Homecoming traditions pass to next generation

CAMILLE COX
Staff Writer

Since 1909, Baylor Homecoming has brought the Baylor family of the past, present and future together for a weekend full of traditions.

Flower Mound sophomore Lauren Leath said her parents, Blake and Dawn Leath, graduated from Baylor in 1992 and have gone as a family to homecoming over the years.

“I’ve been to homecoming four or five times. I don’t remember the youngest times, but I have so many pictures of my dad and mom at the bonfire,” Lauren said. “We would always watch the homecoming parade, where they would provide food and hot chocolate, so we would get up super early on Saturday mornings for that and then go to the game.”

Lauren said she grew up immersed in homecoming traditions, including the bonfire, Pigskin Revue, the parade and the football game. Now she is experiencing those traditions as a student.

“Part of it has been a little bittersweet with COVID-19 because this feels like her freshman year and just going to school, but as a parent, you see that they take such great care of our kids.”

Dallas sophomore McKay Hannah said he had a similar familial experience growing up and is now a fifth-generation Bear.

“I have been going to every single homecoming since 2011, when RCS [Robert Griffin III] was here, and he was so cool to think at the time that this feels like her freshman year as students and just going to school, but as a parent, you see that they take such great care of our kids.”

Dallas sophomore McKay Hannah said he had a similar familial experience growing up and is now a fifth-generation Bear.

“It’s been even more meaningful as a parent because as a kid, we were there as students and just going to school, but as a parent, you see that they take such great care of our kids.”

Since 1909, Baylor Homecoming has brought the Baylor family of the past, present and future together for a weekend full of traditions.

EXTRA! EXTRA! The cover of the Nov. 5, 1982, The Baylor Lariat shows a recap of the bonfire structure, Baylor students warm up by the bonfire.}

CHILLIN’ BY THE FIRE The 1952 photo captures the Baylor family standing around the bonfire at night.

BEAR BUILDERS 1954 students wear denim and work boots to stack wooden pallets, which are used to build and fuel the bonfire each year.

MEMORY LANE An old photo inscribed “Homecoming” from 1932 recounts the Baylor family standing around the bonfire at night.

FAMILY FLAME Flower Mound sophomore Lauren Leath sits on her father’s shoulders as a child during a Baylor bonfire.

THE CROWN Page A7

History of the Bonfire

History of the Bonfire

EXTRA! EXTRA! The cover of the Nov. 5, 1982, The Baylor Lariat shows a recap of the bonfire structure, Pigskin, the parade and the game.

Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!
It’s OK for friendships to grow, change

SKYLLA MUMANU
Reporter

Ever since I was young, I have loved the idea of being able to rely on others when in a tough position. I felt sharing unique experiences with a group of people and having those memories last a lifetime. Overall, as a kid, I just really wanted friends.

And I got them. When I was young, I was lucky enough to make some incredible friendships.

But, in this day, I’m still maintaining. Even though we don’t get to see each other often because of school or work, we still keep in contact through text, FaceTime and various social media platforms.

GPA shouldn’t be determined by attendance

APRIL ODDO
Reporter

Most of the COVID-19 protocols on campus are already confusing and differing from college to college. Adjusting to a global pandemic was already difficult enough for students, especially with having to transition into online classes. For some, online college is the new normal; it’s what most are used to after being quarantined and isolated from everyday life for so long.

When I initially heard that I would be spending my junior year at Baylor in person, I was excited to return to normalcy. However, many were under the impression that the difficulties that would arise with such a drastic transition, myself included.

Specific colleges within Baylor, such as the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Hankamer School of Business, require students to attend 75% of classes. Using attendance as a grade that can affect GPA often are hard to keep up with the transition to a normal semester is inconstant. Addressing the attendance policy is not an effort to give room for lateness or free time. It’s simply questioning its purpose and goal. Why are adults who pay to be here being graded for the classes they choose to attend?

It’s easy to make the assumption that missing a class is a sign of irresponsibility and inability to commit to a schedule, but there could be a plethora of reasons as to why a student is not in the classroom at the beginning of class.

From personal experiences, I have noticed several of my peers suffer from poor mental health, including myself. This can have a direct impact on motivation and even attention span. An increase in anxiety and depression rates among college students, especially after COVID-19, is not shocking.

Baylor is quick to control students in how many COVID-19 tests they get a week and when they should be wearing a mask. However, there has been little effort in supporting students in the long-term damages that online semesters have brought us. In addition, there is not enough flexibility with what is considered an excessive absence and what is considered an unexcused absence.

How is it that the only excuse of missing a class is to be sick, accident or death in the family according to the attendance policy? There are numerous amounts of other reasons as to why a student may not be able to get to class, and keeping excessive absences in such a tight category is unfair.

Once again, addressing the attendance policy should not be misconstrued as a way for students to have fewer responsibilities. Professors should be more willing to hear the needs of their students and should have more understanding when trying to balance a return to normalcy.

As we grow and age, we enter new environments. Those experiences help to define us, and the friends we make in those moments become the ones who are important to us, especially in a college or professional environment. We start to share the same ideologies and values as those friends, and overall see start to change. Because of this, it’s almost inevitable that some of the friendships we have aren’t the same as they once were.

Now don’t get me wrong, I am happy to see myself; I am that type of person to not be afraid to ask for rest and time for yourself to digest material and keep their brains healthy and functioning well.

It’s time to start viewing class cancellations as something more than people think.

This is also a great time for professors to have a break, because I know they have to be just as tired as we are. A week long break in October wouldn’t be a slow Thanksgiving break, which is at the end of November.

However helpful is that, though? We get a week off, just to stress about finals and then have Christmas break two weeks later. Thanksgiving break should not be misconstrued as a way for students to have fewer responsibilities.

We need week long break now, not at Thanksgiving

DANIELLE SKINNER
LTVN Assistant Reporter

As the semester continues, I noticed how fewer students are showing up to classes and more are feeling the challenges of late nights. I know I would use a break by this point of the semester with tests, assignments and all the exciting college activities.

Luckily, full break is arriving in just two weeks. But is it really considered a break when it is only an extra day off? I think I speak for most students when I say that we need a week of this semester, and need it now.

Now one may argue that we do have a week long break this semester. Thanksgiving break, which is at the end of November. How helpful is that, though? We get a week off just to stress about finals and then have Christmas break two weeks later. Thanksgiving break need to switch.

Imagine that in the middle of October there was a mini long break toward them, especially when trying to balance a return to normalcy.

As a busy student in clubs and organizations, I feel like I could use a break at least. That is why October should have a week long break; it’s in the middle of the semester, would work well for many people’s schedules and would benefit everyone.

It’s time to start viewing class cancellations as something more than people think.

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We need week long break now, not at Thanksgiving.
Dinner with the Livingstones event kicks off Baylor Homecoming week

MATT KYLE
Staff Writer

Baylor’s 2021 homecoming week began Tuesday with Dinner with the Livingstones. Students were invited to the lawn of the Allbritton House to enjoy free food from a multitude of local food trucks, visit with other students and the Livingstones and listen to live music performed by the alternative-pop band Apollo LTD.

Dinner with the Livingstones was first held during President Linda Livingstone’s inauguration week in 2017, and it has been hosted every homecoming since. Last year, the event was held at McLane Stadium in order to accommodate social distancing, but this year the event returned to Allbritton.

Food trucks were situated around the president’s house, offering free food and drinks from several Waco restaurants, including favorites like Shorty’s Pizza, Vitek’s BBQ and Pop’s Lemonade. Over a thousand students gathered on the Allbritton lawn and around the house to mingle with one another, listen to live music and take pictures with the Livingstones and first pup BU.

