

THE RIFT

BAYLOR AND WACO:

Bridging the gap between two worlds



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Practicing a different faith in a Baptist town.

Some suggestions for downtown Waco

There's an old saw that gets repeated with some frequency around Baylor.

It goes, "There's nothing to do that's fun around Waco."

Well, to some extent that's true. Encouraging growth downtown has been the goal of various organizations in Waco for nearly 50 years.

While we are sure that these various organizations have been doing their jobs to the best of their abilities, it seems that little progress has been made in the way of establishing a stable community of businesses and residences downtown.

Downtown has certainly grown recently, but it seems that there's still not enough to attract a bustling group of students every night of the week or even reliably over the weekends.

However, it for all the work and input that has been gone into improving downtown one voice has been overlooked — the voice of students.

Waco has a fairly sizeable university right next to downtown, a large community college not far away and a technical college. All of these schools have students with money — some admittedly more than others — that they spend on entertainment and food. Tapping this market will be crucial to the revitalization of Waco's downtown.

To that end, we have put together some suggestions of things that downtown Waco could use to get students downtown and get them to stay downtown: Dance hall, yoga studio, dueling piano bar, street food vendors, a riverboat, downtown trolley system, Pedicabs, Alamo Draft House-style theater, a dedicated outdoor concert venue, more boutique shops, a downtown grocery store, a convenience store, multiple walkup ATMs, a local all-night diner, jazz

clubs, cheap food, a place to buy smokes and beverages, better public transportation, moderately priced dining and a good coffee shop/hangout spot.

Like we said, just a few. There is obviously much more that can be done and some of these are less serious than others, but they all come from places with bustling city centers.

The walkup ATMs are especially important. When people eat their dinner and decide to walk around downtown to find something to do, incidental costs might arise and people need an easy way to get cash to spend.

Another important aspect is price.

So many downtown restaurants have failed to garner the business they needed for long-term survival because they were out of reach for many students and even most Wacoans. The Green Room, Sebas Cocina, Garrett's and Gratziano's — to name a few — have all been upscale downtown dining that failed to make the grade.

We need relatively cheap dining and entertainment downtown and everything that goes with it. That means we need easier ways to get downtown, easier ways to get money downtown, and more to do so our trips aren't seemingly wasted on one mediocre meal.

Baylor students want to get involved in downtown life— we do. Its just not easy for us to justify the time and money right now.

Some of us already are, though. These pioneers are helping to shape the nature of the Baylor/Waco relationship and as a group may have a greater impact on Waco's future than anyone in the past 50 years.

Read on as the Baylor Lariat explores what divides Baylor and Waco and what is bringing us together.

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Finding Waldo in Waco...how BU students stand out

By Jessica Chia
REPORTER

On a scale of one to ten, how easy is it to spot a Baylor student out in the Waco community? To get the scoop, I interviewed members in the community in the aisles of WalMart. I asked shoppers which signs identified Baylor Bears outside of their natural habitat.

The No. 1 one way respondents said they could spot Baylor students was by Baylor or Baylor-related T-shirts, jerseys, shorts, caps, auto decals and accessories.

"A lot of times they're in Baylor shirts or have got some kind of Baylor logo on them someplace," said Clint Anderson, 49, of Waco.

Of the 12 respondents who mentioned Baylor gear as an identifying factor, four said it was the only marker they could think of.

The second most common response concerned Baylor students' general appearance.

For the most part, people said generally positive things about Baylor students' dress and appearance. Adjectives included youthful, attractive, nicely-dressed, athletic, preppy and well-kept.

Dress is also a distinguishing factor.

"They dress like college students. Socks and flip flops," said Angela Schulz, 40, of Waco.

Six respondents mentioned t-shirts specifically as one of the identifying markers of a Baylor student.

One respondent said she found Baylor students' dress simply inappropriate.

"They dress half-naked," said Ann Johnson, 55, of Waco.

Responses concerning attitude came in third place.

Johnson weighed in on this as well.

"They're very disrespectful. They don't have any manners," Johnson said.

Unlike Johnson, five other respondents found Baylor students to be pleasant or at least harmless.

Attitude descriptors mentioned by respondents were nice, perky, outgoing, dignified, pleasant, courteous and polite.

Another respondent added "confused" to the list.

"I don't know if it's because they're away from home, or just because they don't know Waco," said Kelly, 33, of Waco, who declined to give her last name.

Finally, the fourth most common tip-off mentioned: Baylor students travel in packs.

"Rarely do you see one at a time," said Allen Clark, 38, of Waco. "It's usually a group of college-age kids."

This response was cited by four different respondents, one of whom also mentioned speed as a factor.

"They'll have two or three in a group. They move more rapidly, just like zing, zing, zing," said Joe Singer, 53, of Waco.

"They're real quick, especially the girls," he said.

Only two respondents said they could identify Baylor students without reference to clothing, dress or age.

Other respondents saw few distinctions.

"There's no real tip-off. Just by what they wear. Nothing social-wise," said Karen Darcy, 44, of Waco, who is also an alumna.

One resident said he didn't see a distinction at all.

"I really can't. I've lived in Waco all my life, so to me, everyone's just a person," said Gary Brink, 62, of Waco.



How attractive is Waco to graduating students?

By Linda Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

College is a time of transition.

Some arrive knowing they'll go on to jobs in other cities or return to families and hometowns, but others stay.

Some Baylor alumni have found a home in Waco, living in and giving back to the community where they received their higher education.

After finishing his undergraduate degree from Baylor, alumnus Justin McBride started an internet company based in Waco in April that sells eco-friendly stationery and products like pens.

"I stayed in Waco mostly because I had a lot of friends still here in Waco and there wasn't anything for me in my hometown," McBride said.

McBride said he hadn't envisioned staying in Waco when he first came to Baylor his freshman year.

"My original plan was to go to medical school somewhere, but from freshman year, your plans change a lot by the time you graduate," McBride said.

McBride said the community he found in his church Korean United Methodist Church also influenced his decision to stay.

"I started going to a church here my freshman year," McBride said. "I still go to that church, so I've made a lot of good relationships here."

McBride said he was involved with the Waco community throughout his undergraduate experience.

