Musical Syrian students connect with Waco community

By Ada Zhang

Transitions. Syria. Freshmen Amjad Dabi and Andrea Mukasi move apart from their homes, but they are quickly adjusting. While bringing a part of their culture to Baylor, the two have been welcoming and that they have enjoyed their stay in the U.S. so far. "We have been very thankful to be away from the chaos of our home, a place they continue to love regardless of the calamities that have occurred or will occur in their home," Dabi and Mukasi said.

Dabi and Mukasi play the piano and violin respectively in the dual title of Baylor student while Dabi is studying in McLean Community College student with prospects of transferring to Baylor as a junior in January. Both students are dependent on academic and music scholarships. With smiles, Dabi and Mukasi talk about bringing Dabi and Mukasi to the U.S., where they promptly began their American education.

The new health care law “is having a significant impact on the House floor.” The American economy is unlikely unless a shutdown is averted. “I want to make sure that the American people don’t want a shutdown and neither do I,” he said. Yet, he added, the new health care law is “having a devastating impact.” —Something has to be done.

The stock market dropped on fears that political gridlock between the White House and the Tea Party–led Republican House would prevent, though analysts suggested significant damage to the national economy was unlikely. A stare-down lasted more than a few days. Any interruption in federal funding would send divided government into uncharted waters.

The council consists of officers and voting representatives from each hall or residential college on Baylor’s campus. Officers were selected by residence hall staff members and are upper-class men who have lived on campus for several years. A student in director of student services, student life, said students have lived without the council for about a decade, but the council has returned to encourage student leadership within the on-campus community. The council makes decisions on student-submitted suggestions and proposals reviewed community proposals, are required to be active members of a student hall organization known as U.S. Leadership Team, Hall Council, or Event Crew.

Greenville senior John Parker, the council president, said the council is the best representation of on-campus student concerns. Despite the presence of other student-directed groups like Student Senate, residential communities seemed to be overlooked, he said. Parker agreed to the council president because of the representation he can give to residential communities.

“The folks on campus had been lacking,” he said. “I hope by organizing this we bring a much needed voice to students on campus — making sure opinions are heard on a wide range of issues.”

Houston junior Otavia Elhay, the council vice president of community standards and facilitation, said the students are actively participating on campus. “We give students a greater voice and a more enriched college experience.”

SEE COUNCIL, page 5

Baylor Lariat WE’RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN’T BE

Tuesday | October 1, 2013

US government shuts down; no decision reached

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The Democratic Senate on Monday twice rejected GOP demands to delay key portions of what has become to known as Obamacare as a condition for keeping the govern- ment open.

The House approved 386-40 federal workers faced furloughs though many were told work a half day Tues- day. Critical functions like air traffic control and military operations will continue. Social Security benefits will

President Obama laid the blame at the feet of House Republicans, whom he accused of seeking to tie the passage of new health care law “is having a destabilizing impact.” —Something has to be done.

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Murphy said. “It’s a positive initiative,” Murphy said. “We felt like Baylor was missing out, in some sense, on learning from other institutions,” she said. “I feel like we have great things going on here too that we want to be able to share with other schools.”

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Allegations of NCAA rules vio- lations reached the world of college football several times during the 2013 season, and we are only just beginning.

In South Carolina, the Citadel began, ESPN Digital The Lines reported Monday was invalid- ing money for eating hundreds of antiquities. He is accused of receiving a $5,000 fine that while for newspapers in Miami for the Discover BCS Na- tionals for jobs performed and payment for work not performed.

That football players had often been doing their schedules for them in addition to being placed in less class where they were given a pacing grade with little to no work.

In 2012, drug use by foot- ball players as well as nonfootball drug dealers being on the team during the class covered by the investigation. School officials were accused of ignoring the drug use by players, while suspending or expelling players denied evidence.

That a small number of women in the football program's financial group performed sexual acts with recruits when they came for their official on-campus recruiting visit.

The five players received were identified at the University of Alabama. The five players identified were Tennessee defensive end Maurice Trotter, Mississippi pines and agents to the five players.

If allegations against the five players from the SEC are true, it could spell problems for the upcoming season.

If the allegations against OSU are true, it could mean sanctions from the NCAA, including scholarships reductions, a boost in probation, and earning losses at some of the coaching staff and a show-cause penalty.

If proven true, Alabama could face suspensions for violating the NCAA’s rules infractions and Aztec Football Coach. Mississippi State defensive tackle Fletcher Cox and Mississippi quarterback Ty'reek Harris. The NCAA praised Baylor for the swift and meaningful action it took even though it is operating within the rules.

According to Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, "We’re there when you can’t be." As a matter of editorial policy, The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.
Bridges said her first mission trip was an eye-opener, just as her parents had intended. Bridges said her parents took her to Ethiopia to grasp the reality that at the root of the world is not always as sunny as California.

Upon returning from Ethiopia, Bridges wanted a book at her local elementary and middle school and wrote more than 500 books to those same Ethiopian school children sitting on benches with nothing to read. Now they have a library.

But Bridges did not stop there.

