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.

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A Note From Dub

A baby at Christmas changes everything!

It's true. I've been reminded of that the past few weeks seeing the littlest ones' eyes open wide and lock on the lights of a Christmas tree. There's a wonder there for them. It can happen to me too. In quiet moments sitting on the couch, I can get lost in the lights of the season – all the troubles of the day just seem to melt away and there is just light and peace.

Babies turn all of us into creatures who are more loving and more loveable. I'm not sure how it works, I just know it is. You can't hold a baby without feeling loved in some way, and you can't help but want to love either. A baby at Christmas changes everything.

For some of us in the Division of Student Life, this will be the first Christmas with a little one. Others have been blessed with additional children or grandchildren this year. They know it's true – a baby at Christmas changes everything. Babies make no lists of gifts they want or need, they just smile and coo and sleep peacefully as the world hurries on in its orbit.

In a baby is all we celebrate during Advent – hope, peace, joy, and love.

My prayer for all of us is that we will discover anew that a Baby at Christmas changed everything, and that the fullness of hope, peace, joy, and love that is ours in Christ will be more evident than ever in our lives.

Merry Christmas!

Dub

Merry Christmas!

Dates For Your Calendar

December 17 Last Day of Finals

December 20 Commencement

December 24-31 Christmas Holidays-offices closed

January 1-2 New Year's Holiday-offices closed

January 6-10 Sorority Recruitment

January 9 Residence Halls Open

January 9-11 Welcome Weekend

January 12 Classes Begin

January 19 MLK Jr. Holiday

January 20 Student Worker Staff Development

Staff Transitions

Lee Ann Robelia
Administrative
Assistant
Spiritual Life

Residence Hall Access During the Holidays

All traditional residence halls (*except North Village, Brooks Flats, Arbors, East Arbors, and Speight-Jenkins Apartments)* will close for the semester break on Thursday, December 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Residents who must remain in their living area past this date may request an extension from their hall director. Extensions last through Saturday, December 20, at 2 p.m. Traditional residence halls open for the spring 2009 semester on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 8 a.m.

BU Pharmacy Hours for Christmas Holidays

Baylor University Pharmacy will be closing Friday, December 19, at 6 p.m. for the Christmas holiday break. They will re-open Monday, January 5, at 8 a.m. Please call before December 17 to take care of your prescription needs. If you are concerned about running out during the break, you may request a two or three month supply. Please call 710-4991 to reach the Baylor Pharmacy staff.

BIPI Offering

The Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative is offering the elective course, Social Justice, in partnership with the School of Social Work in Spring 2009. The course, listed as SWO 4v80, is being taught by Dr. Jon Singletary. Offered now for the third time, this class explores foundations of social justice and gives students an opportunity to work for justice through practical and creative projects.

We are offering this social justice elective for BIPI in the Spring and need a few more students to sign up. It's been posted on the course schedule, but it hasn't been advertised. For additional information please view:
www.baylor.edu/social_work or www.baylor.edu/cfcm

Christmas on 5th Street

This year's Christmas on 5th Street was a great success enjoyed by many!

Merry Christmas from the
Department of New Student Programs!

Updates from the Alcohol Awareness Work Team

Alcohol Awareness and Education Week was held from November 11-14 with many events across the University campus. During the week, the Alcohol Awareness Work Team partnered with representatives from the Teen Safe Program at Hillcrest Hospital, Baylor Police, and students to accomplish the following:

...A slide about Alcohol Awareness and Education Week presented during Chapel.

