A Message from Kevin: Being Thankful

This week, I experienced my first All-University Thanksgiving Dinner. The event was held outside on the Fountain Mall and was open to students, faculty, and staff to attend. This year, like last, people in need of assistance through various Waco agencies were invited to attend. As I walked among the throngs of people eating the traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and dressing, green beans, rolls, and pumpkin pie, I was struck by an overwhelming sense of awe and wonderment. Here were hundreds of people from differing backgrounds, abilities, and capabilities pausing to eat together in celebration of one of our most cherished American traditions. They were sharing stories—some happy, a few sad. There was laughter, excitement, and an overall sense of appreciation for those who had worked so hard to make the event possible. It was a wonderful representation of how food and fellowship can help us step out of the hustle and bustle of the moment, slow down, and enjoy each others’ company. And in doing so, we can become more aware of the rich blessings that we have. My prayer is that each of you will experience a wonderful Thanksgiving. That you will be able to slow down, if just for a moment, and enjoy family, friends, and great fellowship. And please know that I am thankful for each of you and the impact you continue to make on the lives of our students.

Blessings,
Kevin

New Staff Members

Karen Jeffries
Pharmacy Technician
Health Services

Teresa Reid
Appointment Clerk/Receptionist
Health Services

Shelton Lewis
Program Coordinator
Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement
Pictured is the Multicultural Leadership Cabinet. During the 2009-10 academic year, the 12 members of the cabinet are focusing on event planning, leadership, and collaboration. Members represent a wide variety of student organizations.

**Christmas Staff Development**

Christmas Staff Development will be from 8 — 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 11. We will eat a pancake breakfast in the Bobo Spiritual Life Center.

Please bring one non-perishable food item that will be used to support a local charity and help feed those less fortunate.

Join us for a time of fellowship and giving back to the community!

**Fine Arts Living-Learning Center**

Accepting Applications

In the fall of 2010, Baylor University will officially launch the Fine Arts Living-Learning Center to be housed at Texana House and University House in the North Village. The FA-LLC is a collaboration of Campus Living and Learning and faculty members from the Departments of Art, Theatre Arts, the Division of Film and Digital Media in the Department of Communication Studies, and the School of Music.

While collaborative artistic projects are integral within each of these academic units, students in the FA-LLC will interact with peers and faculty across multiple artistic disciplines. Living-learning centers at Baylor provide resources for community building, faculty interaction, and enhanced learning opportunities for students.

For more information, go to www.baylor.edu/fineartsllc.
Baylor Outdoor Adventure is at it again! On October 9th a vanload of coeds packed their bags, laced up their hiking boots, and set out for an adventure filled weekend at Lost Maples State Park. These women traversed deep into the heart of Texas’s hill country and spent the weekend exploring giant granite canyons, freshwater springs, the famous Maple trees, and sleeping under the stars.

Each day began by watching the morning’s mist burn off nearby streams, sipping hot tea, and journaling. Chloe Rudman said, “The weekend was just what I needed, a time to think, a time to breathe; it was awesome!”

---

### NOVEMBER 2009

**McLane Student Life Center**

**Hours of Operation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-10 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m.-10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.—6 p.m.</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 p.m.—Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m. — Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m. — Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m. — Midnight</td>
<td>6 a.m. — 10 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. — 10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outdoor Adventure took 11 students to the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge for a fun three-day weekend of rock climbing, hiking, and animal watching. For many of the students, it was their first time camping out, seeing the true brilliance of the stars, viewing the changing colors of the autumn leaves, and partaking in the classic American treat: the s’more. The weather was fantastic and we were able to see the sunrise and sunsets on most days. We got up early to ensure that we would have the best rock climbing sites for the Baylor students; sometimes it was a comical scene running with tons of equipment to get to the sites. We shared incredible views, good laughs, interesting neighbors at the campsite, and some raccoon visitors. All in all it was a great trip to relax, share our passion for adventure and the wilderness with others, invest into the lives of Baylor students, and see some beautiful fall colors.

