A Note From Kevin

There is nothing like the start of school. Some 27 years in the profession and I still feel the rush of adrenaline as students make their way back to campus and classes get underway. Being my first fall semester at Baylor, that feeling was amplified as I participated in Welcome Week activities such as Move-In, the President’s Picnic, Convocation, and a University 1000 Faculty Dinner. However, it was both the worship and symbolism of Sunday night’s Candlelight Ceremony that brought Welcome Week full circle for me. The event started at the Ferrell Center where worship music, prayer, and a message were provided by our Spiritual Life staff. It then moved to the Marina as students followed a path lit by luminaries to reconvene in their designated location. Upon arriving at the Marina, each student was given a candle and asked to reflect on the life that they will lead while at Baylor and beyond. Music played softly in the background and prayers were read. From my vantage point atop the Marina building, I watched as over 2500 individual candles burned in unison—a sight that represented the unity of our newest class. Yet, I could also see separate candle flames flickering against the darkness—to me each represented the hopes and dreams of an individual student—a person uniquely and wonderfully made by God to pursue a special calling. At that moment, I was reminded of the incredible opportunity and significant responsibility we have here at Baylor to prepare each one of our students to go forth as light unto the world. My encouragement to you is to continue to do all you can to help each student shine as brightly as they can.

Here’s to a great year!
Kevin

STAFF TRANSITIONS

Trey Hagins
Student Life Development
University Development

Jared Slack
Pastoral Resident in Worship
Spiritual Life

Dr. Ron Nelson
Staff Physician
Health Services
2009 STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION COHORT

Jon Abernathy (Union University), Academic Support Programs
Kerri Bond (Randolph-Macon Womans College), Counseling Center
Laura Herrell (Union University), Vice President for Student Life
Jesse Hines (Georgetown College), New Student Programs
Ida Jamshidi (Baylor University), Multicultural Affairs
Jimmy Kohles (Biola University), Service Programming-Student Activities
B.J. Layman (Baylor University), Traditional Programs-Student Activities
Will Lopez (Kansas State University), Wellness
Anna McCollough (Whitworth University), Campus Living and Learning
Lindsey Reimer (Oklahoma State University), Campus Living and Learning
Holly Widick (University of North Alabama), Spiritual Life-Programs and Public Relations
Meghan Williams Oster (Depauw University), School of Education-Educational Administration

STUDENT LIFE FALL KICK OFF
Wednesday, September 2
11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Barfield Drawing Room

REMINDER!
Please R.S.V.P. to Sandra Northern at 710-1314 by Wednesday, August 26.
STUDENT LIFE WELCOMES OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, TREY HAGINS. A native of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Trey is a Baylor alumnus (B.B.A. 2000, M.B.A. 2007), who is returning to his alma mater after working the last nine years for Dell in Austin. Trey started this position in June as the new development officer for both the Libraries and Student Life, and he will also be covering the state of California. Trey, his wife Liz (his high school sweetheart and a 2000 graduate of Baylor) and their children, Robert, 6, and Kate, 2, are excited about moving back to Waco. If you would like to welcome Trey to Student Life, you may email him at Trey_Hagins@baylor.edu or call him at 254-710-1982.
Favorable Verses Requested by Spiritual Life
Information Technology has developed a new Web page for current students. This page will have a verse of the day feature, and faculty and staff are invited to submit verses that are meaningful and significant to them to create a kind of gift to the student body from the faculty and staff. We hope to indentify the verse with the person so students know of the connection. In time, this will also connect with some formational/devotional materials on our site. For additional information and to view the letter posted on the faculty/staff Web site, go to http://www.baylor.edu/faculty/staff/index.htm. Select announcements and go to the posting on August 11, 2009.

CL&L Host ACUHO-I Intern
This summer, Campus Living & Learning has been host to ACUHO-I Intern Jacob Bonne. Jacob, a senior religion major from Florida Southern College, worked with the first-year summer school students living in Alexander and Dawson Residence Halls and coordinated the housing needs for all seven sessions of Baylor Line Camp. The ACUHO-I Internship program is designed to allow students who are pursuing a career in housing and residence life exposure to a different experience for the summer. Jacob will be taking his experiences back to Florida Southern College in the fall where he will serve as a senior residence coordinator for the coming academic year.

