannot work to increase the support offered to our students. We must make sure that the resources we make available to our students are being offered in the most effective forms and accessible places. Faculty and staff must also be available and equipped to meet the needs of students. The University can also use its physical space to encourage conversations between students and their peers, faculty, and staff. These conversations will strengthen student relationships ultimately by helping them to feel more supported on the campus.

The National Survey of Student Engagement also measured the quantity and quality of Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE) offered at Baylor. The purpose of this benchmark is to assess the degree to which co-curricular activities enhance current academic programs. Items in this area include technology use, diversity experiences, internships, community service opportunities, and senior courses that encourage practical application. According to the data, Baylor first-year students and seniors score slightly higher than the top 50% of the NSSE sample, but lower than the top 10%. Baylor's mean for first-year students in this area was significantly higher than its Carnegie Peers and the overall NSSE responses. For seniors, Baylor's mean was significantly higher than its selected peers, Carnegie peers, and overall NSSA responses. In order to improve this area, the Involvement/Engagement Work Team recommends including a reflection component with co-curricular programming; collaborating with students, faculty, and staff to create a culture of dialogue on campus; and increasing the level of participation in diversity, service, study abroad and capstone experiences.

As you think about your work as an educator, please think and reflect on how we can continue to enhance our caring community and enrich the experience for our students.

PRESENTATIONS



Jim Marsh, Bethany McCraw, and Martha Lou Scott were joined by **Chris Holmes**, Assistant General Counsel, on January 12 to present "The Mental Health Summit: A Collaborative Campus-wide Strategy to Address Mental Health" at NASPA's Collaborations for Improved Mental Health and Wellness on College and University Campuses Third Annual Conference, held at the Westin Galleria in Houston. Pictured are Jim Marsh, Bethany McCraw, and Chris Holmes.

FAMILY CORNER

Dr. Melisa Benham's brother-in-law was fatally wounded in a hunting accident during the first part of January. We extend our deepest sympathy to Melisa and her entire family.

Pam Kilgore's mother recently had cancer surgery. At the same time, Pam was also caring for her husband, who had a total hip replacement. Pam and her family are in our thought and prayers.

Meghan and Todd Becker are the proud new parents of baby daughter, *Sarah Caroline Becker*, born on November 22. Big sister, Ellie, shares in the excitement of her new baby sister. The Becker family states they are reminded of God's miracles through the birth of this sweet baby. Our best wishes to the Becker family on this special gift from God.

