Hello Student Life,

The semester is in full swing! The vibrancy students bring to Campus (and Waco) has returned, especially if you find yourself trying to navigate campus during the windows in-between classes. It’s great to see campus so lively again!

Speaking of lively, this past Friday was a campus favorite, Late Night. Well over 5000 people attended, including 5349 that came through the gates of the SLC. We had an excellent showing from student organizations, with 280 organizations participating and creating opportunities for students to find communities of shared interest. That level of student organization participation was a 34% increase over the previous year (475 organizations) which was already a strong showing.

Another highlight this year was we set up our academically focused student orgs in the BSB, creating synergy with a place where many of those student orgs already find belonging and community. One more fun fact about Late Night, students consumed over 200 pizzas and a full pallet of water bottles.

Another exciting and signature student experience was also this past week, Mosaic Week. Every year Mosaic Week events give students an opportunity at the beginning of the year to get connected with different cultural organizations, coalitions, and other departments on campus. This year over 1500 students participated in Mosaic Week events, including over 700 that attended the headline event Mosaic Mixer. The individual mixers (Black Student Welcome, Latinx Night, Mosaic Asian Night) were also well attended, each with over 200 attendees.

This summer we spotlighted the new student leadership development model that has been forming. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kimberly Black has been appointed as the Director of Leadership Development and Strategic Initiatives effective August 1, 2022. For the past year, she has worked in tandem with the STEM and other division partners to re-imagine our leadership efforts and has done extensive research and thoughtful design work around a newly formulated leadership initiative.

Dr. Black has distinguished herself with leadership-development experiences here at Baylor, serving as the Program Director for the LEAD Living Learning Program for the past 3 years, serving in the Department of New Student Programs with their student leadership selection and preparation efforts, working as Associate Dean for Academic Services in the Office of Student Life, and as the Director of Student Life at California Lutheran University. She has a B.A. in Psychology and Human Development from California State University, a M.A. in Student Development from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Management from the Regent University in Higher Education Leadership and Management.

Over the course of the next few weeks, for Leadership Development area will make its home on the 2nd floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center and we’ll also be posting a Senior Coordinator position to help with the initiative. In the spring, we’ll have one remaining staff member to select, an Assistant Director who will round out the team.

Lots coming up in the next two weeks, starting with Staycation Weekend (click for full schedule) and our first home football game against the University at Albany Great Danes. Sic ‘em Bears! As an aside, if you want to learn more about our leader, Coach Aranda, check out this ESPN did about him. Staycation weekend offers a buffet of opportunities for students to engage on campus and in Waco this long weekend, getting them further connected and engaged with the campus community and Student Life.

Next week we have the Division of Student Life Kick-Off Breakfast. If you haven’t RSVP’d, please do so by Friday. We will conduct our own meetings, celebrate leadership, and share fellowship. We want to see everyone there! Also, don’t forget that Family Weekend is just around the corner, Sept 16-17th. More on that later in the next Spotlight.

Moments

Late Night was a monster success! I saw several people running for the energy and wonder how many of these young students will developorganisetogether and get plugged in at Baylor.

To view past Spotlight E-mails, click HERE.