

One Gift. Three Designations. Immeasurable Rewards.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE—it's what sets apart the Baylor family. Dr. Michael and Cindy Harlan, whose daughter Brittany is a freshman, made a difference by giving to the Parents Fund.

Their love for books and desire to help students led the Harlans to spread their gifts among the three Parents Fund designations: the Parents League Endowed Scholarship, the Student Emergency Fund and the Library Excellence Fund.

"It's a joy to be a part

of providing a child with assistance," Cindy, who has spent the last 20 years involved in education and recognizes the importance of getting involved, explained.

"The blessings and joy are immeasurable and there's a sense of ownership when you've invested yourself. Even with a small gift, you become part of the process," she said. "We've been impressed by those at Baylor and their desire to do what's right for the students. It motivates us to do whatever we can."

For more information about how you can support the Parents Fund, please contact Judy Maggard, director of Parent Programs, toll-free at (888) BU-PL-557.

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UNIVERSITY

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Baylor
Parents League

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From Studio to Sky, Baylor Undergraduate Research is Taking Off

They're testing alternative fuels for flight, questioning legal actions of multi-billion dollar companies and getting their papers published in academic journals. Did you think cutting-edge research was just for graduate students?

"We have undergraduate research going on *everywhere* you look," Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research, said. "In the music school, students are working with master musicians and studying how compositions are put together. In the geology department, they're taking undergraduates out in the field to do oil research." And the list goes on.

"You have to have solid undergraduate research in order to be a strong school," Hyde said. "That's been understood by Baylor for a long time, and that's what has set us apart."

This is particularly true for students in the Aviation Sciences program. "As far as I know, we're unique," Dr. Maxwell Shauck, director of Baylor Institute for Air Science (BIAS), said. "I know of only one other university that does fuels research, but they don't involve their undergraduates."

Taking a progressive role in ethanol-powered flight and air quality investigations, BIAS has a mix of undergraduate and graduate student teams in the field daily. "We have a stand-mounted engine that we use to record data on the performance of ethanol," sophomore Nick Periman, an Aviation Sciences major from Houston, said. "Ethanol is cheaper than the aviation gas, and it's a cleaner, renewable source of fuel."



Many hours of research have made sophomore Nick Periman, an Aviation Sciences major from Houston, feel quite at home in the lab/hangar.

While assisting in BIAS research is part of his work-study program, to Periman—who wants to be an Army helicopter pilot—it's much more than a job. "It's really neat figuring out things that have never been done before and relating it to flying. The people here are flying addicts," Periman said. "And being able to do

Continued on page 11



Baylor senior and Princeton Review teacher Melissa Mathias helps a student prepare for the verbal portion of the MCAT.

The Credential Creep: Pursuing Postgraduate Education

You successfully got through the process of college applications—your student is a Baylor Bear, after all. But as many of you know, and as others are soon to find out, advanced degrees are a hot commodity. It's what Larry Lyon, dean of Baylor's Graduate School, calls the "credential creep"—the rising level of education needed to be competitive in today's job market—and many parents are now educating themselves about school after the undergraduate degree.

The first distinction many learn is between graduate school and professional school. Professional school, as the name implies, educates students in a prescribed set of courses to receive a degree in a specific profession, such as medicine or law. Financial aid is quite similar to undergraduate, with scholarships, grants and loans funding the degree. On the other hand, graduate school does not lead as

directly to a particular job, but allows students to take a variety of classes, leading to a master's or doctoral degree in subjects ranging from philosophy to mathematics. In graduate school, financial aid often comes in the form of assistantships, allowing students to work as a research assistant, lab aide or some similar job, in exchange for tuition.

The GPA and test scores are important for admissions purposes, but graduate and professional schools place more emphasis on objective factors when they select students, such as the personal statement essay, letters of recommendation and, for some schools, interviews.

"Know that it's more important for students to give an honest representation of themselves than to try to say what they think we want to hear," Heather Creed, director of student relations at Baylor Law School, said.

Continued on page 5

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



In this issue of *Perspectives* you will be able to read about a survey that was conducted regarding student satisfaction with their Baylor experience. It is very important to us to find out how your students view their time at Baylor.

In addition, it is important for us to know about your experience as the parent of one or more Baylor students. In the coming months, we will begin bringing together focus groups in hopes of finding out if the Parents League organization is providing you with adequate information and services that help you and your student

navigate the college years. I encourage you to begin thinking about your experience as a Baylor parent and ways to give us feedback. We are eager to hear from you about how we are doing as your communication link with the university.

Registering for classes and staying on track for a timely graduation date requires close monitoring by your student and their academic advisor. Our team of academic advisors has your student's best interests at the top of their agenda. Joyce Miller, director of

Academic Advisement, sat down with us to talk about the goals of this important department and how they are working to help your student accomplish their goal of a Baylor education within a study abroad or internship setting.