Thirty minutes into the event, the alternative-pop band Apollo LTD began its concert. The band’s song “Sunday Morning Feeling” was used as the soundtrack for Baylor’s commercial this year. Band member Jordan Phillips said that they were honored that Baylor wanted to use their song for the ad campaign and that they were excited to perform at the event. “It’s a lot of fun to get to do stuff like this,” Phillips said.

“From what we hear, homecoming is a pretty cool time of year for Baylor. It sounds like it’s going to be a party,” Phillips said.

Matt Burchett, director of Student Activities, said the event sets the tone of Baylor Homecoming week as the Livingstones opening up their home to the student body.

“Homecoming is all about welcoming everybody home,” Burchett said. “At the front end of her inauguration to now the front end of homecoming, we’re able to welcome students to her home for a free meal and some great hospitality.”

The fact that they are so joyously willing to be with our students and to understand their experiences — to know them by name, where they’re from and what they’re majoring in, but even more so knowing what their experience is doing for them and through them — I think helps Dr. Livingstone lead but also helps our students trust that leadership in a really tangible way,” Burchett said.

The president being so nice and welcoming makes me feel a little better with transitioning into a new environment,“ Carter said.

“It’s a beautiful articulation of the Baylor spirit in general, as we welcome students home in so many different ways,” Burchett said. The president being so nice and welcoming makes me feel a little bit better with transitioning into a new environment,“ Carter said.

“From what we hear, homecoming is a pretty cool time of year for Baylor. It sounds like it’s going to be a party,” Phillips said.

The president being so nice and welcoming makes me feel a little better with transitioning into a new environment,“ Carter said. “I feel like I’m more a part of a family, and I’m becoming a leader.”

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The Baylor Homecoming tradition began on Nov. 24, 1909, after alumni received a postcard and event was organized by Homecoming History page on Baylor's website. The celebration included class reunions with speeches and musical performances from student groups on campus. There was also a parade, hitting the streets at 2 p.m. with the band, automobiles and carriages. As claimed by The Baylor Roundup yearbook, “Thousands of people wore the Baylor colors while hundreds of vehicles, the street-cars and even the bicycles of the messenger-boys were ornamented with green and gold. The city was truly in gala attire.”

Downtown Waco stores and restaurants got involved as well, according to WacoHistory.org, decorating their storefronts to match Baylor’s green and gold. Music from the band and shouts from fans lining the streets created a joyful noise heard from all around the city. The homecoming festivities ended with a football game, the last of the season. To commemorate the end of the year, seniors wore their caps and gowns to the game. The night ended with a victory for the Baylor Bears with a score of 6-3 against TCU, making the first homecoming a success.

It wasn’t until 1915 that homecoming happened again, so it wasn’t yet planned as a yearly event. The next Baylor Homecoming happened in 1924, when “Baylor’s 1924 football season was so successful that the Baylor Alumni Association voted to make the homecoming celebration an annual event,” according to the Waco History website.

The only exceptions to the annual celebration were from 1943 to 1945, when Baylor canceled homecoming because of World War II, as many Baylor students 21 or older enlisted or were drafted. Since 1946, Baylor Homecoming has been going strong, bringing students and alumni together for a tradition like no other.

Pigskin Revue

Held by the Department of Student Activities, Pigskin Revue was started in 1960 by Marie Mathia, founder of All University Sing. Pigskin was created as an annual event to take place during homecoming weekend in order to showcase the top acts from Sing the semester before.

These performances consist of dance numbers, a medley of songs, costumes, backdrops and props that all go along with a theme or story.

This year, the acts featured in Pigskin are Kappa Delta Gamma & Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Delta Tau Omega, Chi Omega, Alpha Phi, Chi Phi, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Chi Alpha, and Pi Beta Phi.

Scan the QR code to watch a video from Baylor University about All University Sing and Pigskin Revue.
THEN & NOW On the left, Baylor alumni gather in the SUB Bowl in 1947 for a performance during Homecoming. Today, the SUB Bowl is used for a candlelight ceremony on the night before the first day of classes.

BAYLOR SPIRIT TESTED IN BEAR PRANCE

AN EDITORIAL

More than 30,000 people are expected to witness the Baylor Bear prance the morning of November 1. Alumni from all parts of the state will be in Waco to celebrate Homecoming Day.

It will be the A & M cadets, with their crack military formations, in comparison to the Baylor spirit in the form of the Bearprance parade.

Baylor's spirit can be shown in 29,000 people in that parade in no better way than to make the Bearprance a success. Response of 1500 Baylor students to the practice sessions will be necessary for the success.

The first one is today.

Cooperate for a greater spirit and to "Beat A. & M." Do your duty.

Parade & Floats

Claimed to be the first homecoming parade in Texas university history, the Baylor parade began in 1916 (see top left photo). Before the elaborately decorated and themed floats, the parade consisted of students on foot, bicycles, buggies and carriages.

Now, students work throughout the fall semester to create thematically themed floats in order to compete for first place. Many Greek life organizations build floats in partnerships made of one sorority and one fraternity, and many other organizations both at Baylor and in Waco participate, such as the Baylor Driving Club and the Boy Scouts of America. The Golden Wave Marching Band also still participates, leading the parade with its upbeat tunes and fan choreography.

Just like at the beginning, cars are still driven with prominent Baylor figures riding on the back, such as the university president or the Homecoming queen.

Want to see more Homecoming History?

Bonfire
pg. A1

Homecoming Court
pg. A7

Pigskin
pg. B1

Parade
pg. B7

Football
pg. C1
Global Gateway Program provides ‘soft landing’ for international students

RACHEL ROYSTER

Thursday, October 14, 2021

In 2010, Baylor partnered up with a private company called Study Gap to help international students through a pathway program called the Global Gateway Program (GGP). When the COVID-19 pandemic began, enrollment in the program was hit hard, but it is making a slow return.

Dr. Conrad Menking, GGP’s director, said the program has begun to attract students, with 223 in the program since spring 2021. He said the goal of the program is to help students from different countries become more integrated in the American university environment by giving them a “soft landing” with some introductory courses to life on campus.

“Those students are good candidates to come to Baylor, but their English is not a little bit low — not beginner, just a little bit low,” Menking said. “They all have studied English in school, but they’re just not quite ready for college-level English yet, so our program helps ease them into an English immersion. American university environment in a sheltered program. We provide a high level of support and service for those students. We call it a cocoon-level service.”

Support includes academic help from advisors, like junior student success manager Meredith Moore, who Menking describes as “the mother of the program.”

Moore said her job also includes helping international students with the in-country cultural details of their day, like showing them how to work the laundry machine in their university housing or even explaining to them what the “green black bags” all over campus are.

“When I first had that big culture shock in 2015, they were all over the Paley dorms,” Moore said. “Our students left their dorms and went outside with friends because they didn’t know what they were. They were terrified of the cricket. We just had to reassure them that they don’t bite. They do all the things. That’s just natural. I help them understand what’s safe and what’s not.”

Another challenge coming from another country, Menking said, was getting used to an entirely different culture. He said his specific challenge is one with written materials.

“In the classroom, we lay it all out with painstaking clarity about what we want from our students,” Menking said. “We have rules. We have policies. We have laws. This is what we have that. And we expect our students to read it, and then it’s International students are a part of that kind of, you know, rigor and clarity and reliance on detailed instructions.”

In order to get acclimated, students take one or three segments of GGP courses along with their Baylor courses to help them understand the American culture. Classes include grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and research.

“I’m the one of the most important core classes because it helps you decide what you need to bring to transition to university life here in the United States,” Moore said. “For example, there’s a whole unit on the health center. How do we use the health center? How do we use doctors in the ER and everything in between?”