He said the organizations he was in that facilitated community involvement were Medical Service Organization, Korean Student

Association and American Student Dental Association.

"We'd do things like go out to lower-income areas and hang out with kids, play with kids there," McBride said. "I

always did Steppin' Out. All the community involvement I have right now is through our church and we randomly go take food to homeless people.

Our church also goes to Friday morning breakfast with Mission Waco."

McBride said he believes Baylor does a lot to influence the Waco community.

"Honestly, just from my general perspective, it seems like Baylor and Waco are two totally separate things, and I feel like Baylor helps Waco survive," he said.

McBride said Baylor helps Waco in many ways. For example many Baylor students frequent the local businesses and restaurants.

Baylor also has a variety of student programs that try to connect Baylor and Waco.

"Waco is important to Baylor because it provides a somewhat humbling experience," McBride

said. "With the poverty rate so high here in Waco, I find that it's much easier to be thankful for the things we have and often take for granted after seeing and experiencing how others who are less fortunate live. Hopefully we can continue to learn and grow with each other."

McBride said he thinks alumni don't stay in Waco

because they don't

Tran, who graduates in May, said she is not necessarily opposed to staying in Waco, but her decision depends on the job market.

"I didn't think I would ever stay in Waco, but it's grown on me over the past four to four-and-a-half years," Tran said. "It's grown to be called my home. I never did think coming in I would want to move to Waco or possibly move here permanently."

Tran said she's really enjoyed interacting with the community outside of Baylor.

"My greatest experience outside of Baylor, is outside of Baylor, I've become more aware of what the community does for each other," Tran said. "There are so many great social service agencies in Waco. Everyone has a great heart as a whole in Waco, which is something I appreciate and love."

Jillian Buttecali graduated in May and found a job in North Houston but left for a different opportunity in Waco.

"My new job is with the Dwyer Group, which is well respected," Buttecali said. "The CEO is a Baylor Bear and when I was offered the position, I jumped at it. There's a lot more room for growth and they

have an incentive to

stay in Waco.

"If Baylor offered alumni an incentive or a reason to stay, I think they would," McBride said.

McBride said one way Baylor could motivate alumni to stay would be through the McLean Student Life Center.

"What would be cool is offer an alumni plan at the SLC or at least a half-off charge at the SLC," McBride said. "There's not that kind of plan at the SLC and it's \$10 per trip. If Baylor offered alumni an incentive, a reason to stay, I think they would."

Some students may not decide to stay in Waco indefinitely but decide to stay a little longer after receiving their undergraduate degree and pursue post-baccalaureate work at Baylor in the form of graduate school or law school.

Baylor 2012 alumna Melissa Tran is currently a graduate student in Baylor's Master of Social Work program.

"I thought about going to a school out of state, and I actually made the decision to do that, but when I made it, I felt really uneasy about it," Tran said. "In the end, Baylor was a year-long program and I got an internship in Dallas, so it made it easier for me to commute back and forth."

Tran also cited the community she found at Baylor as a reason she decided to stay.

"It was easier to be somewhere I already knew and be around community that was already established," Tran said.

Melissa Tran

Waco is an extension of that."

understand the value of a Baylor education." The CEO of the Dwyer group is Dina Dwyer-Owens, who attended Baylor from 1981 to 1983.

Buttecali said when she graduated and left Waco, she felt like she was leaving home.

She said she hadn't expected to feel so close to Baylor and Waco when she first came here.

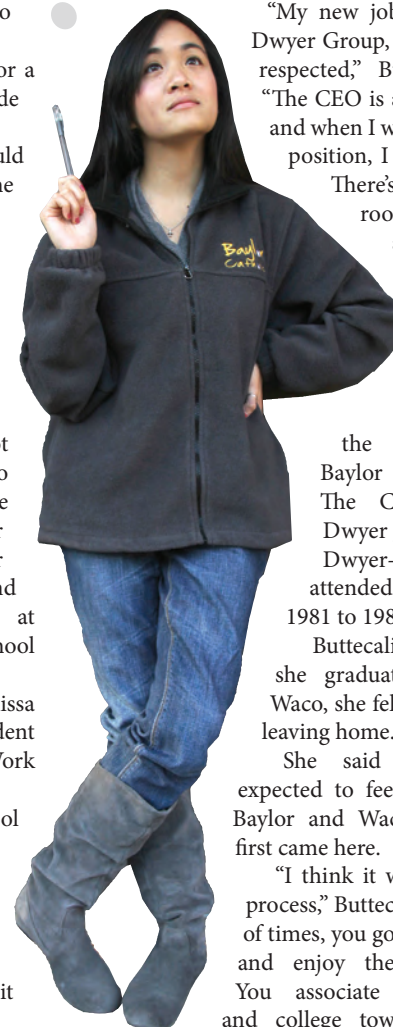
"I think it was a gradual process," Buttecali said. "Lots of times, you go off to college and enjoy the experience. You associate the college and college town as home. Gradually I became more and more in love with Baylor, and



Justin McBride



Jillian Buttecali
Courtesy Photo



Students challenged with the Passport to Waco

By Jocelyn Fowler
REPORTER

Grab your passports and prepare for an adventure with the Baylor student government. Destination: Waco, Texas.

Starting next semester, students will once again be able to participate in a program from student government called Passport Waco. Late last semester, former external vice president Angela Oliver began the program with positive reception, but did not have the chance to develop it due to a lack of time.

Current external vice president Briana Treadaway has revamped the program in hopes of bridging the gap between the Baylor and Waco communities.

The program enlists the help of several local businesses to get Baylor students into the Waco community. Students involved in the program will receive passports and get stamps as they visit participating businesses and make a minimum purchase.

Participating businesses are Oso's Frozen Yogurt, Penguin Pete's, Tres Mexican Restaurant, Outdoor Waco, Vitek's, Baris, Amici's, Jake's Texas Tea House and What About Cupcakes.

Community relations' coordinator Grant Taylor said he hopes the involvement of Waco's distinct establishments will encourage students to step outside of the "Baylor Bubble" and embrace the community they live in.

