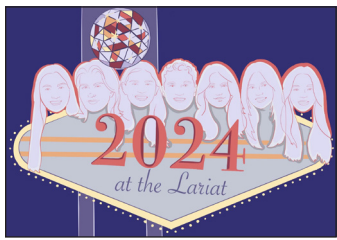


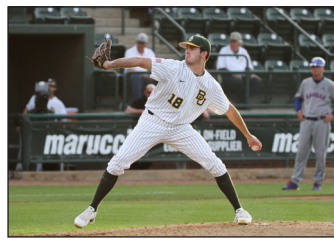
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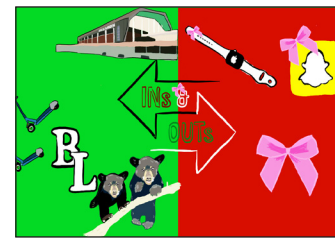
### OPINION | A2

**Vision board:**  
Editorial Board shares New Year's resolutions



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**Cody Bradford:**  
Former Bear wins World Series with Texas Rangers



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**Ins and outs:**  
A look at Baylor's predicted trends for 2024



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor

**WHEN STARS ALIGN** The eclipse and Diadeloso are sharing the spotlight April 8.

## March eclipse to overshadow sun, but not Diadeloso

**JOSH SIATKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

April 8 will be a historically busy day in Waco, as the city plans to host over 100,000 visitors for the total solar eclipse, as well as thousands of Baylor students who will be enjoying Diadeloso, one of Baylor's beloved campus traditions.

Dr. Barbara Castanheira-Endl, professor of physics and adviser of Baylor's Astronomy Club, said the eclipse will be a special one. Contrary to an annular or partial eclipse, in which the moon only blocks some of the sun, April 8 will be a total solar eclipse.

"The most spectacular one is the total eclipse," Endl said. "It will be completely dark, so we will be able to see planets and some bright stars."

April 8 will be the first total eclipse observable in the continental U.S. since 2017. More strikingly, according to NASA's solar eclipse history page, it will be the first time since 1878 that Waco resides in the path of totality — the area in which the sun will be completely blocked.

"Because we are closer to the center of totality, Waco will experience totality for about four minutes," Endl said. "But if you are in Austin, which is on the edge of the path of totality, it is almost two minutes."

Since Waco will be one of the best points from which to see the eclipse, the city has partnered with Lowell Observatory and Discovery Channel to turn the four-minute eclipse into Eclipse Over Texas, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McLane Stadium.

Eclipse Over Texas tickets can be purchased for \$20 on its

website, which also has information for volunteer inquiries. Aside from a view of the eclipse, the event will provide food trucks and numerous educational talks — some of which will be given by Baylor faculty, according to Endl.

As excitement grows for Waco's first total solar eclipse in nearly 150 years, students can also look forward to Diadeloso, which will take place the same day. Although Diadeloso is traditionally on a Tuesday, it will be on a Monday this year instead. Students will attend their Monday classes on Tuesday to make up for the change.

Flower Mound junior Emme Nownes is the Diadeloso chair for the Baylor Chamber of Commerce. Nownes said that despite the thousands of anticipated visitors, Diadeloso will remain a student-centered day.

"At the core of this event, we are celebrating student life and being a student at Baylor," Nownes said.

Diadeloso, which began in 1932 as "All-University Day," was designed to uplift students who were facing the Great Depression as well as the loss of Baylor's president, Samuel Palmer Brooks, in 1931. While student life will remain at the heart of the day, Nownes said the eclipse will not be ignored in planning.

"We plan on having some time during the totality of the eclipse to take a second and put our focus on that," Nownes said. "Expect some space-themed decorations on the day."

Nownes said balancing the student-centered celebration with the historic eclipse makes planning a challenging task, but she will not forget the meaning behind the event.

"We want this to be Dia plus the eclipse, not an eclipse that overshadows Dia," Nownes said.

## TIME ranks Baylor No. 40 among national colleges for future leaders

**SARAH GALLAHER**  
Staff Writer

Baylor was ranked No. 40 in the top colleges for future leaders in a recent article from TIME magazine. The university has a variety of leadership programs in different fields of study, all of which aim to equip students to become future leaders.

The Baylor Center for School Leadership, one of many such opportunities at Baylor, equips leaders in the field of education to be "the best school leaders possible," according to BCSL department chair Dr. William Sterrett. Sterrett joined the faculty in 2022 and said he has seen immense growth in the

program since.

"I am very glad to be at Baylor," Sterrett said. "I came to Baylor because of the unique mission. We are the only Christian Research 1 university, and as our president says, we are an unambiguously Christian university."

As one of the top 40 colleges for future leaders, Baylor has a variety of notable alumni, including Walmart CFO John Rainey and Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers CEO Chris Dull.

However, Baylor's approach to leadership impacts more than just alumni. Current undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to learn more about what it means to

be a leader while at Baylor. The Baylor Center for School Leadership recently implemented a master's program for school leadership that offers a dual-track cohort model for both Texas and independent school principals.

"We want them to be impactful in Texas and around the world," Sterrett said.

Additionally, Baylor offers a leadership minor. BCSL executive director Dr. John Eckert teaches one of the undergraduate courses for the leadership minor alongside his work with graduate students.

"The Baylor students we work with

## TikTok trend sparks Kia thefts on, near campus

**LUKE LATTANZI**  
Staff Writer

Following a TikTok trend that detailed how to break into Kia motor vehicles, the Baylor Police Department is seeing a rise in motor vehicle thefts on and around campus.

A Baylor Alert, sent out Jan. 11, details three instances of motor vehicle theft. The first occurred Dec. 20, 2023, at University Parks Apartments. The second occurred Jan. 8 at the 2000 block of S First St., and the third occurred Jan. 10-11 at the 1900 block of S Ninth St.

"BUPD and Waco PD are currently investigating these incidents," the email reads. "Law enforcement has increased patrols in the area and other locations immediately adjacent to campus."

BUPD assistant chief Don Rodman said the motor vehicle thefts were byproducts of the TikTok trend. According to Rodman, the thefts reported by the Baylor Alert were all Kia motor vehicles.

"There was a little bit of an issue to where it reached social media," Rodman said. "There was a TikTok challenge pushed out where, 'Hey, this is how you can break into a Kia.' And so that became kind of rampant, and that really led to a wider trend."

"That 'wider trend' ultimately resulted in a recently settled class-action lawsuit against vehicle manufacturers Kia and Hyundai. According to a press release from Hagens Berman, the law firm that brought the suit, it gave more than \$200 million to affected vehicle owners.

According to the press release, the trend stems from a failure by both Kia and Hyundai to add a basic anti-theft mechanism that prevents most vehicles from being started unless a specific code from the vehicle's key fob is transmitted. Both vehicle manufacturers have agreed to add the proper anti-theft devices to affected vehicles free of charge. The anti-theft failure affects all Kia models from 2011 to 2022.

