

Dear Colleagues:

During this past weekend's full slate of Homecoming activities, my thoughts turned to P.F. Kluge's [Alma Mater: A College Homecoming](#). The book paints a nostalgic picture of Kluge's year-long return to his alma mater, Kenyon College, located in rural Ohio "on a wooded hillside with grand Gothic architecture" and featuring "liberal arts education in pure form." Near the book's end, Kluge vividly remembers his graduation some thirty years before:

That happened here, and that's what I love about a pretty good college in a small place, the way life enlarges, the way it involves everyone who's here, or ever was, the kid of eighteen that I was, the man of fifty now, and my parents and my classmates of thirty years ago. I know the guys in the dorm, and I know the people in the graveyard. I claim the benches, the trestle over the river, certain hills and paths out east of here, and I not only accept but welcome my own aging, seasons into years, years into life, for life is fuller and more resonant here, like an echo that hangs in the air a little longer

Kluge describes what many alumni experience when they return to their alma maters: shared memory, recognition of forgotten-but-now-recalled people and places and traditions, recapitulated hope for what life might be, gratitude for good lives enabled through education, perhaps occasional regret at missed opportunities for better and wiser lives. I'm sure our alumni experienced such things during reunion meals and homecoming lectures, at Pigskin and the bonfire, along the parade route and through a nail-biter of a football game (Sic 'em, Bears!).

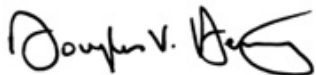
Yet I also wonder how a Baylor education uniquely shapes the experiences of our alumni when they come home to their alma mater. Does it make a difference that our campus, unlike Kenyon's, features gracious Georgian architecture and is located in bottom land along the banks of the Brazos, or that we offer 127 baccalaureate programs that do not generally feature liberal arts education in its pure form? Surely in ordinary ways these things make a difference. More pointedly, how do our [mission](#) and [core convictions](#) inflect our alumni's Homecoming? In what ways do they experience fondness for the special people and place constitutive of Baylor *because* of our Christian identity? What does loyalty look like among alumni who regard themselves as strangers and sojourners called to use earthly goods wisely within Christ's kingdom? These and like questions, which deserve conversation and doubtless complex responses, brought a spirit of appreciation, reflection, and aspiration to my Homecoming. Find me soon and let me know what *you* think!

Of note in the life of the Honors College are the following items:

- Congratulations to **Davide Zori**, assistant professor in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, on the inauguration of a museum in Barbarano Romano, Italy that features the findings of the [San Guiliano Archaeological Research Project](#) (SGARP), for which Davide serves as director and co-principal investigator. With a distinguished place on the inauguration program, and with a spotlight shown on cases displaying artifacts excavated through SGARP, Davide is certainly flinging our green and gold afar. Congratulations as well to **Lori Baker**, **Nathan Elkins**, **Alden Smith**, and **Colleen Zori**, all of whom have important roles in the work of SGARP.

- **Elizabeth Corey**, associate professor of political science and director of the Honors Program, will present the Bill and Roberta Bailey Family Lecture in Christian Ethics this Thursday, October 17, at 7:15 p.m., in Barfield Drawing Room. Entitled “**The Adventure of Liberal Learning**,” Elizabeth’s address is the opening plenary lecture of the Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, [The Character of the University](#), part of an annual series hosted by the Institute for Faith and Learning under the direction of **Darin Davis**, clinical associate professor of moral philosophy in the HC.
- As previously noted, on Tuesday, October 22, at 4:00 p.m., **Jane Kelly Rodeheffer**, the Fletcher Jones Chair of Great Books at Pepperdine University, will present our tenth annual Drumwright Family Lecture. The title of Jane’s talk is “**From Ithaca To Emmaus: Recognition of the Stranger in the *Odyssey* and the Gospel of Luke**.” Many of us know Jane through her exemplary service as president of the [Association for Core Texts and Courses](#) (ACTC). The Drumwright Lecture numbers among the marquee events of the Honors College, so I hope you not only will attend, but will also invite colleagues and students to join us.
- I recently met Katie Thompson, program director for the [Center for Public Justice](#). She seeks applications for the **\$5,000 Hatfield Prize** awarded annually to student-faculty teams conducting research on social policies that impact vulnerable children, families, and communities (see [here](#)). Collin Slowey, a senior UNSC and HON student recently completed a successful internship at CPJ, and another senior, Ana O’Quin, and her Baylor advisor Stephanie Boddie, assistant professor of church and community ministries, won last year’s Hatfield Prize (see [here](#) for their report). This year’s application deadline of November 10 approaches quickly, so if you are working with students whose interests align with the prize, please encourage them to apply for the Hatfield Prize right away.
- Raising new scholarship resources for our students is a high priority. In that connection, I am pleased to announce two recently completed agreements establishing endowed scholarships for Honors College students: the **Kenneth and Linda Hall Endowed Scholarship Fund** and the **Jerome and Patricia Loughridge Endowed Scholarship Fund**. These two families are longtime supporters of the Honors College, and their generosity will benefit deserving students for generations to come. With credit to superb work by **Hope Loomis**, senior director of development assigned to the Honors College, I look forward to near-term finalization of two other endowed scholarship agreements, one for students majoring in Great Texts and the other for students pursuing the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core.

All the best,



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