



July 28, 2016

Between the Lines

A publication of The Baylor Line Foundation

Kicking it off....

It's been a very busy couple of months for The Baylor Line Foundation, formerly the Baylor Alumni Association. We held a huge fundraiser called Onward! that brought together more than 300 members of the Baylor family. We called for greater transparency around the recommendations made by Pepper Hamilton. We introduced you to a number of different alumni. We rolled out a new small-donation initiative called Beacons that enables members of the Baylor family to recognize friends. We've also added a few new discounts – one after the Baylor Bookstore decided to end our longtime discount – and we just announced a 50% increase in the amount of Legacy Scholarships that we're awarding this year. Thanks to all of our members who donated to that program! You can read about all those things – and more – by clicking on the links to our blog just below.

Perhaps most important, we're offering our members a chance to provide their thoughts on where Baylor goes from here...on how it can restore its good name and strengthen its mission of educating men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community. You can [comment on our website \(link\)](#) or send your thoughts directly to BaylorLine@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com. The deadline for submissions is August 5, and you need to provide your full name, year of graduation, and hometown.

Recently Published on the Line Notes Blog

- [Baylor Line Foundation awards \\$82,000 in Legacy Scholarships – a 50% increase over last year.](#)
- [BLF launches new discount through Barefoot Campus Outfitter after Baylor Bookstore ends longtime program](#) This new discount is 15% (rather than the 10% we used to get from the Bookstore) and you can use it for online purchases (which you couldn't do with the Bookstore). And the prices are lower to start with!
- [Beat the heat with Schlitterbahn waterpark discounts](#)
- [So how did you spend the longest day of the year?](#) Junior Kelsey Landrum spent it running around the tallest peak in the Alps
- [Flowers die. Chocolates get eaten. But planting a seed is forever.](#) Introducing our Beacons project, where you can honor a member of the Baylor family with a small contribution.
- [Get to Know...Teddy Bear Donors Kenneth and Amy Tice.](#) They found a wonderful way to honor the loss of their infant son.
- [What's on Justice Don Willett's phone?](#)
- [Get to Know...author and teacher Chuck Allen '68, MS '69](#)
- [Onward! event raises more than \\$100,000 for Legacy Scholarships](#)
- [David Garland's June 2 e-mail to Baylor Nation...and Bette Miller's response](#)

- [Regents should release the full Pepper Hamilton report](#)
- [Get to Know...Kelsey Landrum '18](#)

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 D. Hill '59** celebrated his 50th anniversary as a member of The Gideons International on June 16, 2016. He has served in every local camp office, several zone and area offices, four state offices, including state president, and has served six years as an international officer, supervising all Gideon activity in five states.
- **James N. "Jim" Elkins '69** will retire August 31 from a 45-year healthcare management career that has been divided between leadership roles in community hospitals and medical centers, and public service, most often in Texas. Since 1995, he has been the director of the Texas Center for Infectious Disease in San Antonio, a state-operated program for the treatment of hard-to-treat tuberculosis, quarantine care for infectious diseases, and Hansen's disease. Jim and wife **Kathy Underwood Elkins '69** will also celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary August 31, and will relocate to Hamilton, TX.
- **Nick Strimple '69** was awarded the Baylor University Center for Christian Music Studies Award for Exemplary Leadership in Christian Music at Baylor's annual Alleluia Conference. Nick is a composer, conductor, and expert in Holocaust music, and is a published author and noted speaker.
- **Harry Lucenay '70** retired from the pastorate of Kowloon International Baptist Church, Hong Kong the end of December 2015. Harry has served pastorates in Texas, Mississippi, and Hong Kong for more than 45 years. He has also taught in seminaries in Louisiana, Hong Kong, Myanmar, and China. Harry and wife **Nancy '71** have three children, all of whom graduated from Baylor (**Jonathan '96, Elise '99, and Charles '06**). The Lucenays have 10 grandchildren. They have settled in Jasper, GA, and can be reached at hlucenay@gmail.com.
- **Kathy Johnston Berg '70** won a Hermes Gold Award for the 2016 public relations/communication campaign for the Admiral Risty Restaurant's 50th Anniversary in a collaborative endeavor with graphic designer Christine Barnicki.
- **Dr. Paul Sadler '72, Ph.D. '91**, who recently stepped down as Dean of the School of Religion and Philosophy at Wayland Baptist University, has accepted a new position as Director of Church and Denominational Relations at Wayland Baptist. In his new role, Sadler will work closely with churches in the area and throughout West Texas to develop and maintain positive, mutually beneficial relationships.
- **Judy Henderson Prather '73, DMin '02**, and her husband, **Buddy Prather '70**, have moved from Waco to Lawrence, KA, to be nearer their children and three grandsons. Before retiring, Judy worked for the Baylor Alumni Association for more than 20 years, serving as class notes editor and communication coordinator.
- **Gary Kennedy '76** celebrated his 40th anniversary with State Farm Insurance Companies, where is an agent in San Antonio. Gary joined State Farm upon graduation and has not worked for any other company since.
- **Dr. Steven Cutbirth '76**, a Waco "Super Dentist" (Texas Monthly) and expert in sedation dentistry, survived an attack from a bull shark in the Bahamas ([Here's a link](#)).
- **Dr. Stuart Williams '77** has been named associate professor and chairperson of osteopathic principles at Arkansas Colleges of Health Education at Chaffee Crossing

