



July 17, 2015

## Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

Baylor President Ken Starr wrote a guest column for the *Waco Trib* on July 12 ("Baylor leadership remains committed to solutions, peace"). The Trib will publish a response from BAA President Tom Nesbitt in this Sunday's paper, taking issue with some of President Starr's points and offering to sit down for a meeting. We've [posted the response on our website for our members](#) who live outside of Waco.

## Recently Published on the Line Notes Blog



- [BAA BattleHands spirit gloves now available for purchase \(or free with a \\$100 donation\)](#)
- [Six Flags in Arlington offers ticket discount for July 25 Hot Dog Day with purchase by July 20](#)
- [Remembering Dr. James Dunn, 1932-2015](#)
- [BAA partners with Texas Sports Hall of Fame on Lone Star Tailgate sponsorship, new member benefits](#)
- [Baylor revises sexual conduct policy](#)

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## BAA Information

- When football season rolls around, many alumni and their families will converge on McLane Stadium wearing their new BattleHands spirit gloves, available exclusively through the BAA. You can get your hands on these gloves from the BAA in one of two ways: Purchase them for \$19.99 each (a \$10 discount from the normal retail price) [from our website](#) or make a donation of at least \$100 through either an [Annual Membership Renewal](#) or a [Life Member Sustaining Gift](#). Proceeds from the sales of these gloves will benefit our Legacy Scholarship Fund, which will provide \$1,000 scholarships for 55 children and grandchildren of Baylor alumni in the upcoming school year.
- **BAA Night at FC Dallas:** Tickets are now available for the BAA's alumni night at FC Dallas' professional soccer game on August 29 against Real Salt Lake. Game time is 8 pm at Toyota Stadium in Frisco. We're working on some fun "extras" and the ticket discounts are nice: Endline seats for BAA members are \$16 (normally \$18); east sideline tickets are \$20 (normally \$32); and bench sideline tickets are \$35 (normally \$45). [You can buy your tickets here](#) and we'll be sending out more information soon about the extras.

## Alumni News

- **Dr. Michael McLendon '91** has become dean of Baylor's School of Education and professor of higher-education policy and leadership, effective July 1. Dr. McLendon has held faculty and administrative positions at Southern Methodist University and Vanderbilt University, and has also served as an aide to a member of the U.S. Senate and as a policy analyst on the Higher Education Committee of the Florida House of Representatives. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Baylor, his master's from Florida State, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.
- **Margaret Amsler BA '29, JD '37**, will be the first woman to be honored with a specially commissioned portrait on the walls of the Baylor Law School. It won't be her first "first." She graduated first in her law-school class (and was the only woman in her class); she became the first woman in Texas (and just the third in the nation) to hold a tenure-track position in a law school; the first woman employed by the Texas Supreme Court; and the first recipient (male or female) of the State Bar of Texas' Presidents Award. Amsler spent 30+ years as a Baylor Law professor, and was the daughter of **Judge Nat Harris '1900**, another longtime Baylor Law School Professor.
- **Brad R. Carson '89** has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A Navy veteran and Rhodes Scholar, Carson has been serving as Undersecretary of the Army since March 2014, and has also served as General Counsel of the Army, a professor of business law at the University of Tulsa, and director of the National Energy Policy Institute at the University of Tulsa.
- **Wes Brazell '78** has been named chief financial officer for TearLab Corp, which develops and markets lab-on-a-chip technologies for eye-care professionals.
- **Stephanie Painter '88** has written a picture book *Liz Tames a Dragon (and Her Anger)* that is designed to help children find healthy ways to manage their angry feelings. In the book, Liz becomes so angry at her sister that her anger morphs her into a fire-breathing dragon. The book is available through [brightkidbooks.com](http://brightkidbooks.com) or on [Amazon through this link](#).
- **Judge Thomas Culver III, BBA '71 and JD '73**, will retire from his position of 240th District judge after 38 years of service to Fort Bend County.
- **State District Judge Bob McGregor Jr. '74** retired as sitting judge of the 66th District Court at the end of 2014, assuming Senior District Judge status at that time. He and wife Brenda will stay in Hillsboro for their retirement.
- **Robert "Bob" Gauer '58** recently retired from Central Baptist Church in Brady, Texas, after 56 years in the gospel ministry and has moved with his wife, **Betty Gauer '58**, to Watonga, OK, to serve as volunteer chaplain with Mercy Hospital.
- **Jim Sprecher, MS '87**, has been named the Lynchburg (VA) College director of cross country and track and field. He was previously head coach at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he won five CAA Coach of the Year titles. He has also been an assistant coach at a number of schools including Baylor.
- **Aaron Raney '15** is giving back to his high-school drumline. [Nice article in the Corsicana Daily Sun.](#)
- **John Peers '11** lost in the Wimbledon tennis doubles finals after a great tournament. He and his partner Jamie Murray fell in straight sets in their first major final to Jean-Julien Roger and Horia Tecau. Peers played for Baylor during his senior season in 2010-11, finishing 30-13 in singles and 38-6 in doubles.
- Future alums **Spencer and Clay Tinkham** of Norfolk, VA, have won seven consecutive world championships in duck-decoy carving from 2008-2013 and have an 18-month waiting list for their creations. Spencer is a senior economics major and Clay is a sophomore pre-business major and [BaylorProud did a nice job on their story.](#)
- **Emily Erkel '94** has been re-elected to Alpha Delta Pi sorority's Grand Council, where she will be serving as International Vice President of Finance for two more years. Emily works as director of benefits for Little Rock-based Windstream.
- **Raushanah (McPeters) Peterson '02** and Timothy Peterson announce the birth of Cayla Sabreen Peterson, born April 24 and weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz. Pictures to follow in the next issue of the Baylor Line.

