



Oct. 29, 2015

Between the Lines

A publication of the Baylor Alumni Association

New *Baylor Line* Hits the Streets: The cover story of the Fall 2015 issue of the *Baylor Line* on U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy '86 has generated a few letters saying it crossed the line into "partisan journalism." I spoke to one person Wednesday who provided one piece of feedback that I can address right now: The lack of a byline on the article was not intentional; it was written by me, Peter Osborne, and if you want to comment either way on what was designed to be an introduction to someone who many readers did not even know was a Baylor grad, please feel free to drop me a note at peter@bayloralumniassociation.com or [make a comment on our website right here](#). We welcome your thoughts.

If you haven't received the issue, it's because we didn't have your current address, the USPS is taking its time, you haven't renewed your Annual membership in the past two years, or you need to join the BAA. [If you renew or join by using this link](#), we will get a copy of the new issue right out to you and you'll also regain the right to vote on any issue affecting the future direction of the BAA. If you need to update your mailing address, please send a note to Kellie@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com

Recently Published on the Line Notes Blog

- [BAA Legacy Scholar: Allie Small's story](#): One of 25 alums or current students at Baylor, aka "our family school." You can find 14 of them in Section 110 at McLane Stadium for home games
- [Baylor Family Loses Two of Its Oldest Alumni](#): In June, BaylorProud identified Dr. McDonald Held '33 and Geneva Hughes '31 as the university's two oldest alumni. Both have passed away since then.
- [Baylor Legacy Scholar: David Carr's story](#): David remembers Oct. 23, 2010, as the day he knew he'd come to Baylor -- it was another Homecoming that included a big rainstorm.
- [BAA Legacy Scholar: Corrie Coleman](#): Her great-great grandfather arrived at Baylor in 1875, but Corrie's decision to attend Baylor centered more on our tradition of serving others.
- [Getting to Know...Trey Gowdy](#). If you didn't get the issue and are wondering what all the fuss is about, here's an online version of the story.

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.

BAA Information

- **Litigation Update:** [The Waco Trib published a story on an Oct. 22 pretrial hearing](#) that addressed a number of topics including the university's request to push back the date of the trial to July. The two parties ultimately agreed to move the trial date to March 28.

- **Facebook Followers:** The BAA publishes 6-7 posts per week, on average, on a variety of topics. Just because your "Liked" the BAA doesn't mean you will actually see our updates, even if we "boost" the posts. Go to the BAA page and click on the "LIKED" button and select "Get Notifications." That way, if we post something and it does NOT show up in your newsfeed (note that MOST do NOT), you will receive a notification.
- **The Perfect Stocking Stuffer!** Cooler weather has led to a spike in sales of Baylor BattleHands spirit gloves, particularly among parents buying them for their children for Christmas (because who wouldn't want something to stash away two months early). [The gloves sell for \\$19.99](#) with proceeds benefiting Legacy Scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Baylor Alumni. Don't be the only person in your row at McLane Stadium -- or at any other Baylor sports or arts event -- without a pair!
- We are updating our mailing list for the Baylor Black Alumni Club. If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from this organization, please let us know at baylorline@bayloralumniassociation.com and please be specific that you want to be added to that list.
- If you would like to change the e-mail address where you're receiving Between the Lines (or if someone else forwarded this e-mail to you and you want to receive it going forward), please drop a note to Kellie@BaylorAlumniAssociation.com

