

BU BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students

VISITORS GUIDE

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a campus map

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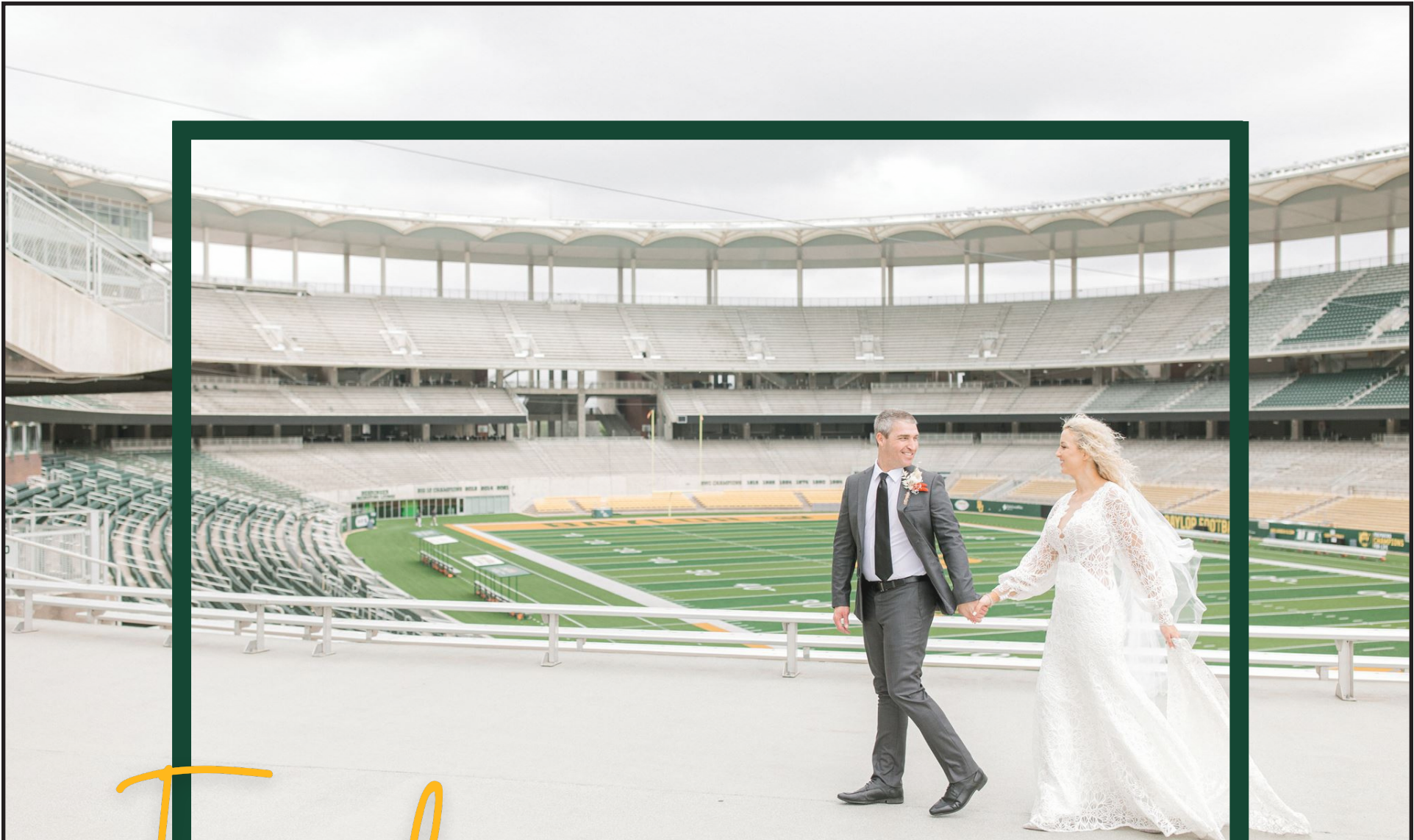
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OPINION

College goes quickly: Soak in your ‘selfish years’

JENNA FITZGERALD
Assistant News Editor

It feels like just yesterday that I was getting ready to make the big move from Dallas to Waco — color-coordinating my dorm with my roommate, stockpiling Baylor merch and buying an egregious number of those blue Ikea storage bags. Now I’m heading into my senior year, applying to grad schools and preparing for all my “lasts.”

Where has the time gone?

My mom once told me my four years of college would be my “selfish years.” I didn’t quite understand what she meant at the time, but in retrospect, it makes all the sense in the world.

This is the one time in our lives when it’s OK — and, in fact, expected — to be selfish. No one is dependent on us. We’re just here, trying to figure out what career we want to pursue for the next several decades while simultaneously learning how to sort laundry, pay rent and

cook anything other than bagels or ramen. It’s about growth. It’s about self-discovery. It’s about independence.

We begin to call our parents less and lean on our friends more. Perhaps the most beautiful part is that we are constantly finding new people to love, and they come from the most unexpected places at the most unexpected times.

Some click right away. I met my best friend on the very first day of class freshman year while on my walk from Cashion Academic Center to Memorial Dining Hall, and we’ve been attached at the hip ever since.

Others are a bit of a slow burn. I worked with one of my closest friends for an entire year without speaking more than a few words, only to discover how much we enjoyed each other’s

company when we studied abroad together in Ireland.



It’s unlikely that we’ll ever live in such close proximity to so many of our friends again. Some will get married and start families of their own. Others will get a job or go on to grad school 500 miles away. People will weave in and out of our lives. Some will stick around to stand beside us on our wedding day. Others will only make a brief appearance. That’s just how life goes.

So enjoy it while it lasts. As someone who focuses just a tad too much on academic validation, I know it can be ridiculously

difficult to put that essay or book down and let yourself breathe.

As I sit here thinking about my three years at Baylor so far, classes couldn’t be further from

my mind. It’s the formative experiences I’ve had outside of classes that have contributed most profoundly to my character and intellectual development. My thesis and my job and my reading list and my everyday memories and each friend, professor, colleague and mentor who has lifted me up along the way — they are what have made this journey for me.

Prioritize the people and activities that will help you grow, experience joy and find your footing in this crazy world. Go to football games. Submit that internship application. Participate in All-University Sing. Take that weekend trip to Dallas or Austin. Join the Dr Pepper Hour Club. Sign up for that 5K. Drive to Buc-ee’s. Make that late-night food run to Fuego or Insomnia. Study abroad. Learn and love and laugh and live, and do it selfishly.

These are your selfish years. Soak them in. They go by more quickly than you’d think.

BAND AUDITIONS

Paid Summer Opportunity!

A professional music producer recruiting members for a new band based in the Southwest — paid recording and concert gigs, plus travel expenses and housing.

Who We Are Seeking:

*Up to three advanced- or expert-level musicians to round out our band lineup, including male and female vocalists, guitarists, piano, bass.
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SCAN ME!



What to Do in Waco: Summer edition

SCOOBY DOO MANSION MAYHEM

Every day through Aug. 20 | Mayborn Museum Complex, 1300 S University Parks Drive | Help the Mystery Inc. gang solve the case of a jewel thief in a spooky mansion.

NAME THAT TUNE MUSIC BINGO

Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. | Freight, 1613 James Ave. | Win prizes by naming the most songs in music bingo. Each week features a different style of music to keep it fresh.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. | Brotherwell Brewing, 400 E Bridge St. | Grab some friends and put together a trivia team to win prizes and bragging rights.

