



July 1, 2015

Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

Dear BAA Members,

Last week, [we updated you on the ongoing lawsuit](#) that Baylor filed last year in an effort to avoid long-standing commitments to the Baylor Alumni Association. In that update, we summarized the legal issues in dispute and highlighted key evidence obtained so far, including e-mails between some of Baylor's most senior leaders related to their efforts to, in their own words, "put the BAA out of business" and to tear down the BAA's Hughes-Dillard Alumni Center. The week ended with [a public apology from Tommye Lou Davis](#), Baylor's vice president of constituent relations, and an [editorial in the Sunday Waco Trib](#) taking both sides to task.

We are duty bound to keep our members informed on what this lawsuit is about, what the evidence has shown so far, and what the stakes are. We will continue to do so. We have been linking to coverage in the Waco Trib to ensure that our thousands of members located outside of Waco have a chance to see those articles. The resulting discussion has generated real and open debate among the Baylor Family that, with only a few exceptions, has been reasoned, rational, and polite.

Preservation of the independent voice that the BAA was entrusted with by wise leaders of Baylor's past dictates that we praise where warranted (and it's warranted most of the time) and question in a respectful manner when warranted (e.g., when individuals cause Baylor to breach important agreements and to mislead the Baylor Family about their actions). We appreciate the hundreds of comments that we have seen on [BaylorAlumniAssociation.com](#), Facebook, LinkedIn, and [BaylorFans.com](#). We are gratified by the balanced reporting, and we are humbled by your support.

Sic 'Em!

Tom Nesbitt '94
President, Baylor Alumni Association

Recently Published on the Line Notes Blog

- [BAA awards \\$55,400 in Legacy Scholarships for 2015-16 school year](#)

Want to find out when we publish new posts? Subscribe to receive Line Notes by e-mail by providing 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.

BAA Information

- The two Six Flags parks in Texas (in Arlington and San Antonio) has partnered with the BAA to offer discounted tickets purchased online for members of the Baylor Family. And with fireworks at both parks on July 3, 4, and 5, this may be the perfect time to join family and friends at the park. [For more information, check out our Line Notes post.](#)
- **Mark Your Calendars:** The BAA will be sponsoring an alumni night at FC Dallas' game on August 29 against Real Salt Lake. Game time is 8 pm at Toyota Stadium in Frisco. We'll have more information on our Line Notes blog, on social media, and in the next issue of Between the Lines.
- **Legacy Scholarship Donations:** As noted above, we announced funding for \$1,000 Legacy Scholarships for 54 children and grandchildren of Baylor Alumni. We would appreciate your support of this important BAA service to our alumni families. Life Members (and Annual Members) can contribute to this program with a [sustaining gift through this form](#). We asked applicants how they'll use the scholarship money and here are just a few of their answers:
 - *This scholarship allows me to have more freedom to pursue undergraduate research opportunities...over other higher-paying offers.*
 - *My dream is to be a college basketball coach. While at Baylor, I plan to work hard toward that dream by being a student manager on the Men's Basketball Team...This means I will sacrifice any free time I would have to earn money at a job.*
 - *My parents allowed me to attend Baylor (despite the financial burden) because we believed and still believe that Baylor is a place that provides an environment that will best foster my spiritual and educational growth.*
 - *I am thrilled to be accepted into Baylor and the Beyond Living and Learning Community and will be living on the "Missions and Community Service" hall. This \$1,000 scholarship will give me more time to invest in leadership roles in the activities of my LLC.*

Annual Membership Renewals: Our new member-renewal campaign has been very successful, and we've seen an increase in renewals since the Spring issue of the Baylor Line arrived in members' mailboxes. [Here's a link to the renewal form](#) -- you can pay securely with a credit card or mail in a check -- and you can make an additional contribution to support the initiatives above.

- **Much of the discussion around last week's Litigation Update has been on our Facebook page.** You can [follow us here](#)...and join the conversation.

Alumni News

- **Dr. J. Bradley Creed '79** is the new president at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. A nationally recognized religion historian, Dr. Creed comes to Campbell from Samford University in Birmingham, AL, where he was a professor of religion; provost; and executive vice president. He received his bachelor's degree in religion from Baylor and master's and doctoral degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Creed also previously served as dean of The George W. Truett Seminary at Baylor.
- **Kermit Ward '92** was recently promoted to principal of Pflugerville ISD's Connally High School. He began his career in the Waco ISD as a teacher and administrator and has been principal of a middle school in the Pflugerville ISD for the past three years.
- **Heather Healy '11** has been named assistant hunter seat coach for the Baylor equestrian team. Healy, who competed with the Bears' equestrian team from the fall

of 2007 through the spring of 2010, has been working as a CPA and running her own training program for horses and riders.

