

# WACO UNDERGROUND

BAYLOR LARIAT  
SPECIAL EDITION

Waco's punk  
music scene  
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# Ice Age research heats back up in Waco

**JOSH SIATKOWSKI**  
Intern

Paleontological breakthroughs could be on the horizon for the Waco Mammoth National Monument as Dr. Lindsey Yann and graduate researchers Dava Butler and Maree Yard aim to ascertain important baseline facts about the 65,000-year-old fossils.

While Butler studies fossils to determine the history of each individual mammoth, Yard analyzes fossils to discover their ages at their deaths. Although their studies are different, Butler and Yard both said their research overlaps quite often, and they share a common goal of deepening human understanding of the time period.

“The more that we learn about this site, the more complete history we get for Central Texas,” Butler said. “Anything we can learn about the site gives us a better picture.”

The Waco Mammoth National Monument’s story began in 1978 when two men, Eddie Bufkin and Paul Barron, came upon a fossil protruding from a ravine along the Bosque River. They took it to Baylor’s Strecker Museum, now known as the Mayborn Museum, for research.

Once the fossil was identified as the femur bone of a Columbian mammoth, excavation began at the site. Staff discovered a nursery herd of mammoths — a group of females and their offspring — as well as numerous fossils of other



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

**A BONE TO PICK** The remains of an adult male mammoth are on display at the monument.

Ice Age species, including a Western camel and a saber-toothed cat. Since 2009, the site has been open to the public for tours.

While research has been conducted there since 1978, former President Barack Obama’s declaration of the site as a national monument in 2015 was a catalyst for further findings, as it led to the arrival of Yann.

Yann is employed by the National Park Service as a full-time paleontologist at the Waco Mammoth National Monument and is also a visiting scholar in Baylor’s department of geosciences. She said having a full-time

paleontologist at the site is important because she helps consolidate all of the prior research for use in new discoveries.

“Each one of those individuals that came before us made a huge impact, but there was nothing there to bring it all together and organize it,” Yann said. “Nobody had the time to dedicate strictly to the site.”

Yann also facilitates projects for other researchers, such as Butler and Yard, who are Bryce C. Brown Research Fellows at the Mayborn Museum and are working to determine foundational facts about the mammoths.

Yann said Butler’s and Yard’s studies are important because they could help to determine important baseline information, such as the exact number of mammoths in the herd. Once this information is settled, they can proceed with more complex research more fluidly.

“They are doing the foundational work that all other studies will use,” Yann said.

Yann said Baylor’s connection with the Waco Mammoth National Monument is crucial in helping the researchers in their studies. The Mayborn Museum is the repository for fossils excavated from the Waco Mammoth National Monument through 1990, and having access to cabinets of well-preserved fossils and laboratory resources is critical for conducting good research.

“This connection between the National Park Service and Baylor means that every single fossil from this site ... is accessible within a 10-minute radius,” Yann said. “It’s a unique partnership that helps everybody.”

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for tours. The public can see fossils excavated since 1990 that remain in their original position in a climate-controlled dig shelter. Yann said research opportunities are also available for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students who are interested.

“Bring your ideas,” Yann said. “There are so many options that have not been explored.”

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**KEEP ON DIGGING** Dennis Ferguson serves as the electrical engineering systems manager and has access to all of the tunnels under Baylor's campus.  
Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

# Baylor down under

**TYLER WHITE**  
Staff Writer

Hidden from the Baylor community underneath campus are tunnels that span the university. As mysterious as that sounds, these tunnels are important pathways for wiring and piping that provide service to numerous buildings across campus.

Dennis Ferguson, electrical engineering systems manager, said the stories of these tunnels no longer existing are not true. The tunnels are still active today and are vital to the operation of buildings throughout campus.

"The purpose of the tunnels was to house all the building utilities in one area or in this one pathway," Ferguson said.

The tunnels, which have a north and south pathway, run underground from the Baylor Energy Complex across campus, from Waco Hall to North and South Russell Halls. Out of these pathways, the tunnels branch off to service various buildings along these routes.

A 2011 Lariat article mentioned the tunnels were becoming a "tool of the past" as the university worked to move wiring and piping out of the tunnels and bury them in the ground. However, Ferguson said the tunnels are not a tool of the past, and they play an important role in enabling the Baylor Energy Complex to service campus.

Ferguson said wiring was moved out of the tunnels and into the ground because the voltage was too high for service workers and was a safety hazard. However, service workers still go into the tunnels to service the university and ensure the piping is safe and secure.

"The service guys have to go down there and check the valves that spur off into the different buildings along those tunnels," Ferguson said. "There's valves in there to control them, and if there's a pipe that busts in the building, that's where it's cut off at."

In the 2011 Lariat article, former associate vice president of facilities and construction Brian Nicholson said the tunnels can reach very high temperatures. With the steam coming from the Baylor Energy Complex going through them, the temperature can reach more than 85 degrees.

"If you and I walked in the tunnel, we would come out drenched in sweat because the temperature is so hot," Nicholson said in the article. "You wouldn't want to hang out in these tunnels."

Beyond the temperature, Ferguson said the tunnels are nothing out of the ordinary. He said they are well-lit and wide enough to walk through — more like the sidewalk of a trench than a concrete tunnel.

"Most of them are walkable, so it's not dark and dingy," Ferguson said. "There's lighting in there. There's markers on the wall that tells you how many feet to the next opening. And so it's actually just like walking on top of them."

Ferguson said the tunnels are not anything mysterious. He said all of the stories about the tunnels being haunted or being completely abandoned are just myths.

"[They are] not haunted or anything," Ferguson said. "All of them are just normal utilities. ... It is a very active, useful tunnel today."

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News for the students by the students



# ‘Should I Stay or Should I Go’

## Waco’s underground punk scene stays put post-pandemic

**EMMA WEIDMANN**  
Arts and Life Editor

You won’t find them playing at the Silos or on campus, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t there.

In Waco’s garages, bars and backyards is an underground community of punk musicians who play some dark, macabre and gritty music. Donning lots of leather and pierced by steel, they may look undead, but the scene is anything but buried.

When the COVID-19 pandemic took an ax to the knees of live music, Waco’s punk scene wasn’t alone. According to the National Institutes of Health, consumer spending on live music decreased by 45% compared to pre-pandemic revenue, and the places that once provided a platform for punk had to keep closed to keep safe.

Stan Wojciechowski, owner of local record store Spin Connection, said he used to welcome 80 to 90 people per show inside the store. But once the pandemic hit, what was once “quite an active place” could no longer be a venue. And with a boom in record sales since then, Spin Connection needed the room to store the sought-after vinyls.

