

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

January 19, 2024

Dear Division Colleagues,

Happy first week of classes! Campus is a buzz with students again and things are in full swing. There is one pupil not in classes this week though: the Sun. *Why?*, you might ask (and it's not the weather)? It's because it already has 28 million degrees. [insert knee slap] 😊

IMPACT

This past Monday was **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** and, although weather impacted some of the events, we hope you were able to join in on the commemorative programming throughout the past week and weekend. In the latest *Ad Unitatem*, our own Rev. Dr. Malcolm Foley shared with us some thoughts on the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which you can find [here](#).

Prior to the start of classes, our **Panhellenic community** hosted its formal **recruitment** season (Jan. 8-13). It was an incredibly successful recruitment season where there were 771 bids extended, and the average Panhellenic chapter size after recruitment was 342 and average new member class size was 86. This week would not have been possible without the dedicated help and efforts of our 80-plus Gamma Chis (active women who serve as recruitment counselors for PNMs), our eight Panhellenic executive officers, and several of our Student Activities friends who served in support roles on our last day of selections.

This past weekend, over 120 incoming transfer, first-year, and international students participated in **Welcome Weekend** activities designed to welcome them into the Baylor Family. Events included Orientation elements that also incorporated family members, Sundown Sessions at the SUB, visiting Cameron Park Zoo, fun at Topgolf, and an exciting Men's Basketball victory over Big 12 newcomer Cincinnati! While inclement weather precluded a planned Sunday trip to Independence, students received their Line Jerseys and Slime Caps as they furthered new friendships within their Welcome Weekend Small Groups. Thanks to so many within Student Life and across campus who helped provide a wonderful start to these students' Baylor stories!

UPDATES

As we begin a new year, don't forget that, as part of Baylor's campuswide Spiritual Wellbeing initiative, the [Spiritual Wellbeing Leave](#) was implemented beginning Sept. 1, 2023. **All eligible Baylor staff received eight hours per year of time off dedicated to use for purposes of Spiritual Wellbeing.** We encourage you, in consultation with your supervisor, to make plans for making use of your Spiritual Wellbeing Leave.

In a similar vein, one of the blessings of working at a Christian institution is we are able to share together in communal practices of faith even at work. One opportunity for this is **Spiritual Life would like to invite you to come as you are able and to join them in a brief (about 20 minutes) Vespers service in the Bobo every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.** It is a tradition that has been ongoing at Baylor since Fall of 2008. It is a time for us to step away from work and be still ... and listen ... and hold our community in God's light. It is meaningful that we gather in this way, both for our own spiritual wellbeing and for the work that we do together. The service involves a mix of things such as singing hymns or prayer choruses, praying with scripture, intercessions, or silence. Please consider joining as you are able and sharing this time of communal worship.

COMING UP

Be sure to come out this Monday, Jan. 22, at 3:30 p.m. in Foster 250 for an important civil discourse event as part of the Baylor Conversation Series. Featuring a [panel discussion on politics and faith](#) with noted scholars, theologians, and authors moderated by President Livingstone, Ph.D., this event will kick off a year-long series of campus-wide conversations, trainings and presentations focused on civil dialogue—acknowledging this topic as especially important at Baylor as we strive to be a marketplace of ideas that also extends the love of Christ toward others.

Join the Department of Multicultural Affairs today for **King Me!**—an all-day [Instagram](#) event featuring MLK-related trivia.

STAFF NEWS

New Staff:



Name: Josue Flores Olvera
Department: Campus Living and Learning
Title: Residence Hall Director- Penland Hall
Work Phone Number: 2547101205
Fun/interesting fact: I am fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Conversational in French.

Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: The fun atmosphere that college students provide and the great people who work at Baylor!

