



# 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 9, February 15, 2007

## A NOTE FROM DUB

*"Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll any stones out of his way, and must calmly accept his lot even if they roll a few more into it."*

*Albert Schweitzer*

I wish we could all see more clearly the many great things that result from our work together. The reality is that often we see and experience the challenges and difficulties in our own work - just think about all of the challenges that you have faced just this week. But that doesn't provide us the opportunity to see the larger picture of how our work as educators makes a difference at Baylor in the lives of students. Here is just one example.

Each year, there are students selected to compete for the prestigious Truman Foundation Scholarship at Baylor. There are a number of students who receive different scholarships each year, but the Truman is one of the top programs. This year, there were four students selected by the University to be advanced to the competition. Those four, Kenneth Ike, James Nortey, Nekpen Osuan, and Brent Wilkins, are very intelligent and hard working students. Their transcripts could easily show us that. But, the reason the committee at Baylor selected these four is not just because of their intellectual capital, but because of the way they have engaged the entire learning experience at Baylor, and because of the effect that learning experience has had on our students. They are four names that are familiar to Student Life staff members because of their involvement in student organizations, participation in various programs, and service as community leaders, Welcome Week leaders, and Student Government leaders. From this small cohort, we can understand that we are indeed establishing an environment where learning can flourish. You and I are a part of that work, and it is very good work we have been blessed to do. Be encouraged, because this is just one example of a larger reality. We are educators who are making a difference.

Dub

## STAFF TRANSITIONS



*Jayne Nichols,  
Highland Insurance Clerk*

## SERVICE AWARDS

Many Baylor students learn what it means to integrate service into their lives by taking time out of their busy schedules to go out and serve the Waco community. The tasks these students perform vary greatly. They include mentoring at local elementary schools, raising funds for local non-profit agencies, pairing with students as Baylor Buddies, painting houses, landscaping, fishing with friends at a nursing home, and cleaning up roads, rivers, and highways.

Each year an individual male and female are nominated for two awards given at the Student Organization and Leadership Awards Banquet for outstanding community service. These students are recognized for individual contribution of time, talent, and effort in the Waco community.

If you know of a student who has been an outstanding volunteer to the Waco community, please encourage him or her to go to [www.baylor.edu/student\\_activities/service](http://www.baylor.edu/student_activities/service) and click on "Service Chair Resources" to fill out the Virginia Crump Award (females) or the John S. Belew Award (males). The deadline for turning in applications is March 23.

### **STEPPIN' OUT**

Last semester during Baylor's day of service, Steppin' Out, over 3,000 students volunteered to step out into the community and serve. This semester, the Steppin' Out Steering Committee would like more faculty and staff involvement! If you are interested in serving on March 24 from 1-5 p.m., contact Laura Hilton at [L\\_Hilton@Baylor.edu](mailto:L_Hilton@Baylor.edu) or Missy Davis at [Missy\\_Davis@baylor.edu](mailto:Missy_Davis@baylor.edu)

### **RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR INFORMATION**

Residence Hall Director Recruitment for 2007-08 is underway! Campus Living and Learning will be recruiting at the Joint NASPA/ACPA conference in Orlando, Florida, this year. Hall directors that will be leaving us in late June/early July include: Meghan Becker, Kokernot hall, John Salazar, Penland hall and Gary Stout, Penland hall.

Some hall directors will be transferring to different residential communities. These include: Larry Hughes, Brooks College; Sharia Hays, Brooks Flats; and Ssereta Hawkins, Arbors and Baylor Plaza. As a result, new staff will be hired for the Kokernot director, the Penland director and assistant director, the Allen/Dawson Leadership LLC director, and the North Russell assistant director.

### **STRENGTHS REFRESHER REMINDER**

Do you wonder what all the strengths talk 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 Strengths Refresher 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 12 noon in the Baines Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center (SUB). Please RSVP and submit any questions to [Matthew\\_Bonow@baylor.edu](mailto:Matthew_Bonow@baylor.edu). We look forward to seeing you!

### **STUDENT LIFE WEB SITE**

Remember that 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](http://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=34407).

### **INVOLVEMENT/ENGAGEMENT WORK TEAM**

Another benchmark measured by the NSSE is Active and Collaborative Learning. Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter during and after college. In the area of Active and Collaborative Learning, first-year students at Baylor University scored slightly higher than our Carnegie Peers and tied on the overall NSSE 2006 score. However, first-year students at our peer institutions scored significantly higher than Baylor University. Baylor University seniors had a slightly higher score than our Selected Peers in the overall NSSE 2006 as well as a significantly higher score than our Carnegie Peers. Baylor University is not meeting the standards that we desire in this category; thus, it will be necessary for Student Life professionals to seek opportunities to have open dialogue with faculty members. As educators we must find ways to engage students in conversations about what they are learning. Practically, student life professionals can join Teaching Commons groups, seek out faculty at church, and look for service-learning opportunities for students that will also be of interest to faculty.