"The biggest thing that you can do if you own one of those vehicles is take it into a dealership, and it's free of cost," Rodman said. "There's a local Kia here in Waco, the University Kia, and so that would be a great option if you have not gone and put in that anti-theft device."

Rodman said all students should practice basic safety precautions for their vehicles, regardless of what type of vehicle they are driving. "You always want to maintain observation of your vehicle," Rodman said. "So I know when we travel, [we do] whatever we can do to keep that within a well-lit area or another type of location where we know there's cameras, or we know that there's a friend or family [member] that can look out for that vehicle."

The recent rise in vehicle thefts on and around campus also coincides with a 10% rise in vehicle thefts from 2021 to 2022 throughout the state of Texas, according to a press release by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. The bureau said the U.S. saw an estimated 1.05 million vehicle theft incidents in 2022 — the most recorded since 2008.

Waco Police Department spokesperson Cierra Shipley also said vehicle owners should practice basic safety measures, including parking in well-lit areas at night, leaving their vehicles locked and turned off when unoccupied, keeping valuables out of view and reporting all suspicious activity to their local police department.

"The Waco Police Department would like to remind everyone that it is vital to remember these safety prevention tips as a motor vehicle owner," Shipley said via email.

Rodman said BUPD is working closely with Waco PD to identify any trends and commonalities between these thefts, such as certain locations that may be especially vulnerable. Vehicles are also at risk when they are left in areas where there is not a lot of foot traffic, as perpetrators are often emboldened when there is no one around to witness the crime.

"That's one of the things that we are constantly analyzing, is trying to find hotspots," Rodman said. "What we're finding is open parking lots — particularly in apartment complexes, but really it can happen anywhere — if there's not a lot of foot traffic, a lot of times they're happening overnight."

Rodman said it ultimately comes down to "Hide it, Lock it, Take it" — a foundational tenet of Baylor's anti-burglary program that urges students to hide their valuables, lock their vehicles and take essential items, such as car keys, with them.

"We're here for your support and to be able to make sure that you all feel safe so that you can go and thrive and do what you all are meant to do," Rodman said.



Mesha Mittanasala | Photographer

**KIAN'T STOP THIEVES** Kia models from 2011 to 2022 lack a basic anti-theft mechanism that has enabled easy break-ins. The manufacturer is offering fixes free of charge.

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

**We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts:** Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu

# Our 2024 vision board: Check out the resolutions of The Editorial Board

We're a few weeks into 2024, which means most people have likely begun to falter on their New Year's resolutions by now. However, The Lariat is just getting started.

While The Editorial Board isn't trying to transform into a morning person or hit the gym, its members are setting goals to improve their work and better serve the Baylor community this semester. Hold us accountable for these New Year's resolutions.

## STEADFAST SUPPORT

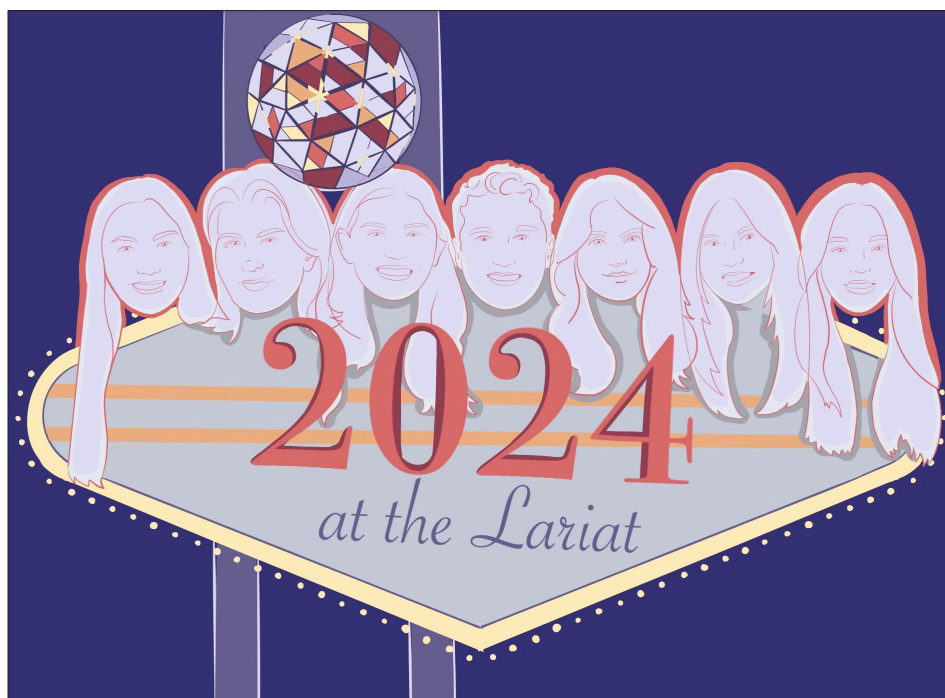
As I pass the halfway point of my time at the helm of The Lariat, I have more goals than I could possibly put into this blurb. I hope to continue pursuing and promoting ethical, objective, high-level journalism — the kind that has earned this staff many national awards. I want to transform our content and tailor it to our audience so that each and every student on campus starts their day by scrolling through The Morning Buzz. Perhaps most of all, though, I hope to give my editors, writers and photographers the support they need to grow as professionals and as leaders.

Journalism isn't all sunshine and rainbows, but I will walk alongside this staff through the challenging days along with the good ones. I will be their biggest advocate and their most intentional (constructive) critic. I will be exactly what they need me to be in the hopes that, together, we will be exactly what this campus needs us to be. Jenna Fitzgerald | Editor-in-Chief.

## MAKING VOICES HEARD

Getting more people to write to me is definitely going to be a priority for me as Opinion Editor this semester. For those who are not aware, The Lariat offers the opportunity for any student or faculty member to write to the newspaper on a topic or issue of their choice via email. The Opinion Editor, such as myself, then collaborates with the writer to help their piece get published, just like the other columns that are published daily.

While I certainly appreciate the pieces I receive from my writers here at The Lariat, being able to receive and publish pieces written by other Baylor students is such a privilege and brings a wonderful diversity factor to our newspaper. It allows anyone to make their voice heard on something they feel needs to be brought to light. Finding new ways to make



Gwen Henry | Cartoonist

sure more people know about this opportunity will be at the top of my list of improvements for my section this year. Olivia Turner | Opinion Editor.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Finding more behind-the-scenes or lesser-known stories to tell is one of my main goals for the semester. As a news desk consisting of eight writers and myself, we all collaborate to pitch and find the stories that readers see. While I think we do a great job now, I think there are a lot of stories worth telling that we may not have thought about yet. This is an important way to make the news section more varied and tell a diverse range of stories. Digging deeper and contributing more to brainstorming is on my New Year's goal list. Keeping our eyes and ears open for story ideas around campus is a main part of this, but so is listening to reader feedback and outreach. Tatum Mitchell | News Editor.

