

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

November 27, 2023

Dear Division Colleagues,

In this post-Thanksgiving Spotlight, we thought about a serious opening message, but we couldn't quit the bad puns cold turkey.

But seriously, you probably want to know the results of the [recent election from the last Spotlight](#). And the winner is [insert drumroll] ...

Why didn't the turkey take home any leftovers? Because all of his plans were foiled.

IMPACT

Bed Races and Chili Cook-Off - Earlier this month Chi Omega and Alpha Tau Omega hosted the Chili Cook-Off and Bed Races event. There were 32 bed racing teams and 10 chili entries. And our very own [Tom Barnard](#) was a judge for the Chili Cook-Off event! \$5,000 was raised for Co-Hope and \$20,799 of the \$30,000 goal was raised for Make-a-Wish!

All University Thanksgiving - All-University Thanksgiving saw about a 20 percent increase in attendance this year with 10,126 guests breaking bread together! Student Foundation, once again, did an amazing job, and—whipped cream on top—they were able to donate 1,296 cafeteria meal swipes to [The Store](#), which was another estimated 20 percent increase from last year.

Flag Football Championship - After All-University Thanksgiving and under the lights at McLane Stadium, Campus Rec crowned four teams champions of their respective leagues. Congratulations to: Chi Omega (Women's Competitive); Alpha Tau Omega (Men's Competitive); Zeta Tau Alpha (Women's Recreational); and Phi Kappa Chi (Men's Recreational). Check out the [Baylor Intramural Sports Instagram](#) to see some of the highlights.

UPDATES

Strategic Communications Plan - As one of the largest-staffed divisions at Baylor University, communications coming out of Student Life are managed by almost a dozen staff members and distributed through more than 20 social media accounts and other channels to an audience of our 20,000+ students. With such a widely distributed group managing these efforts, we have worked to create a [Strategic Communications Plan](#) for the Division of Student Life that should serve as a collection of best practices for staff to follow as we work to communicate our goals and events. This plan also makes an excellent resource for new staff in the division in any position. As a "living document," we will add resources and helpful tools in the future. Click [HERE](#) to read through the plan. If you have thoughts about useful resources to be added, feel free to reach out to thomas_barnard@baylor.edu.

COMING UP

Staff Development - Starting off a full day of events on Thursday, November 30, we will have our third Staff Development session, *The Game of Student Life*. Come out to Foster 142 at 10:30 a.m. as focus on financial wellbeing while hearing from a speaker and participating in group activities. **Please bring a laptop or other device to this session for the group activity!**

Advent Services - Later in the day on Thursday, November 30, the University Chapel Worship Services will hold special Advent services open to all students/faculty/staff. There will be a guest speaker and guest musicians. One service will be held at 3:30 p.m. and another at 5 p.m. Both will be at Seventh & James Baptist Church.

Christmas on 5th - Then, to close out that day, Christmas season will be in full swing with [Christmas on 5th Street](#). This can't-miss event will include Crafts with Indy & Belle, a marketplace with local vendors, and all the fun on Fountain Mall. Come to enjoy all the festivities, stay for the Christmas tree lighting and concert at 8 p.m., and don't forget about the drone show at 9:30 p.m.

Professional Staff Volunteers Needed: Staff and faculty, we need YOU for Christmas on 5th too! We are looking for volunteers to support high-traffic areas and to keep walkways cleared in case of an emergency. Please consider supporting this Baylor Tradition. [CLICK HERE](#) for staff and faculty volunteer sign-ups.

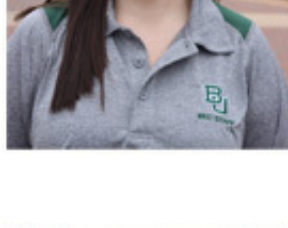
Ugly-Christmas-Sweater Holiday: We invite all to come to Christmas on 5th dressed in your best ugly Christmas sweaters! We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to lauren_fisherz@baylor.edu.

Santa's Workshop - Santa's Workshop, a community event planned by student leaders and hosted by the department of Missions, Service, & Public Life, will be held Saturday, December 2, from 3-5 p.m. at the Bobo Spiritual Life Center. Children from Waco's Head Start programs—a school readiness program for children who are part of low-income households—are invited to bring their families to a fun Christmas party with games, activities, cookie decorating, face painting, photos and more. One way that to get involved is to gift an early reader book, which be given to each child in attendance. Books are populated on a [wish list](#), and can also be purchased from local bookstores and dropped off at the Bobo Spiritual Life Center.

Lift Up Your Hearts - Please join us for the "Lift Up Your Hearts" worship service with the Baylor family as we bring the semester to an end. The service of prayer and worship will take place on **Thursday, December 7, and begin at 11 a.m. in the Paul Powell Chapel** at Truett Seminary. A **complimentary fellowship luncheon for faculty and staff** will follow in the Seminary's Great Hall. Register for the luncheon [here](#). *Registration will close on December 4 at noon. You do not need to register if you are attending the worship service only.*

STAFF NEWS

New Staff:



Name: **Patti Umberger**

Department: **Campus Recreation**

Title: **Office Manager**

Fun/interesting fact: "I'm obsessed with cows!"

Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "How open everyone is about their faith and willingness to pray with you."



Name: **Jose Vallejo**

Department: **Department of Student and Well-Being**

Title: **Recovery Program Manager, BARC**

Fun/interesting fact: "I have 4 kids, 2 dogs, and 2 cats."

Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "The community."

SHOUTOUT

In an effort to recognize and celebrate the good work performed by our dedicated Division of Student Life staff in a timely way, Spotlight Shoutout highlights staff who have gone above and beyond the scope of regular duties in a way that had substantive, positive impact on others and/or whose level of excellence in a particular program or initiative was exemplary. You may nominate any staff member within the division using [THIS FORM](#).



In our second Spotlight Shoutout, we are excited to shoutout **Michelle Herbelin (Health Center), who was nominated for her integral role in planning and hosting the Big XII and Friends Health Director Conference**. In her regular role as Administrative Operations Manager, Michelle keeps the administrative details humming along with excellence in the Health Center. This fall, Baylor had the opportunity to host the Big XII and Friends Health Director Conference and, in addition to her regular duties, Michelle took on a lead role in coordinating all of the logistics for the conference. She coordinated venues, food, swag and more. The event was a great success and we got to showcase Baylor hospitality to our Big XII colleagues (and friends). **Thanks for all the great work Michelle and all that you do for Baylor!**

MOMENTS



1,940 pounds of stuffing and 3,700 pounds of turkey was served to more than 10,000 members of our Baylor family at All-University Thanksgiving! Many thanks to Baylor Student Foundation, Baylor Student Government, and Baylor Dining Services for the months of preparation that led to our family dinner.

Stay connected with Student Life

