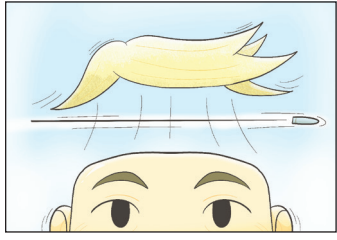




Thursday, September 26, 2024

baylorlariat.com



**OPINION | A2**  
**EDITORIAL:**  
Politicians' lives are no more precious than students'.



**SPORTS | A6**  
**BASKETBALL:**  
Scott Drew and the Bears begin fall practice.



**A&L | A5**  
**TALKING TKE:**  
After a 48-year hiatus, TKE is headed to its first Pigskin.



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor  
**READY FOR A CLOSE UP?** The popular senior portrait backdrop is unavailable this year as the Memorial to Enslaved Persons is built.

## Senior photos adapt to closed Founders Mall

**JOSH SIATKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

As Baylor's Memorial to Enslaved Persons continues construction on Founders Mall, the historic quad is expected to be fenced off until summer 2025.

According to Baylor President Linda Livingstone, the Memorial to Enslaved Persons is projected to be dedicated next fall.

The construction — which was approved by the Board of Regents in May of 2022 after recommendation from the Commission on Historic Campus Representations — kicked off in February of 2024 with a ceremonial groundbreaking. Only this fall, however, did the construction fully get under way.

"While it will be a little disruptive on campus over the course of this year, we are really excited about the monument," Livingstone said.

Perhaps the biggest of these disruptions is the loss of one of Baylor's most popular photoshoot locations. Founders Mall, with its vibrant foliage and traditional red brick architecture, has been in the background of thousands of senior photos. This year, about three quarters of the quad will remain closed as construction continues on the memorial.

So unless the class of 2025 enjoys a backdrop of blue fences and concrete mixers, graduating seniors will likely have to find different places for

**PICTURE IMPERFECT >> A8**

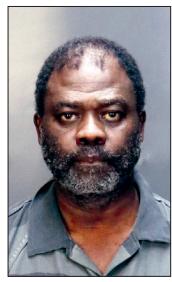
## Former priest charged with sexual assault

**AUDREY VALENZUELA**  
Staff Writer

Waco police are seeking more information regarding the arrest of a former priest of St. Peter's Catholic Student Center.

The Rev. Anthony Odiong was indicted on Sept. 12 on one count of first-degree sexual assault and two counts of second-degree sexual assault. He also has pending charges for possession of child pornography.

Odiong's service as a priest extended from 2006 to 2012 at St. Peter's Student Center in Waco and St. Mary's Church of the Assumption in West. He later served at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Luling, La. from 2015 to 2023.



During this time, he held positions of spiritual authority, making the charges against him all the more shocking for the communities he once served. Bishop Joe Vásquez at Diocese of Austin said in a letter the recent news was "disturbing and truly sad."

In an email to the Lariat, a spokesperson for the Diocese of Austin said in 2019, they notified Odiong that "that he did not have authorization to engage in

priestly ministry in the Diocese of Austin, even on a temporary basis. This determination was based on complaints that the diocese had received regarding Odiong's behavior with adult women, as well as his failure to follow the protocol for visiting clergy to present a testimonial of suitability for ministry from his Bishop."

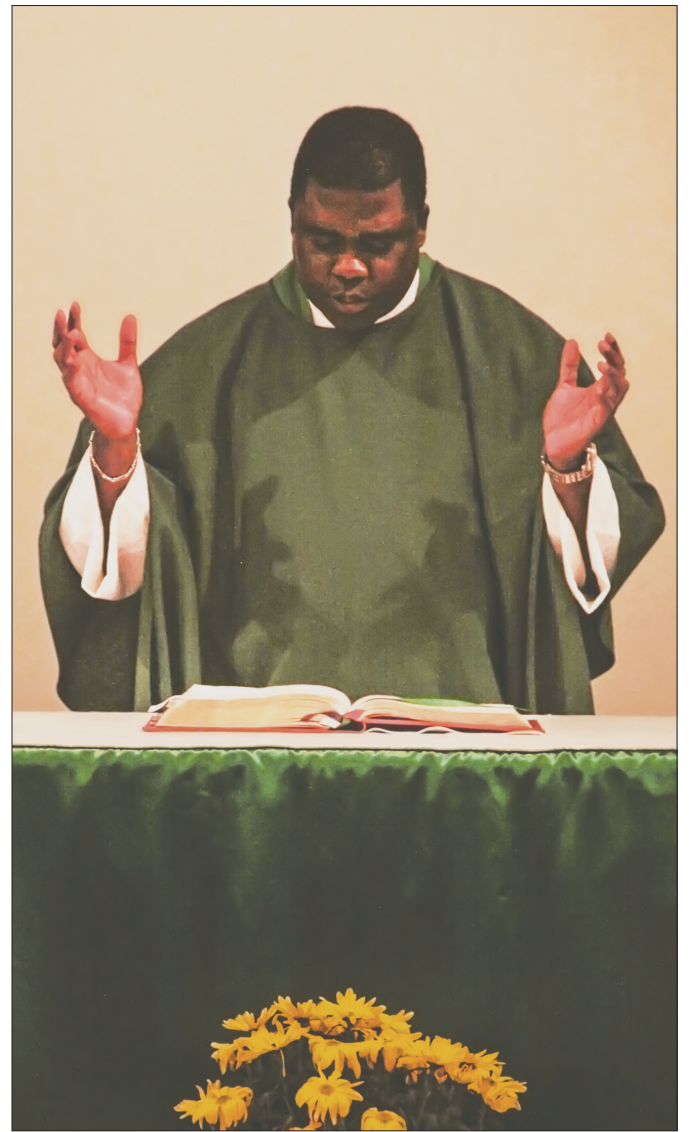
In a 2010 article published by the Lariat, Odiong said he "fell in love" with St. Peter's after visiting multiple times while he was an associate priest in West.

For the next five years, he would become an integral part of the lives of those he preached to. In the same article, a then-junior named Robby Prybyla said Odiong helped him establish a stronger relationship with God.

"Father Anthony has helped me grow in my relationship with God by reminding me to be childlike, to turn to God, our father, immediately when I need help or when I'm afraid instead of trying to prove that I can do things without any help, to question, to never tire of hearing a chirping bird, to be in awe of a squirrel digging in the ground for a nut," Prybyla said.

Another then-junior named Rachel Unruh said in the same article that Odiong "is the epitome of what it means to see the face of Christ in everyone."