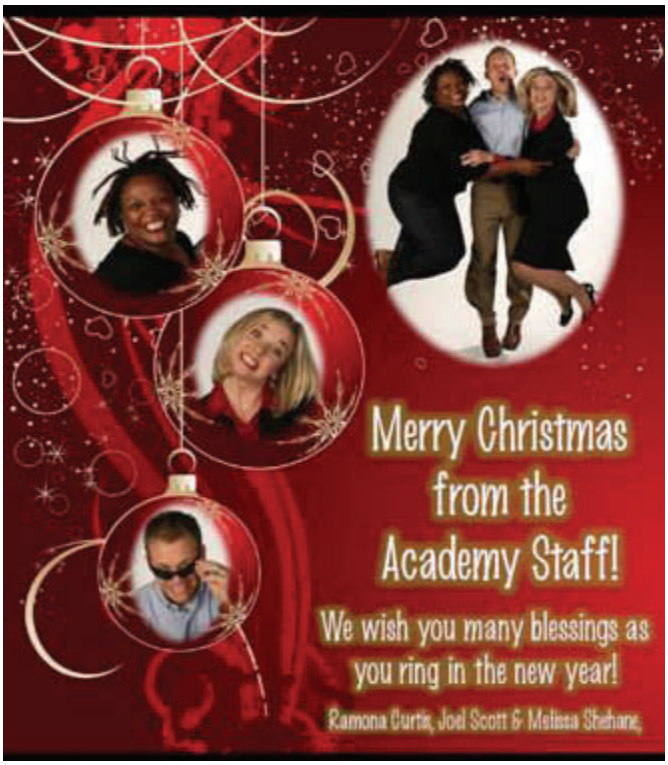
...4,400 on-campus residential students received information about the week's events along with educational information in the residence halls.

...133 names were written on the Memorial Wall (at the McLane Student Life Center) – honoring individuals who lost their lives in alcohol related incidents.

...648 students received bottles of water that were labeled with facts about alcohol and on-campus resources for students to understand Baylor's Policy on Alcohol and how the Counseling Center can provide assistance to students in need.

...300 students attended "Lolla No Booza" in the SUB where they received information about alcohol, tried out the Fatal Vision (Beer) Goggles, and enjoyed food and fellowship.

The week was strategically chosen knowing that the BU vs. TAMU game would be on November 15. Numbers for alcohol related incidents are significantly lower at the University (according to Judicial Affairs), and we hope they will continue to stay low with the work team efforts and the efforts of all Student Life staff members helping to educate our students.



Baylor selected for 21st Century Project

The Association of College and University Housing Officers - International announced the selection of three campuses as host sites for potential new residence halls following the guidelines of the association's 21st Century Project. **Baylor University, Indiana University, and Colorado College** are scheduled to begin this process in early 2009. The 21st Century Project is a multi-phased initiative leading to the eventual construction of a new, state-of-the-art college residential facility. The project began in 2006 with a summit meeting of 100 college housing and student affairs professionals who met to envision the residence hall of the future. In that summit, it was determined that innovative approaches to flexibility, community, technology, and sustainability would be necessary to meet the ever-changing roles residence halls play in the collegiate experience. *Baylor has been on a 10-year journey to reorganize our residential programs and facilities for optimal student learning, said Frank Shushok, Dean for Student Learning and Engagement. "The residential campus has been a major tool for strengthening an institutional community of learners and has depended upon forward thinking, progressive ideas and unusual levels of collaboration among faculty, staff, students, architects, contractors, and many other partners. ACUHO-I's 21st Century Project is the perfect opportunity to take us one step further in our thinking. The reward of our participation will no doubt be formative in ensuring our housing helps facilitate important institutional values and aspired educational outcomes for future generations of students.* For more information, go to www.21stCenturyProject.com and www.acuho-i.org.

Student Life Division Christmas Party

Twas two weeks before Christmas
And all through the SLiC
The staff were all wondering
If Dub was St. Nick
Each area was gathering
Although it was sunny
And when they arrived on the scene
Student Activities looked funny
We ate and we ate
Like hungry Baylor bears
And all was just fine
Until Judicial Affairs
Burst into the gathering
And put a stop to our glee
But Burt assured Bethany
It's Cranberry Iced Tea!
So, we went back to eating
To savor each bite
Until health center beckoned
For us all to eat light
All the while snow was falling
'round the food we were browsing
We thought we may be stuck
And what would Frank do for housing?
We all longed for home
For our own beds we were yearning
We didn't want to spend Christmas
With Campus Living and Learning
So, we gathered the food
And said, "What the heck"
And dove for the snow
At the lead, Campus Rec
When we all had escaped
Except one we were missing
"We think Pearl is still in there"
And we thought she was singing
Her words made us think
That we'd all be alright
She sang, "Merry Christmas to all,
And to all a good night!"

