



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.

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 10

MARCH 20, 2009

A Note From Dub

Glimpses...

I say frequently that I wish you could see the things I get to see and the things I get to hear as VP. It is incredibly encouraging to know how we are moving forward as we pursue our mission and vision. A few glimpses from last week include...

NASPA – you'll read more about the various programs presented by Baylor staff, faculty, and students in this newsletter, but that won't capture how much Baylor was on people's minds and lips at the conference. Baylor was everywhere. We didn't have enough time to interview all of the people who wanted to pursue a position at Baylor (so we bought another table in the placement area to accommodate all the interest). Our second year graduate students impressed everyone they came into contact with – from the people they sat with on the airplane, to the employers who interviewed them, to the audience in attendance at their sessions. The Baylor reception was such a great celebration of energy and excitement where we all got to catch up with friends and host a few new friends as well. Baylor was literally on almost every page of the program book because of the quality and depth of the program proposals we submitted and presented. I received an e-mail from a former student who now works at another institution. The title of the e-mail was "Proud to be a Bear!" She wrote, in part, "I just wanted to let you know that yesterday I was sitting in our division-wide staff meeting and there were some staff members giving reports on how NASPA went. They said that next year they wanted to see more presentations from (our university), because this year they seemed to see Baylor on every presentation. As always, I was very proud to be a Bear!" (I redacted the university's name to protect the innocent.) People want to be at Baylor because of what we are doing at Baylor. It's unique, it's special, and it makes a difference in the lives of students.

Civil Rights Tour – you'll read more about this in the newsletter as well, and there was an article in the *Lariat* yesterday, but I am just so grateful for our staff trying this new initiative. My glimpse into the tour was yesterday at a lunch with several staff members when I asked Marianne Magjuka about the trip. Marianne is always joyful, but I had noticed the day before a bigger smile than usual on her face. And then when I asked her about the trip, her face lit up even more. As part of the 17 students and four faculty and staff members Marianne knows well the transformational nature of the trip. She used the word "amazing" several times, and all of us could understand more hearing her talk about what she, and they, had experienced. Can you imagine walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge? Ask someone who went on the trip, and get ready for the hair on the back of your neck to stand up.

Baylor Basketball – Being in Oklahoma City for part of the Big 12 Tournaments last week was incredible (yes, that was me jumping up and down fists pumping in the air as we beat Texas)! Both of our teams were in the championship games. What?! It's almost unbelievable I know, but it is true. And the game against Georgetown was a blast. That was the first time the Baylor men's basketball team won a postseason game in 59 years! The Ferrell Center was rockin'! What I glimpsed from these games was the power of athletics as a community enhancer. In OKC, there were thousands of people who drove up on Saturday so they could be there for the championship. Students drove from Gulf Shores, Alabama (and other Spring Break destinations) after we beat Texas to be a part of the championship game. Faculty and staff drove from Waco to do the same thing. Alumni from near and far made their way to the Ford Center to watch the Bears. It was a great Baylor day. The women went on to claim another Big 12 title for Baylor and we are all a bit prouder of this great place we know and love.

And these are just glimpses. There's so much more. We are blessed.

Dub

STAFF TRANSITIONS



Donna Thomas
Safety and Security
Education Officer
Campus Living and Learning

Patricia Fuentes
Referral Clerk
Health Services

Red Covington
Staff Physician
Health Services

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 24
SL Staff Development Lunch

April 4
Steppin' Out 2009

April 10-13
Easter Holidays

April 18
Premiere

April 18
Rock The Mall

April 23
Diadeloso

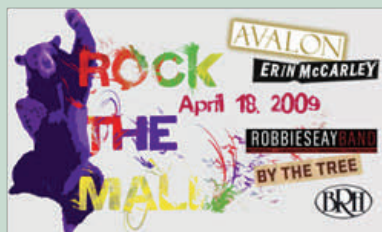
April 24
Deadline for Award Nominations
Forms for Student Life Awards

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERVIEW PLACEMENT FOR SPRING 2009

This year the Student Affairs Administration program hosted students on February 19-20 for our annual Interview Placement. These students represented 14 different institutions and are truly among the most talented students we have had as applicants into the program. Each of the applicants who attended was paired with members of HESA (the Higher Education and Student Affairs Graduate Student Association) who served as guides and mentors for their student. Applicant interviews were held with the supervisors in the environment they would potentially be working in. Thank you to all of the Baylor staff and faculty who joined us in making this a successful event. Special thanks to our HESA members who were with the applicants' every step of the way. Our new students are:

Jonathan Abernathy, Union University
Kerri Bond, Randolph-Macon Women's College
Laura Herrell, Union University
Jesse Hines, Georgetown College
Sarah Jaks, Texas Lutheran University
Ida Jamshidi, Baylor University
Jimmy Kohles, Biola University
Emily Kozora, St. Edwards University

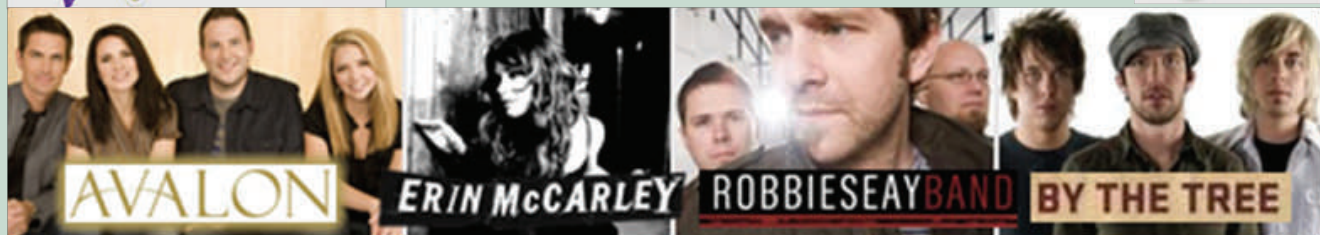
BJ Layman, Baylor University
Anna McCollough, Whitworth College
Trey Qualls, Carnegie Mellon University
Lindsey Reimer, Oklahoma State University
Bailey Simpson, University of Georgia
Holly Widick, University of North Alabama
Meghan Williams, DePauw University



JOIN THE BAYLOR FAMILY FOR A FREE CONCERT

Saturday, April 18, 3:30-10:30 p.m. at the Fountain Mall, Baylor University will be hosting the Rock The Mall concert in conjunction with Baylor's celebration of 400 years of Baptist life. This concert is presented by The Division of Student Life, The Department of Student Activities, and the Brothers of Phi Kappa Chi.

Also Featuring: The Baylor Religious Hour Choir





**NEW POD SEMINAR:
STRENGTHSQUEST FOR THE REST OF US**

Do you know your strengths? Do you know how to help your students develop their strengths? Baylor is committed to helping students discover a sense of calling by identifying and developing their natural talents and strengths. As part of this commitment, all incoming undergraduate students complete an online strengths assessment called StrengthsQuest. Faculty, staff, and other campus leaders can best help students in this process by knowing and living their own strengths. This seminar is designed to introduce you to the StrengthsQuest program and learn how to assist students in identifying and developing their strengths. To obtain the most benefit from this seminar, participants are encouraged (but not required) to identify their own strengths by completing the StrengthsQuest online assessment prior to the seminar. Session registrants will receive a complimentary online code for taking the assessment. This new seminar will be offered April 20 from 9–12 noon. To register, please visit the POD registration Web site. https://www1.baylor.edu/pod_reg

THE ALCOHOL AWARENESS WORK TEAM SAFE SPRING BREAK CAMPAIGN

During the week of March 2-6, the Alcohol Awareness Work Team prepared a Safe Spring Break campaign consisting of posters for the residence halls, Baylor Horizon announcements, a display case in the SUB, and a large display on Fountain Mall. The Fountain Mall display consisted of 1,700 utility marking flags surrounded by signs to explain the display and to encourage our students to think/reflect before leaving campus for Spring Break. The signs read:

“1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes” Source: www.collegedrinkprevention.gov

The display on Fountain Mall was a huge success due to the volunteerism of Baylor students. Over 75 students volunteered to set-up/take-down the display on Fountain Mall. With such a great turnout of student help, the set-up/take-down took no time at all. All materials have been saved for future use and our work team highly recommends involving students in work team projects – it was a great partnership!



JUSTICE WEEK WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement student organization, International Justice Mission (IJM) Baylor Chapter, held their first **Justice Week** during March 2-5. Their purpose was to spread awareness, engage in prayer, and raise funds to support IJM in their efforts to rescue victims of injustice. They kicked off the week with a benefit concert featuring the Baylor Rising Artists Network. International Justice Mission representative Jim Martin served as a keynote speaker both in Chapel and for the Tuesday evening Justice Summit. On Wednesday evening, Mission Waco sponsored a Hunger Banquet while the students closed the evening with a moving prayer and worship service. The week closed with the viewing of the movie "Trade" in the SUB Den. IJM members hope to inspire the Baylor campus and Waco community to take action in becoming advocates for those suffering around the world. Justice Week was an inspiring week that encouraged our community to create change. The Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement extends a special thank you to Student Activities and Spiritual Life for their assistance with this event.