WACO DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

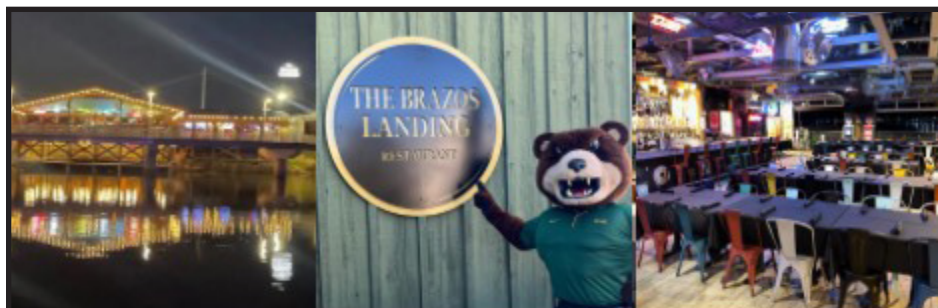
Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | 500 Washington Ave. | This weekly event hosts local vendors, artisans and craftsmen in the heart of downtown Waco, accompanied by live music.

LEVITT AMP WACO MUSIC SERIES

Saturdays through July 1, 5 to 9 p.m. | Bridge Street Plaza, 200 E Bridge St. | Join Creative Waco and the Levitt Foundation for a free music series. Each week will feature a new lineup of local, regional and national performers.

OF WARM IMPERMANENCE

May 26 – July 22 | Art Center Waco, 701 S Eighth St. | This exhibit explores trauma and healing through the sculptures, paintings and installations of Ty Nathan Clark and Vy Ngo.



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Sports Take: How BU football can bounce back

MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Editor

Now that the spring slate is over, Baylor football is on the cusp of summer activities. Head coach Dave Aranda and his staff have a lot to do between now and Sept. 2, which is when the Bears open their 2023 season against Texas State University.

For starters, Aranda needs to figure out who will be leading the offense under center, as an official announcement regarding a starting quarterback has not been made yet. There's no telling whether that decision will be made as early as tomorrow or as late as early fall.

Regardless of who's named as starting quarterback for the Bears in 2023, Baylor has a long way to go coming off a disappointing 6-7 season that followed a program-best 12-2 season in 2021. Here are five things Baylor needs in order to have a bounce-back campaign.

IMPROVED QUARTERBACK PLAY

Even though the offense wasn't a complete disaster in 2022, there needs to be substantial improvement from the man under center this coming fall. Redshirt junior quarterback Blake Shapen and redshirt sophomore quarterback Sawyer Robertson have been placed in a position battle this spring, and the general consensus is the two of them have really pushed each other from a competition standpoint.

Shapen was named the starter after last spring's Green & Gold game, as he replaced 2021 starter Gerry Bohanon, who transferred to the University of South Florida after losing the competition. Shapen completed 63.3% of his passes last season and threw for 2,709 yards to go with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions.

He struggled with his decision-making at times and failed to be a threat with his legs, only gaining 96 yards on 76 attempts (0.79 yards per carry) and two touchdowns. If Shapen is named the starter, he's really going to have to prove that he's taking as big of strides as those around the team say he has been this spring.

PRESENCE ON SPECIAL TEAMS

Aranda said he wanted to have the special teams unit as a weapon following Baylor's season-opening win over the University of Albany on Sept. 4, 2022, at McLane Stadium. Wide receiver Gavin Holmes had a 72-yard punt return touchdown that turned heads and gave

Aranda the confidence that the special teams could be an advantage.

That never crystalized for the Bears in 2022, as they ranked in the bottom half of the Big 12 in all special teams statistics except for punt returns (third in the conference with an average punt return of 12.6 yards).

Shortly after the team's 38-27 loss at No. 24 University of Texas, Aranda fired safeties and special teams coach Ronnie Wheat. At the time of the firing on Dec. 1, 2022, Baylor ranked an abysmal 119th in special teams efficiency.

Aranda hired quality control coach Tyler Hancock on Jan. 17 to lead the special teams unit for the upcoming fall. Although it's a much smaller part of the game compared to offense and defense, it's clear that the Bears could benefit from a lethal special teams crew for 2023. After all, running back Treستان Ebner proved to be a difference-maker in that regard, winning the 2021 Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year award due to his explosiveness on kickoff and punt returns.

PLAYMAKERS NEED TO EMERGE

It's easy to keep pointing to that historic 2021 season and use that as the model for success, but it gets to a point where you can really tell what some of the differences were between that strong year and last year's blunder. Athletes like Jalen Pitre, JT Woods, Terrel Bernard, Kalon Barnes, Raleigh Texada and Jairon McVea were playmakers.

Part of what made that 2021 Baylor defense so tough was that it had men who would come up with the football on multiple occasions. It ranked fifth nationally in interceptions (17) and 14th in scoring defense (19.2 points per game allowed). Not giving up yards was a big part of keeping the opposition off the board, but forcing turnovers also played a huge role in that.

It's not every day that you come across NFL talents like Pitre, Woods or Bernard, but the veterans on this 2023 Baylor squad will have to step forward and come up with the football on a regular basis to propel the team to where it wants to go.

LET THE TIGHT ENDS EAT

If there's one group Bears fans should feel ultra confident in, it's the tight end room. There are arguably three starting-caliber tight ends on the depth chart with even more quality depth behind them. And the exciting part about that is that this comes without Ben Sims, one of the



Olivia Havre | Photographer

HITTIN' PAY DIRT Senior tight end Drake Dabney (89) scoots through the end zone after scoring a touchdown at Baylor football's annual Green & Gold scrimmage on April 22 at McLane Stadium.

best tight ends in program history.

Sims exhausted his eligibility and has moved onto a potential NFL career, so the reins have been passed along to senior tight end Drake Dabney, who's expected to be the starting guy in the fall. Behind Dabney comes sophomore tight end Kelsey Johnson and junior tight end Jake Roberts. Johnson saw more action than he probably expected in 2022, as the tight end room was depleted with injuries.

Now those three will sit atop the depth chart while other tight ends like junior Gavin Yates and a pair of true freshmen in Matthew Klopfenstein and Hawkins Polley help round out the loaded room. Offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes also serves as the tight ends coach, so he likes to get his athletes involved a lot and utilize two tight end sets. Fans can expect to see a ton of that as long as there aren't a plethora of injuries like the position corps saw in 2022.

HOLD ATHLETES ACCOUNTABLE

In the very first media availability this

spring, Aranda told reporters he was too lenient with some of his athletes last year and gave too many second chances. He then did a sit-down interview with SicEm365.com's David Smoak and expounded, saying he probably didn't suspend men who were deserving of that punishment.

Aranda did not specify what was going on, only noting that nothing criminal was happening and that players were taking advantage of his niceness. Hearing the head coach who's entering his fourth year admit something like that is telling. It's not easy for a coach to stand in front of the cameras and share something like that.

Several players in the spring have said they've seen a different style to Aranda and that he's a lot tougher, but in a good way. With the team coming off the rough 6-7 season, there isn't much to be happy about, so if Aranda can weed out those troublemakers, Baylor should be primed for a strong bounce-back season.



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Tour of Waco eats, breakfast to dinner

EMMA WEIDMANN
Arts & Life Editor

Take a tour of Waco's locally owned eats with this list for a few days' worth of restaurants across the city. From breakfast platters to Cajun along the Brazos, there's something for every palate.

CAFE CAPPUCCINO

For breakfast, one of the best places to eat if you can beat the crowd is Cafe Cappuccino at 100 N Sixth St. in the heart of downtown. "Cafe Capp" has a classic diner feel with an extensive coffee menu and seasonal drinks all year round. If you're searching for a pumpkin spice latte in July, this is the place to go. Plus, the breakfast menu is delicious, with an array of pancakes and breakfast sandwiches full of carbs. What more could you want?

