Orientation is in full swing! Every morning this week, and for the next two weeks, our new students and their families begin their journey at Baylor by driving to a place that seems so large they ever wonder if they’ll master it. (Of course, we know it will soon be so comfortable that they will call it “home.”) As they descend the stairs in the Speight Avenue Garage, they are greeted by Baylor Bound Leaders, Student Life staff, and hundreds of other faculty and staff members who partner with us to make the Baylor experience come alive for the newest Bears. Each morning I’m reminded of the incredible blessing and responsibility we have with our matriculation programs.

We shape the first encounters and first experiences of students. We bring them in, helping them understand who we are as an institution and where we are going. As we do so, it is critically important that we support and explain the values, mission, and vision of the University as students and their families are most impressionable about Baylor.

Instead of waiting until Orientation is over, let me say THANK YOU right now. Elisa Dunman gives great leadership for Orientation, but she would be quick to point to her team in New Student Programs, the whole of the Division, and our dedicated partners across campus. Just yesterday, a parent went on and on to me about how excellent our Orientation experience is. That level of excellence can only happen when all of us serve together.

Please know of my deep appreciation for that spirit of collaboration that exists not just for Orientation, but for all that we are trying to accomplish at Baylor.

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**Baylor University Health Center Makes Cover of ACHA Journal**

The cover of the *Journal of American College Health*’s May/June issue features a picture of the McLane Student Life Center. The journal is a publication of the American College Health Association (ACHA) and is distributed to 900 institutional members in higher education as well as 2,800 individual health care providers. The Baylor University Health Center was one of six health centers selected to be featured in the journal this year.
As of June 1, the name of the graduate program Master of Science in Education Student Services Administration officially became Master of Science in Education Student Affairs Administration.

The graduate assistants beginning their studies in the fall enter under the new title. The list below notes where our new GAs have completed their undergraduate degrees and where they will be completing their assistantships at Baylor.

GAs for 2008-09:
Samuel Binkley (Baylor), assigned to Campus Living and Learning, Central Office
Suzanne Brittain (Baylor), assigned to Campus Living and Learning, Texana
Steve Dickemper (Hannibal LaGrange), assigned to Campus Living and Learning, Speight Jenkins
Crystal Diaz (Baylor), assigned to Campus Living and Learning, Engineering LLC
Mito Espinoza (Texas A&M), assigned to Student Activities, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Council
Nesha Evans (Illinois State), assigned to Student Activities, Spiritual Life
Caitlin Forehand (Baylor), assigned to Student Activities, Panhellenic
Estee Hernandez (Baylor), assigned to GEAR UP Waco
Allison Kuty (McMurry), assigned to Student Activities, Union Programs
Cheryl Mathis (Baylor), assigned to Student Activities, Special Performances
Paul Miller (Geneva), assigned to Campus Recreation, Outdoor Adventure
Kyndell Radigan (Baylor), assigned to Baylor Counseling Center
Olga Rodriguez (Baylor), assigned to New Student Programs
Emily Rogers (Baylor), assigned to Global Community LLC and ELG
Dustin Thompson (Texas), assigned to Paul L. Foster Success Center
Jamie Wilson (Texas A&M), assigned to GEAR UP Waco

A New Name for the Graduate Program in Student Life
UPDATE ON THE ALIVE CAMPAIGN

Congratulations to the ALIVE CAMPAIGN on receiving the 2008 Jerry Greenspan Student Voice of Mental Health Award. The article from ULifeline is shown below.

The Jed Foundation established the annual Jerry Greenspan Student “Voice of Mental Health Award” in 2008 to recognize students who are using their time, talents and voices to help increase awareness about mental health issues, decrease stigma around these conditions, and encourage help-seeking in the college population. We are proud to announce that the 2008 award has been presented to a group of students from Baylor University who have started a national awareness program called the Alive Campaign.

For their tireless commitment, adventurous spirit, and national impact on college mental health and suicide prevention, we congratulate the Alive Campaign on their efforts and are excited to present them with The Jerry Greenspan Student “Voice of Mental Health” Award and a $2,000 scholarship.

