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Dear Alumni and Friends:



"Welcome to the Baylor family!" Five years ago, as a newcomer to Baylor, this phrase, "the Baylor family," revealed to me what you already know – Baylor is a special place. And recently I was reminded of this again as our Baylor family shared not only our hospitality but also our heartache.

In summer 2008, Dr. Rafer Lutz, a well-respected faculty member, accepted leadership as an act of service to the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation, where he began providing strong, compassionate and caring leadership. In May 2011, Rafer was diagnosed with mucosal melanoma (cancer of the sinus), an ultimately fatal diagnosis that led to his passing just one year later, in May 2012.

A gentle soul, Rafer was a person of deep convictions and personal strength who lived his faith, which was demonstrated in his leadership and how he treated others. He showed us how to face our own mortality as a steadfast Christian – realistic about his situation, yet positive in his faith and charity toward others. Rafer was 42 years old and the father of

two young sons. Our prayers continue for Rafer's children, his wife Lori, and his extended family.

Despite the tragedy this loss was to the "Baylor family," Rafer's passing reminds us of the kind of individuals Baylor attracts and nurtures.

As we mourn Rafer's passing and celebrate his life and presence at Baylor for over a decade, we also recognize his many colleagues who continue to share his faith, his enthusiasm for life and his caring attitude for others, especially our students.



Rafer S. Lutz, PhD
1970-2012

We are blessed by God at this place we call Baylor. We know "the Baylor family" is just one more expression of our heavenly father's love for us. And we are grateful.

Jon M. Engelhardt
Dean, School of Education





THE BAYLOR **impact**

FROM ACTION COMES IMPACT



In the F¹RST PERSON



My home was only blocks from campus and I can recall feeling that Baylor was so near, physically, but seemingly inaccessible to children in my neighborhood. I attended my first year of college at McLennan Community College, earning enough credits in that one year to be accepted into Baylor University as a junior.

I chose Baylor for several reasons. I knew my parents, Homer and Mae Jimmie Shields, revered Baylor and they would be extremely proud of me. Also, during the late 1970s, not many children from my South Waco community had the opportunity to attend the perceived “elusive” Baylor. My successful experience would make attending Baylor a more common expectation for neighborhood children.

Prior to public school integration in Waco, I attended an all black elementary school. While integration allowed me to interact with other ethnicities and cultures, at Baylor I met many classmates who had few, if any, experiences with diversity. Though I can recall not being readily accepted by some classmates, more than 30 years later, I hold dear the multi-ethnic, lifelong and meaningful relationships that began at Baylor.

I shall always remember the kindness shown me by Dr. Larry Browning. He always made sure I was ok. These experiences served me well - enabling me to be more tolerant and to develop a greater appreciation and respect for diversity and differing perspectives.



The most profound and unique experience I had at Baylor was witnessing my classmates’ uninhibited expressions of their love for Jesus Christ. In retrospect, it was an amazing experience to walk with others who shared my Christian beliefs and strived to live their college experiences accordingly.

Sharon Marie Shields, PhD
BSED '80, MSED '83
(PhD '93, Texas A&M University)

These Baylor experiences caused me to mature spiritually and to truly understand what it is to totally lean on and depend on Christ.

Since graduating from Baylor, I have remained in Waco where my professional career began in La Vega ISD as a junior high teacher, then counselor. I served as an educational specialist at the Education Service Center and then moved to Waco ISD as principal of my alma mater, G.L. Wiley Middle School. In 1999, I had the opportunity to return to La Vega ISD as executive director and assistant superintendent in the curriculum and instruction department. In 2006, I was selected as superintendent of schools for La Vega ISD. I am honored to provide leadership to the students, staff, families and communities of Bellmead and Waco.

“THE MOST PROFOUND AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE I HAD AT BAYLOR WAS WITNESSING MY CLASSMATES’ UNINHIBITED EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.”

I hope I have exhibited to students and staff that respect is earned and must be protected; I hope that my life is proof-positive that it does not matter where you start; you can be successful through hard work, focus, perseverance and – most importantly – prayer.

As a child, I learned the love of Christ in my home and church. As a young adult, I learned how to boldly and unashamedly live my Christian faith during my college years at Baylor University. I have attended several universities, but none have instilled in me the high values and morals that were reinforced during my years at Baylor.

Editor's note: In 2011 Dr. Shields was selected as Education Service Center Region 12's Superintendent of the Year and was a state finalist for Texas Association of School Board's Superintendent of the Year.



OPPORTUNITY + EXPERIENCE = SUCCESS

Mathematics Education at Baylor

by Dr. Rachelle Meyer Rogers

Mathematics teacher candidates at Baylor receive ample **opportunities** to work with students in various environments. In addition, they work with grants such as GEAR UP that allow them to serve as instructors for one-day activities called Super Saturdays and in a week-long summer mathematics camp called Project S.T.O.M.P. (Summertime Travels Opening Mathematical Possibilities).



Kelsey Rostron, BSED '11 with Connally Middle School students

Kelsey Rostron (BSED '11) reports, "I saw students enjoy themselves in a math-centered camp...math can be fun through interactive activities that motivate students to learn and make real-world connections."

Many candidates participate in and present at the events of local

mathematics organizations such as the Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (CTCTM).

