



Dec. 28, 2015

## Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

*Allison Temnick '12 is working with Robert Griffin III's non-profit Family of 3 to raise money through an online fundraising website to raise money to repair a disabled Waco veteran's home based on how Baylor does during Tuesday's Russell Athletic Bowl. Family of 3 will match every pledge up to \$25,000 in total pledges (the total pledge amount stood at \$107 per point as of Monday evening, with a goal of \$800 per point). [You can pledge here up until the start of the game at 4:30 p.m., or donate a flat amount.](#) Temnick is a graduate student at Notre Dame, and is studying different ways professional athletes can use their platform to champion their causes.*

If you're a Baylor Alumni Association member, you should be receiving a letter this week asking you to make a year-end tax-deductible contribution to the BAA. Our emphasis in this year's campaign is our Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provided 55 Legacy Scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Baylor alumni for the current school year. [You can read more about our terrific Legacy Scholars here.](#) There's a link to a page within each post that will enable you to make a contribution. \$500 will pay for a Spring Semester Scholarship, and \$1,000 will provide a student with a full-year Legacy Scholarship. If you received help when you wrote *your* Baylor story, please consider helping a student write his or hers. [Here's a direct link to our donation page.](#) By the way, if you want to send a check, you can do that without filling out the online form. Just drop a check in the self-addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and graduation year so we can update our database with your contributions. Thanks!

We would love to publish your Baylor Family holiday photos, December 2015 graduation photos, and Russell Bowl watch party photos. Please send them in the highest definition possible to [BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com](mailto:BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com) Please identify the Baylor grads and students and get them to us as soon as possible so we can get them into the Winter 2016 issue of the Baylor Line and onto our website. Thanks!

New alumni who graduated in 2015 (May, August, and December) are invited to take advantage of a free one-year membership in the Baylor Alumni Association. [You can sign up here](#), or, if you are a family member of a 2015 graduate, please forward them this note. Thanks!

### Recently Published on our Line Notes Blog

- [Studying abroad changed my life: Legacy Scholar Jennifer Thomson's story](#)
- [Getting to Know...Dr. Diane Porter Patrick '62.](#) How many people get a school named after them while they're still alive? This Baylor alum did.
- [BAA Legacy Scholars Story: Morgan and Madison Mitford](#)

*If you'd like to receive new Line Notes posts right after they're published, please consider*

*subscribing to receive them by e-mail. Just provide your contact information in the box in the right-hand column of any post. Don't forget to confirm your subscription from the e-mail you receive after subscribing*

## **Alumni (and Future Alumni) News**

- **John David Hill '59** and Gloria Hill celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Dec. 23, 2015. John spent 33 years in federal service, serving six years as an active-duty Naval officer, 16 years in the Naval Reserve (retiring as a Commander), and then 11 years as a special agent with the Office of Naval Intelligence. The Hills have two children and three grandchildren.
- **Patsy Watson Thomas '68, MSED '70**, received the Communicator of the Year Award from the Greater Fort Worth Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in early November. Thomas is the president of Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County.
- **Anne-Marie (Miskovsky) Lemieux '89** was elected to the Douglas County (Colorado) School Board. She will serve more than 67,000 students for the next four years. Anne-Marie and her husband, **Doug Lemieux '88**, have two children. Hannah is a sophomore at Baylor and Jack is a junior in high school.
- **Kelly P. Dunbar '97, MA '99** has been promoted to partner in the Washington, D.C. office of WilmerHale. He is a member of the Litigation/Controversy and Government and Regulatory Litigation Practices.
- **Major Geoff Bailey, M.Div. '01, D.Min. '08**, was recently deployed to Afghanistan where he's serving as the Senior Chaplain for United States Forces - Afghanistan at Bagram Airfield.
- **Marissa Marquez '04** is now a Senior Employee Relations Specialist at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Marissa was [featured on the BAA's Line Notes blog](#) back in August.
- **Sarah Irvine '11** is now an HR Coordinator at GM Financial.
- **Carley White '13** is now an E-Ministry Specialist at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas.
- **David Shih '14** has been promoted to Youth Development Specialist at Communities in Schools of the Heart of Texas in Waco.
- **Madison Powell '15** has gotten a communications job with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.
- **Caleb Warren '15 (Dec.)** will spend the next six months in East Asia "sharing the hope of Jesus with university students." He is a member of First Baptist Church of Woodway in Waco.
- **Elisabeth Brimberry '15** is now an Emergency Room Registered Nurse – Extern at Methodist Health System in Dallas.
- **Baylor Senior Shannon Lesko** is a content strategist intern at Four Columns Marketing in Waco.