If you are not already doing so please consider becoming an active member in your local Parents League chapter. The opportunity to fellowship and communicate with other Baylor families in your local community can be an excellent way to learn more about the university and to enjoy the common bond that you have with other Baylor parents. If you are interested in learning more about local chapters and how you can be involved, please visit our website at www.baylor.edu/parentsleague or contact our office at 1-888-BU-PL-557 (toll free) or (254) 710-2561. If you prefer to contact us via e-mail our address is parentsleague@baylor.edu.

Judy Maggard
Director, Parent Programs

ENHANCING Your Degree

Earning a degree doesn't just involve time in a Baylor classroom. Students who choose to apply classroom experiences through study abroad programs and internships will learn that communicating with an academic advisor is critical to ensure the experience benefits their degree plan.

"Students should meet with their advisor and review their degree audit to make sure they understand the Baylor degree requirements," Joyce Miller, director of Academic Advisement, said. "As students select options for the study abroad or internship program, they need to know how those fit in the degree plan. If there's any question about whether courses will satisfy a requirement, the student might need to go through the process of petitioning the dean to make a substitution."

More students are planning for a study abroad or internship experience before they even begin college, a trend that helps better prepare students for challenges they might face.

"During orientation we find that students and their parents are already looking ahead and planning for that experience," Miller said. "By the time some are in their junior or senior year—they're at a point in their degree program where they understand the requirements and have met with their advisor many times already."

However students may face other obstacles. Students cannot always count on the availability of study abroad courses. Just as a course may be cancelled, study abroad programs might adjust programming from year to year. "The wonderful thing about our access to communication is that students can call or e-mail their advisor and get information on how a different selection might affect their degree," Miller said.

While students need to take the initiative to ensure these steps are followed, help is available and everyone works together to make the programs run as smoothly as possible.

Student Steps for Success

- **Contact the Office of International Programs (study abroad) or Career Services (internships) for specific steps that must be followed.**
- **Make appointments with academic advisors and others such as a financial aid advisor. Students should clear up potential problems before they leave campus.**
- **Secure contact information or plan to check the Baylor website for assistance if problems arise.**
- **Make arrangements for advisement and registration for the subsequent semester via the web during the semester away.**
- **Graduating seniors should file for graduation with their dean's office and finalize degree plans.**
- **With study abroad programs, transcripts may not be immediately available upon a student's return to Baylor. Miller advises that patience and following the above suggested steps will alleviate many concerns with this process.**

CALENDAR 2007

APRIL

6-9
Easter Holidays

19
Diadeloso

21
Spring Premiere

MAY

3-9
Final Examinations

12
Commencement

29
Summer Session I Begins

JULY

2
Summer Session I
Final Examinations

4
Independence Day

5
Summer Session II Begins

Real-World Applications for Dijkstra's Algorithm?

Your challenge: you are designing a subway car with poles for people to hold on to, while leaving room for people to walk through the car. Given an arbitrary placement of poles in a subway car, write a computer program that will compute the belt size of the largest person who can make it from one end to the other.

Sound difficult? That is actually a much-simplified example of a problem that students competing in

"This competition gives students a chance to practice their craft outside the constraints of an instructional agenda."

-David Sturgill
Associate Professor
of Computer Science

the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), headquartered at Baylor University, might solve. Not only that, but these

teams have only five hours to solve 10 similar real-world computer programming problems. The team that correctly solves the most problems, in the least amount of time, wins the competition.

"This competition gives students a chance to practice their craft outside the constraints of an instructional agenda—they aren't applying Dijkstra's algorithm because it's the topic of the week, they are applying it because it's the right tool for the job," David Sturgill, associate professor of computer science, said. "It gives them a chance to work in a team in a way that's not too far from what they will do in the workplace some day." Sturgill teaches a Competitive Learning class that prepares teams for the "Tech Olympics."

Baylor was one of six universities in the central United States that hosted a regional contest, and one of Baylor's three teams placed eighth out of 60 teams. The top performing team from each regional site will advance to the World Finals in Tokyo, Japan, where 88 teams representing universities from six continents will compete.

"There are not many opportunities where you compete outright with other programmers and see how your skills stack up," Cory McDonough, a Cypress, Texas, junior majoring in computer science, noted. "This gives programmers good experience in dealing with multiple problems at once, and helps you deal with deadlines and learn to work with others. All of these will definitely contribute to a career in programming."



Teams from around the world competed in the ICPC Java Challenge. Some of the problems presented to contestants in the World Finals are actually too difficult to do under the time constraints, so part of the challenge is identifying those without wasting too much time.



The Jagiellonian University-Krakow team works together in the ICPC Java Challenge, one of the activities at last year's conference. Jagiellonian went on to be one of the Gold Medal winners in the 2006 World Finals, which was hosted by Baylor University.

AUGUST

8
Summer Session II
Final Examinations
11
Summer Commencement
16-19
Welcome Week
16
Residence Halls Open
20
Fall Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER

3
Labor Day

OCTOBER

5-6
Parents Weekend
12-14
Fall Break

NOVEMBER

1-3
Pigskin Revue
2-4
Homecoming
21-25
Thanksgiving Holidays

Mental Health TRENDS at Baylor University

Dr. Jim Marsh, guest writer, serves as the Director of Counseling Services for Baylor University. Before becoming the director in 2004, Dr. Marsh served four years as a staff psychologist, then one year as the Assistant Director of Counseling. He received his doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Tennessee in 1998.