The SOE's partnerships with surrounding school districts provide rich **experiences** that enhance candidate skills. Students recognize the value of these opportunities and say: "We are more prepared for the classroom because of the experience we get and the detailed and specialized math instruction" (Mikayla Chien, BSED, '12); and "the professors develop a connection with the students" (Gretchen Nyberg, BSED, '12). Brittany Carameros (BSED, '11) put it simply, "They teach you how to teach mathematics."

Opportunities plus **experiences** equal **success** – employed teachers. When teaching jobs became hard to find and educators were struggling to find employment in the summer of 2011, every middle and secondary mathematics teacher graduating and seeking employment in May, quickly received job offers.

According to Nolan Correa, former principal of University High School, "We want the teachers Baylor turns out. We want them on our campus and teaching our students."

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY:

Turning Appreciation for Exercise into Passion to Educate

Exercise Physiology, a rapidly evolving field, is increasingly important in the delivery of health care as well as the maintenance of health and fitness of individuals and athletes. Exercise physiologists work to prevent or delay the onset of chronic disease in healthy individuals or to provide therapeutic benefits to patients with known diseases. Employment opportunities exist in medical settings such as hospitals, cardiac rehabilitation centers, and physical therapy clinics. Opportunities can also be found in fitness settings in community organizations, corporations or sports programs across the country.

Undergraduate Exercise Physiology majors in Baylor's Health, Human Performance and Recreation department participate in research laboratories collecting data and evaluating people in the areas of cardiovascular fitness, body composition, muscular strength/endorance, and blood/tissue analyses. Many students become leaders in community settings that promote health, fitness, and quality of life of the general population.

"The professors and instructors I had during my time at Baylor University helped turn my appreciation for exercise into a passion to educate younger generations about health and wellness. Through my work at the YMCA of Central Texas, I am able to share my knowledge with families through initiatives like *Activate America* and *MEND* (Mind, Exercise, and Nutrition, Do It!) to combat the obesity epidemic that our nation faces today. The coursework, resources and educators have prepared me for a successful career in the field of health education."

Stephen Petree (BSED '08)



Stephen Petree, BSED '08, Exercise Physiology major
Stephen teaches at Waco High School in addition to his part time work at the YMCA

For more information, see www.baylor.edu/soe/hhpr/Exercisephys or contact Dr. Deborah Johnston, Undergraduate Exercise Physiology Program Director at (254) 710-4020, or Deborah_Johnston@baylor.edu.

OALA PARTNERS WITH EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY: Asperger's Support Program at Baylor University



Dr. Tamara Hodges, faculty member in Educational Psychology, works with the ASP team

Baylor has a new service for students diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

The Asperger's Support Program (ASP) was developed in 2011 through collaboration between the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA) and the Department of Educational Psychology. The program offers appropriate academic, social and independent living supports to individuals on the Asperger's spectrum so

that they may have a successful college experience and learn skills necessary to enter a competitive workforce.

The components of the program include interviews with the participating students and their families, an integrated support system, a 12-week Topics in Transition class, mentors (called

"fellows"), scheduled study hall hours, and periodic assessment of student skill areas. Skill areas assessed will cover academics, independent living, socialization skills, safety, relationships, stress, and personal insight. Skill proficiencies will be determined based on interviews with the students, contact with their families, and their interactions with professors and fellows.

Overall, the services provided are individualized and tailored to each student's needs in order to provide relevant and adequate support. This program is just one of many to launch, as Baylor University continues its efforts to ensure the success, well being, and inclusion of all students. For more information about the ASP, please contact Dae Vasek in OALA (254-710-3605).



Dae Vasek, OALA Director, and the ASP team

DETERMINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Faye Moore and Fred Hale Scholarship Recipient – Theresa Daniel (MSED '11)

Theresa Daniel was determined to earn her master's degree. After a friend suggested she look into Baylor's newly reinstated principal certification program, she knew she wanted to earn it at Baylor.

The mother of two teenage daughters and a full-time teacher, the cost of a graduate program was a limitation. The Faye Moore and Fred Hale Endowed Scholarship made it possible.

Abounding gratitude radiates as Theresa explains how scholarship donors (like Faye Moore and Fred Hale) level the playing field for teachers in situations like hers to receive the same prestigious education as someone with greater means. "It's like getting a hold of trade secrets," Theresa said, surprised by how much she has gained as a result of the program. Even with a decade of teaching experience, "every single thing I've learned is new information."

Theresa is determined to make a difference. "I like the idea that we are changing lives; and if we educate people thoroughly, it will impact society."

And she has not forgotten the gift that made a difference for her.

"I was going to earn my degree one way or another," she said. "But I'm so grateful, every day, that I got it from Baylor."

Write a chapter in the life of an extraordinary student like Theresa by supporting **The President's Scholarship Initiative** through School of Education endowed scholarships.

Editor's note: Theresa is now a math instructional coach at Estacado High School in Lubbock, Texas.

IMPACT TOMORROW

Consider establishing your own or contributing to an existing endowed scholarship fund at Baylor's School of Education.

Please contact Marty Wold for more information.

Marty_Wold@baylor.edu
(254) 710-8791 or
800-BAYLOR-U, option 4



Marty Wold

The *Baylor Impact* is published four times a year by the School of Education at Baylor University to inform alumni and friends of the ongoing work and contributions of the School, its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and programs.

Our cover story was a result of feedback from readers like you. If you know of a story connected to Baylor's School of Education that needs to be told, please let us know about it. Your story might be our next feature. Send your ideas and comments to Doug Rogers, editor, BaylorImpact@baylor.edu.



BAYLOR
ALUMNI