

# UNSCRIPTED



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DIRECTOR			



# Channel 2



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### Program Information:

Action.

Reality TV shows generally feature a cast of people who do interesting things. Typically unscripted (for the most part), these shows portray people who perhaps weren't widely known before the show premiered.

Of course, there are several pitfalls to watching so-called reality TV. Some scenes, while unscripted, are planned. Some circumstances in the shows are also tweaked to send messages other than the truth. This means reality TV isn't really, well ... all real.

This isn't a new concept. However, The Lariat took the idea of reality TV and made it its own. We decided to tell real –unscripted – stories based on reality TV shows. As you flip through the following pages, take time to listen to each story. Whether popular myths on campus are busted or a group of students plans to sing their way to the top in an a cappella competition, the stories are based on actual events and people without the frills of dramatic television.

It could be that the concept of reality TV isn't so far from reality. Make yourself comfortable and explore the channels in this special section. You may just find yourself liking a new type of reality TV.

That's a wrap.



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# Popular myths on campus debunked

By Hannah Neumann  
STAFF WRITER

For decades, not only on Baylor's campus but across the nation, rumors have permeated the minds of the masses and spread as fact with little credibility.

Students on campus say they've heard the rumors: If a professor shows up 15 minutes late to class, students are welcome to leave unpenalized. If a student gets hit by a bus or their roommate dies, they get an automatic 4.0 grade point average and free tuition for the term.

While some Baylor students have heard these stories and accepted them as truths, many are left wondering if they really hold the weight of these long-believed legends.

Dr. Martha Lou Scott, associate vice president for student life, said she's not sure about the origin of the roommate myth, but she is certain there is no truth behind it.

"There's a part of me that thinks it came from someone in a stretch of imagination trying to be funny at a very, very sad time in life," Scott said. "Somebody not knowing what to say or how to support."

In 1998, a comedy film titled "Dead Man on Campus" debuted. The story follows two college roommates desperate for good grades who hear of the 'if your roommate dies, you get an A' rumor and set off in search of a suicidal third roommate they can nudge over the edge.

While the movie is commonly noted in association with this myth, it is unclear whether the movie inspired the rumor or vice versa. Scott said this rumor is not exclusive to Baylor, as she has heard it from other campuses. However, in past circumstances at Baylor involving the death of a student, self-interest is the furthest thing from the mind of the student's fellow classmates.

"When something like that happens, for the people involved, that would be the last thing they would ever think about," Scott said.

Houston freshman Maddi Tipping said at a Christian campus there is much more to be offered to grieving students; things more important and healing than funding and automatic A's.

"If there was anything to be offered by Baylor, I would just think that Christian groups would come and talk to you," she said. "I mean what the student would really need is a support group and maybe more pardoned absences."

Waco freshman Stewart McSwain said he heard the rumor and accept it as truth, but doesn't understand the purpose.

"Well, I heard that if your roommate kills themselves, you get free tuition to help you deal with the strain of having your roommate die," he said. "I don't understand how it would help, you know, it's like accepting money for someone's life and that's just wrong."

According to students, one of the most common rumors is the free tuition and 4.0 grade point

"Study very, very hard and know that scholarships are available," Scott said. "If a student studies hard and applies themselves and their grade point average is where it needs to be, they can meet with representatives and student financial services and talk with them about available scholarships."

Scott said many students who attend Baylor even as first year students are awarded scholarships based on their grades.

"Just keep studying and doing well," Scott said.

In regard to academics and hard work, Scott debunked the "15 minutes late," myth and said she's heard this rumor around campus even since she was a college student herself.

"I think that this is one of those things that you would want to discuss with your professor," she said.

Scott said while there are always extenuating circumstances, Baylor professors in particular have always been considerate to students in communicating issues or changes ahead of time.

"I've never known of a professor who, if something happened and they're running that late, wouldn't get word to the class," Scott said. "Especially in this day of technology, someone will let the class know the professor won't be showing

up. I've not ever known of a class being held up because a professor who just flatly didn't show up."

Houston sophomore Sarah Johnston said she has actually experienced this a few times during her college experience.

"For the most part I have found that if the professor is 10 or 15 minutes late to class, it's because they were trying to cancel class but they couldn't get an e-mail out," she said. "After a while the class will leave, and the next class, the professor will just apologize for not showing up."

Johnston said she hasn't ever had a professor penalize students for leaving after 15 minutes of class without a professor present.

Scott said she stresses the importance of not believing any information spread by students as fact without a credible source. She encourages students to type in their question on the Baylor web page first to see if they can locate the answer.

"They can also always come to me, as I do a lot of question and answering," Scott said. "I would say that anything that they hear, especially if it's coming from other students through hear-say, they should check with a professor or university representative to see what the facts actually are."

# BUSTED

average that  
is accompanied with getting hit by

a bus.

Not knowing the validity of the rumor, Houston freshman Brenna Chaffee said if guaranteed the rumored benefits, she likely would risk the injury.

"I definitely would risk it if it were for tuition," she said. "If I knew for sure the rumors were real I would walk in front of the bus. I mean, a slow bus, like I wouldn't want to die, but I would risk getting knocked out or breaking an arm for it."

Similar to the roommate legend, Scott said it is also unhealthy for a student to put themselves in a situation that could be life-threatening, simply for these rumored benefits.

"I would think that no matter what, there would have to be an easier way to get a 4.0," Scott said. "You could easily spend your time more productively than you could recuperating in a hospital somewhere after you got hit by a bus, if you were able to survive."

Scott said even after debunking these infamous beliefs, there are in fact ways to obtain the fictional benefits; safer, healthier ways.



**Myth #1: Free tuition and automatic 4.0 upon death of roommate.**

**Myth #2: If a professor is 15 minutes late to class, you can leave without punishment.**

**Myth #3: Free tuition and automatic 4.0 for a student if they are hit by a campus bus.**





# Bruiser bares all

## Behind the mask The hidden six

By SERGIO LEGORRETA  
REPORTER

Baylor game days can be hot with cheering fans enduring temperatures well into the 90s and sometimes the 100s.

But six spirited individuals dedicate themselves to running, jumping, high-fiving and cheering in 15-pound suits that add an additional 20 to 30 degrees of heat. They are the Baylor mascots. They are Bruiser the Bear.

Waco senior Brandon Manuppelli, one of the two mascot captains, said he enjoys being Bruiser so much that he doesn't even feel the heat.

"There's definitely a kick of adrenaline," Manuppelli said. "I don't even realize how hot it is sometimes."

That doesn't mean the mascots aren't prepared for the heat, however. To make sure they don't get dehydrated, they make sure to drink a lot of water. Richmond sophomore Lindsey Henrici, one of the mascots this semester, said she drinks a lot of water the day before the game and the day of the game.

"I'm sweating so much, it's 125 degrees in the suit, and I can't wipe the sweat away," Manuppelli said. "You can't really wear a headband, either. We found that they slowly slide down and cover your eyes."

Manuppelli said he's learned to deal with sweat in his eyes, which can burn at times, but he has a hard time seeing when he's inside the suit. Mascots have to look through the narrow mouth of the mask and Bruiser's teeth block their sight even more.

"It's difficult to see," Manuppelli said. "There are times I'll miss a high-five or I won't see a kid."

Being Bruiser can bring positive opportunities as well. Manuppelli said since becoming a mascot, he has met a lot of other mascots and forged friendships with them.

"When we see each other, it's like catching up with old friends," Manuppelli said.

Manuppelli has been Bruiser for two years now and said he hopes to continue as Bruiser for one more year if he enters graduate school because of all the great experiences he's had.

"There are so many great moments," Manuppelli said. "I was able to give George and Laura Bush a hug at McLane Stadium for the coin toss."

Manuppelli also said one of his favorite moments was

recreating a picture posted in the locker room, where one of the first Bruisers stood atop a human pyramid.

"For homecoming in 2013, I got on top of a pyramid of cheerleaders, about 20 feet off the ground," Manuppelli said. "We practiced first, but it was frightening. Bruiser's sneakers are as big as some of the cheerleaders' backs and there's little room for error."

The stunt went off without a hitch during homecoming and Manuppelli said he has a picture of it framed. Everything doesn't always go as smoothly, however. While practicing the stunt, Manuppelli fell sideways and landed on top of a cheerleader.

"I was fine, but he might have gotten a bit bruised," Manuppelli said.

A different incident happened earlier this year at Dr Pepper Hour when Henrici went to hug President and Chancellor Ken Starr.

"I accidentally knocked my head off," Henrici said. "I covered my face. Someone screamed, 'It's a girl!'"