Students entering college today have a 50-50 chance of developing depression or some other mental health problem during their college years, according to Dr. Richard Kadison, chief of the Mental Health Service for Harvard University and author of the book *College of the Overwhelmed*. In fact, the college student mental health landscape has changed dramatically in the past 10-15 years. Today, there are more students than ever seeking mental health services at college and universities, and not only is the number of appointments going up but so is the complexity, and at times severity, of the concerns presented by students.

Mental Health Trends at Baylor

I am often asked about the mental health trends at Baylor University. Our Counseling Center data from the past several years suggest that our students are responding much like the rest of the nation. Baylor students have a wide range of mental health concerns and the severity of the problems is growing. Over the past several years, between 30-35 percent of students coming to the Counseling Center have sought help for some form of depression. Another 13-18 percent have sought help for an anxiety disorder such as panic disorder where a student has recurring panic or anxiety attacks. For a complete list of reasons students seek counseling, I encourage you to visit the Parents League website (www.baylor.edu/parentsleague).

How Parents Can Help

There are several ways that parents can help their student. First, parents should be informed about college student mental health issues. I also recommend that you be aware of typical warning signs that suggest your student may need assistance. The Counseling Center website has a complete list of warning signs that we discuss with faculty and staff; you can easily access this website via the Parents League website (www.baylor.edu/parentsleague).

Although there are a number of potential warning signs, the best one is your own parental instinct. You know your son or daughter better than anyone else and can recognize abrupt or radical

changes in behavior. Some of the more common warning signs are difficulty sleeping, significant weight loss or gain, fatigue, low motivation, substance abuse, significant decline in academic or work performance, not attending class, isolation, increased anxiety or worry and thoughts of suicide.

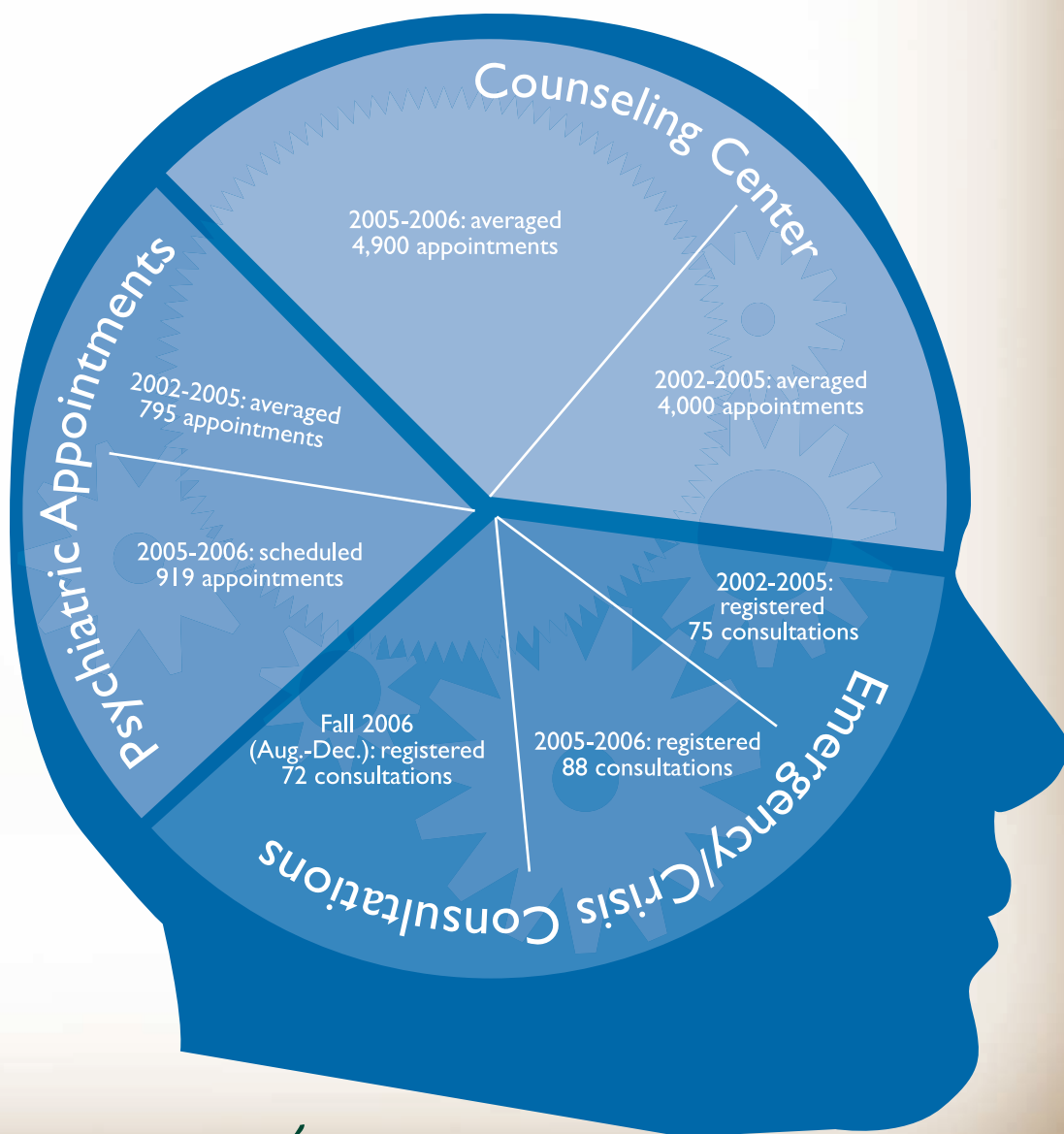
It also is important to be supportive if your student wants to talk to a mental health professional. Research has demonstrated what is known as the "Ivy League" factor, which states that students attending Ivy League institutions seek mental health services at a rate of three times more than non-Ivy League institutions. Baylor University shares many of the characteristics of Ivy League institutions such as academic pressure that may cause students to seek professional help. Many students don't want