Though Spin Connection has hosted two shows this year, the scene has moved elsewhere. However, Josh Riddle — guitarist and vocalist of the band Rad Dragon — said Waco’s bands remain grateful for the home the local record store provided.

“That was the spot,” Riddle said. “When we started playing, you’d go out there. All the underground rock shows were there, and the community was really awesome. Stan and Alicia were just so welcoming [to] let us use their space to express ourselves and to feel community.”

Riddle said COVID-19 nearly killed Waco’s punk scene, throwing a curveball in plans for a second Garage Fest — a two-day punk extravaganza held out of Riddle’s garage with 14 artists and a turnout in the hundreds — and an East Side Music Festival in East Waco.

“Everything was so touch and go from there,” Riddle said. “Almost a year later, people were like, ‘Hey man, we’re thinking about doing a show.’ Maybe we would play the show. We’d mask up and go out. And, of course, people didn’t really want to go get in the mosh pit

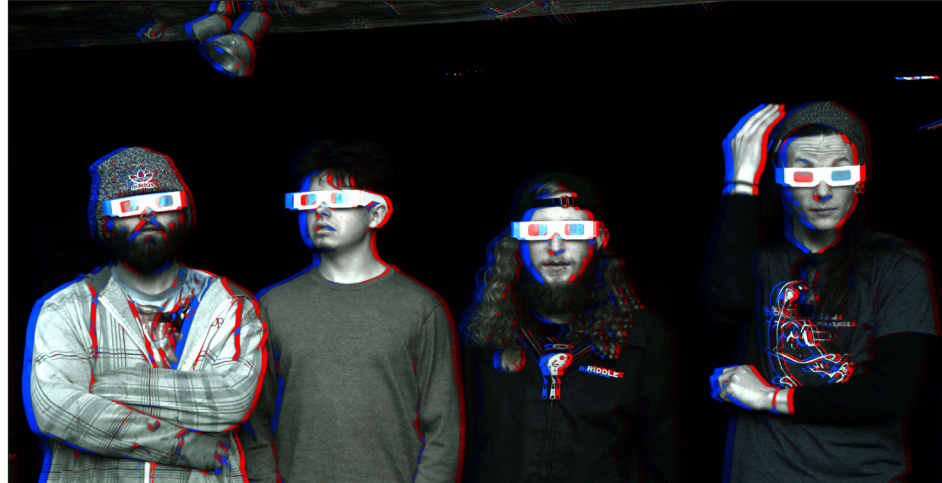


Photo courtesy of Rad Dragon

**PUNK ROARS AGAIN** “Progressive, post-emo punk” band Rad Dragon is at the forefront of the genre’s survival in Waco after the pandemic nearly slayed live music.

too close to people, so there would be smaller shows. And then we wouldn’t get anyone else putting shows together for months.”

Riddle said Waco’s punk scene is slowly but surely crawling back as new bands pop up and local venues continue to open their doors to the rockers. His short list of good spots to hear post-pandemic punk includes Cultivate 7Twelve, Brotherwell Brewing and Truelove, but the real digs are the DIY venues — skate parks, garages and warehouses rented out by the bands themselves.

“We played in a warehouse once that someone rented out for a night,” Riddle said. “The skate park — you know, you just get in touch with the city and tell them to keep the utilities on. You could play wherever as long as the drive is there.”

Sul Ross Skate Park off Waco Drive is one of those places where you can hear the “progressive, post-emo punk” roar of Rad Dragon.

That’s quite the specific label, but “just ‘punk rock’ is good too,” Riddle said.

What exactly does that mean? According to Riddle, the biggest difference between emo and punk is “how the energy is manifested.” Punk rock is “high octane” and is typically faster, while emo has a lot of “emotional potency,” is more sonically rich and is more melodically appealing. It’s the difference between punching a wall and sliding down it.

In Waco, Riddle has become sort of a punk mentor and muse for younger bands. Isaac Joiner, bassist of the “post-hardcore/emo” band Bedtime Stories, said Riddle’s songwriting abilities were “shockingly good,” and he recommended Rad Dragon’s “Sophomore Syndrome” as an introductory song to the genre.

Joiner said part of what Riddle does well is that punk is an emotional release, and he’s able to tap into those feelings. From there, the environment at shows is a safe space to let it all out.

“I think whenever people look at music that’s less accessible for them, that’s harder to listen to, they might not understand the use of harsh vocals or things like that,” Joiner said. “I think they sometimes think that that’s the mentality the people who listen to that music are constantly in — whereas, these shows that we do, it’s like that’s a space for people to release or feel those emotions that you typically aren’t able to within everyday life.”

That often comes with some misconceptions. Carter Patzke, drummer of Bedtime Stories, said it can sound scary on the surface, but punk music and the people who play it aren’t scarier than any country band.

“It’s a lot of loud sounds and screaming and people going crazy, so a lot of people aren’t into it at the beginning,” Patzke said. “But a lot of that is just passion, expression. It’s all — not violent

— but super heavy and crazy. ... But it’s all just because it’s fun.”

Bedtime Stories’ next show is at 7 p.m. Saturday at Cultivate 7Twelve, and they will be joined by bands from Denton and Austin. Because Waco is roughly equidistant from the Austin and the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Riddle said that brings a lot of opportunities for growth for Waco’s bands and makes the city a natural stop on the way.

“We’re getting more diverse artists and more diverse sounds into the city we live in just by going out and meeting those people in our very close neighbor cities,” Riddle said. “I think the potential that’s there makes Waco a really good spot now, and even better in the future, as well. People continue to build those relationships and get some cool artists into town.”

Through the challenges it has overcome and the stereotypes it faces, Waco’s punk scene has become a tight-knit community of musicians and fans — one in which Ethan Corbett, guitarist and vocalist of Bedtime Stories, said he’s met some of his closest friends.

The camaraderie is what Riddle believes makes the scene so remarkable. He said having a crowd of punk music lovers at a show is a special thing.

“What’s really cool about Waco is that a lot of times, it’s such an intimate experience without having to force it to be an intimate experience,” Riddle said. “That’s just the way it is here most of the time, and I think that’s something that’s really special to a scene like ours.”

If there’s one thing to know about the scene, it’s that punk is all-inclusive. With the radical acceptance of people of all races, genders and sexualities that the genre has always championed, Waco’s punk scene is no different.

“Back when punk shows were first starting from underground, I think it’s always just been a bunch of misfits and outcasts that are constantly surrounded by people that don’t accept them,” Patzke said. “Everyone’s like, ‘I want to accept these people because I know how it feels to be belittled and pushed away.’ ... If we’re in the same punk show, we could not have much in common at all, but the thing is, we are both here for a reason. ... We can bond over that. And I think that’s kind of a collective energy: This is a group of misfits and outcasts, and this is their sanctuary.”