## GIVING DUE DILIGENCE AND DEDICATION

This semester, my goal for the arts & life section is to dig deeper into features and diverse coverage. Everyone loves a good column, and they're so much fun to write, but the best stories

are the ones you never expect to do — the ones where you talk to a really fascinating person and get their backstory, the ones where you cover a marginalized community and highlight an interesting culture and the ones you can feel really proud of at the end of the day.

I want to push myself and my writers to find stories that will take some time and dedication to finish but will turn out more impactful and meaningful for them. That means taking the time to get to know student musicians and artists, finding faculty with passion projects, diving deep into cultural clubs, doing more than just attending the events and getting interviews. As a desk, I want us to be finding the very best stories we can and giving each one its due diligence. Emma Weidmann | Arts & Life Editor.

## FINDING UNIQUE ANGLES

This semester, my goal is to feature people in the Baylor and Waco communities and the specific projects and stories they have. I always find myself reading about people who have a unique story or impact on my community. I believe that a lot of students can be inspired by these stories that are happening right in their backyard. There are so many professors, students and members of the surrounding area

who have done amazing work for their field or have greeted waves of change, and I really want to focus on digging up those stories that may not be highlighted enough on campus. These stories can be hard to find, but they are definitely one of my goals for this semester. Sydney Matthews | Assistant News Editor.

## BRINGING BACK LIVE RADIO BROADCASTS

As the radio director for The Lariat in 2023, my goal was to revamp the Don't Feed the Bears sports podcast, found on Spotify. It is safe to say that worked, as the podcast reached an audience five times the size of the previous year and continues to grow. In addition, the team behind Don't Feed the Bears capped off the semester with a livestream to pay off all the terrible sports takes shared since week one on the podcast, which will continue this year.

In 2024, Baylor Lariat Radio will bring back live broadcasts! After doing play-by-play for more than 70 different Baylor sporting events across four different sports since the beginning of my tenure with The Lariat, it became evident that the radio team has the talent and aspirations of going live and creating professional-quality broadcasts. With the baseball and softball seasons starting up in mid-February, I and Joe Pratt, Jackson Posey and several other fresh new voices will take the airwaves and broadcast the games live for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Everyone who has tuned into Baylor sports on ESPN+ and other streaming platforms knows there are some less-than-ideal broadcasters who don't prepare enough or know enough about the Bears. That is not the case with Baylor Lariat Radio, and as the radio director, I will make it my goal to compete and bring a no-nonsense, entertaining live radio broadcast to Waco. Foster Nicholas | Radio Director, Sports Writer.

## BRUSHING UP ARTISTIC STYLE

This semester is my last at Baylor, and with that comes the end of my time at The Lariat. My goals for this semester are to continue to improve on the visuals I create for The Lariat by trying out new drawing programs and expanding my creative style. I hope that focusing on these goals and spending the extra time it takes to carry them out well will be evident in our publications this spring. Gwen Henry | Cartoonist.

# Don't act foolish: Practice proper classroom etiquette

**RORY DULOCK**  
Staff Writer

It seems like there is always that one classmate who causes disruptions in the middle of class and annoys everybody in the room. Whether they're playing endless rounds of Solitaire, clicking a pen nonstop or throwing stuff around the room behind the professor's back, they strike a nerve with most in close proximity.

This past semester, I sat by a student who would not stop playing video games on their laptop and was being very disruptive. While this may seem like an unimportant interaction, it made focusing and concentrating in that class very hard for not only myself but also my peers. It wasn't fair that our ability to learn was hindered due to a classmate not practicing proper classroom etiquette.

While I am shocked to find out that there are students in college who still have not learned how to behave properly in class, I am even more stunned by those who don't seem worried about

the consequences of their actions. Students should start putting into practice better behaviors because it shows respect to their professors, sets an example for their peers and helps develop habits that can be beneficial when entering the workforce.

First, practicing classroom etiquette shows respect for professors. No professor wants students chatting in the back of the classroom, throwing objects around or disturbing the class by engaging in other inappropriate mannerisms. It doesn't matter if you get bored in a particular class; just sit quietly. Even if you don't think the professor notices, the odds are that they have already noticed but won't call you out in the middle of class. I had several professors last semester who said we would receive no warning for being disruptive but would receive the consequence outside of class. So is it really worth it to play a few rounds of Solitaire during a lecture? Besides fearing punishment from professors, another motivation for practicing classroom etiquette is proving to them that you're paying attention.

Second, behaving in the classroom sets an example for fellow peers. If students believe their professor isn't watching them, they may also think their classmates aren't noticing their disruptive behavior. Let me be the first to tell you they are wrong. While disrupting the class affects the professor's teaching, it also affects the classmates' ability to learn. Instead of being a distraction, be a good example for your peers. This means not talking while the professor is talking and not playing games. Also, don't be afraid to tell your best friend to put a pause on Solitaire for a little while. They will thank you later for helping them stay attentive.

Finally, using proper etiquette develops habits that can be helpful when entering the workforce. How do you think your future employer would react if you threw something across the room during a meeting? They would probably not be pleased. Remember, it's the same as when you're in the classroom. For the sports people out there, the phrase "you play how you practice" applies. Life after college will come with a lot of new challenges, but figuring out how to behave in a professional setting shouldn't be one of them. For those of you who are thinking about playing Solitaire during your next class, take my simple advice: Just be the kind of student you feel is pleasant to teach.

“No professor wants students chatting in the back of the classroom, throwing objects around or disturbing the class by engaging in other inappropriate mannerisms.”

## Meet the Staff

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Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

## Lariat Letters

To submit a Lariat Letter, email Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.



Photo courtesy of Nathan Shelburne

**WELCOME HOME** Welcome Weekend gave new students and transfer students an opportunity to meet fellow Baylor Bears ahead of the spring semester.

# Start of something new: Spring Welcome Weekend

**ASHLYN BECK**  
Staff Writer

While the spring Welcome Weekend might be less known than its fall counterpart, it's a beneficial time for transfers and new students to become established at Baylor, said Dr. Nathan Shelburne, director of New Student Programs.

"Our team comes alongside them to help them feel ready and prepared for their first semester, whether that's fall semester or spring semester," Shelburne said.

One of the biggest differences between fall Welcome Week and spring Welcome Weekend is the number of students who attend, with 3,700 in the fall and between 250 and 300 in the spring, Shelburne said.

Further, Shelburne said the students who attend are more diverse. In the fall, most students are right out of high school. In the spring, they might have taken a semester off of school or be transferring from a

different college.

"The percentage of students who [have] not previously had a college experience so far is much smaller out of the overall group than it would be in the fall, so [it's] smaller and just more diverse in terms of what their experiences have been," Shelburne said.

Shelburne said Welcome Weekend still emphasizes relationship building and involvement.