"The goal of the program is to encourage students to actually get out of the 'Baylor Bubble' and actually experience

Waco," Taylor said. "All of the businesses that participate in our program are privately owned. They're not chains or franchises around the nation. They are grass-root kind of places that are made just for Waco."

The benefit of the program, Taylor says, is two-fold: students get new experiences and local

businesses receive vital support and exposure. The benefits to students do not stop at intangible goods and foods, however. Students who fill a predetermined amount of their passport books will be eligible to receive prizes throughout the duration of Passport Waco.

At the conclusion of the

program, an iPad will be given to the student with the most stamps in his/her book or the winner will be selected from a drawing of all the students who filled their books, depending on participation.

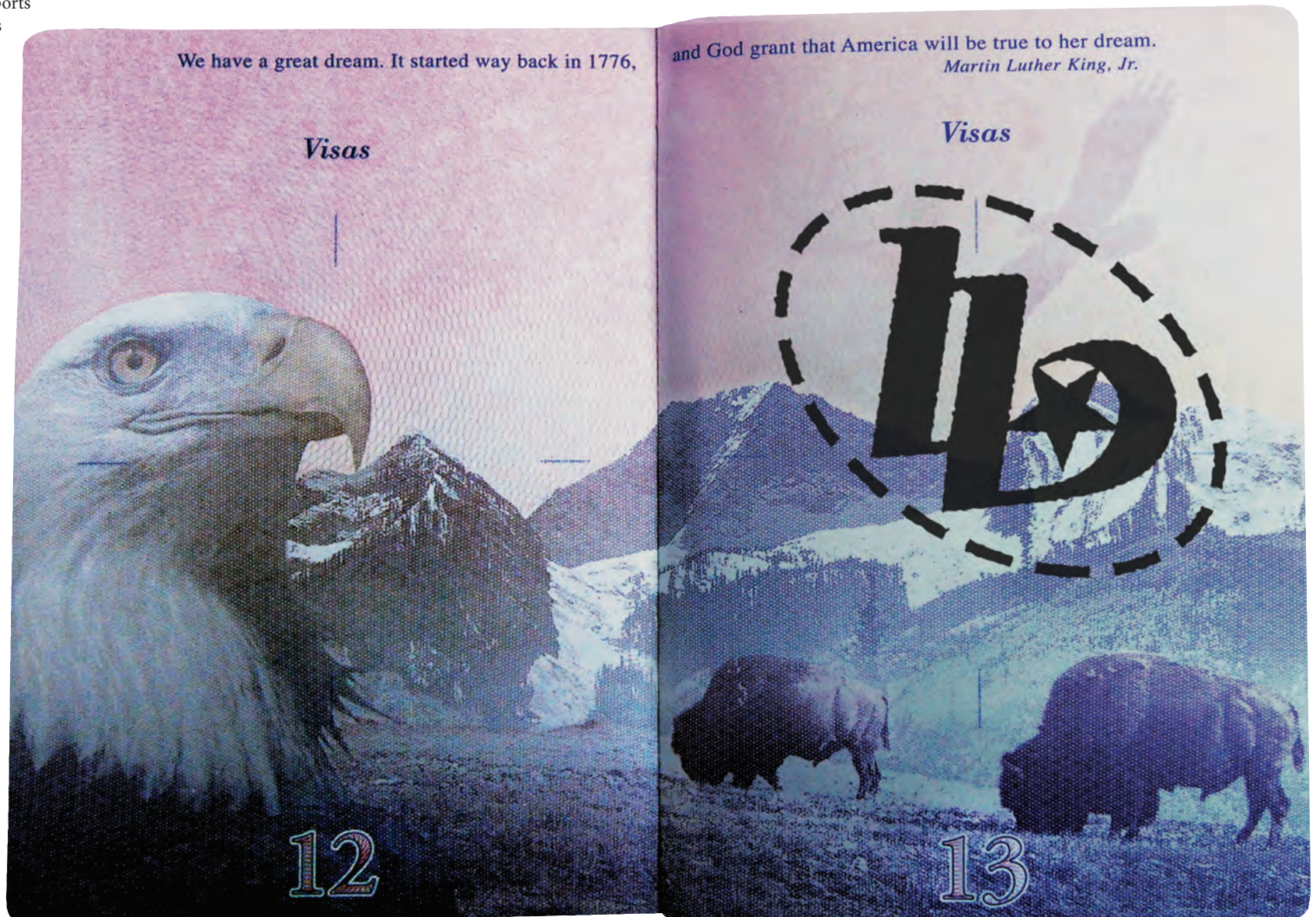
Despite the prizes, Treadaway maintains that the most important aspect of the program is connecting Baylor students with Wacoans.

"Being in Waco, even if you're only going to be here for two or four years, it's still important to meet the locals and see where they got started and see what this community is about," Treadaway said.

Passport Waco will begin in February and last until mid-April. Planning for the program is ongoing. For more information, follow student government social media sites where updates about the program and special contests will be posted.

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Grant Taylor | Community Relations Coordinator



Baylor students help enrich the lives of local kids

By Travis Taylor
REPORTER

When you walk into Mission Waco's Youth Center, it's almost like walking into a high school student's dream hangout spot. Foosball, a pool table and a big screen TV are just a few of the amenities the center offers. But the center isn't just about having fun: It's about education, too.

At Mission Waco's Youth Center, Baylor students work with local high school and middle school students in an after-school program designed to teach kids skills they may not learn in the classroom.

San Antonio senior Jessica Jimenez, a social work major who is the youth director at the center, said the youth program offers classes in cooking, woodshop, music, theater, art and photography.

"We really try to give a wide range of things that our kids will be interested in that teach skills such as math and writing but not in a classroom-style setting," Jimenez said.

The youth center, located in West Waco on North 15th Street and Colcord Avenue, usu-

ally has between 17 to 25 kids, but recently the center has seen more than 30 kids who show up after school, Jimenez said.

"Ever since we changed our program layout and really have focused on doing more non-traditional classes, and trying to get them to learn some skills that will help them at school but don't have them sitting down, a lot of our kids have been bringing their friends and they've been really interested in it," Jimenez said.

The youths attend a number of local schools, including Indian Springs Middle School, Tennyson Middle School, G. W. Carver Middle School and Waco High School.