STUDENT LIFE STAFF DEVELOPMENT LUNCHEON

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. to attend the monthly Student Life Staff Development Luncheon. Our location this month will be in the Bill Daniel Student Center Drawing Room. Chris Holmes, our guest speaker, will be sharing information about revisions to FERPA. We hope you will take this opportunity to learn about these revisions and to enjoy the food and fellowship. An invitation has been e-mailed to you through Outlook with detailed information. For additional information, please contact Ryan_Richardson@baylor.edu.

MELISSA SHEHANE ELECTED AS CO-CHAIR

Melissa Shehane, Associate Director for Leader Development and Civic Engagement, was recently elected as the 2010-2012 Co-Chair for the Student Leadership Programs Knowledge Community. She will serve in this position with Dr. Jan Lloyd, Director of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of South Florida Polytechnic. Together they hope to enhance the use of technology, boost graduate student involvement, increase communication within the Knowledge Community, and seek more avenues to share best practices about student leadership programs across the country. At the NASPA annual conference in Seattle, Shehane attended several training meetings in preparation to transition into the co-chair role next year.



OUTSTANDING STAFF 2008

During the spring Staff Forum on January 20, **Rosemary Townsend** and **John Sharp** were recognized as Outstanding Staff for 2009. Other staff recognized included *Sandy Bennett, David Burns, Treva Hall, Kevin Helpert, Jan Holmes, and Becky Shulda*. The Outstanding Staff Award recognizes staff members for having done an exceptional job over the past year. Selections are based on the following criteria: (1) support in fulfilling the University's mission, (2) achievements within the respective job assignment, and (3) contributions through service at Baylor, in the local community and church. Nominees must have been employed at the University for at least three years. The Outstanding Staff Award is considered to be a great honor because the recipients represent the very best of Baylor's staff. Congratulations Rosemary and John for these well-deserved recognitions!

GREETINGS FROM THE CALLING WORK TEAM

Be still, and know that I am God. – Psalm 46:10

“When you’re waiting, you’re not doing nothing. You’re doing the most important something there is. You’re allowing your soul to grow up. If you can’t be still and wait, you can’t become what God created you to be.”

- Sue Monk Kidd, *When the Heart Waits*

Have you recently given yourself time to be still?

INAUGURAL BAYLOR CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR IS A SUCCESS!



Nine days, more than 2,700 miles, six states (counting Texas), twelve museums, one day of service, 167 pages of curriculum...the inaugural Civil Rights Tour was a powerful experience for all participants, both students and faculty/staff facilitators. In just nine days (March 7 – 15), 17 students and five faculty and staff members traveled through six states, covering more than 2,700 miles of highway, freeway, and even some dirt roads as we endeavored to bring history to life. Following our time at Little Rock Central High School, one student blogged, “I can be naïve and pretend that racism does not exist today (it does), but it’s hard not to see the fruits of what started in Little Rock in 1957. The sacrifices, the triumphs, the pain caused by racism are becoming a little bit more real as we start the first leg of our trip.” The group visited twelve museums including the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee; the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama; and the Southern Poverty Law Center and Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, to name just a few.

But more inspiring and impressive than the distance traveled and sights seen are the journeys of each student who participated in the experience. We had an extremely diverse student group for our first ever Civil Rights Tour. Students from every classification, freshman through senior and a graduate student; backgrounds, including two international students; and a wide variety of academic disciplines comprised our group. Each student has a unique story and journey that led him/her to join our experience. And each student made a unique and powerful contribution to our tour and experience. We broke our group up into three smaller groups in order to debrief each day’s experiences. In addition to discussing and debriefing each day with one another, each group was also expected to post comments on the Baylor Civil Rights Tour blog (www.baylorcivildrightstour.blogspot.com). Through the small group discussions and blog, we were privileged to watch our group move from being strangers or acquaintances to being trusted companions on a journey toward deeper understanding of complex social issues. Some discussions were difficult and tense as opinions and beliefs collided, but our students demonstrated remarkable grace, patience, and compassion for one another. Dr. Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean of Baccalaureate Studies in the School of Social Work, commented, “I have been highly impressed by the level of respect, processing, and adaptability to different ways of thinking that the students have exhibited throughout this trip. I am most blessed to have been able to participate with them...I hasten to add that all of these students have had a profound impact on my life this week.” Through it all, we were amazed to see the sense of community that developed; the same students who clashed over politics or historical interpretations following a particular experience were laughing together over dinner just hours later.

