

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

December 8, 2023

Dear Deer-vision Elves,

This Spotlight marks our first and only one for this month and the last of 2023! More importantly, today is National Christmas Tree day! So, to add some yuletide cheer and spruce things up for this tremendous issue, we will cedar to it that you have the most helpful information heading into the final weeks of the year. So, no needle to pine any longer, cypress the scroll down button and enjoy. Balsam!

IMPACT

Christmas on 5th - Despite a pivot from Thursday to Monday, Christmas on 5th saw an incredible turnout with over 5,000 students on Fountain Mall, while 3,500 guests came through the SUB, and over 40 local vendors were represented at the UGC Marketplace. New additions to the event this year included the move of the tree lighting to Fountain Mall, Tamale Making with Hispanic Student Association and a live Nativity presented by Young Festival Stage under the direction of the Theater Department. We ended the night with a first-ever Christmas Drone Show. This event is typically ranked the number one event of the year by our students, and we cannot thank the Student Activities team enough for the immense amount of work that was required to shift the entire event date. Hundreds of calls and emails to student organizations, local vendors, and suppliers were made by Jordy Dickey, Lauren Fisher, and other staff and student leaders in SA. It was the result of all this behind-the-scenes work that almost literally "saved Christmas" ... on 5th at least.

Santa's Workshop - Santa's Workshop was an afternoon of fun for families in Waco's Head Start program. The students and their families were invited to participate in various craft-making activities, outdoor games, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. With coffee from Bitty and Beau's to provide warm refreshments, various students volunteered to create an atmosphere of Christmas fun for the children. Hosted by Baylor's Mission and Service Department, Santa's Workshop spreads the holiday spirit to Waco's families, reminding the community of the child-like joy of Christmas time. After a four-year hiatus due to COVID, a turnout of 150 people was a great reminder of the many things we have to be grateful for and a memorable time of fun games for students, parents and children alike.

Nov. 30 Staff Development Event - Last week we held our final Staff Development event for the semester, "The Game of Student Life." Complete with laughter and learning, our interactive and educational game of This or That, group-planning session for frugal travel, and information sharing about some of our Baylor benefits helped us to think about our financial wellbeing together. Be on the lookout for our spring semester Staff Development dates soon as we carry on our theme of "Well-Being in Practice."

UPDATES

This is the last Spotlight email for 2023! We hope that you have a blessed Christmas filled with lots of love and friendship. If you'd like to review any of the huge accomplishments of our division over the past year, you can access all of the Spotlight newsletters HERE.

Christmas Bonus: If you find yourself with some free time after the students leave and you wish to explore campus, Baylor now has a new and improved interactive campus map. It's not quite as impressive as the Marauder's Map, but pretty close. Check it out and as we get closer to Christmas, be sure to look for the Christmas Easter Eggs they will have hidden throughout the map!

COMING UP

The semester is almost over, but don't miss our upcoming Division of Student Life Christmas Party. On Friday (12/15) at 8:30 a.m. we'll be in the Barfield Drawing Room 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. The deadline to RSVP is today, and while you're at it don't forget to submit your Christmas photos, so they can be included in the slideshow. You can do so by e-mailing them to this address: Student.h33vi4qckfs74dn4@u.box.com, which goes straight to a Box Folder. Also, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our campus food pantries (The Store and the Fridge), see the e-mail invite for a list of suggested items. Merry Christmas and see you there!

STAFF NEWS

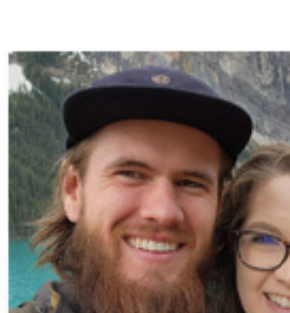
New Staff:



Name: Molly Simpson
Title: Assistant Director for Service

Fun/interesting fact: "I am not good at investing in hobbies. I started a backyard garden and couldn't keep up with it. I learned to sew and then didn't love it. I've decided that my favorite pastime is cheering for my kids as they do various activities, which is good, because they have a lot of them!"

Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "As an alumna, it's rewarding to invest in Baylor from a different perspective. I love the values we are committed to and recognize that academic excellence, Christian commitment, and caring community don't materialize without a lot of people planning, leading, teaching, and pulling in the same direction. I'm all in on this kind of work!"



Name: Jeremy Bugh
Title: Program Director for Teal Residential College & Coordinator of Retention Initiatives

Fun/interesting fact: "I am the youngest of five and have been an uncle since I was 12"

Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "The most enjoyable part about working at Baylor is getting to interact with and serve our students!"

SHOUTOUT

In our third Spotlight Shoutout we are excited to shoutout Polly Flippin (Business/Spiritual Life), who was nominated for her above and beyond contributions in coordinating the Bear Aid Trailer to mobilize for an NCAA leading eight home football games. The Bear Aid Trailer was mobilized to provide hospitality, care, and first aid to students on game days. Polly coordinated all of the logistics including making sure that everything was prepped and all supplies were in stock as well as coordinating volunteers for every game. You could even find her working the trailer herself providing hospitality and care to those who made use of the trailer's services during game day. Thanks for all the great work Polly and all that you do for Baylor!

About Shoutouts: 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.

MOMENTS



Despite the pivot, Christmas on 5th Street was an amazing success and showcased Baylor Christmas spirit to thousands of students and guests. Pictured is one of the many groups of students performing Christmas carols in foreign languages, in this case Chinese.

Stay connected with Student Life