It is ironic that this happened to Henrici, as she said that one of the reasons she enjoys being a mascot so much is that she can entertain others without others knowing who she is.

"I enjoy making people smile and laugh but don't ever like to feel like I'm doing it just to receive personal attention for myself," Henrici said.

Henrici also said being a woman adds a challenge to being Bruiser, even if no one can see her under the suit.

"It's hard to get the walk down," Henrici said. "I'm more girly than I should be, because Bruiser is very manly."

Manuppelli said mascots practice their movements and walk to make sure everyone shows Bruiser's personality in the same way.

"Bruiser definitely has a walk," Manuppelli said. "His chest is up and he knows where he's going. Movements have to be bigger."

Beyond the benefits and challenges, Henrici and Manuppelli said what is important about Bruiser is the people they interact with. Henrici said Bruiser helps to bring everyone together, as Bruiser gives a face to Baylor.

Bringing people together and making sure everyone has high spirits can definitely be important.

Senior defensive back Collin Brence said Bruiser helps motivate the fans throughout the game.

"The energy of the crowd is huge for momentum," Brence said. "Anyway he can get the crowd more excited, it's helping us as a team. He's an important part of the team."

BRUISER PHOTO BY SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER



# Pomp and Circumstance meets the *wedding march*

By ELLY SPENCER  
REPORTER

Valeria McDonald counted to five, heaved out a shaky breath, and took one last look in the full-length mirror hanging on the wall.

Her white gown looked exactly how she had pictured it since she was a little girl.

The McAllen senior's college graduation ceremony was just around the corner, set for May, but an astounding separate agenda had shown its face.

She began the task of planning a wedding while planning the end of her college career.

Organizing a wedding is an already stressful ordeal. Adding a degree plan on top of that may be what makes the pre-graduation marriage so out of the norm.

"Planning a wedding during college was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do," now-Mrs. Valeria McCoy said.

The young bride title also brings along with it the "bridezilla" phenomenon.

A bridezilla is a bride or bride-to-be who is extremely demanding and difficult to deal with.

Planning a wedding can bring the best and the worst out in the average bride, but worrying about the financial, emotional and physical strains while still in college can be next to impossible, McCoy said.

"I was a big fan of watching 'Bridezillas' back in the day and I always felt so bad for the grooms," McCoy said. "I knew I never wanted to treat my fiancé that way but was afraid all of that pressure would get to me at some point."

Some of the main stresses are trying to set aside time through test weeks and finals to make it to appointments, find money, and actually plan the event.

"The most difficult part of planning my wedding was probably that I wanted to have the wedding in Fort Worth where I grew up and because it was a central place for both sides of our families," said newlywed Fort Worth senior Christina George. "With school and working two jobs, it was very difficult to find the time and energy to invest in planning a wedding."

The story of the college-age bride-to-be is not a new one; the National Center for Education surveyed 20,928 undergraduates in 2008, and found about 18 percent were married.

The U.S. Decennial Census reported the national average age of first-time brides in the 1950s was from 19-21.

"I think that wedding preparations always depend on the finances of the bride's parents and the era in which the couple lives," said former Baylor professor Maxine Hart. "My husband, Clyde,

and I were married in 1956, and none of my Baylor friends had grand weddings like the ones that I attend today."

A recent Facebook Data Science study showed religious colleges made for a significant portion of the top 25 "marrying colleges" for men and women. Baylor is no exception.

Glenda Ross, Arm-

strong Browning Library's facilities coordinator, said the waiting list to be married in the library's Foyer of Meditation is a hefty eight months. Ross said the library staff only allows one wedding in a month.

Another new phenomena in the culture of college-age newlyweds is more groom involvement in planning the wedding ceremony.

"In my circumstance, my fiancée still

has a whole lot to do in order to finish her degree," said newly engaged McLean, Va., senior Jeffrey Solomon. "So the way I look at it, the least I can do is offer to help in any way that I can."

However, grooms' worries seem to vary from their young brides' stresses.

"I guess the part to be most nervous about would be making it all fit within a budget," said Solomon. "I'm not concerned that we will be able to get all of the planning finished in time because we have eight to nine months to do it, but getting it all done well within a budget - that is out of my control can be a little bit tough."

Solomon's advice to future engaged couples trying to navigate their way through their two big days and "bridezilla" territory is to let the future bride take the reins, but help whenever she needs input.

"I want to be able to help and provide input throughout the process, but at the same time, if I was put in charge our wedding would be terrible," Solomon said. "She is in charge and I am there to help wherever possible."

As far as the brides, George said the best thing to do was to stop, take a deep breath and enjoy the process with their fiances.

"Spending at least a little time every day connecting with the person you're going to marry and being able to just laugh, have fun and continually remind yourselves of why you're getting married in the first place is so important," George said. "Wedding planning can be stressful and emotional so it's important to keep having date nights and times where you don't talk about the wedding."





# Students move away from usual religious affiliations

By JON PLATT  
REPORTER

Professors and staff members do not see the previous 20 years of denominational drift among students as a bad thing.

"The fact that we are a Baptist university but have open arms for people of any faith to come experience the excellent education available here shows that we were very secure in what we offer," said Paula Marshall, an academic adviser. "We are confident in what we offer. We are hopeful in what we offer: that we can impact our students. That we can impact all of our students, no matter what their background."

Marshall, who came to Baylor as a student in 1974, has observed the changes in student faith since taking her post as an adviser in 2008.

Marshall said she remembers a time when almost everybody on campus was Baptist and students did not attend Wednesday night religious gatherings at churches, but instead came to an on-campus event called Serendipity. This weekly event invited students, faculty and staff to gather alongside each other and worship on campus. Marshall said she thought it to be a voluntary form of chapel. In the '70s, Serendipity was the place to be, she said.

"Those days are long gone," Marshall said.

Kay Mueller, a senior lecturer of sociology, said she is confident in where Baylor and students are headed, regardless of the looming reports by statistician research groups.

In early 2014, the Barna Research Group, a faith-focused research and resource company, released a list of trends in religion. Through an analysis of widely collected and deeply researched data, the research group found that many people are begin-