"He is always radiating with the love of the Holy Spirit, and he shares this with everyone he



Lariat File Photo  
**FALL FROM GRACE** In 2010, the Rev. Anthony Odiong was a preacher at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center and an associate priest at St. Mary's Church of the Assumption in West.

encounters," Unruh said.

Odiong was arrested on July 16 by the Florida Caribbean Regional Fugitive Task Force, stemming from a charge of possession of child pornography.

He was initially detained at the Collier County Jail in Florida, from which he was extradited to Texas, according to the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Under Texas law, when a member of the clergy engages in sexual activity with individuals

who rely on them as a spiritual advisor, it is sexual assault because of the power imbalance.

On Aug. 6, Odiong was booked into McLennan County Jail, where he is still being held in lieu of \$2.5 million bail. Odiong will continue to be held in McLennan County Jail as legal proceedings move forward.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact the Waco PD tip line at 254-753-HELP.



Mary Thurmond | Photographer  
**FACULTY OF FAITH** Dr. David Jortner, a professor of theater arts and member of Baylor's Jewish Faculty and Staff Association, has been a member of the university for around 16 years.

## Jewish faculty fight stigma with belonging, community

**RACHEL CHIANG**  
Assistant News Editor

While protests at universities across the country have sparked discussion about rising antisemitism in the U.S., Jewish faculty at Baylor find community and support in the newly-formed Jewish Faculty and Staff Association.

As a result of Baylor's religious commitment, the faculty at Baylor are required to be practicing Christians. However, the only exception to the rule is those of the Jewish faith.

According to Baylor's Civil Rights Policy, "As a religiously controlled institution of higher education, Baylor is exempt from compliance with select provisions of certain civil rights laws, and Baylor is also exempt from prohibitions against discrimination based on religion. As such, the University prescribes standards of personal conduct that are consistent with its religious mission and values and lawfully considers a person's religion in the employment context."

Dr. David Jortner,

associate professor of Theatre Arts and graduate program director in the Department of Theater Arts has been a Jewish faculty member since 2008.

"There was a very small group of Jewish faculty here at that time," Jortner said. "Baylor would officially hire Jews, but they wouldn't say that they would hire Jews."

As a result of their low numbers and Baylor's ambiguous hiring policies, some faculty members had received

**PEACE OVER PREJUDICE >> A8**

## First time voting? Here's what you need to know, say political science professors

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts and Life Editor

A little over a month out, the 2024 presidential election is quickly becoming a reality for many first-time voters on Baylor campus. The question is, will these students be ready to make a confident, informed vote by the time Nov. 5 rolls around?

Baylor political science professors are here to help prepare students to vote. Dr. Sergiy Kudelia, who teaches courses on comparative politics and international relations, said it can be hard for any voter to distinguish truth from lies in today's chaotic political climate.

"The way the elections are run in the United States are oftentimes run and won on emotions," Kudelia said. "And in this election campaign, we've heard a lot of emotional appeals, oftentimes not factually based from the candidates, from both candidates."

However, young, first-time voters can often find truth in what is important to them, Kudelia said. In regard to foreign policy, he said he encourages students to take a step back and look at what will best serve their country, as well as themselves.

"Before we make our political choice, we should make our personal choice about the issues that affect our lives that are most important to us and how we want these issues to be tackled," Kudelia said.

Dr. Dave Bridge, a professor of political science who teaches courses on the Constitution and campaigns and elections, said researching to vote can be a daunting task for students, but in reality, it's simpler than one might assume.

"I recommend taking five minutes with your morning coffee looking at the Apple news app," Bridge said. "You're getting it from multiple sources. Some of them lean liberal, some lean conservative, but even that's okay if you're reading from different sources. And I think five minutes goes a long way."

Bridge also said the act of voting on Election Day can deter students from doing their part. In response, Bridge said students shouldn't worry about long lines leading into polling offices, often a dramatized version of the day.

"Sometimes people feel

like voting is very costly [and] takes a long time," Bridge said. "My experience in this county has been that it's usually pretty streamlined — okay, usually pretty fast."

Early voting takes place in person from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1. Bridge said for early voting, usually the lines are non-existent, so the time it takes to park your car and return from voting is less than five minutes.

Students sometimes have the misconception that their vote doesn't truly matter, especially if they are voting from a state that's likely going to lean one way or the other despite their vote, Bridge said. Bridge disagrees and encourages students to register and show up on Election Day.

"Democracy works best when more people are involved," Bridge said. "Baylor is committed to civic engagement, and I'm not going to tell students what exactly what they should do. But in the same way that we are called to act upon our faith, I think that we should be called to act for our

**POLL UP >> A8**



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# There's no hierarchy in gun violence

## THE EDITORIAL BOARD

In 2022, 48,204 people died by firearms in the United States, according to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. 21 of those lives were taken at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, only hours away from Waco. Just three weeks ago, in Georgia, four more students were killed at Apalachee High School.

And while victims of these random acts of gun violence are afforded little more than "thoughts and prayers," politically-motivated shootings and assassination attempts are given a higher profile in this country as those from across the aisle race to rightfully denounce them while simultaneously sending lukewarm messaging about school shootings.

Republican Vice Presidential nominee JD Vance lauded former President Donald Trump's continuing to golf after a second shooting attempt as "courage under fire," while he brushed off the shooting in Georgia as a sad, unfortunate "fact of life."