their parents to know they are struggling. Your support to seek help could be the difference in them taking the next step.

Learn More About What You Can Do and What Is Available

There are many other ways you, as a parent, can assist your student, and there are numerous ways that Baylor strives to provide ample services. I encourage you to visit the Parents League website (www.baylor.edu/parentsleague) to read more about warning signs, ways to support your student and services that Baylor has to offer.

If a student needs an emergency consultation after business hours or on weekends, he or she may call the Counseling Center at (254) 710-2467 for instructions in reaching an on-call doctor.



Health Center Implements CHANGES to Better Meet Needs of Students

Helpful Hints for the Health Center

After a significant change this fall, Baylor's Health Center functions more like a doctor's office. Historically, student fees subsidized the cost to operate the Health Center and visits were "free," with the understanding that students were responsible for handling insurance claims. Now, students present their insurance card at each visit, are charged their insurance co-payments and Baylor files and handles paperwork with the insurance company.

According to Rosemary Townsend, director of Business Affairs/Community Partnerships, the new system is more convenient and students are reimbursed more often. "I have had a positive response from both students and parents," Townsend said. "We can file electronically in real-time—students don't have to do the paper work to file the claims, and if there is a dispute we can have it negotiated on their behalf." The new procedure ensures that parents are getting the full benefit of their student's medical insurance, because in the past students did not always obtain the forms necessary to file with their insurance, Townsend said. As proof of Baylor's commitment to provide the best care to students, any proceeds the Health Center realizes from insurance claims will go directly into the Health Center.

In addition, the Health Center is changing their appointment system to allow more accommodation for illnesses, injuries and emergencies. Same-day appointments open every day at 8 a.m. and are open to all students until the spots fill up, and emergency appointments will be scheduled as needed throughout the day. Pre-booked appointments for routine medical needs such as physicals and well-woman exams will be scheduled from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Currently, the Health Center staff consists of five physicians, one nurse practitioner and 10 full-time nurses, and they expect to add another full-time nurse practitioner this spring. Through these changes, the staff hopes to better accommodate Baylor students' healthcare needs.

- **When making an appointment** always give accurate and detailed information about why you are seeking medical care.
- **If symptoms worsen** before your appointment, call back if necessary.
- **Students can always call and talk** to a nurse during office hours; if one is not available, your call will be returned promptly.
- **Know Baylor's absence policy:** A doctor's note is not an excuse from class, just documentation that you were at the Health Center.
- **Baylor has a new health insurance program** available. (www.baylor.edu/health_center)
- **Bring your insurance card** (or a copy of the card) and your student ID (co-pays are charged to your student account).
- **Contact Baylor's Insurance Office** if you're interested in setting the Health Center up as in-network for your insurance provider.
- **Make sure you have** a complete health form on file. This gives the physician necessary information.

Call (254) 710-1010 for an appointment
Hours: Monday and Thursday 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: 2nd floor, McLane Student Life Center
www.baylor.edu/health_center

Postgraduate Education

Continued from page 1

Students also need to consider their needs when applying to schools. Preferences such as university size and geographic location should not be discounted in the decision.

"When you go to interview with schools, obviously they're interviewing you to see if you will fit with them, but you're also interviewing the schools to see if this is where you want to be, if you would be happy there," Allison Bonds, a senior biology pre-health major from Waco, said.

Lyon and Creed both advise students interested in postgraduate education to start by visiting the Baylor Graduate

School and Law School, which both have information that will be applicable to many schools. Bonds found Baylor's pre-health committee's services to be invaluable in her application process to medical school. The Internet also provides a wealth of resources, from test preparation information to graduate program websites.

Once you have researched the programs, taken the tests, investigated your financial aid options and it comes time to submit the application, "let the school know what is special about you," Lyon said. "And know how much support there is out there for your education."