"It's critically important that they're able to start to build friendships and relationships with peers," Shelburne said. "They will have the opportunity to hear from or learn about involvement opportunities, much like they would at orientation, and begin to establish connections on campus with resources, departments [and] services."

Presenters and leaders encourage students to take steps toward involvement, which might include speaking with a student involvement specialist during the semester.

"We are encouraging them

absolutely to build connections during Welcome Week, but we're also in large part trying to set them up to seek out on their own proactively throughout the semester," Shelburne said.

Shelburne said it's challenging to help transfers and new students get involved in campus activities in the spring, since the fall has several staple events like move-in, homecoming and Mass Meeting. As a result, Shelburne said he encourages students to look forward to fall events while also being aware of spring traditions.

"We are trying to introduce them to some of those things that they had to look forward to and encourage them to take advantage of those," Shelburne said.

At Welcome Weekend, Shelburne said they do not treat students as if they are brandnew. Instead, they acknowledge that many students have already had a college experience and emphasize what is specific to the Baylor experience.

"We have to do our best to try and ... introduce [students] to the things that are really pillars of the Baylor experience that we want all of [them] to take advantage of and participate in," Shelburne said.

Denver, Colo., sophomore Molly Merson is a transfer student who participated in Welcome Weekend last year. She said Welcome Weekend was a helpful experience for her and was where she met some of her current friends.

"Obviously coming in as a transfer, I didn't really know anybody, and so I was very hesitant," Merson said. "But I feel like they did a great job at Welcome Weekend of providing enough structure that it wasn't awkward."

Merson said Welcome Weekend was essentially an abridged version of orientation, Line Camp and Welcome Week. It included small groups, a trip to Independence and the opportunity to receive their Line jerseys.

"When you come in as a transfer, you're entering a whole different

culture and world halfway through the year, which can be kind of daunting," Merson said.

Merson said getting outside of her comfort zone and making connections with others helped her acclimate to Baylor.

"Just put yourself out there," Merson said. "I kind of shrink away when things are awkward or really new, but I just like to push myself to put myself out there, and I think it really paid off."

According to Merson, a big part of her seamless transfer experience was other students coming alongside her and helping her become comfortable at Baylor. She said she would encourage transfer students to accept the help of established students and ask for help when they need it.

"It's not going to happen overnight," Merson said. "Those small things daily that you can do to get connected and make yourself feel like you're part of the community are super important. Don't get ahead of yourself. Kind of take it as it comes."

## RANKING from A1

come to us with a confident ability that they have truth," Eckert said. "They know where they're headed, and they know they need others. I think that's the confidence that comes from being a Christian university."

The TIME magazine article gave Baylor a leadership score of 81, but the article does not elaborate on the factors that contributed to the overall score. However, both Sterrett and Eckert said Baylor's Christian values and R1 designation contribute to students' leadership development.

"My experience is that Baylor does a great job developing leaders because it has this focus on Texas, the church and the world," Eckert said. "I feel like there is a great market for developing leadership for Texas, for the U.S. and then

increasingly an international focus on Christian leadership."

Despite Baylor's ranking, Eckert said there is always room for improvement. Empowering future leaders is an ongoing effort for Baylor, and according to Eckert, following the success of the master's program, Baylor will offer a Ph.D. in educational leadership in the fall.

Moving forward, Sterrett said he wants Baylor to create new doors of access for leaders throughout the world, equipping the next generation to do important work.

"I hope that we help provide role models, that we provide pathways and we provide opportunities," Sterrett said. "So, in other words, we say, 'This is both inspiration of what you can be and information of how to get there.'"



Lariat file photo

**NOW IS THE TIME** While offering extensive leadership classes, as well as a leadership minor, Baylor has recently made TIME magazine's list of the top 40 colleges for future leaders.

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# New year, new resolutions

## Career, counseling centers give input on goals

**PIPER RUTHERFORD**  
Staff Writer

The Baylor Counseling Center, along with the Center for Academic Success and Engagement, is helping students set themselves up for success in 2024 by offering simple steps to achieving goals.

Christiana Owusu-Ankomah, assistant director for well-being initiatives, said she encourages students to set realistic, measurable goals.

“If you know yourself, and you know you’re probably not going to want to run a marathon, start with working out five days a week for 10 minutes at a time,” Owusu-Ankomah said. “You can always build on your resolutions.”

One example of a resolution for college students to consider is something related to a career goal.

Jonathon Echols, communications and media manager for the Career Center, said his office offers numerous resources, including career coaches for students seeking guidance in creating a resume, searching for internships or preparing for interviews.

“The easiest way for a student to access their career success professional assigned to them is by visiting their Baylor-specific profile on Handshake,” Echols said. “If they have not explored their Handshake account yet, they first need to fill out their profile, which includes information like their major, year of study, extracurricular activities, work and volunteer experience, as well as their passions or hobbies.”

As for seniors entering their last semester of college, Echols said to make an appointment as soon as possible with a career counselor.

“It is never too late to get that ball rolling,” Echols said. “We will also have a campus-wide career day at the Hurd Center on Feb. 27 from 2 to 7 p.m. for those looking for extra assistance or career resources.”

However, Owusu-Ankomah said it is important not only to set goals for self-improvement but also to set goals that do not feel like a punishment.

“When thinking about new goals, understand what it is you enjoy doing,” Owusu-Ankomah said. “This allows you to form a positive mindset in which you further connect with what you love and care about.”

According to U.S. News, most New Year’s resolutions fail as a result of people being unable to determine their “why” for setting a new goal, thus losing sight of the motivation behind choosing it in the first place.

Owusu-Ankomah said she knows sticking with resolutions can be challenging, which is why she advocates for implementing accountability methods.

“This can be in the form of an accountability partner, journal



Mesha Mittanasala | Photographer

**GOAL-SETTING SUCCESS** The McLane Student Life Center gym and other amenities are open daily for student use.

or a timeline,” Owusu-Ankomah said. “All of these options help you check in with yourself along the way and see if you are making progress and completing what you set out to do.”

As for those who might become discouraged by a lack of results, Owusu-Ankomah also said that seeing a noticeable change, with any habit, takes at least 21 days.

If you are uncertain about where you want to make a change

in your life, Owusu-Ankomah said, it is important to regularly take a step back from your life, so that you can assess different areas you may see as deficient or lacking.

“Your holistic person has lots of little pieces, which makes up who we are,” Owusu-Ankomah said. “Each of those small pieces play a big role in our overall health and well-being, so don’t neglect those areas, but invest more time in them.”

# Campus ministries, local churches offer spiritual community in spring semester

**RORY DULOCK**  
Staff Writer

While many students start joining clubs and organizations in the fall, Baylor Spiritual Life is encouraging them to get involved in a campus ministry this semester.

Dr. Charles Ramsey, director of campus ministries and church connections, said there are many religious organizations for students who come from a variety of backgrounds.

