



May 29, 2015

Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

Recent Posts on the Line Notes Blog

- [Interview with Professor SJ Murray.](#) Dr. Sarah-Jane Murray practices what she preaches on the power of "insanely great" storytelling using a discipline known as story rhetoric.
- [After Graduation Comes Loan Repayment -- Maybe.](#) Student loan default rates have skyrocketed in recent years, and Baylor alumni are not immune. The discussion that started in the Spring issue of the Baylor Line continues on the website.

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

- **Annual Membership Meeting:** The BAA annual meeting will be held Saturday, May 30, 2015, at 1 p.m. at the Hilton Waco's Brazos Ballroom, 113 South University Parks Drive, in Waco 76701. The list of proposed board members is in the inside cover of the Spring 2015 issue of the Baylor Line.
- **FINAL REMINDER: Legacy Scholarship Applications** will be accepted through Saturday, May 30, 2015. The \$1,000 scholarship is open to current undergraduates, incoming transfers, and high-school seniors who will be attending Baylor in the fall and have family members who graduated from Baylor. The application process has been streamlined and [applications can be submitted online using this link.](#)
- **Legacy Scholarship Donations:** We've already received a number of applications for the Legacy Scholarship and are expecting a lot more in the next few days. If you'd like to support this important BAA service to our alumni families, [you can contribute by using this link.](#) Life Members can also use this form to make a sustaining donation toward more frequent publication of the Baylor Line, to support litigation defense, or toward support of ongoing operations.
- **Annual Membership Renewals:** Our new member-renewal campaign has been very successful, and we've seen an increase in renewals since the new 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.
- **2015 Commencement Family Photos:** We'll be posting photos this week of our newest graduates with their parents and family members who graduated from Baylor. We'd like to launch with a few more than we've received so far. You can send them to baylorline@bayloralumniassociation.com or just hit Reply on this e-mail. If

possible, please include graduation years for each Baylor graduate in the photo.

- **New Baylor graduates are eligible for a free one-year membership in the BAA.** Benefits include a subscription to the Baylor Line, a 10% discount for in-person purchases at the Baylor Bookstore, discounts, and more. All we're looking for is [some basic contact information on this form](#) to get your membership started.

Alumni News

- Four graduates of the Baylor School of Education have risen to the top of the profession in Texas based on 2015 awards. **Dr. Michael McFarland, BBA '93, EDD '05** became the second Baylor graduate in four years to be named Texas Superintendent of the Year (he's leading Lancaster ISD in south Dallas). **Aaron Pena, BSEd '97**, the principal of Woodway Elementary School in Midway ISD (a Waco suburb), has been named the H-E-B Top Elementary Principal in Texas, while **Diane Gough, BSEd '81**, was named Texas' 2015 National Distinguished Principal by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. Gough's recognition made it a clean sweep for the Midway ISD -- she's the principal at Hewitt Elementary School. And **Whitney Crews, BSEd '96**, a sixth-grade social studies and science teach at E.J. Moss Intermediate in Lindale ISD (90 miles east of Dallas) was named Texas' Elementary Teacher of the Year. Kudos to all four educators and to the School of Education for consistently turning out great teachers and administrators!
- **Maverick Moore's** film Shotgun, which won the Best Picture and Audience Choice prizes at Baylor's Black Glasses Film Festival in 2014, was shown at the Cannes Film Festival in France. As a result of the heightened visibility, the film has been accepted by four Oscar-qualifying film festivals, boosting its chances for an Oscar nomination next year.
- **Chip and Joanna Gaines**, stars of the popular Fixer Upper reality show on HGTV, donated 300 ceramic coffee mugs to the Waco police department that they sell on their Magnolia Homes website for \$14 each. The couple said they were impressed by the way the department calmed the storm following the bloody shootout on May 17 at the Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco. They also donated two metal signs that say, "Today is a Good Day to Have a Good Day."

University News

- Baylor's Hankamer School of Business will add a new doctorate degree in entrepreneurship, joining just six other schools offering an advanced degree in the growing field. The degree builds on the success of Baylor's undergraduate entrepreneurship program, which ranked third in a Princeton Review/Entrepreneur Magazine survey earlier this year.
- The Baylor Law School has become only the third law school since 1984 to win the American Bar Association's prestigious Pro Bono Publico Award for demonstrating "outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged." Baylor law students have dedicated more than 3,600 hours of pro bono services since 2010.
- The university will spend \$1.1MM to design and build the Simpson Strength and Performance Center in the Simpson Athletics and Academic Center. The project, which will be included in the upcoming renovation of the center's weight room, will have dedicated space for sports nutrition as well as sports performance to aid student-athletes in improving strength, speed, power, flexibility, and sport-specific conditioning.

