Hello Student Life Colleagues,

We hope everyone had a great 4th of July weekend! Summer is a little past halfway over (at least by the academic calendar). This spotlight we have for you both some smaller updates and a deep dive.

CONGRATULATIONS

In Student Life we have the privilege of working with colleagues committed to furthering their knowledge in our field. This week we have not one but two colleagues who we’d particularly like to commend for their accomplishments.

Please join us in congratulating the newly minted Dr. Rob Engblom and Dr. Geoffrey Griggs. They both recently defended their dissertations. If you see them, be sure to congratulate them. Bravo Dr. Engblom and Dr. Griggs!

SUPPLY SWAP

Do you have way too many dry erase markers and not enough sticky notes? We have a solution for you! Spiritual Life has graciously agreed to host a supply swap. They will be collecting surplus office supplies in the Barbie July 18-22nd, and then you can visit them July 25-27th to “shop” for the office supplies. Please see the below graphic for more info and consider participating!

UPCOMING

When a global pandemic shut down 90% of Missions and Public Life’s programming, they found themselves in need of a new purpose, if only for the short-term. Upon hearing the need to deliver meals, mail and medicine to students in isolation and quarantine, BearAid was born. For a year, MPL served as the primary point for meal delivery. At the end of Summer 2021, over 17,000 meals had been delivered (and one suit for a virtual formal).

Although the Baylor campus used was short-lived (Houma, crossed, prayer suit), the idea of helping neighbors following a disaster began to resonate with MPL staff, swelling enlistment volunteers and coordinating logistics in their outhouse. And then, before borders opened for travel, Hurricane Ida hit the Gulf Coast. After traveling to Houma, LA to deliver urgent supplies, a question began to form: “What if you had the means to travel with students to provide aid to communities following disasters? We would need a way to feed our own students, plus communities that had little to no access to power and clean water.”

Fast forward nine months. Missions, Service and Public Life’s new name has a 22’ trailer (toy hauler) that is equipped to cook for large crowds, thanks to the generosity of Baylor alumni Mark Davis ’81, (BBA and BA, Political Science). The disaster trailer is outfitted with a rolling grill, griddle, refrigerator, warming box and plenty of commercial grade pans. It also has a generator and solar plan should it need to “go off-grid.”

Beginning Fall 2021, students will have an opportunity to serve on a Disaster Relief Team that will work in collaboration with relief agencies, such as Texans on Mission (formerly Texas Baptist Men) and Cajun Navy. They will be trained and prepared to respond to communities in need within a certain radius of Waco and after sites have been stabilized by partners.

We are excited about this new chapter. For a picture of the trailer check out our last Spotlight e-mail (you can view past spotlights by clicking the link at the bottom of this e-mail).

To view past Spotlight E-mails, click HERE.

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