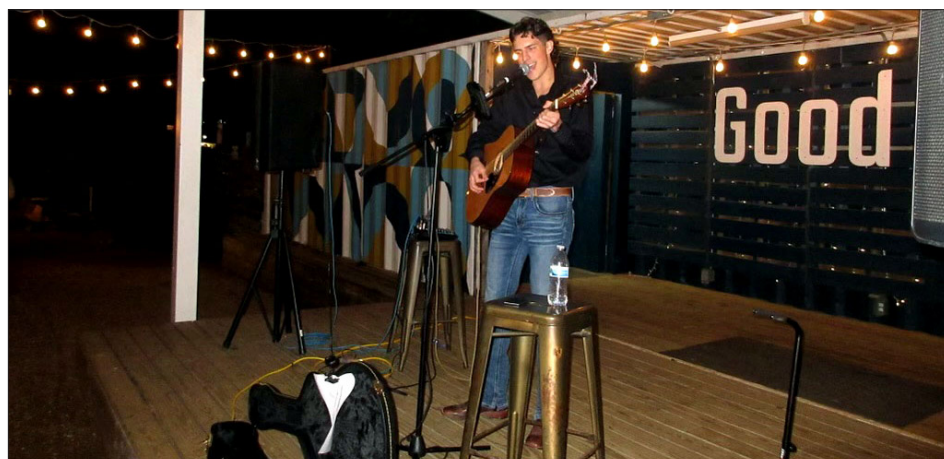


Photo courtesy of Browning Snider

**CAROL** Country singer and Idabel, Okla., junior Browning Snider performs one of his songs at Freight. Snider has more than 1,000 monthly listeners on Spotify.

# Freight provides main stage for student musicians

**ERIKA KUEHL**  
Staff Writer

Freight Waco has made it easy for student musicians to experience performing in front of an audience, even in a city where nightlife isn't the main attraction.

The Colony junior and Sunnn guitarist Matthew Fisanick said the process of performing at Freight has been a simple one.

"We've always really loved the vibe there," Fisanick said. "We actually joke about it and say Freight feels like our home when we perform there. They make it super easy. They're super nice to us. They kind of just let us do our thing."

Fisanick said at least 300 people showed up at a show at Freight last year to hear Sunnn play. That show provided the band with an opportunity to close for Annabelle Chairlegs — a performer at Austin City Limits.

"The exposure that we get from it is really good as well," Fisanick said. "Our Freight shows — a lot of them — had a lot of people turn up, so that's been really good for us."

Idabel, Okla., junior and student musician Browning Snider echoed Fisanick, saying his first paid gigs at Freight helped him get his name out there while having the support of other Baylor students.

"Definitely helps with my exposure — that's the No. 1 thing," Snider said. "No one's going to listen to your stuff if they don't know who you are or that you exist, so it's definitely helped with that and also helped me just play in front of people live and try to learn how to interact with the crowd well."

Nashville senior Brooks McSpadden works at Freight and helps book shows. He said it gives him the chance to find talent on campus and build relationships with student musicians.

"I just started booking all of them, and they're pretty low cost too, but I also figured that it's one of the only places they can play," McSpadden said. "And if I'm a plug — like a connection for them — and I can book them for fairly cheap but give them a little extra spare money, then they can play and gain some experience. So it's a win-win for both of us."

Lubbock junior Graham St.Clair is the lead singer of Graham St.Clair and the West Texas Wind. He said he performed alone during his high school years before he began playing with his current band, and the staff at Freight has always been helpful and eager to book them for live performances.

"I've played at Freight a bunch of times," St.Clair said. "I used to play there just as a solo musician — acoustic shows — and that's something that I've done since high school. Freight always seems to have an audience that is very interested and engaged, and it's a super fun atmosphere for us on the stage."

St.Clair said one of the best parts of performing at Freight is building a fan population that will last longer because of the Baylor connection.

"Waco doesn't have a huge live music scene, so when we first started, we didn't really know where to play or what to do," St.Clair said. "We didn't know how to get our name out there, and Freight has provided just an incredible opportunity for us to get our name out there."

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# ‘Lunechi Da Barber’ keeps Baylor athletes looking fresh at local Waco barbershop

**MICHAEL HAAG**  
Sports Editor

If there’s one thing Look At Me Now Barbershop in Waco wants people to know, it’s that the shop’s doors are open to anyone in the community. Just don’t be surprised if a high-profile Baylor athlete is sitting in the chair next to you.

From blue-chip, NBA-bound basketball recruits to star football players, Look At Me Now Barbershop has consistently been a hot spot for Baylor athletes to get their haircuts. Every barber in the shop has their own clientele of standout athletes or coaches, but one barber in particular stands out in that regard.

Lawrence Love, who goes by “Lunechi Da Barber,” has been cutting hair at Look At Me Now Barbershop since 2013. Lunechi, a native of Waco, has a cousin who played on the Baylor football team several years ago, which gave him a family connection to the program.

Over the years, Lunechi built his reputation as the barber most of those athletes wanted to go to. He said “word of mouth” helped keep his name circulating as athletes move on and new ones enroll at Baylor.

“They’re like, ‘Man, who gives y’all haircuts?’ And they say, ‘Man, go to Lunechi at Look At Me Now Barbershop,’” Lunechi said. “So they get Lunechified.”

That continued to spread, and Lunechi began stacking clients. Even when athletes graduated or got drafted to the pros, the 34-year-old barber said his customers would stay in touch or come back to the barbershop every now and then.

“We have a clean environment,” Lunechi said. “With me, it’s always been consistent. ... They know Waco is the other home for them.”

The dynamic is just as gratifying for the customer, as redshirt sophomore guard Langston Love said Lunechi’s been his go-to barber ever since he stepped foot on campus.

“Lunechi’s been there for me whenever I need a haircut,” Love said. “Anytime I text him, he’s always going to be there. A couple of us go to his shop — really most of the team goes to that shop — so we’re just really happy to have a guy like Lunechi helping us out and being there for us.”



**FRESH FADE** “Lunechi Da Barber” gives redshirt sophomore guard Langston Love a haircut on Nov. 16 at Look At Me Now Barbershop in Waco.

Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

Finding time to get a haircut can be a challenge for the athletes given their jam-packed day-to-day schedule. Lunechi makes sure to stay at the barbershop late into the evenings to accommodate not only his customers but also the athletes he has built relationships with.

Love said that plays a key role in why the

basketball team continues to book with Lunechi.

“It’s really important to have chemistry with him, just because he’ll always be there for us no matter what time it is,” Love said.

On top of that, Love said when you look good, you feel good — and when you feel good, you play good. So even if that taper fade is just

cosmetic, it helps Love feel confident when he’s out on the court.