SHOUTOUT

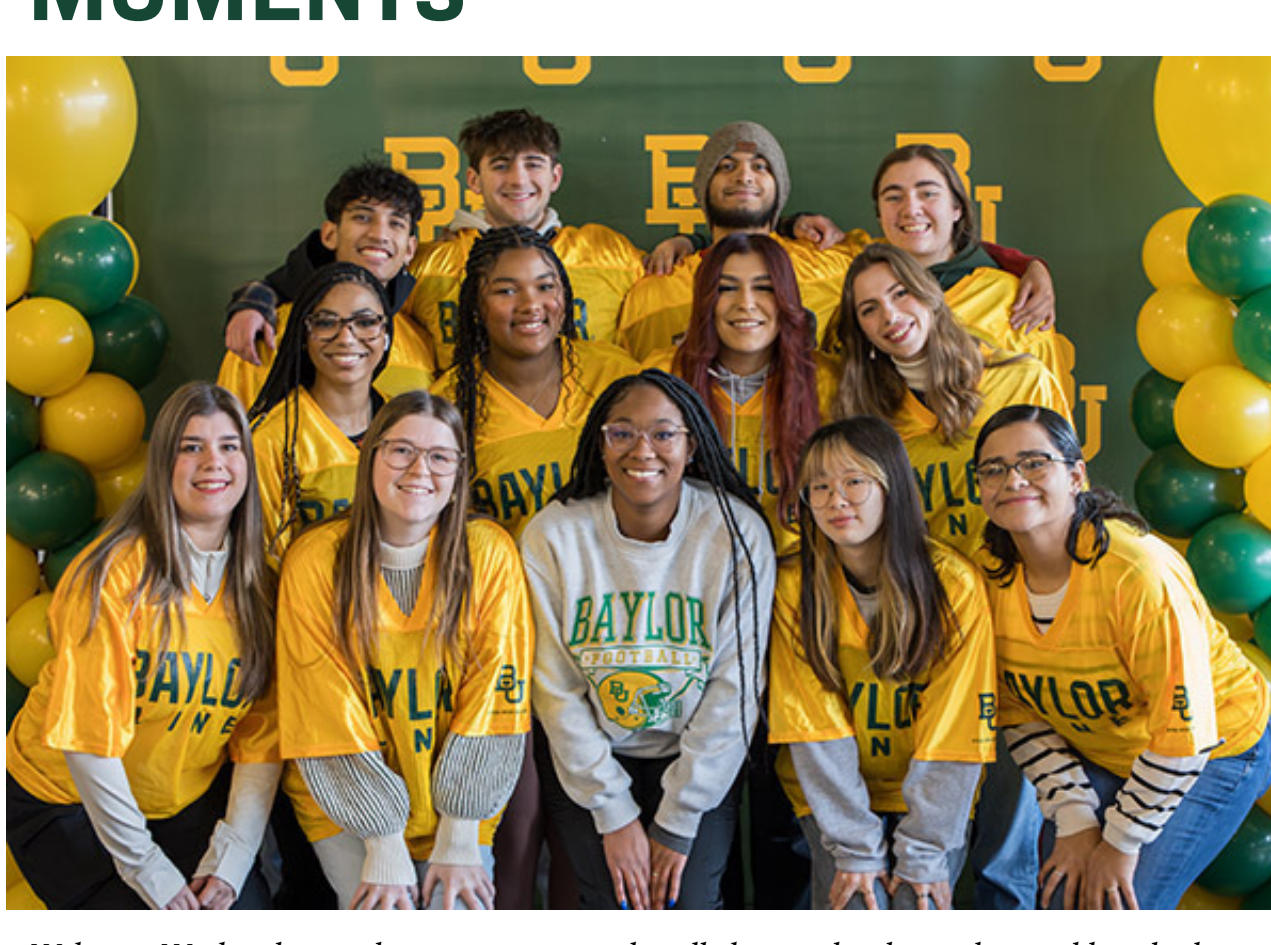


Curtis Odle

In our first Spotlight Shoutout of 2024 we are excited to shoutout **Curtis Odle (Campus Living & Learning), who was nominated for his above and beyond contributions in overseeing not one, not two, but three major residence hall renovation projects (all while still maintaining his regular responsibilities).** Curtis was/is an integral part of the team that oversaw the completed (and stunning) renovation of Collins Hall, the on-going renovation of Alexander and Memorial Halls, and the planned renovation of Allen and Dawson Halls. Although these projects are team efforts, Curtis is "at the tip of the spear" leading the way and stewarding the many moving parts it requires to undertake a massive renovation project(s) like these. **Curtis' hard work is quite literally changing the campus for the better. Thanks for all the great work Curtis 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



Welcome Weekend was a huge success as we bundled up and welcomed several hundred new Bears to campus this past week!



If you haven't had a chance to check out the Foster Pavilion yet, don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of some free tickets for staff and faculty thanks to the Baylor Athletics ["Pack The Pavilion" program](#).

Stay connected with Student Life