in Fort Smith. He and his wife relocated from Lynchburg, Va., where he was an associate professor at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

- **Dr. Linda Schott '79** has become the president of Southern Oregon University. She was previously president of the University of Maine at Presque Isle.
- **Kevin Pate '84** was named executive vice president of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall, TX. Pate previously worked as Director of Marketplace Missions at Global Advance in Dallas.
- **Dr. Peter McCullough '84** has been elected president of the Cardiorenal Society of America. He is an academic internist and cardiologist at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.
- **Barbara Shergold Britton '86** will soon release her first novel, "Providence: Hannah's Journey," through the Harbourlight imprint of publisher Pelican Book Group. This book kicks off the Tribes of Israel series, with the second book, "Building Benjamin: Naomi's Journey," coming next year. Barbara, who can be reached at barbarambritton@aol.com, reports that she was battling breast cancer while she edited and proofed the second book.
- **Rev. John Kay '86** has relocated to Greenville, TX, where he began a pastorate at Kavanaugh United Methodist Church.
- **John Fielder '86** is an IT SOX DEA group QA analyst for Wells Fargo in Chandler, AZ. He is responsible for QA reviews of audited control tests performed by internal audit as part of their annual SOX control validation.
- **Steve Grumbine '87, M.S. '93**, is now working in sales at SpedTrack after working as a senior account manager at Interactive Dynamics USA.
- **Mark Page '87** has opened his third cycling studio called ZYN22 with his wife Mel and co-owner Denis Morton. The newest location is in Southlake.
- **Dr. Shay Davis Little '91** has been appointed vice president for student affairs at Kent State University. She is working alongside Jeffery McLain '82, who serves as vice president for institution advancement.
- **Jeffery D. Price '92** of Flower Mound, TX has been named one of the nation's top financial advisors for the fourth consecutive year by *Barron's Magazine*.
- **Dr. Will Penner '94, MSED '96**, has been named vice principal at Whitthorne Middle School in Columbia, TN.
- **Commander Jonathan Mitchell '96**, an officer in the Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps, received the Real Admiral Hugh H. Howell, Jr. Award of Excellence as the 2016 Outstanding Senior Officer during the 2016 Military Law Training Symposium in San Diego. The award is the highest recognition available to judge advocates, legalmen and units demonstrating outstanding support of the Navy and Naval Reserve and is presented to two Senior Officers and two Junior Officers each year. This is the second time Mitchell has received the individual award. He was honored as a junior officer in 2010. He is an attorney at Feirich/Mager/Green/Ryan (FMGR) in Carbondale, IL.
- **Charissa Sloan Dvorak, JD '99**, has joined the new Dallas/Fort Worth office of Spencer Fane.
- **Kimberly DeWoody '05** has been named to the 2016-2017 class of Leadership Fort Worth. She is a senior audit partner at Whitley Penn.
- **Amy Suttle '05** recently became director of member services at EmployerDirect Healthcare, after working as an RN for several years at Texas Institute for Surgery, Texas Oncology, Baylor University Medical Center, and others.
- **Dr. Garvin Chandler '05, MS '07**, has joined the incoming class of Floyd's Family Medicine Residency program in Dallas.
- **Isaac Nabarrette '08** has been named as a commercial lending relationship banking officer in Frost Bank of Odessa's Faudree Financial Center.
- **Julianna Almogabar '09** is now a publicist for twolpr in Los Angeles. She has worked previously as a production assistant for HēLō, Nero-Films, Granfalloon

Productions, and GodBang, LLC.