In fact, Love got a haircut the morning of No. 9 Baylor men’s basketball’s blowout win over Nicholls on Tuesday. Love went on to score a career-high 23 points off the bench, and he credited looking fresh as a factor in his success.

“Just being out there makes you feel more free knowing that you look good out there,” Love said.

Lunechi, a graduate of Waco High, said he loves nothing more than to give an athlete like Love a fresh fade and watch them perform at a high level throughout the season. He’s given haircuts to just about any star Baylor athlete you can think of from 2013 to now, including four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Xavien Howard, NBA All-Rookie Second Team (2023) forward Jeremy Sochan and Keyonte George — who was 16th overall pick in the 2023 Draft.

All of the friendships Lunechi has built with his customers and athletes are a product of the work he’s put in since he was a little kid. Growing up, he used to sweep the floors for Matt Harvey, the owner of Look At Me Now Barbershop, before getting the chance to work on his craft.

Lunechi said being a barber comes with a great deal of expectations, as “it’s not just a barber thing; this is a career.”

“We’re role models in the community,” Lunechi said. “We’re like a big brother to anybody. So when you get in that chair, it’s just me and you. Whatever you need to talk to me about, we’re going to talk about it, and we’ll go from there.”

Look At Me Now Barbershop is located at 2401 W Waco Drive. Lunechi said anyone interested in a haircut can swing by for a first-come-first-served walk-in or set up an appointment with any barber. The shop is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday and it’s closed on Sunday and Monday.

When you walk inside, there are several TVs mounted on the walls all over the shop, and Lunechi always makes sure to keep up with his Baylor athletes.

“Every time a football game or basketball game comes on, we’re tuned in,” Lunechi said. “We’re big Baylor fans over here.”



# Explore the 254

## Waco is only as lame as you make it

**JENNA FITZGERALD**  
Editor-in-Chief



At a little market in Belfast, Northern Ireland, I found myself completely enamored with the work of a local artist. His framed creations combined sea glass and driftwood that washed up on Irish beaches with decorative drawings and common

sayings. I'm a sucker for a good cliché — from "find joy in the journey" to "I think I will just be happy today" — and I walked out with more than 10 pieces of art to scatter throughout my apartment and give to my friends.

Among the many glass frames I had to strategically pack in my suitcase, one in particular stood out to me: "Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace."

I get it. Easy to say when you're surrounded by natural marvels like the Cliffs of Moher — and when you're only a two-hour flight from metropolitan cities like Paris, Amsterdam and Madrid. Not so easy to say when you're pulling up to the Grease Pit for the third time this week and dodging endless road closures and traffic cones along the way.

Waco is no Dublin — but it doesn't need to be. Every place is different. Every community has something unique to offer. To find that out, though, it takes intentional exploration.

It appears some Bears missed that memo.

For years, I've heard student after student talk about how confinement in Waco is the greatest plight of attending school here. Sorry to break it to everybody, but that problem is entirely self-imposed.

This summer, one of my best friends and I celebrated what we lovingly called "a very Waco week." Hitting every Waco staple known to man, we splurged a bit at the Magnolia Silos, toured the Waco Mammoth National Monument, sipped on a free soda at the Dr Pepper Museum, moseyed around the Waco Downtown Farmers Market and completed a hike through Cameron Park. We also made it a point to venture out to local restaurants we had never tried before.

Sure, you probably wouldn't want to hit those spots more than a few times. Luckily, Waco and the surrounding areas have a host of events all throughout the year. From the Día de los Muertos Parade to Westfest, from the Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo to concerts by the Waco Symphony Orchestra, from the Western Belle Pumpkin Festival to Lights of West — there's no shortage of activities to do. Need some inspiration? Check out the Lariat's weekly "What to Do in Waco" column.

So stop being the Grinch of the 254. Recognize that it's not the city's job to give you jaw-dropping entertainment at every hour and that it's your job to seek out activities. In the quiet moments in between, appreciate the calm pace of life. There will probably be a day when that is all you wish for.

A college town is like another hometown. For four years, you learn to navigate its roads, building friendships and memories along the way.

Life planted you in Waco. While you're here, bloom with grace.

Looking for a weekend activity? Scan here for the Lariat's weekly What to Do in Waco columns.



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Photo courtesy of the Ballroom Dance Society

**IN STEP** The Ballroom Dance Society meets at 7 p.m. Fridays in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

# Dancing with the Bears: Ballroom Dance Society brings rhythm to campus

**ERIKA KUEHL**

Staff Writer

The Ballroom Dance Society is a hidden gem on Baylor's campus. Filled with waltz, swing, foxtrot, cha-cha and salsa lessons, it features a variety of styles for anyone who wants to learn the art of ballroom dance. The group meets at 7 p.m. every Friday in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

McKinney junior and Ballroom Dance Society president Katherine Beall has been a member of the group since her freshman year. She said most people have little dance experience and come with friends.

"We'll usually get a couple people who have dance experience but not actually ballroom experience, so they want to learn new things," Beall said. "And there's a lot of people who just grew up liking ballroom dancing and always wanted the opportunity to learn, and this is the first chance to do that."

Beall said her interest in ballroom dance started in her childhood with her love for musicals, but she never had the opportunity to try it until she came to Baylor.

"I was hooked right once I started," Beall said. "It was really interesting to me how every week it would be a new, different dance, so you wouldn't get behind if you were to miss a day."

Beall said she met many of her friends in the group because of common interests.

"A lot of people come in groups or people come on dates, and we've tried to focus a lot

on having a social experience and just getting to know other people because we'll rotate partners throughout," Beall said.

Beall said shifting from a member to the president was difficult at first because she had to figure out how to cater to different people's learning styles.

"I really liked being able to teach people all the dances and learning like, 'OK, everyone learns differently, so do I need to reword this or do it differently just to make it click?'" Beall said. "But it's a very rewarding moment when people finally get it and then you can see them doing the dance successfully."

Bellaire sophomore Frederika Luk teaches the lead side of the dance and said each lesson experience is unique.

"We don't really have an expert in every single one," Luk said. "So it would be nice if there's someone who knows a little bit more about something and could contribute."

Luk said the Ballroom Dance Society has a place for everyone and taught her to look at dance from a learner's perspective.

"Ballroom Dance Society is important because there's something for everyone, and so you can join as someone who's really experienced or knows nothing at all about ballroom dance," Luk said. "If you're just trying to pick up a new skill, it's a nice place to do that where there's not much judgment. But also, if you have more experience, then it's kind of an opportunity for you to step up and take a leadership position."

## Dead Poets Society at Baylor breathes life into literature

**SARAH GALLAHER**

Staff Writer

Most Baylor students read poetry in Carroll Science Hall, but some prefer to absorb its beauty elsewhere. Every month, members of the Dead Poets Society at Baylor gather in secrecy to breathe life into literature from under a bridge.