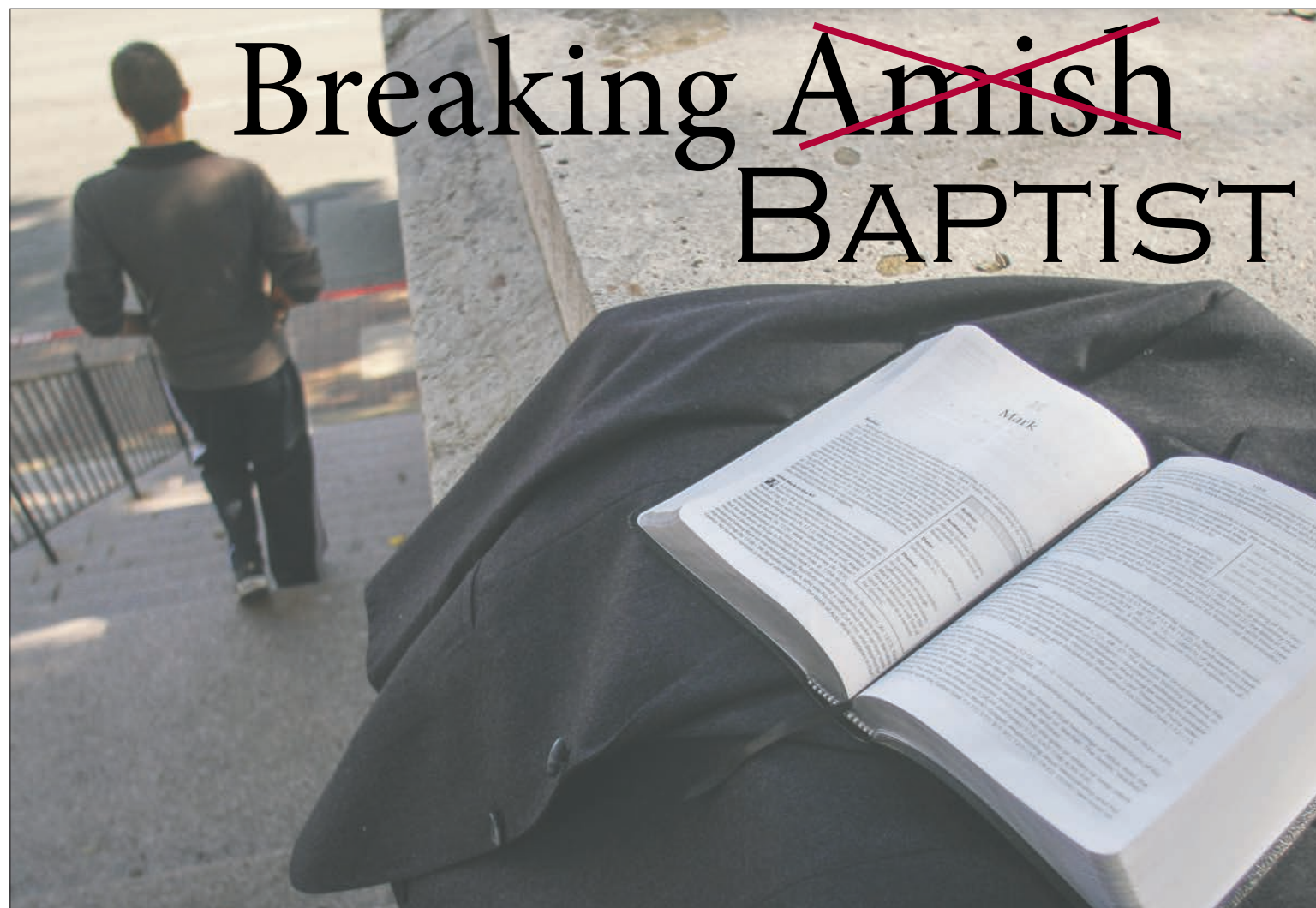


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN FREEMAN

ning to associate matters of faith with the prefix "post." Post-Christian, post-denominational, post-evangelical and post-religious were all used as examples to describe the trend.

Sociological trends such as what Barna presented are important factors to watch at Baylor, a university established in Christian tradition, evangelicalism and religious concern. These trends determine the university's future in a "post" society.

Mueller said she doesn't see the future ahead of the university as a depressing road.

"Our students aren't losing their faith," Mueller said. "They're reinventing it. Traditional Baptist churches, like Seventh and James, are not having as many Baylor students while students are here. That's interesting."

Mueller said she began to notice a shift in students' faith when traditional churches, such as Seventh and James Baptist Church, began to see a loss in numbers and newer, non-denominationally associated churches, such as Antioch Community Church, began to grow. It was evident to her,

she said, that faith was being redefined and a new breed of student was coming because of the location students were meeting to worship.

"Seventh and James is on campus," she said. "You don't have to get in a car to get there. But, you have to drive across town to attend Antioch. That's an interesting shift to see happen."

Marshall said she too has noticed the drift from a "traditional" Baylor student.

"There's a greater diversity on campus now than there ever has been before," Marshall said. "It's apparent in, but not limited to, our denominational breadth."

While Marshall does see the open-door policy of Baylor as a great step forward, she said she is also nostalgic of her days as a student and the traditions she participated in with fellow Bears.

"It's curious to me that we're a Baptist university, but we no longer have a Baptist Student Union," she said. "Ministry through the BSU was a large part of my Baylor experience. When people asked me if I was

a member of a sorority I would reply, 'No, I am pledging the BSU.'"

While she loves the work that Bobo Spiritual Life Center is doing, she said it has interested her why the BSU appears to be a casualty of denominational restructuring.

Dr. George Louthierback, university chaplain at Mary-Hardin Baylor University, served as Baylor BSU director from 1979 to 1993.

"I've always had a philosophy that a school with a distinct Christian foundation should not just be about providing students with a degree," Louthierback said. "We should provide tools for them to change the world. That's what I did at Baylor and that's what I'm doing here."

Louthierback said he worked day and night to equip students with those tools. He brought to campus one of the most iconic events of each student's first year at Baylor: Welcome Week. Despite his dedication to Baylor, as the university moved further from its Baptist routes, Louthierback said he chose to leave. A few years after his departure, the BSU restruc-

tured into the Spiritual Life Center.

Where the BSU once stood -- in the center of a Baylor student's religious experience -- Louthierback said he has noticed churches are filling the gap.

"Churches have stepped up and have more college ministries than during my time," he said. "Across Waco, churches are now working more than ever to provide the spiritual equipment students need."

Louthierback, who said he loved his time at Baylor and the friends he made because of it, said he is curious to see how the university will handle the road ahead.

"I think Baylor is trying to decide if it's going to be a distinct Christian university or just an expensive private school," he said. "I don't know if they know yet or not. They lost a lot of their distinct identity when the BSU was dismantled."

Marshall said she's ready to see Baylor embrace the future.

"Denominational lines are blurring," Marshall said. "And I'm not so sure that's a bad thing."



# 2 Grads & Counting

With two parents, three older sisters and a triplet sister, these two Baylor students' lives are like a reality TV show.

By CODY SOTO  
SPORTS WRITER

When Beeville sophomores Claire and Paige McKinney went on family road trips as children, it wasn't exactly the most pleasant time. They were shoved in the back seat, not because they wanted to, but their other four sisters occupied the rest of the seats.

They have three older sisters, Maggie, Molly and Morgan. They also have another sister, their triplet sister Heather who currently attends the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

As two of eight people in the McKinney household, Claire and Paige know what it's like to grow up with a big family. Their mother, Sarah McKinney, had six children under the age of six when the triplets were born in 1994.

"We were in a four-person stroller when we were babies, and my mom had to special order it through a triplets magazine," Claire said. "Whenever we were younger, she even spoke at conventions because she had six children under 6 years old. We really could have been a reality show because people couldn't believe it."

The eight-person household was filled with plenty of things to do, Claire said. Originally from Beeville, a town of 13,000 people, most residents recognize the family everywhere they go.

"We would go out to eat and people would come up to us and say, 'Oh my gosh, you're the family with the triplets.' Even senior year in high school, we got the same responses," Claire said. "When we stopped to eat in Beeville on our way to the beach with our friends, we knew everyone there and [our friends] asked us, 'Is this what it's like all the time for you?'"

The McKinney triplets were unexpected by their parents, who were originally thinking of having a boy in the family, Paige said.

"While Morgan was 15 months old, my parents were thinking that

it would be the perfect time to have another baby, and clearly every father wants a boy," Paige said. "They were shocked when they had three girls at the same time."

Although unusual in today's society, having a big family didn't seem to bother the McKinneys.

"It was normal for me; I didn't know any different," Heather said. "But since we were triplets and had three other sisters, it brought more attention."

Since they're not identical triplets, they seemed to get along quite well. They had their own built-in best friends, Claire said.

"We don't look alike, so the competition isn't there," Claire said. "I know a lot of twins that are identical, and sometimes they don't get along. I think the fact that we look different makes the difference."

Moving from rural Beeville to suburban Waco was a change for Claire and Paige when they moved last fall to come to Baylor. Although their mother and older sister, Molly, attended school at Baylor, it was a bit overwhelming at first, Paige said.

"We have had a completely different upbringing living in Beeville," Paige said. "I really missed Beeville the second semester. Growing up somewhere like that, you tend to understand the world better."

The "small town fame" didn't travel with them to college, and they had to make the effort to be friends with others.

"You don't really know how to meet people in Beeville because they already know who you are," Paige said. "Coming to Baylor is a little intimidating because no one knows who you are. You really have to put yourself out there."

Having all six kids studying at the college level is a blessing and a burden at the same time.

The McKinney family had to budget their money and work hard in order to afford a quality education for their daughters.

"Nothing can really prepare you for having four kids in college at the same time. Right before we got to

college, our older sister Molly had just graduated from grad school," Paige said.

Claire and Paige's triplet sister received an academic and athletic scholarship to play soccer for the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio her senior year in high school. This made things a lot more manageable after their FAFSA results came back disappointing, Claire said.

"We had to put all of father's ranches at market value. Even though we never have that money and don't intend on having it, we still have to put it on the FAFSA form as if we are going to sell it," Claire said. "Even though our parents have six kids, it didn't matter. We saw that end of it because it wasn't fair."

With each of their sisters moved out of the house as well, Claire and Paige rarely have all of their family members together in the same place. Thanksgiving and Christmas are the best chances of having all eight McKinney family members together in Beeville.

When that happens, it means a lot to them, Heather said.

"When we all are able to get together, it's really exciting," Heather said. "There's tons of laughter and a lot of happiness all around the family."

Heather knows what their parents have gone through to provide for her, and through it all, it's made them a stronger family, she said.

"I have been able to see how much our parents sacrifice for us to be happy," Heather said. "I know it wasn't easy to raise six kids, but my mom did her best with what she had. She provided everything for us, and although we are a big family, she would have never thought twice to get us what we needed."