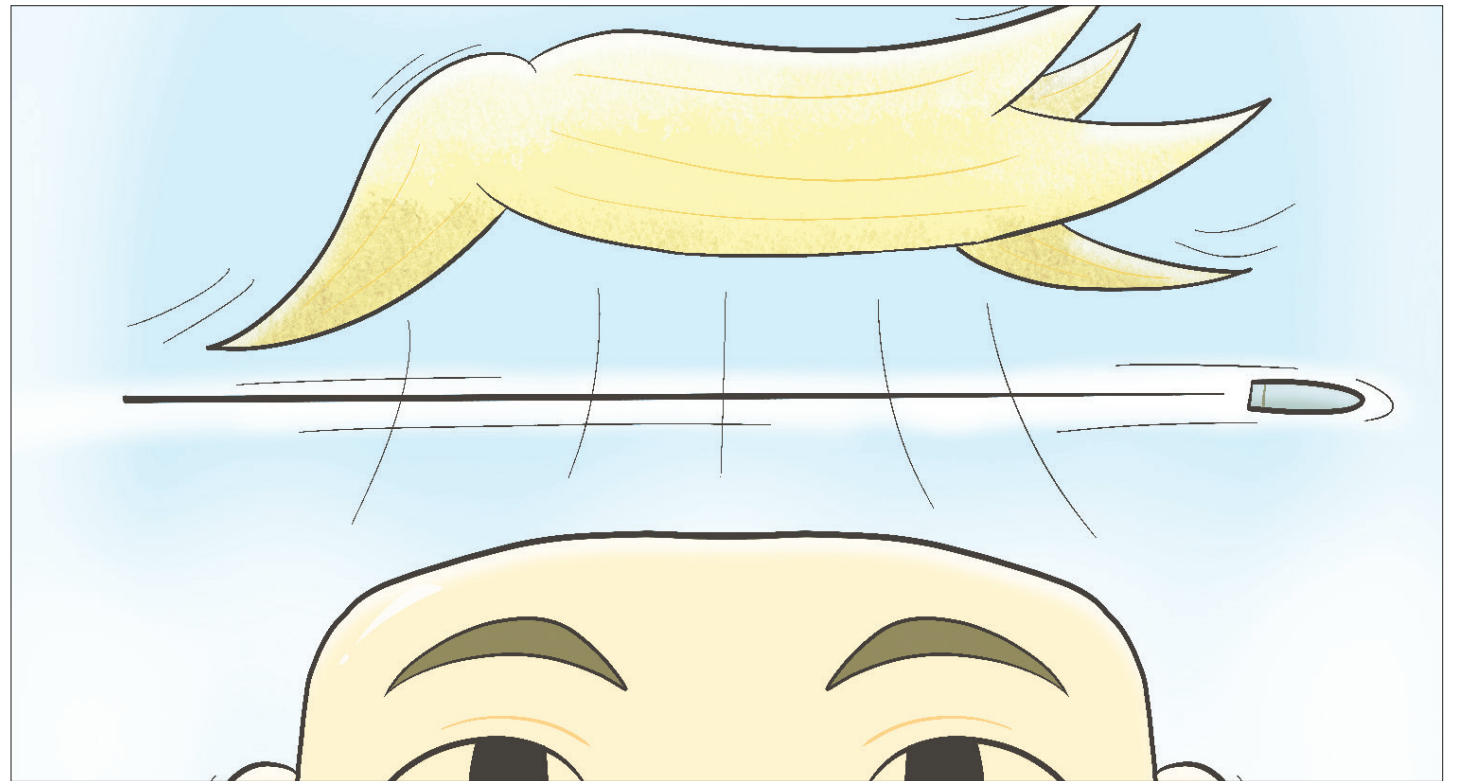
Recently, Trump criticized the handling of his second would-be assassin, Ryan Routh, as a "slap on the wrist." He even went so far as to blame the second attempt on Biden and Harris' campaign language.

"He believed the rhetoric of Biden and Harris, and he acted on it," Trump told Fox News Digital. "Their rhetoric is causing me to be shot at, when I am the one who is going to save the country, and they are the ones that are destroying the country — both from the inside and out."

But, what has been his tepid response to school shootings?

After one that killed a sixth grader and injured others in Iowa in January, he told supporters to "get over it." Also, he sent his "support and our deepest condolences" to families.

When a politician is endangered, it is an opportunity for unity and for the country to coalesce behind them to condemn the division that bred the shooting. Meanwhile, members of Congress twiddle their thumbs instead of



James Ellis | Cartoonist

doing anything to prevent a problem which is so sinfully staring this country in its face, gun control or mental health measures alike.

Truthfully, this country is not accustomed to acts of political violence. The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln has so far receded into our past that it has become part of American legend, not American life.

Most people of voting age were not alive or old enough to remember the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Many students at Baylor were not around when John Hinckley Jr. attempted to kill President Ronald Reagan.

But, there have been 417 school shootings since Columbine, and college-aged Americans have participated in active shooter drills for

as long as we can remember. When 27 people were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, our classes made cards to send to the survivors. Those children were our age, those teachers like our own.

Many of our schools faced shooter threats, credible or not. And until the day we graduated, we annually drew curtains over the windows, turned the lights out, crammed together in a corner and awaited the principal's voice on the intercom to call off practicing for our darkest day.

If we can be so unequivocal in our denouncement of politically-motivated gun violence on both sides of the spectrum, why does this country still struggle to take action to address the far more common loss of life in our

public schools? The life of a politician is no more valuable, no easier to cherish, than the lives of innocent children.

Let us be clear: no gun violence has a place in this country. Political assassination attempts threaten to drag the United States into a nation of civil warfare, taking our already divided politics and throwing gasoline on the flames.

If we don't ditch this dark road, we will never be the same. But we cannot let ourselves be outraged only by political violence while becoming desensitized to the killings of our classmates, teachers and friends.

There is no hierarchy to victimhood, and gun violence — all gun violence — must meet an end.

# Selfies, sex sites and smoking – Gen Z's increasing problem with addiction

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

POV: You're a college student in the year 2024. Your friends would rather send selfies on Snapchat than have a conversation at dinner, and your boyfriend spends more on OnlyFans than flowers. You find yourself scrolling through TikTok for hours, and even in class, you can't escape the thick fog of a cotton candy-flavored Escobar.

Dopamine is a highly-accessible commodity to Gen Z. It is crucial to our health and survival. There are two types, which we can call natural and unnatural dopamine.

Natural dopamine includes sleep, healthy food, exercise, etc. Unnatural dopamine includes alcohol, nicotine, porn, unhealthy food and social media, according to an article published Journal of Student Research.

As a generation, we are addicted to short bursts of dopamine — myself included. Ultimately, this makes it almost impossible for us to do anything that doesn't produce the same chemical reaction.

A person's reward system is most sensitive during adolescence, yet society is beginning to give young people unlimited access to three categories of highly addictive things: social media, porn and nicotine.

While sexuality has become widely accepted within pop culture, I'm going to strictly exclude that in my definition of pornography. I'm specifically referring to content that is created and consumed with the intention of sexual arousal.

Porn negatively affects a person's brain. Researchers Kühn & Gallinat conducted an experiment to research the responses that occurred in our brains while watching porn and found a significant health concern in patients that were regular consumers.

"They found that their reward system was highly affected and most importantly, grey matter was diminished in men that watched porn often," according to an article published by Santa Clara University. "The reason that this is an alarming discovery is because grey matter consists of neuron cell bodies that are necessary for everyday activities. According to current medical discoveries, once grey matter is damaged or lost, it can no longer be regained; loss of grey matter has been linked to other disorders such as bipolar, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's."

As the generation dubbed the "digital natives," it goes without saying that we have become a

society that revolves around social media.

For Gen Z, face-to-face interaction has almost been completely replaced with social media and texting, but at what cost?

While researchers are currently developing criteria to classify social media addiction, they have been able to identify a few of the negative effects that occur with extreme social media use, such as grey matter decrease and dopamine irregularity.