“Technically, there are 39 chartered religious organizations at Baylor,” Ramsey said. “Now, some of those are what we call a campus ministry, so campus ministries really focus on discipleship and on community life as a central way of following Jesus and creating relationships that bridge your church experience with your campus experience.”

However, Ramsey said not all religious organizations are like campus ministries.

“Some of them are really kind of faith and service, or there’s something related to your major and to faith,” Ramsey said. “So there’s 39 of them, and they’re really quite different,

which is interesting because part of what I think makes Baylor ‘Baylor’ is the desire to integrate faith into everything we’re doing — to let faith animate everything.”

All student organizations are open to every student, and Ramsey said everyone is welcome to join, attend and be present.

“There’s a lot of diversity,” Ramsey said. “There’s some within that might feel more familiar to you, and they resonate from your experience at home or areas that you’re growing into or exploring. So that’s one of the fun parts of this, is we have a lot of denominational groups. So we have a Lutheran group, an Anglican group. We have a very strong Roman Catholic group. We have Orthodox Christian. ... And all of these are designed to be student-led.”

Waco junior and Catholic Student Association president James Foley said CSA offers a place for Catholic students to grow together on campus.

“Our main goal is to bring people, especially working with the St. Peter Catholic Student Center, to bring Baylor students closer together,” Foley said. “We’re kind of the bridge between

Baylor University and the St. Peter Catholic Student Center.”

Foley said CSA is an important religious organization because it provides a community for the Catholic population on campus.

“Having friendships with people of the same faith, with people who have the same values and will take you to Mass and will go to events together, it’s a good way to have accountability and consistency together,” Foley said. “And what’s more important is seeking a relationship with Christ.”

In addition to Baylor’s religious organizations, Ramsey said the university’s partnerships with local churches are important.

“As powerful as these four years can be for you here at Baylor, you’re going to graduate and you’re going to go on to somewhere else, and we want you to let church be central to your life and to your spiritual journey,” Ramsey said. “You can go ahead and explore churches and find a church that fits well for you and let that help you transition into what’s next.”

Ramsey also said religious organizations can help students establish church connections.

“We try to communicate to these student organizations the importance of church and the opportunities to connect with them,” Ramsey said. “One thing that I’ve been doing is I’ve been asking every religious organization to have partnership with at least three local churches. ... It’s good for the community of Waco if you would connect more, and it’s good for your students because there’s diversity of students.”

Ramsey said he encourages students to get involved with campus ministries and local churches this semester.

“We usually emphasize the fall, and that’s maybe not wise,” Ramsey said. “Maybe emphasizing the spring is something we need to get stronger at and realize the importance of. There’s a lot of people during this time in particular who are looking for community, and I think that’s our desire for each student — our invitation and our prayers that every student at Baylor would feel invited to join a community.”



Mia Crawford | Photographer

**CAMPUS COMMUNITY** Campus Ministries offers multiple chartered religious organizations for Baylor students to join and participate in, including the Catholic Student Association.

### Campus ministries offered at Baylor

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Anglican Student Ministries       | Episcopal Lutheran Fellowship           |
| Asian Ministry InterVarsity       | FaceTime with God                       |
| Baptist Student Ministry          | Heavenly Voices                         |
| Baylor Nurses Christian Fellows   | La Fe InterVarsity Christian Fellowship |
| Baylor Orthodox Christian Fellows | Lutherans Doing Life Together           |
| Baylor Religious Hour Choir       | Reformed University Fellowship          |
| Catholic Student Association      | Unite InterVarsity Christian Fellowship |
| Christian Business Leaders        | Vertical Ministries                     |
| Cru                               | YoungLife College                       |

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# No. 25 Baylor men's tennis gears up for revenge tour, 2024 spring season

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Writer

Coming off a 2022-23 season in which they lost more matches (16) than the previous two years combined (nine), head coach Michael Woodson and No. 25 Baylor men's tennis hope to get back to their winning ways in 2024.

"Everybody's motivated to have a little bit of a rebound from last year," Woodson said. "We had some successes, and I think there was a lot of growth. But you didn't see it necessarily in the wins and losses, and last season wasn't up to the Baylor tennis standard. I think everybody knows that.

"We also have to understand it's going to take time. And as long as we're continuing to move in the right direction, our goals are to peak in April and May."

The Bears (2-0) took an early exit in the 2022-23 season, as they were bounced in the first round of the NCAA DI Men's Tennis Championship. Baylor also finished fifth out of six teams in the Big 12.

"Last year was something we didn't want to happen and that we feel shouldn't have happened because we have enough talent," senior Christopher Frantzen said. "So I feel like [this year] is really similar to three or four years ago where they ranked us No. 17, which basically was a joke for us. This year, we're No. 25. It's pretty similar. So I could say it's like a revenge season from last year."

Woodson named Frantzen and fellow senior Tadeas Paroulek as the team captains. Frantzen and Paroulek are a senior pairing that will help usher in five fresh faces to the squad. Woodson said his roster has a lot of depth and he's expanding the rotation "10 deep in singles and doubles."

"They're going to make a huge impact on this team, not just with their level of tennis, which is very high, but also their confidence and their professionalism that they bring into the program," Woodson said. "These guys are far ahead of what you would typically get, I would say. So I think they're going to be able to really push this team. They're already making all the other guys better, and we're seeing the improvement."

Paroulek and the squad readied for the season with a trip to Palm Springs, Calif., where they inched closer to the start of the spring slate. Other returners include sophomores Zsombor Velcz and Luc Koenig as well as juniors Marko Miladinović and Ethan Muza.

"We really put a lot of hours in during the fall by working



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**STARTING STRONG** Head coach Michael Woodson regroups with his team during a January practice. Thanks to a pair of victories to start the spring slate on Saturday, Baylor men's tennis is 18-1 in season openers since the 2004 national championship team.

on our fitness on and off the court," Paroulek said. "I think we're going to be one of the fittest teams in the country."

The 14-time regular season Big 12 champion program feels it can return to the expected level of success due to the levels of preparation in the offseason, according to Frantzen. Wearing the brand as a chip on their shoulders, Frantzen said the Bears are ready to make noise.

"Baylor is famous for being a team you play against, and you're afraid of them because we're competitive," Frantzen said. "We don't leave any point there. We're loud, a little bit crazy, and we have fans out here, so it's going to get loud.

"And [we] make it tough for everybody who is coming here. You play against Baylor, you know it's going to be a hard and long match, no matter if we win or lose."

The indoor season is in full swing as Baylor men's tennis rolled to a pair of wins against Abilene Christian and Lamar on Jan. 13 in the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center. The team will now spend a couple weeks in Arizona preparing for ITA Kickoff Weekend starting on Jan. 27.

Scan here to read about the student experience at the new Foster Pavilion.