The students provided rich insight into various issues. Following our time in Oxford, Mississippi, and visiting the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), one student blogged, “In small group today, we went on a major tangent, but one that is still relevant to civil rights. We talked about how the Bible was used to bolster arguments for slavery, and later to justify the separation of the races. Today we look with shame on how scripture was twisted to fit an agenda that discriminated against a group of people.

In addition, students thought deeply about their responsibility to work for justice in our society, and how the messages of the Civil Rights Movement impact their own sense of vocation and calling. Following our time in Birmingham, Alabama, and visiting the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, one student blogged, “It kind of makes me wonder what all am I doing with my life in order (sort of cliché statement coming...sorry) to make the world a better place. People my age and younger than me have braved fire hoses and dogs in order to get their rights; have stood in front of tanks in order to create change in something [they] saw as wrong. What is going to be my generation’s legacy?”

In reflecting on the experience, one senior remarked, “It’s definitely the best trip I’ve taken in college. We learned in the best way to learn: experience. But even more than going to the museums and hearing people speak and even going through a simulation, I think I learned the most from our small group discussions and question and answer time. It was refreshing to get to know a group of people so different from myself. Yet each person shared one thing: a desire to learn about how everyday people, such as ourselves, stood up and spoke out against injustice; beginning a movement that still exists today. Everyone brought something great to the table, and I honestly loved getting to know everyone on the trip! Everyone’s background, individual thoughts, and emotions helped form the great discussions we had.”

Very special thanks to all our sponsors for the Baylor Civil Rights Tour, Spiritual Life; the Cultural Awareness Work Team, the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative, Dr. Michael Cheng; the Diversity Enhancement Grant, Freshman Class Council, and New Student Programs.

PRESENTATIONS AT THE ANNUAL NASPA CONFERENCE

The annual conference for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) was held in in Seattle, Washington in early March with a large group of Student Life staff members and graduate students attending. The presentations below were offered by Baylor people. Thanks for representing our University well!

Dub Oliver, Eileen Hulme (Azusa Pacific University), and Laurie Schreiner (Azusa Pacific University) presented *Innovative Approaches to Leadership Development: A Strengths-Based Approach to Building Engaged Student Life Teams*.

Frank Shushok and **Scott Moore** presented *Forging Student Affairs-Faculty Partnerships to Promote a Culture of Learning*.

Rishi Sriram, Eileen Hulme (Azusa Pacific University), and Michelle Louis (Bethel University) presented *MySky Café: Using Emerging Technologies to Encourage Student Development*.

Martha Lou Scott, **Jim Marsh**, **Bethany McCraw**, **Judy Maggard**, and **Chris Holmes**, presented *The Mental Health Summit: A Collaborative Campus wide Strategy to Address Mental Health*.

Ramona Curtis, **Melissa Shehane**, **Joel Scott**, and **Shannon Dean**, presented *Building Academic and Student Affairs Partnerships in a Leadership Living-Learning Center*.

Rishi Sriram and **Michelle Louis** (Bethel University) presented *"I Don't Have to Be Stupid": Partnering to change Students' View of Intelligence*.

Dub Oliver, Eileen Hulme (Azusa Pacific University), and Michelle Louis (Bethel University) presented *Students Thriving: The Emergence of Positive Student Development Theory*.

Frank Shushok, **Brandon Griggs**, **Karen Hall**, **Rishi Sriram**, and **Tiffany Hogue** presented *Engaged Learning Groups: A Model for Faculty-Student Affairs Collaboration*.

Rishi Sriram, **Melissa Shehane**, **Keane Tarbell**, and **Emily Sandvall** presented *Creating, Implementing, and Assessing Cross-Departmental Student Leader Learning Outcomes*.

Elizabeth Palacios, **Ramona Curtis**, **Kelley Kimple**, **J.T. Snipes**, and **Kat Reed** (Texas Christian University) presented *Leadership Empowerment for Multicultural Student Organization Leaders: An Interdisciplinary Approach*.



Creating, Implementing, and Assessing Cross-Departmental Student Leader Learning Outcomes.



Building Academic and Student Affairs Partnerships in a Leadership Living-Learning Center.



Leadership Empowerment for Multicultural Student Organization Leaders: An Interdisciplinary Approach.

FAMILY CORNER

Gabe Barrientez and his dad won the 2009 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Washer Pitching Grand Championship. They are shown below with the belt buckles they won as their prize. Congratulations!