"Baylor Outdoor Adventure has given me such unique opportunities and experiences that have made my college life exceedingly more enjoyable. The rock climbing trip over fall break was an adventure I’ll never forget. I challenged myself, expanded my abilities as a climber, and generally had a great time. Through Outdoor Adventure, I am able to be the awesome adventurer I’ve always wanted to be!"

~Laci LeBlanc, Climbing Trip Participant

Chalk Up 2009

Congratulations to the winners of Chalk Up 2009, a bouldering competition sponsored by Baylor Outdoor Adventure; 28 students spent 6 hours testing their rock climbing skill against one another. Congratulations to Jenni Biddison, Jacquelyn Sequeira, Taylor McCorkle, Ben Edwards, Elizabeth Stewart, Blake Dowdy, Greg Stephanos, and Matthew Collins. A special thanks to local physician Steve Martin, senior Dan Jepson, and alumni Andrew Mustard, Eric Reeves, and Adam Valickus for all of their hard work creating the 37 new challenges for the climbers to attempt. The Bear Climb Climbing Competition will again return to Baylor on April 17 — please mark your calendars!

Lake Whitney Halloween Trip

The Outdoor Adventure staff has been working closely with the foreign exchange and international student programs to provide them with some fun opportunities for their students to get to know each other and see a little piece of America. We took 16 international students to Lake Whitney State Park for a good old-fashioned camp out on October 30 and 31. The students had the opportunity to carve pumpkins, make s’mores, have a campfire, see gorgeous sunrise and sunset, and get out on the water for a paddling adventure. For most of these students it was their first time doing any of these activities, and they had so much fun. It is always amazing how excited these students are to have these opportunities to get out and see the countryside and enjoy shared experiences. It is our goal to continue to work with these students and other underrepresented groups on campus to help foster that sense of community that we all appreciate here at Baylor.
Family Corner

Dr. Jim Marsh gave a presentation at the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors National Conference on October 27 in Asheville, NC on “Triage Systems and Counseling Centers: A Review of Models, Challenges, Benefits and Future Implications.” Co-presenters included counseling center directors and staff from Bellarmine University, The University of Notre Dame, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and The University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Congratulations to Tim Powers, Associate Director for Campus

Living and Learning, who recently received notification that he has been accepted into Texas A&M University’s Higher Education Administration Ph.D. program!

The Department of Student Life would like to offer condolences to JoAnn Black in the loss of her son, Kelly DeGrate, and to Brenda Ferguson in the loss of her father, Charles Ogden.

Holly Widick, graduate student in the Higher Education – Student Affairs program and graduate apprentice for Spiritual Life, has been selected to represent Baylor as a campus ambassador for NASPA’s Placement Exchange. Congratulations to Holly for this accomplishment!

Christmas Consolation Service

The holiday season is often marked by a time to be joyful and full of cheer. However, for some of us, joy and cheer are the last things on their minds as Christmas approaches. Whether it be the death of a loved one, separation due to divorce or estrangement, an illness, or just a general feeling of depression, we just want Christmas to be over with so all the smiling faces will just leave you alone.

We want you to know that you are not alone, and you are not strange for having these feelings. In company with the rag-tag characters that make it into the nativity scene every year, we want to acknowledge our longing and need for Jesus to break into our worlds and bring comfort and solace. Please join us as we seek to do this in a Christmas Service of Consolation on December 2 at 8 p.m. in the Bobo Spiritual Life Chapel. This time of worship will be brief and will be a nonthreatening way of making our grief known to God.

Blessings as we all seek comfort and consolation for your Holidays,
Baylor Spiritual Life Staff

Staff Development Date Changes

Mark your calendars! The staff development scheduled for November 24 will now be held November 17, and the date scheduled for April 27 will now be held April 20. Please check the Student Life Staff Intranet for other important dates this year.

The New Student Programs staff wears pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

L to R: Keane Tarbell, Emily Sandvall, Olga Rodriguez, Karen Hall, Jesse Hines, Elisa Dunman