Aside from the neurobiological effects of social media on Gen Z, mental health problems have skyrocketed within the generation that researchers have linked to excessive social media use.

As a member of Gen Z who already feels consumed by technology and social media, it's difficult to imagine where we go from here. What will that look like for our mental and physical health?

The irony is that statistics show cigarette smoking is going down every year; however, for Gen Z, cigarettes are being replaced with vapes, a device made initially to help addicts quit smoking.

Many can attest that vaping has become a casual occurrence in our lives. Vapes are easily accessible and marketed towards young adults.

Large vape companies like JUUL have been criticized for targeting ads and marketing specifically created for teenagers.

Gen Z has been given many tools, such as the internet and technology, without being shown the risks of overuse and what addiction looks like. Sure, people acknowledge that cigarettes are addictive in current times, but in the 1930s, they were widely recommended.

I predict that there will eventually be a point in the world where social media, porn and nicotine addiction become a regular condition for Gen Z, and the effects will be more widely known.

Mental health problems are skyrocketing within our generation, and loneliness is becoming "the norm," simply due to the disruption we've created in our body's dopamine production.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, contact the Beauchamp Addiction Recovery Center at 254-710-7092.



**>50%**

The number of Gen Z'ers who spend nine hours or more in a typical day on their smartphones.

**63%**

The number of Instagram users who report being miserable, a higher share than any other social network.

**1/9**

The number of middle and high school students who reported current tobacco product use.

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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.



# Baylor's Leading Ladies



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

**SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS** Fifth-year senior setter Jackie Barret t Frazier (13) focuses on a jump set during No. 19 Baylor volleyball's 3-1 win over Arizona Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center.



Kendal Murphy (11)

Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor



Allie Sczech (4)

Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor



Michael Aguilar | Photo Editor

**HUDDLE UP** No. 19 Baylor volleyball comes up with a game plan after taking the first set 25-18 en route to the Bears' 3-1 win over Arizona Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center.



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**BEYOND THE NET** Sophomore forward Callie Conrad watches her shot find the back of the net during Baylor soccer's 4-0 win over Houston Sunday afternoon at Betty Lou Mays Field.

Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

Tyler Isgrig (11), Blythe Obar (13) and Skye Leach (5)



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**KICKOFF** Sophomore forward Skylar Zinnecker weaves down field during Baylor soccer's 4-0 win over Houston Sunday afternoon at Betty Lou Mays Field.



# Graduate school dean reflects on decades-long legacy

**RORY DULOCK**  
Staff Writer

When Dean Larry Lyon first became dean of the Baylor Graduate School in 1998, only a little over 10% of the student body were graduate students.

Today, one in every four students at Baylor is a graduate student.

Lyon is a Baylor alumnus and has been part of the faculty at Baylor since 1975, starting out as a professor of sociology until 1998, when he became dean of the Graduate School.

When Lyon retires at the end of this academic year, he will have completed 50 years at Baylor. During his tenure as dean, he said he has witnessed the transformation and contributed to the growth of the Graduate School.

"[My] job has changed

considerably over time because the graduate school has changed considerably over time," Lyon said. "As we began to focus more and more on research and graduate education, [it's] led to many more graduate students."

Lyon also said the Graduate School's growth is due to the increase of graduate programs that are now being offered. When Lyon became the dean of the school, there were 10 Ph.D. programs at Baylor. Now, it has grown to 35 programs.

"Not only has the number of graduate students grown, but the proportion of graduate students has grown," Lyon said. "We have over a thousand Ph.D. students on campus helping us bring in lots of research dollars, teach science labs for our students and help out with

undergraduate education."

Provost Nancy Brickhouse said it would be hard to underestimate the impact of Lyon on campus.

The R1 status that Baylor gained was not only due to research expenditures, but also to the growth of the graduate programs, which was largely due to him.

"He was John the Baptist, arguing for graduate and research long before anybody else was coming along," Brickhouse said. "He's just had tremendous influence."

Baylor President Linda Livingstone said that ever since she came to Baylor, Lyon has pushed for Baylor's growth as an institution.

Lyon was one of the first people meeting with her when she came to campus in 2017. He presented to Livingstone a plan to get Baylor to R1 status.

"He has been really, really critical in building that foundation that allowed us to accomplish that sooner than anticipated."

Some of the recent accomplishments of the Graduate School include the Summer 2024 Commencement marking a record-breaking 134 students earning a research doctorate.

This increase of graduate students allowed for the first ever Doctoral Commencement Ceremony.

Lyon said that the number of research doctorates is an indication of just how competitive Baylor is.

"I couldn't be more proud of Baylor and how Baylor has—in the long, long time I've been here—transformed itself," Lyon said. "Baylor is a real player in higher education now."



Photo courtesy of Robbie Rogers

**LEGACY** Baylor's Summer Commencement ceremony, held on Aug. 16, celebrated 134 students who earned a research doctorate, breaking the record set at the last Commencement.

# Freshmen start preparing for student government campaigns



Cameron McCollum | Photographer

**RUN THE LINE, THEN FOR OFFICE** In the spirit of democracy and campus involvement, freshman senate elections will be held this fall.

**PIPER RUTHERFORD**  
Staff Writer

Freshmen candidates running for the 13 seats in their class's senate will soon hit the campaign trails around campus.

Pflugerville junior and Internal Vice President Landon Self said the senate selection process takes place during the first half of the fall.

"We first have to meet as a student government body to select the electoral commissioner before we can lay out the schedule for fall elections," Self said. "After this is completed, we can hold an interest meeting for potential candidates, giving them the information they need to file and run for office before they campaign."

Self said freshman

candidates often campaign on issues that are relatable or pressing to the student body.

"Throughout my three years at student government, I have seen freshman candidates campaign on the quality of dining hall food and the lack of parking options on campus," Self said. "There have also been multitudes of actions student senators have taken once elected to office their freshman year, like a few years ago when they got more charging outlets in the SUB or projects for how to increase school spirit at different on-campus events."

One initiative that Student Body President and Aurora, Colo., senior Lily Davis said she was most proud of was diversifying funding for student organizations.

"In the senate, we often

work with different clubs and organizations on campus for funding their events, whether this be chess club, quidditch club or Greek life," Davis said. "For my sophomore year, however, I was able to provide the monetary needs necessary for the Hawaiian Club to host its first Luau on campus after voting on a bill about reallocating funds for diversity efforts."

Self said now is the time that students can learn about the importance of voting on a smaller scale so that their voice can be heard both on campus as well as at the local, state and federal levels.