Jimmy Dorrell, executive director of Mission Waco and lecturer in the George W. Truett Theological Seminary, said work with the area's youth began when he moved into the neighborhood 33 years ago.

"Obviously, children living in poverty and those that are marginalized have a lot of issues," Dorrell said. "So one of the first things that happened when we moved into the neighborhood, we began to have children's clubs and then we built a basketball court at my house, and kids began to come over and play. And through the

years, as Mission Waco developed, the teen program was really important."

The youth program is split into two groups, one that serves the "normal at-risk kids," or those who are in school that struggle with poverty and other issues; one that serves the "throwaway kids," or youths who have dropped out of school and have had issues with the law, Dorrell said.

"We just know that if we don't get in there and deal with them when they are struggling, then they're going to be poor or end up in prison," Dorrell said. "So the sooner we intervene, the more chances they have of making it and the



TRAVIS TAYLOR | REPORTER

Local kids play pool during the after-school program at the Mission Waco Youth Center on Nov. 5. Many Baylor students volunteer at the center to help educate kids about things they don't learn in school.

better for society."

Lansing, Mich., senior Erin Costello, a volunteer at the youth center, said the program is more about forming dependable relationships than simply providing an after-school service.

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Waco school may be down, but it's not out

By Natalie Yeaman and Julian Rueda
CONTRIBUTORS

Crime surrounds them. Yet they hope.

Brook Avenue Elementary teachers are determined to help their students grow academically.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of individuals living below the poverty line in Waco is 16.8 percent. Brook Avenue Elementary is located in Waco.

Brook Avenue officials said the school is 'academically unacceptable,' according to the Texas Education Agency, but test scores have increased over the last four years. The increase indicates that students are better understanding the material they learn at the school.

According to its website, Brook Avenue is committed as a unified team to providing an education of excellence for their students with the support and involvement of parents, community, and Partners in Education, thereby developing lifelong learners with the social and academic skills that will enhance our diverse society.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Brook Avenue Elementary School pose for a picture. The school was rated 'academically unacceptable' this year by the Texas Education Agency.

One academic program the school offers is the after school program.

Afterschool Center on Education allows students who are struggling academically to have safe place, structured and supervised, intended for learning and social interaction, according to the Texas Ace 21 website, a resource for Texas after-school programs. Students must apply to be in this program.

The after school program is federally funded through the 21st Century Community Learning Center program administered by the U.S. De-

"The lesson plans for the after-school programs are designed so that students can learn while having fun."

Emily Netherland | WISD official

partment of Education.

The program is intended to help fund programs that work to enhance local reform efforts. These local reform efforts include helping students meet academic standards in core subjects including math, reading, science and social studies, by providing out-of-school time services to students and their families.

The after-school program is open to 30 students at a time at Brook Avenue because of the

limited number of tutors. All tutors are Baylor students.

Mechelle Mitchell, the after school site manager at Brook Avenue, said students in the program are chosen on a need-basis.

"We have to review the Academic Excellence Indicator System report, grades, attendance and behavior," Mitchell said. "The AEIS report is used to create the lesson plans to aid students who are struggling."

Robinson sophomore Emily Netherland works for Waco Independent School District. She is responsible for creating lesson plans based on the Academic Excellence Indicator System for the after school program.

"The lesson plans for the after-school programs are designed so that students can learn while having fun," Netherland said. "They get to participate in experiments that other students don't."

Students in the after-school program are able to participate in the garden club, which teaches responsibility by keeping students accountable for the fruits and vegetables they grow.

Joshua senior and tutor Colton Dearing said, "The most rewarding thing is seeing the growth of the students that participate in the programs both academically and personally."

Amanda Diaz said the programs offered at Brook Avenue have helped her child, specifically in the area of reading.

Cynthia McDonald said she has kept her child at Brook Avenue because she feels like she can easily communicate with staff and faculty that are involved with the programs.

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"It's important to meet these kids and get to know them," Costello said.

Costello said as a volunteer, she enjoys getting to know the kids, "even if it's pretty chaotic."

"It's not 'stuff these envelopes and send them out,'" Costello added.

Jimenez said the youth center is always looking for volunteers to help with enhancing the education of kids in the program.

"If there are any Baylor or MCC or TSTC students that are big on education or skilled in a particular area, we are always looking for more volunteers that come in specifically to tutor our kids," she said.

Jimenez said college students are especially equipped to help with the non-traditional education that the program provides. Jimenez added that the youth center has two work-study

students from Baylor and that the vast majority of volunteers are Baylor students.

"The number one thing we need are education students who want to do tutoring time," Jimenez said. "Our dream is one tutor for two students."

A.J. Parks Jr., a Waco High junior, has been involved with the youth program since he was in sixth grade.

"The counselors, they're basically like brothers and sisters to me now," Parks said. "I don't see them as counselors; I see them as family."

"This is my home away from home," Parks said.

Students who are interested in volunteering at the Mission Waco Youth Center can find more information about the center and the youth program at www.missionwacoyouth.org.

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Some students are eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced lunch.

This number has increased from 93.8 percent in 2009 to 98.3 percent in 2011, which indicates students' financial situations overall have gotten worse.

Brook Avenue also receives donations from churches, such as Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. Columbus Avenue offers students attending Brook Avenue Elementary uniforms, consisting of khaki pants and a colored polo.

They also offer a mentoring program under the direction of Anne Broadus, director of Kid's Hope ministry.

"They provide professionals from across the city that come weekly to interact with our students as role models, assist mentees with classroom assignments if needed, and oftentimes

come to just be that listening ear," Brook Avenue assistant principal Vicki Stone said.

Brook Avenue also has speakers who have experienced similar situations to the students come talk to the students

Baylor graduate Terrance Ganaway spoke at Brook Avenue.

He told students his experience growing up in a poor family but also told students to "let your actions dictate who you are," according to the Waco ISD website.

Ganaway is the youngest of nine children and was the first person in his family to graduate from college.

He is currently playing football with the St. Louis Rams.

Working toward improvement despite limitations is the motto at Brook Avenue.