**Justin Baer '10** and wife Randi have announced the birth of Briles Randall Baer on July 5. We're hoping to have photos for the Fall 2015 issue of the Baylor Line, but to answer your questions, yes, the newborn was named in honor of the Baylor football coach Art Briles who was suitably "amused and humbled" by the honor and by the fact that he did not have to compete for naming rights with the coach at Randi's alma mater, Arkansas, because really, who would want to name their child Bielema.

## University News

- **Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering Tommie R. Thompson, Ph.D.**, passed away June 29, 2015. Dr. Thompson, who retired from the university in 2008 after 25 years of service, was described by fellow Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering Robert Doty, Ph.D, as "a teaching legend" whose "favorite expression when explaining difficult concepts to his students was it is a 'piece of cake.' He was demanding, yet fair and precise. His students always said they learned more from Dr. T than anyone else." Dr. Thompson organized the MathCounts competition at Baylor, proctored the Fundamentals Engineering Exam for graduating Baylor engineering students, and was named Engineer of the Year in 1995 by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Central Texas Chapter.
- President Obama declared the [Waco Mammoth Site](#) a national monument on July 10, which means that the National Park Service will now manage the five-acre site in partnership with Baylor and the City of Waco.
- Aramark has named **Baylor Executive Chef Ben Hernandez** its 2015 Volunteer of the Year, providing financial support to Mission Waco where Hernandez created and leads a [successful culinary career training program](#).
- 259 Baylor students, staff, and faculty have spent their summer on 16 global mission trips in 15 countries. The trips are offered by Baylor Missions and include destinations such as Belize, Brazil, Zambia, Ghana, Haiti, and Washington, D.C. The largest trip, which was led by Baylor athletics chaplain Wes Yeary, took 45 student-athletes to Brazil, where they partnered with churches in Maceio and Rio de Janeiro. For more on Baylor's Summer 2015 missions, [go here](#).
- **Dr. Joseph Kuehl**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has received a \$359,000 research grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research young Investigator Program to study physics-based hypersonic boundary-layer stability and transition prediction, which has to do with the performance of high-speed vehicles such as jets and space shuttles.
- Baylor has made a list of the [50 most beautiful Christian campus](#) by Online Christian Colleges. Baylor ranks 37th and the magazine highlights Burleson Quadrangle as the centerpiece of the campus.
- **Sports News**
  - Sophomore **Trayvon Bromell** finished second in the 100 meters at the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships, qualifying for the World Championships in Beijing, China, Aug. 22-30. His times made him the second fastest in the world under all conditions and the fastest teenager in history at 100 meters.
  - Baylor sophomore basketball player **Nina Davis** played on the gold-medal winning USA team in the World University Games. she averaged five points and 2.8 rebounds in the tournament, becoming the second Lady Bear to win World University Games gold (the other is Odyssey Sims in 2011 and 2013).
  - Bromell and Davis are Baylor's representatives in voting for the Big 12 Athletes of the Year awards. Voting runs through July 22 [here](#).
  - Are You Ready For Some Football? BaylorBears.com has a video you're going to want to watch [Right Now!](#)
  - Headlined by preseason Defensive Player of the Year Shawn Oakman, Baylor Football placed a conference best seven players on the 2015 Preseason All-Big 12 Team (Oakman, Tre'Von Armstead, Corey Coleman, Spencer Drango, Shock Linwood, Andrew Billings, and Orion Stewart). The Bears have been picked to finish second in the conference this season behind TCU.
  - Former **Baylor basketball star Isaiah Austin**, whose surprise diagnosis of Marfan syndrome prior to the start of the 2014 NBA draft ended his professional basketball dreams, has written a

book, *Dream Again: A Story of Faith, Courage, and the Tenacity to Overcome*. The book can be purchased at the Baylor Bookstore at a 10% discount if you present your BAA membership card or [through Amazon at this link](#).