McLane Student Life Center Biometric Handkey
In the event you should forget your Baylor identification card, the newly installed Biometric Handkey will allow you access to the SLC. The system is available to all Baylor faculty, students, and staff. To register for this access, you will need to go to the SLC and have your hand registered in the new Biometric Handkey machine. You will then have access to the SLC without your card; however, you must know your Baylor ID number. You will place your hand in the Handkey, enter your Baylor ID number, and the gate will allow you to enter the facility. However, you will still need your ID card to check out equipment and participate in any of the activities, Bearobics, intramurals, rock climbing, personal training, etc.

Staff Presentations/Recognitions
While attending the ACUHO-I Annual Conference and Exposition, Megan Witherspoon, Residence Hall Director, Honor’s Residential College, and two of her former colleagues from the University of Arkansas won the Annual Case Study Competition. The case study, which asked professionals with less than five years of experience to analyze a case involving concerning behavior among residential student consisted of a 20 minute presentation and a question and answer session from the three member faculty panel. The victory was announced at the closing banquet for the conference. Congratulations, Megan!

Rod Hetzel and Susie Matlock-Hetzel were featured in an invited symposium and panel discussion entitled “Campus Outreach and Positive Psychology: Theory, Research, and Practice” at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Canada. Rod chaired the symposium and presented a paper entitled “Conceptual Models of Campus Outreach: A Positive Psychology Perspective.” Susie presented a paper entitled “Campus Outreach: Putting Positive Psychology Theory and Research into Practice.” Their papers also were published in the 2009 issue of Naming and Nurturing, the official bulletin of the Section on Positive Psychology of the Society of Counseling Psychology (Division 17 of the American Psychological Association).

Rod Hetzel participated in a symposium entitled “Strengths-Based Supervision and Training” at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Canada. His paper was entitled “Mutuality and Psychotherapy Supervision.”

Zack Maldonado, a second year Community Leader in University House and Conference Hall Director for Campus Living & Learning, was recently accepted into and completed the ACUHO-I STARS College. STARS College is an educational program for undergraduate students who are interested in a career in housing and residence life. As part of this program, Zack interacted with leaders in the field of on-campus housing and other students from across the country. ACUHO-I’s Annual Conference and Exposition were held at the same time as STARS College. The professional staff who attended the conference including Terri Garrett, Dave Kennedy, Tim Powers, and Megan Witherspoon, heard from colleagues on many occasions how well Zack represented Baylor University. Zack was also selected to attend a private reception honoring the featured speaker, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. As one of only two students who were chosen to attend, Zack had the opportunity to meet Mr. Kennedy. Great job, Zack!
Congratulations to **Nadine Bruner** on the birth of her grandson, Christian Taylor, who weighed 7 lbs. and was 20 inches long. He is welcomed by brothers Matt, Isaac, and Zac. Matthew, Dawn, and the boys reside in Petaluma, California. Dawn is a 1992 graduate of Baylor University.

Congratulations to **Van and Raymond Davis** on their 25th wedding anniversary on August 8. They celebrated this special occasion in the Barfield Drawing Room.

**WE ARE SO FIT!**
Spiritual Life staff enjoy going to the BearCycle program together. What a great example—way to go, guys!

Congratulations to **Van Smith-Davis** on being inducted in the Athletic Hall of Fame at Western New Mexico University.

The *Waco Tribune Herald* article of July 31 stated that Western New Mexico University has announced Waco resident Van Smith-Davis will be inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame October 24 at the school. Van, the assistant director of campus recreation/fitness in the Campus Recreation department, starred for the WNMU volleyball team in ‘82 and ‘83, earning all-conference and all-district recognition her senior year. She was also a standout volleyball and basketball player at Eastern Arizona College prior to transferring to WNMU. Van later served two different stints as WNMU’s head volleyball coach, amassing a 123-54 record before joining us at Baylor in 1991. [Link](http://msn.foxsports.com/cfb/story/9828196/Western-New-Mexico-names-HOF-class). Congratulations to **Van Smith-Davis** on being inducted in the Athletic Hall of Fame at Western New Mexico University.

Congratulations to **Nadine Bruner** on the recent marriage of her son Ric Bruner. Rick and Bobbi Taylor were married in June and will reside in The Colony, Texas. Ric is an investigator with the Dallas County DA’s office, and Bobbi is a pediatric oncology nurse.