The Entrance Exam ABCs

General Graduate Studies

GRE: Graduate Record Examination

Post-graduate Studies in Business

GMAT: Graduate Management Admission Test

Law School

LSAT: Law School Admission Test

Medical School

MCAT: Medical College Admission Test

Where History Comes to Life: Global Education through Study Abroad

Studying history from a textbook is one thing. Seeing the places where history happened is a whole other experience. For this reason and many more, approximately 800 Baylor students study abroad each year.

"As a University Scholars major with a pre-medical concentration, I chose the Baylor in Maastricht program because of last fall's rigorous science curriculum and the field trips geared toward learning about the roots of western medicine," Nathan Grohmann, a sophomore from Weimar, Texas, said. "We took histology—the study of tissues—and human disease courses one day, and the next we were off to Paris to visit the Pasteur Institute, where Louis Pasteur invented pasteurization and developed a rabies vaccination."

"Studying abroad is a chance to step outside the ordinary and look at life from a completely new perspective," Cathleen Catlin (BA '04), exchange programs and study abroad advisor, said. "Students can build their resumes while growing intellectually and culturally as they become international citizens. With programs in over 26 countries, the opportunities are endless for Baylor students to study abroad."

As technology makes international business and politics the norm, understanding other cultures is becoming increasingly important for all professions. Xin Wang (MSED '97, MS '98, EDD '02), assistant professor in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, director of Baylor in China and assistant director of Baylor's exchange program with Tsinghua University in Beijing, said the newly formed Baylor in China program resulted from increasing student interest in East Asia.

"When students go to China, they find the society very different from what they know from the United States news," Wang said. "They have this face-to-face, very personal learning experience with a new culture."

That experience abroad where students gain language skills, independence and adaptability, can give students an edge when applying for jobs or postgraduate education. Students wanting to gain international work experience can pursue

internships while abroad, and opportunities for mission work also are available. In his travels, Grohmann and some friends spent a few days teaching English and sharing the Gospel with Romanian orphans.

"The trip is almost like a journey for students to discover themselves," Wang noted. "Not only do they discover a different culture and how to live with other people, but they learn about themselves."



Kerry Mauger, Daniel Prince, Meghan Merchant and Molly Haas stop for a picture at Notre Dame in Paris, France. The program fee for Baylor in Maastricht includes the cost of a Eurail pass, providing students with a safe and easy method of travel.

Jordan Hamilton, Tyler Colburn, Molly Haas and Marianna Stell visited the Berliner Dom, a Lutheran cathedral in Germany. In addition to planned excursions with the Baylor group, Maastricht students have four weeks for independent travel. With Maastricht conveniently located in Western Europe, countries such as Belgium and Germany are just a short train ride away.





Senior Kyle Althof (back row, far right), a film and digital media major from Roscoe, Texas, gathers with fellow Baylor in NY 2006 participants in Times Square.

Alex Parks traveled to Amsterdam and discovered a giant version of the traditional Dutch shoe, a symbol many associate with The Netherlands. However, Baylor students quickly learn that the country is much more than unusual clothes as they take classes both with Baylor faculty and at the University of Maastricht.

Lights! Camera! INTERN!

"I want to tell everyone about this," Tiffany Kreck, a junior film and digital media major, said of her internship in Los Angeles with *The Tyra Banks Show*.

Kreck was one of 10 students who got to dip their toes in the fast-running waters of Hollywood last fall through Baylor Communications in L.A., a pilot program launched by Brian Elliott, senior lecturer and director of the venture. Sony Pictures, New Line Cinema and CBS were among the big-name companies where the students held semester-long internships, while still being able to maintain full-time student status by taking media courses taught by Elliott.

"Waco is fairly limited in its opportunities where telecommunications students can interact, network and be exposed to the industry," Elliott said. "So, we—as a department—recognized that we needed to make a way for them to get that experience."

"Recognizing the need" is exactly what led to the creation of the Baylor Communications in New York program three years ago. Living in a dormitory community, catching the subway to their respective internships and taking classes centered on media and culture makes for an intensive, but invaluable, daily experience for the 18 to 20 students who participate in the program each semester.

"Baylor in New York took what once seemed overwhelming to undergraduates and made it attainable," Dr. Joe Kickasola, director of Baylor in NY, said. "The most talented people in the media field have spent some amount of time in New York, and we wanted to give Baylor students that chance."

Kyle Althof took that chance in 2006...and loved it. A senior film and digital media major from Roscoe, Texas, Althof spent the spring semester of his junior year interning for PersonalScreen media, a new company specifically designed for Internet broadcasting, iPod videos and webisodes—webcast, episodic video shows.

"I was a production intern throughout the entire process of shooting a film," Althof said. "Since I was one of just a few interns, I was involved in everything." Among roles he played behind the scenes were: scouting for the cast, assisting in production, assisting in set and costume design and communicating with the publicity company.

"The internship I had allowed me to see so many different aspects of

what the film business, by itself, has to offer in New York," Althof said.