Research has shown that significant and positive student-faculty interaction is related to increased student retention and academic success. Simply put, the more contact students have with faculty, the more likely they will persist in school and graduate. When students see faculty as approachable, caring individuals, boundaries disappear and opportunities for discussion about issues pertinent to their own lives are created. The NSSE assesses student-faculty interaction on the campus by looking at whether students discuss grades with instructors, talk about career plans, and work alongside faculty members in activities outside the classroom. Compared to our selected peer institutions, Baylor scores higher in this NSSE benchmark for both first-year and senior students. However, Baylor's Student-Faculty Interaction score for both first-year and senior students fails to be in the overall top 50% of all NSSE participants, indicating a need for continued efforts to support student-faculty interaction on campus. Initiatives such as faculty-in-residence, faculty partners, Frankly Speaking, student organization advising, and the efforts of the Quality Enhancement Plan are intended to foster these relationships. As we partner with students, we have the opportunity to encourage students to make the most of their academic experiences by building meaningful relationships with the faculty.

## LEADERSHIP LIVING AND LEARNING CENTER



*Lead LLC Program Director, Trinity Robb, answers students' questions before sending students in kayaks and canoes to clean the Brazos River*

The programming of the Leadership Living and Learning Center (LEAD-LLC) is in full-swing again. Students are taking the common cohort class, Servant Leadership, which requires completion of 30 hours of community service. Mentor Groups have a new curriculum, which has been well-received by students. They have covered topics like identity and influences where each student graphed his or her lifeline, a.k.a. life story or testimony. Then, they shared it with another person in the mentor group, specifically highlighting events or influences that directly correlate to part of their strengths and identity today. Each topic has an accompanying activity that aids in participation and learning retention.

Next year, the LEAD-LLC will have true second and third year programming where students are able to reapply for continued living and learning experiences and great leadership opportunities. The second and third year students go through an application and interview process. The LEAD-LLC is pleased to announce our second year mentors: Callie Bristow, Marc Link, Kaleigh Moran, Gina Gollub, Tiffany Purnell, Donny Kristianto, Molly Christy, Jules Lynde, Jessica Reynolds, Matt Sawyers, Tracy Schmidt, Rachel Koontz, and Stephen Williams. Our third year senior mentor is Jordan Stouffer.

Recruiting for the 2007-2008 academic year is underway. The LEAD-LLC has already admitted several students through a rolling admissions process. If you know of any incoming student who has a passion for leadership, please send them to [www.baylor.edu/leadership/leadllc](http://www.baylor.edu/leadership/leadllc), the LEAD-LLC Web site.

## BAYLOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO BE REBORN

Baylor Leadership Council (BLC) is an organization that exists to LOOK for potential student leaders; helps them LEARN fundamental leadership skills; encourages them to LEAD the Baylor, Waco, and Texas communities; and prepares them to LIVE according to Christian leadership principles. After a two-year hiatus BLC is back and better than ever.

Intrinsic to any leadership position is the commitment to service. BLC members organize and attend various events to develop leadership skills within the campus and community, including Leaders on Top (a leadership conference for local middle school students), Leader Week (a week dedicated to highlighting leadership on campus), Leadership Lecture Series (lectures highlighting leadership needs in contemporary society), Women's Leadership Conference (for central Texas college students), and various Professional Development Opportunities. Members further increase their own leadership skills by leading others.

The 2007 BLC will be determined through an application and interview process. Members will be notified and will kick off the year with a celebratory event the last week of February. For more information, go to [www.baylor.edu/leadership/blc](http://www.baylor.edu/leadership/blc).



*Lead LLC Program Director, Trinity Robb, answers students' questions before sending students in kayaks and canoes to clean the Brazos River*

**NATIONAL EATING DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK  
FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2**

The Student Life Division Work Team Body IQ, Baylor Dining Services, Place 2BU, Panhellenic, Student Outreach Committee, University Ministries, and the Campus Recreation/Fitness Center are sponsoring events for the National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, February 26 through March 2. The BodyIQ work team encourages Student Life staff to participate in the following events:

**Daily:**

Special showing of "The Strength to Resist: Media's Impact on Women and Girls," 2-4 p.m. (shown every half hour in the SUB, Claypool Room)

"Room with a View" all day in the McLane SLC

**Monday, February 26:**

Special showing of HBO documentary "Thin" at 7 p.m. in the SUB-Beckham Room with special guest, Dawn Montaner, of Lifelines Foundation for Eating Disorders

**Tuesday, February 27:**

"Healthy Eating Day" at all Residential Dining Facilities sponsored by Baylor Dining Services

**Wednesday, February 28:**



Leslie Goldman, author of "Locker Room Diaries" at Chapel.