Based on the 1989 film "Dead Poets Society," the group meets to read poetry together. In the film, John Keating, a professor at the uptight Welton Academy for boys, inspires his students to absorb poetry in a new way. The students discover that Keating himself was a member of the secret Dead Poets Society, which met at a secluded cave to read poetry together.

In 2021, a California junior and a Colorado junior—kept anonymous to uphold the mystery of the Dead Poets Society—bonded over their similar interests and decided to start their own secret society.

"When we came to campus, all of that love of poetry, that love of that movie was still tied together," the California junior said. "We just thought to ourselves, 'What if we started a Dead Poets Society?'"

Armed with a passion for poetry, the students held their first meeting during the second week of school, with six in attendance. After a successful first meeting, they decided to continue meeting and to stay anonymous while doing so.

"The only reason we wanted to kind of keep this anonymous is just because it fits with the spirit of the movie, first of all," the California junior said. "But also, what poetry is and how it should be taught is something I don't necessarily want to tie to an institution."

In the film, Keating explains how learning literature in a school setting distances students from the meaning behind it—a sentiment shared by the members of the Dead Poets Society at Baylor.

"Now, in my class, you will learn to think for yourselves again," Keating says in the film. "You will learn to savor words and language. No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world."

According to the California junior, analyzing poetry in class can take the meaning

out of it, which is part of what makes poetry less appealing to students. As a result, the Dead Poets Society at Baylor is trying to rekindle their love for literature.

"I wouldn't have ever known the depth of emotion, joy and beauty expressed to me if it weren't for creating this space where poetry is free," the California junior said. "With the Dead Poets Society, what we try to do is to keep the human and the poet together as one."

According to the Colorado junior, the Dead Poets Society at Baylor goes beyond understanding poetry. It encourages creating and sharing original material with the group.

"We really got into a 50/50 mix of existing poetry and originals," the Colorado junior said. "It was very much a place of expression."

To the founders of the Dead Poets Society at Baylor, the original poems are the best part, expanding their horizons as they learn more about different aspects of poetry.

"From an artistic perspective, I just appreciated that so much because it was genuinely really good poetry," the California junior said. "But from a more relational perspective, you really got to know people and what they were writing. I made really good friends in the Dead Poets Society, just purely off of reading poetry whenever we met."

Over the past two years, the Dead Poets Society at Baylor has expanded, and now, around 20 people gather for the monthly meetings. Although the group and the identities of its members remain a secret, those who desire to seek them out may do so.

"We have people that know where to go and know where to come in all departments," the Colorado junior said. "I think if you ask around enough, you'll find someone who knows someone who knows about us. I do think the secrecy is part of the romance."

Overall, the Dead Poets Society at Baylor aims to uphold the spirit of the film, spreading the love of literature to students and reading poetry under a bridge as an escape from the demands of everyday life.

"I think the beauty of Dead Poets Society and the beauty of poetry in general is that it's a sigh of relief," the Colorado junior said. "It's rest. Poetry, in a world of means, is an end in itself."



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# ‘Light always brings hope’: Lampposts memorialize veterans who died in combat

ASHLYN BECK  
Staff Writer

Although it’s easy to miss them on walks to class, the red granite lampposts scattered around campus commemorate Baylor men and women who served the United States — many of whom died in combat.

According to Baylor Proud, the first lampposts were erected and dedicated on Oct. 25, 1946, after the conclusion of World War II. Over 4,000 Baylor men and women fought in the war, and 125 died.

Since then, more than 140 lampposts have been placed across campus. Lampposts with a shield-shaped plaque represent someone who died in combat, while those with a rectangle-shaped plaque represent someone who served the U.S. through some other notable public service.

University archivist Dr. Elizabeth Rivera said the lampposts were strategically chosen to commemorate soldiers. The lampposts are essential to students’ comfort and safety on campus, and they represent the men and women who gave their lives for that comfort and safety.

Geoff Hunt, audio and visual curator for the Texas Collection, said the lampposts are important because they are constant reminders of the sacrifices of others.

“It’s very much so we do not forget, so we remember the sacrifices they made — the ultimate sacrifice,” Hunt said. “They

died for their country, for a cause much bigger than themselves.”

Rivera said people and events are memorialized in many different ways, such as in books, but not everyone understands the value of those means. However, she said everyone understands the value of a lamppost, which was created to bring light.

Hunt said it is necessary to memorialize those who came before us.

“It is absolutely imperative that we remember them, and memorial lampposts are the least that we can do for them to keep their memory alive,” Hunt said.

Beyond simply memorializing them, Rivera said it is important to tell their stories.

“We need to make sure that the names of the people who are remembered are not forgotten,” Rivera said. “It’s their stories. It’s that they were humans.”

Rivera and Hunt both said the lampposts are symbolic and a very tangible reminder, but the lampposts are not serving their purpose unless those who see them remember and commit to sharing the stories they tell.

“They are much more than just the lamppost,” Hunt said. “It was a sacrifice for many when they were killed in action — not only for their country but also for their families back home.”

Rivera said it is essential to remember the stories of everyone who sacrificed themselves — including women, who were often overlooked at the time the lampposts were first erected and dedicated.



Lilly Yablon | Photographer

**REMEMBRANCE** Lampposts are scattered around Baylor to celebrate the men and women who served the U.S.

“It’s not just men. There are women,” Rivera said. “Elevate the women’s stories. Tell the women’s stories — because that’s so often what gets forgotten.”

Rivera said the lampposts send a message to everyone who sees them — a message the Baylor community must not overlook.

“The lamppost was specifically chosen for a reason,” Rivera said. “Lampposts are to dispel the darkness, to bring hope. Light always brings hope.”



Lilly Yablon | Photographer

**WHAT’S INSIDE?** The 1945 Centennial Time Capsule is in front of Pat Neff Hall and Draper.

## Time capsule connects through centuries

CALEB WHEELER  
Staff Writer

Baylor is full of long-standing traditions, and one comes in the form of a stone pillar many students don’t know the significance of on Founders Mall.

In 1945, Baylor established the Centennial Time Capsule, which was constructed from the remains of Tryon Hall — a building that was part of Baylor’s original campus in Independence.

“The capsule was made on the occasion of Baylor’s 100th anniversary,” Dr. Stephen Sloan, university historian and history professor, said. “It was part of the celebration for the centennial. They created the time capsule and dedicated it on Feb. 1, 1945.”

The capsule contains numerous items, including a recorded message from former Baylor President Pat Neff to the 2045 Baylor

president as well as the paw prints of former bear mascot Joe College.