Baylor alumna creates educational opportunities for Thailand and American citizens

MARIAH BENNETT

Staff Writer

The American-Thai Foundation will be hosting an informational session for students interested in applying for its collaborative project Teach Thailand Corps from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 29. This session will take place in the Cancer Center Lobby conference room located within the Sid Richardson Building. It will include a Q&A, and RSVPs will be required on the Handshake page for the event.

The program is searching for graduate students of any major to teach at schools in underserved areas in Thailand. Interviews begin in January. Career Center office manager Amanda Kniel said.

“I am beyond thrilled the American-Thai Foundation is here,” Kniel said. The American-Thai Foundation was created to support and empower people of Thai descent through education. It also supports their “well-being” health, as well as public and civic affairs in Thailand.

The American-Thai Foundation created Teach Thailand Corps with its sister foundation, the Yonk Foundation.

All organizations were founded by Lampsingh ThaithSUP and Baylor alumnus, Dr. Narong Jivasantikarn. Jivasantikarn also founded Yonk University in 2011.

“I’m a true Thai,” Jivasantikarn said. “When I went back home, I started so many organizations.”

Jivasantikarn is currently the president of Teach Thailand Corps, created in 2011 with the mission to strengthen education in primary and secondary schools in underserved areas by hiring American college-student graduates to teach in those areas. Jivasantikarn said and hundreds of Baylor students have participated in the programs and English was a very helpful tool in his own life.

“I became a student because of language, because of English,” Jivasantikarn said. “I could convey my meaning, my emotions. I could connect.”

Jivasantikarn earned his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1979 and a doctorate in education in 1981. Jivasantikarn said he learned about philosophy while at Baylor. The self-made social entrepreneur created his foundation greatly based on the Peace Corps. He also started it based on how the Baylor founders founded their university. The university was also based on numerous Baylor qualities. Specifically, the qualities of campus life and curriculum.

“I want to be different,” Jivasantikarn said. “Campus life is important to me. I grow up and made friends on Baylor campus.”

In his time at Baylor, Jivasantikarn said he received great support and advice from former president Herbert H. Reynolds. When Jivasantikarn wasn’t able to attend his father’s funeral in 1996, Reynolds made sure he was looked after.

“No one was able to come to dinner and to teach out to me,” Jivasantikarn said. “Jivasantikarn said Reynolds also helped him network and connect with others.

President Reynolds eventually helped me find a way to organize the American-Thai Foundation and to mobilize resources,” Jivasantikarn said.

Eventually, Reynolds attended the opening of Yonk University in 2012. Other past Baylor involvement has included fellow graduates and alumna Whitney Smith.

“I know Berkeley, I think the school is great,” Jivasantikarn said. “It provides nurturing of a type of volunteerism, one of compassion and caring.”

Notably, Jivasantikarn previously visited to recruit students in 2012 with his son to teach in English immersion programs at the American Thai Foundation in 1988, 1992, and 1999.

“It’s a life changing experience for those who return,” Jivasantikarn said. “They always tell me, ‘I’ve grown and never realized I could do so much!’”

TEACH ME: Dr. Narong Jivasantikarn, ThaiLands native and Baylor alumnus, spoke to students about how he’s been able to aid in both American and Thai educational opportunities.

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SAY CHEESE: The Global Gateway Program students and staff pose for a picture at their homecoming alumni and current students event.

This program gives me the chance to communicate with other people. So now, I have … friends I get to learn and communicate with.

ANH LE | VIETNAM FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

Baylor University

February 7, 2020

How to get around Waco, and how to prepare food, and — you know — just all kinds of topics in transition that are pertinent to living in this culture, and then more native living in Waco and living at Baylor.

Vietnam first-year student Anh Le and China first-year student Qing Liu said they specifically chose Baylor because of the GGP.

"Even though I don’t have enough English skills for the college level, I am going to improve with Global Gateway Program," Le said. "This program gives me the chance to communicate with other people because I still have Chinese friends and American friends that I get to learn and communicate with." The GGP also helps in students build a community of people who are experiencing circumstances similar to their own.

[Question] is my roommate, and because I see her almost every day, she is kind of like a family member, and we get a chance to communicate.”

Liu said that through the pathway program, she has been able to see more of what a similar life is like in the United States.

"This program has lots of activities, such as visiting the museum’s history. "I attended an exhibition about dinosaurs in some natural lifestyle and also learned a lot about the museum/history."

Menking said one expectation they have for the GGP is to see the international students exceed the academic success of those not in the program. One way he said they have met that expectation is that 25 of the 132 international students on the spring 2021 Dean’s List students were from their program.

"Our main goal is that they’re successful at Baylor; that’s our No. 1 goal," Menking said. "But at the same time, we hope that they feel like they’re integrated into this community that they feel like Baylor students by the time they’re done with our program, that they really love culture, that they fulfill part of the community by the end of their time here — you know — that pathway program. And we’ve been super successful with that.”
NEXT GEN from Page A1

was literally my all-time favorite,” Harman said.

Harman said Baylor Homecoming was a
time for her extended family to reconnect and
watch the traditions and games together.

“Homecoming was always a time that my
whole extended family would come to the
game, and we’d go to the homecoming parade
together,” Harman said. “Homecoming was a
family reunion between long-lost relatives
that I don’t see often.”

Southlake senior Hannah Holmes said it’s
special to be able to experience the same
traditions that her mom, Karl Holmes, class
of 1993, and her older cousins did when they
attended Baylor.

“I always came to homecoming things
growing up, specifically Pigskin with my family,
which was really fun because my cousins are
seven years older than me, so seeing them
perform was always special,” Holmes said.

According to Baylor’s website, Pigskin
Revue provides a forum of showcasing acts
from the previous year’s All-University Stage
competition.

and ask them to nominate at least one person, so for this year we
had them nominate one male and one female,” Zgiprud said.

“This is someone who not only exemplifies Baylor’s values, but
who is kind of a student pillar in our community representing
Baylor well.”

A homecoming queen has been selected every year except
for 1963 and 1944 due to World War II. Baylor believes the
traditional values of the court have remained the same as the
members chosen are a representative of the university during
homecoming weekend.

The court and all of the nominees ride in the homecoming
parade and the queen, king and members of the homecoming
court are presented at the homecoming football game.

“This is a way that we are able to highlight those who have
done great services for Baylor, whether they are in higher
office positions or they have done a lot of service for the Waco
community,” Zgiprud said. “This allows them to be not only
recognized by Baylor but also, for us in homecoming, as it is a
time for alumni to come back and the broader Baylor family to
come together, to celebrate them as well.

“The queen and king’s court will be announced at the first
Pigskin Revue presentation tonight.

“I think it’s going to be so fun and exciting to have guys up
there representing all of the men around campus,” Tanner said. “I
have had such a great time with all of the nominees.”

While the 2020 Pigskin Revue was held
virtually, this year, the event will take place in
person in Waco Hll.

“I’m really excited to participate in Pigskin
because I always say my cousins do it, so it was
something I always saw as a big deal,” Holmes
said. “I knew there will be young kids in the
audience watching us, just like I did growing
g up.”

While hundreds of alumni flock to Waco
for homecoming weekend, students can choose
to participate in various traditions, including
the parade at 9 a.m. Saturday. Various student
organizations can choose to make a float and
walk the path from downtown Waco to campus,
celebrating the rich community the school
holds.

“I’m part of the Delta Pi Epsilon Club
because I went to enough Pigskin Waco
last semester, so everybody in the club got
the opportunity to be in the homecoming parade,”
Harman said. “Kind of watching from the
sidelines as I grew up, knowing I would go to
Baylor, and now that I’m actually in it, it’s a
different experience.”

