

# Maciel named president at Baptist University of the Americas

May 11, 2007

Updated: 5/11/07

## Maciel named president at Baptist University of the Americas

**By Brad Russell**

*Baptist University of the Americas*

SAN ANTONIO—René Maciel, assistant dean at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, has been named president of the [Baptist University of the Americas](#), effective Aug. 6.

Baptist University of the Americas' trustees elected Maciel, 48, at their May 7 meeting.

René Maciel
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# San Marcos Academy students learn value of service

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San  
Marcos  
Baptist  
Academy  
students  
loaded  
50 boxes  
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books  
into a  
truck for  
donation  
to Rural  
Nigerian  
Outreach  
project.

## San Marcos Academy students learn value of service

[San Marcos Baptist Academy](#) volunteers collected 50 boxes of used books to help schools, hospitals and rural outposts in Nigeria, and an eighth-grade Boy Scout at the academy led his peers to build a wildlife observation

platform for a new San Marcos park.

The academy provided textbooks that were no longer needed—as well as several outdated-but-functional computers and other supplies—to Rural Nigerian Outreach.

“Teachers change books, courses change, or texts become outdated for our students,” said Bob Bryant, school principal of the academy. “It is a real joy to know that these perfectly good books are going to be put back into service and be used where they are so desperately needed.”

John Myers completed his Eagle Scout service project by leading members of the academy’s National Honor Society, other volunteers from the academy and members of Boy Scout Troop 1954 to construct a wooden wildlife observation platform for a new park in their city.

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## Around the State

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## Around the State

- **East Texas Baptist University** has expanded its annual writers’ conference from one day to two, June 1-2. Twenty-three presenters will be included this year, with Friday’s activities beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday will begin at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$60, with a \$20 discount offered to high school and college students. The fee covers a luncheon on Saturday. Registration deadline is May 28. For more information, call (903) 923-2083.

Justin Murphy, director of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom and professor of history at Howard Payne University, dressed as George Washington as a means of building interest among students for “American Revolution Week.” The week was designed to give students an opportunity to study a historical period through a range of experiences outside the classroom. In addition to re-enactments by professors of scenes from the time period, a fife-and-drum corps also played around the campus, and special lectures about the time period were conducted. The week was rounded out with the Williamsburg Faire, complete with booths run by student organizations that included corset lace-up, knife throwing and a May pole. Artisans also demonstrated glassblowing, soap making and blacksmithing.

- **Houston Baptist University** held a naming ceremony for the Joella and

Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center and the Belin Chapel. A special naming ceremony paid tribute to the Morrises, whose financial contributions made the arts center possible. Morris also was among the founders of the university and twice served as chairman of the board of trustees. The Belin Chapel is named for Mary Ann and Bruce Belin. The arts complex will be dedicated in October.

- **Ron Smith**, senior professor of theology at Hardin-Simmons University, has retired after 28 years of service.
- **Dallas Baptist University** has created a new dual 54-hour master of arts degree. The master of arts in Christian education/master of business administration degree primarily will be offered through evening and online courses. For more information, call (214) 333-5242.

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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

### [The Road to Unafraid](#)

By Jeff Struecker with Dean Merrill (W Publishing Group)

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Mark Bowden's 1999 bestseller *Black Hawk Down* vividly visualized the story of the 1993 "Battle of Mogadishu," the U.S. Army's Delta Force and

Ranger raid to capture two senior lieutenants of Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia.

One of those U.S. Army Rangers who was a part of that harrowing and heroic experience was Capt. Jeff Struecker.

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## Baptist Briefs

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## Baptist Briefs

**New Baptist Covenant launches website.** The New Baptist Covenant has launched [www.newbaptistcovenant.org](http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org), a website that provides information about the Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant event, slated for Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Atlanta. In addition to providing general information about the celebration, the website also offers opportunities for volunteer involvement. Information on housing, transportation and needs for large room blocks also will be posted on the site.

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**Olive named Bluefield president.** David Olive will be the next president of Bluefield College, a Virginia Baptist school, effective July 1. Olive, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Pfeiffer University in Charlotte, N.C., will be the ninth president in Bluefield's 85-year history. Olive has worked at Pfeiffer since 1998. Before Pfeiffer, Olive served three

years as director of charitable gift planning at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., two years as a legal advocate for students at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and one year as the coordinator of alumni and development programs at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn. He is a licensed attorney and an ordained minister with a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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## **Cartoon**

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## **Baptists care for disasterâs youngest victims**

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# Baptists care for disaster's youngest victims

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

CACTUS—When a tornado hit Cactus, calls poured in from across the state to offer help. Among them was First Baptist Church in Borger, which sent cases of bottled water, disposable baby diapers and other supplies to the devastated Panhandle community.