Sarah McKinney served as a role model for her six daughters, and her action has rubbed off on her daughters, Claire said.

"Our mom's always been a strong, independent woman," Claire said. "Our mom always said we had to do

things for ourselves, so we call our sisters for any help we need."

Having Claire attending the same school as her makes Paige much more comfortable moving on into a new chapter of their lives, she said.

"I wouldn't survive Baylor without [Claire]," Paige said. "I feel like I'm always outgoing and independent, but I made Claire walk me to my classes first and second semester last year. If we ever need something, we always call each other."

In a way, they can see the McKinney family as a reality show because of how diverse each family member is. It would make better ratings than most of the current shows, Heather said.

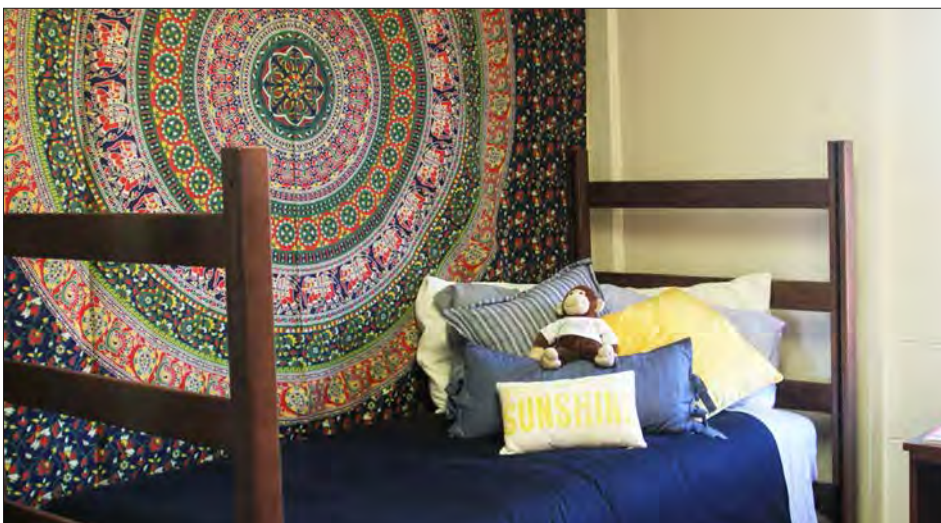
"There were times when we all lived together where we could have had a better TV show than the Kardashians," Heather said. "We do our own thing and we have that comradery with our family, and it would for sure be funny."



Baylor  
Sisters







SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

# CRIBS



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Left: A tapestry hangs on the wall as the central piece in a dorm room in South Russell. Above: A University Parks bedroom is designed with bright, cheerful colors that come together in what its resident refers to as an 'early modern antique' style.



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

By JULIE ECKARDT  
REPORTER

At the start of the semester, each dorm room was a generic, empty space with nothing to set it apart from the rest. The only thing to distinguish one from another was a name taped to the door. On the inside were just naked mattresses and empty dressers waiting to be claimed by new occupants.

In August, 40 percent of Baylor students moved into on-campus housing facilities, ready to start the year in a new place, according to the Campus Living and Learning office. Everyone started with the same blank canvas, but by the time they finished settling in, each student carved out a unique space all for their own. Each student planned and prepared their room in their own way.

League City senior Taylor Bielamowicz, resident of Brooks College, had an acquaintance send her pictures of the room she would be living in so she could begin the previsualization process. With the assistance of her mother, they came up with a concept for the room. Once they arrived and began decorating, the design they had in mind had to be revised a few times.

A wooden rocking chair sits by the window with pillows resting on the seat. It is Bielamowicz's favorite part of the room.

"It's what makes it seem like less of a dorm

room and more of a bedroom," she said.

Inspired by Kate Spade, the result is an eclectic blend of modern and shabby chic pieces with bright pops of color to create the homey feeling that Bielamowicz envisioned.

La Canada freshman Sophie Schnee, resident of North Village, describes her style as not quite eclectic but more on the bohemian side. Before her arrival at Baylor, Schnee spent the summer collecting various pieces to express her style. For the larger pieces, such as the duvet cover, she picked neutral colors and then incorporated brightly colored accent pieces and decorations to fill the space.

She said her favorite pieces in the room are the kissing balls, which are flowers arranged into spheres, suspended over the bed.

"I just think they are fabulous because they bring color in a fun and unique way to the room," Schnee said.

Schnee said the flowers serve as festive accent pieces, but they also recreate the comfort of her bedroom back at her parent's house in Los Angeles.

"I wanted this to feel like home and at home I have an entire wall of flowers," Schnee said. "I wanted this to feel like it was my space and not just a place that I was living in for a few months."

Danville freshman Sydney Biekert, resident of South Russell, wanted to create a relaxing and calm environment for herself.

Two of the walls are adorned with pictures of family and friends strung up by a clothesline, and one wall is covered entirely by a large tapestry with various shades of blues, purples, greens and oranges.

"We bought the tapestry first and we matched the bed and pillows to that," she said.

During her decorating process, Biekert wanted to create a fun place to socialize. She enlisted the help of her mother to fill the area with accent pieces, like tissue paper balls hanging over the bed and a fuzzy circle chair to lounge around in.

Valley Mills freshman Jessica Tomcheson, resident of University Parks Apartments, knew she would have a large space to work with being in an apartment. To fill the area she brought in a white love seat with a gray seat cushion and accent pillows. She said her favorite piece in the room is the wings mounted on the wall. She describes her design style as early modern antique. Most of her belongings were found in garage sales and flea markets.

"I would say I really like junk," said Tomcheson. "I like certain patterns and lots of accent colors."

At the start, each student had essentially the same space to work with. Every design process is different and there are a myriad of styles but the end result is always a personalized space for each student to call their home away from home.



# Extreme Makeover: Habitat Edition

## Baylor students wield hammers, build homes for Waco families

By SARA KATHERINE JOHNSON  
REPORTER

Eight years ago in Richmond, a Habitat for Humanity chapter was erecting the frame of a structure soon to be someone's house. It was Framing Day, as Habitat volunteers call it. Now, Richmond junior Allison Carrington is the president of Baylor Habitat for Humanity and still remembers the day of her first experience as a volunteer.

"Seeing all of it come together as someone's home, I was able to feel a growing sense of responsibility for my community," Carrington said.

At the time of her introduction to Habitat, Carrington was a junior high student volunteering to make up for a missed church lesson. Her senior year of high school, she joined her school's club. Freshman year of college she found Baylor's chapter during Late Night, and Carrington has acted as president since her sophomore year.

"Building alone isn't going to build houses or raise awareness or end poverty," Carrington said. "Habitat is contagious in that way. It spreads because you get excited when you start helping and seeing tangible results. You can't help but tell more people."

Baylor's campus chapter is organized around the goal of servicing the Waco branch of Habitat, Carrington said. They do this through building, advocating, educating and fundraising. To help Carrington, Ashley Burk, coordinator of volunteers and special events for Waco's Habitat chapter, serves as a liaison between the Baylor and Waco Habitat groups.

Burk joined Habitat after college when she was looking for a way to apply her double major in psychology and world religion. She said the mission of the organization, along with the group's "hand up and not a hand out" philosophy, attracted her.

In practice, this means families that are chosen as eligible for a house have to put in "sweat

equity." Each family is required to perform 300 hours of physical work on their own home or another Habitat house being built. In addition, future homeowners go through what Burk called Homeowners College and numerous meetings with Habitat staff. The meetings are



Habitat for Humanity allows families in need to have homes of their own.



A Habitat for Humanity volunteer works on the door frame of a new house.

a form of support to make sure that the homeowners will be ready to take on the responsibility of owning a home.

"Our partner families all have different stories, but they all have a need," Burk said.

Families are chosen based on a combination of their need, ability to pay for the home and

willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity. Sometimes this means that families can pay for their needs, but do not qualify for a traditional loan. In return, the homes are customizable by style and how many rooms are built.

The Waco branch builds eight houses a year,



A Habitat for Humanity worker cuts panels for a new home the organization is building.



ALL PHOTOS CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR  
Waco and Baylor Habitat for Humanity workers and volunteers built this home five years ago.

Burk said. It takes roughly four months on every house, with more than one house being built at a time. Burk said the contribution of Baylor's chapter is invaluable because there are only two paid construction experts on staff. The rest of the labor comes from volunteers.

"It teaches you about professionalism," Car-

ington said. "It also taught me you can't judge based on anything except a person's heart."