OUR BREAKFAST PLACE

Continuing with that continental breakfast feel, Our Breakfast Place at 4600 Franklin Ave. has even larger portions than Cafe Capp, with far more seating. You can still expect to wait outside if you go during the post-church rush, but the food makes it worth it.

HARVEST ON 25th

Lastly, Harvest on 25th at 112 N 25th St. has great vegan and gluten-free options that are still delicious. But that's not all there is to offer. You can still get a classic breakfast plate with sausage and the like. However, the menu is small and largely caters to health-food lovers and a vegan or gluten-free diet.

THE MIX CAFE

For lunch, stop by The Mix Cafe at 1700 S Fifth St. This place offers a quick bite at a good price, so if you're in the mood for a really delicious sandwich near campus, look no farther.

This is the first stop on the list so far that is on the same side of Interstate 35 as the Baylor campus, making it convenient if you're looking for the perfect post-campus tour lunch spot.

STONE HEARTH INDIAN CAFE

Stone Hearth Indian Cafe at 506 Austin Ave. is a great place to go family style and order a bunch of food for the table to share. Oh, and did I mention it's delicious? Close to other downtown spots, this is a good place to go if you've worked up an appetite after exploring the Waco Downtown Farmers Market or Fabled Bookshop and Cafe.

MILO ALL DAY

Milo All Day at 1020 Franklin Ave. is a bit less casual and is a popular spot, so a reservation is helpful. The menu can be described as elevated Southern comfort food — so think fried chicken and biscuits, but dressed up. If you eat here, don't leave without trying the truffle fries or the Brussels sprouts.

SLOW RISE SLICE HOUSE

Still hungry? No problem. For dinner, there are lots of scenic spots along the Brazos River for any taste. Slow Rise Slice House is the place to grab pizza, and you can look out on a beautiful sunset from the outdoor patio seating.

THE BRAZOS LANDING

The Brazos Landing at 100 N Interstate 35 Frontage Road — which rebranded from Buzzard Billy's last fall — offers Cajun food along the river. There's plenty of indoor seating, as well as a large patio deck and an outdoor bar. To sum up this place in two words: hush puppies. Enough said.

BARIS

Baris at 904 N. Valley Mills Drive offers huge plates of carb-loaded pasta with exceptional bread for the table. There's often a wait, but the comfort of a steaming plate of pasta makes it all OK.

MOROSO PIZZERIA

Moroso Wood Fired Pizzeria at 4700 Bosque Blvd. is a little more upscale, this is where you could find a fancy pizza with prosciutto on it, but the prices won't leave your wallet hungry.



Lariat File Photo

HANGING AROUND Baylor students take advantage of the Cameron Park landscape.

Don't skip trips: Best activities in the 254

EMMA WEIDMANN
Arts & Life Editor

If you've been racking your brain for how to fill up a day or few in Waco, here is the only list you will ever need. From shopping to local music to outdoor adventures, here is the best the city has to offer.

SHOPPING

As you might guess, Waco is home to quite a few boutiques surrounding the downtown area and within the vicinity of Magnolia. If a day of searching through sparkly dresses and glittery boots is your thing, be sure to check out Pretty in Pink Flamingo Boutique at 611 Washington Ave. This is paradise for anyone looking for an outfit for a summer pop concert, and it has a wide array of sweaters, accessories and shoes for any occasion.

Dylan Nicole boutique at 700 Franklin Ave. is a similar spot for the shopaholic. Good service and lots of cute stuff await you there, making it a perfect stop on a tour of Waco's locally owned boutiques. If vintage and antique stores are more your speed, Waco has a lot of great finds in store. Central Goods at 1701 Franklin Ave. is the definitive place for anyone looking for a cool vinyl record or a vintage Baylor sweatshirt that will make everyone jealous. It has everything, and it's surprisingly large, so you can budget at least an hour at this stop if you're the type to look through every rack and peek on every shelf.

Of course, that's not all there is to the vintage scene here. Clasé Vintage and Goods is a hidden gem, tucked next to a cafe at 108 N 25th St. The coolest person you know in Waco probably shops there. It's the place to find the most obscure and random — yet very cool — vintage T-shirt or an obscenely low-priced vinyl record. Speaking of records, if your idea of fun is thumbing through thousands of vinyls, the collector in me recommends Spin Connection at 3703 Franklin Ave.

MUSIC AND MORE from Page 8

LOCAL MUSIC

There's always something going on in Waco's music scene. A good place to check where to go to hear some live tunes is Waco Heart of Texas' event calendar. This will show which bars, restaurants and music venues are hosting which artist on any given day, so be sure to check its website when you're searching for an evening of live music. Typically, live music can be heard at Common Grounds Waco on Eighth Street and Freight Icehouse and Yardbar on James Avenue. Just check their websites before you go to make sure there's something going on, and enjoy the low-lit backyard feel of these venues.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

The obvious favorite for a day outdoors in Waco is Cameron Park. Full of beautiful hikes and winding trails, this is a great place to wander in the wilderness without, you know, actually wandering all that far. The trails here are simple, straightforward and easy to navigate.

It goes without saying, but it's worth a

mention — be sure not to go alone. Stick to the marked trails, wear the right shoes and go during daytime.

If you pick the right trail, you can go straight down to the banks of the Bosque River and spend an afternoon just watching the waves ripple as pontoon boats go by. Or you can take the high road and look out over the trees and the river at Lovers' Leap, reflecting a little bit on the story behind its name while you take in the scenery. Don't let the stories scare you: Lovers' Leap is not really a treacherous cliff. Rather, it's a scenic lookout with a very sturdy railing.

Also in connection with Cameron Park is the Cameron Park Zoo, which is a nice hour's worth of wildlife exploration if you're down for a walk. The best animal here by far is the capybara — the world's friendliest rodent and the star of a very random TikTok trend.

Lastly, what's a day in the 254 without a picnic on Lake Waco? Make sure you find a good spot along the beach and watch a beautiful sunset at the close of a great day in one of Central Texas' most underrated cities.



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4600 Franklin Ave, Waco, TX 76710

Dining Services staff serves nearly 50,000 weekly

SYDNEY MATTHEWS

Staff Writer

Across all four dining halls at Baylor, nearly 50,000 meals are served each week by the 270 hard-working staff members. The time and commitment of Baylor's dining hall staff is rarely put into numbers for students to recognize.

Shannon Sytsma, marketing manager for Baylor dining, said via email hundreds of hours are spent preparing for students to dine. This includes preparation, serving, cleaning and more from the dining halls, retail and catering staff.

"For six decades, Baylor Dining Services has put their paws to the ground in partnership with the university to provide delicious and nourishing meals and spaces that create memorable campus experiences that are not only satisfying, but also underline the values and traditions of the Baylor community," Sytsma said. "With our commitment to exceptional quality, innovation, health and convenience, students can be sure they're getting an unforgettable dining experience."

Sytsma said over 45,000 meal swipes are used each week and Dining Services is always looking for ways to improve through student feedback.

Dining Services adapts its menu and services

to follow popular trends in the food industry and keep things exciting for students.

"While food trends come and go, some items remain constant. Favorites like our on-site smoked, fried and baked wings at Penland, fresh and warm cookies, homemade gelato and made-to-order flying saucer at Memorial and our pizza at East Village featuring an in-house sauce recipe and garlic butter crust," Sytsma said.

Gilbert, Ariz., freshman Angie Bartolone said she has really enjoyed her dining experience at Baylor this year. Being a first-year student, the dining halls are an important part of campus life and she said she has loved getting to know the staff.