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**ON THE BUMP** Former Baylor left-handed pitcher Cody Bradford lunges forward and throws a pitch during his sophomore season against Kansas State on March 23, 2018, at Baylor Ballpark in Waco. Lariat file photo

# World Series champion Cody Bradford wears Baylor baseball on his sleeve

**MICHAEL HAAG**  
Sports Editor

Being a rookie relief pitcher with the Texas Rangers in 2023, Cody Bradford just wanted what was best for the team.

Sure, Bradford said it would be cool to make a postseason roster and maybe see some innings on the mound — on the biggest stage in baseball. But that wasn't on his mind, as he just wanted to play whatever role needed.

Well, before he knew it, the former Baylor Bear from 2017-19 not only made two of the Rangers' postseason rosters, but ultimately played a role in the team winning the 2023 World Series just up the road from his former college town.

"Man, it was a dream come true and really just want to give all glory to God," Bradford said in a Zoom interview with The Baylor Lariat.

It wasn't that long ago when Bradford, who tallied a 1.17 ERA over 7.2 innings in five postseason outings, was rocking the green and gold at Baylor Ballpark (103 miles from Globe Life Field, the home of the Rangers). From being named 2018 Big 12 Pitcher of the Year in his sophomore year to only hurling 7.1 innings his junior year due to Thoracic Outlet Syndrome, Bradford said his

time as a Bear shaped the pitcher he's become.

If anything, Bradford may have been a first-round draft pick had he not dealt with the junior-year injury. But the Aledo native fell to the sixth round — where the Rangers selected him — and he quickly moved through the system.

Bradford got called up to the Rangers and made his major league debut against the Atlanta Braves on May 15, 2023. He totaled 20 regular-season outings — including eight starts — and posted a 4-3 record with a 5.30 ERA, adding 51 strikeouts.

Not even four full years removed from his time in Waco, Bradford said it "felt like yesterday" thinking about Baylor Ballpark and his old teammates at that moment.

"I think it's a testament to what Baylor can do as a jumping-off point for guys' careers in baseball," Bradford said.

The southpaw pitcher played for Steve Rodriguez, Baylor baseball's head coach from 2016-22. Paired with another major leaguer in Shea Langeliers — as well as other standouts — the Bears won their first Big 12 Championship title in 2018. Bradford and Langeliers were named Co-MVP of the tournament, as Bradford tossed 7.2 scoreless innings

and allowed four hits with a career-high 11 strikeouts in Baylor's first-round win over Oklahoma.

Aside from the success on the diamond, Bradford said those three seasons at Baylor gave him lifelong relationships, including friends and his wife. Bradford met the formerly Madi O'Neal in the fall of 2017 when they were both freshmen, and they've been together since.

"Some of my groomsmen in my wedding were from the baseball team here, and some of the best friends I've made and still talk to on a weekly basis went to Baylor and were roommates or just phenomenal teammates," Bradford said.

The days of Bradford and that squad are long gone, though, and the Bears are now led by head coach Mitch Thompson, who will enter his second year with the program in 2024. Thompson spent 18 years (1995-2012) as an assistant at Baylor before leading McLennan Community College to four NJCAA World Series appearances over the course of nine seasons there.

Thompson took over at the helm for Baylor in June 2022 and said it was awesome seeing Bradford win the World Series despite not coaching him directly in college.

"It's always been fun for me being the guy that helped recruit a bunch of those guys and to see them have success," Thompson said. "To see Max Muncy win a World Series and Cody Bradford win a World Series, that's about as awesome as it gets. And the fun thing with Cody was every time we went out to pitch this year, they're talking it up about — Baylor, Baylor Baylor. That was really cool and I appreciate Cody for all that help."

Assistant coach Zach Dillon said Bradford's ability to contribute to a World Series championship "speaks volumes to the kind of place our current players are at." Dillon added that this can instill confidence in the 2024 roster and beyond.

"You're at a place where you can accomplish anything you want in our game," Dillon said. "That's powerful on the recruiting trail, it's powerful for our current guys to understand that, 'Hey, those that have come before you have found a lot of success in this game, and there's nothing stopping you from doing that.' I think it can be an extrinsic motivator quite honestly."

Even Bradford himself said he never imagined his early career would've been this successful. He said his accomplishments have allowed him to be a role model for the

next generation of Bears who might not think they have a shot at the next level.

"I didn't come into Baylor as the most talented guy, definitely didn't throw the hardest, wasn't the fastest, definitely not the strongest," Bradford said. "But there's a saying — that 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.' And I think any guy coming through Baylor or coming up through high school or any kid that wants to work hard can put his mind to it. The sky's the limit at that point — the World Series is the limit at that point."

Bradford joins Max Muncy (Dodgers infielder), Daniel Castano (Marlins pitcher) and Langeliers (Athletics catcher) as the four Baylor Bears who have seen the majors within the last ten years. Davis Wendzel, another former Bear, was teammates with Bradford during his time in Triple-A.

If he's not pitching or working out, Bradford said he loves to go hunting or fishing. He said one of the biggest things he misses about Waco is fishing with his teammates and friends. Bradford also mentioned how well he and his wife Madi are treated when they come back to town, saying "there's a really good energy in Waco."

The 6-foot-4 pitcher added that he wished he had more

time to come back during Baylor's season to watch games. Thompson and Dillon welcome him back during the offseason so he can work out in the facilities, but Bradford is a little too busy in the MLB to come back once Spring Training rolls around.

But he said he has full confidence in the trajectory of the program under Thompson, saying "if there's one guy that wants to win for Baylor I know it's Mitch Thompson." And his best advice to the athletes in Waco there are to fall in love with the grind.

"Everybody wants the results, everybody wants to get drafted to go to the next level, but you have to enjoy the process of getting there," Bradford said. "You have to enjoy working hard, you have to enjoy getting in the weight room, you have to enjoy worrying about small mechanical things that are going to make you better."

"And one other thing is I would say [is] don't let the time go by so quick in college that you're always just looking toward the future. You want to live where your feet are and enjoy the moment and the relationships that I made at Baylor — not just my wife but some of my best friends are on my team and it's those moments that I really miss and will never forget about."

# Baylor track and field eases way into 2024 season

**TYLER WHITE**  
Sports Writer

Baylor track and field opened its 2024 season, which consists of 15 meets across nine states and a program-record four meets in Waco, with an indoor meet on Saturday at the Fasken Indoor Track in Bryan-College Station.

The Bears took part in Texas A&M's McFerrin-12 Degree Invitational. The team was led by senior sprinter Alexis Brown and sophomore thrower Gary Moore Jr., as they set program records in long jump and throws, respectively. The men's team also tallied three wins in the weight throw, 60-meter dash and 60-meter hurdles.

Head coach Michael Ford said the first meet is a good introduction to the rest of the season. He said it's an opportunity for the student-athletes to "get their feet wet" and prepare for the remaining meets.

"To me, the second meet is more important than the first one," Ford said. "The first one is like, 'Let's get our feet wet; let's see how it goes,' because the thing is with us, we don't get a scrimmage."