- Baylor QB Seth Russell won the Spalding Golden Arm trophy at the (Peyton) Manning Passing Academy against a number of highly-regarded college quarterbacks, including Trevone Boykin of TCU, Mason Rudolph of Oklahoma State, and Dak Prescott of Mississippi State.
- Former Baylor basketball player **Perry Jones III** has been traded to the Boston Celtics by the Oklahoma City Thunder. With Kevin Durant on the injury list, Jones scored 32 points this season against the L.A. Clippers.
- Baylor Basketball Forward **Taurean Prince** was selected to the 2015 U.S. Pan American Men's Basketball team, which will compete July 21-25 in Toronto, Canada. Unfortunately, Baylor teammate **Rico Gathers** was not selected.
- Six Baylor football players have been named to high-profile "watch lists."
  - Running Back **Shock Linwood** and Quarterback **Seth Russell** have been named to the watch list for the Maxwell Award, given annually to the country's top overall player. Linwood is also on the Doak Walker watch list to honor the nation's best running back.
  - Defensive Tackle **Andrew Billings** and Defensive End **Shawn Oakman** were named to the Bednarik watch list, which annually honors the nation's top defensive player. Oakman has also been named to the watch list for the Walter Camp award, another award that celebrates the nation's best player.
  - Center **Kyle Fuller** was named to the watch list for the Rimington Trophy, presented annually to the nation's top center.
  - Offensive Tackle **Spencer Drango** is on the watch list for the Wuerffel Award for community service.

## In Memoriam

- **Dr. Byron Busby "Spike" Holt '60** passed away on June 26, 2015 just short of his 77th birthday. Dr. Holt recently celebrated his 57th wedding anniversary with his high-school sweetheart, Sherley Riley Holt. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve prior to graduating from Baylor and worked his way through medical school. Dr. Holt founded the Women's Healthcare Center of Houston in 1979 and practiced OB/GYN for 46 years. He pioneered the concept of bringing fathers into the delivery room and designed the first birthing room concept in Houston. Following in his father's footsteps, Dr. Holt was very involved in missionary work, conducting medical missions to Guatemala and his most recent "gospel music" mission in the Bahamas. His obituary in the Houston Chronicle reminded his friends that "spoons" really are musical instruments, that charity is important and always starts at home, that "work is love made visible," and his love of the idea of "the place where the cross meets the anchor." Spike is survived by his wife, Sherley; his brother Dale and his family; his three children; and his five grandchildren.
- **Evelyn Harris Boswell '41** passed away on March 26, 2015. She served as associate editor of *The Lariat* for two years and was also chosen as both a Baylor Beauty and the 1940 Homecoming Queen, representing Alpha Omega. She was preceded in death by her husband, **H. Charles Boswell '41** and her son **Steven Boswell, '61, M.D. '65**. She is survived by her daughters, **Bonnie Boswell Brown '69** and **Ann Boswell Davis**, as well as by a large family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- **Dr. Delbert Hughes** passed away July 3, 2015, at the age of 90. Dr. Hughes graduated from Baylor and Baylor Medical School after serving in the U.S. Navy Air Corps after graduation from Pampa High School in 1943. After his medical internship, he served in the Korean War, where he received a Bronze Star for medical service in a battalion aid station. He was discharged in 1955 and started a general practice in Tyler, TX, with his wife, Waunell McDonald Hughes and his father-in-law. He subsequently enjoyed a long career as a psychiatrist at the Veterans Hospital in Dallas. He spent many weekends at his lake house at Cedar Creek Lake, teaching his grandchildren and their cousins to share his love of swimming, fishing, sailing, and windsurfing. He was preceded in death by his wife, Waunell. Survivors include his brother, four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

- **Oliver "Cotton" Blume '52** passed away July 8, 2015, at the age of 84. Cotton attended Texas A&M and Baylor and served as a major in the U.S. Air Force and in his later years, was committed to a newspaper ministry, The Path to Everlasting Life. He is survived by his sister, two nieces, and a nephew.
- **Nilwon Whittington** passed away July 7, 2015, in Temple, TX, at the age of 86. She earned her bachelor's degree from North Texas State University, her master's in oral communications at Baylor, and a Ph.D. in communications from the University of Texas at Austin. She taught at Temple College, served on the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in Austin, and retired from the Kansas Board of Regents in 1988. Dr. Whittington is survived by her husband, **Harold Whittington M.A. 77**, and was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Jeff; and her brothers.
- **Keith Alan Manning** passed away June 27, 2015, at the age of 72. He attended SMU on a football scholarship and graduated from Baylor. He owned his own businesses for 30 years and loved to play golf at Ridgewood Country Club, bass fish, and bird hunt. He is survived by his wife, Bennett; two daughters; five grandchildren and a number of other family members.
- **Della Mae Adams** passed away June 24, 2015, at the age of 91. Later in life, after the death of her husband, she went to work at Baylor in the Department of Residence Life as a night dorm mother. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and two brothers. She is survived by her 26-lb. cat, Baby, and a number of friends, sons, grandchildren, and great-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](mailto: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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