THE CROWN from Page A1

Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!
ABOUT THE FLATS

11th Street Flats is one of the newest student housing developments within walking distance to Baylor University. With 44 units ranging from 2-4 bedrooms, The Flats are upscale, gated, and quiet.

AMENITIES & FEATURES

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Behind the Scenes
What goes into building floats for Baylor’s Homecoming parade?

Parade History
Find out the history behind one of Baylor’s oldest traditions.

BaylorLariat.com

Pigskin preparations in full swing

KATELYN PATTERSON
Staff Writer

Choreography practices, costume designing and vocal rehearsals are taking place as organizations prepare their acts for this year’s Pigskin Revue. Pigskin Revue is a Baylor tradition that was established in 1958. The event features a showcase of the top 8 winning acts from the 2020 All-University Sing.

“‘The basic story is that the scenery, they’re out in the field, and they’re so tied up in these ropes,’” Thomas said. “‘They’re kind of a prisoner for so, they’re kind of lamenting and saying this bondage that they feel they have. And then a hymn is sung, if it’s necessary to God, and they’re free from their ropes and celebrate.’”

“The top 8 winning acts of the year get to perform in this annual event. The top 8 winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.”

I think we so desperately missed it last year, when we got the opportunity to get Pigskin again and put this act on stage, we were just so excited.”

JONATHAN THOMAS |
PHI KAPPA CHI SING CHAIR

Extravaganzas, Pep Rally and Bonfire: 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

Singspiration: 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Seventh & Pecan Street Church | “This online reunion brings the Waco Hall stage to your home so you and your family can enjoy the sights and sounds of all the acts in real time!”

Tickets for Pigskin Revue are on sale now at baylor.edu/tickets.

What to Do in Waco: Homecoming Edition

THURSDAY, OCT. 14
Heart ‘O Texas Rodeo and Fair: 4 p.m. – Midnight | Downtown Waco on Austin Avenue to Fifth Street | Enjoy food, games, livestock and more.

Pigskin Revue #1: 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

Mass Meeting: 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. | Fountain Mall | Baylor tradition welcomes first-year students to homecoming and features the retelling of the story of the Immortal Ten and the presentation of the Eternal Flame.

FRIDAY, OCT. 15
25th Class Reunion: Honoring the Classes of 1995 and 1996: 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Baylor Club North Room | The classes of 1995 and 1996 will gather to socialize and celebrate their 25th reunion during homecoming.

The Department of Multicultural Affairs’ Annual Homecoming Reception: 5 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. | Bill Daniel Student Center | Third Floor | Join Multicultural Affairs, Baylor Asian Alumni, Baylor Black Alumni Alliance and the Baylor Latino Alliance for a meet-and-greet event in the SUB.

National Pan-Hellenic Council Gardens 10th Anniversary Celebration: 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | NPAC Gardens adjacent to Fountain Mall | The current National Pan-Hellenic Council invites the Baylor family to its 10th anniversary celebration of the NPAC Gardens.

Saturday, October 16
Baylor Homecoming Parade: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Downtown Waco on Austin Avenue to Fifth Street through the Baylor campus | Join former, current and future Baylor students in commemorating this time-honored tradition.

Celebrating 100 Years of Baylor Spirit: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | McLane Stadium | The Baylor Spirit Alumni will celebrate 100 years with a special tailgate and other events and activities.

Football vs. BYU: 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | McLane Stadium

Pigskin Revue #4: 9 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

Want to see more? Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!
ERIANNE LEWIS
Arts and Life Editor

On Monday I attended the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo in Waco. When I arrived on the fair grounds, I really didn’t know what to expect. As a Houston native, I grew up going to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo every year since I was about six years old. It is a time-honored tradition that I have enjoyed so much. So when I saw that Waco had a rodeo that is considered to be a pretty big deal, I knew instantly that I had to check it out.

After a few stalls of listening to Aggie bandas, a few hours of waiting in line, and a whole lot of people watching a bull ride, I decided to venture out into the fair grounds to see what all the hoopla was about.

The first thing I wanted to do was grab a burger – so I went to the line at the fair’s most popular food stand: the Cotton Candy, Candy Apple, Strawberry Lemonade stand. I ordered a cotton candy, a candy apple, and a strawberry lemonade. I was really excited because cotton candy is one of my favorite foods. The cotton candy was sweet and it was a pretty good size. I would rate it 4/5. The candy apple was another story. I ordered a strawberry lemonade, which I love. However, the candy apple was a bit disappointing. It was too sweet and the candy coating didn’t stick to the apple. I would rate it 2/5.

Next, I decided to try the brisket tacos. Unfortunately, the booth was out of strawberries, which is another topping I love to add. The brisket taco was warm and a little bit too spicy. I added some blue cheese to it, which was really good. I would rate it 4/5. Overall, I enjoyed the fair and I would definitely return next year.

Stand at the Heart O’ Texas Fair and Rodeo

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Stand at the Heart O’ Texas Fair and Rodeo

The alternative-pop band Apollo LTD performed at Dinner with Livingstones at the Alzheimer’s House on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

Jordan Phillips, one member of the duo, said he didn’t always know he was going to go into music. He said that didn’t consider it to be a career for himself until he met bandmate Adam Stark.

Phillips said before Apollo LTD, he and Stark were in another band called The Kicks. They started in college, and they propelled them into the music industry. Phillips said, They went on tour and made three albums, which is what led them to do music as a full-time career.

Phillips said he grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta and didn’t come from a traditional music background. His parents bought him a cheap guitar from a Christmas catalog when he was six years old. It is a time-honored tradition that I have enjoyed so much.

Phillips said he used to go to the rodeo with his dad, walked up to the registration table, and had a lot of upbeat energy as we move past the year’s music, we wanted a song that was positive and fun, Phillips said. “When we were searching for this song, it was the one that would bring outside people in, and it just fit with the fair. That’s when we did, and we just worked every day, and the fruit of that labor was this record.”

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I feel that it is only right that I start with my favorite fair food item at all time: Fried Oreos. The love I have for this high-calorie treat is undeniable. To my surprise, the Oreos at the fair were much better than anticipated. I would rate them a 5/5. I would even go as far as to say that it was comparable to the fried Oreos at the Houston rodeo.

The second item I tried was the brisket street tacos. Unfortunately, they did not live up to my expectations. They were

Apollo LTD performs at Dinner with Livingstones

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Arts and Life Editor

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A&L

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Many students to experience their first homecoming week after COVID-19

