As one Baylor professor astutely observes, when it comes to your academic life, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. You’ve undoubtedly heard this philosophical phrase before. It’s been around. Aristotle knew it to be true and you’ll need to know it as well to become an educated person. When it comes to your academic life, $1 + 1 + 1 = 30$. It’s a central notion of a liberal arts education and of ancient epistemology... that’s the good word that means, “how is it that we come to know what it is we know.”

What wise people have always taught is that we come to know what we come to know in multiple ways. Within each of us there are what some have called centers of knowing. You might think of them as different faculties that are within you. Each faculty is within each one of us and each one is vital to us as we come to know what it is we come to... know. There are things we come to know with our rational, thinking mind.

There are things we know through our physical experience. 

... Things we know intuitively or relationally or mystically.

All of these faculties are within all of us and as all of them are developed and accessed... REMEMBER... it changes the knowing. $1 + 1 + 1 = 30$. And note - this is especially true, when we know it is true. Your intention is the most important variable in the equation.

What we’re inviting you to see is that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” It’s a central tenant of our faith that you are more than the sum of your parts. A Baylor education is built around this way of understanding human beings. We have what some would call a “spiritual anthropology” that both confesses and perceives that human beings are multidimensional.

Many of you may reach the end of these four years having ignored this fundamental reality. You’ll have a transcript that testifies that you earned 124 hours of credit from Baylor but you’ll have missed the opportunity to truly and deeply “know.” Many students will not realize the fullness of the opportunity before them.

With that bit of sobering truth pressing against these exciting first days, you might think on these questions. Will you get to know and get to know well, some of your professors? Will you pursue research or study abroad? Will your circle of friends just sort of happen or will you be intentional about the relationships you’re nurturing? How will you serve outwardly and develop inwardly? All of these things will require your intention and attention so that you’ll have more than a transcript four years from now. You’ll have a real education. You’ll be one who truly and deeply knows.