“The time capsule buried beneath the monument contains, among other items, a copy of the Roundup yearbook, copies of the Lariat newspaper, course catalogs, pictures, letters and recordings from the 1944-45 academic year,” Baylor’s website reads.

Sloan said the capsule represents what the class of 1944-45 thought was essential and relevant to the university.

He said the preservation of these beliefs is important, which is why he thinks it is good for the current Baylor community to know the capsule exists.

“[The time capsule] creates this connection with Baylor through the centuries,” Sloan said. “There’s a sesquicentennial time capsule that was established in 1995 also [for opening on its 150th anniversary]. Both of those things

were the collective representation of primarily students and administrators on what they thought should be sent into the future.”

Sloan said maintenance is not necessary for the capsule, although it will be moved to an undetermined location soon because of renovations that are set to come to Founders Mall. These renovations will include the Memorial to Enslaved Persons that will recognize the enslaved people who helped build Baylor’s original campus in Independence.

“The monument is intentionally designed to break up the direct walkways on Founders Mall, symbolically bending the otherwise linear Baylor Line and drawing visitors into the experience,” according to Baylor Proud’s website. “The engraved map will be an impactful image of slavery at the beginning of Baylor’s story, which includes namesake Judge R.E.B. Baylor.”



# History, present collide at Cameron Trading Co.

**OLIVIA EIKEN**  
Staff Writer

The lifeline of the Waco Downtown Cultural District, Austin Avenue is home to many locally owned businesses, both new and old. A favorite among vintage and antique collectors, as well as fans of the “shabby chic” style, is Cameron Trading Co.

From the sidewalk, Cameron Trading Co. looks like a traditional small-town store. Upon

entrance, however, it’s a world where history meets the present. The 36,000-square-foot building has operated as an antique mall for over 30 years and is jam-packed with two floors that host hundreds of vendor booths. The various booths consist of everything from antique jewelry to historic coins, postcards, military regalia, green glass Coke bottles and 1970s clothing.

Waco resident Ann Noble has been the familiar face greeting and helping customers at Cameron Trading Co. since she moved to the city two years ago. She said what sets the store apart from others in town is the visible passion of the vendors and the customers.

“Every booth is a reflection of the vendors,” Noble said. “It’s a collection of all different people from the Waco area. I love that they keep it fresh while also maintaining the eclectic and fun nature that the store is known for.”

Cameron Trading Co. has much to offer, from massive numbers of antique trinkets to retro clothing pieces. There are band posters from the 1970s, a coveted fringe leather jacket and a pair of authentic caiman-skin Lucchese cowboy boots from

the 1990s.

While Mark Arnold is the current owner of Cameron Trading Co., the name associated with the business goes back more than 100 years and is a reminder of the trade town Waco once was. William Cameron & Co. was the largest mill and manufacturer of yellow pine and cypress lumber west of the Mississippi River, bringing wealth and employment to Waco in the early 1900s.

Cameron Trading Co. stays true to those Waco roots, with one customer saying, “You come here to reset yourself.”

A visit to the store wouldn’t be complete without giving Sadie, the 23-year-old cat and store mascot, some attention. Noble said Sadie and the conversations she has with the many different customers she meets are her favorite parts of Cameron Trading Co.

“What’s been really fun for me too is the international and national diversity of customers that come in,” Noble said. “As Waco has become more nationally and globally known, I’ve met people from every corner of the world, which is very unique for a small-town store.”

Tourism is a large part of small-business success in Waco. According to the City of Waco, tourists spent approximately \$783 million in 2022, which is 12% more than what they spent in 2021. Supporting a small business like Cameron Trading Co. ensures that the Waco Downtown Cultural District continues to bloom, benefiting the Baylor and Waco communities.

Cameron Trading Co. is located at 618 Austin Ave. and is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

“

It’s a collection of all different people from the Waco area. I love that they keep it fresh while also maintaining the eclectic and fun nature that the store is known for.

**ANN NOBLE |**  
**EMPLOYEE**



**ENTER A TIME MACHINE** Cameron Trading Co. is known for selling many vintage goods that link back to historical events.  
Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

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Dallas sophomore  
Ethan Kazunga  
practices a trick.  
Photo courtesy of Olivia Eiken

**OLIVIA EIKEN**  
Staff Writer

If you've walked around Fountain Mall between noon and 5 p.m. at any point in the last two years, you have surely come across — or almost been run over by — the men who make up Baylor's skateboarding community. Whether you appreciate their "boys being boys" mentality or not, they hope to be here to stay.

Jacksonville, Fla., junior Easton Mahepaul is a prominent figure in the skate group, but he

never had interest in learning the skill until he came to college. Earlier this semester, he began the process of founding an official skate club through Student Activities. Mahepaul said he wants to create a safe space for students like him who had never skated before.

"We've been able to form a community and make something with our specific group, but I know that's not going to last after we all graduate," Mahepaul said. "We want to ensure that we leave something behind that'll last for new freshmen at Baylor. I would love to look back and know that people are continuing to do this sport and have the secured space and opportunity to try it."

The group plans to have a skate club chartered by next fall, with unique goals in mind.

"One of the main things we want to have in the club is to teach classes and show people that it's not that hard to get into skateboarding and also that we are a good community, despite what the stereotypical reputation may be," Mahepaul said.

In a 2009 interview with Time magazine, skateboarding legend Tony Hawk spoke about the bad reputation and negative stereotypes often associated with skateboarders. He said it was because "they had no place to go, so they used the urban landscape as their skate parks."

Mahepaul recognizes the safety concerns with skateboarding, but said it's nothing more than what comes with any other activity.

"I feel like there's always a concern that we are going to get hurt, but it's with any sport and doing anything," Mahepaul said. "You can trip and fall when you're walking."

After recently becoming involved with the Baylor skateboarding community, Dallas sophomore Ethan Kazunga said he is grateful for the group because of its culture and the unexpected friendships he has made.

"It's funny because I don't have much in common with these guys besides this," Kazunga said. "Skating has allowed us to come together and form friendships in ways that I wouldn't have ever known. We're all so different, but skating really is the unifying factor, and I think that's really cool and invaluable."

Kazunga is eager to get a skate club established so that other students at Baylor can have the same opportunity.

"It's more of a way of organizing what we do, because we already have something so great," Kazunga said. "Organizing is the driving factor. It's something to get the skating community together in a way that is productive while also working toward a goal. I feel like if we were a club, we would have our own safe space where we can do our own thing with the security of not getting in trouble from law enforcement and Baylor PD. We just want the Baylor student body and administration to know that we're not trying to cause any trouble. We're just practicing our sport like any other group on campus."

