

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

Happy Summer, Student Life Staff!

It is always fantastic to get to meet our newest Baylor Bears as they attend New Student Orientation and Baylor Line Camp, which began this week. These programs are immensely important for building a foundation under new students, and the programs are a huge contributor to retention successes. Among all the many stories and traditions that our new students encounter, one of the most important is University Chapel. We asked our Associate Chaplain and Director of the Chapel Program, Erin Moniz, to update us on their programs and hope you'll take the time to learn more about our work in this area.

BAYLOR CHAPEL

It is hard to believe that we have made it through the first full academic year of the new chapel model! So much has changed and we want to let you know about some of the highlights. We now have nine sections of chapel that house a variety of different offerings. We have chapels for a number of academic departments that want a place to deepen the discussion of vocational theology for our students. In these Callings and Career Chapels, **students from various majors and fields of study gather to imagine how they can contribute to the flourishing of all as Christ-followers using their unique gifts and education.** We have chapels in residential halls being run largely by our Residential Chaplains or in partnership with CL&L programming. This Fall we are piloting an integrated chapel that will be woven into the pre-existing programming for our Outdoor Adventure Living Learning Community in Penland.

There are chapels for communities throughout Baylor where students find their home and support systems, this means chapels for post-traditional students, veterans, athletes, and students in recovery. We are partnering with campus ministry organizations to offer robust avenues for students to experience chapel using the wealth of spiritual formation for our students that happens every week in these organizations. We also have chapels that gather daily to start or end each day with prayers. **We have chapels for our students on the margins who need a space to ask questions and explore their place at Baylor.** It is my joy to introduce you to some exciting new chapels we are launching this Fall:

Service Chapel: You may be familiar with Neighbor Nights, Campus Kitchen, and Steppin' Out, but did you know that the legacy of student leadership driving these initiatives was disrupted during the pandemic? Yet, we have students who come to Baylor every year who love and are driven to animate their faith through service opportunities. Now they have a chapel. This new offering will not only provide ways for students to serve as part of their faith formation, but it will also feed into the Service Fellows Program and build up a new generation of leaders to spearhead our unique service initiatives through the office of Missions and Public Life.

Interfaith Community in Practice: Many wonder how Baylor stayed rooted in its Christian identity while serving a diverse population. If everyone must take Chapel, then what about our students who do not orient around the Christian faith? In response to this concern, I am pleased to announce that we have a brand-new chapel created and led by our very own Kevin Villegas. This chapel will gather our students from various faith backgrounds and walk them through an experience that aims to help them find a sense of belonging while learning about how to be a part of a Christian institution.

Please pray for our chapels as we continue to grow and develop them to be strong and meaningful experiences for our students and Baylor community. If you are ever curious about chapel or want to learn how chapel might partner with your programming, please reach out to [Erin Moniz](#). We would love to talk with you!

STAFF NEWS

Spotlight On New Staff

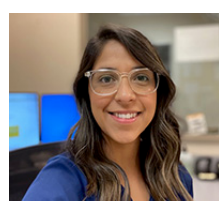
Starting this summer, Spotlight will shine a light on some of our newest Student Life staff members. We'll highlight three or four newer team members each issue this summer to get us started and then make it a regular practice throughout the year as people join our division. Enjoy getting to know them!



Kelsey Austin, Assistant Director for Collegiate Recovery

Fun Fact: I have seven fur babies—four dogs and three cats. Given the opportunity, I would have livestock, chickens, and just about every rescue pet posted on Facebook!

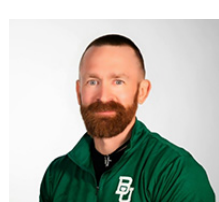
What I enjoy most about working at Baylor: I am so grateful for the genuine culture of the Student Life team at Baylor. Everyone is incredibly supportive, warm, and inclusive!



Virginia Castille, Staff Nurse

Fun Fact: I enjoy running. I recently ran my second Bearathon and look forward to running my third Bearathon next spring.

What I enjoy most about working at Baylor: One thing I enjoy the most about Baylor is the sense of community, belonging and team collaboration within my department.



Jared Gould, Assistant Director of Fitness Initiatives

Fun Fact: My wife Kelly (also works for Baylor) and I have two children, Julie (5) & Jackson (1), and two rescue dogs, Lady (13, German Shepherd) and Ace (4, Golden Retriever).

What I enjoy most about working at Baylor: Interacting with students (and staff) to help them achieve their goals!

MOMENTS



Summer has officially begun as we welcomed hundreds of students through our first two sessions of Baylor Line Camp this week!

Stay connected with Student Life