After attending a women’s conference in Ethiopia in 2010, she realized how the school system worked and was shocked to learn about the grave disadvantages young girls faced.

According to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors, public school in Ethiopia at the 10th and 12th grades determine not only a student’s eligibility to continue on with their education but in what field they will study.

This experience six years ago was the spark that created an Ethiopian tutoring service that would transform lives.

"If they fail, they usually just move to some type of manual labor and never go back to school," Bridges said. "When I heard only 20 percent of girls pass the 12th grade exam and only 20 percent go to college, I was shocked."

Bridges said she knew what the girls needed because it was the same thing she needed in high school — tutoring. She made the suggestion to her parents in 2011 and from there Power in Knowledge (PinK Girls) was born.

The tutoring service PinK Girls offered at four campuses in Ethiopia.

Bridges contacted local Christian organizations that allow tutors to travel to the school, though PinK is not officially a faith-based organization.

If the tutoring service was offered before PinK Girls, the tutoring service could offer something for many Muslim families who would not allow their daughters to attend. Some students already attended the service and knew that the tutoring service could benefit would only escalate the gap that girls in Ethiopia would experience.

From 15 students on the first day to 150 students currently, the organization has not only continued to grow and is funded by donations and Bridges' family.

For every student, the organization requires a $420 sponsorship to cover the costs of books and staff wages for one year.

"People tell me, 'You've done so much and you're only 19, but these girls in Ethiopia are the ones sitting in class, learning and working hard.'"

Andre Bridges
Orange County, Calif., freshman
Bridges' family sponsored half of the students.

Every student in the PinK program has passed their exit exams and are currently at one of the 22 universities in Ethiopia.

Julie Fields, is Bridges' direct line of communication for the program.

At Baylor, PinK's executive director, Tadele said the changes by PinK are the pioneer here in the world of education. "It is really the pioneer here in Ethiopia," Tadele wrote in an email. "Tablette wrote an e-mail to the Lariat "Tomato students" campus of girls. Tadele implied that this is why PinK is doing so much and you're only 19, but these girls in Ethiopia are the ones sitting in class, learning and working hard. 'They're the impres- sive ones.'"

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Back in business: Uproar's Dreamboat takes up new year

By Haley Davis Reporter

For the Baylor Lariat

Back in business

“We’re a tight knit group of musicians whose goal is to bring the college-age, pre-professional music scene to Baylor,” said singer and lyricist of the five-member Dreamboat, Gaston. “If someone else isn’t comparing us to ‘Pitch Perfect,’ we’re quoting Bayside’s ‘Live Your Life’ as the sound they’re going for.”

The group is working together to create a group of pop a cappella music that is still new to campus, they are limited in size, and so far have only played in front of small audiences. Despite the challenges they face, Gaston and the rest of the band are determined to make a name for themselves. "I feel like we have been in the wings waiting for our big break," Gaston said. "We are ready to give it our all and take the stage to create a group of pop a cappella music that is still new to campus."
Baylor head coach Art Briles said on Monday that he knew of Dixon's arrest stemmed from an altercation with a Waco Police Department.

Dixon, 22, was arrested Thursday night on the charges of assault of a family member and assault of a public servant. According to the arrest report, Dixon was found to be a suspected officer of the Waco Police Department.

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The Mountaineers put their defense in overdrive after giving up two goals on set pieces against Notre Dame during the first half. Their pressure on opportunities in the game came when Doug Baldwin caught a 7-yard pass and Kam Chancellor fumbled on a punt return for his face, head and elbow, according to the arrest report.

Baylor athletics is handling the matter internally.

Dixon fully participated in the Wildcat's defense for the second half, taking six of its seven shots in that period.

"We're a good team," junior goalkeeper Michelle Kloss said. "It was a good game, a tough game, but the defense played great. They were able to block their shots down."
Through the council, halls and residential colleges are able to interact with one another and facilitate for developing stronger communication within individual halls, Murphy said.

These encounters also allow leadership teams to plan activities that encourage inter-hall unity.

“Very quickly, you see that they’re in danger constantly. "What makes it more difficult is feeling that everyone is using you and me for your political gain," Parker said.

“Students have the opportunity to be the voice for their hall community,” Murphy said.

“The council helps residence halls develop a true sense of community with one another,” Parker said.

“We want to help make campus feel more like home,” Parker said.

“In the future, the council will act as a channel for student input regarding the remodeling and building of residential facilities,” Murphy said.

The council’s second meeting of the semester is set for 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Alexander Residence Hall classroom. The council meets every other Wednesday.

Although full representatives cannot make decisions without the consent of the student body, the council is able to effectively fulfill its purpose within the on-campus community.

“This could easily be a paper-only organization, but I’m hoping to make it worthwhile,” he said.

Bolen said the student council is a good way to give students an opportunity to be leaders and work hand in hand with professional staff. He said the council provides a way for students to learn about what is going on in the halls and that it is a good opportunity for students to network with other halls and professional staff.

“I feel responsible for them because I have kids of my own,” Bolen said. “I want to help make campus feel more like home.”

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