- **Megan Baldree '10** has been named Assistant Dean of Students for the First Year at McMurray University in Abilene. Previously, Baldree worked as the Director of Student Activities and Orientation for the university after coming to McMurray from Miami University.
- **Sarah Irvine '11** is now an HR Shared Services Representative for Weir Oil and Gas in DFW. Irvine has a background in human resources work for GM Financial and On Time Staffing, Inc. and has also worked in sports media.
- **Brice Williams '11** is now Regulatory Affairs Specialist for Pharmavite in Northridge, CA. He previously held a similar position at Herbalife in Los Angeles.
- **Lindsey Cunningham '12** recently began working as the member relations director at Las Colinas Country Club. She held similar positions at Walnut Creek Country Club in DFW and for ClubCorp at Oakmont Country Club.
- **Jonathan Sullivan '12** is now vice president of business development at Prime Value Technology in Anaheim, CA. Sullivan came to Prime Value after working as an account executive for TransFirst.
- **Amanda Hanson-Emerson '12** is working as the regional team coordinator for Mineral Fusion Natural Brands in Dallas. She has held sales positions with Clif Bar & Company and Presence Marketing/Dynamic Presence over the past three years.
- **Dr. Justin Zych '12** has become the clinic manager for Brooks Rehabilitation in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. After graduating from Baylor with a B.S. of Health Science Studies, Zych went on to obtain his doctorate in physical therapy at Duke University School of Medicine in 2015.
- **Jeff Sease '13** is working as an analyst for Crestline Denali Capital in Chicago, IL. He has previously worked for BKD CPAs and Advisors and The National Bank of Indianapolis.
- **Kelsey O'Brien '13** is an associate account executive at Lockton Companies in Dallas. Previously, she was the Benefit Operations Manager for Aon Hewitt in The Woodlands.
- **James Holloway '14** is director of ticket operations for the Great Southwest Collegiate League in Grand Prairie, TX. Holloway has worked previously as the sales and marketing coordinator for Texas AirHogs Baseball.
- **Eliza Zolfo '14** is now a compensation analyst for Bechtel Oil, Gas & Chemicals in Houston. She has been with Bechtel for just over two years.
- **Brittany Connor '14** is working as a consulting analyst for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, MO. Connor came to Cerner after working with the Kansas City Royals and FOX Sports.
- **Coleman Hampton '14, M.A. '16**, has been named the interim curator of the Central Texas Area Museum in Salado, TX. Hampton recently graduated from Baylor with his master's in Museum Studies.
- **Pauline Minnaar '14** has become a career consultant at the University of Texas at Dallas. Minnaar earned a master's degree in counseling psychology at Towson University after studying psychology and international studies at Baylor.
- **Eric Rains '15** is a business analyst at T&D Solutions, LLC of Houston. He worked previously as a research analyst for Transwestern.
- **Jack Vaughn III '15** has become a Good Hands Rescue Network analyst for Allstate in Northbrook, IL, after working for the agency for one year. Vaughn founded The Southern Gentleman Clothing and Lifestyle Company and acted as the company's president and CEO during his time at Baylor.
- **Miguel Astello '15** is working as an accountant for MDD Forensic Accountants in Houston. During his time at Baylor, Astello served as senior class president and worked as a Community Leader.
- **Shehan Jeyarajah '16** recently began work as a freelancer covering SEC sports for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. During his time as an undergrad, Jeyarajah worked

as an editor on the Baylor Lariat staff for multiple years while keeping up a sports blog for the *Dallas Morning News*.

- **Courtenay Klauber '16** has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright grant to serve as an English teaching assistant in Turkey for the 2016-17 year. Klauber completed the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC) program in the Honors College and graduated with a degree in language and linguistics while minoring in religion. She will use what she learned to teach English at Hitit University in Çorum, Central Anatolia, Turkey.
- **Emily Knaub '16** is a caseworker for Congressman Bill Flores.
- **Prashant (Sunny) Appikatla, Brianna Williams, and Jonathan Tingle** – all 2016 graduates – have been awarded Rotary Global Grants that they will use to earn master's degrees at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

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.