BU scholar finds drawback of focusing on family and religion

By Linda Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

You would think a strong interest in religion and family would be a good thing, but a Baylor scholar has identified at least one negative effect: interest in religion and family do not facilitate secular and civic engagement.

Dr. Young-Il Kim, a Postdoctoral Scholar at the Baylor Institute for Religious Studies, published a study in August an online edition of Social Science Research journal titled Bonding alone: Familism, religion, and secular civic participation.

Kim co-authored the study with his dissertation advisor Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox from the University of Virginia.

"I looked at the connections between traditional family values and secular civic participation," Kim said. "When you hold strong orientation toward marriage and the family, you're likely to decrease your involvement in secular voluntary associations."

Kim said his research took unique approach. He said many do not study how an interest in religion and family might affect civic participation.

"When you look at the literature, there is much research on religion and civic engagement and there are lots of research articles on religion and family, but very few look at the connection between family-centered orientation and civic participation and no studies have ever examined interconnections between familism, reli-

gion and secular civic participation," Kim said.

"Given that religion and family as social institutions are strongly tied to each other, I wanted to see how these bonds might inhibit involvement in secular organizations."

Kim said he found religious people without a strong sense of familism tend to be members of secular organizations.

People with a strong sense of familism, a strong commitment to lifelong marriage and childbearing, religious congregations reinforce staying almost exclusively within their social circle.

"This might be news to family-oriented people who are also active in their religious congregations," Kim said.

"Those people may be anxious about the well-being of their family and try to protect their families against secular influences. Or they



The exterior of the Mission Waco Youth Center on 1315 N 15th st.

TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT STAFF

may simply have little time left for secular involvement beyond religious participation. For whatever reasons, familistic people tend to have more exclusive sociability."

Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Jeremy Uecker said Kim's study does a good job of showing how commitment to family and religion conflict with participation in secular activities.

"It's an impressive study," Uecker said in an email to the Lariat. "Kim and Wilcox compellingly show that strong traditional commitments to marriage and family are at odds with

participation in civic life, and that this is exacerbated by participation on civic engagement. It can lead to further insularity among those with strong familistic attitudes."

Kim said his interest on the added affect of religion on family and civic engagement stemmed from his own involvement in his church.

"I don't really think of my research to change people's behavior," Kim said.

"If anything, I must first change myself. It would require some level of intentionality though, particularly living in a city like Waco."

Waco colleges join forces to better higher education

By Amanda Tolentino
REPORTER

Waco is the center of the hustle and bustle of three higher education establishments: Baylor University, McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College.

The relationship between the three institutions is effective because they work together to educate students and develop individual skills for the work force.

Each college collaborates academically with the construction of the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative and the Baylor@MCC co-enrollment program.

TSTC's Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics & Engineering Research (CASPER) will be incorporated into one of the BRIC's research centers. This will be one of the first interdisciplinary activities the center completes.

"CASPER is an interdisciplinary university research center that started out 12 years ago as a process of establishing a lab facility," said Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research, director of CASPER and professor of physics. "There was an agreement between Baylor and TSTC for Baylor to lease a lab space at the TSTC campus."

Hyde said an additional 45,000 square feet will be added to the BRIC for an advanced work force technology training and development for TSTC programs.

TSTC will also provide the BRIC with technological support to Texas businesses, 3D modeling and testing facilities.

Hyde said Baylor has a good partnership with TSTC because the CASPER lab can give TSTC graduates higher starting salaries, and

Baylor students and faculty can learn from TSTC faculty and students about the technology in the lab.

"TSTC is a jewel in the Waco community. It provides training for national labs for students coming out of high school," Hyde said. "It makes both sides stronger and provides the local community with a caliber work force from technicians in the lab to the Ph.D's in the lab."

Another Baylor collaboration is the co-enrollment program with MCC. The program is for students who qualify for Baylor admissions acceptance but cannot be accepted due to space constraints.

"The program is for students who entered the regular admissions pool, but were waitlisted," said Diana Ramey, associate vice president of enrollment management.

During their freshman year of college, students can co-enroll for both institutions

while taking classes at Baylor and MCC. Students can choose to join the program for either one or two years and live in the Kokernot and Martin Residence Halls.

Ramey said she thinks the program has proven to be a great collaboration between the two campuses. Ramey said students can benefit from living on Baylor's campus, as well as getting to know the community more than they would if they had only attended Baylor.

"It's been great for students to develop relationships," Ramey said. "We anticipated the program to be beneficial for Waco students, but we've also received students from outside of Waco and Texas."

Emily Stottlemire, MCC associate professor of child development, said the relationship between faculty and students from each institution is beneficial.

"I think it's favorable for MCC students," Stottlemire said. "It's

great that Baylor recognizes the strengths MCC students have."

Stottlemire said MCC provides a financial opportunity for MCC students that serves as a foundation for them to receive recognition from Baylor.

"You're either Baylor or MCC. I guess I feel that MCC and Baylor are in a way connected, but not very much," said Robinson junior Miriam Hernandez.

Hernandez went to MCC for two years before attending Baylor.

Hallettsville TSTC student Dylan Barton said it would be great if they all worked to pull their resources together. Barton said he has no bias toward Baylor or MCC because each institution educates students differently.

"I think it would be a good idea if somehow students from Baylor could take credits at TSTC and vice versa," Barton said.

Mart TSTC automotive program student Justin Allen said students at Baylor tend to be wealthier than those at TSTC.

"People also tend to think TSTC is not as high up as Baylor, but each one has a different environment setting," Allen said.

Sugar Land TSTC student Stephen Mathews said Baylor plays an important role in Waco.

"Waco is where education is supposed to be and I think that influences MCC and TSTC," said Mathews.

Wylie junior Megan Judd also said Waco is a center for education.

"MCC and TSTC shouldn't be discredited even though they aren't four-year universities. College should be an ultimate goal for people and Waco seems to be at the center of it," Judd said.



BAYLOR

UNIVERSITY

McLennan
Community
College



Waco, Baylor divided by differences in live tunes

By James Herd
REPORTER

Despite Baylor's place in Waco, there could not be a further distance between the two in terms of the live music scene.

Or so it seems.