"The dining hall staff are always friendly and helpful," Bartolone said. "I love that they greet every student with a smile no matter what time of the day you go."

Bartolone also said she loves how dining services implements itself into other parts of on-campus life and traditions. Baylor dining makes its appearance at All-University Thanksgiving every year.

Baylor dining is committed to helping students make healthy choices that fit their needs. To do this, they have a registered dietitian who meets with students who want to choose



Assoah Ndomo | Photographer

FEEDING A CROWD Baylor Dining Services workers put on a smile to feed tens of thousands of students, faculty and staff day in, day out in the several dining halls on campus.

meals that fit their lifestyle and needs.

Sytsma said students are always showing enormous amounts of appreciation toward dining staff. She said the appreciation never goes unnoticed by those who are receiving it.

"Baylor students' kindness toward our dining

staff is overwhelming. Visitors from other dining locations and local vendors are always impressed with the generosity of the student community," Sytsma said. "A simple thank you means a lot to us, and we receive many of them. Keep up the great work, Bears!"



Assoah Ndomo | Photographer

SPIRIT AND STUDYING Truett Chapel provides a space for Chapel classes as well as for students to worship.

Callings & Career Chapels join faith, majors

ABIGAIL GAN

Reporter

Not every Chapel service at Baylor involves a large-group meeting at Seventh and James Baptist Church.

When the Rev. Dr. Erin Moniz became director of Chapel in 2021, the Office of Spiritual Life had a vision of Chapel expanding to meet the needs of a more diverse student population. One of the ways it is doing so is Callings and Career Chapels.

"The way the Chapel model exists now is we've really focused on where students are already finding themselves at Baylor," Moniz said. "Where are they already naturally gathering?"

Moniz said the goal is for Chapel to become integrated in the student experience, allowing students to view spiritual formation as part of what they're here to do in college.

"[For business students,] let's have a chapel that ... [asks] about, 'What does it mean to be a Christian in the world, doing industry and doing business,'" Moniz said. "Does that matter? Is it different? How should we think about that? A lot of it's focused on vocational discernment."

Moniz said there are multiple Callings and Career Chapels,

including for people interested in the healing, business and arts professions. She said they plan on expanding the options to encompass a wider spectrum of majors and interests.

The Rev. Matthew Aughtry, assistant director for ministry in the arts, took the lead in the faith and arts Chapels because of his background in filmmaking. He said art can follow the biblical story of creation, fall, sacrifice, redemption and forgiveness.

"The beauty of the Gospel is that when you speak it across cultures ... it resonates," Aughtry said. "And I think that's what I'm trying to do in all the faith and arts options, is find something that resonates with the art-making process, with the storytelling process."

Longview freshman Ian Dunnahoo, who was enrolled in faith and arts last in the fall and faith and filmmaking in the spring, said he enjoyed his experience in Chapel and the ability to meet other arts majors.

"I remember speaking with my roommate because he was in Chapel as well," Dunnahoo said. "And he didn't necessarily enjoy his Chapel very much. I thought it was very different to my

A CHAPEL FOR ANY CALLING >> Page 11

A CHAPEL FOR ANY CALLING from Page 10

experience, because I always look forward to going.”

Aughtry said faith and arts uses a book titled “The Artist’s Way” by Julia Cameron.

“[Faith and arts] opened my eyes to not just art in the Christian tradition, but art in general being a very spiritual thing,” Dunnahoo said.

Aughtry said it’s important to implement various Christian practices into every Chapel, whether worship or vocational. On some days, he said students would be given supplies and an hour to create something, preferably outside their medium. Aughtry said there was only one rule in this activity.

“Don’t do any of this work out of a desire, out of a felt need to prove yourself or your worth, because often art gets tied up into, ‘This is who I am, and I am as good as my last song or my last movie,’” Aughtry said.

He said art should have a sense of playfulness and tie into creation.

“God doesn’t need creation,” Aughtry said. “God’s not trying to prove his worth. Through

creating, God is just joyfully creating.”

Aughtry said for students who aren’t religious yet, he wants them “to realize that the faith has treasures for them, that can equip and resource them to be better.”

San Antonio freshman Megan Hart, who was enrolled in faith and arts last semester, said it helped ease some of her fears and solidify her vocation.

“Realizing that God really can work through art, and he’s an artist himself, so why can’t you work through your own art?” Hart said. “It really gave me a lot of peace about what I’m doing.”

Hart said she learned a lot about the relationship between art and spirituality.

“God is the greatest creator, and God is the greatest artist himself,” Hart said. “A lot of times, I feel like arts and Christianity and faith can be very separate. But realizing that God created the world, and if you’re considering the world as its own art form, that makes Him the greatest artist.”

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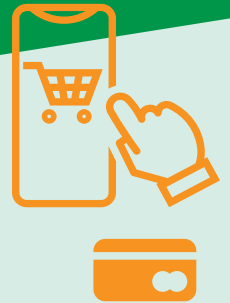
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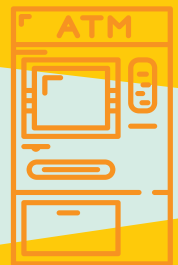
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Baylor's newsworthy moments from August to May

Now that the sun has set on the 2022-2023 academic year, The Baylor Lariat has compiled all the biggest news since August. In chronological order, here they are.

Compiled by Caitlyn Meisner | Copy Editor

All of these stories can be read in their entirety at baylorlariat.com.

Sept. 13, 2022



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Malzahn Mellos

Former Baylor president Ken Starr dies at 76

Former Baylor president Ken Starr died in Houston due to complications from surgery. As president from 2010 to 2016, Starr oversaw many monumental projects on Baylor's campus, including the construction of McLane Stadium, renovations of North and South Russell Halls and the establishment of the Baylor in Washington program. He also ran the Baylor Line at home games.

Starr was also president during the sexual assault scandal. This ultimately led to his dismissal by the Board of Regents in 2016.

January



Olivia Havre | Photographer

Grubhub robots dominate campus, deliver food to BU

Starship Technologies and Grubhub partnered to create robots that deliver food to the Baylor community. After being soft-launched in the fall to work out kinks in the system, the robots are now roaming campus as a fully functioning delivery service.

August 2022



Katy Mae Turner | Photographer

Baylor Dining renovates Starbucks, Chick-fil-A to offer improved services

After months of summer renovations, the Moody Memorial Library Starbucks and Bill Daniel Student Center Chick-fil-A reopened in August 2022 with expanded menus and mobile ordering services. Both restaurants underwent these renovations as part of contractual scheduled renovation period and licensing agreements.

Dec. 14, 2022



Photo courtesy of Nick Madincea

Student government launches airport shuttle from Waco to DFW

The student government airport shuttle completed its first trips to and from the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport over winter break, offering 50 students a new form of transportation to catch a flight. The shuttle, which has a \$20 ticket cost, also operated on May 9 and 11 after finals.

Student government is looking into continuing the service next academic year.

Feb. 9



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

Biden's secretary of Veterans Affairs talks to active duty, veteran students

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis R. McDonough spoke to Baylor faculty and students about the PACT Act — a new law that expands health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances. In an exclusive interview with the Lariat and LTVN, McDonough said it's a great opportunity for his office to talk to younger veterans — a demographic he said the VA has to improve communication with.



Lariat file photo

Feb. 21 Texas Baptists extend relationship with Baylor for another 10 years

After a two-year delay due to COVID-19, Baylor and the Baptist General Convention of Texas held their review and agreed to maintain their relationship with no changes for another 10 years. The organizations discussed financial commitment of the convention to George W. Truett Theological Seminary students, Baptist Student Ministries and BGCT-affiliated pastors and ministers.



