



Feb. 29, 2016

Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

Kicking it off....

- The Winter 2016 issue of the Baylor Line will hit your mailboxes soon, but we thought we'd share the cover story – Where Have All the Baptists Gone? – in advance. [Here's a link to the article](#), which looks at the reasons behind declining enrollment of Baptist students (and a decline in Baptist professors) over the past 24 years — from a general decline in denominational identity to the 1990 charter change, philosophical changes in recruitment strategies dating back to the Baylor 2012 initiative, and sharp increases in tuition over the past decade that have made it more difficult for middle-class Baptist families to choose Baylor over less expensive alternatives. The post offers you a chance to read the article as it appears in the magazine, or, if you're on a mobile device there's a link to a text-only version.

Recently Published on the Line Notes Blog

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.

- [Discounts on Family Tickets to Scarborough Renaissance Festival](#). Members of the Baylor Family can purchase Adult tickets for \$19, 24% off the \$25 gate fee. Children will get 10% their tickets. Parking is free at the Waxahachie Autoplex.
- [Getting to Know...2016 Ms Wheelchair Texas Sandy Spoonemore '87](#). One of the first wheelchair-bound students at Baylor, Sandy had a big impact on campus accessibility years before passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- [Getting to Know...Joseph DeWoody '05, MBA '06 and Ryan Haggerty '06](#). Yes, we know we included this in our last update, but we provided the wrong link to this introduction to partners in a mineral rights royalty company that's received kudos for its ethical behavior.

Alumni (And Future Alumni) News

- **Phyllis Gamble '82** was featured in a Waco Trib article about the 100th anniversary of the historic Cliftex movie theater in Clifton, which she purchased in 2008. [Here's a link to the article](#).
- **Greg Bruner '84** has been named to Howard Payne University's board of trustees. Greg is president of Bruner Auto Family, an auto dealership with locations in Brownwood and Stephenville, TX.
- **Ricky Turman '85, MTA '86**, has been named to the McLennan Community

College's board of trustees. Ricky is executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Brazos Higher Education Service Corp. He replaces longtime member Randy Cox, who moved out of his district.

- **Ronnie Andrews, MBA '88**, has been named to Howard Payne University's board of trustees. Ronnie serves as chief operating officer of Texon LP in Houston.
- **Mike Lovelace '90** is now a Client Service Director for Robert Half Management Resources in Houston.
- **Dr. Allen Keister '92** was profiled in a story in the Amarillo (TX) Globe-News about Heal the City, a free medical clinic for the indigent where Keister serves as medical director. [Here's a link to the story.](#)
- **Dr. Karen Metscher, MHA '97**, has been named Director of Executive Communication for the University of Texas at Arlington.
- **D. Lance Currie '02** has been named to Howard Payne University's board of trustees. Lance is an attorney with the Dallas law firm Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal LLP.
- **Jim Jones** was named Teacher of the Month by the Renton (WA) Rotary. He has been teaching social studies at Lindbergh High School for the past five years, after starting his career as a trial lawyer who then founded his own firm in Dallas.
- **Grant Teaff** has been named executive director emeritus for the American Football Coaches Association. He is retiring from his position as AFCA executive director at the end of February.
- **Rico Gathers**, a senior basketball player, announced that he will pursue a career in the NFL rather than entering the NBA draft.

Fond Farewells

Please note that we cannot always provide the deceased's graduation year from Baylor, particularly if they are not a BAA member or their information is not available elsewhere. We apologize and mean no disrespect. While we don't run photographs of the deceased in this newsletter, we would appreciate you sending them, with graduation years, to baylorline@bayloralumniassociation.com for use in the magazine.

- **Mary Elizabeth Welton Summerill** passed away Feb. 21, 2016, at the age of 96. Mary graduated from the Baylor Nursing School and joined the US Army Nurse Corps as a first lieutenant in England during World War II. That's where she met her future husband, 1st Lt. Keith Summerill. After raising her family, she served as a registered nurse and supervisor in orthopedics at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas until her retirement in 1983. Mary is survived by her six daughters; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.
- **Dorothy Medlin '42** of El Dorado, AR, passed away Feb. 26 at the age of 95. Dottie spent her life serving others, most notably at First Baptist Church in El Dorado as a Sunday School teacher of young married adults, signing in both the adult choir and senior adult choir, directing the Children's Choir, and playing handbells. One of her fondest memories came just a few years ago when her son, Drew (also a Baylor graduate), took her to Waco for a homecoming reunion and she climbed to the top of the football stadium to cheer on the Bears. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Dr. Julius K. Sheppard (married in 1947 and died in 1963) and Shad Medlin (married in 1967), by her parents, and by one of her granddaughters. She is survived by seven children and their families; 14 grandchildren and their families; and 21 great-grandchildren.
- **Glynda Lee (Feril) Haney '56** of Fort Worth passed away Feb. 2, 2016, at the age of 79. She was a retired school teacher and school counselor, best friend, confidant, and servant of the Lord. She is survived by her husband, **Charles (Chuck) Haney '54**; children **Chet Haney '81** and wife **Terri '82**, and **Lori (Haney) Ellison '85** and