## **University News**

- **President Ken Starr** and associate Religion Professor **Dr. Christian van Gorder** represented Baylor at a three-day conference in Rome, Under Caesar's Sword, that addressed the question, When persecuted, how do Christian communities across the globe respond. Starr moderated a conference keynote panel on religious liberty in the Americas and Europe. Van Gorder shared findings on religious tolerance in Iran,

where about 10% of Christians have experienced persecutions such as imprisonment and lashings. Van Gorder is one of 14 scholars [who presented research regarding the responses of 100 Christian communities in 30 countries where Christians have been persecuted.](#)

- A team of Baylor engineering students will present a design in late January for the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod competition. Hyperloop pods use tubes stretched between major cities as above-ground, high-speed transportation, with people sitting in circular pods traveling through the tubes. The Baylor team will be presenting their design for a pod that would seat about 30 people. The presentation will take place at Design Weekend at Texas A&M Jan. 29-30.
- **Dino Babers**, who was a Baylor assistant football coach from 2008 to 2011 under Art Briles, has been named head football coach at Syracuse University. Babers, who is leaving the head coaching job at Bowling Green, uses Baylor's up-tempo spread with pro-style principles.

## In Memoriam

*Please note that we cannot always provide the deceased's graduation year from Baylor, particularly if they are not a member or their information is not available on the Baylor website. We apologize and mean no disrespect.*

- **Michael Cuscurida** passed away Dec. 18, 2015, at the age of 89 in Waco. Michael, who earned his Master's and PhD in Organic Chemistry from Baylor, started working with Texaco Oil in Austin in 1974, where he spent most of his career at a research chemist and earned more than 100 patents. His obituary in the *Waco Trib* notes that he was invited to New York to have lunch with the corporate president after receiving his 100<sup>th</sup> patent and was told by his mother that it seemed like a long way to go for lunch. Mike was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and stayed best friends with many of his fellow Scouts over the years. He is survived by his sister, Sister Jo Ann Cuscurida, Daughter of Charity, in Evansville, IN, by his longtime friend, Madeline Kosler and more than 100 other family members.
- **Don Michael Hamm '61**, passed away on Dec. 14, 2015, in Houston at the age of 77. Mike was an attorney and CPA in private practice from 1974 until his retirement more than a decade ago, and was known for his ability to handicap horse races (including hitting "the big one" with the lone winning Pick Six ticket in 1992. Mike married Madeline McDermott on Feb. 29, 1972, with an anniversary every four years (his idea). In addition to Madeline, Mike is survived by niece Gabriela Hamm Jackson and a host of friends. Friends can contact Madeline at 7400 Clarewood Drive, #705, Houston, TX, 77036.
- **Stuart Williamson '62** passed away Feb. 6, 2015, at the age of 74. Stuart, who received his degree in Religion, proudly served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines from 1962 to 1964 and as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam 1967-68. He received a master's degree from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in 1969. He worked as a corrections officer, grant writer, a purchaser for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville. He taught English as a second language to foreign students at Sam Houston State University, and was the founder of the Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville and started Habitat for Humanity in Walker County. He is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years, Beth (Drake) Williamson '62, his brother George Williamson, a sister-in-law: Lanelle Williamson, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.
- **Billy Williams '63** passed away Dec. 14, 2015 at the age of 74. A great benefactor to Baylor, Williams lettered in football in 1962 and joined First National Bank of Fort