## Let your creative juices flow: Use the Moody Makerspace

**MADELINE CONDOR**  
Staff Writer

A part of the Experiential Learning Commons on the Garden Level of Moody Memorial Library, the Moody Makerspace is open to all Baylor students, faculty and staff, with no requirements for major or classification. It houses a variety of tools available for use in personal or academic projects, including a 3D printer, a laser cutter, a computer adapter, a sewing kit, woodworking tools and more.

McKinney junior Shea Berthelot said she used the Moody Makerspace to create a couples Halloween costume.

"My boyfriend and I knew we wanted to do a couples costume, ... so we decided to go as Anakin and Padmé from Star Wars," Berthelot said. "[The Moody Makerspace] has a sewing machine, so we drew out patterns and we pinned

it and figured out how it was all supposed to fit together. ... And [my boyfriend] printed a whole lightsaber, which was pretty cool."

Berthelot said the best part of the resource is how accessible it is.

"There are people there to help you if you need it," Berthelot said. "It was free to use because not everybody can have [materials like] a sewing machine. And it's pretty intuitive to learn how to use if you didn't already know how to use it. And it was just a really fun creative outlet that I don't get to have a lot of time for typically, so knowing that that's available at Moody is really cool."

Moody Makerspace manager KJ Mikulencak said she wishes more students knew about the space.

"I enjoy watching students progress from just wanting to 3D print something that they found on Thingiverse, which is an online resource for

models, and then after they've gained confidence in that, they want to try the laser," Mikulencak said. "They gain confidence in that, and then they move on to something else. ... Then after a few months of being a part of our space, we know their name and they start teaching other people how to use the equipment. That's really fun to watch."

The Experiential Learning Commons hosts a variety of workshops for students, faculty and staff to create their own projects and learn new skills, from 3D printing to GIF creation. Students can register on the Moody Makerspace website.

Mikulencak said her favorite part of managing the Moody Makerspace is seeing "the cool things that the students come up with," though her tool of choice is the laser cutter.

"We have a large 24-by-36-inch laser cutter that can cut wood, acrylic, leather, cork, foam,

board. It can cut all kinds of things or engrave a variety of materials," Mikulencak said. "So we have lots of students that use that for class projects. And it gets really busy around Christmas; people want to come make gifts."



To visit the Moody Makerspace, students, faculty and staff must present a Baylor ID card. If they need additional help with their projects, they can make an appointment with Mikulencak by going to the "Meet Our Staff" page and finding her profile.



# Behind campus beauty:

## Facilities aims to enhance experience

**TATUM MITCHELL**  
News Editor

Baylor's campus is regularly considered one of the most beautiful in the country, but the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly often goes unnoticed.

According to Joel Burnias, vice president of operations for facilities, Baylor has partnered with Aramark for facilities management since 2000 and for dining services since 1958. The three main components of facilities management are grounds, custodial and maintenance.

"We have a long-standing relationship with the university," Burnias said. "We've been here almost a quarter of a century on the facility side, 60-plus years on the dining side. I think it's a strong [partnership], and we're happy to be a part of it."

Burnias said the facilities and maintenance crews manage classroom renovations, energy programs and savings, the Baylor Energy Complex and more.

"I think if we're doing our jobs right, the impact is not even noticed by the folks on campus," Burnias said. "You know, our mission is to maximize the student experience on campus. We don't see our mission as doing cleaning or maintenance or grounds. It's to maximize the student experience on campus."

Burnias said there are nearly 320 employees in facilities, and they work on a variety of projects.

Jeremy Oliver, zone maintenance foreman, has been at Baylor for 18 years. He oversees most of the residence halls and manages work orders with his team of six, while other teams manage four additional zones of campus. Oliver said one of his favorite parts of working at Baylor is the people alongside him.

"We can all help each other," Oliver said. "There's never been a time that we haven't been able to pull from another zone and get help. That works really well for us. ... It helps us get jobs done when we need it."

During his day-to-day, Oliver's team meets in the morning to address emergency work orders and anything from the day before or the night shift. They prioritize work orders on a daily basis and get through them accordingly, and they hold weekly inspections to ensure everything in the buildings are working properly.

"I don't know if they realize how much we are here," Oliver said. "We have a group that works from 7:30 [a.m.] to 4:30 [p.m.]. ... I have



Abby Roper | Photographer

**DUAL THREAT** Jeremy Oliver, Aramark CL&L foreman, and Maria Evans, Aramark supervisor and custodial trainer. Just two of the faces that help keep Baylor's campus looking beautiful.

another shift that comes in from 4 [p.m.] to 12 [a.m.]. We never leave here too much. And if we do leave, we're on call."

Maria Evans, custodial supervisor and trainer, has been at Baylor for six and a half years. She helps with training, interviewing and onboarding for employees.

"I love my job. I love helping our employees. Anything they need, a special need, like for health insurance, and ... all things like that."

For the custodial side of things, Evans said there are also three shifts through the day. She said the first morning shift focuses on residence halls, and the other two shifts are for cleaning the academic buildings. She said there are certain expectations for cleaning, and she helps train team members.

"Aramark has a routine for daily cleaning and weekly cleaning. ... I train [employees] to be on the same page as everyone. The daily cleaning, like pulling trash, cleaning desks, clean everything, ... everything you see [that's] dirty."

Burnias said work in facilities is often a thankless job since most calls come in when something needs to be fixed or is going wrong, but it's vital to Baylor's success.

"We want the university to succeed. We want students to succeed," Burnias said. "We have folks on our staff who bleed green and gold. They're happy to be part of this university. They understand the importance of this university, and they want to help it thrive."

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# ‘Feed the Beaver’: Baylor baseball’s rally cry

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Writer

Baseball is a game of streaks — losing streaks and hitting streaks, slumps on the mound or at the plate, maybe even an unusually high number of consecutive wins. Baylor baseball has learned a thing or two about that when looking back on the 2012 season and a craze that stormed through Waco: “Feed the beaver.”

“Any championship-level team I’ve ever been a part of as a player or a coach has some quirkiness and has some personality,” Baylor assistant coach Zach Dillon said. “They don’t take themselves too seriously, but they know there’s a job to do and a mission at hand.

“They showed up every day and believed they were going to win. And there was really no panic ever in the dugout. That’s how you go on to win the Big 12 and win 24 straight games.”

The 2011-2012 athletic calendar marked the “Year of the Bear” as Baylor racked up 129 wins across the four major sports (football, men’s basketball, women’s basketball and baseball) — the most in NCAA history.

While history kept raining green and gold, the season ended on the diamond with arguably the most exciting Baylor baseball season of all time. The year included a 24-game win streak en route to a Big 12 Championship run — and it was fueled by the sighting of a beaver peeking its head through the right field gap.



“Having the personalities we had on that team, Joey Hainsfurther had kind of taken the beaver in as our pet beaver,” Dillon said. “Then Max Muncy came up to bat in a ballgame, and one of the pitchers from the corner of the dugout yelled, ‘Feed the beaver!’ Muncy hit a home run to right field and that caught fire. The rest is history.”