Alumni (And Future Alumni) News

- **Scotty Gray '55** has published "Hermeneutics of Hymnody" through Smyth & Helwys, and also delivered a paper on that topic to the International Conference of Hymn Societies at Cambridge University.
- **John Roppolo '61** has been named Volunteer of the Year by the City of Carrollton, TX. He is secretary of Metrocrest Services, a member of the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Carrollton's representative to the Dallas County Historical Commission, and works with many other organizations.
- **Dr. Harry "Fred" Tibbals III '65**, a longtime professor who has devoted his career to improving the design of complex systems for performing challenging tasks across such areas as vision to childbirth to NASA life-support systems, received the university's Meritorious Achievement Award in the category of Contributions to the Professions: Research.
- **Dr. Michael Attas '69**, chief cardiologist at Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center for 20+ years and founding director of Baylor's Medical Humanities program, received the university's Meritorious Achievement Award in the category of Contributions to the Professions: Medicine.
- **Alan Beason '76** received the Harry J. Harwick Lifetime Achievement Award from the Medical Group Management Association at its national conference in Nashville earlier this month. Alan is CEO/Administrator of Cardiovascular Consultants in Shreveport, LA. The award recognizes individuals who have made nationally recognized contributions to healthcare administration, delivery, and/or education in their careers.
- **Debora Alsup '80, JD '82**, was elected to the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocate (Texas CASA) board of directors. She is a trial partner at Thompson & Knight in Austin. Her three-year term will begin Jan. 1, 2016. Alsup was also recognized as a "Future Star-Texas" in Benchmark Litigation 2016.
- **Bob Roberts MPA '81** received a lifetime achievement award for accounting from Arkansas Business. Roberts is senior vice president and chief financial officer of Baptist Health, Arkansas's largest not-for-profit, full-service hospital system.

- **Steven Currall '82** is one of the finalists for SMU's provost position and visited the campus last week. Currall most recently served as chancellor senior advisor for strategic projects and initiatives at the University of California-Davis, where he coordinated a campus-wide strategic visioning process to develop UC Davis as a university of the 21st century.
- **Dr. Lynda McKnight '82** is directing her eighth production for Houston's Opera in the Heights. "The Medium" will open Oct. 30. McKnight also directs regularly with the University of Houston's Morres Opera Center and serves as a faculty member in Vocal Studies and Opera. A soprano, McKnight made her stage debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1991 and has sung professionally with opera companies and orchestras throughout the world.
- **Thomas Horton '83** has become a senior advisor in Warburg Pincus's Industrials and Business Services Group, where he will assist in identifying and evaluating investment opportunities in the aerospace, industrial, and business services sector. Tom was most recently chairman, president, and CEO of American Airlines, which recently merged with US Airways.
- **Grant Teaff and Donell Teaff '86** were recognized as Legendary Mentors as part of the university's Meritorious Achievement Awards presentation. Grant is the winningest coach in Baylor football history while Donell served 10 years as a Baylor Regent and was president of the Baylor Roundtable.
- **Laura Lee Pirtle '87, '89**, of Prosper, TX, has become an independent travel agent with Inteletravel and has started Castles, Cruises, and Culture Travel.
- **Billy Ray '95 and Dawn Ray '98** were presented the Pro Ecclesia award as part of the university's Meritorious Achievement Awards presentation for their work as missionaries serving ISIS refugees in northern Iraq. They currently work with World Orphans to meet the needs of 600+ refugees just 75 miles from the frontlines.
- **Hunter M Barrow '95** was named "Local Litigation Star" in Texas by Benchmark Litigation 2016. Barrow is a partner in Thompson & Knight's Houston office.
- **Victor Boutros '98**, a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, was named Baylor's Young Alumnus of the Year. He is recognized as one of America's leading criminal and civil rights attorneys.
- **Chip Gaines '98 and Joanna Gaines '01**, were recognized as Baylor's Alumni of the Year for their work as stars of the HGTV show *Fixer Upper* and for the opening of their new Magnolia Market at the Silos in downtown Waco.
- **Sue Mayborn '01** received the Pro Texana award as part of the university's Meritorious Achievement Awards presentation. Sue is the president/owner of Mayborn Enterprises, which played a major role in the building of the Sue and Frank Mayborn Natural Science and Cultural History Museum at Baylor.
- **Whitney Wichkoski Ellis '06 and Daniel Ellis '07** of Waco announce the birth of Future Baylor Bear Clay Henry Ellis on Oct. 3, 2014. Look for a picture in the next issue of the Baylor Line.
- **Dr. Sumith Rao Madhavarapu '06** has joined Connecticut Children's Medical Center division of hospital medicine, returning to where he completed his pediatric residency. He received his bachelor's degree from Baylor.
- **Cayla Wright '10** married James Welsh III, on July 11, 2015, in Houston. The ceremony was held at Second Baptist Church, followed by a reception at the Houston Museum of Natural Science where guests enjoyed Dr Pepper floats. Cayla works at Goldman Sachs in its Private Wealth Management division.
- **Kehri Jones '14** has been named to the 2015-16 USA Bobsled National Team. Jones was a sprinter on the Baylor women track and field team.