When it comes time to for freshmen to elect the representatives they believe will most accurately reflect their demands, Self said it is important to remember civil

discourse etiquette when considering their peers who might have different opinions. It's about who is best to fill the position, Self said.

"This idea of civil discourse means that you can respect another student's valid opinion, even if it differs from your own," Self said. "It is understandable that individuals running will also have disagreements with one another and promote different policies because that is the nature of politics."

Davis said that students should put themselves out there when running for office.

"I know it is incredibly intimidating to run a campaign at such a large scale for the first time during the first semester of your freshman year," Davis said. "But all you need is the courage to go out and do it."

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## Doing Pigskin their way: Tau Kappa Epsilon prepares for first-ever Pigskin

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

Tau Kappa Epsilon is taking the stage for their first-ever Pigskin Revue after ending their 48-year hiatus from All-University Sing. The fraternity is gearing up for an even better version of their robbers vs. pizza boys themed “Papa Tiki’s Balliamo!” performance. They are using what they learned from Sing to impress the crowd and showcase the brotherhood within the group at Pigskin.

For Jackson, Miss., sophomore and TKE Pigskin chair Will Meck, preparing for the upcoming performance has been an intensive, yet rewarding experience. It has brought the group together and allowed them to implement what they learned from Sing in February.

“I think it’s a great honor for us that our first year back in Sing, being able to make it to Pigskin and just coming together,” Meck said. “For us, it’s a big brotherhood aspect, and it’s more of us coming together to do something as brothers and less wanting to be recognized because, at the end of the day, none of us thought we would make Pigskin.”

The groups were allowed to start



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**COMING BACK WITH CONFIDENCE** TKE members Will Meck and Will Obar admitted to uncertainty on how well they would score during their Sing performances in the Spring. Now, they are approaching Pigskin with pride.

practicing for Pigskin on Sept. 3. Since then, TKE has focused on improvements and unity within its rehearsal regimen.

Boston senior and TKE assistant Pigskin chair Will Obar said the group is excited to showcase everyone’s hard work and eagerness in their Pigskin performance. While the group was grateful just to be doing Sing after the hiatus, they are

now ready to prove themselves as top contenders.

“It was always good to have the confidence going forward because there was definitely very low confidence in the beginning,” Obar said. “I wouldn’t say we really had confidence until the second weekend, and it wasn’t confidence that we were gonna make Pigskin. It was confidence that it was

gonna be okay and we weren’t embarrassing ourselves.”

While the group has a new wave of faith, they have made sure to prioritize rehearsals and intentionality in their work to ensure they continue progressing forward.

“Our chapter motto is brotherhood above all,” Meck said. “Our purpose is putting together something that we’re proud of and to have fun with. And

we hope that the audience will have fun with us and be entertained by what we put together.”

Meck and Obar focus heavily on ensuring performances are precise. They also place a lot of importance on the group’s morale and maintaining a sense of brotherhood while going through intense practice regimens.

“I can’t emphasize enough that at the end of the day, performing in a group like this is just getting a large group of people to come together towards one goal,” Meck said. “And we’re spending a lot of time together, and we’re having fun. We’re learning things, pushing people out of their comfort zone, which is also something new to me.”

Obar said that one of the best parts about rehearsals and preparing for Pigskin has been seeing the guys’ confidence rise as they work in unity for one goal.

“Energy was probably our biggest thing and really just having a smile on our face and being happy to be there, which is something we talk about a lot,” Obar said. “I’m just happy to be here; that was pretty huge for us. So I would say continuing that is really important. I don’t really want the energy to change, and I haven’t seen change that much so far, which is good, and seeing guys excited to show up and excited, and realizing that they remember their dances is a nice feeling.”

## From cradle to college: National Daughter’s Day celebrates girls, women

**KATHERINE HATCHER**  
Staff Writer

Whether people realize it or not, daughters are transforming society for good. In turn, one Baylor professor is particularly impassioned to help popularize the celebration of daughters. The occasion was celebrated yesterday — National Daughter’s Day.

Dr. Allison Alford, Baylor University Clinical Associate professor of information systems and business analytics, focuses her research on the topics of women, adult daughtering, work-family balance, and invisible labor. She disseminates this research and creates conversations about these topics through articles, books, social media platforms and even podcasts.

Alford finds it important to acknowledge and pinpoint terms for the work that women do. She coins one term as “daughtering” — the activity of relating to a parent as their child or to be or act as a daughter to a parent. She said this practice highlights daughters’ importance so that they can feel seen and loved and in return, add love back to society.

“Women are trying to keep these kinship bonds to keep families going, and families are the bedrock of our social system,” Alford said. “If a mom says thank you towards her daughter for big and small things, we create a new system of value for women that elevates [them].”

Dr. Alford found it disappointing when she looked up National Daughter’s Day on the internet, and many of the pictures that came up were of mothers with their young daughters.

“If we keep calling women mothers, then we make women only valuable in one way,” Alford said. “And not every woman will be a mother, wants to be a mother or is a mother for her whole life, but you know what you are your whole life? A daughter.”

Alford said daughtering is something that is constantly changing throughout life, but never loses its importance. A critical point for many is strengthening parental ties when leaving for college.

“If you don’t live at home, that means more phone calls, more Facetimes, more texting, sending those pictures that she wants even if you don’t really want to send them because you know it makes [mothers] or [parents] happy,” Alford said.

There is an invisible thread connecting a mom and daughter, so Alford said that daughters have to work to keep it that way while also learning to be fully independent for the first time.

Washington D.C. graduate student Claire Elliot said she tries to daughter to the best of her ability despite being far away from her mom who lives in Italy, even if that just means just answering phone calls or sending pictures.

“I just got a dog, so I send her pictures and things like that, and I’m like, ‘Oh, this is what Jinx is doing today... I try to be more present with her, because I know it’s hard for her because I can’t see her all the time,’” Elliot said.

In her own experience from college, Elliot said that her best friend from Texas would call her mom all the time. She said she remembered being slightly annoyed by it.

“I don’t know if part of that was me being jealous because I couldn’t [call my mom], or that maybe I don’t need to talk to my mom that much,” she said. “Because for some people, that’s just how their relationship is.”

Because daughtering can look differently for everyone, whether it’s sending a funny video or a card, Alford said that all women are good enough daughters and that there’s no reason to compare.

“We can all transmit love in our families in different ways. Not all families are huggy, touchy and feely,” Alford said. “Some families roast each other.”

Houston senior Isabella Brown said she appreciated how her parents showed her love through gift-giving, even though compared to other families, hers was not based very much on words of affirmation.

