

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

March 1, 2024

Dear Division Colleagues,

What do you call a frog born on February 29th? A leap frog.

IMPACT

All-University Sing – This year's All-University Sing is one that will not soon be forgotten. With twenty groups performing, it was also one of the longest. Two new groups participated this year, Kappa Alpha Order, who had never competed before, and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), who hadn't participated in Sing since 1976. For one of the longest Sings in recent memory, it was also one of the most entertaining. Every single act was worthy of recognition, and huge thanks goes out to the 2,400+ students who worked the past year on the production. A special thanks also to the Student Productions student committee, Student Activities Staff, and to all the other staff and volunteers who participated. If you missed the performances, check out our own TomAtBaylor's highlight reel [HERE](#).

Black Heritage Banquet – The Black Heritage Banquet was an impactful and inspirational event. Tonee Shelton, keynote speaker, exuded excellence and spoke to the importance of remaining true to yourself and your calling. Her choice of words deeply resonated with attendees. The keynote, coupled with the impeccable menu, combined for a memorable evening. The intentionality in planning was also evident in the little details, including the red velvet cake and lovely floral centerpieces. The 37th annual Black Heritage Banquet event was nothing short of amazing!

Hope, Peace, Love – During this pivotal point in the semester, the Counseling Center held an event this past Wednesday, February 28 that provided a much-needed reprieve for students facing the stress of impending tests and papers. They offered creative outlets such as rock painting and affirmation writing, along with a chance to win fidget toys, ultimately creating a shared moment of positivity and support that resonated with both active participants and passersby. You can see highlights from the event on their [Instagram page](#).

Collegiate Day of Prayer – Baylor students, faculty, staff, and the Waco community gathered together last night for the Collegiate Day of Prayer. Over 1,600 people joined in person at Waco Hall for a service of worship and prayer, and thousands more viewed online. Together, communities at Baylor, in Waco, and beyond lifted their voices to the Lord to pray for college students at Baylor and around the world.

UPDATES

As a friendly reminder, next week is spring break. Even though the campus will be a little quieter with fewer students around, the university will remain open for normal business operations. Please coordinate with your office/director/dean to ensure there is adequate coverage in your respective offices.

Although campus may be quieter, students will be going out across the country and the world. Please pray for our students (and our colleagues) for safe travels as they go out. In addition to the travel of students returning home or taking trips, we will also have a number of Baylor-sponsored trips going out. In Student Life, we particularly will have several missions trips and outdoor adventure trips being led by our staff. Stay tuned for an update on those trips in a future Spotlight. Until then, enjoy the warmer weather and serenity around campus next week!

Student Life Social Connections BINGO – In our fourth Student Life Staff Development event in February we spent some time exploring what it means to be socially well in a variety of contexts, and we put social wellbeing into practice by communing and connecting with our colleagues. Our very own Meghan Becker shared with us the importance of social connection at work and even gave us some ideas for doing so—because we don't cease to be social beings when we enter the workplace. In an effort to promote and encourage social connections at work and amongst members in our division we **invite and encourage you to participate in Student Life Social Connections BINGO** (because who can resist a riveting game of BINGO!). There may even be prizes involved. You can find the BINGO board including guidelines for participation [HERE](#).

COMING UP

Today marks the start of Women's History Month, a month where we commemorate and celebrate the vital role of women in American history. You can learn more about the contributions of Women across our country and our history at <https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/>. You can see a list of events for Women's History Month here at Baylor [HERE](#).

"Here's to strong women, may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them."

-Amy Rees Anderson

Staff Development Event (3/14) – Staff Development is back on **Thursday, March 14, at 10:30am** with its fifth event of the year. Come out to the **Barfield Drawing Room** and join us for a time for worship and reflection, as we delve into the importance of nurturing our spiritual selves in the workplace and continue our theme of Wellbeing in Practice.

Sic 'Em Slam: A Storytelling and Spoken-Word Event (3/15) - 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, and an atmosphere of elegance, **cocktail attire is encouraged** for this memorable event.

STAFF NEWS

New Staff:



Name: LouAnna Arterburn, LPC-S
Department: Student Care & Wellbeing
Title: Care Team Case Manager
Fun/interesting fact: "I love running trails in interesting places. My favorite was on an island in Scotland."
Most enjoyable about working at Baylor: "My team is INCREDIBLE. It's been a joy getting to know them personally and to work with them professionally."

SHOUTOUT



This week the Outdoor Adventure (OA) Team (**Cody Schrank, Zac Huston, Abigail Sawyer, & Rachel Burduroglu**) received a Spotlight Shout out for their exceptional work in making our Outdoor Adventure programs one of the best in Texas! Their work was recently highlighted in Campus Rec [Magazine], in [THIS ARTICLE](#). The good work continues and next week five different spring break trips will be backpacking, hiking, climbing, and biking in various parts of the US. Outdoor Adventure also oversees the Pullin Family Marina, they host over 80 groups a year at the Eastland Lakes Challenge Course, and they manage the Rock at the SLC. Two weeks ago, they hosted over 100 OA enthusiasts for the Texas Outdoor Leadership Conference, and this past weekend they hosted over 120 climbers from around the state at the 10th annual Bear Climb. Thanks for all the great work OA team and all that you do for Baylor!



Jose Vallejo started in his role as Recovery Program Director at the BARC (Beauchamp Addiction Recovery Center) in October, but in December he took on the full responsibilities of the BARC due to staff changes. In that time, he has come in and done an incredible job. Jose has a passion for students in recovery and has worked tirelessly to rebuild the programs at the BARC in just a brief time. He has created new groups and programs this semester to meet the needs of the students, he has done several trainings, and he is a learner and has really applied that learning to the work of the BARC. His deep care for students is evident in the ways that he serves so well and listens to what students need. Jose's faith in Jesus is the reason he cares deeply about wholeness and hope for our students. Jose's faith informs all the work he does, and it shows. The students at the BARC are lucky to have Jose working there and we are so glad he is at Baylor! Thanks for all the great work Jose and all that you do for Baylor!

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 significant, 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 hosted this year's Collegiate Day of Prayer event that was streamed all over the world last night from Waco Hall.

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