“It’s good to see how God can put into people’s hearts to help,” said Delilah Rosales, a pastor’s daughter. “It’s a big, big blessing.”



Licensed  
daycare  
workers  
helped  
parents  
check in  
children in  
Cactus,  
where they  
found  
refuge and  
rest in the  
Texas  
Baptist  
Men  
Emergency  
Child care  
Unit.

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## **DOWN HOME: Sheâs a young dog; will she do tricks?**

May 11, 2007

Posted: 5/11/07

# **DOWN HOME:**

## **She's a young dog; will she do tricks?**

We took Topanga to school, but I should've worn the dunce cap.

Topanga is our 5-month-old puppy. Years ago, she would've been called a mutt. Today, she's a cava-tsu, a mix between a cavalier King Charles spaniel and a shih tsu. So, she looks like a shih tsu but has a spaniel's floppy, frolicky, I'm-just-happy-to-be-here disposition.

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When Joanna told me we signed up for the training course, I figured Topanga's class would be composed of four or five dogs. I figured wrong. It looked more like a dog zoo, with probably 25 to 30 canines. Everything from a Great Dane named Django to a chihuahua named Sonic, who looked like Django's snack.

I thought we were OK but quickly knew we were in trouble when the teacher began by announcing, "Of course, we've (she was speaking on behalf of the dogs) all learned our names and how to sit."

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## **EDITORIAL: Broad support for a really bad idea**

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# EDITORIAL:

## Broad support for a really bad idea

While he probably meant well, state Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer's ["tax-free gas" proposal](#) represents a troubling tendency. We want to have our cake and eat it too. Or, more specifically, we want to have our gas guzzlers and drive cheaply too.

Reacting to gasoline prices that have been bumping the \$3-per-gallon range, the San Antonio Democrat suggested the state suspend its 20-cents-per-gallon gas tax for 90 days this summer. "My constituents are saying, 'Gas is too high,'" Fischer explained, noting the temporary gas-tax repeal could save a Texas couple about \$100. Those family savings would add up to about \$500 million to \$700 million in lost revenue, set aside for highway construction and public education. Fischer suggested the shortfall could be covered by the state's \$8 billion surplus, which has been earmarked for school property tax cuts and the state's Rainy Day Fund.



Fischer's House colleagues apparently followed his logic. They approved his amendment 118-16. But the measure is not a done deal. It requires Senate approval, and senators seem more inclined to favor property tax breaks than lower numbers at the gas pump.

The "tax-free gas" plan is plain wrong, on several levels. Unfortunately, the proposal:

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# Faith Digest

May 11, 2007

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## Faith Digest

**Christian worship expert Webber dies.** Robert Webber, an influential expert on Christian worship, died April 27 in Sawyer, Mich., after suffering from pancreatic cancer. He was 73. Webber, a professor of ministry at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Ill., the last seven years, previously spent 32 years as a professor of theology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., where he remained professor emeritus. Webber wrote more than 40 books, including *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail*, *Worship Is a Verb* and *Ancient-Future Faith*.

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**Citizenship process delayed for Muslims.** U.S. immigration officials discriminate against Muslims when processing citizenship applications, a New York University Law School think tank study reports. Since 9/11, increased security checks of citizenship applications “have illegally delayed the processing of thousands of applications from Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern and South Asian men,” in part because of the perception they are more likely to be terrorists, the report said. A government official took issue. “The allegations are categorically false. We treat every application, every petition the same, and conduct the same background checks regardless of name, ethnicity or religion,” said Christopher Bentley, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services.

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# Does Gore trump Gideons at hotel?

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## Does Gore trump Gideons at hotel?

**By Charles O'Toole**

*Religion News Service*

SAN FRANCISCO (RNS)—Reports that Al Gore has replaced God—at least in one California hotel—have been greatly exaggerated, the hotel's developer said.

The [Gaia Napa Valley Hotel and Spa](#), located 35 miles north of San Francisco, made headlines after a media report that each of the hotel rooms contained a copy of Gore's environmental book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, but no Gideon Bible.

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# House extends hate crimes law to include violence against homosexuals

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## House extends hate crimes law to include violence against homosexuals

**By Philip Turner**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The House of Representatives has voted to extend hate crimes legislation to add protections for homosexuals, bisexuals and people with gender-identity issues in the same way people are protected because of race or creed.

Democratic leaders called it a civil rights victory, but conservatives and some church leaders argued the bill gives gays special rights and threatens the free speech of ministers who preach homosexuality is immoral.