Live venues on or near campus, such as Common Grounds, have begun to cater to the Baylor audience. According to Wes Butler, the live events coordinator at Common Grounds, the venue has begun its own crossing over between the two atmospheres of Baylor and Waco.

"I feel like we cross over more than most people in the area. We are trying to get in some country shows, because I think that there is a market at Baylor of students that would want to come to those shows that we haven't really offered in

the past," Butler said.

"That's something that we're trying to do to kind of blend those things, capitalize on the market that is here at Baylor, which is our target market just because of our geographic location."

As for the identity that Common Grounds has created for itself in relation to the music scene, Butler said the venue tries to keep the type of performances by bands and musicians consistent.

Butler said Common Grounds tends to look out for its audience through their show selection, but only because he feels that every show should be worth the money that students spend to attend.

"We really try to guard ourself with things that we feel that we can put our full weight behind. We want you to know that it's always going to be a good show. It's always going to be worth your money," Butler said.

Where off-campus mu-

sic is concerned, Kieran O'Connor, manager of local country music venue Wild West, said he believes the separation between the two cultures is for the best. O'Connor said he believes the future will reveal similarities between the two scenes.

"I think in coming years we'll probably see a little more crossover. However, I think there will still be two distinct genres playing and in all honesty, that's a good thing," O'Connor said. "That way, Baylor has their music and their genre, and they can bring in students in their crowd, and we can have the crossovers here or at other locations within Waco. That way it allows for us to focus on country."

"The other thing you have to look at is the venue," O'Connor said. "Common Grounds is a great venue for smaller bands, but when you look at bringing in some of the larger country music bands they're not typically equipped to handle that kind of sound equipment that's necessary."

On-campus, Uproar Records does several things to promote the up-and-coming Baylor artists as they begin their professional music career. Uproar Concert Promotions, a newly formed division of Uproar Records, aims to promote large-scale concerts at larger venues, such as Waco Hall.

Areli Mendoza, assistant vice president of publicity for Uproar Records, said the group, along with Common Grounds, seeks to expose new musicians to the eye of Baylor students.

"I think Common Grounds has done a great job at bringing musicians to Baylor students," Mendoza said.

James Lafayette, the owner of Legacy Cafe in downtown Waco, said he wants Legacy Cafe to be an avenue between the Baylor campus and downtown.

While Legacy Cafe hosts a variety of music, except for hip-hop, and often feature Baylor oriented bands such as Dreamboat, Lafayette said there needs to be a link between the two locations, rather than a separation.

O'Connor said the separation between the Waco and Baylor music scenes could be because of Baylor's Baptist orientation.

"We tend to play a lot of Texas country music. It's bar music. So you get a lot of the songs that come through, that you know country music tends to revolve around you know, drinking, partying, and a lot of things like that, some things that Baylor wouldn't necessarily endorse," O'Connor said.

Butler, however, said the reason Common Grounds often hosts Christian bands is due to the type of students at Baylor.

"We're not bound by anything Baylor. So you know we're not subsidized by Baylor in any way," Butler said. "So we really have the freedom to do whatever we want. The reason that we have so many Christian shows is just because of the market

here, and a lot of us that work here, we really like those artists anyway."

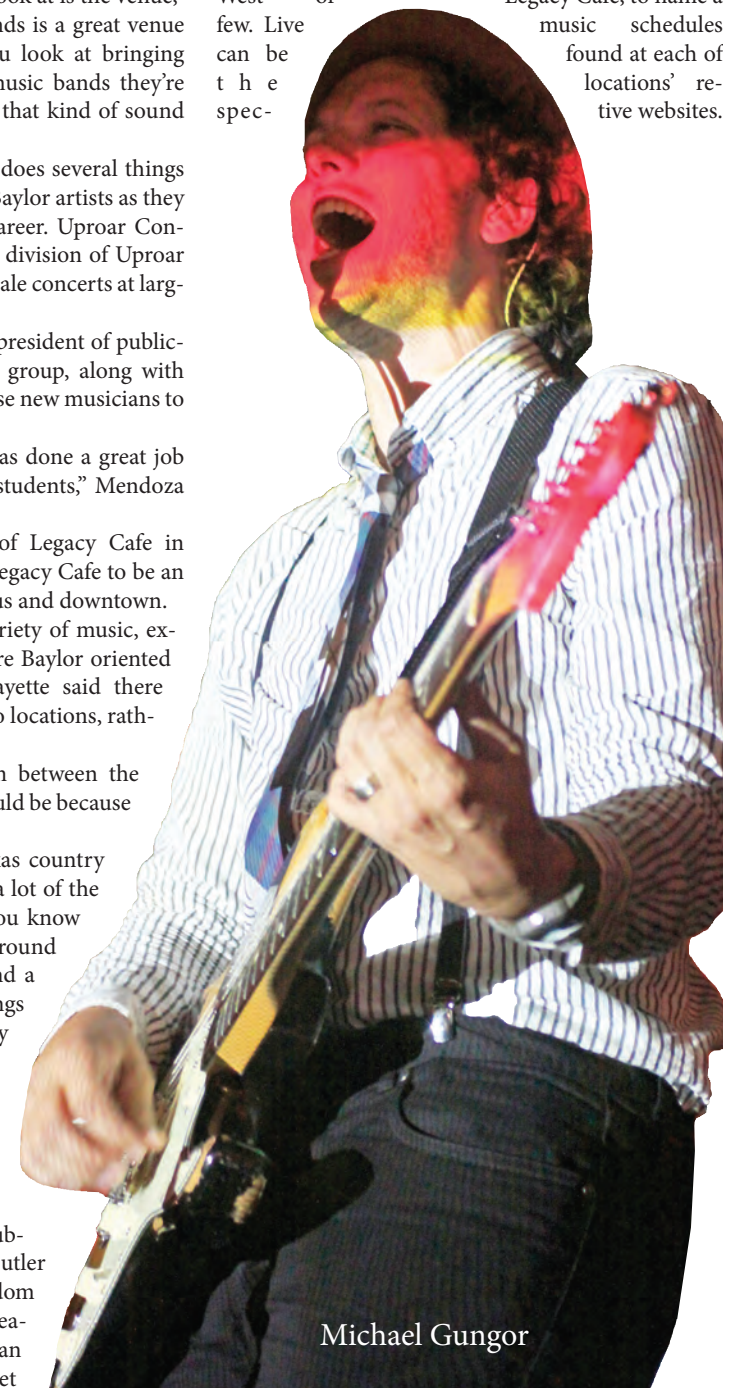
Regardless, there are many opportunities both on campus and off campus for students and Wacoans to become apart of the live music scenes and to experience what Waco has to offer in terms of entertainment.

