

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

Hello Division Colleagues,

It has been a month since our last Spotlight (Thanksgiving fell right when the last one would've come out) and a lot has happened since then! As we wind towards the end of the year we want to look back at the last month and also look ahead. This will also be our last Spotlight for 2022 (the next one would fall over the break). That said, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

IMPACT

You may remember that our last *Coming Up* section had 15+ entries (a lot happens in a month), here is a look back at how some of those events went (spoiler: very successfully!).

Flag Football Championship: Under the lights at McLane Stadium, Campus Rec crowned four teams [champions of their respective leagues](#). Congratulations to: Kappa Denzel Mims (Women's Competitive); ATO Alligator (Men's Competitive); Primetime (Women's Recreational); and KOT Adams (Men's Recreational)

All University Thanksgiving: By night's end 8,250 guests had broken bread together, what a feast! That amounted to over 3800 pounds of turkey, 1800 pounds of dressing, 2000 pounds of mashed potatoes, 2000 pounds of pumpkin pie, and 130 gallons of hot chocolate. Student Foundation did an amazing job and as the whipped cream on top they were also able to donate 838 meals to [The Store](#), Baylor's student food pantry.

Professional Development- Dr. Christina Edmondson: As you may remember, Dr. Edmondson was our featured speaker in November. She actually gave two talks, one for the Division and a second to students as a featured speaker in the Student Leadership Speaker Series. In case you missed it (or want to hear it again) recordings of both talks are available [here](#).

Chili Cookoff & Bed Races: This year we had 26 bed race entries that barreled down 3rd Street in converted hospital beds. Congratulations to the Women's Division winners, *Your Mom's Chili*, and Men's Division winners, *Boone & His Boys*. Congratulations also to the winner of the Chili Cookoff, *Chum Buckets*.

Santa's Workshop: While traditionally this event is held on campus, this year the Community Service team took the event on the road and brought the experience to classrooms across Waco, Marlin, and Moody. Thank you to all that helped in the many parts including the toy drive, fundraising, present wrapping, and of course delivering the presents. Thanks to their efforts, 549 children in more than 20 classrooms received toys, books, activity kits, new toothbrushes, and more.

Advent Services with Rev. Tish Harrison Warren: As culmination to chapel for the semester, on Dec. 1st our Chapel team hosted Rev. Tish Harrison Warren for two Advent services in 7th and James Baptist Church. Both services were open to the Baylor and Waco communities and it was a full house with 300+ attending each service. The services featured special music by the St. Peters Choir (and accompaniment) and Rev. Harrison Warren gave a message on the significance of Advent, a subject on which she has written [a forthcoming book](#).

Christmas on 5th: We kicked off the Christmas season in style with almost 12,500 students, staff, faculty, families, and community members joining us for a truly merry Christmas celebration. Student Activities put on a magical evening featuring experiences such as carriage rides, a petting zoo, a live nativity, a Christmas market, pictures with Santa, food trucks, and so much more! The evening capped off with the KOT Christmas Tree Lighting featuring the artist Chris Renzema and an impressive barrage of confetti snow.

Midnight Breakfast: 2200 hungry students gathered in Penland for a late night feast. The spread was impressive, with classic breakfast items and special additions including a donut wall and fruity pebbles French toast. The evening also featured Karaoke, and the rumor is there was even a special duet by President Livingstone and the First Gent (they did "I've Got You Babe" by Sonny and Cher if you're wondering).

Lift Up Your Hearts: Hopefully you were able to join for a beautiful service in Truett Chapel yesterday (12/8). Dr. Jason Whitt (Faculty-in-Residence in the Honors College) gave an Advent message on hope and there was a musical performance by the Staff and Faculty Ensemble (which included Student Life staff).

UPDATES

As the Counseling Center has captured well in their recent campaign, Mental Health Matters. Finals and end of year can be an especially stressful time for students and in addition to the array of support and mental health services we already offer, we are excited to announce the launch of a new resource, Togetherall. This new online peer-to-peer mental health resource is available to every single Baylor student and it's free, anonymous, and available right now! To learn more, visit [Togetherall.com](#) or check out the flyer below. We will launch a full marketing campaign for Togetherall in the spring, but we wanted to let you know now about this new resource.



Feeling overwhelmed?
Struggling socially?
Not feeling like yourself?

togetherall

Togetherall is a safe, anonymous, online peer community to support your mental health.

Register today



COMING UP

The semester is almost over, but don't miss our upcoming Division of Student Life Christmas Party. On **Wednesday (12/14) at 8:30 a.m. we'll be in Cashion 506 for breakfast and Christmas merriment**. It will be a time to share food, fellowship, and fun, and we'll reflect a little on the season and our semester together. See you there!

That is our last official event of the semester, but we wanted to give a quick peek ahead to the spring semester. The first day of class is not until January 17th, but there are a couple major events before then. Specifically, when the semester starts back up please remember to keep our colleagues in CL&L, Student Activities, and NSP in your prayers as they help us launch the new semester. The residence halls will close for the break, but they will open back up gradually before the beginning of the semester as different groups of students move back to campus. One of the first groups will be students moving back for Panhellenic recruitment. January 9-11th our colleagues in Student Activities will oversee the currently 1,116 registered women interested in joining a panhellenic sorority, as well as all of the logistics and current sorority members involved in that process. On the heels of that, January 13-15th our colleagues in NSP will welcome new students and transfers to campus for Welcome Weekend.

Before all of that though there is a much needed break for the holidays. We pray everyone will have a restful and fun Christmas, meaningful time with family and friends, and an opportunity to reflect upon the hope and joy that we have in this season. We celebrate with the Apostle John that:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14, NIV)

MOMENTS



No one celebrates Christmas quite like Baylor University. Click the image above to get a quick 1-minute look at the Christmas on 5th Street Tree Lighting.

To view past Spotlight E-mails, click

[HERE](#).

Stay connected with Student Life