Grace Everett | Photographer

March 11 Federal court sides with BU in tuition refund lawsuit

On Sept. 8, 2022, three federal judges revived the prospect of tuition refunds for Baylor students whose college experience turned virtual in spring 2020. Former student Allison King had filed the lawsuit in June 2020, saying she didn't get what she paid for because of COVID-19.

However, on March 11, U.S. District Court Judge David Counts ruled that Baylor was protected under the Pandemic Liability Protection Act signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in June 2021. The PLPA shields educational institutions from monetary liability when they decide to move to remote learning in response to the pandemic.

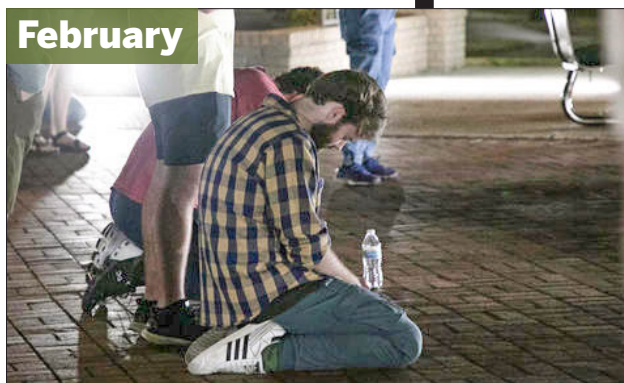


Photo courtesy of Baylor University

May 2 Judge Lady graduates with senior class of 2023

Graduating seniors and other students alike swarmed the Bill and Eva Williams Bear Habitat to attend a graduation party for one of Baylor's most beloved icons: Judge Sue Sloan, better known as "Lady." Lady is being relocated to an off-campus facility about 20 minutes outside of Waco for her retirement.

Dallas freshman and habitat caregiver Andie Rawe said Baylor is looking for two new cubs to bring in from conservation.



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

February Waco students gather for 'revival' worship service

As Asbury University ended its 16-day student "revival" movement — a worship service that continued nonstop from Feb. 8 to Feb. 23 in Wilmore, Ky. — Baylor seemed to follow in its footsteps.

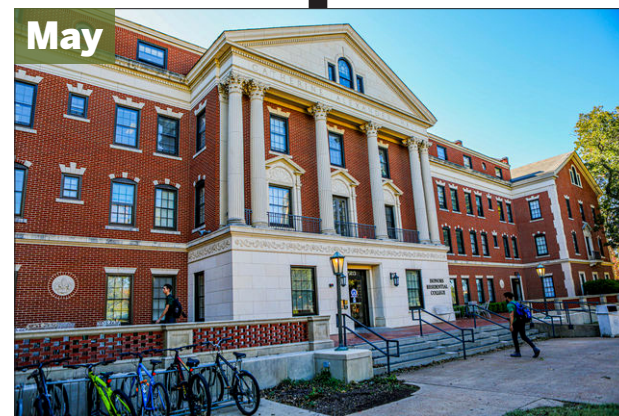
On Feb. 19, Harris Creek Baptist Church held a worship and prayer service on Baylor's campus, which led students to participate in worship for several days afterward. Services were held from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. at Elliston Chapel, the George W. Truett Theological Seminary Chapel and several off-campus locations.



Grace Everett | Photographer

April 4 Baylor unveils statues of first Black graduates

The statues honoring Baylor's first Black graduates — the Rev. Robert Gilbert and Barbara Walker, who both graduated in 1967 — were unveiled outside Tidwell Bible Building. Walker, members of both families, alumni, faculty, staff, students and others from the Waco community gathered to watch.



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

May Alexander, Memorial Halls begin renovation

After beginning in May, the renovation of Alexander and Memorial Halls will conclude in July 2024, according to Curtis Odle, associate director for facilities and operations.

Dr. Douglas Henry, dean of the Honors College, said the renovation will cost around \$48 million.

The Honors Residential College, which houses 330 Honors students, will be relocated to North Village for the 2023-2024 academic year.

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Becoming a BU Bear: Advice from a freshman

OLIVIA TURNER
Staff Writer

As a senior fresh out of high school, I was ready to leave my tiny hometown behind and start my next adventure as soon as I graduated.

I'm sure many other high school seniors can empathize with my feelings at the time. To a young person about to experience total freedom for the first time, the idea of college seems like the promise of a perfect new life.

Don't get me wrong: My college experience so far has been a

time of freedom and fun. But it certainly isn't everything I'd hoped it would be.

When I imagined my life as a college student outside the confines of high school, I was taking into consideration all of the best things that come with it. What I've learned is that it's OK to envision your dream life, but don't make the same mistake I did by ignoring some of the more unfavorable bits. For all you soon-to-be Bears, here are some things I suggest considering.

Amid the madness of Move2BU and Welcome Week, your first few days on campus will probably go by in a blur of fresh faces and free food. Once your normal schedule sinks in, so can loneliness. Especially as someone who came to Baylor not knowing anyone, it was difficult to make friends fast.

Keep in mind it's normal to experience a little loneliness at first, even when surrounded by so many people. Pretty much every freshman is going through the same thing. Just be sure to reach out and take as many chances to meet new people as possible. You never know who might make a great friend.

A great way to meet people with similar interests is to join student clubs, activities and intramural sports. Plus, if there's a hobby you've been wanting to try or an organization you've been interested in but never pursued, it gives you the chance to try it out. After all, there's no better time than freshman year.

On a more gloomy note, another thing to beware of is homesickness. As someone



Even if it seems like everyone around you has their life together, it's likely they don't. Don't feel shame in asking for help. You're going to do so well and will make a wonderful addition to the Baylor family.

**OLIVIA TURNER |
STAFF WRITER**

who was ready to leave the nest as soon as I graduated high school, I was not expecting this kind of emotional tug to creep up on me. Being on my own made me realize how much I love my family and rely on them, and I always thought of myself as pretty independent.

For this, there's not much of a cure other than to distract yourself with plenty to do. Your time at Baylor will go by faster than you expect, so appreciate it while you're here.

The last bit of advice I can give is to ask for help if you need it. Whatever obstacles you run into — whether it's trouble with keeping grades up, staying strong in your mental health or even finding your next meal — Baylor is bound to have a resource to help. Some useful places to seek assistance are the Learning Lab in the Center for Academic Success and Engagement, free counseling services at the Counseling Center and free food from The Store.

Even if it seems like everyone around you has their life together, it's likely they don't. Don't feel shame in asking for help. You're going to do so well and will make a wonderful addition to the Baylor family.

First week survival guide: What to do after Move2BU

TATUM MITCHELL
Opinion Editor

You've packed all your things, mentally prepared to leave home and probably listened to countless pointers about college being the best years of your life. With promises of newfound freedom, your freshman year officially starts



Aug. 21, but you don't have to rush through the days leading up to it.

Watching your family drive away after move-in and realizing you're on your own is scary. That Monday will be your first day of college, and I don't know about you, but that really stressed me out as an incoming

freshman. Barreling down Interstate 35 in a car packed to the brim with my belongings, I was so anxious to get started with the semester that I took move-in weekend with my parents for granted.

Yes, college is exciting and nerve-racking all at once, but using the free days before classes start can work to your advantage.

Now I'm going into my senior year, and I have a few tips on how to have a good weekend in Waco. Between 8 a.m. and noon Aug. 16, students move in to Living-Learning Communities and Residential Colleges. Students move in to first-year communities during the same times Aug. 17. You have at least four days to get organized and explore the area before the fall semester kicks off.

Here's my suggested schedule of events.