Burk said a lot of people have the misconception that they cannot volunteer because they might be in the way. Both Burk and Carrington said that every one can help in some way. Before volunteering with Habitat, Carrington had never caulked walls before.

"Tracie Littrell helped me," Carrington said, referring to the Waco Habitat's new home construction manager. "She showed me how and left me to it. I caulked all day from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m."

Carrington said although she overdid the work, and it had to be redone, she learned a lesson. Now she sticks with painting concrete or nailing. Carrington said it can take time to find, but there is a role for everyone.

In addition to helping build at the construction sites, Baylor Habitat for Humanity members work in the Habitat store, ReStore, and help with stocking, unloading and running the half-price sale.

Habitat International is an organization with Christian values, Burk said.

"It's a Christian organization because we want to be the hands and feet by eliminating poverty housing," Burk said. "That doesn't mean people have to come from a specific religion, or any religion, for us to help them though."

Burk said that there is no discrimination of potential volunteers or partner families.

"We want it to be a transitional experience for volunteers," Burk said. "But we'll still take you as a volunteer even if you don't have a servant's heart. We'll take you even if you just need the volunteer hours. Maybe you'll still get something out of it."

Carrington said she recommends the organization especially to students because it helps people learn about compassion.

"It's easy to stay in the Baylor Bubble," Carrington said. "For a lot of people in Waco, though, life isn't easy. We should do more than just Steppin' Out on one day."





**D**r. Heidi Marcum's two starkly different worlds keep her peaceful and give her a sense of purpose.

By day, Marcum is a senior lecturer of environmental studies in the Baylor Sciences Building. However, after the last class is released, she dons boots, coveralls and occasionally a hat to care for her foster horses. Despite the hardships of this task, she said she pushes through because it is her calling.

"Every time I despair or worry, something comes up," she said. "Something rescues me."

For over a decade, Marcum and her sister have cared for dozens of horses, oftentimes on their own dime and at the expense of almost all their free time.

"She's got a big and good enough heart to care for animals that no one else is," said Mike Jones, co-owner of Bar None Country Store in Woodway, where Marcum purchases feed and supplies for her herd of horses.

Marcum said she and her sister took in their first horse because they had been raised to care about animals and could not stand to see an innocent animal suffer.

"Fifteen years later, we have 40 horses that have, through some circumstance or another, had to have a home," Marcum said. "They've either been abused or neglected or they're old and their owners don't want them anymore. We basically run a sanctuary for horses."

While 40 horses to look after seems overbearing, she said she views providing medical attention, working in harsh conditions, spending her spare time and all other aspects of caring for the animals as her life's work. No matter the cost.

"I'm supposed to do this," Marcum said.

The bill is not footed by Marcum alone. She said that many people in the community, including her students, give to the cause and that Bar None Country Store has helped provide for the animals in the past. The support of others is another form of confirmation for Marcum that this is her what she is supposed to be doing.

Not only is there a financial cost for this endeavor, but Marcum said the time she spends with her animals totals somewhere around 40 hours each week — the length of a regular full-time job.

"We put in a minimum of four hours a day," Marcum said. "Seven days a week. If it's cold, miserable, rainy and sleeting, or 100 degrees — it doesn't matter we're out here about four hours a day. It's five or six on the weekends."

The long hours and expenses are what Marcum chooses. She finds solace in the methodical care of animals, she said.

After her day at work in the Baylor Sciences Building, Marcum said caring for and working with the animals is calming.

While people and tasks grapple for her attention all day, her animals just want to experience her presence and she theirs.

"I just look at these guys and they're like, 'Hey, got any food?' and I say, 'Yeah. No problem,'" she said. "It keeps me peaceful and happy."

Over the years, as people heard about her outreach program, more and more phone calls came in to Marcum about mistreated horses. She said every horse they can afford is taken in for care. After an animal's health is restored, she and her sister work to find a permanent home for it.

"They'll never end up used or abused again," she said.

Ruben Pizana, who graduated from Baylor in 2014, often spent time helping Marcum care for the four-legged giants.

"Whether sound to ride or not, Dr. Marcum has taken in many horses and given them a new and improved lifestyle," he said. "Her wealth of knowledge and love of horses can be seen every day with the countless hours she dedicates. She teaches people to appreciate everything horses can offer."

A lot of the time, neglected animals end up in Marcum's barn because of her relationship with the McLennan County sheriff's office.

As word spread of the outreach program, the sheriff's deputies began contacting Marcum to house and heal horses. Soon, she was the go-to for rehabilitation services in the area.

Generally, the sheriff's office is alerted to animals in abusive situations by phone calls from civilians who notice the atrocity. Officers also coordinate seizure operations for neglected animals if they see them while on patrol, said Cpt. M.R. Colyer with the McLennan County Sheriff's department.

Colyer said Marcum's efforts are reverberating throughout McLennan County and Central Texas.

"She's helping by getting these horses back up to good health," he said. "And then by possibly being able to find good homes for them."

By answering her calling, Marcum is contributing to both healing the world and inspiring people along the way.

"It's good to know that someone cares enough for animals to make sure they're treated the right way," Jones said.

To report animals in abusive situations, call the McLennan County sheriff's office at 254-757-5000.

*By Jon Platt and Madison Miller  
Reporters*



## A day in the life of a **RESCUE RANCHER**

**5:30** | Rise and shine. Grab a cup of coffee, read the news and catch up on grading papers.

**6:45 - 9:15** | Feed, water and hay horses. Do various barn chores.

**9:30 - 3:00** | Go to school. Teach and hold office hours.

**3:00 - 7:00** | Feed, water and hay horses. Catch up on more barn chores.

**7:15** | Catch up on work and grading. Doze off.

**Gaitway**  
to the good life

PHOTOS BY ALEXA BRACKIN | BROADCAST NEWS PRODUCER



# Top-Notch Chef

PENLAND CHEF STIRS THINGS UP FOR BAYLOR



By VIOLA ZHOU  
REPORTER

It was 10:40 a.m., five minutes before the lunch hour started. Students were lining up at the entrance of Penland Crossroads dining hall. John Mercer, in his black hat, black chef uniform and black frame glasses, was giving final reminders to his staff.

"Tomorrow is the game day," he said with a serious face. "We need to make sure that we do continuous service."

"Remember to have your hat on," Mercer continued. "I have three chef hats, \$3 each, so I can always have one here." All of the day's lunch dishes were on the table in front of him for the staff to see.

Mercer, the 41-year-old Texan who is called "Chef John" by his staff, joined Baylor in August. Once a science major at the University of Texas, he is now the top chef behind Penland Crossroads, the largest food court on campus.

"It's the sixth university where I've worked as executive chef," he said. "In universities, there are much more opportunities for experimentation and exploration. I can really develop my style to let my customers enjoy. And it's always fun to get new customers and expose them to what I do."

Mercer, a native of Jasper, has been working in restaurants since he got his first job in a burger restaurant as a dishwasher at the age of 15. He went to UT and majored in psychology and zoology without giving up his job.

While in college, Mercer studied during the day and cooked at night. He said he was not familiar with sleep during college.

"Studying and cooking full time was normal for me. I don't sleep much," he said, laughing.

However, Mercer didn't think scientific research was the right path for him. He left college one semester before graduation and decided to pursue a new track and career as a cook.

"Writing scientific papers was fairly grueling, and I didn't have the patience to sit on the desk," he said. "I learned what I needed in college. I learned how to learn. In my current field, a degree in psychology and zoology would do absolutely nothing. I feel like I've got every penny out of it. I paid it by myself, so, my choice."

Following his then girlfriend, Mercer moved to Seattle and received his first university job at

Seattle Pacific University, where he started as a line cook. He became the executive chef within one year.

"They just built a new building and were having staff issues," Mercer said. "I worked hard and was promoted four times within a year."

After that, Mercer worked at Linfield College in Oregon, Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and Emory University in Atlanta. His

cooks have an understanding of everything. He said he will also come to the dining floor to look at the glass and the display to make sure counters look just right.

Anthony Thomas, service manager at Penland Crossroads, said the chef has a good eye for detail and is very passionate about his job.

"He is definitely in love with what he does," Thomas said. "He likes food. He likes to cook. He likes to taste."



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

John Mercer is Penland Crossroads' Executive Chef. Mercer has worked in the restaurant industry since he was 15 years old and Baylor is the sixth university where he's worked as an executive chef.

career as a chef supported a passion for traveling.

"I've gotten to see the United States," he said. "I have gotten different experiences, regional foods and cooking styles. There is no better way to learn than go there and do it."