- **Sandra Underwood Priest** and husband Larry celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends on Oct. 24, 2015. Sandra was a social worker in Elder Services at MHMR before her retirement as the marketing director for Interim Health Care Agencies in Waco, Bryan, and Austin.
- Twelve Baylor students have been selected for the William Hillis Scholar in Biomedical Sciences Program. The program, which was named for **Dr. William B. Hillis '53**, is designed to recognize high-achieving undergraduate prehealth students and to better equip them for the competitive application processes for both graduate programs and medical school. The first 12 Hillis Scholars are David Crawford (Flower Mound, TX), Kyra Curtis (Colorado Springs, CO), Appie Ghali (Arlington, TX), Alice Knaeble (Stillwater, MN), Alexa Larsen (Hawthorn Woods, IL), Isaac Lill (Austin, TX), Austin MacDonald (Tucson, AZ), Mallory Myers (Aurora, CO), Jeremy Sieker (Denver, CO), Jonathan Siktberg (Nashville, TN), Mary Taylor Tillman (Aledo, TX), and Sarah Tucker (Houston, TX).

University News

- Baylor's Board of Regents announced the first phase of a planned golf-practice facility next to the Willis Family Equestrian Center on University Parks Drive that will be named in honor of Billy Williams '63, who provided (with his family) a multi-million-dollar gift for the project. In other board action, Regents approved restoring the Dallas-based Louise Herrington School of Nursing as a freestanding academic unit. [For a full accounting of the Regents Homecoming meeting, you can go here to the press release issued by the university.](#)
- Baylor officials celebrated the dedication of the Rosenbalm Fountain, which was made possible by an \$8 million gift by **Dr. Thomas Rosenbalm '50, MA '51**, in honor of his late parents.
- Weather forced Baylor to cancel its annual homecoming bonfire and fireworks on Friday night and its parade on Saturday morning and to move other activities including Extravaganza, Friday Night Flashback, and Pep Rally to the Waco Convention Center. Full coverage of Homecoming activities can be found on the Baylor.edu website.
- Officials with the ministry of religious activities for the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee granted **Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary** permission to establish a broad-based partnership with three Cuban Baptist seminaries and authorized **Baylor University Pressto** provide a basic theological library for every Christian seminary student in Cuba.
- The **Baylor University Libraries** dedicated classroom space in memory of **Dennis Campbell**, who passed away earlier this year. Campbell joined Baylor in 2006 and served as senior academic consultant in the Electronic Library. He was instrumental in the design, implementation, and maintenance of technology in learning spaces across the Baylor campus.
- Baylor was recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for its conservation and recycling practices, which range from erecting energy-efficient buildings to planting community gardens and urging students to take shorter showers.
- The national Campus Kitchen Project has recognized the Baylor Campus Kitchen program as an example of best practices and plans to include it in an upcoming publication that will reach nearly 50 member schools throughout the country. Campus Kitchen volunteers at Baylor work to improve health and fight hunger by diverting food waste from dining halls, growing food on campus, and preparing meals for local agencies that feed the hungry. [The Waco Trib did an article on the program.](#)
- Baylor has been ranked No. 9 among the nation's top 100 evangelical Christian colleges by Newsmax, which chose its top 100 from about 600 Christian-affiliated institutions. Liberty University ranked first.
- Lauren Cox, the nation's top basketball recruit, announced that she will sign with the Baylor Lady

Bears when the NCAA's early signing period opens Nov. 11. It will be the second time the Lady Bears have landed the No. 1 recruit, following Brittney Griner in 2009.