THURSDAY, AUG. 17

Take some time to get to know your roommate and their family, and offer to help with their things. The college transition is much easier to navigate with a friend, so lean on your roommate. Move-in day is a great place to start.

You'll probably be done moving in and unpacking in the early afternoon. Treat yourself to a lemonade from Pop's Lemonade Co. on campus or lunch in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Plan a dinner with your roommate and both of your families. My suggestions are Ninfas for Mexican, Vitek's for barbecue and Twisted Root for burgers.

FRIDAY, AUG. 18

Go shopping in the morning for school supplies and other necessities. Walmart and Target tend to get busy after 11 a.m., and most stores will be hectic with everyone moving in.

Spend some time organizing and settling into your new space because the semester gets busy quickly. Walk your schedule to be sure you know what buildings your classes are in.

Google Maps is going to be your best friend for the first week or so — don't worry, nobody will notice you are Google Maps-ing your way to Draper. One of the first mountains to climb is coming to terms with the fact that Burleson, Old Main and Draper are actually the same building but with different names for separate sections. Personally, this took me far too long to figure out, and I'm still kind of upset about it.

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

Get coffee at Magnolia Press, visit the Silos and tour downtown Waco.

Also, spend some time reaching out or making plans with other freshmen. It might seem intimidating at first, but getting out of your comfort zone as much as you can is worth it. Everyone else is nervous and looking for new friends too. The Waco Downtown Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday, so make sure you head down there to grab some fresh food and Baylor gear, then head to lunch at Union Hall.

SUNDAY, AUG. 20

Invite your family or a new friend to church if that's something you're interested in, and take a walk around Cameron Park.

Take some time to relax and mentally prepare for the start of school. You don't have to fit this whole schedule in just four days, but soak up your first weekend in Waco. Enjoy your time with your family as much as you can, text a new friend and get excited for your first year at Baylor.

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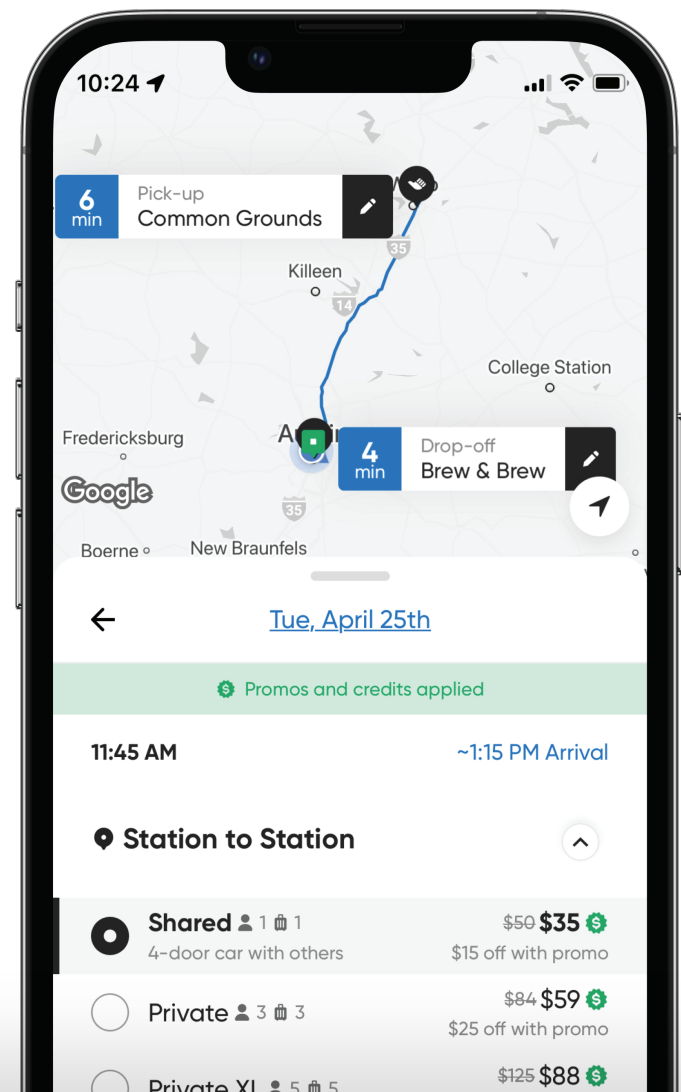
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Baylor Counseling Center helps thousands at all hours

RAYLEE FOSTER
Staff Writer

The pandemic inspired Baylor's Counseling Center to add telehealth services with the goal of helping more students regardless of what's going on in the world.

Dean of Student Health and Wellness Jim Marsh said this academic year, the Counseling Center has helped 1,655 students in person and an additional 965 students through the Academic Live Care telehealth service.

"Coming out of COVID-19, a couple of things happened," Marsh said. "One thing is we started being able to see students in person. We also added a third party telehealth provider called Academic Live Care, in addition to the brick and mortar services that we have on campus. It

was really designed to enhance the services that we provide."

Marsh said Academic Live Care allows the Counseling Center to help students working with different schedules or wanting specific counselor criteria such as race, gender, age or experience.

"The benefit of telehealth is we're only open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and so if a student wants an evening appointment, weekend appointment [or] they want to meet with someone when the university is closed, they have access here," Marsh said. "There's just more flexibility. Within the system, there's 3,400 therapists available in Texas."

The number of students going in for services declined during the pandemic, and since then, the Counseling Center has worked toward an efficient and

realistic solution to help students despite social distancing and health precautions.

Randal Boldt, senior assistant director of counseling, said coming out of the pandemic, the Counseling Center is addressing mental health concerns that have always been present, but at a greater intensity.

"We're seeing the same types of concerns being brought in, but there's a sense that maybe the severity of those needs have increased," Boldt said. "Maybe a student that has had an underlying concern and you add to it their experience in the pandemic, it exacerbates what they're going through."

Boldt said the Counseling Center is available for students at any point in the year and wants to help either in person or virtually.

"We've prioritized making sure a



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

HERE FOR YOU The Baylor Counseling Center is housed on the second floor of the McLane Student Life Center.

student can get in within a realistic timeframe, and it's important to us to make that happen," Boldt said. "We're ready to bring students in as fast as possible so we encourage them to

come in at any time of year because we want to help them out."

To make a free appointment with the Baylor Counseling Center, visit its website or call 254-710-2467.

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Hunter Walker signs off, passes the torch as student body president

SHELBY PECK
Staff Writer

After walking the Ferrell Center stage at graduation, Baylor Student Body President Hunter Walker said he will take with him the courage and character he formed through his service in student government. What he leaves behind is a legacy of effort to create a sense of belonging within every Baylor student.

"I realize I gave a lot of speeches and I wrote a lot of emails and things like that, but no one's going to remember the words that I say. ... People are going to remember how I made them feel and how I led — more than my policy and more than my initiatives," the Austin senior said.

Walker's student government journey began his freshman year when he ran for class

vice president with his continued collegiate campaign "Walk with Walker." In a tight race, he lost.

"I came to Baylor with the desire to know and be known, and it was something that I had prayed for for so long because it was simply just missing from my life before college," Walker said. "'Walk with Walker' means I'm pledging to walk with you through my Baylor journey, and I'm just asking for you to be willing to walk with me."

Walker said the loss shook his confidence in community until a friend reminded him of the hundreds of votes he did receive in the election. It was then Walker chose to continue forging community at Baylor, not wanting his promise to walk with his peers to return void.