While on the opposite coast in Los Angeles, Kreck, a native to the city, had the same sentiments from her experience at *The Tyra Banks Show*. "This internship opened up a huge door for me, because I can now include on my resume that I know how to lace audio with film, pick out a clip from editing or design a website," Kreck said.

"There are certain skills that you'll never learn in the classroom, that can only be learned by working in that type of atmosphere with people who have been in the business," Althof said. "There are so many professors at Baylor who have different contacts. It would be a shame for students to not take advantage of that kind of situation because there's so much available to you."



*An avid fan of *The Tyra Banks Show*, junior Tiffany Kreck, a film and digital media major from Los Angeles, never guessed she would get to intern for it through Baylor in L.A. last semester.*

SPIRITUALLY Higher Education

College is a time for students to ask tough questions, seek a greater understanding of their vocation and find where they fit into the world. As many students embark on this quest, they find that *life* often spills over this academic pursuit and into a deeper place—spiritual development.

“To really educate the total person, you cannot exclude the spiritual element,” Byron Weathersbee (BSED '85), interim university chaplain, said.

Generations of Baylor students are quite aware of the “Welcome Week wheel,” an integrated approach that emphasizes the social, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of students. “Through religious organizations, spiritual development can be thoroughly integrated with ongoing intellectual maturity,” Jim Deaconson, priest at St. Peter’s Catholic Student Center at Baylor University, said. “Religious organizations provide the forum and the incentive to integrate faith and learning.”

Indeed, Alex Montes Vela, campus missionary for the Episcopal Student Center of Waco, points out that the Christian life is to be lived in community with others, providing a support network of others on a similar spiritual journey.

“Our aspiration is to make the Student Center a safe place for people to ask questions about life, about God and how they can live out the Christian faith,” Montes Vela said.

From Baptist Student Ministries to Baylor Religious Hour choir, Asians for Christ to Fellowship of Christian Athletes, students have a myriad of choices when wanting to find a welcoming community to seek spiritual growth on campus. These groups coordinate activities such as service projects, Bible studies, mission trips, ministering to local youth and simply gathering in fellowship.

“We give students an opportunity to discover their spiritual gifts and interests and apply them,” Clif Mouser (BBA '78, DMin '05), director of Baptist Student Ministries (BSM), said.

Mouser, who was an active member of what was the Baptist Student Union during his student years at Baylor, has served with Baylor’s BSM since 1995 and is now a parent of a Baylor freshman, David.

“As one parent to another, BSM is ready to continue the Christian influence that was begun in your family and in your home church,” Mouser said. “The BSM continues to build upon the foundation that you’ve laid in your child.”

“At this age, people begin wrestling with faith issues reflectively, so we have a lot of open, honest dialogue and discussion,” Robert Kenji Flowers, director/campus minister of The Wesley Foundation



Courtney May, a junior from Katy, Texas, and Savannah Regan, a junior from Pleasanton, Calif., recruit new volunteers for the Senior Adult Ministry at the BSM annual cookout.

at Baylor University, said. “We also do interfaith activities where we invite students of other faiths to come and talk about their backgrounds as well.”

Weathersbee notes that with a campus of 14,000 students from diverse backgrounds, a variety of campus ministries are necessary to reach as many students as possible.

“I believe that the ministries on this campus are doing everything in their power to be connected to God so that they become the hands, feet, mouth and heart of God to these students,” Weathersbee said. “Idealistically, prompted by the Holy Spirit, this allows the way, the truth and the life to be revealed to Baylor students.”

For information about the different religious organizations and how to get involved, students can contact the University Ministries office at (254) 710-3517.



Students celebrate the end of classes with a cookout at the Episcopal Student Center. Not only does the center provide spiritual guidance, but students also can take advantage of wireless Internet and a free washer and dryer.



Students stop for a lunch break during the Wesley Foundation workday. The students installed and fixed doors, cleaned windows and ceiling fans and enjoyed spending time in fellowship together.

PERSPECTIVE POINTS

Accounting Program “Big Mover” in Rankings

The accounting program at Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business continues to garner acclaim as one of the best programs in the nation. *Public Accounting Report* declared Baylor’s undergraduate accounting program a “big mover” on the list, climbing six spots to attain 18th place. In their peer groups, the Baylor undergraduate program ranks even higher, 4th among private schools and 6th among non-Ph.D. schools.

In addition, Baylor University students from the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) and Master of Tax (MTax) degree programs had a higher pass rate on the Texas CPA exam than any other graduate program in the state and second nationwide, according to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy statistics about the 2005 CPA exam results.

Record Number Participates in Steppin’ Out

A record number of students and community organizations participated in Steppin’ Out, Baylor University’s biannual service day. Three thousand students, representing 80 student and community organizations, were placed throughout the community, and volunteers worked with various Waco agencies, such as CARITAS food pantry, Compassion Ministries, Waco Center for Youth, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Piper Child Development Center and the Waco Family Abuse Center.



With many hands, arduous tasks like cleaning out brush and painting houses can be done quickly and efficiently. Steppin’ Out has been a Baylor tradition since 1985.