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON
Staff Writer

After a year of limited homecoming festivities, the tradition is back in full swing. This will be the first time many transfer students, freshmen and sophomores get to see Baylor crowded with students and alumni alike celebrating the university’s age-old tradition. Throughout this week, Baylor is hosting its annual homecoming with full capacity welcoming families and alumni to campus to celebrate Baylor pride. The university has organized 15 main events for everyone who plans to attend, like Mass Meeting, Pigskin Revue, Dinner with the Livingstones and more. Within these events, attendees can expect something different every day. Compared to last year, it is a big change for students who just joined the Baylor community. Neither the class of 2024 nor last year’s transfer students got the opportunity to engage with a full-capacity and normal homecoming event. “I didn’t get to experience many things as a transfer in the midst of COVID-19,” Willis transfer student and junior Paloma Benavides said. “I’m very out of the loop, and inclusion was geared more towards freshmen on my first year.” Benavides transferred as a sophomore to Baylor, which means she has missed the homecoming celebrations prior to COVID-19. She said one of the parts of homecoming she looks forward to most is meeting alumni who can answer questions about her major. An important event homecoming offers is one allowing students from specific majors to interact with alumni who have graduated from the same department. There are events both on Friday and Saturday planned for many reasons in which to meet with alumni. This is an opportunity given to students to ask questions and make connections. Other students, like The Woodlands senior Madison Manherz, have gotten to experience a normal homecoming and are ready for underclassmen to get to go to one too. Manherz has witnessed two homecomings during her freshman and sophomore years. She said she has a lot of school pride and would wake up at 6 a.m. to get the best spot to view the homecoming parade and the bonfire. “I remember trying to get a spot because it happens in the middle of Fountain Mall, and people were starting to get there as early as 6 a.m. to get a good spot, but at the end of the day it didn’t really matter where you were standing because the line was so massive,” Manherz said. One of the things Manherz enjoyed from homecoming was being surrounded by many people and said there was always really great energy from everyone and every event. “I know a lot of people who haven’t experienced it in a normal year should go,” Manherz said. “I feel like it’s going to be semi-normal this year, but we just haven’t had a normal homecoming in a couple of years.” Houston freshman Emma Jenson said she is excited for her first experience with the celebration and is looking forward to Pigskin Revue and the bonfire. “I’m super excited for homecoming,” Jenson said. “As a nursing major, I only get to be in Waco for two years, so I want to make the most of it while I’m here.” This year’s homecoming will give the opportunity to freshmen, sophomores and transfer students to experience one of the biggest and oldest traditions Baylor has. After not being able to have a fully normal experience last year, students and alumni alike can finally enjoy a tradition once again that will allow many to feel part of the community.
TOPGOLF

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Portrait Flags in Bear Park Alley, south of the stadium
Baylor annually hosts the oldest and largest collegiate homecoming parade in the country, where each year Baylor’s Greek organizations work tirelessly to represent their chapter and uphold Baylor tradition. Floats first appeared in a homecoming parade in 1915 and have become a staple in student life ever since.

Round Rock senior Rylie York, president of Chi Omega at Baylor, said homecoming is a tradition that is taken extremely seriously, especially by Chi Omega, as the defending grand champions.

“Homecoming at Baylor is like an Olympic sport,” York said.

Float building begins in the spring, when the sorority members decide the theme for that coming fall. The themes, as well as the aesthetics and crowd appeal, hold a lot of weight when the floats are judged before the parade.

Once school begins, it’s all hands on deck from August to October. In its entirety, it takes about six months for a float to be completed.

Round Rock senior Rylie York, president of Chi Omega at Baylor, said this year’s theme is still so exciting and a rewarding experience to site every single day, “York said. “We are paired with Sigma chapter of nearly 300 girls to complete the float for the parade, set to kick off at 8 a.m. on Saturday.”

The chairs have been doing such a good job organizing what girls are out there and when, and what they’re getting done on certain weeks, “ York said.

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EMMA WEIDMANN

inform

B6 Thursday, October 14, 2021

The Baylor Lariat

Greeks continue historic float tradition

“‘It’s a long process, and we’ve had girls out at the float site every single day,’ York said. “We are paired with Sigma Chi this year, so that has been a huge blessing.”

The two organizations have been partnered in float building for a few years — an ongoing relationship that York said is still exciting and a rewarding experience to have together.

Allen junior Anna Stephan, Kappa Alpha Theta’s head float chair, said this year’s Theta is paired with Pi Kappa Chi. “The fraternity helped with building and construction, while Theta lent its eyes for detail towards paint colors, design and ‘pomping the skirt,’ which is putting tissue paper through chicken wire,” Stephan said.

The making of the float is equally a logistical challenge as it is a creative one. York said the hardest aspect is time management.

“The chairs have been doing such a good job organizing what girls are out there and when, and what they’re getting done on certain weeks,” York said.

Stephan said it is important to complete deadlines and adhere to regulations. Setting out to execute the plan and bring the vision to life is one of the biggest obstacles.

“We have had a lot of ‘late nights out there,” Stephan said. “The toughest part is just finishing in time for homecoming.”

Despite the toll and the effort put in, one of the most essential aspects of the floats is the tradition and the legacy that they represent.

York said she reminisces on watching the floats from the sidewalk, as a child raised in a Baylor household. There are some of her earliest memories and she said getting to be involved in creating a float is an important part of her life. For students like her and for those just joining the Baylor family, the homecoming floats are a way to connect with the deep sense of belonging and community on campus.

“That is why we do what we do and continue to show up every year,” York said. “We just want to uphold that Baylor tradition that people in chapters have done in the past.”

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BEHIND THE SCENES Kappa Alpha Fraternity prepares to build their float for the traditional Baylor Homecoming parade. With giant letters, tissue paper galore and an exciting theme their float is sure to catch eyes.

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Blast from the Past: Former Baylor Bears celebrate homecoming during the 2014 parade.

Floating through Baylor’s homecoming parade history

Maria Bennett, Staff Writer

The Baylor homecoming parade is being held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2021, after it was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the parade doesn’t consist of colored miniatures for attendees anymore, the event has remained mostly consistent, with notable pauses related to current events.

Thousands have flocked to witness the fun made by students for generations — including Dallas entrepreneurs and fifth-generation Baylor Bear McKay Harman and his family. Harman said he has attended the parade an estimated 30 to 40 times, while his grandfather has attended around 40 times. “The homecoming game is just connecting all our family together,” Harman said. “A way we connect is going to the homecoming parade.”

Dr. Stephen Sloan, director of the Institute for Oral History and creator of the Waco History website and mobile app, said the parade provides an opportunity for alumni to engage with current Baylor life.

“The parade is a way for alumni to engage with student life on campus, which the game doesn’t present that sort of opportunity,” Sloan said.

For most of history, the parade was mainly spearheaded and sponsored by the Baylor Alumni Association, which voted to make the parade a celebration of a current event in 1914. Sloan said this leadership has changed throughout the years.

“The university has taken over a lot of the parade, and the Baylor Chamber of Commerce has always had a role in organizing the parade,” Sloan said. “The Alumni Association organized it only rarely and for most of its history.”

Multiple student organizations, including sororities and fraternities, have also been involved in parade participation. Sloan said an increase in student organizational bands began in the 90s and 70s due to the growing number of student organizations.

Once student organization, the Nizze Brotherhood, has been involved in controversial moments throughout the homecoming parade history. In 2016, it attached a rag on a truck bumper for its float to represent the university sweeping things “under the rug,” making a comment on the handling of scandal at the time. While its float received some positive feedback, past decisions made by the organization didn’t. In 1978, The Baylor Lariat published that homecoming had been canceled, causing the Nizze Brotherhood to be banned from campus for a year. The homecoming parade also saw other ironic moments, such as the announcement of Baylor’s four-river move in 1935 and the return of the parade in 1946, after a three-year hiatus due to WWII.

For years, the parade has made strides outside of Baylor into the Waco community. Even in its beginnings, the parade consistently started downtown before making its way to campus. In an audio file from the Baylor University Archives for Oral History, former store owner Gertrude Levison said parade participants flocked to her store in the 30s and 40s. “It was a constant flow of returning people from Baylor who would come in to see their favorite sororities,” Levison said.

Even in the 1940s parade, local businesses decorated for the event. Sloan said Waco’s economic dependence on the parade was felt mostly from the 30s to the 60s and has definitely lessened due to the growth of activities downtown.

Late Health Camp co-founder Jack Schwartz attended the parade until his retirement in 1963, decorating his business with event pictures. According to Brandy Nelson, author of a Baylor Homecoming Parade article that was published in the Waco History website, the relationship is still pertinent despite Waco’s growth.

“I think Waco’s relationship with the parade is still a relevant relationship,” Nelson said.