Here are two great articles (June 4 and 13) about the ALIVE team, [http://www.lakepowellchronicle.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=77&story_id=1254](http://www.lakepowellchronicle.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=77&story_id=1254)


UPDATE ON OPEN STUDENT LIFE POSITIONS

Dr. Joel Scott will begin work on June 30 in the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement as the new Program Coordinator for the Leadership Living-Learning Center. Because of Joel’s unique qualifications and credentials, he will also take on additional responsibilities and serve as an associate director in the Academy. You may remember Joel from his previous service to Baylor in 2002-04 as the assistant residence hall director at Penland and the first director of the North Village Residential Community.

Gabriel Barrentez, Megan Witherspoon, and Sarah Mudd will begin work on July 21 in the Campus Living and Learning department as residence hall directors or assistant directors.

The search committee for Coordinator for New Student Programs position has interviewed candidates and is in the selection process at this point.

In a dual selection process for the Associate Chaplain, Director for Formation and Baptist Student Ministries, Spiritual Life and the BGCT have scheduled three candidates for campus interviews.

A search committee for the Health Services position, Medical Director, has been formed, applications are being reviewed, and interviews are set to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

A search committee for the Student Development position, Director for Student Activities, has been formed. They are reviewing the applications and will meet soon to begin the interview process. Other open positions in process include: Health Services, Staff Nurse RN position; Multicultural Activities, Coordinator for Multicultural Activities; Campus Living and Learning, Assistant Director for Resident Learning; Assistant Director for First Year Programs and Apartments; and Safety and Security Education Officer.
**BIG 12 DEANS AND DIRECTORS HOSTED BY BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

In June, the Big 12 Deans and Directors Annual Meeting was held at Baylor, hosted by the Dean for Student Development, Dr. Liz Palacios. The universities represented, in addition to Baylor, were Iowa State, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, University of Kansas, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, and University of Texas at Austin. In its largest representation since inception, Big 12 representatives deliberated on issues addressing student life, Greek life, student organizations, retention, diversity, and many other areas of interest and concern. The deans and directors were able to exchange ideas and information pertinent to student success. During the breaks, the Big 12 guests enjoyed tours of the Armstrong Browning Library, the Bill Daniel Student Center, and the McLane Student Life Center.

During the meals, University guests were invited to interact and speak to the group. Guests included, President John Lilley, Dr. Karla Leeper, Dr. Dub Oliver, Dr. Doug Henry, Dr. Keith Francis, Dr. Sarah Jane Murray, Dr. Burt Burleson, and Dr. Frank Shushok. The success of the Big 12 Annual Meeting was due to the hard work of the planning committee which included Larry Correll-Hughes, Dana Lee Haines, Brooke Sanders, Jeff Walter as well as the volunteer shuttle drivers, Tim Powers and Dave Rozeboom. Directors Pearl Beverly and Kim Scott as well as staff members, Tam Dunn, Kat Reed, Mike Riemer, and Taryn Ozuna also help make the conference a success. The group expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality experienced at Baylor.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Liz Palacios attended the College Board conference in May on *Educating Latinos for the Future of America*. This conference was to help empower students to connect with college and experience college success. Liz currently serves on the advisory board for this conference.

**FAMILY CORNER**

With sympathy to **Ramona Curtis** in the recent death of her mother, Phara Curtis.

Congratulations to **Kayleigh Northern**, daughter of Sandra Northern, who graduated in May from the School of Social Work. Kayleigh plans to begin graduate school at Baylor in July to pursue her Masters in Social Work.

**Liz Palacios** is the proud grandmother of a precious baby boy, Emilio. Liz’s son, Rene (a Baylor alumnus [B.S. in Chemistry, ’05] and currently a doctoral student at TCU) and daughter-in-law, Ramona are the proud parents. Congratulations on this special gift from God.

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**ONE BOOK, ONE WACO**

One Book, One Waco presents the summer reading selection: *Marley & Me* by John Grogan. This number one *New York Times* bestseller book is about life and love with the world’s worst dog.

- June 14, 2-4 p.m. Man’s Best Friend Training Session, Waco-McLennan County Library
- June 17, 3:30 p.m. Book Review and Discussion by Bob Anne Senter, Student Rec Center- Multipurpose Room at TSTC Waco
- June 23, 5-7 p.m., Sit Pretty Photo Contest Reception at Brook Avenue Elementary School
- July 19, 9-11 a.m. Bark in the Park: Reading and Picnic Breakfast at Indian Spring Park

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**Student Life Web Site**