At Baylor, Mercer calls staff meetings twice a day. Before every meeting, he will walk around every station to look at menus and check if

"His food knowledge is something I haven't seen in a whole lot of people. That includes cooking, cleaning, health standard - everything."

Mercer said he has lunch and dinner at Penland five days a week. One of his favorite foods is smoky pork.

"Those smokers are something unique," he said. "When they are done right, the food that

comes out of them is just beautiful, perfect, smoky."

Mercer said his typical trips to Penland end at 7 p.m., after 10 hours of working.

"A chef's job is always difficult," he said. "It means long hours, lots of lifting and a hot environment. I didn't have to do this. I'm fairly well educated, but I love cooking."

Mercer said he would describe himself as an active person, always interacting with students.

"Just hello or short jokes, making people smile, talking to them about food," he said. "If there are concerns with the menu, I will address them. Sometimes it's just talking. It's easy to walk over to a table and watch football and have conversation about sports. Easy."

Mercer said he has received plenty of positive feedback from conversations, but he has also has numbers that show the dining hall has its haters. Some have complained Penland doesn't have a static menu to ensure it has burgers and pizza every day. And some have commented that they want a make-your-own deli.

"In this building, make-to-order is difficult because it's very, very slow. We can't put people on a line," Mercer said. "We try to make up by providing a constantly moving menu. You may not have instantaneous variety such as make-to-order, but day-to-day, the foods are going to be completely different."

Staff members at Penland think highly of Chef John. Salad bar attendant Andrea Johnson, who worked at Penland before Mercer joined, said Mercer made the food court better.

"I love Chef John. That's my dude. He is awesome," Johnson said. "If I have problems, he is the person to talk to. If you are wrong, he lets you know. The first time I saw him I thought he was super cool. He is such a sweet person."

Cook Jason Kelly at Penland also said Mercer wears his chef hat well.

"He knows food," Kelly said. "He knows what is going on in the kitchen. He knows what he wants and he knows how to do it."

Mercer said he feels proud to be the manager of people with strong work ethic like those at Penland Crossroads. Pointing at a station that serves waffle sandwiches, he said two line cooks there are among those who work really hard.

"It's nice to lead people like that. Not only is it easy, it's fulfilling," he said.



# THE ELIMINATION ROUND

*There's no challenge, immunity or reward, yet a great divide exists in Baylor's oldest student-led organization. Retribution, says one former member, is the driving force.*

By REUBIN TURNER  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

There was something different about the 62nd legislative session of student government, but Rockwall senior Forrest Davis couldn't pinpoint exactly what it was.

However, as members of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity began to vacate Student Senate seats, it became clear to Davis that student government leadership was on the move to outwit, outplay and outlast members of the ATO fraternity.

The fraternity makes up approximately 35 percent of the Senate's population, the largest Greek demographic within the chamber.

The fraternity also carries a strong presence on campus, known for all-university events and consistency as the top-performing fraternity in academics, posting an average GPA of 3.4 last semester.

Davis, who is not a member of ATO, said he feels as though student government leadership is strategically working to eliminate ATOs from the Senate in retaliation for ousting friends whom he did not name this past election.

"The leadership, still reeling from the fact most of their buddies who were incumbents got forced out by the new ATOs, were looking for a way to get them back," Davis wrote in an email to the Lariat.

Davis said this is seen by policy changes made by the Student Senate bylaws and the drop in ATOs in the Senate by approximately 25 percent.

According to the Senate bylaws, senators must fulfill one office hour per full academic week and are allowed up to four unexcused absences per semester. Davis said these requirements became more stringent in an effort to force ATO senators' resignations for failing to uphold them.

Davis said he became a casualty of this new policy when the Senate Executive Council demanded his resignation for failing to uphold attendance requirements. Although Davis fought the charge and was not voted out by the Senate, he said he resigned out of frustration.

Katy junior Lawren Kinghorn, internal vice president, said although the methods of obtaining this office-hour requirement were altered, the purpose was not directed at any group.

Kinghorn said in the past, writing a bill was worth three

office hours. Under the new policy, however, writing it is worth two hours, while attending a meeting when researching a bill is worth one. Kinghorn said there was essentially no change.

"We didn't change the one office-hour requirement, and we actually extended the opportunities that senators have to obtain this requirement," she said.

The purpose of the policy changes Kinghorn said, was to increase student government recognition throughout campus and on social media.

sion were also brought into question for failing to uphold attendance requirements.

Woodinville, Wash., senior Gannon McCahill, a member and former president of ATO, said although he doesn't feel ATO is being targeted, he does believe ATO's voice has been unfairly limited within the body of the Senate.

Throughout his time within the Senate, McCahill said he's seen many qualified members of the fraternity passed up for important positions that would have increased their clout within the chamber. "There have been times when important positions in Student Senate have been vacant and not every Senator was given an equal chance at filling the spot," he said, saying it was strange considering they make up such a huge portion of the Senate.

Furthermore, McCahill said ATOs have consistently been left out of committees that deal directly with the business of the Senate.

"I was surprised when I found out I had been placed on the campus improvements and affairs committee," McCahill said. McCahill listed the finance committee as his top choice, and as a finance major he thought he'd get it.

According to the Senate bylaws, the president of the Student Senate is responsible for appointing committees.

Kinghorn said McCahill was not appointed to either of his committees purely by circumstance.

"Approximately two-thirds of the elected student senators indicated the finance committee as their first or second choice, making it difficult to even-out the committees. However, every Student Senator was placed in one of their top three choices," Kinghorn said.

McCahill said he believes some of the leadership's attitudes toward the fraternity stem from fears that ATO would vote and side together on many issues.

As a result, two factions have developed within the Senate, McCahill said, working against each other.

As the internal vice president, Kinghorn said she intends to make sure the Senate is running as efficiently and smoothly as possible, and if this means calling senators into question that don't fulfill duties as required by the Senate's bylaws, then so be it.

"It's an honor and a privilege to serve in any capacity of student government. Everyone, from leadership to senators should treat it as such."



Two of the new methods, for instance, grant office hours to senators who use social media for student government's cause.

Kinghorn also said attendance has been a significant problem among several of the new members of the chamber, despite a workshop at the beginning of the semester to highlight attendance requirements in the constitution.

"The executive council even granted a grace period to those who hadn't been meeting requirements, just because we wanted to make sure the requirements were clearly outlined," Kinghorn said. In accordance with the constitution, she and the SEC have called into question senators who consistently failed to uphold this attendance requirement. "This procedure is not new," Kinghorn said. She also said members during the last legislative ses-



# Baylor's *Bel Canto*

## Baylor's VirtuOSO takes to center stage to show their pitch is perfect

By MADI MILLER  
REPORTER

Baylor has its own version of the Barden Bellas from "Pitch Perfect" called VirtuOSO.

Like "Pitch Perfect," VirtuOSO competes in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. This competition has been around since 1996 and continues to host an a cappella competition each year. When groups apply for a spot in the competition they submit videos to the program in November and then, if selected, compete in February in Springfield, Mo.

Each group has 12 minutes to perform three contrasting songs arranged together. They are then judged based on multiple categories separated into three sections: vocal performance, visual performance and subjective rank.

"VirtuOSO competes in the Midwest region," Moore said. "Once you advance past that you go to the semifinals, and then you go to the finals, which are in New York at Lincoln Center, like 'Pitch Perfect.'"

VirtuOSO began three years ago with a few students led by San Anto-

nio senior John Brooks trying to rally others to join an a cappella group on campus. Though it was not as fruitful as hoped, the founders took the idea to the School of Music and it blossomed into a group of 14 members.

The group is similar to one seen on "The Sing Off" or "Pitch Perfect," said Wills Point senior Caleb Moore.

"VirtuOSO is a contemporary pop a cappella group that covers all genres of music, so we are not just stuck to pop music," Moore said. "We try to touch everything."

Choosing and arranging the songs is usually a group effort. It depends on the drumbeats and the vocal percussionists' ability to recreate the sound, but when they create the sound, the harmonies fill the room.

"I think a lot of us just throw out suggestions all the time," said Flower Mound sophomore Addison Pattillo. "There's potential in every song to be a cool arrangement. You just have to find the right ones for the group."

The name VirtuOSO comes from the musical term virtuoso, which means a person who is

very skilled in music.

"They really picked it because it had the word 'oso' in it," Moore said.

Singing is not the only thing that the group practices during its rehearsal time. The performances also include choreography by Colorado Springs, Colo., junior Megan Becker.

"I am a dancer so really it is just in my mind," Becker said. "I set aside a couple of hours and just do it."