Nelson, also a Baylor alumna, said that as an undergraduate student in the 2010s, she noticed an increase in parade floats related to athletics.

“The focus on athletics has exploded,” Nelson said.

Nelson said themes for parade float have shifted year to year, from the popular patriotic floats of the 20s to the more secular presentations of the 90s. He also said that in the past 30 years, diversity in the parade has increased; in recent years, he has seen floats based on Marilyn Monroe, the Gold Rush and even the “Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.”

“From the discovery of student life has increased,” Sloan said. “You can sit in one place and see the Baylor experience pass by your eyes as the parade goes by.”

Despite these changes, Sloan said a constant trait of the parade has been student involvement, even with student’s increasingly busy schedules.

“I’ve pretty much that student involvement has continued to be vibrant,” Sloan said. “Students still have the desire to invest hours, time and effort into presenting floats for an event that happens one morning out of the year.”

Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & AS!
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Baylor takes on future conference rival No. 19 BYU in homecoming game

MARQUIS COOLEY
Sports Editor

Fresh off their commanding 45-20 win over West Virginia, Baylor (5-1, 3-1) will take on No. 19 Brigham Young University at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at McLane Stadium for the 97th homecoming game in school history and a chance to become bowl eligible. Sixth-year senior cornerback Ralph Tindall said it’s the crowd that makes homecoming so exciting to play in.

“You go out there in front of all your teammates, alumni, coaches [and] family, it’s just huge,” Tindall said.

For some of the Bears, it’ll be their first time participating in a Baylor homecoming game.

“I’ve heard a lot about homecoming,” sixth-year transfer inside receiver Steve Sensabaugh said. “Obviously we’ve got a really strong opponent this week, and we’ve been able to perform really well at home, so I’m looking forward to coming out on Saturday and playing our best game.

Even head coach Dave Aranda is looking forward to the atmosphere after having last year’s homecoming game postponed due to COVID-19.

“I remember coming to Baylor and hearing about homecoming and the traditions and the importance, so we’re going to try to put our best foot forward and get excited for our team and excited for my family to see that,” Aranda said.

After suffering their first loss of the season to Boise State University over the weekend, head coach Dave Aranda knows BYU (5-1) will be looking to make a statement in this one, with an intensity Baylor needs to match.

“I know that BYU is going to be an angry team and they’re going to be motivated. They’re going to want the stage, to show that they belong,” Aranda said.

There’s a team that’s looking to prove something and bring some intensity that we have to match.

BYU sophomore running back Tyler Allgeier will be a major point of emphasis for Baylor’s defense. The 5-foot-11, 220-pound running back that Aranda describes as a “touchback playing running back” ranks No. 10 in the nation with 637 yards rushing.

Aranda said Allgeier’s physicality is what gets BYU’s offense going.

“I think it’s safe to say [Allgeier] is just the driver of that attack and the physicality,” Aranda said. “He has a lot of speed, he’s fast forward and gets off a tackle back that he just puts in the ground. I think that drives the offense. Everything is kind of energized by that.

We’ve faced running attacks before, but not to the level of this. And so you know, we can see it. Believe it. Now it’s up to us to stop it.”

Tindall said the defense is aware BYU turned the ball over four times against Boise State last weekend and Baylor hopes to do the same itself, as forcing turnovers has been something the Bears have focused on all season.

“Early turnovers, each interception, it just makes everybody more hungry to get more and just to help the whole team,” Tindall said.

“Creating turnovers in each game is huge just to fly the momentum switch.”

On the offensive side of the ball, the Bears look to continue to air it out down the field. Over the past two games junior quarterback Gerry Bohanon has thrown the ball a total of 56 times, including a career-high 29 pass attempts last Saturday, which resulted in a career-high 336 passing yards and four passing touchdowns.

However, Tindall said he knows the job won’t be easy.

“If [BYU] plays really sound football, not a lot of mistakes on their end. They’re going to be in the right position every single time,” Tindall said. “They have a lot of good athletes, they’re really well-coached and we have a lot of respect for them defensively.”

This will be the third matchup between the Bears and Cougars as their all-time matchup is will be just the third matchup between the Bears and Cougars as their all-time matchup is.

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DAVE ARANDA  
HEAD COACH

Football History

Baylor takes on future conference rival No. 19 BYU in homecoming game
Football for 27 years now and at the beginning of the 2021 season, Morris said. Frank Fallon will always be the true voice.

Many Baylor Bear fans arrive at McLane Stadium during football season to cheer on the Bears at home games, and they have for years. But whether you cheered on the Bears in 1994 or 2020, there’s a common experience those Baylor fans have in common, and that’s the voice heard throughout the stadium.

The man behind the voice is well-known Wacoan and Baylor alumna, John Morris. Morris carries the official title of “Voice of the Bears,” but he doesn’t carry it lightly. Seasoned Baylor fans might know of the original and legendary “Voice of the Bears,” Frank Fallon. Morris owes his time at Baylor as a broadcaster to Fallon offering him the opportunity to come work alongside him. Because of the great broadcaster and mentor Fallon was to Morris, Morris has served as the play-by-play announcer for Baylor football for 35 years, the first eight alongside his predecessor, Fallon. Fallon was even named the Texas Co-Sportscaster of the Year in 2019 by the National Sports Media Association.

Working for Baylor for so long has been all the greater, though, because Morris’ roots are at Baylor. The school is both his and his wife’s alma mater. He graduated in 1980 and his wife, Terri, Morris, graduated in 1985. The two had three children become Bear Bears as well. Newscaster to say, Baylor pride runs deep in the Morris family.

Though Morris is a big fan of Baylor sports, he does admit that game days are his job first. He actually hasn’t sat in the stand of a football game in over 27 years. He has to use his job as an outlet for his team spirit while also remaining professional. But Morris loves his job so much, some would say his job doesn’t even feel like work.

“I’m the caretaker of this position, but Frank will always be the voice of the Baylor Bears.”

Morris, Morris and he works hard to continue his legacy. Morris doesn’t even consider himself the real voice of the Bears, saying Fallon will always be the true voice.

“He was the best. He was absolutely the best, and anything that we do is a reflection of him because we learned from Frank. And we just want to honor him by doing our best and living up to that standard,” Morris said.

Morris has served as the play-by-play announcer for Baylor football for 27 years now and at the beginning of the 2021 season, he had announced 596 consecutive games. He has worked for Baylor for 35 years, the first eight alongside his predecessor, Fallon. He was even named the Texas Co-Sportscaster of the Year in 2019 by the National Sports Media Association.

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JOHN MORRIS | ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR BROADCASTING

Making friends along the way John Morris (left) with his broadcast partner Frank Fallon on the job. The pair worked together from 1987 to 1995.

The face behind the voice: Baylor announcer John Morris sits inside his booth at McLane Stadium. Morris has been announcing Baylor games for 27 years.

On TV and during broadcasting, some perceive Morris as a stand-up guy and very respectable. Humphrey and those who know John, that isn’t just his public persona — that’s who he is on and off the air.

“Morris is the exact same person he is off the show that he is on the show, not just his voice, but his vibe and everything,” Humphrey said. The Humphreys even have personal memories of Morris being the same friendly and uplifting guy to fans that he is as a broadcaster. At their wedding, Morris welcomed them for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey as the “Voice of the Bears.”

Morris has spent his time at Baylor working hard and not working only as a sportscaster. But because of his character and the legacy he has built, to a younger generation of Baylor Bears and to those who love him, Morris will go down as another legendary “Voice of the Bears.”

