

## Student Life

# BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

April 12, 2024

Dear Division Colleagues,

How does the man in the moon cut his hair? E-clipse it. See the *Moments Section* below to see some highlights from our eclipse Monday.

## IMPACT

**Dia Weekend** – We had full slate of events this past weekend kicked off by Fiesta (hosted by Baylor Activities Council and the Hispanic Student Association) on Friday night, Noche Del Oso (hosted by Union Board) on Saturday, and a Dia Eve Worship Night on Sunday.



**Steppin' Out** – Steppin' Out, put on by the Missions, Service, & Public Life department, was Saturday, April 6, and we **celebrate that 1,500 students served at 57 different locations in the Waco area.** Students painted houses, porches, and fences. In addition, they cleaned yards, cut down brush, raked leaves, moved furniture, cleaned garages, set up for community events, worked festivals, supported nonprofit partners, hauled compost, spread mulch, helped local churches, cleared horse stalls, poured concrete, picked up trash, and more! This is all done to show a little love to our community and to bless our neighbors. Special thanks to all the students and staff who came VERY early and/or stayed late into the afternoon to ensure a smooth event and great experience for all!

**Dia and Solar Eclipse** – And of course, the highlight of this past week (and let's be honest, our lives) was the total solar eclipse and Diadeloso. While of course Dia will be back next year, we won't have another total solar eclipse over Waco until the year 2343. We are already making plans for that Diadeloso! **Dia had record attendance, estimated at over 9,000 people,** and featured attractions such as inflatables, a silent disco, escape rooms, a "secret lounge," face painting, stilt walkers, a vibrant noon meal, student org performers, and more. It is certainly a memory we will all treasure for years to come!

**SL Staff Development** – The Student Life Staff Development Committee held our sixth event yesterday, titled *Go Greener and Gold: Reducing Our Carbon Pawprint*. This event's focus was on environmental well-being and improving our environmental awareness, and the session helped us to re-think how our everyday actions can affect the environment and practical steps we can take to make our work space more environmental-friendly. This was our last staff development event of the year, but mark your calendars for the **end-of-year celebration on May 2, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Hurd Welcome Center.** In the meantime, please take a few moments to complete our [feedback survey](#) and share your thoughts about this year's and future staff development events.

**Neighbor Night Festival** – It was a beautiful day in the Neighborhood yesterday with over 100 students gathered into North Russell Hall's lobby for a celebration of culture, food, and community. The **Better Together team** revamped their traditional monthly Neighbor Nights into a large-scale festival that involved several multicultural student orgs highlighting the vast diversity woven throughout our Baylor community.

Neighbor Night Festival gave organizations like **SACNAS and the Portuguese Student Association** a larger platform for visibility and to share their cultural pride as new and upcoming student groups. Many students raved about the unique snacks and candies brought by each organization, a testament to how food transcends lines of difference and brings communities together.

## UPDATES

**APAHM Month** – In the United States, the month of May is designated as Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month (also known as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month). May however also marks the end of the Spring semester and the majority of students leave campus after graduation mid-month. To avoid cutting short the celebrations, **Baylor has designated April as our month to observe Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month.** We kicked off the month with our Asian & Pacific American Heritage Luncheon earlier this week and will have events all month to celebrate. You can find a calendar of events [here](#).

**March Madness Bracket Winners** – The men's and women's NCAA Tournaments have come and gone with UConn winning the men's and South Carolina winning the women's tournaments, respectively. From the winners' dominant runs to witnessing the stardom of Caitlin Clark, Camilla Cardoso, Paige Bueckers, and others, this year's tournaments were fun to watch. In addition to UConn and South Carolina, **we have winners in our inaugural Division of Student Life March Madness Bracket Showdown Challenge Extravaganza Bonanza. Drumroll, please.**

The winners are ...

**Women's: Robert Graham (Campus Rec)**

**Men's: Jordy Dickey (Student Activities)**

Robert and Jordy, be on the lookout for an email from Student Life on how to grab your Division of Student Life Yeti Tumbler. Thank you to those who participated in our inaugural Division of Student Life March Madness Bracket Showdown Challenge Extravaganza Bonanza. We can't wait to do it again next year.

## COMING UP

**Stompfest** – April 12 – If you hear thunder in the area, it's not the weather or SpaceX; it is the sound of feet on the stage of Waco Hall at Baylor's annual StompFest. Join us tonight for this amazing showcase of talent. Entrance is free this year so come and enjoy our students' talent and fast footwork.

**Baylor's Free Farmers Market** – April 17 – Come out to Fountain Mall **Wednesday, April 17, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.,** to support Baylor's Free Farmers Market. Whether you can make it or not, please tell your students about this great free event.

**Luau** – April 19 – Experience the vibrant energy of the islands at Baylor's university-wide Luau presented by the Hawaii Club. Indulge in mouthwatering Hawaiian cuisine, enjoy captivating hula performances, and immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Hawaii - all in one unforgettable evening of aloha spirit. Don't miss your chance to escape to paradise right here on campus!

**University-Wide Civil Discourse Event** – April 23 – Opinions about the place of controversial topics, viewpoint diversity, bias and censorship, and free speech on college campuses vary. These issues seem to divide, with many fearing being "canceled" by others for views they express in class. Join us for a university-wide demonstration of a model for bridging these divides by cultivating curiosity, deep listening, and story sharing. Taking place on **Tuesday, April 23, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Hurd Center,** this is an opportunity to observe what our student Bridgebuilding Fellows have learned in the *Bridging the Gap* program. You will also have the opportunity to engage with others from across campus on why it's so hard to talk to each other. This event is co-sponsored by the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core and the Division of Student Life.

**Lift Up Your Hearts worship service** – May 3 – This semester's *Lift Up Your Hearts* worship service for faculty and staff is coming up. **The worship service is at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 3, in the Paul W. Powell Chapel at Truett,** and there is a complimentary luncheon afterwards in the Seminary's Great Hall from 12-1:30 p.m. For more information [click here](#). If would like to join for lunch you do need to RSVP and can do so by clicking the [luncheon registration link](#). The registration is currently open, but will close after 120 luncheon slots are filled.

## 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



*It's hard to put into words how incredible it was to share this momentous event with thousands of Baylor Bears on campus during Dia. Thank you to Baylor Chamber and staff for all the work putting Dia together this year!*

Stay connected with Student Life