“So my parents often send me gifts baskets or, you know, finals preparation boxes with food and crafts and little things to do, just to express the fact that, ‘Hey, we’re thinking of you. We care about you,’” Brown said.

As important as it is for a daughter to pour into her family, Alford said people get burnt out when they’re not being acknowledged for their work. She said the response in familial relationships should be gratitude from all sides.

Even in her own life, Alford said she tries to notice and communicate gratitude about the little things her 14-year-old daughter does for her, even if it’s her daughter simply putting up with her when she’s hungry.

“I think when we notice those really uniquely special things we do for each other in our relationship that are special ... then it becomes even more valuable,” Alford said.

Alford’s research continues to grow as she has a new book coming out in 2026, an article that just came out titled “Daughterwork in Times of Social Upheaval” and a research project studying 100 women of all ages and races across the nation, their stories and what their mother-daughter relationships look like.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Allison Alford

**AN UNBREAKABLE BOND** In her research, Alford is working to uncover several different types of mother-daughter relationships across the world.



Michael Aguilar | Photographer

**THREE MEALS A DAY** As of Sept. 20, Magnolia Table now serves items from their new dinner menu from Thursdays to Saturdays.

## Review: Magnolia Table’s dinner is delectable as their breakfast, lunch

**SHANE MEAD**  
Reporter

When I first returned to Waco for the beginning of school and saw the Magnolia Table billboard which read, “HOPE YOU’RE HUNGRY FOR DINNER! COMING THIS FALL,” I immediately booked a reservation for Sept. 20, their first night of dinner service.

The place was packed to the brim as I was greeted with welcoming smiles from the front of house. I was immediately escorted to my table, my eyes growing larger than my stomach as I passed tables loaded with delectable-looking food.

I started with the homemade pretzel bites and cheese dip. The bites were chewy, delicious and would have held up well by themselves. However, the rich, creamy cheese dip provided a nice compliment. The dip had a spicy, peppery hint to it — a nice touch.

For my main course, I opted for the Bavette steak frites. I typically stick with a New York or filet cut of steak, so this was something new for me. I was pleasantly surprised by this cut, as it checked all the boxes in terms of what I look for in a steak: perfectly pink, immensely flavorful, edges charred and juicy in each bite.

Magnolia Table’s lunch menu french fries are something I tend to enjoy as a side to my main dish, but the ones that came with my steak dinner were a tad different. They came topped with Parmesan cheese, something I would have preferred to be absent from my meal. Nonetheless, the fries were seasoned well and had a nice crunch, which was perfectly fine for me, paired with ketchup.

My night of feasting concluded with the chocolate molten cake, a dessert I was anticipating trying before I even walked through the door. Of course, this was an instant hit because I am a sucker for anything chocolate, but also because the cake itself was delicious to the point where I was scraping the chocolate syrup off the plate with my fork after I finished.

To put it in simple terms, my dinner experience at Magnolia Table was fantastic. However, what stuck out to me the most wasn’t the food.

The man himself, Chip Gaines, walked up to each table at the restaurant. He chatted with diners and shook hands, ensuring it was a good opening night for all.

Just seeing Gaines there and watching guests smiling when he walked up to them was admirable. It’s a testament to the level of effort and care on which Magnolia prides itself.

As someone who enjoys Magnolia Table for breakfast and lunch, trying their dinner was a no-brainer for me. I plan on going back to try the rest of the menu soon, and I urge everybody to do the same.



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Jeremy Roach (3)  
Foster Nicholas | Sports Editor



Foster Nicholas | Sports Editor

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN** Sophomore midfielder Theresa McCullough chases down the ball during Baylor soccer's 1-0 loss to Arizona on Sept. 19 at Betty Lou Mays Field.

## Baylor soccer readies for No. 16 Colorado

**NATE MAKI**  
Sports Writer

After shutting out Houston 4-0 on Sunday, Baylor soccer must carry its momentum all the way to Boulder, Colo., to take on No. 16 Colorado at 8 p.m. on Thursday at Prentup Field.

The Bears (6-4-1, 1-2-0 Big 12) had a tough start to conference play, with a pair of 1-0 losses to then-No. 15 Oklahoma State and Arizona. Breaking through in the third game of conference play to put a win on the board, head coach Michelle Lenard is doing everything she can to keep the players in proper shape despite the new environment as they face the Buffaloes (9-1-0, 3-0-0 Big 12).

"The biggest challenge at that higher altitude is dehydration," Lenard said. "We always encourage the girls to eat a little extra leading up to a game, as well as getting some more sleep. Training in the heat is a great way to practice playing at high altitude, so we have that covered. All of these things add up, so we're going to be ready."

Sophomore defender Natalie Vatter, who transferred to Baylor prior to the 2023 season after redshirting in her freshman year at Ole Miss, has been a "reliable player with a contagious work ethic" for Lenard. With elite play on the back line to start the season, she is looking forward to testing her skills against some old friends.

"I grew up in Colorado, so I actually have a lot of old teammates who play on that team," Vatter said. "They're going to be talented, so we're going to have to play our best. [That win] was exactly what we needed. It's really just boosted our confidence."

With Colorado leading the Big 12, Lenard highlighted its defense and the talent on the front line that has propelled the first-year Big 12 team into pole position. After breaking down the Buffaloes' film with the coaching staff, sophomore forward Skylar Zinnecker thinks playing the skilled defense will test Baylor's offense in all the right ways.

"Colorado is a good opportunity for us, and I think we're set up for success," Zinnecker said. "I think we've all felt that we're on the cusp of success, so it was especially frustrating that we didn't perform to well in our last couple games. It felt really good to get that win against Houston. We all know what we're capable, and this win is going to help us turn that corner."



Foster Nicholas | Sports Editor

**BACK TO WORK** Head coach Scott Drew sits in front of the media and outlines his expectations for the 2024-25 season prior to Baylor men's basketball's first fall practice Monday at Foster Pavilion.

## Drew, men's basketball find chemistry with new roster

**JACKSON POSEY**  
Sports Writer

The transfer portal era is in full swing in Waco. After three straight second-round exits in the NCAA Tournament, head coach Scott Drew has overhauled the Baylor men's basketball roster, bringing in nine newcomers — including three major-conference transfers and three blue-chip recruits.

"We're really excited, like every coach is right now, because you've got great hope and great excitement," Drew said. "We love the group we've put together, just like everybody else out there. But I really like the experience with the inexperience. It's tough to get that blend nowadays, and I really feel the coaches did a great job, the assistant coaches, in bringing together a group that likes one another, that plays for each other, and at the same time provide a lot of different experiences that make you a well-rounded team."