Such opportunities include the various concerts that Uproar Records has in venues such as Common Grounds or even Waco Hall through Uproar Concert Promotions.

Off-campus opportunities include the live shows that are held at locations such as Art Ambush, Wild West or Legacy Cafe, to name a few. Live music schedules can be found at each of the locations' respective websites.



Jack Ingram



Michael Gungor

Unsung heroes fight sex trafficking in Waco

By HOLLY RENNER
REPORTER

Don't be fooled by the Baylor Bubble.

A woman in Waco can disappear in moments and become a victim of sex trafficking, an umbrella term that covers the recruitment or transportation of people for the purpose of subjecting them to involuntary service in the sex industry.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the country each year.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported in an online bulletin published in 2011 that some young people are recruited into prostitution through forced abduction, pressure from parents or through deceptive agreements between parents and traffickers.

According to the bulletin, the lifestyle of victims revolves around violence, forced drug use and constant threats.

It can take place in any state or city — including Texas. In 2011, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's hotline received 19,427 phone calls — almost double the calls from 2010. Next to California, Texas was the second state with the most incoming calls.

Children at Risk, a non-profit organization created to help children through research and education, said in the research article "The State of Human Trafficking in Texas" that Texas is a big hub for international human trafficking because of its busy interstate highways, international airports, bus stations, shipping commerce through the Gulf of Mexico and its shared border with Mexico.

According to Children at Risk, the Texas-Mexico border is North America's number one supply site for young children subjected to sex trafficking.

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Unbound, Antioch Community Church's nationally-growing, anti-human trafficking organization that began in March in Waco, works to end sex trafficking through education, rescue and aftercare, public policy and prayer.

Currently, there are eight Unbound chapters

In addition to Unbound's educational training, the organization offers specific trainings for police departments, social workers and other areas in the Waco community — those working directly with victims.

"We are committed to quarterly training and to facilitate specific training for professionals on the front line," Peters said.

Peters said Unbound is in the process of

herself from her family. She was trafficked all over the United States.

Peters said the rescued girl went to her mother's home and is still in the recovery process, but her recovery may be a long process because of the emotional suffering caused from her experiences. The second victim lived in Iowa. Peters said the victim's friend attended a Waco mission conference at Antioch with a seminar on sex trafficking.

Upon returning home to Iowa, the friend let a mentor know she was concerned the girl was a victim of sex trafficking, and they contacted the girl's mother. Peters said Unbound intervened with the help of lawyers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and volunteers who conducted research.

Through thorough investigation, they found the girl had been trafficked for two weeks. The girl is currently receiving treatment and therapy in a safe house.

Liz Griffin, Unbound's director for strategic growth, said on an average night, Waco has 20 to 40 minors trafficked through on-line sources.

"They're forced to post their own ads so it looks more like prostitution," Griffin said. "If it's self-posted, under the control and supervision of the trafficker, it's kept secret."

Griffin said Unbound has research teams that gather weekly to scan through Internet ads and are trained to identify girls because many of them are made to look much older than 15 years old.

Griffin said they are working to develop software to gather

more data and cover more cities in order to take a large chunk out of Internet trafficking.

Most pornographic materials have a minor in them, which is considered sex trafficking, Griffin said. Since there is such a high demand for sex and a low supply, trafficking is rampant, she added.

Griffin said lowering the amount of sex trafficking victims could be done through education and awareness in the United States.

"We think it's a child chained to a bed in a brothel. Many times you pass a victim of trafficking at a mall," Griffin said. "There are also students who attend school who are being trafficked. It's hidden in plain sight. The lack of understanding of what it looks like in a western culture is huge."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

in the United States: Waco, Bell County, College Station, Dallas, Seattle and three in Boston.

Susan Peters, the national director for Unbound and a Waco resident, said young girls are being sexually advertised every day in Waco, and Houston is the number one area for sex trafficking. Peters said one of the most important ways to bring an end to trafficking is through education.

"We've done several education and awareness training for the church and for the community at large because awareness saves lives," Peters said.

Unbound teaches people to never approach a victim or a pimp, but to let police know what is happening so something can be done, Peters said. The training is done for all chapters.

developing curriculum for girls in juvenile centers and schools to educate them so they will be equipped to resist coercion or be able to get out of an abusive relationship if one has formed.

In addition, Peters said the organization is collaborating with members to create small support groups within poor areas where traffickers may look. Peters said they plan to have this finalized in January.

Peters said since March, Unbound in Waco has rescued two victims — both over 18-years-old — from sex trafficking. One of the girls, whose name could not be released, was a student who graduated from a local Waco high school and went to college, Peters said.

She was seduced by her boyfriend and dropped out of school, left her job and isolated

A non-Baptist in the ‘Baylor Bubble’ Bible Belt

By Maegan Rocio
STAFF WRITER

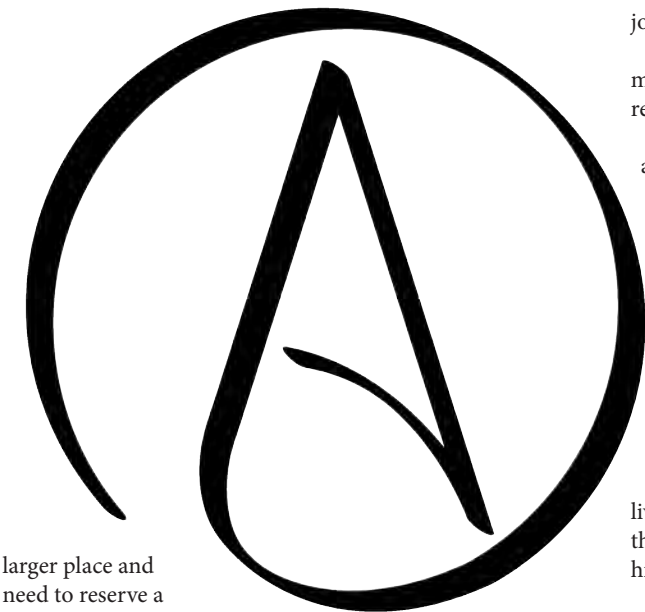
Baylor University, which is known for its openly Christian beliefs and mission, is also home to many non-Christians.