- **Dr. Asa A. Newsom, Jr. '45** passed away on May 8, 2016, at the age of 92. After completing his undergraduate education, he attended Southwestern Medical School. He served in the Army and earned the rank of Captain. Dr. Newsom practiced OB/GYN at Baylor Hospital in Dallas for more than 40 years. He was a long time member of Wilshire Baptist Church. The Newsom family was recognized by the Baylor Alumni Association as a First Family of Baylor. He is survived by his wife, **Dot '46**; and sons **David '68, Kirk '72, and Kent '72**.
- **Perry F. Webb Jr., '46**, died May 14, 2016, in Natchitoches, LA, at the age of 91. Perry was pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Natchitoches and served as a Baptist minister for 74 years at a number of churches, beginning at a country church in East Central Illinois where he joked he learned to “persecute the saints” with his preaching. He served two years as president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and also served on the executive boards of both the Louisiana Baptist and the Georgia Baptist conventions. He served 15 years as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, including two years as chairman of that board, and was also was a trustee for Louisiana College and Tift College. He had been a member of the board of directors for the Baylor Alumni Association and was an avid fan of Baylor athletics. Webb is survived by his wife of 66 years, Virginia Powell Webb; daughter, Deborah Webb Smith; son, Perry Flynt Webb III; four grandsons; and his sister, Rebekah Webb Richards.
- **Morris Thomas Wall '49** of Waco passed away June 12, 2016, at the age of 92. After graduating from Baylor, he enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he met Dora Louise Sexton and they married Aug. 15, 1951. He was the first pastor of South Garland Baptist Church in Garland and associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Waco. He also served churches in Georgia, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona and Alaska, where his ministry focused on planting and growing churches. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Deborah. He is survived by Dora, his wife of 64 years; daughter, Karen Talley; and seven grandchildren.
- **Meredith Kathleen “Katie” Critz** of Dallas passed away May 31, 2016, at the age of 91. She received her nursing degree from the Baylor School of Nursing and became an LVN in the mid-sixties, and spent most of her nursing career at the Samuell Clinic in Dallas. Katie was an officer and life member in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and was a volunteer at the Dallas Veterans Hospital, where she logged more than 15,000 hours and was honored numerous times. She was preceded in death by

John Shaddix, her husband of 15 years, and Robert Critz, her husband of 24 years. She is survived by her daughter Debi and her sister John Cook and her family.

- **Vivian Jo Duke Stone, '53** passed away April 23, 2016. She was a homemaker in Houston for more than 50 years and had moved to Dallas five years ago to be near family. She is survived by two daughters and a son, including **Debbie Stone Parsons '76**; eight grandchildren, including BAA Legacy Scholar **Amy Stone '16**; and seven great-grandchildren.
- **John Soles Brunson '56, JD '58** passed away April 8, 2016, at the age of 82. While at Baylor, John served two terms as president of the Baylor Chamber of Commerce and as vice president of the senior class. He practiced law for more than 30 years and participated in state politics as a moderate-conservative Democrat, coordinating Governor Dolph Briscoe's campaign in Harris County in 1972. John was a member of Houston's First Baptist Church for more than 75 years and served in many different church roles over the years, including teaching Sunday School in the College and Newlywed departments for about 60 years. He also served on the boards of Houston Christian High School, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Macedonian Call. John is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 62 years, Joan Erwin Brunson; two children, Mark and Dana Brunson Dawkins and their families; four children and two great-grandchildren; and his brothers Bryant and Robert and their families.
- **Archie B. Blackburn '60, MA and M.D. Baylor College of Medicine '65**, of Corpus Christi, TX, passed away April 10, 2016, at the age of 77. Dr. Blackburn began active service in the U.S. Navy immediately after medical school graduation, participating in NASA-related psychological studies near the South Pole simulating life in outer space. After completing his naval obligation and psychiatry residency, he moved to Houston, where he joined the staff at the Veterans Administration as a staff psychiatrist, dedicating his entire career to counseling soldiers returning from combat. He is survived by his wife, Elena Blackburn; two daughters, Theresa and Elise; four grandchildren and a stepson; and his sister, **Claydell Blackburn Stone '58, MA '64**, and a nephew, **Henry Stone '94, JD '96**.
- **H. Lynn Craft '65** passed away May 31, 2016, at the age of 73. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard after graduation, Lynn worked for the Baptist Foundation of Texas – now HighGround Advisors – for 44 years, 37 as president and CEO. During his time as president and CEO, the foundation's assets under management grew from \$123 million to \$1.5 billion. His obituary in the Baptist Standard said he “earned a reputation among Baptist agency executives as a trusted confidante and adviser.” Lynn also served on the boards of a number of banks and foundations during his career. He is survived by Rebecca Roberts Craft, his wife of 40 years; children Cara and Hunter and their families; five grandchildren; and siblings James and Carol.
- **Pamela Ann Pittard '66** of Bedford passed away July 14, 2016, at the age of 72 after a five-year battle with sarcoma cancer. After graduating from Baylor, most of her 30-year teaching career with the Birdville (TX) ISD was spent teaching first grade at Snow Heights Elementary where she was named Birdville Teacher of the Year. After her teaching career, she worked for a medical uniform company until her death. She was involved in the Miss Texas Pageant for 13 years as a hostess, several years as a travel companion, and two years on the board of trustees before being honored last year as a Woman of Inspiration. She and her husband Knox, who passed away in late April, spent many years organizing and working with the Mid-Cities Baylor Club and other Baylor alumni organizations. She was a member of First Baptist Church Euless, an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and worked with the Circle of Friends' organization, dedicated to projects benefiting cancer patients at Cook Children's Hospital. She is survived by her sons Steve and Kirk and their wives; four grandchildren; and her sisters Rebecca, Neta, and Betty.