John Morris is the ‘Voice of the Bears’
KILLING ME SOFTLY Baylor volleyball senior outside hitter Avery Skinner spikes the ball against Rice University on Sept. 16 at the Ferrell Center. The transfer from the University of Kentucky has had multiple matches with over 20 kills in recent weeks, earning herself her first ever Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week award while also getting herself closer to reaching 1,000 career kills.

Audrey La | Photographer

Killing Me Softly

Skinner looks to continue hot streak going into homecoming weekend

GIO GENNERO Sports Writer

Senior outside hitter Avery Skinner is excited for her first homecoming weekend as a Bear as she gets to play two matches and attend homecoming events. Skinner’s father, Brian Skinner, is a former NBA player as well as a former Bear. With an alumnus in the family, Skinner said she used to attend Baylor homecomings when she was a kid and now gets to keep the tradition going.

“I am really excited,” Skinner said. “I love this whole homecoming thing, so I am extremely pumped to not only be able to play this weekend but also attend the events that the university will be holding. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

After playing four seasons at the University of Kentucky, which included a national championship, Skinner said she decided to transfer to Baylor for academic reasons. She said she wanted to come here for a graduate degree and being eligible for a fifth year of volleyball was the “ cherry on top.”

Skinner has had a solid season, but has recently really hit her stride. Skinner earned her first Big 12 conference award by winning Offensive Player of the week, has had multiple matches of 20 or more kills and multiple double-doubles. She said she has gotten more comfortable on the team and credits her teammates, such as senior setter Hannah Sedwick, as big contributors to her success.

“While getting that award is exciting, it would not be possible without my teammates,” Skinner said. “This is a team sport, and going to battle with them is something I love to do. There are always some growing pains when you join a new team, but I would definitely say I have gotten more comfortable. Hannah and I’s connection has been really good lately, which helps a lot, and the team chemistry overall is coming together every day.”

Sedwick said she has loved having Skinner on the team this season as Skinner has been great for the team on and off the court.

“It’s been awesome,” Sedwick said. “She’s a great addition to our team, great firepower from the front row, defended, and the back row, which is defense and serve receive. Just such a hard worker, always in the gym getting reps. That aspect has been great but also just such a fun person and such a positive person.”

Skinner is just nine kills away from reaching 1,000 career kills. She looks to reach the milestone in tonight’s matchup against the University of Kansas at 6 p.m. in the Ferrell Center, which will put an even bigger stamp on this year’s homecoming for Skinner.

“It feels great,” Skinner said. “This is something I have been working towards my whole career and I would not have achieved this goal without my /f_i/f_th year, so I am excited to reach this milestone in the near future.”
Aspiring C

“We’ve talked with our team, we have a unique opportunity. So few schools have been able to go back to back, and we have an opportunity to do something that only Florida and Duke have done since the John Wooden days.”

SCOTT DREW |
MEN’S BASKETBALL |
HEAD COACH

Calling on Collen

“We’re all here to win a national championship at the end of the day. All the changes aren’t really going to affect us drastically, we’re here to play basketball. So [at] the end of the day, we are trying to get a Natty, so that’s our biggest goal.”

NAYSSA SMITH |
SENIOR FORWARD

“I think everyone wanted to expand their games; that’s one of the reasons I came here is to have that pro mindset and be able to expand your game more ... we all have a high motor, we want to be competitive.”

JORDAN LEWIS |
TRANSFER GRADUATE GUARD
Champions

"We already forgot that we won a national championship a couple of months ago. We are already locked in on next season ... We haven't won a single game this season, so we have everything to prove."

JONATHAN TCHAMWA TCHATCHOUA | JUNIOR FORWARD

Running it back

"It's a new year, we're past that right now. That's for fans to continue to soak in. Right now, we're on another mission."

LJ CRYER | SOPHOMORE GUARD

"We're not shying away from saying this is a championship program. We're always going to expect to compete for championships. We talk a lot about keeping the main thing the main thing and that being basketball in general."

NICKI COLLEN | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH
**Different Bears, Same Dream**

## Bears begin quest for a national championship

### Sports

**Marquis Cooley**

Sports Editor

A lot has changed within the Baylor women’s basketball team since losing to the University of Connecticut in the Elite Eight last season. Head coach Nicki Collen took over the bench after Kim Mulkey departed for LSU. Senior forward NaLyssa Smith said the change isn’t necessarily a bad thing, though.

“It’s a new era, but change can be good. I feel like it’s a fresh start good for everybody,” Smith said. “Having Coach Nicki new in, it’s going to be a lot of adjusting, but I feel like at the end of the day, we’ve built around adversity so I feel we’ll be fine.”

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the new look for the Baylor Bear women is that they are no longer going by the Lady Bears. Earlier in the school year, the team announced it would go back to its original name, “Baylor” from its name to remain consistent with the other Baylor athletic programs. Smith said the name change has no effect on the team’s mindset.

“I feel like a name doesn’t really define us,” Smith said. “At the end of the day, we’re just going to play basketball, no matter what’s on our chest, what’s on the back of our jersey.”

The season with just the nine she already has. While Collen said she’s looking into working with the other Baylor athletic programs. Smith said she is “100% confident” in her offense, as she’s also seen work against the best athletes in the world.

“Certainly there are growing pains and just adjusting and all these players learning something new, but it’s a reason why the NBA does what they do,” Collen said. “The WNBA makes staff from the NBA that steal from Europe, none of us are creating something new. But when you take the best athletes in the world, you figure out what gives you the best chance to score, and they’re the hardest thing to defend.”

“Even at this point in time, we are simply hard to guard because of spacing,” Collen said. “If you can create great spacing, which you have to have high-level talent and people that can create space, but if you have the right personnel, I think we do have the chance to get that. Just put the defense in a predicament…”

Smith said the team is excited for the pro-style offense, as she feels if/they expand her game. That is something Smith has been working to do as a whole, as she stated taking the torch out of the game because if someone shooting outside of the game, someone scoring shooting. So I think they’re embracing that.

Collen said there are going to be moments in games when she will look to use timeouts for resting purposes rather than strategies but Smith said it is really just coming down to staying healthy.

“Everybody’s got to take care of their bodies. Everything’s a lot more serious this year because we don’t have that many subs,” Smith said. “So everybody just tries to do their part, then I feel like we’ll be fine.”

Despite all the changes surrounding the Bears, one thing remains constant: their desire to win a national championship.

“We all have to win a national championship at the end of the day,” Smith said. “All the changes aren’t really going to affect us drastically; we’re here to play basketball. At the end of the day we are trying to get a NCAA title, so that’s our biggest goal.”

Collen said she knows what the expectations were when taking the job and it’s not back away from them.

“We’re not decayed away from saying this is a championship program,” Collen said. “We’re always going to expect to compete for championships. We talk a lot about keeping the main thing the main thing, and that being basketball in general.”

With that being said, the quest for a championship is more of an unspoken expectation the team has among itself, as its main focus is on improving each and every day.

“Thanks not a Self-talk ritual from Fred Frazie or ‘We have unlimited promise’,” Collen said. “We’re talking about new beginnings and how we can get better. If we get better each and every day, then those things will take care of themselves.”

## Going for gold, again

**Gio Gennero**

Sports Writer

Despite winning a national championship back in April, the Baylor men’s basketball team remains hungry going into the upcoming season.

“We already forget that we won a national championship a couple of months ago,” junior forward Jonathan Tchamwa Tchaoutou said. “We are already locked in on next season … We haven’t won a single game this season, so we haven’t anything to prove.”

With lots of new faces and the loss of key players such as sophomore guard Davion Mitchell, sophomore guard LJ Cryer said the team’s mindset has changed.

“It’s going pretty smoothly,” Cryer said. “All the guys really like each other. The end of the day, we’re brothers and that just makes it 10 times better.”