In Memoriam

- **Baylor's two oldest alumni (according to [BaylorProud in a June article](#)) have passed away at the age of 105 in the past two months:**
 - **McDonald Held '33 passed away Aug. 11 in Billings, MT, where he and his wife Beverly had lived for 45 years. Beverly passed away eight months before Don.**
 - **Geneva Hughes '31 passed away Oct. 17. She was a school teacher for more than 50 years. She graduated the year the then-Baylor President Samuel Pamer Brooks delivered his famous Immortal Message where he said "to you I hand the torch."**
- **Carleen Bright '36** passed away Oct. 21, 2015, at the age of 100. She was the only woman to serve on the 15-member Charter Commission to write the original charter for the city of Woodway and was later elected to the Woodway City Council, on which she served for 30 years, 20 as mayor pro tem. She also taught for 30 years, first at A&M Consolidated Elementary School and later at Alamo Heights in San Antonio. The 16-acre Carleen Bright Arboretum was named in her honor. [The Waco Trib did a great story on Carleen Bright's life.](#)
- **Edwinna Kirkpatrick Janert '61** passed away Sept. 27, 2015, a few weeks short of her 76th birthday. A resident of San Antonio, she was a teacher for nearly 35 years in Colorado, including 34 years on Lackland Air Force Base. Edwinna is survived by her husband of 51 years, Gerald (Jerry) Janert; and brothers-in-law Rob and Ron Janert and their families.
- **Mark Daniel "Dan" McLean '67** passed away Nov. 16, 2014, in Houston at the age of 69. Dan served in the U.S. Army for two years, including an assignment in Germany where he used his remarkable language skills to monitor radio broadcasts of the Russian military emanating from East Berlin. He then spent the next 30 years as a foreign-language teacher at Blinn College in Brenham, TX, and then at North Harris County Community College. He is survived by his brothers, Rod McLean of Waco and Jim McLean of Richardson, TX.
- **Kenneth McFarland (Ken) Stockdale '68** passed away Oct. 20, 2015, at the age of 70 at his home in Denton. Ken was Baylor's quarterback from 1963 to 1967, and married his high-school sweetheart Kathryn Lee (Kathy) Smith in December 1967. Following graduation, Ken and Kathy moved to Fayetteville, AK, where Ken coached under the legendary Frank Broyles at the University of Arkansas. He was a Realtor for many years and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Denton-Wise County Association of Realtors in 2013. Ken is survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathy, and by his three children and grandchildren.
- **Katherine Jeanne Thompson MSED '68** passed away Oct. 14, 2015, five days after her 95th birthday. Jeanne graduated from Kansas with a BA in music and later earned her MA in counseling from Baylor. She retired from the Waco school district in 1980 after 30+ years of service. Jeanne was a 50-year charter member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a service organization for women educators. Her husband "Tommy" Thompson was chairman of the Psychology department at Baylor and passed away suddenly in 1979. She is survived by four children and their families, which includes four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren and her sister and her family.
- **Kay Landis Curry, MS '79**, passed away Oct. 22, 2015 at the age of 69. Kay's ancestors were the founders of St. Joseph, MO, where she grew up and met her future husband, Jim Curry, who was a professor of political science at Baylor. Kay earned her real estate broker's license in 1978, opened Kay Curry Realtors, and sold hundreds of properties over the next 36 years until her death. She is survived by her husband; her children, Dr. Douglas Curry of Ladue, MO, and Dr. Mary Curry Dickerson of Baton Rouge, LA, and their families, which includes five grandchildren; two sisters, and a host of other family members.

- **Professor Paul Armitstead** passed away Oct. 13, 2015, at the age of 84. Armitstead was a professor of history at Baylor from 1961 to 2002. He is survived by his two daughters and his brother. Baylor alumni saluted Professor Armitstead on the BAA Facebook page in a post that was published on Oct. 15.
- **Professor Elden Barrett** passed away Oct. 24, 2015, at the age of 76. Dr. Barrett served as a faculty member in Baylor's School of Education for nearly 30 years and retired in 2011 as Professor Emeritus of Curriculum and Instruction. He served in a variety of public-school positions before beginning his career at Baylor, and was known as an authority on assertive discipline. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and two children and their families.

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.