

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

February 2, 2024

Hello Division Colleagues,
Happy Groundhog Day!

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IMPACT

The Department of Multicultural Affairs launched the Spring 2024 semester with its annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon**. Nearly 400 attendees gathered in the ballroom of the Hurd Welcome Center on January 17 to hear a thoughtful tribute from Baylor Alum, Ms. Tonee Shelton challenging them to answer "The Call" as Dr. King did. Baylor Alum and the first Director of the Department of Multicultural Affairs, Mrs. Pearl Beverly, was the keynote speaker who honored Dr. King in her message entitled "Why We Do What We Do." The 2024 luncheon was a great time of celebration and reflection with the Baylor and Waco community.

Toward preparing our campus to navigate another highly anticipated general election season, our division assisted in coordinating a **civil discourse panel discussion on politics and faith** with noted scholars, theologians, and authors Curtis Chang, Justin Giboney, and Kaitlyn Schiess. Moderated by President Linda A. Livingstone, the panel took place on [Monday, Jan. 22](#), and was recorded for those who could not attend. We encourage you to [watch the recording](#) as we continue to think about ways to engage with one another on important matters.

Judge Indy and Judge Belle celebrated turning one year old this past Saturday in block party fashion at the Bill & Eva Williams Bear Habitat. The Bear Habitat welcomed thousands of students, families, and community members who enjoyed free shirts, birthday cake, singing happy birthday to the cubs, face painting, caricatures, bounce houses, a DJ, and more. Students started lining up for the party at 8:00am if that is any indication for how excited campus was for our favorite bears' birthday. In addition to the party, the Habitat sold birthday shirts benefiting the Habitat and launched a subscription program called the Bear Habitat Club for behind the scenes Bear content, quarterly newsletters, kid activity pages, commemorative coin, being added as a "close friend" of the cubs on Instagram for realtime updates and engagement with our beloved bears along with other benefits.

UPDATES



Thursday officially kicked off Black History Month and all February we'll be hosting events to celebrate and deepen our understanding of Black Americans important contributions to our country's history. Multicultural Affairs along with many other groups both at Baylor and in the Waco community will be hosting events all month. You can find a **centralized list of events [HERE](#)**. Keep checking back as this list will be updated throughout the month.

COMING UP

To kick-off Black History Month, consider keeping it local and learning more about African American history here in Waco. Check out the [African American History Self-Guided Tour](#), curated by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History & The Texas Collection.



Leadership Speaker Series - Join us for our next Leadership Speaker Series on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in McClinton Auditorium (Foster 240) as Dr. Miroslav Volf shares. Dr. Volf is the founding Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture and has been involved in international ecumenical and interfaith dialogues and is an active participant in the Global Agenda Council on Values of the World Economic Forum. Dr. Volf will help us wrestle with the question of "What Makes a Life Worth Living?" In his discussion with us he will draw from his most recent work "Life Worth Living: A Guide to What Matters Most" as well as his writings as a theologian on human flourishing and the common good.

All-University Sing - It's hard to believe that we are already at this point in the academic year, but one of Baylor's most cherished traditions, **All-University Sing**, is again upon us. Our student groups are busy preparing their acts with as many as 6 practices per week. Performances will begin Wednesday night, Feb. 14 with the dress rehearsal/Club Night. Sing has six full-length performances (Feb 15-17 and 22-24) **featuring 20 student acts, 22 student organizations (look out for a couple joint acts this year) and 2400 student participants!**

February Staff Development. Come out to **Cashion 506** on **Thursday, Feb. 15, at 10:30 a.m.**, as we return to our theme for the year: Wellbeing in Practice. Focusing on the importance of tending to our social wellbeing, this month's interactive event will involve us thinking and sharing together about how our social selves impact our professional lives.

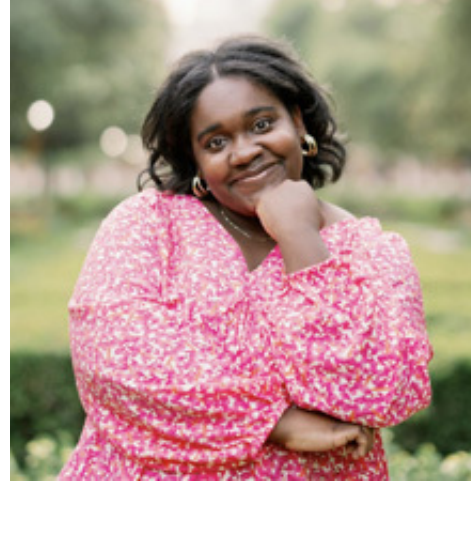
Sic 'Em Slam: A Storytelling and Spoken-Word Event - Mark your calendars now! The art of storytelling and spoken-word poetry comes to Baylor on Friday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in Barfield Drawing Room. Brought to you by Baylor Activities Council and the Division of Student Life, this unique event promises 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, this is one event you don't want to miss. If you are a spoken-word poet or have a compelling story to share, consider being a part of the Sic 'Em Slam showcase. Click [here](#) to get more information and/or to sign up.

STAFF NEWS

Updates:

We are excited to announce that **Reid Jackson** in Campus Recreation will be promoted to **Assistant Director for Competitive Sports!** Quite the competitor himself, he will be taking a larger role in overseeing our intramural sports. Did you know close to 1 in 3 undergraduate students participate in at least one intramural sport?

New Staff:



Name: Sharita Holder
Department: Spiritual Life
Title: Senior Coordinator of Campus Ministries & Church Connections
Fun/interesting fact: "I can do an amazing dog bark impersonation."
Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "I love the community and the commitment for unity in my office! We see each other as human's first rather than just coworkers."

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



If you missed the incredible **Civil Discourse Panel Discussion on Politics and Faith** this month, be sure to click on the link up in this email to view it.



Happy Birthday, Indy and Belle!

Stay connected with Student Life