She keeps a large parchment paper spiral where she creates her choreography formations and writes down moves to beats of the music.

VirtuOSO will go on a tour to high schools on its way to San Antonio this month, where a teacher that is involved with the competition is going to help the group with its performance.

VirtuOSO members put in hours of rehearsal each week, which counts as part of their required ensemble course credits.

"We start off with a jam," Moore said. "Our arranger gives us a baseline then tells the percussionist to add something to it."

The vocal percussionists are an equal

part of the group that competes. They give them the beat of the music to work with.

"A lot of a cappella music is blend more than anything," Becker said. "It's taking really great individual solo singers and making them a part of a band, making them like instruments."

After warming up, the group sits down and irons out what songs they are going to rehearse for the day.

"It takes a lot more than just humming a tune and then creating some awesome arrangement," Becker said. "It usually takes a couple people really digesting a song and then giving it to the group for them to learn."

While the group is busy preparing for the competition, they are still performing on campus. The group showcases its talents at different places every Friday afternoon, and Moore said his favorite part of performing on campus is seeing reactions from people who don't even know it exists.

"I think my favorite part is when we finally get a song and run through it for the first time and it is perfect," Pattillo said. "It's a cool feeling."





# SHARK TANK

Entrepreneurs find innovative solutions to on-campus issues.

By Brooks Whitehurst  
Lariat Reporter



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

A Baylor student uses Campus Bike's system.

## Campus Bike

At college campuses across the nation, thousands of bikes get discarded each year due to abandonment and disrepair.

"Getting across campus is a problem," said Jonathan Permetti, CEO of Campus Bike. "We think that bike sharing can meet what we think is a desperate student need."

The need is the ability to get across campus quickly without having to worry about maintaining or losing your bike, said Permetti and T.J. Gawalis, COO of Campus Bike.

Students can purchase a membership to Campus Bike and after registering themselves with the company's app, the lock on any one of the bikes will unlock with their smartphone. Currently, Campus Bike is in the process of running a student pilot program with around 10 bikes, all which have the same combination lock and code and about 20 people.

The team said so far, they've had 100 percent approval.

"The premise is for it to be as cheap as possible," Gawalis said. "It's unlockable through a smartphone. On the back of the bike a cable comes out and you just lock it up."

Campus Bike hopes to pitch the idea to Baylor in the spring and aims to have bikes all over campus by fall 2015 at no cost to Baylor.

The team said they hope students will get behind the idea because of the convenience it offers.

For more information on Campus Bike, email Jonathan@campusbike.org.



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Dapper Bear owner Jackson Wren shows products to customer.

## Dapper Bear

With visions of plaid, Waco senior and entrepreneur Jackson Wren is forging new ground in the Baylor apparel market.

"We create high-end, classy Baylor Apparel," said Wren, who is the chief executive officer of Dapper Bear Clothiers. "Our main goal is to tangibly give back to Baylor by helping to create a buzz about what is going on here."

Dapper Bear is the developer and sole licensed retailer of what is known as "official Baylor plaid."

The product was developed with first lady Alice Starr during the company's startup with Accelerated Ventures, which began fall 2013.

"By far, I learned more building this business than through any other part of being at Baylor," Wren said.

Over the course of Accelerated Ventures, Dapper Bear was very successful, Wren said.

"The Baylor Angel Network provided the initial \$5,000 to start the company for 10 percent equity in the company," Wren said. "By the middle of February we had turned a profit and grew by two to three times as much by the end of May."

Dapper Bear Clothiers has products in Roots Boutique, the Baylor Bookstore, the McLane Stadium shop, Zooty's in Salado, and their online store, dapperbearclothiers.com.

"Baylor has helped develop us and our business in so many ways," Wren said. "In five years I would hope that Dapper Bear is a staple clothing company at Baylor."



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sic'em Delivery employee Zach Stover makes a delivery.

## Sic'em Delivery

For Baylor alumni and co-founders of Sic'em Delivery, Jake Dahms and Tyler Bull, what started out as a temporary means to make money after college two years ago has now become a full fledged business.

Re-emerging in August as Baylor and Waco's self proclaimed "delivery service for everything," after a summer-long break, Sic'em Delivery is back on the scene hoping to make life for students and Wacoans easier, one delivery at a time.

"We knew we couldn't go out and get full-fledged careers," Dahms said. "We needed a way to make a little money before training, and we had this delivery idea."

Sic'em Delivery takes orders seven days a week for food and other goods through their website, text, and phone call, with a 30-45 minute guarantee on delivery time.

Hours are 7 a.m.-1 a.m. on Sun.- Wed. and 7 a.m.- 3 a.m. on Thurs.-Sat.

Prices for delivery start at \$3 for partnered restaurants, and \$5 for non-partnered restaurants, with a \$1 fee depending on the distance of the restaurant.

Dahms and Bull said Sic'em delivery is the only company in the area that tries to deliver just about everything. Bull said that in addition to the food they regularly deliver, they've also delivered groceries, gas, dry cleaning and even bikes.

"It's growing faster than I thought it would, without even really advertising too," Dahms said.

To place an order visit [sicemdelivery.com](http://sicemdelivery.com).



Read the full story on  
[BaylorLariat.com](http://BaylorLariat.com)

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SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

# the Real Housewives OF BAYLOR

By Rebecca Flannery  
Reporter

The term “housewife” has taken on new meaning as the roles of women have changed over the decades. First lady Alice Starr has joined the ranks of women who perpetuate the idea of housewives taking on more than the role has traditionally required. These women have collectively accomplished a great deal to improve their communities, as well as their own homes. As for their husbands? They are far from expecting their wives to remain in an antiquated role reminiscent of the 1950s housewife.

## Alice Starr

*Alice Starr is the wife of Baylor President and Chancellor, Ken Starr. Mrs. Starr has been involved in several charities and nonprofits. The Starrs have lived all over the country. They have three children and six grandchildren.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about your life with Mr. Starr?**

We’ve been married for 44 years and lived all over the country. It’s been a lot of fun. We’ve each had our own careers. I’ve been a professional in marketing and public relations at several firms.

When we moved to California, I decided to form my own company and help nonprofits with marketing, public relations and fundraising. That’s essentially what I still continue to do, mostly in the Waco area and the Washington, D.C., area.

**Do you feel like you have an opportunity to accomplish what you want to do here in Waco?**

I feel like I’m a partner of my husband’s in his role. As first lady I like to take a very active role. So I go to many of the lectures, concerts and sporting events and I truly try to take part. I think that makes the job so much more fun as first lady.

**How did you and Mr. Starr meet?**

We met in school. For those of you who think, “Oh, it’s terrible that I’m not able to graduate on time” because they have to take one more course, listen. Ken’s adviser in college never told him that he had to take two years of the same language. He had two years of languages, but not two years of the same language. So he went to Harvard summer school in the sum-

mer of 1968 to take Spanish, and we were in the same class. I had just finished my freshman year at college. That’s how we met, and we were married two years later in New York, where I am from. Immediately we moved down to Durham, N.C., and I helped put him through law school at Duke.

*Go to [Baylorlariat.com](http://Baylorlariat.com) to view the entire story, in addition to interviews with alumna and Lula Jane’s owner Dr. Nancy Grayson, and Zoe Rios, wife of the associate dean of Baylor’s graduate school, Chris Rios.*

**What is something you have learned after moving around so much?**

We have moved a lot and I have always found jobs, everywhere I am. I try to help students looking for a job by saying “be bold.” Don’t just send your resume in. Go in person and talk to them about what you could offer. I’ve gotten about 10 different jobs that way, just showing up to a place where I’d like to work and telling them what I could possibly do.

**How did your role shift when you had children?**

I always had my own career but I worked part time once the children were born. I decided, some women would like to be CEO of a company but I knew with three children I could not do that. I became vice president of the largest commercial real estate company in northern

Virginia but they were flexible hours, so I could always be at my children’s activities and I could always support my husband when he needed it.

**If you had to narrow it down to a few short sentences, what would you say are your main passions?**

I like to help nonprofits, especially with marketing, public relations and communications. I’m able to do that here at Baylor as well as the surrounding community. And I think it’s been important for my husband and I to be involved in the Waco community. We love everybody we’ve met; we think it’s just a community full of culture, and waiting to blossom even more.

**What has been the most difficult transition for your family?**

I have not had a single transition that I didn’t think was challenging and fun. I love meeting new people; we have lived in North Carolina, Florida, California and some other spots along the way. And now we live in Waco. All have been so much fun and we really enjoy it. We’re really easy to please.