An Evening with Leslie Goldman at 7 p.m. at Baylor Science Building, Room B110; open to all Baylor students, faculty and staff and Waco community with reception to follow.

**Thursday, March 1:**

"Inside an Eating Disorder" presented by Dr. Cynthia Wall in the SUB, Barfield Drawing Room; 12- 1 p.m. for all Baylor students, faculty, and staff. Please RSVP at 710-6631 or e-mail [Van\\_Davis@baylor.edu](mailto:Van_Davis@baylor.edu) by Tuesday, February 27, and get a FREE brown bag lunch provided by Baylor Dining Services.

Special showing of HBO documentary "Thin" at 7 p.m. in the SUB, Beckham Room, with special guest, Dawn Montaner of Lifelines Foundation for Eating Disorders.

**WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER CERTIFICATION**

The office of Outdoor Adventure is offering a seminar to earn the Wilderness First Responder certification in April. This is in conjunction with the National Outdoor Leadership School and is open to all faculty, staff, and students. Prior outdoor experience is not a prerequisite for most NOLS courses. If you are in good shape, have a positive attitude, and want to learn wilderness skills you will have the time of your life. For dates and cost, please contact Kelli McMahan in the Department of Campus Recreation at 710-7615. For more details of the course/certification, you may visit the Web site at <http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/wildfirstresponder.shtml>.



WFR students rescue a patient from a cold mountain stream. After receiving certification from WMI, many students go onto careers as emergency care providers.

**ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS**

The Baylor University 2006 Annual Service Awards presentation was held on February 14. We proudly announce that nineteen recipients in the Student Life Division were recognized and honored for their service and contributions to the University. Listed below are the Student Life recipients:

**Five Years**

Linda Bostwick, Heather Gilliam, Carlene Jensen, Kelli McMahan, Blake Padgett, Linda Propst, Frank Shushok, and Rishi Sriram

**Ten Years**

Diana Balderas, Tam Dunn, Brenda Ferguson, Sandy Tindell, and Patricia White

**Twenty Years**

Linda Cates and Linda Williams

**Twenty-five Years**

Liz Palacios and Louise Saunders



### **INTERVIEW PLACEMENT 2007**

The Division of Student Life will be hosting potential master's candidates on campus March 1-2. These students are applicants to the Student Services Administration program and will be interviewing for assistantships. Most of their activities will be taking place in the SUB on Friday, March 2, so feel free to help out and meet future Student Affairs professionals! If you would like additional information about this important recruitment effort, please contact Julia Dimmick at 710-7912.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

***Tuesday, February 27, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Barfield Drawing Room***

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the next Student Life Development meeting. You won't want to miss this presentation on NSSE! Additional information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

### **LADY BEARS BATTLE FOR FIRST PLACE**

Join the Baylor Athletic Family for the final two weeks of the 2007 home basketball season. Sunday, February 25th at 1:00 at the Ferrell Center, the Lady Bears will battle the Texas Aggies for first place in the Big 12. There is a planned "white out" which means to wear a white Baylor shirt to the game. Or of course you may always wear gold.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

***Bethany McCraw*** and ***David Murdock***, from the Judicial Affairs office, recently attended the national conference for the *Association for Student Judicial Affairs* (ASJA) in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Bethany and David were program presenters for the conference. Their 90-minute presentation entitled: "If I Had Only Known That: A Primer on Judicial Affairs Fundamentals" and was targeted at professionals who have either recently entered the field or have been given responsibilities over judicial issues that they have not had previously. The session addressed the educational philosophies, higher education laws, and practices common to all student judicial proceedings either at public or private institutions.

### **FAMILY CORNER**

***Jeff Walter***, Assistant Director for Student Life Facilities in the Campus Recreation Department, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and would covet your prayers for his surgery the first week of April. He is thankful for Christian physicians and modern technology and is most thankful for the love and support of his Baylor family.

**The Student Life Division presents  
an Oscar Award Winning Presentation**

**HOLLYWOOD**

**The red carpet is being rolled out  
for the opening premiere of the  
Baylor NSSE presentation.**

We welcome our celebrity host  
**DUB OLIVER**

This spectacular extravaganza will be held at the world-famous  
Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center

**Tuesday, February 27**

**9:00–10:30 a.m.**

*Come participate in the glitz and glam  
of this once in a life time experience.*