Thanks for a great Division Christmas Party!

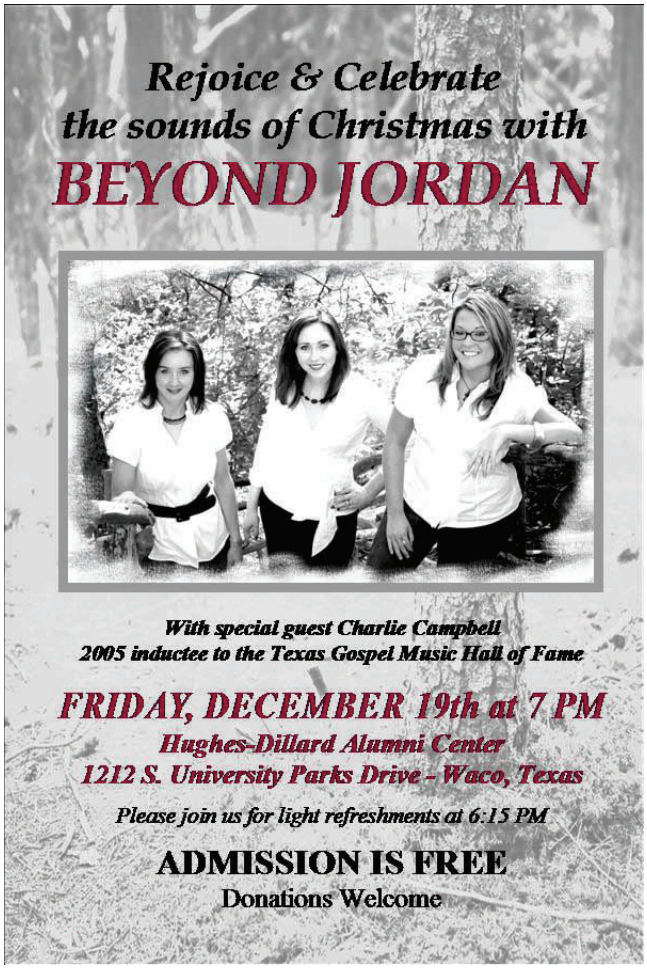
The Staff Development Work Team

Was there anyone you did not recognize at the Christmas Party? Remember, the Student Life Directory on the Student Life Intranet, https://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=22337, is a good way find out more about our staff.

PRESENTATIONS

Bethany McCraw was one of two panelist who presented a 90-minute national audio conference for PaperClip Communications on December 9. The audio conference was titled, *"Judicial Affairs 2009: An Overview of Critical Issues for Judicial Affairs.*" Bethany partnered with Blaine Eckles, Director for the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, from Boise State University.

Kelli McMahan and her singing group *Beyond Jordan* will perform the sounds of Christmas, with special guest Charlie Campbell, on December 19, 7 p.m., at the Hughes -Dillard Alumni Center. Admission is free.



Happy New Year!

SLC HOLIDAY HOURS

The McLane Student Life Center will be closed December 21-January 4 for the Holidays. During this time, the walls will be repainted, the hardwood floors will be refinished, and the entire facility will be dusted and deep cleaned. When the doors re-open on January 5, the place will sparkle!

Beginning January 5, the SLC will be open Monday through Friday, January 5-9, 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday; January 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, January 11, 1–8 p. m.

Regular hours of operation, 6 a.m. – midnight, resume on the first day of classes, January 12.

FAMILY CORNER

Thomas L. Barger, the father of ***Sue Sowder*** (Medical Records Clerk in Health Services), passed away November 30. Funeral services were held in on December 3 at Central Presbyterian Church of Waco. Please keep Sue and her family in your prayers.

Congratulations and all best wishes to ***Sharia and Adam Brock.*** Adam Brock and Sharia Hays were married on November 8. We are happy for you and wish you God's richest blessings as you begin your life as one.