“We trimmed trees, tore down dog houses, raked leaves, pulled weeds, swept the deck and picked up trash,” said Kaley Eggers, Kappa Chi Alpha service chair. “It was a lot of work, but we really enjoyed doing it. As students at Baylor University, we have been blessed with so much; taking one afternoon to help someone in need is one of the many ways we can use the gifts we’ve been given.”

Baylor Hosts Green and Gold Mock Trial Tournament

The Baylor Undergraduate Mock Trial Team (BUMT) hosted its 3rd annual Green and Gold Invitational Mock Trial

Tournament in November at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center. Heather Creed, director of student relations for Baylor Law School and BUMT faculty sponsor, said the first Green and Gold Tournament was held in 2004 and has become a popular event among undergraduate students who are considering a career in the legal profession.

The three-day contest, which is sanctioned by the American Mock Trial Association, attracted 19 teams of Texas undergraduate students. Baylor’s team posted a 3-5 score. Taylor Norwood and Ashley Stewart were each one point away from having perfect individual scores as attorneys and winning attorney awards.



Laura Dobbins, a master’s student in environmental studies from Atlanta, and Alejandro Ramirez, a Ph.D. student in chemistry from Venezuela, prepare to analyze fish that likely have been contaminated with PPCPs.

Baylor Begins National Study to Examine Pharmaceutical Contaminants in Fish Tissue

Baylor University has been awarded a \$100,000 subcontract to study whether pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP) are found in fish tissue. The study will test fish muscle and liver tissue for compounds ranging from antidepressants to DEET and is the first of its kind on the national level.

“There is no doubt that pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the environment is an issue of concern,” said Kevin Chambliss, an assistant professor of chemistry at Baylor who is a co-principal researcher on the project. “What remains to be seen is whether it is a significant problem. Investigating the magnitude and frequency of accumulation in fish will provide some of the requisite data to address this question.”

Chambliss and Bryan Brooks, an assistant professor of environmental studies at Baylor and co-principal researcher, received this competitively funded project because of their previous finding of antidepressants in fish.

Flexibility Leads to CREATION of New Club Sport



Ryan Weber, of Austin, Texas, demonstrates his technique on the rings at Texas Dynasty Gymnastics. The Waco business also hosted the team's meet in February.

Gymnastics vaulted onto the Baylor campus to become the latest club sport. The team is making a name already, placing second overall at their first meet.

"Texas A&M beat us, but they had 15 members competing against our five," Shelly Avery, a Houston senior and president of the team, said. "We'll have a better chance at future meets as more members participate."

Competing again was exciting for Avery, though the excitement diminished slightly since her mom was unable to make the event. "I wish my mom was there because she was such a big part of my gymnastics career, but she had to work. It will be awesome to have her watch me compete again at future events."

Establishing an official gymnastics team at Baylor has been a labor of love for Avery since she transferred here.

"It's taken a year and a half of hard work," Avery said. "If it weren't for Robert Graham, assistant director for Campus Recreation, we could not have completed the paperwork in time. He was very helpful."

While working at Texas Dynasty Gymnastics in Waco, Avery met other Baylor students who were avid gymnasts and interested in joining the team.

"Many were well-known gymnasts in high school, but we've been out of competition for two or three years," she said. "We're strong competitors. We want to at least make a presence."

Both men and women team members practice at Texas Dynasty and pay semester dues, which cover use of the gym, costs and supplies. Additional costs include meet entry fees and uniforms. According to Avery, the costs are worth the benefits.

"I've been able to do what I love," Avery said. "It's awesome being around others who also love everything about gymnastics."

For more information about gymnastics, contact Shelly Avery (Shelly_Avery@baylor.edu) or Eric Elliott (Eric_Elliott@baylor.edu). For information about other club sports, visit the Club Sports link on the Campus Recreation website (www.baylor.edu/campusrec).

Minding Your Online "Ps" and "Qs:" Welcome to the World of Social Networking

It keeps growing: the cyber "language barrier" between parents and today's generation of college students. MySpace? Facebook? *What!?* Is it even worth the effort to keep up with your college student's online lingo?

Social networking websites, at a basic level, consist of individual "profiles" where the user displays pictures and information about themselves for other users to view and potentially contact them. MySpace and Facebook, while only recently created in 2003 and 2004, have exploded with popularity and are currently the prominent social networking sites among college students.

"We live in such a different world, and instant communication is expected," Kendall Cockrell, Baylor's assistant director of young grads and online community, said. "It's not only that young people have profiles on MySpace or Facebook—it's that they visit them at least once a day."

According to the article "Think Before You Share" from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "as campus administrators demonstrate more Internet savviness, students are finding that their conversations are playing to a wider audience than they might have anticipated."

"I hear horror story after horror story of how much trouble people get into with their Facebook and MySpace profiles just because they assume that employers or clients aren't looking there, and they absolutely are," Cockrell said.

So, should you call up your student immediately and have them sign off online networking forever? Not necessarily. In fact, there are some networking sites, such as Baylor's *inCircle*, that offer valuable services to college graduates. *inCircle*, essentially, is a bulletin board-type networking site specifically for (and limited to) Baylor alumni—enabling them to communicate with each other and the university. The site also offers opportunities for alums to look for and connect with particular groups.