Four NBA players are heading out the door, including first-round picks Ja'Kobe Walter, now with the Toronto Raptors, and Yves Missi, now playing for the New Orleans Pelicans. Priority undrafted free agent Jalen Bridges now plays forward for the Phoenix Suns and RayJ Dennis signed an Exhibit 10 deal with the Los Angeles Clippers earlier this month. Jonathan Tchamwa-Tchatchoua joined the San Antonio Spurs as a guest coach for summer league. Caleb Lohner and Miro Little transferred to newly-minted conference foe Utah, Lohner to play football. Former walk-on and fan favorite Austin Sacks is finally out of eligibility.

But the cupboard is far from bare for Drew, who rebuffed offseason advances from Kentucky to remain at Baylor.

In comes the highest-ranked recruiting class in program history, headlined by a pair of five-stars: über-athlete VJ Edgecombe, the highest-ranked recruit in program history, and high-powered point guard Rob Wright, whose early returns drew rave reviews from his teammates. Four-star wing Jason Asemota should also push for playing time after starring at Hillcrest Prep in Phoenix.

"[It's] almost like an AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] — but way more structured, way more disciplined, and this team's gonna be a really good team," Asemota said. "I'm just looking forward to winning. Because we're going to win a lot of games, and we're going to face a lot of good teams, and I'm just so excited to see how we face adversity when it comes."

Edgecombe will inevitably draw the most headlines after shining for the Bahamas alongside NBA players at the Olympic Qualifying Tournament this summer. The No. 4 recruit in the country is set to make an instant impact on both sides of the floor.

"I feel like VJ is going to actually help this team a lot," junior center Josh Ojianwuna said. "He's a very good defensive player, and I feel like our team is a team who will buy in on defense, I feel like that's a win for us. I feel like VJ is gonna impress the team a lot both on defense and offense. ... I feel like everyone has the drive he has on buying in on defense; I feel like we'll have a chance to go very far this year."

But beyond the hype, don't expect all three freshmen to start on day one. They'll get a luxury rarely afforded to stacked recruiting classes in today's college basketball landscape: the opportunity to play with other established stars.

Enter fifth-year senior Duke transfer guard Jeremy Roach, who averaged 14.0 points, 2.5 rebounds and 3.3 assists in his senior season with the Blue Devils, and fifth-year senior Miami transfer forward Norchad Omier, who averaged 17.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in 2023-24. The pair come to Waco with Final Four experience, and will play key roles on and off the court on a roster without much built-in veteran leadership.

"Jeremy and Norchad, both Final Four participants, and people that are all-conference, and put numbers in the books, and most of all, won for really good programs," Drew said. "So they bring a lot of really good wisdom and experience to the table. At the same time, they haven't reached all the goals and dreams they want to, and they have an opportunity to do that one more year with the COVID year."

Three rotation players remain: Ojianwuna, redshirt junior guard Langston Love and senior guard Jayden Nunn. They

bear the unique responsibility of passing on the Bears' 'Culture of JOY' to a new generation.

"I just try to get everybody on the rope," said Love, the longest-tenured player on the team. "That's our saying that we have here, 'Everybody on the rope.' Everybody's coming in new from different programs, and I just wanna show them what we do at Baylor. Once that is instilled, then everything's going to be right."

Baylor men's basketball has not announced its official non-conference schedule, but plans to do so in coming weeks. Stay up to date with all things Baylor Athletics on @BULariatSports on X, formerly known as Twitter, or [baylorlariat.com/sports](http://baylorlariat.com/sports).



VJ Edgecombe (7)  
Foster Nicholas | Sports Editor



# Baylor football sets eyes on bouncing back against undefeated No. 22 BYU

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Editor

In Big 12 football, every week is another chance to prove yourself. For Baylor football, Saturday's 11 a.m. matchup against No. 22 BYU at McLane Stadium isn't just about bouncing back but also proving that losses won't string together like they did in the previous two seasons.

Coming off a 38-31 overtime loss against Colorado, head coach Dave Aranda went over the film with the team on Monday but scrapped all conversation about the heartbreaking loss before practice on Tuesday. The Bears (2-2, 0-1 Big 12) have lost their last seven games against teams currently in the Big 12, but rather than repeating the downward spiraling morales of the 2023 season, Aranda has seen passion to bounce back.

"When you're cut wide open, you sit down, you bleed a little bit, and it's important to rise up and fight again," Aranda said. "We're a resilient bunch. The guys fight for what they believe in. I know they believe in us."

Under the vocal leadership of redshirt junior wide receiver Josh Cameron, senior wide receiver Hal Presley and sixth-year senior linebacker Matt Jones, Aranda said players have

taken it upon themselves to get back into the right headspace.

"Every game, we have to make ourselves known and we have to get the win. A lot of us know that the only way we're going to go to the [NFL] is if we win games. They want winners; they don't want losers. A lot of that is going through our minds," Presley said.

Although the Bears dropped their first Big 12 game, redshirt sophomore linebacker Keaton Thomas and the defense totaled eight sacks. With newcomers comfortable running Aranda's defensive scheme and on-field communication flowing smoothly, Thomas felt shoring up tackling would take the unit to the next level.

"We had eight sacks but we should've had more. That's the start; we've got to make sure we're executing and finishing strong and making sure we make the sack. That's the focus we have this week," Thomas said. "We have great competition on our O-line, and that'll help us prepare for their O-line."

The Cougars (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) ride into Waco with their best start to a season since 2021 when they started 5-0. BYU is tied for the Big 12 lead in interceptions (5) and fumbles (4), also maintaining top offensive and defensive lines who have played together for two full seasons.

"The team we're playing is a physical team.



Roundup File Photo

**RISE UP** Baylor football leaps to block a kick during its 38-24 win over BYU on Oct. 16, 2021, at McLane Stadium. The Bears are 2-2 all-time against BYU, with the last battle being a loss in Provo.

Their quarterback is taking the next steps, and he's an effective, efficient passer," Aranda said. "The O-line is the deal that sticks out the most to me. They're a veteran group and they've played a lot together, and it shows on tape. It's going to test us."

Chosen to start over former Baylor quarterback Gerry Bohanon, redshirt junior quarterback Jake Retzlaff stands as the Cougars' lead rusher and passer. Helped by the stout offensive line, BYU head coach Kilani Sitake has been able to vary the offensive play calling with designed quarterback runs and zone-reads that allow Retzlaff to create on his own after stringing together multiple complete passes.

At a press conference held on Monday, Aranda voiced more support for his starting quarterback, redshirt junior Sawyer Robertson. This marked the first time this season he has alluded to Robertson being the starter early in the week. The redshirt junior is off to a hot start under center, with 463 yards passing, three touchdown passes and the fifth-best efficiency rating in the Big 12 (161.6) with just two starts under his belt in 2024.