However, according to the Student Activities website, students that wish to create a prospective religious group must share the ideals of the university - so where do the others go to practice their faith?

Some members of the Baylor community have found common ground with like-minded residents in the wider Waco community.

One such person is Dr. David Jortner, an assistant professor of theater arts at Baylor who is Jewish. Jortner said the large Jewish community in Waco has helped him and his family locate people with whom they can relate. There are two synagogues in Waco - one that follows the reform school of thought and one conservative.

“We’re members of both,” he said. “We have a very active both,” he said. Jortner said he nearly didn’t



larger place and need to reserve a room, I don’t think we’d have any problems.” Jainism is a religion from India that teaches its followers how to live their lives through harmlessness and

“I don’t think they chastise any type of belief system, but they don’t promote them,” he said. “They do a good job of not excluding non-Christians.”

Praveen Merugumala | Junior

renunciation of worldly attachment. The goal of living a Jain life is to attain the soul’s liberation. Shah said despite Baylor and Waco’s predominantly Christian environment, his faith has not been affected. “I haven’t felt hindered spiritually. I’ve really en-

joyed the experience at Baylor,” Shah said. Shah said being at Baylor has even helped him find common ground with his fellow students that have a different religious faith. “The majority of the time, engaging with other students of any faith is about finding a set of core values that we all agree on,” he said. “We all can come together and sit and have a discussion and we’re understood by everyone else that is around us.”

Overall, Shah said his experience at Baylor has been fair because the university does support religious diversity and the students of other religious faiths. “I would say so, at least from a more generalized standpoint,” he said. “I haven’t heard any other non-Christian students say they felt hindered about practicing their faith on campus. I’ve never really felt that way.”

Austin junior Praveen Merugumala is an atheist who lives on campus in Allen Hall. Merugumala said the views of his floormates are different from his own. “Everyone on my wing is conservative Christian,” he said. “I would say so, at least from a more generalized standpoint,” he said. “I haven’t heard any other non-Christian students say they felt hindered about practicing their faith on campus. I’ve never really felt that way.”

Despise this, Merugumala not seek like-minded individuals. “Gener- ally, I don’t go outside of campus to eat with he said. “I feel safe in the Baylor Waco is really crime ridden. a place in Waco to go to.”

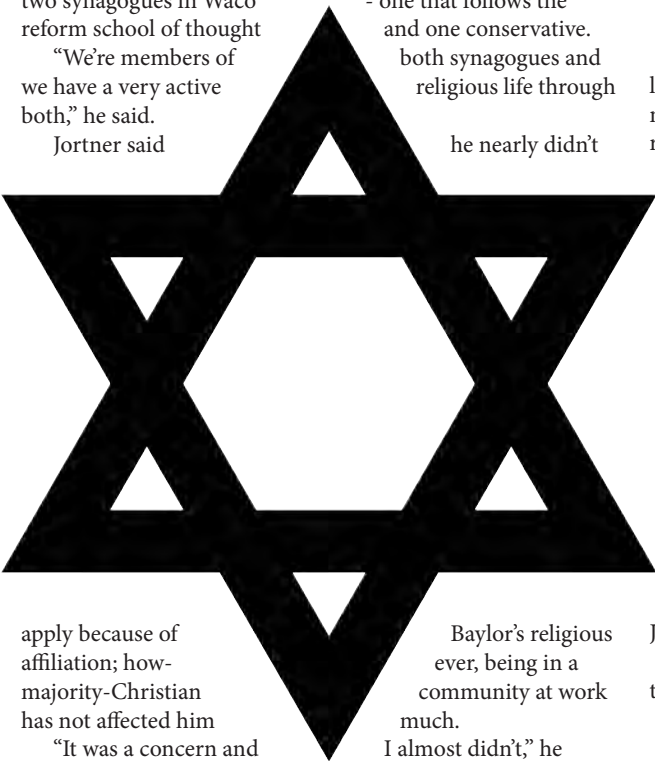
Merugumala said he doesn’t Baylor because he uses social connect to his friends, who are mindset as him, back home in he also talks to other Baylor are more analytical.

“I hang around people who school and are really studious, to be doctors and lawyers,” he Merugumala said he thinks a careful line concerning its Christian outlook and the students it houses.

“I don’t think they chastise any type of belief system, but they don’t promote them,” he said. “They do a good job of not excluding non-Christians.”

Still, Jortner said he thinks the university should encourage interfaith dialogue to include members of the community who aren’t Christian.

“I think interfaith dialogue is always a good thing,” he said. “One of my personal experiences has been, because of my area of specialization, I study Buddhism quite a lot and being Jewish and studying Buddhism has enabled me to see things in different ways and has enriched my Jewish life as the more I’ve studied Buddhism. I would encourage people at Baylor to continue to have interfaith dialogues. I think they’re quite rewarding.”



apply because of affiliation; how-majority-Christian has not affected him

“It was a concern and said. “When I did apply program, it was really a non- issue in that I felt so comfortable with the people in the theater program, my colleagues here, that it isn’t something that worried me at the time.”

Jortner also said his experience at Baylor hasn’t been affected by the university’s Christian atmosphere. He said the university’s atmosphere reminds him of America in general.

“I really feel that a lot of world is like this, a lot of America is like this, is Christian and conservative and that’s fine,” he said.

Sugar Land senior Nevin Shah, who is a Jain, said he still finds outlets to practice his beliefs and that attending Baylor hasn’t hindered him from practicing his religion.

“If we have a religious holiday, which is a lot more centered about festivals, I think we’re fine with going to someone’s apartment and going there,” he said. “If need a



SIC'EM



the Baylor Lariat
www.baylorlariat.com

BEARS