

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

March 15, 2024

Dear Division Leprachauns,

Why don't they host March Madness games in the jungle? Too many cheetahs. Speaking of ... don't be a cheetah, but **do participate in the inaugural Division of Student Life March Madness Bracket Showdown Challenge Extravaganza Bonanza. Compete with your division colleagues in bracket challenges for both the men's and women's NCAA Division I basketball tournaments (with prizes!!!).**

1. Click each link below. Sign-in or create an ESPN account (for free). Join each bracket challenge. Choose a fun name for your bracket.

2. Selection Sunday (for both men and women) is Sunday, March 17. Pick your bracket between March 17 and March 21/22 when games in each tournament begin (brackets lock just before the start of each game).

3. Prizes and a leaderboard update will be announced in the next *Spotlight*.

Disclaimer: there is no betting allowed relating to these brackets, and prizes will be of nominal value.

[Join Division of Student Life Women's Bracket Challenge](#)

[Join Division of Student Life Men's Bracket Challenge](#)

IMPACT

The **Student Life Staff Development Committee** held our fifth event of this academic year yesterday. The event focused on our inner or spiritual selves and the vital importance it has in our roles as student life practitioners. Titled *It is Well in My Role*, this interactive session helped us to think deeply about how our practices of spirituality shape and inform our work with each other and with students. Thank you to our own Molly Simpson for sharing with us! Be sure to mark your calendars for our final staff development event on Thursday, April 11, and visit the [Student Life Staff Development page](#) to learn more about our theme this year of *Wellbeing in Practice*.

Campus Rec Spring Break Trips



Students headed out over spring break to 4 adventure filled locations. 57 Baylor students and staff members adventured in Utah, Arizona, Arkansas and in Big Bend National Park this past week. Most spots were filled in the first 15 minutes of registration being open this year as students snagged the coveted spots. Two groups backpacked in the longest continuous slot canyon in the US known as Buckskin Gulch and Paria Canyon in southern Utah and northern Arizona. The Moab Utah group visited 3 National Parks, rock climbed and rappelled down narrow canyons in the desert southwest. Another group canoed through Boquillas Canyon in Big Bend National Park, while the final group mountain biked in Bentonville and rock climbed at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch in Arkansas. Four professional staff and two graduate students helped organize the trips, with the true heart of the trips being the members of the student guide leadership team which is comprised of students who dedicate a lot of time and effort into helping provide these opportunities for other students. These students love sharing their passion for the outdoors with others. They train, plan, pack, lead, and guide with pure joy. A huge thanks to all of the team members for helping to provide these memorable experiences.

Missions Trips – Last week during Spring Break, Baylor Missions had six trips with about 75 students and leaders going to **five different international locations to support the ongoing efforts of multiple global partners.** These trips allowed students to integrate their disciplines and skills with service to show Christ's love to others. The trips crossed a variety of disciplines and issues to include learning about food insecurity and approaches to it in **Japan**, preparing accounting documents for a nonprofit in **Amsterdam**, shadowing and learning from local physicians in the **Dominican Republic**, teaching health lessons and doing checkups in **Costa Rica**, and learning about human trafficking and helping partners in accounting and finance skills to continue their work in **Spain**. Students were deeply impacted through learning about different cultures, how their vocation could positively impact the world, how to love their neighbor, and in their own spiritual formation.

UPDATES

The Staff Performance Review process is underway. Please remember to complete your self-evaluation in Ignite by Wednesday, March 20. To assist you, HR is offering a new resource. It's a one-hour course titled [Best Practices to Write Your Performance Review Self Evaluation](#). In this course, the timeline for the annual Staff Performance Review process is outlined, updates that have been made to the document are shared, and tips for writing an effective self-evaluation are presented—all toward helping you prepare for the review conversation with your manager. A recorded version of this training will be made available next week.

COMING UP

Sic'Em Slam – 3/15 - The art of storytelling and spoken-word poetry comes to Baylor TONIGHT at 7 p.m. in **Barfield Drawing Room**. Brought to you by Baylor Activities Council and the Division of Student Life—with sponsorship of Student Government—this unique event promises to deliver a rich evening of diverse student, faculty, and staff storytellers and spoken-word artists sharing pieces of their lives in dramatic fashion. Featuring live music, mocktails and mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres, and an atmosphere of chic style, cocktail attire is encouraged for this memorable event.

Baylor Leadership Summit – 3/21-3/22 - Hosted by Student Leadership Development, the Baylor Leadership Summit is free for Baylor students. The event starts off at the Hurd Welcome Center Thursday, March 21 with a keynote and reception featuring Dr. Soong Chan Rah followed by small group sessions and lunch (and a dumpling workshop!) with community leaders and storytellers on Friday, March 22. We encourage you to let your students know about this great opportunity. Students can register at [this link](#), and questions can be emailed to leadership@baylor.edu.

Bearathon – 3/23 - The toughest half in Texas is back! On **Saturday, March 23**, the Bearathon & Sic 'Em 6K, hosted by Student Foundation, will be raced by runners from all over the country. Proceeds from the race go toward student scholarships with last year's Bearathon raising funds for over 200 Baylor Students. [Sign up NOW!](#)

Gateway to India – 3/23 - After running in the Bearathon, treat yourself by checking out Gateway to India later that same day, Saturday, March 23 at **5:00 p.m. in Waco Hall!** In past years, Gateway to India has been described as a [rollercoaster of a night](#) sets that include a storyline, lighting, music, and dances. You won't want to miss this event highlighting the various styles of dance and art within Indian culture.

FM72 – 3/24-3/27 - FM72 is back on **March 24 and continues until March 27**. For these 72 hours, college students will gather at Fountain Mall for prayer, revival and renewal. Each night at 8 p.m., they will gather together to worship, pray, and hear from God's Word. As we practice our own spiritual wellbeing (maybe include something from Molly's talk from Staff Development on 3/14 here), let's also pray for our students and their spiritual wellbeing.

STAFF NEWS

New Staff:



Name: Sarah Walker
Department: MSPL
Title: Senior Coordinator for Service
Fun/interesting fact: "I love running, biking, and backpacking with friends, and this year I combined interests and went bike-packing around Nova Scotia for a couple of weeks!"
Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "Every single person has been so kind!"

SHOUTOUT

Nominate a Shout Out: 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



Baylor students carried the Good News of Jesus Christ and their skills around the world over Spring Break serving in missions.

Stay connected with Student Life