"I'm excited about Sawyer... To manage us where we got stalled out a little bit, to push through on the other side, a lot of that was Sawyer's leadership, so [I'm] really confident in him. I think he's getting better with each start," Aranda said. "I'm looking forward to this next one."

Since training camp, Baylor has practiced on weekday mornings. With kickoff scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, the green and gold are excited to get up and play ball at McLane Stadium.

The game will be broadcast on FS1, marking the fourth-consecutive, nationally-televised game of the year for the Bears. Baylor only had five nationally-televised games in 2023, with seven games exclusively on ESPN+.

"I have to believe from maybe another perspective, the morning games are probably tough to maneuver. But all of us are up way early, and to get up and just play football is something that I think we're getting accustomed to," Aranda said. "To be able to have a morning game like that, I think our guys do like that, and they look forward to it."



Roundup File Photo

**FLASHBACK** Former Baylor quarterback Gerry Bohanon lines up in the shotgun during Baylor football's 38-24 win over BYU on Oct. 16, 2021, at McLane Stadium. Although Bohanon isn't starting, he will make his return to Waco for the first time since transferring in 2022.



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**POLL UP** from A1

community and our country.”

On Thursday, Baylor’s Alexander Hamilton Society will be hosting a lecture on “The 2024 Election and Transitions of Power” in the Beckham Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. Given by Dr. Paul Lettow, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, the lecture will help to further prepare students to make the best vote they can when Election Day comes.

The last day to register to vote in Texas is Oct. 7, and students will be able to register on campus that day on Fountain Mall, in the SUB, in the Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation, the Baylor Sciences Building and Moody Memorial Library.



**BEARS CAST BALLOTS** Though Election Day always falls on a Tuesday, students can still conveniently vote and not have to miss class. Students can easily register on campus on Oct. 7, and the Mark and Paula Hurd Welcome Center will be ready for action on Nov. 5.

Emma Weidmann | Editor-in-Chief

**PICTURE IMPERFECT** from A1

graduation pictures.

For Indianapolis junior Catherine Kramer, the effects are tangible. Although she said the construction is “ultimately for the betterment of campus,” it has been “without a doubt, an inconvenience.”

Kramer, who works for Baylor Athletics Communications, operates her own portrait business on the side. She said that the construction will impact her business and will end up leaving many of her clients without some of their most desired photos. Old Main and Founders Mall “are huge spots for senior photography,” she said.

“A lot of students want to have their pictures taken [at Founders Mall] because of how pretty it is, and how Baylor-esque it is,” Kramer said. “And so with not being able to go around there at all, you have to re-plan your entire set of locations and rethink how you can still have a Baylor senior photo shoot without a location that’s so central to Baylor.”

While Kramer — and every other campus photographer — has been affected by the construction, she’s maintaining a positive outlook for when senior photo season comes around.

“I’m prepared to navigate [the situation] and I’m developing alternatives,” Kramer said.

The challenge has provided Kramer with some new settings, like the west face of Pat Neff Hall, the Baylor sign on University Parks and Fountain Mall. It will also allow her more time to shoot at parts of campus that hold significant places in her clients’ hearts.

“I really try to leave it up to the client in terms of what they want, because I’m here to service them and bring their vision to life. And so I try to leave a lot of space for [shooting where a client wants],” Kramer said. “Even places that seem very mundane through campus, you can actually bring to life in a very cool way.”

**PEACE OVER PREJUDICE** from A1

backlash for their religious identity by other faculty and staff.

Jortner said some of the comments they would receive consisted of others telling them they didn’t belong or shouldn’t be at Baylor.

Subsequently, due to little clarity as to what capacity Jewish faculty were allowed to be involved at Baylor, questions were raised. Could Jewish faculty be chairpersons of their respective programs? Could they head up certain committees and leadership posts?

These questions went relatively unanswered until three years ago when Dr. Stephen Breck Reid, Baylor’s vice provost for faculty diversity and belonging, advocated for Jortner and other Jewish faculty to form the JFSA.

“I really, really appreciated that the university took the initiative to allow us to have an official voice and an official presence,” Jortner said. “There’s a big difference between one professor in the theater program arguing for something and an organization of faculty saying, ‘We speak as one, and this is a concern.’”

Officially chartered early last year, the JFSA has up to 20 members now. While they are still mostly meeting online through mass e-mails and in the process of writing their bylaws, Jortner said they are looking forward as an organization to be advocates for the individuals and to enhance the life of the community.

Jortner said the biggest change he has noticed over the years is the openness and willingness of the current administration in making inclusivity and belonging a major part of their legacy. Some of these changes include job postings with Jewish and Christian openings actually listed.

“I do think there’s a genuine effort, and some of the things I’m personally really excited about is that hopefully the JFSA can continue to assist and serve as a resource for that type of work,” he said.

When the war between Israel and Hamas erupted in October, Jortner said the university made efforts to ensure their well-being.

“The administration has reached out on

several occasions to make sure that we were not facing any antisemitism on campus – that we were still feeling safe and comfortable,” he said.

While the community and administration at Baylor have come a long way, Jortner admitted his opinion of Christians haven’t always been this way.

“I grew up with a very negative view of Christianity,” he said. “Christians were the people that called me ‘Christ-killer’ and beat me up in fourth grade. Christians were the people who defaced my synagogue.”

Jortner said it wasn’t until he came to Baylor and met the people in his department that his opinion changed.

“It was the people in the theater department [who changed that]. I was then and still am fortunate to be surrounded by incredibly caring, really great people,” he said. “I always say that if the world knew of the kind of Christians I work with in the theater department, I would not have that view — that negative view of Christianity I had.”

Provost Nancy Brickhouse clarified that those hired must be practicing Jews, just like any other Christian faculty must be as well. She said the university encourages them and the community in Waco to be connected and engage with each other.

“We’ve always felt like there’s a lot that we hold in common with those of Jewish faith,” Brickhouse said. “All of our faculty, including our Jewish faculty, are well aware that we’re a Christian university, and they support the university in terms of its faith commitments.”

As JFSA continues to establish their presence at Baylor, Jortner said they also hope to ensure the Jewish student population is advocated for too.

“There’s a very small Jewish student population here. They often feel — very understandably — very isolated,” Jortner said. “For the Judaism on the Baylor campus, I would love for us to be able to hold events, bring speakers in and that sort on our future agenda.”

In the fall of 2023, there were only 50 Jewish students on campus, according to the Office of Institutional Research. That accounts for only 0.2% of Baylor’s religious pie chart.

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