With this year's introduction of BYU, Cincinnati, UCF and Houston to the Big 12, Ford said each team is a little different. He said the various events may be harder to

compete in with the addition of the other programs.

"I think it's going to be harder because now you have more teams, and so those eight spots and nine spots that you're trying to get to the finals are going to be a little tougher," Ford said.

Junior thrower Makayla Long said she sees the addition of new opponents as a benefit for the squad. She said it depends on an athlete's mindset as to how he or she competes against others.

"I think track and field is unique, where you're not always competing against someone else," Long said. "You're competing against yourself, and it depends on the type of competitor that you are."

Long said the addition of the four schools to the Big 12 will make competing harder since there's more competitors, but it's a great opportunity to push the team to strive for better numbers.

"I think it's going to be great for our team, because obviously the higher times and the harder times and the harder throws to beat, you're going to rise to the level and you're going to most likely PR and have a good season," Long said.

In terms of Baylor's roster, graduate student sprinter Mariah Ayers said she likes the team's potential going into the season. With many scorers

returning, she said there's confidence in this year's team.

"Having a lot of the girls return gives you a lot of confidence for it," Ayers said. "And then, the girls coming in, they're doing really good. So I'm excited. I think they'll be great this season."

Senior sprinter Demar Francis

said he's excited to compete alongside his teammates in 2024. He added that they've been able to push each other in hopes of achieving that next level for competition.

"As a group, we push each other in practice every day, trying to see how we can help each other in practice," Francis said. "So it's very interesting

to see what your team is going to run when it comes to that day."

The indoor season will continue until the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, which will take place from March 8-9. The outdoor season will begin on March 2 with the Baylor Invitational, a meet that will take place in Waco.



**QUICK BURST** Senior sprinter and hurdler Gontse Morake hands the baton to junior sprinter Imaobong Uko during the women's 4x400 meter relay on Saturday at Texas A&M's McFerrin-12 Degree Invitational at the new Fasken Indoor Track in Bryan-College Station. Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

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## What's in and what's out in 2024: Baylor edition

**ERIKA KUEHL**  
Staff Writer

It's hard to imagine 2023 without long denim skirts and the resurgence of Adidas sneakers. These trends shaped our social media feeds and bank accounts, but they also affected our life at Baylor. With 2024 being barely a month in, here are the ins and outs for Baylor.

### WHAT'S IN:

**Scootering in Waco:** Need a break from your classes? Go find the electric scooters scattered around 12th Street and grab a slice of pizza at Shorty's Pizza Shack. Scooters are much faster than walking, but keep in mind that they turn off at 9 p.m.

**The Penland Crossroads:** According to freshmen, 1845 at Memorial is out, and Penland is in. Maybe it's due to construction — or the fact that Memo hasn't refreshed its menu in a year.

**Reading The Lariat:** A little self-promo never hurt anyone.

**Foster Pavillon:** If you're looking for weeknight plans, look no further than right across Interstate 35. The Ferrell Center's cool younger sister just opened with the start of a new basketball season.

**Getting ready for class:** Pajama pants to class are out this year. It's time to change out of that sweatshirt you've been wearing for the past four days and put on a pair of jeans. 'Tis the season of blowouts and beanies.

**Walking in Cameron Park:** Although the current weather doesn't promote it, walking is the perfect way to get your steps in while catching up with friends. There's no better time to start if you're behind on your New Year's resolutions.

**Tote bags:** Your North Face backpack is ruining your entire outfit. Although they are practical, 2024 is the year of fashion over comfort. Opting for a cute tote bag can elevate your look from middle school to working woman.

### WHAT'S OUT:

**Scootering on Campus:** The main excuse from electric scooter drivers is that they can get to class faster, but if you're that late to class, you might as well not go. Let's not forget the YikYak saga of the electric scooter driver getting hit by a sorority girl's car. Baylor's new scooter policy, which bans charging and storing scooters inside campus buildings, is a sign that campus scootering is so last year.

**Golden Geoses:** I will never understand what compels people to buy these already scuffed interesting sneakers. They come up, which is an choice on its own. Whether they're for status or clout, they're outdated, and we need to get rid of them.

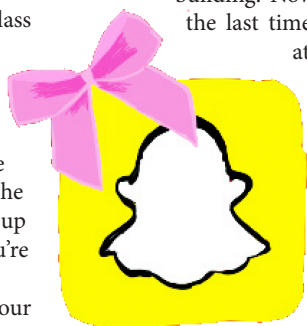
### Reading The Rope:

Enough said. **The Garden Level of Moody Memorial Library:** Although the idea of the Moody Makerspace sounds great, half of the booths are gone. Last fall, the booths were the most coveted spot in the building. Now, it's a ghost town. When was the last time someone asked you to study at the Garden Level of Moody?

Check out Dichotomy Coffee instead and grab a booth in the back. It opens at 6 a.m. on Sunday, perfect for those procrastination weekends.

**Apple Watches:** Do you really need to see your Snapchat notifications on your wrist? It's just all feeling "cheugy" at this point.

I suggest investing in a real watch and relearning how to read a clock.



## What to Do in Waco: First week edition

### WACO DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Jan. 20 | 9 a.m. - 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.

### DR PEPPER PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE

Jan. 20 | 7 p.m. | Dr Pepper Museum, 300 S Fifth St. | \$35 tickets | Experience a guided tour of the Dr Pepper Museum. Some have seen glowing orbs and mysterious figures haunt this Waco landmark.

### MONDAY NIGHT LIGHTS MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE

Jan. 22 | 7:15 p.m. | Bicycle World Waco, 112 Mary Ave. | Experience Waco's trails at night on a group ride from Bicycle World to Cameron Park. Helmets and lights are required for safety.

### THE DARKEST LIGHT: A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Jan. 23 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Martin Museum, 60 Baylor Ave. | This photography exhibition will explore eclipses throughout history in celebration of the upcoming April solar eclipse.

### A NEW MOON RISES

Through April 14 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Mayborn Museum Complex, 1300 S University Parks Drive | \$10 admission | Landscape images captured by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera will be on display at the Mayborn, allowing visitors to get an up-close look at the moon.

### TEXAS, YOUR TEXAS: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE TEXAS COLLECTION AT BAYLOR

Began Aug. 8, 2023 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Carroll Library, 1429 S Fifth St. | Carroll Library is showcasing rare pieces of Texas history and holding special events to celebrate the collection's centennial year at Baylor.

# Lariat

# NEWS

## HITTING THE STANDS

## SPRING 2024

<b>Black History Month</b>	<b>February 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>All-University Sing</b>	<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Women's History Month</b>	<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>March Madness</b>	<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Wedding Edition</b>	<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Lariat's Choice!</b>	<b>April 24<sup>th</sup></b>

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# 2024 Oscars predictions come with surprising twists

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

As the Oscars award show approaches, the competition for film heats up. 2023 was an undoubtedly remarkable year for cinema — between “Barbie,” “Oppenheimer,” “Maestro” and others, along with extensive writers strikes. The list is not lacking, and the academy will announce nominations on Jan. 23, meaning now is the perfect time to cast predictions and wait for announcements.