Entering his second year, Cryer said the biggest lesson he learned was to remain poised throughout the entire game, no matter the pressure.

“The guys really like each other. The end of the day, we’re brothers and that just makes it 10 times better. At the end of the day, we’re really looking forward to this year.”

Coach Scott Drew said he believes the team will benefit from a good mix of returning players and fresh faces.

“Having 20 players that’s a lot of returning players and fresh faces,” Drew said. “I’m always learning players that you have an identity and a culture and they know how to play that and can be successful,” Drew said. “At the same time, you have enough new players to really contribute to the team’s environment and energy because anything changes now, normally that excites everybody.”

Drew said the experience of the returning players is important because it will help lead the team and maintain the established culture of defense and winning.

“That’s where experience is valuable,” Drew said. “The opportunities that have been around the importance of each and every possession and how difficult and important it is. The good thing is that’s part of a winning DNA, and a winning culture.”

Drew also said he is impressed with the work ethic of the incoming freshmen even though they were highlyranked recruits in high school.

He said he can see why they were ranked so high due to their potential, as well as their hard work, which gives them a great ability to produce and contribute right away.

“Both athletes gave them, a chance to be successful,” Drew said. “Sometimes you have bright hinted freshmen that don’t compete, don’t play hard. Their ranking and their reputations are more on the potential rather than their production, and the three guys that we have an attitude where if he’s not on a chip on the shoulder, but they practice and compete like a one-star guy, not a four- or five-star guy.”

Drew said he knows there will be a target on their back going into every game as the defending national champions.

He also knows that with being ranked at the top, they have to perform their opponents. “Biggest, loudest and most intense” crowd.

However, Drew said the opportunity to repeat as champions is what they’re working toward because it is a rare accomplishment.

“We’ve got to do it now and continue,” Drew said. “We’ve got to go out and face college games, we’ve got to do it every week against the defining national champion.”

Drew said, “We’ve talked with our team, we have a unique opportunity. So few schools have been able to go back to back, and we have an opportunity to do something that only Florida and Duke have done since the John Wooden days.”

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**The Baylor Lariat**
Kaur has professional career in sight

MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Writer

Senior golfer Gurleen Kaur has been there, done that and seen it all during her time at Baylor. Over the last four years, she has accumulated a resume that will leave a deep impact on the program. Even with all the glory that she has, one thing remains unshakable; she is hungry for more. Kaur said she’s done it all and has big plans for the rest of her final season at Baylor and for her future professional career that lies ahead.

With her being homecoming at Baylor, Kaur said she doesn’t recall ever being a part of the celebration. Normally, the team is off and playing in a tournament and she has yet to think of the future activities. However, it doesn’t phase her, as Kaur said she lives playing with the team and apart of the upcoming Stephens Cup in Roland, Ark., even though it’s a much younger team than most years.

“We won’t be here for homecoming,” Kaur says. “I don’t even know if I’ve ever been home for homecoming, just because we’ve always had a tournament. We are heading for Arkansas this Saturday and I’m super excited. For my last year we have such a great team, and we have these new freshmen and then I’m the only senior currently, so quite a young team compared to previous years.”

Kaur said she fell in love with Baylor during her recruiting process, without even intending to do so. “Growing up in Houston, she always thought she would end up going far away from home, but ended up staying within driving distance. Kaur said that she coaches, team and athletics, all fell right into her desires.

“I looked at Baylor late in my recruiting process,” Kaur said. “From Houston and my first wanting was to go far. I had an opportunity to come take a visit at Baylor and I just loved it from the very first that I took here. I took one more visit then and I completely committed here. I think it had a lot to do with my relationship with [Joy]. We had a different coach, her name is Bryn [Ambers] and she was great, so that’s when she’s actually a head coach now at University of North Carolina [at] Charlotte. I had a great relationship with them, and also the caliber of our team. We had just finished at nationally really well and we had made him to the final match in 2015. I knew that was something I wanted to go to because we would have a competitive advantage and always have girls who were wanting to take it to the next level.”

Being at Baylor, Kaur has embraced the sense of “Baylor Family.” She has been accustomed to constant and former coach Goble believes that this is something she’s going to carry with her on the golf course now versus four years ago, “I think that the biggest thing I’ve seen with [Kaur] is that she’s really competitive and she’s always been the one that tries to do it the fastest, the best, the quickest, that’s always been one of her biggest attributes, and my opinion is that she’s a goal setter who achieves her goal and it’s a really cool thing to watch because she seems to always do it.”

Growing up, Kaur played a lot of different sports. She said she never truly took golf seriously until she was about 12 or 13. In high school, her freshman year, she realized I could play in college. I’m pretty good and this is what I want to do.”

Goble said she believes that Kaur will motivate the team to do well in order to make it happen.

LOOKING AHEAD Senior Gurleen Kaur is staying focused on her goal of leading the Bears to a national championship. With a competitive mindset Kaur is ready to play to have her as a teammate for another year, she has the lowest scoring average in Baylor women’s golf history, which is pretty amazing. She has been a team leader and a great player for us for four years now. [I’m] expecting a lot of the same. She really wants to end her career here at Baylor in a high note. I know that having a good team around her, having great tournaments for us to play in and her trying to finish up her degree here next May, she wants to end her career here on a bang.”

Kaur believes that she has been a great leader on the younger players on the team, which consists of several freshmen. “I think the biggest thing stands out to me about what Kaur is her competitive nature. He said her competitiveness drives her to set goals that she can achieve, which allows her to be so successful.”

“The person that tries to do it the fastest, the best, the quickest, that’s what makes her a great player. She’s not really ever satisfied, and I think that she always knows that if she works hard and puts in the time, she’s always going to see improvement. She’s always been one of her biggest attributes, and my opinion is that she’s a goal setter who achieves her goal and it’s a really cool thing to watch because she seems to always do it.”

Growing up, Kaur played a lot of different sports. The one that she really liked the most was basketball, soccer, and field hockey. “I used to start playing basketball, soccer, and field hockey. I eventually ended up with golf because it’s nothing he would rather see more than for the team to do well. She very much enjoys the game and approach. Kaur will have a bright future.”

“I think that she [Kaur] has a lot of self-belief through her practice and through her play,” Goble said. “Throughout her life, she’s played golf on a competitive level since she was a little kid, so she’s got a lot of successes to build off of. She wants to make golf her career, she wants to play professionally; that’s an important part of it because any lack in concentration, lack in pace, lack in practice, it’s not going to happen.”

Goble also said Kaur’s biggest improvement over the years has been her maturity on the course. “I think of her well as she heads towards a professional career.”

“I think that the biggest thing I’ve seen with [Kaur] is that she’s got a little more mature since she was a little more mature in the way she handles things on the golf course now versus four years ago.”

“Kaur, I think she’s just grown up the last couple years and she’s a little more mature in the way she handles things on the golf course now versus four years ago,” Goble said. “Thanks going to serve her well moving forward when she’s trying to play golf for a living.”

With this being her last season, Kaur wants to see the team succeed. For her, winning and playing strong is a team what matters most as they continue throughout the season.

“I would say in the fall, we only have two more events and we’ve played well so far,” Kaur said. “We wish next week would be such a great, great ending to our season. I think being able to get off to a great start next year, and obviously the goal is to take it as far as we can go, and win nationals. That would be the icing on the cake for sure. I think that is when we’ll see how good we are as a team and what matters most as they continue throughout the season.”

Baylor women’s golf is a program that has been a part of for a long time. Goble is appreciative of her, saying that there is nothing he would rather see more than for the team to do well. “I think of her well as she heads towards a professional career.”

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