John Blake Withrow Jr. passed away June 13, 2016, just short of his 65 birthday. Blake, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degree from Baylor, had a solo legal practice in Dallas. He loved classic cars and established Dallas Classic Cars. He was described by friends as a "kind, generous, and sensitive soul." He is survived by his mother, Gladys, and his sister Jane and her family.

- **Daniel Lee Williams '75** passed away April 28, 2016 in San Marcos at the age of 62 after an eight-year battle with cancer. Danny took great joy in his pastoral ministry, which spanned 38 years in churches in Texas, Kentucky, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Hong Kong. Danny loved people and was especially gifted at helping others in times of crisis. He left the pastorate from 1999 to 2004 to lead the establishment of the Texas Baptist Laity Institute and served as a Marketplace Chaplain from 2014 until shortly before he passed away. Dan was a world traveler, skilled craftsman, and oil painter, and loved to play guitar, write music, and sing. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Anita Miller; their children, Clayton, Anna, and Nathan and their families; his father Bill Williams; and his siblings Donna, Debbie, David and Daryl and their families.
- **William Stephen Kent** of Dallas passed away July 23, 2016, at the age of 60 after a difficult battle with cancer. While at Baylor, Steve was involved in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, intramural sports, and many other activities. He worked in the insurance industry in Dallas and was a member and deacon of Park Cities Baptist Church. He is survived by **Wynette '77**, his wife of 34 years, daughters Layne and Caroline and their families; three grandchildren; his mother Dorothy May Kent; and his sister Sylvia.
- **Laura Ellen Pulis '97** of Dallas passed away June 11, 2016, at the age of 41 after a three-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband of 19 years, Joel Pulis; their 13-year-old daughter Grace; her parents Bill and Susan Leftwich; her brother Greg Leftwich and many other family members. Laura was a faithful and involved member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, and made her career in interior design, working in a variety of commercial, residential and church spaces throughout Texas. She was an active resident of the Oak Cliff area and a longtime member of RECPTA. Laura enjoyed cooking, entertaining, spending time with friends and traveling. She was full of joy and kindness and had a beaming smile. Her comforting presence made the people Laura met feel "special."
- **Baylor General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer Charles D. Beckenhauer** passed away July 5 at his home after a lengthy illness.

University News

- The Board of Regents has approved a new joint master's degree program that links the faculties, resources, and classes of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary and the School of Education.
- The Board of Regents announced a tuition increase of 4.25% for the 2017-18 school year that it described as the smallest in 20 years. That said, tuition and fees will increase by \$1,800 after an increase for the upcoming school of year of about \$2,000.
- For the sixth consecutive year, Baylor has attained elite Honor Roll status as a "2016 Great College to Work for," according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Baylor Provost L. Gregory Jones has announced three leadership appointments: Michelle V. Berry has been promoted to vice president for academic operations and strategic finance; Dr. Lori Baker has been appointed vice provost for strategic initiatives, collaboration, and leadership development; and Dr. Darin Davis has been named vice president for university mission.
- Dr. Robyn Driskell, divisional dean for Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences, has been named executive director and President's Chief of Staff

by Interim President David Garland. She replaces Tommye Lou Davis, who remains in her role as vice president of constituent engagement.

- The Campus Kitchen has been honored by the national Campus Kitchens project with its “Going Beyond the Meal” award for the student-led organization’s service to the Waco community.
- Dr. Tanya Sudia, the associate dean for Research and Scholarship and Interim Graduate Program Director for the Louise Herrington School of Nursing, received an award for the Best Oral Presentation at the Sixth Annual Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference and First Colloquium on Chronic Illness Care in Hong Kong. Her presentation, “Ethical Considerations Amid Emerging Global Health Challenges,” examined global ethical issues faced by healthcare providers.

We're in the midst of making the transition from the Baylor Alumni Association name to The Baylor Line Foundation. Please be patient and look forward to next week when we unveil our new logo and mission statement. You'll see references to both the BLF and BAA for the next few months as we redesign our website and update our marketing collateral and communications. We apologize for any confusion in the meantime.

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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The Baylor Line Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that is separate and independent from Baylor University. We tell the stories of the Baylor family; help future alumni write their own Baylor stories; and speak with an independent voice committed to preserving the timeless values of Baylor's founders. The vast majority of our members are Baylor alumni.