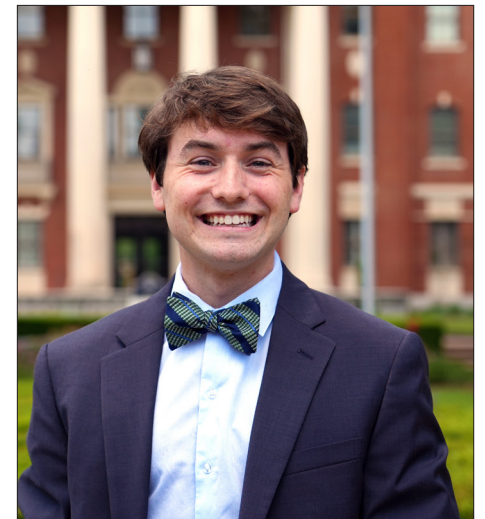
After spending his freshman year observing student government from the outside,

Walker was elected to serve as a sophomore senator on the campus improvements and affairs committee.

"[Baylor students] came back and they kept walking with me, and I don't think I will ever fully understand why, and I'm so undeserving of their support," Walker said.

During his junior year, Walker ran for student body external vice president, a runoff election that resulted in another loss. He instead served in senate once again — this time on the operations and procedures committee and as chaplain.

"The fact I got to serve in that provided me with the moment of realization that this is why the Lord had me lose... I was able to have these interfaith conversations with people," Walker said. "Not everyone in student government is a Christian; not everyone is religious. There



Olivia Havre | Photographer

SIGNING OFF Austin senior and outgoing Student Body President Hunter Walker is happy to have left his mark at Baylor.

are people who are atheists and agnostics, and so that offered me an opportunity to have conversations with people."

SIGNING OFF >> Page 22

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In case you missed it: Baylor sports year in review

MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Editor

From upsets over top-ranked teams to protecting home turf against conference foes, Baylor athletics has had another strong year. Even though both golf teams, softball, baseball and track and field are still competing as part of the 2022-2023 season, here's a compilation of the best sports moments of the past year. Read the full stories at baylorlariat.com.

No. 16 Baylor volleyball upsets defending national champs No. 3 Wisconsin

After falling to fifth-ranked Minnesota on Aug. 26, No. 16 Baylor volleyball upset No. 3 University of Wisconsin — the defending national champions — 3-2 on Aug. 27 in the Schollmaier Arena in Fort Worth. The match went the distance as the Bears found their first win of the season after five sets: 21-25, 25-22, 26-24, 21-25, 15-12. Baylor became the first squad to defeat the reigning national champion within a season's first three matches since Stanford University went 0-3 in 2020 after winning in 2019.

Baylor cross country opens season with dual second-place finishes

The Baylor cross country team recorded twin second place finishes at its season-opening meet on Sept. 1 at the Tornado Watch Invitational in Round Rock. In total, the Baylor men tallied 39 points, a mark that was 20 points behind first-place University of Texas. The women posted 37 points for the Bears, just 15 points behind the winning Longhorns.

Vargas' goal lifts Baylor soccer, edges Kansas 3-2 for first conference win

In a 90-minute thriller, Baylor soccer shut down the University of Kansas 3-2 after scoring two goals in the last three minutes of play at Betty Lou Mays Field on Oct. 6. Head coach Michelle Lenard's team had struggled to find the back of the net in conference

play to that point. Freshman forward Reneta Vargas looked to be the difference maker for the Bears. The striker netted two goals for the green and gold, one being the game winner.

No. 10 Baylor equestrian knocks off No. 1 TCU 12-7

In a "Go Gold" match, No. 10 Baylor equestrian upset No. 1 TCU 12-7 on Oct. 21 at the Willis Family Equestrian Center. Following a 5-4 lead at halftime, the Bears executed a 5-0 sweep in flat to secure the victory over the top-ranked Horned Frogs. The win marked the second time Baylor has bested a top-ranked team under head coach Casie Maxwell.

Apex predator: 'Sqwirl' devours OU defense, leads Baylor to 38-35 win

Baylor football claimed its second-ever win at the University of Oklahoma by a score of 38-35 on Nov. 5 at Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. The last time the Bears won a game in Norman was in 2014, and the record now stands at 2-14 all-time at OU.

No. 17 Baylor men's basketball takes down No. 9 KU 75-69

No. 17 Baylor men's basketball got its biggest win of the season over No. 9 University of Kansas — the defending national champions — 75-69 for its fifth consecutive win on Jan. 23 in the Ferrell Center. There were 34 NBA scouts in attendance for the Big Monday showdown, and the Bears improved to a 12-1 record against top 10 opponents over the last three seasons following the victory over the Jayhawks.

No. 12 Baylor men's tennis bests No. 9 Florida State, advances to ITA Indoors

No. 12 Baylor men's tennis continued its dominance in the ITA Kickoff Weekend, as it advanced to its 12th-straight ITA National Team Indoor Championships with a 4-2 win over No. 9 Florida State University on Jan. 28 in the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center.

The Bears improved to 5-1 all-time versus the Seminoles at the time and moved to 24-0 in ITA Kickoff Weekend matches.

No. 24 Baylor women's golf team jumps to 10-shot lead, wins Collegiate Invitational in Mexico

No. 24 Baylor women's golf head coach Jay Goble wanted to keep things simple ahead of the Collegiate Invite at the Guadalajara Country Club in Guadalajara, Mexico. With that approach, Goble's squad secured the overall win on Feb. 6, besting 11 other programs. The Bears are also still on the hunt for an NCAA national championship if they make the cut, which begins on May 19 in Phoenix.

Baylor men's golf captures second-straight tournament title, wins Border Olympics

Baylor men's golf won back-to-back tournaments for the first time since 2019 after capturing the Border Olympics title on Feb. 14 in Laredo. All five Bears finished in the top 13 individually, including four in the top 10 after their collective 8-under 856 performance.

Orme's arm, Govan's homer leads Baylor softball to 4-3 upset win over No. 1 Oklahoma

Baylor softball junior right-handed pitcher Dariana Orme's pitching paired with a three-run home run by sophomore infielder Shaylon Govan led the Bears to a 4-3 upset win over the top-ranked Sooners on Feb. 19 in the Gettman Classic at Gettman Stadium. The Sooners also hadn't lost a regular season game in 309 days. OU proceeded to go on a 41-game winning streak heading into the Big 12 Tournament.

No. 7 seed Baylor WBB rallies past No. 10 seed Alabama in opening round of NCAA Tournament

No. 7 seed Baylor women's basketball trailed by as many as 18 points in the first quarter, but a program record of seven 3-pointers from graduate student guard Ja'Mee Asberry helped rally past No. 10 seed University of Alabama 78-74 in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament on March 18 in Storrs, Conn. Baylor's 18-point comeback tied for the third biggest recovery in tournament history.

Baylor baseball drops tight series to No. 12 Texas despite late-inning heroics

Baylor baseball hosted the top team in the Big 12, No. 12 University of Texas, and gave the Longhorns a run for their money at Baylor Ballpark. Entering the weekend, the Bears had already won two conference series and looked to add another against Texas. Head coach Mitch Thompson and Baylor produced in several areas but fell one game short of a series win. The Bears took one of three contests on April 15.

Baylor track & field struts in front of university legends at Michael Johnson Invitational

Baylor track and field hosted its final home meet of the season with the Michael Johnson Invitational April 21-22 at the Clyde Hart Track and Field Stadium in Waco. The two-day meet brought a few Baylor legends back and showed off some current Bears as well. The squad was in the presence of Michael Johnson, the meet's namesake, as well as Jeremy Wariner, Skylar White and others.

No. 1 seed Baylor acro & tumbling wins eighth-straight national title, head coach Mulkey wins 12th

No. 1 seed Baylor acrobatics and tumbling completed the repeat after beating No. 2 Oregon for the third time this season, winning the 2023 NCATA National Championship by a score of 278.855-268.555 on April 29 at West Liberty University. The Bears (11-0) have now won eight straight national titles, all under 12-time champion head coach Felecia Mulkey.