Here are some probable nominations for the most popular categories of the Oscars. Keep in mind, the deadline for submissions for general categories was Nov. 15, 2023, and the preliminary shortlist for eight categories was Dec. 14-18, 2023. The nomination period for the Oscars is Jan. 11-16.

**BEST PICTURE**

“Oppenheimer” has had an

incredibly successful awards season. The film has brought in \$938 million so far at the box office, making it the third-highest-grossing movie of the year as of September and the second-highest-grossing rated-R film ever. The film won five Golden Globes, one of them being Best Motion Picture in the drama category.

The film has made an incredible mark on 2023 and will undeniably make a mark at the Oscars. “Oppenheimer” stars many notable actors like Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Florence Pugh. The film was nominated for multiple Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards, setting it up as a good bet for Best Picture at the Oscars.

**BEST ACTOR**

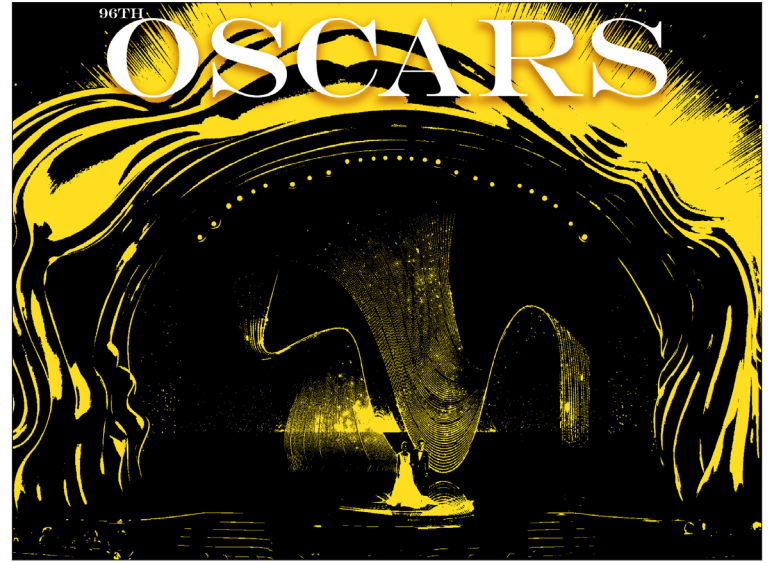
The best actor category at the Oscars is meant for actors who did superior work in films. Following Oppenheimer’s drastic popularity, Cillian Murphy, who starred as the lead role in “Oppenheimer,” is a good

contender for the award. One critic called his performance “explosive in a breathtaking movie.”

Others in the running for this award are Bradley Cooper in “Maestro,” Leonardo DiCaprio in “Killers of the Flower Moon” and Paul Giamatti in “The Holdovers.” While each actor has a good chance at winning this category, Murphy has had a career resurrection with his role in “Oppenheimer” and without a doubt wowed critics and viewers worldwide.

**BEST ACTRESS**

Lily Gladstone in “Killers of the Flower Moon,” Emma Stone in “Poor Things” and Margot Robbie in “Barbie” all have high chances of securing the best actress category at the Oscars. However, after winning Best Actress in a Drama Motion Picture at the Golden Globes, Gladstone will likely win again. She was the first indigenous actress nominated for best actress at the Golden Globes.



Illustrated by Assoah Ndomo

**CEREMONY** The 96th annual Oscars will be held on March 10. The contenders for the awards are as competitive as ever this year.

The actress has racked up a number of awards nominations this year and is bound to make a statement at the Oscars as well.

**BEST DIRECTOR**

A few of the top runners for Best Director this year are Christopher Nolan for “Oppenheimer,” Greta Gerwig for “Barbie” and Martin Scorsese with “Killers of the Flower Moon.”

Predictions of the category lean toward Nolan as the category winner after his recent win at the Golden Globes. Winning Best Director at the Oscars would be a significant and surprising milestone for the notable filmmaker. Nolan has been nominated for an Oscar five times, including two for Best Picture and one for Best Director, but has yet to win.

# What’s the rush? Why some drop sorority recruitment

**ISABELLE RUFF**  
Intern

According to Baylor Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment, just because a woman registers and participates in rush week does not guarantee that she will receive a bid and be able to join a sorority.

McAllen sophomore Marissa Muniz rushed her freshman year and dropped midweek. She then decided to participate in the recruitment process again her sophomore year.

“I had my heart set on a certain chapter, and when I hadn’t received them on Pref Day, I was extremely sad,” Muniz said. “I still attended each party, trusting that maybe it was God steering me in a different direction, but it didn’t feel like home. I didn’t want to decline a bid or waste any of the chapters’ time, so I decided to withdraw.”

Baylor recruitment week, also known as rush week, occurs the week before the spring semester starts. It is a mutual selection process, meaning once each woman has visited each sorority, both she and the chapter rank whether or not they would be a good fit at the end of each day.

At the end of the week, the potential new members (PNMs) may receive a bid from a chapter they ranked and then join that sorority. Because an invite is required to return to a chapter, some women will not be invited back to any sororities.

Because Baylor rush takes place in the spring, women can

struggle to receive invites back to chapters if they have not prepared throughout the fall. Muniz said she was certain she wanted to be part of Baylor’s Greek Life, but she did not anticipate how much time in the fall is dedicated to laying a foundation with chapters.

“This year, I dedicated more time to preparation — attending Panhellenic previews, going on rush dates and seeking letters of recommendation from alumni,” Muniz said.

Some women also struggle with the commitment of being an active member in a sorority, only realizing later how much of their time they are dedicating.

Houston sophomore Lillian Featherstone said she tried to be open-minded, even though she was at the disadvantage of having no family members who rushed.

“The financial cost is really disproportionate to the pros of Greek Life for me,” Featherstone said. “It’s a huge time commitment, so if you are wanting to study abroad or be involved in other organizations, it’s possible, but something to consider you might have to give up.”

Although there can be difficulties throughout the recruitment process, Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment also offers informal recruitment in the form of Continuous Open Bidding.

Women are able to speak directly with the sorority they desire, if that chapter is participating in Continuous Open Bidding, and receive a bid without participating in rush week.



Lilly Yablon | Photographer

**RUSH** The Stacy Riddle Forum is home to nine sororities. Each of them has its own room that potential new members visit during rush week.

Dallas junior Ashley Ries dropped recruitment her freshman year. She then joined Alpha Phi by Continuous Open Bidding.

“I learned about Continuous Open Bidding, and that was definitely more my speed,” Ries said. “I was able to get to know girls more personally because there were girls going through it at the same time as me.”

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