- **Kirsten Leigh Hancock '97** has moved to San Antonio where she will be a resident chaplain with Baptist Health System in their Clinical Pastoral Education Program through August 2016.
- **Keith D. Herron '75** has been called as Senior Minister at St. Lucas United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO.
- **Dr. Ed Bridgeman BS '64, DDS '67 and Suzanne Bridgeman '64** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 5.
- **Mark Bass '73** has been honored as a member of the 2015 Financial times Top 400 Advisors in the United States. Mark is a CFP, CPA, and a financial planner with Pennington, Bass, & Associates in Lubbock, TX.
- **Shannon Harper Boyer '02** and her Aggie husband Danny welcomed their third future Baylor bear, Kameryn Elise, in March 2015. Photos will be published in the next issue of the Baylor Line but trust us, she's adorable!
- **Paige Tucker Mebane '09 and Mitchell Mebane '10** welcomed their first child, John Tucker Mebane on May 18. He'll also be pictured in the next Baylor Line and like every Baylor legacy baby, he's great looking too!

University News

- Baylor has chosen **Charles Walter**, who has nearly 30 years of museum management experience, to serve as the newest director of the Mayborn Museum, effective August 3. Walter, who has been the chief operating officer for San Antonio's brand-new DoSeum children's museum for the past seven months, succeeds Ellie Caston, who is stepping down after 13 years as the Mayborn's director but will continue teaching in the university's museum studies department.
- The State Bar of Texas has awarded a grant to support the **Baylor Law School's Veterans' Assistance Clinic**, which provides free legal counsel to Texas military veterans. Baylor Law's clinics are held monthly at the Veterans One Stop Center in downtown Waco. This first-time grant will provide the clinic with technology equipment.
- Baylor has been named a "Best Buy" in the 2016 edition of the best-selling Fiske Guide to Colleges. The university is one of only 44 public or private colleges and universities included on the list, which is based on four- or five-star academics rankings, affordable cost, and high quality of student life on campus. Baylor is one of three Big 12 universities and five Texas institutions on the list.
- Twenty two Baylor undergraduates are getting hands-on experience in tropical medicine and public health through the College of Medicine's two-week Tropical Medicine Summer Institute. This is the third year for the program, which explores tropical medicine through global health, epidemiology, infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, and neglected tropical disease.
- **Baylor Professor Michael P. Foley** has written "Drinking With the Saints: The Sinner's Guide to a Holy Happy Hour." The book offers an "entertaining and useful collection of cocktail recipes, distilled spirits, beer, and wine for virtually every occasion on the Catholic liturgical calendar." [You can buy the book on Amazon with this link](#), which benefits the BAA's Legacy Scholarship Fund.
- **Sports News**
 - Baylor finished 23rd in the final 2014-15 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings, its best-ever finish in the all-sports sweepstakes. The final ranking was helped by a strong closing performance from Baylor's spring programs.
 - **The Baylor Bear Foundation** raised a record \$16.2 million during the 2014-15 academic year. The organization, which raises funds to cover the scholarship costs associated with Baylor's 19-sport intercollegiate athletics program, raised

\$3.5 million more than its previous record year in 2013-14.

- New **Baylor Baseball Coach Steve Rodriguez** has hired Jon Strauss and Mike Taylor as his final full-time coaching staff. Strauss was with Rodriguez for six seasons at Pepperdine while Taylor, who will serve as both recruiting coordinator and work with the hitters and outfielders, was an assistant for the past two years at the University of Houston.
- Baylor has added a second, eight-channel, dual-user Abekas Mira Instant Replay server to cover the action at McLane Stadium.

In Memoriam

- **Dr. John Wallace Griffin, '50, MD '54**, passed away March 29, 2015, in Port Lavaca, TX, at the age of 85. Dr. Griffin served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force Reserve before graduating from Baylor at the age of 35 and medical school at 39. John served for 40 years as a board-certified family physician and surgeon in Port Lavaca, where he served on a variety of community boards and played a major role in the creation of an indigent-care program for patients who could not afford medical care. During his career he diagnosed a very rare case of cholera; successfully delivered co-joined twins; and assistend in the development of better protection against head injuries, particularly among motorcyclists. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marian McCutcheon Griffin; their four children and their families (including 11 grandchildren).
- **Peggy Jean Place Bartley '49** passed away June 23, 2015, in Waco at the age of 85. Peggy earned her degree in Baylor in Education and Speech and taught at the Baptist Seminary in Montevideo for 47 years while raising her four children. Peggy and her husband of 63 years, James Willard Bartley Jr., together did missionary work in Uruguay and on short-term missions in Spain, Argentina, Mexico, and El Paso. She is survived by her husband, James; her daughter and three sons; and a number of grandchildren.
- **Dr. Lois M. Sutton** of Waco passed away on June 17, 2015, at the age of 89. She received her master's degree from Baylor and began her teaching career in the foreign language department at Baylor in 1945 and retired in 1994. She taught French, Spanish, and Italian and for several years served as chair of the Department of French. In 2004, Dr. Sutton was presented the Herbert H. Reynolds Award for Exemplary Service and also the Baylor Retired Faculty Service Award. Dr. Sutton was preceded in death by her parents.
- **Milton Norman Parma '59** of Richmond, TX, passed away June 23, 2015, at the age of 78. Milt, who majored in Mathematics and Geology at Baylor, loved the outdoors -- flying his plane across the country, hunting, fishing, playing golf, and enjoying good food, fine wine, and hearty laughs. He is survived by Jaye Parma, his wife of 52 years; his daughter Lindy Thackston and her husband; two brothers and a sister, and two grandchildren.

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 or [by using this link to our story ideas page](#). 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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the Baylor Alumni Association is an independent legal entity.