Baylor women's tennis erases 3-1 deficit to take down SMU 4-3

Baylor women's tennis took down Southern Methodist University 4-3 in a thrilling NCAA first round matchup on May 5 at the Mitchell Tennis Center in Bryan-College Station. The Bears went on to lose 4-0 in the second round to No. 2 seed Texas A&M University, the regional host team, on May 6 in the same venue.



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WALKER from Page 19

Walker said serving as chaplain grew his sense of empathy and allowed him to see the uniqueness of each student's Baylor experience. Walker's vision of empathy and equity built his run for student body president. He said his platform won him the election.

No matter his policies or platform, Walker wants the Baylor community to know he loves Jesus. Winning student body president was not about his personal gain but rather furthering his love for others, he said, as Christ calls him to do.

"We're supposed to share our lives with people, and student government can be an agent in creating more of a means to share lives with people," Walker said.

In conversations with students, faculty members, administration or the Baylor Board of Regents, Walker said he viewed confidence as an essential skill in the representation of an entire student body. His goal was to create a campus where each individual, no matter their involvement, would be "championed."

"Whenever I was first elected into this position, in my mind I was just a Baylor student, but obviously I became a student who represented the voice of 15,000 people," Walker said.

As a medical humanities major, Walker said he is the first STEM student body president in 14 years. His experience with research and the sciences allowed him to effectively communicate with Baylor students the true importance of Baylor reaching R1 status, he said.

"To bring that perspective into student government has been helpful to distribute information about how STEM is actually propelling the future of our university into a national scope," Walker said. "More than anything it gave me empathy for what belonging means at Baylor."

Walker said one of his favorite projects as student body president was hosting an Accessibility Week in April. When his sister was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder during his freshman year, his passion to advocate for those with rare and undiagnosed diseases grew.

"We hear all the time that Baylor's campus is not accessible enough and so I wanted to build upon the accessibility cabinet that I had and give them an opportunity to have an accessibility week," Walker said.

Accessibility Week allowed student organizations that advocate for those experiencing physical, emotional or mental pain, such as A Moment of Magic, to showcase their mission. Walker said the goal of the event was not only to show students needing accessibility resources that those resources are available, but also to show students who do not

struggle with accessibility the ways they can serve and be involved.

Another initiative built by Walker during his time in office was Baylor's response to student deaths or tragedies. Walker said this year, he heavily felt the impact of student deaths, and whether he knew the deceased individuals or not, he saw the loss of their presence on campus.

"For the scope of loss that we were feeling... it made me sad that as a whole student population we couldn't join in that effort," Walker said. "If we are a Baylor family, then how can we show support in that?"

Walker said he began conversations that strengthened Baylor's effort to "represent the grieving student body to a family that's also grieving." The Woodlands junior Nick Madincea, the newly elected student body president, said he hopes to continue Walker's initiative during the upcoming academic year.

"That's a great opportunity to meet students where they are, and I deeply love and admire Hunter's heart behind wanting to improve that process," Madincea said.

Madincea, who previously served as the external vice president, collaborated with Walker's administration to create the first student government airport shuttle as well as a mental health awareness day in the fall. As Madincea transitions to his role as student body president, he said he is "truly honored to be able to follow in [Walker's] footsteps."

"Hunter has a deep and genuine love for people, and that has been truly inspirational for me to see. ... He's been a great mentor for me over last year and over the last couple weeks as we transition," Madincea said.

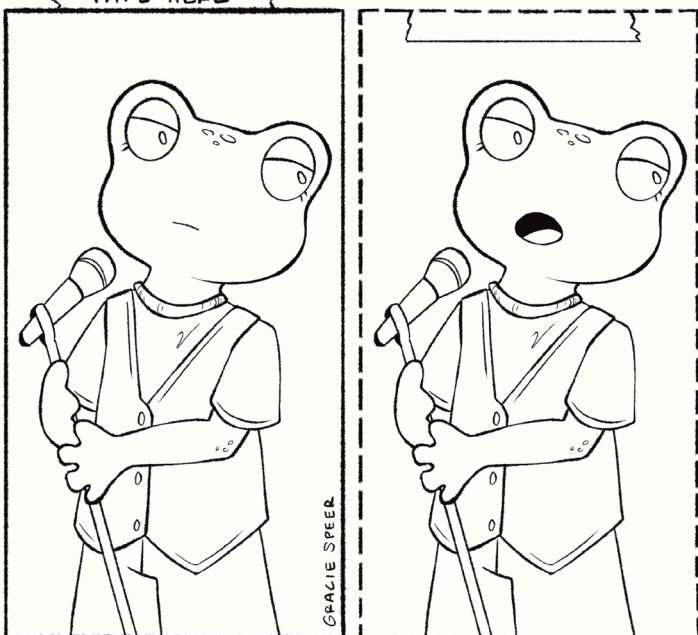
Other projects of which Walker is proud include first-time funding for 14 student organizations, hosting Big 12 on the Hill, the creation of the Student Health Advisory Council in response to COVID-19 and Togetherall peer support.

Walker said he is staying in Waco after graduation for a year to earn a health care-focused MBA. He will then move to Houston to attend the University of Texas School of Dentistry.

"I wrote a mission statement whenever I stepped into this office to keep me accountable to my endeavors. My mission was to serve as a leader by encouraging critical thinking and innovative ideas so that student government can create further efforts that will promote a sense of belonging," Walker said. "My personal goals were to use my leadership platform in such a way that points others back to the Lord and leave Baylor student government better than I found it."

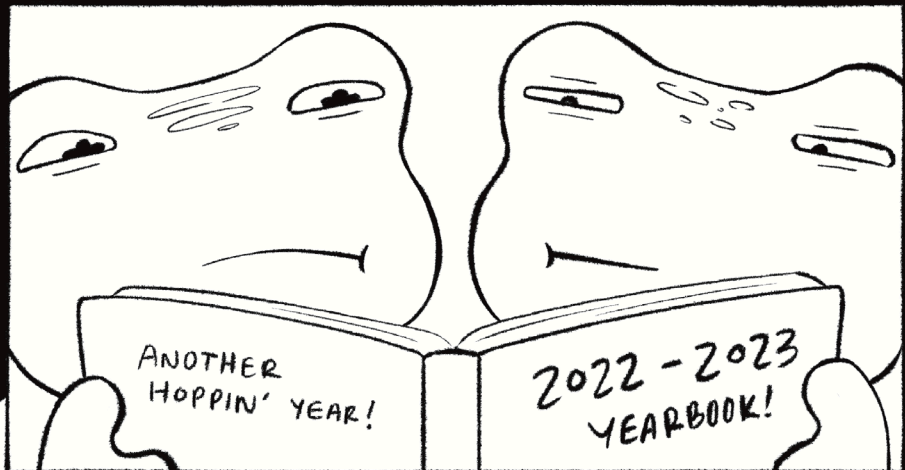
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CUT ON DOTTED LINE, STACK LIKE A FLIPBOOK, AND WATCH HIM SING!



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BYE, HAGS!
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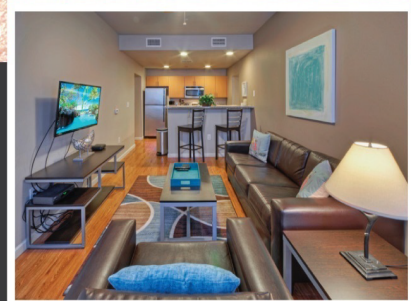


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