"For a long time Baylor has tried to figure out how to best stay in touch with its graduates," Cockrell said. "And with a community like *inCircle*, Baylor can inform the constituents of things going on while, in turn, adding value to their degrees by giving them access to their alumni base."

While the site has only been up and running for a few months, it has already attracted more than 3,000 regular users and the number is growing quickly. "*inCircle* is a great tool for professional networking, and it's also unique in that it's Baylor-centric," Cockrell said. "We launched the group in the fall, and there are already several jobs posted from Baylor business people looking for Baylor alums to work for them."

Social networking *can* be useful to students if they remain informed, discern when disclosing personal information and if they remember the *new* Golden Rule according to Cockrell: "If you don't want it on the five o'clock news, don't put it on the Internet."

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|  | facebook Email: <input type="text"/> Welcome to Facebook! |
| Facebook users 7.5 million U.S. college student accounts 20,000 new accounts are registered daily | |
|  | MySpace People Web Music Music Videos Blogs |
| MySpace users 106 million accounts 230,000 new accounts registered daily | |



Students Chime in on Satisfaction at Baylor

Last spring, 535 Baylor students participated in the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory™ (SSI), which is a national survey that is administered to college students. Students respond to questions about their undergraduate experience and the results are analyzed to measure student satisfaction, among other things. Survey results showed that Baylor students are more satisfied with almost every aspect of their undergraduate experience when compared with students at other private colleges and universities.

Baylor students have much higher levels of satisfaction with such areas as:

- **Interaction with faculty**, the quality of instruction and emphasis the campus places on academic excellence.
- **The overall quality of campus life**, a sense of belonging, high degrees of personal support and concern for them as individuals.
- **Academic enrichment and other support services**, such as academic advising, that focus on their learning and success.
- **The overall value of their undergraduate experience**; that is, Baylor students believe that the tuition they pay is truly a worthwhile investment.

Getting a JUMP Start

Parents Get Revved Up for the Year

After sending their son, Scott, to Baylor this year *without* a send-off party, Carl (BU '59) and Rita (BU '69) Bonds saw a need to revive the Richardson Area Parents League Chapter. They joined together with Brad and Nancy Lamb, whose son, Jason, is a sophomore, and Neal (BU '75) and Jayne (BU '77) Knighton, parents of Britt, a Baylor graduate, and Kyle, a Baylor sophomore.

"We realized a lot of kids in our area didn't have a parent group supporting them, and we thought it would be a good plan," Jayne said.

"I think Baylor is a wonderful university. We have had nothing but good things come from Baylor University," Rita, who serves as Chapter president with her husband, added. "Whether you're an alum or just a friend of the university, it's important to support the school, as well as your child."

Since the reinvigoration of activity, the Chapter has hosted planning meetings, a boxing party and a 1st Call to Prayer meeting. In April, they are planning a road trip to Waco where they will eat dinner together with their students. In addition to the various activities, the group plans to establish an e-mail network to keep everyone informed, especially about prayer requests.

"I think Parents League makes you cognizant of how to pray for your kids and to keep them in the front of your mind in order to support them," Jayne said. "It also gives parents their own support group to talk to other parents who may be going through similar situations."

Involvement in Parents League can help parents become an active part of the Baylor family. "When Jason was recruited for football, the one thing the coaches and everyone talked about was the Baylor family—you're part of the family," Nancy, who serves as Chapter vice president with her husband, said. "Well, when you're part of a family you know your other family members, so Parents League is a good way to get to know other people."

If you are interested in participating in Parents League activities or starting a chapter in your area, contact the Parents League office at 1-888-BU-PL-557 or parentsleague@baylor.edu.



Members of the Richardson Area Parents League Chapter gather the first Tuesday of each month to lift up students, faculty and staff members of the Baylor community.

Building Undergrad Research

Continued from page 1

research and combine that with what we love doing...you can't get a better job than that."

Transferring the knowledge acquired in the classroom to the lab—or hangar—takes the undergraduate experience to a whole different level, according to Periman. "When you've done the research, you see it in action—not just in a textbook."

This same hands-on, out-of-the-classroom education is what drives senior Eric Echols, though in a very different field. A music and violin performance major from Waco, Echols began his research last semester—studying the legal, technological and consumer issues surrounding the music industry.

"I wanted to apply to the graduate program for music business at NYU when I graduated but had no background in it. So this research started as a supplement, in addition to trying to prepare myself for my career goal," Echols, who wants to work in a music or multi-media studio, said. "There are interesting areas in copyright law and music technology now...it's never evolved this rapidly."

So interesting that the professor advising him suggested that the independent study be extended to two semesters. "I'm trying to see what it means to 'own' music or a copy of a song, what that's worth to an individual and how that has changed the way the industry records," Echols said of the study's goal.

And does he feel that the labor has been worth it? "It really has felt more rewarding than just about any other class I've taken at Baylor."