husband Robert; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

- **Larry Storrs '66** of Waco passed away Feb. 24, 2016, at the age of 78. After Larry returned to Waco in 1962 from service at Fort Hood, he graduated with his Baylor degree and began a long and successful career as an accounting executive in the Waco area. He retired from Brazos River Authority in 2000. Larry is survived by his wife of 34 years, Linda; two daughters and one step-daughter; and four grandchildren.
- **Professor James Barcus** passed away Feb. 20, 2016, at the age of 77. Dr. Barcus served as chairman of the Baylor English Department from 1980 to 1996 and director of Baylor's Graduate English Program from 2010 to 2016, when he retired from Baylor after 36 years of service. He served as Chief Reader for the English Advanced Placement test for high-school students. He was preceded in death by Nancy, his wife of 44 years, his parents and his brother and sister. He is survived by his daughter, Heidi Anne Barcus and his son James and their families; and two granddaughters.
- **Clarence Golden** of Clifton, TX, passed away Feb. 14, 2016, at the age of 92. Clarence worked for Baylor for 35 years, and was the managing of Building and Grounds Maintenance. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Frances; two daughters, Glenda and Janet and their spouses; three grandsons; one great-grandson; and his youngest brother, Felix.

University News

- Baylor has faced mounting criticism over its response to sexual assaults on campus, with the most recent piece of news being that the school did not report a single instance over a four-year period from 2008 to 2011, according to a review of the statistics by the Associated Press. The Board of Regents recently announced a number of initiatives aimed at improving its responses to sexual assaults, including hiring more counselors and additional training for faculty and staff.
- Baylor will spend \$2MM to relocate the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Historical Collection from Dallas to 209 N. Eighth St. in Waco. Ten tractor-trailers worth of Baptist history along with a collection of sculptures and the pulpit of 18th century evangelist George Whitfield were part of the collection that recently moved into its new building.
- Baylor's Department of Computer Science will launch its first PhD program and hopes to accept its first PhD candidates in the fall of 2017.
- As expected, Baylor announced that it will opt-out of a new campus-carry law that will go into effect at public universities throughout Texas, joining most other private schools in the state that have decided to ban guns on campus.
- Republican leaders on Congress recently sent inquiries to Baylor and 55 other private universities with endowments larger than \$1B, giving them until April 1 to provide information on campus spending in light of continued increases in tuition despite decreasing inflation.
- The Board of Regents have approved a \$13MM renovation to Martin Residence Hall.
- The Board of Regents also approved an expansion of the Simpson Athletics and Academic Center, which will include the addition of the Weldon and Margaret Ratliff Performance Center. The new performance center will house a nutrition lab, weight-room equipment, and new technology, including microchips for football players' shoulder pads to track movements during practice.
- The Truett Theological Seminary has initiated steps toward a merger with the John Leland Center for Theological Studies in Arlington, Va. The process is expected to take about 18 months.
- Baylor's Texas Hunger Initiative has been honored with the Texas Department of Agriculture's Fresh Perspective Award for its innovative approach to improving outcomes of its summer-meals program.

BAA News

- We'll be pulling the mailing list for this issue over the next 7-10 days so if you didn't receive either the last issue (with Trey Gowdy on the cover) in October or the year-end Legacy Scholarship Fund mail solicitation and haven't already updated your current mailing address and e-mail address, please do so on either our website or with a note to Membership Services Director Kellie Juandiego at kellie@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com.
- The new issue of *The Baylor Line* will feature 18 pages of alumni milestones and accomplishments and final farewells in Down the Years, with three eulogies written by friends and reporters. If you have lost a loved one but were comforted by someone's final salute, please send a copy of it to BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation and we'll consider running it in our Spring issue, which will be out in early May.
- We're looking for your story ideas! If you are (or you know) a Baylor alum or faculty member who has achieved a milestone, celebrated a special anniversary, passed away, or is working on something really interesting, please let us know by [clicking here on our Story Ideas form](#).

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