Worth's executive training program after graduation and went on to a 26-year career at Owens Corning, moving from field salesman to executive vice president for the building materials division. In 1991, Williams and two associates purchased Chicago-based Liquid Container LLP, where as president he oversaw its expansion from a regional manufacturer to a national presence in the plastics packaging industry before selling the company in 2011. Williams was named to the Baylor "B" Association's Wall of Honor in 2012. He and wife Elaine provided the lead gift for the Williams Family Soccer and Olympic Sports Center (which opened in October 2015) and committed in October 2015 to another multi-million-dollar gift for a golf practice facility near campus. Williams and his family also established two endowed scholarships at Baylor. Billy is survived by his wife Elaine; three children (Zach, Libby, and Andrew) and their families; and many other family members and friends.

- **Lari Stoermer Niles** of West passed away Dec. 19, 2015, at the age of 69. Lari, who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Baylor, was a junior high school teacher in the West Independent School District, and also taught in Waco and Riesel. She loved race cars and held the title for the NCCC Drag Racing Record Holder. Lari is survived by her husband, Thomas Niles, two children, seven grandchildren, and her mother and two brothers.
- **Former State Senator Chris Harris** passed away Dec. 19, 2015, at the age of 67. A graduate of the Baylor Law School, Chris served portions of Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, Parker, and Dallas counties during a 28-year career as a state lawmaker that ended with his retirement in 2013 as the longest-serving Republican in the Texas Senate. He was chairman of the Senate Administration Committee for five terms, was the Senate President Pro Tem in 2001, and headed committees on jurisprudence and economic development. In obituaries about Harris, he was praised by University of Texas-Arlington President Vistasp Karbhari as "more than a friend of UTA...he was an integral part of the UTA vision and we will never forget his contributions to us. Harris is survived by his wife, Tammy, and five children.
- **Betty Jane "Janie" Gilliam** of Waco passed away Dec. 24, 2015, at the age of 88. She and her first husband, Culver "Pete" Gibson moved to Waco so Pete could complete his theology degree as a first step to attending seminary. At the time, she volunteered for the campaign to construct Baylor Stadium. After Pete's death, she spent 21 years as a records administrator in Baylor's Financial Aid Department. During her time at Baylor, she met and married Melvin Gilliam, a former member of the Waco City Council, longtime local grocer, and later a Baylor Bookstore employee. She is survived by her sons John and James Gibson and their families, which include two grandchildren.

## More BAA News

- Have you let your BAA Annual Membership lapse? Your Annual membership gives you a vote – regardless of where you live – should decisions around the BAA's future direction require approval from our membership. You can renew your tax-deductible Annual Membership (or join the BAA) [through this link](#).
- Heading over to the Waco Hippodrome for a movie and meal? Show your server your BAA membership card, and your popcorn will be free!
- We've seen an uptick in the number of Baylor Family members in Texas taking advantage of our partnership with TicketSchool.com's Defensive Driving class. If you or a family member is in need of this service, you can [learn more here](#) or [sign up here](#).
  - If you're making a donation to the BAA, don't forget that we're a 501(c)3 organization and eligible to receive matching funds from companies. If you do

submit your BAA contribution to the company, please let [Kellie Juandiego](#) know because companies will often send us checks without providing the name of the donor.

- Miss an issue of Between the Lines? [We have them archived here](#) and are also reprinting alumni milestones and obituaries in each issue of the Baylor Line.
- Only a small percentage of our Facebook followers (the people who “Like” you) see our updates unless we “boost” them through a paid ad. The BAA posted 23 updates in November. If you haven’t seen many of them even though you’ve Liked our page, then you can go to our page, click on the “LIKED” button and select “Get Notifications.” That way, if we post something and it does not show up in your News Feed, you will receive a notification. [And if you haven’t Liked our page yet](#), isn’t this a perfect time to go do that?

*You can submit obituaries, alumni news, class notes or other information that we can publish in this twice-monthly newsletter to either [BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com](mailto:BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com). In most cases, we'll save the photos you send for use in the Baylor Line. We'd also appreciate ideas for Line Notes blog posts through either of these channels. Thanks.*

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