Dillon was a volunteer assistant coach during the 2012 season and returned to Waco in 2022 alongside head coach Mitch Thompson. Dillon recalled the win streak with fond memories, as not only the team but also the fans rallied around a newfound “beaver fever” that was stirring along the Brazos River.

“All of the sudden, we had a beaver in the dugout, obviously a stuffed animal. We had a beaver mascot. We had T-shirts and signs,” Dillon said. “It’s one of those cool sports stories that only happens when you have a really good team and a bunch of guys that are comfortable in their own skin and are playing for each other.”

Superstitions have always been a part of sports, but no sport has been taken by storm more than baseball. From wearing the same underwear day after day to taking the field and displaying two different socks, if something strikes a chord and stumbles into success, it sticks.

For the Bears in 2012, it was a beaver that brought out the best in a veteran group that had spent the long haul building toward success.

“So many of those guys were third- and fourth-year players,” Thompson said. “It was an old team. Those guys all grew up together. It takes time. It’s not something that just happens by snapping your fingers. It’s three or four years of working together, bleeding together, growing together and loving each other. Then all of a sudden, it all clicks. And when talent is right and the culture is right — bang! It takes off.”

While Thompson wasn’t a part

of Baylor’s memorable 2012 run, the current head coach knows what it takes to create a championship-caliber team. While trying to rejuvenate a sleeping giant on the diamond, he’s working to build the Bears back up to where they were.

“It comes with time and repetition,” Thompson said. “It’s a discipline thing. You don’t see guys just stepping into the big leagues and ever being *that* guy. It’s always the veterans that make you go, ‘Oh man, this guy gives great at bats every time’ or, ‘You can count on him every outing on the mound.’”

The time was paying off for Baylor as the win streak grew larger and larger, bringing program records and a Big 12 tournament trophy to go alongside a beaver that had magically propelled Baylor into a baseball school.

“As far as a group of guys that have great culture and chemistry — who have the identity and the creativity to create their own rallying cry at the moment when something presents itself — I think it’s unique,” Dillon said. “I think it was just one of those magical moments that we’re all fortunate to be a part of. The beaver just makes it that much more memorable.”

But like all good things, it had come to an end. The Bears’ miracle run was stunted in the same place they spurred up momentum — in Waco while hosting the Super Regional.

“It was the most heartbreaking loss I’ve ever been a part of in game three in the Super Regional versus Arkansas, because I felt like that group more than anybody had earned the right to go play for a national championship,” Dillon said. “At the end of the day, our time was up. I think those guys all look back on it with fond memories, but at the same time, we wish we would have gotten over the hump.”

Baylor baseball is still waiting for its first national championship despite three trips to the College World Series. The team hit a dry spell in the years after the “feed the beaver” saga before making additional



Lariat file photo

**SPRING SHOWERS** Baylor baseball celebrates an 8-2 win over Dallas Baptist on June, 4, 2012, at Baylor Ballpark to win the Waco Regional Championship.

NCAA Tournament appearances from 2017 to 2019.

“We always have to learn from our history and understand that Baylor baseball was a national brand, and that’s what we’re working back toward,” Dillon said. “Any time you can revisit — without getting too caught up in it — the great moments in our history, I think it’s powerful.

“Our ultimate goal as the staff right now is to bring those kinds of times, teams and players back to Baylor and hopefully one day get over that hump and be able to bring that big trophy home.”

While it wasn’t a beaver that created miracles at Baylor Ballpark, the mascot will forever embody a rally

unlike any other. As the 2024 baseball season looms, the Bears will look past any beaver warming up in the bullpen and determine their success the same way they did almost 12 years ago: through the culture, passion, hard work and togetherness that have been embedded in Thompson’s team.

“‘Feed the beaver’ mania was part of a group of guys really enjoying the moment and really enjoying where they were and what they were doing together,” Dillon said. “That’s something we all want to be a part of, no matter what the rallying cry is. I was just a little volunteer assistant coach, but it’s something I’ll remember forever. And it was a heck of a three-month ride.”



# Pop the Baylor bubble

**LILY NUSSBAUM**  
Social Media Editor

“Baylor bubble” is a phrase often used within the Baylor community. And while many students may roll their eyes or deny it exists, the reality is that there is one. By staying on the campus side of Interstate 35, many students like myself are robbing themselves of unique experiences for discovery and connection.

I think the idea of getting out of the Baylor bubble correlates with expanding your comfort zone. According to Dr. Abigail Brenner, a psychologist who wrote “Psychology Today,” a comfort zone is “a psychological/emotional/behavioral construct that defines the routine of our daily life.” A comfort zone isn’t necessarily a physical location, but rather a feeling of “familiarity, safety and security.”

For many students, including myself, I would say Baylor and its surrounding neighborhoods are a comfort zone. I know my best friend is just a block away, ready to attend to my needs. I know my favorite sub is located just five minutes down La Salle. Also, all the organizations I am a part of meet on campus.

Now, as Brenner pointed out, a comfort zone is surely healthy, but expanding or stepping out of it can enable you to reap many benefits by discovering growing experiences, untapped resources and skills for dealing with change.

For one of my classes this semester, I had to select an internship from a list of locations. One of them was the Waco Civic Theatre. To be frank, I didn’t even know Waco had a theater until I saw it listed, and as a theater kid, I was

kind of embarrassed I didn’t know it existed.

Since starting my internship with the Waco Civic Theatre, my eyes have been opened to communities that exist outside of the Baylor’s campus. This isn’t just a shameless self-promo for the theater, but it is one example of a place and experience I wouldn’t have known if I wasn’t pushed outside my comfort zone. Now I want to participate in a show, as I’ve been inspired by the people I’ve met.

In Waco, there are hundreds of institutions and organizations that offer a community to tap into that will give you the opportunity to get out of the Baylor bubble. For example, Bicycle World Texas hosts the Weekly Waco Bicycle Club. Similarly, Act Locally Waco features Waco Walks — an informal group that puts on walks around the community like the 25th Street Past, Present & Future and Wonderland Parade.

Those are just two examples of probably a hundred, and if weekly or monthly group events don’t sound like your thing, try attending just one event. For example, I went to Charro Day at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in October. I am neither a part of the church nor Catholic in the first place, but it was wonderful to watch the musical performances and walk through all the stalls. I definitely spent too much money on tacos and agua fresca.

All this is to say: follow social media accounts like the Wacoan and Waco Wise to see what’s going on daily in the Waco community. Also, check out the Lariat’s own What to Do in Waco, which lists weekly events going on in town that you might not have been aware of. Pop the bubble and try something new.



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