**What has been your driving force as a female behind a very powerful figure?**

My fulfillment comes in helping my husband and my family, to tell you the truth. I love helping the community as well, but my first priority is to be a support to my husband and my family no matter what. If one of my daughters is having a baby, I will drop everything and go there to help her. And yet I love being creative and innovative in the nonprofit business world because there’s so much to be done and there’s much need. I feel that you can never do too much. It’s very tough in this world. My family is my priority.

First lady Alice Starr is the wife of Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr and said she enjoys supporting her husband in his role, as well as improving the Waco community through public relations work with nonprofit organizations.



# Seniors prepare for a world after college

By ABBY LOOP  
STAFF WRITER

Life as a senior in college can be great. Classes are flying by and a sense of entitlement can be felt knowing life as an underclassman is over. However, what starts as seniors standing tall and ready at the beginning of the year can quickly turn into apprehension and nervousness as a significant event approaches: graduation.

When college seniors exit the world of classes and enter reality, all the books, professors and classrooms morph into briefcases, bosses and offices. For some, it will be an exciting transition into the adult world. For others, it's a jump into an unknown land.

Preparing to leave Baylor and venture out into the career world also means filling out internship and job applications and, for some, preparing to move across the country.

Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., senior Rayne Brown said she plans to be on the lookout for a job before she graduates so she'll be more prepared when she leaves school.

"I feel anxious about graduating but I'm also happy because I feel so burnt out on school," Brown said. "Also, I think I'll feel less anxious if I graduate with a job offer. After graduation, I plan to be working at a major publication in New York."

Brown said right now she's not preparing for graduation but is waiting until next semester. However, she said the best thing she thinks anyone could do to be prepared for graduation is knowing their best career option.

"As far as preparation, do your research and have an idea of what you want to do," she said. "The most horrific thing for me would be to go into a job and honing my skills and then I end up hating it."

Kevin Nall, director of employer relations at Baylor's Office of Career and Professional Development, said the main thing seniors need to know is what they want to do and how they plan to achieve it.

"I would say they need to know what they're looking for and be focused and clear about it," Nall said. "You need to be able to communicate the value of what you can do for an



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organization and you need to be able to answer why you want to work for a certain company."

Nall said students should be doing the homework for the company they are applying for and make sure their resume is performance-oriented. Also, any students who are having problems with finding a career, knowing what

career they want or want advice on their resume are encouraged to stop by the career office and take use of the multiple resources that are offered.

According to the department's website, staff at the Office of Career and Professional Development are there to help students and alumni achieve success after leaving Baylor

through career exploration, professional development and employment resources.

"The best thing a student can do is come by the career center. We have access to alumni, we look at and help fix resumes and we have career fairs that feature a variety of companies," Nall said. "They should create Hire-a-Bear

accounts and be able to get information on these fairs."

Katy senior Hannah Mullikan said she's been to Office of Career and Professional Development before to get advice on her resume writing.

"They were a great help," Mullikan said. "I have a strange combination of anxiousness and excitement when it comes to graduation. I'm excited to put these past four years into use, but then I also don't want to leave the academic world. Part of me just wants to keep learning."

Mullikan said the best thing she can do right now while still in the safe environment of school is to take as much as possible from professors and classes.

"Don't think your professors are stupid," Mullikan said. "You'll miss those moments when you'll want to go back to that certain class because you now know something new."

According to a study done by the School of Education at Northeastern University, students planning to enter the workforce find themselves wasting time in classes that appear to have no relevance for the future they face and the second semester of school is seen as more of a time for socialization than academic rigor.

Nall said that while most of the senior students he deals with are very motivated, he notices the ones who have already had previous jobs or internships in the summer find school to be more tedious.

"Some students might feel challenged to finish out the year and are not pushing academically because they've already had jobs," he said. "But most seniors are pretty motivated to get something nailed down after graduation."

This year's senior class winter commencement ceremony will be on December 20. The spring commencement ceremony will be on May 15 and 16. Whether students are graduating in the winter or the spring, Nall had the same advice for all of them.

"Work on networking with people, let people know you're looking for a job and don't get discouraged," he said. "There will be a lot of unanswered emails and lots of unreturned phone calls. Keep going and give people a reason to hire you."





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BY RYAN FINN  
REPORTER

With students looking for an easier way to travel, mopeds are becoming increasingly popular on campus.

The growing trend demonstrates the alternative methods that students are taking in order to get to class, the gym or to and from a friend's residence.

Scooters are also becoming an increasingly popular mode of transportation because of their fuel efficiency. Constantly fluctuating gas prices, not being able to find a parking spot or having to pay \$350 a semester for a parking permit are complications that mopeds allow students to avoid.

"The parking passes are becoming more expensive and parking is becoming harder to find," Des Moines, Iowa, sophomore Jared Lowe said. "The convenience of a moped is great in both of those aspects."

There are several types of mopeds, all with varying sizes of engines, styles and gas mileages.

One type of scooter is the Honda Metropolitan 50, which can get over 100 mpg. Small scooters usually range from 50 to 150 cubic centimeters (the capacity of the cylinder). The larger the capacity, the more powerful the engine is. A smaller engine will get better gas mileage than larger ones (200–700cc). Even some of the largest scooters, such as the Honda Silverwing, can get up to 52 mpg.

Mopeds are a way to significantly cut down on the problems that consistently arise from the parking issues on campus.

Designated spots for moped parking include the barricaded area at Fifth Street and Speight Avenue bike rack areas and student parking spaces outside of major buildings, according to Baylor's parking website.

Parking permits for mopeds are \$75. The charges go directly to the student's bill, and the passes last for a whole year. If a moped is under 50cc and requires no license plate by law, then that moped doesn't require a parking permit.

For all of the positives related to scooters, there are also some critical things a student should weigh when debating whether or not to purchase one.

# Baylor Chopper

While a majority of scooters might reach a top speed of around 60 mph, this does not necessarily mean they are adequate for driving on the freeway.

In fact, the way scooters are manufactured makes them unstable for high-speed driving. Most scooters under 150cc aren't even legal for use on the freeway.

Scooters have relatively small, thin tires, slow acceleration and an uneven weight distribution, which cause an imbalance on the moped and result in less effective front brakes.

There are also many dangers associated with riding a moped on the streets on and around campus.

"People have been hit by cars because of a lack of knowledge on how to drive a moped," Lowe said. "Also, people walking on campus often do not look where they are walking and mopeds have to constantly avoid them, which can be dangerous."

Despite the possible dangers, there's a constant debate on whether a moped would be a wise investment for students while at college. An advantage to having a scooter is that they can get a student from one point to another with relative ease and speed, much faster than if he or she chose to walk or drive to class.

"Driving a moped allows you to leave for class later," Carrollton senior moped owner Connor Waggoner said. "Also, they are easy to use and it saves you money in the long run."

Operating a moped on the streets surrounding Baylor's campus requires a license. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, one must obtain a Class M driver's license to operate a motorcycle on the roads.

However, if someone wishes only to ride a moped and not a motorcycle, they may choose to get a Class M driver's license with a K restriction, allowing them to ride mopeds but not motorcycles.

Obtaining a license in order to drive a moped will ease some worries that parents might have if their child chooses to get a scooter while at college.

Many students are turning towards mopeds as a quick, inexpensive and easy method of transportation that allows them to relax and enjoy the ride.



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### ► Dine, drive and dive through Waco

Waco is making a name for itself in the eclectic food culture that has become popular in Texas. Some restaurants are often overlooked, though, when considering the tastiest food in town. Take a gander through the Central Texas city as the Lariat brings you to some of the more deeply rooted Waco joints that are not only ingrained with culture but also some darn good food.

### ► So you think you can swing dance?

The Baylor Swing Dance Society takes art and self-expression to a whole new level with its fast-paced, high-energy routines. The group strives to revive a dying art through their organization by teaching all those who desire to pick up their feet and cut a rug. Students and professors alike continuously gather to turn up the music and dance the night away.

### ► Gaitway to the good life

Dr. Heidi Marcum has made a devotion to animals that many people would not consider. The Baylor professor is committed to rescuing any horse in need, leaving her with 40 equine companions to share her life with. Helping animals of such grand stature does not come without challenges, she says. "Every time I despair or worry, something comes up. Something rescues me."

### ► Bizarre Texas foods

It is apparent that there is no particular mold to describe every Baylor student. While campus is smack dab in the middle of the South, many have not experienced some of the quintessentially southern foods prevalent in these parts. The Lariat gave a group of students the opportunity to taste test some dishes. Whether they were good, bad or ugly, the reactions are priceless.