- **Spring Sports Update:** The Baylor Women's Golf Team finished second in the NCAA Golf Championship in a heartbreaking finish. The team did win the Big 12 Championship and the NCAA San Antonio Regional. Over on the men's side, the tennis team lost in the semifinals of the national championship (played at Baylor) and finished the year ranked third nationally. Team members Diego Galeano and Julian Lenz lost in the semifinals of the NCAA Doubles Championship to a team from the University of Texas.
- The Board of Regents has elected two new members -- Wal-Mart President and CEO William S. Simon and Blue Scout Media CEO Kim Wilson Stevens -- and re-elected Chairman Ricard T. Willis and elected Ronald D. Murff of Dallas as vice-chairman.
- Steve Smith was let go as Baylor baseball coach after 21 years. Smith is the winningest coach in Baylor history with 744 career victories, but the team missed the NCAA tournament in each of the past three seasons.

In Memoriam

- **Howard Cecil Lee, Jr. '62, JD '64**, passed away May 14 at the age of 75. Howard pitched for the Baylor baseball team, following in his father's footsteps. He met the love of his life -- Patty Cobb Lee -- while at Baylor and they were married for 46 years before she passed away. Howard practiced law in Houston from 1964 until the beginning of 2015, primarily in the areas of real estate and probate, and was honored by the State Bar of Texas for 50 years of service in the legal profession. He served on the Houston Baptist Board for many years, supporting the dream of his father who had joined with other visionaries in the Houston community to launch the school. Howard had an incredible legacy of service to the community and support for Baylor. He is survived by his four children, 13 grandchildren, and many other family members -- a number of whom are also Baylor graduates.
- **Gordon "Doc" Arnold Jr. '74** passed away May 23 at the age of 65. Doc dedicated his professional life to public service as an attorney; as a two-term Texas State Representative for his hometown of Terrell; as the chief of staff for Texas House Speaker Gib Lewis; and later in life as an attorney in private practice representing a range of clients with legislative, regulatory, and political interests. Doc received both his B.A. in political science and his J.D. from the Baylor Law School in 1974. He coached Little League Baseball, had a passion for American Civil War history (visiting 73 battlefields with his college roommate over the years), and he rarely missed a game or horse show involving his children. Perhaps most important, he was remembered by multiple notes to Between the Lines as "a good guy." He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Elaine; three children (Erin, Jeff, and Kaitlyn), and many other family members who will miss him.
- **Barbara Jo "Bobbie" Barnes Harrell '54** passed away May 15 at the age of 81. Bobbie was in one of the first nursing programs at Baylor, going to work after graduation at the VA Hospital in Waco. She loved flowers and working in her garden, bluegrass music, playing bunco with friends, and the Baylor Lady Bears, traveling with the team a few times. She was married for 53 years to John T. "Tommy" Harrell, who passed away in 2007. She is survived by two children, John and Dana, and two grandchildren.
- **Dr. Milton L. Rhodes, Jr. '54** of San Antonio passed away May 12 at the age of 77. Milton was a pastor, teacher, and chairman of the Criminal Justice department at Our Lady of the Lake University. He is survived by his wife, Frances; two daughters; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.
- **Benjamin Portwood '65 and MBA '71**, passed away May 17 at the age of 72. Ben served in the U.S. Air Force after graduation. As his obituary put it, he "was kind and always had time to tell a story, share a joke, or cook up a barbecue. He loved reading,

old cars, history, cooking, a game of pool, long walks, relaxing outdoors, and playing with his grandkids." Ben is survived by his wife of 46 years, Earlene; his children, Ruth, Jonathan, Joshua, and Rachel and their spouses; eight grandchildren; and two brothers.

- **Margie Matyastik Barton**, who earned her degree at Baylor after surviving a tragic auto accident that resulted in severe burns over 75% of her body and the loss of both legs, passed away May 17 at the age of 45. After graduation, Margie taught at Mountain View Elementary in Waco before leaving the classroom to stay at home after the birth of her second child. Her death ended her fight against squamous cell carcinoma, a cancer that developed after the car crash 21 years earlier. Margie was a skilled seamstress, loved animals and the outdoors, and had a green thumb. She is survived by her husband, Henry Barton; children Otto and Sophia; her parents, Bill and Maggie Matyastik of Waco; and two brothers and four sisters.
- **Betti Louise King '74** passed away May 21 at the age of 63. Betti earned her degree in Business Administration and spent her career serving veterans, retiring in 2011. Betti was well-known for supporting projects for her children and extended family -- including working with husband Chuck King on creating elaborate floats for the Veteran's Day parade in downtown Waco. Betti was preceded in death by Chuck shortly after her retirement and is survived by two daughters and a number of other family members.
- **Clarification:** In the May 15 issue, we remembered **Billy Joe (B.J.) Kelley '59**, who passed away March 28, 2015, at the age of 81. When we noted that he is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carolyn Young Kelley, we failed to mention that she graduated from Baylor in 1958. Our apologies for the oversight.

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](#). We'd also appreciate ideas for Line Notes blog posts through either of these channels. Thanks.

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