Missing perspectives of history are given a voice

At a symposium Tuesday, scholars addressed the stories of history from the eyes of women

The Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

From Business, page 3: A student economist weighs the pros and cons of students debt. Is it worth it?

Wednesday | March 18, 2015

Many paths lead walk-ons to BU

By Shannon Barbour

On Jan. 23, Baylor men’s basketball head coach Scott Drew pulled walk-ons John Heard and Austin Mills to the front of the room during a film session. "I thought it was time to go over some plays," Mills said. "I had no idea what was going on."

Baylor was in a unique position to offer both players scholarships, as it lost two players from its 2014 signing class. Florida guard Kobi Takuku didn’t qualify academically after alleged grade manipulation ocurred at the high school where he spent his senior year. Former Baylor guard Daunya Durham also transferred out before ever playing a game.

With two scholarships in hand, Drew decided to reward the two walk-ons. In front of the team, Drew gave a short speech about how hard both players had worked and how essential both are to the program.

"What we’ll do is to give them thanks for what they’ve done and offer them a scholarship for this semester," Drew said to the cheers of his teammates.

While both were surprised, Mills and Heard each took divergent paths on their way to walking onto the basketball team at Baylor.

THE IMPORT

Junior guard Austin Mills surveys the court in a game against the Texas Southern Tigers in December at the Ferrell Center. Mills’ role on the team, Drew said, is to be available for the matchup during a film session. The 2015 study, “The Impact of Minority Roommates,” be present at Baylor, West said. "That's obviously the match everyone thinks about more. But to be more broad and academically, we actually looked at each in a binary of different groups." According to Baylor Institute of Research and Testing, the minority rate at Baylor has increased in the past five years as the number of applications has steadily increased. According to Baylor Institutional Research and Testing, in 2014, the acceptance rate was approximately 44 percent.

Baylor is the second-highest ranked school in the Big 12 and the fifth-highest ranked university in Texas. Baylor has also steadily moved up in U.S. News’ college rankings for the last five years. Sam Brindley, an incoming freshman from Austin, said the fact that Baylor is becoming more and more selective, makes him more proud of the quality of the university, and makes him even more proud of the fact he was accepted into the university.

Class selection rising

By Jessi Schurz

Assistant City Editor

According to the latest statistics compiled by the university, the incoming fall freshman class is the most selective in Baylor history, as current numbers put the current acceptance rate at approximately 44 percent.

The increased interest in Baylor comes at the same time as record-setting fundraising and some of the school’s most successful years of athletics ever, according to an article on the university’s website. The fall freshman class of 2018, was the largest Baylor had ever seen.

“The selectivity has incrementally improved by 1 to 2 percentage points over the last five years,” Jessi King George, director of admissions counseling and recruitment, said because the academic caliber of applicants has risen on that year, the average test score of the incoming freshman class is also on track to increase.

“The selectivity has incrementally improved by 1 to 2 percentage points over the last five years,” Jessi King George, director of admissions counseling and recruitment, said in an email.

“Such a dramatic increase is a testament to the quality of the applicants we have to choose from as well as their commitment to coming to Baylor.”

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America, Cuba wrap up meetings

By Mexican Congressman

Associated Press

HAVANA — A third round of negotiations over the restoration of full diplomatic relations ended after a day of talks, Cuban and U.S. officials said Tuesday. Hours later, Cuban President Raul Castro delivered a vaguely worded attack on the United States for laying a new round of sanctions on his country’s closest ally, Venezuela.

Neither Cuba nor the U.S. provided details on whether progress was made toward a deal on reopening embassies in Washington and Havana.

The two countries have been trying to strike an agreement on embassies before presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro attend the Summit of the Americas in Panama on April 10-12.

Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations said the talks took place “in a professional atmosphere” and “the two delegations agreed to maintain contact to move forward with this process.” Jeff Rathke, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said that “the discussion was positive and constructive and we look forward to another atmosphere of mutual respect.”

But Castro later delivered a scathing defense of Venezuela at an emergency meeting of leftist Latin American governments called in response to U.S. sanctions levied on seven Venezuelan officials last week. In announcing the move, the U.S. declined Venezuela’s request to U.S. national security.

Washington has asserted that the Venezuelan sanctions would fit in the U.S. Cuba, page 4

Minority roommates help to promote perception, professor says

By Shannon Barbour

Assistant City Editor

Students who have had a minority roommate are more likely to have positive perceptions of minority groups, according to data gathered from the U.S. Air Force Academy and analyzed by Dr. Jim West, professor of economics.

It’s typical that you would see more out of sociologists or psychologists, but we had this very unique and powerful data set. And we were able to use the econometric tools of analyzing choice to infer these attitudes," said West, who is also the holder of The W.D. Smith Professorship in Economics.

The 2013 study, “The Impact of Interracial Contact on Racial Attitudes and Reformed Professors,” was completed using data collected from the Air Force Academy in Colorado, where West was a professor for 16 years.

"The starting point for this idea came from this famous sociological paper in the 1950s written by a guy named Gordon Allport, it’s called ‘Contact Hypothesis,’” West said.

Allport focused his initial research on black and white students, and what he found was that contact increases positive interactions and future perceptions of minorities.

Although the study was conducted at the Air Force Academy, West said similar results could be found if a study was conducted at Baylor because of the presence of factors given by Allport.

"I think these factors would be present at Baylor,” West said. "That’s why we would have every reason to believe that increased contact at Baylor would be very beneficial.

The perception of African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians by their white roommates was studied in addition to football players and recruited athletes in general.

“We did most of the job analyzing white roommate opinions with black roommate opinions,” West said. “That’s obviously the match everyone thinks about more. But to be more broad and academically, we actually looked at each in a binary of different groups.” According to Baylor Institute of Research and Testing, the minority rate at Baylor has increased in the past six years. In the fall of 2014, 5,700 of 16,625 students were minority, increasing the minority rate among undergraduate students to 34 percent.

The three most represented ethnicities at Baylor in fall 2014 were white, Hispanic and Asian.

Brownswood Junior Sarah Underwood has never lived with a minority roommate before.

Minorities roommates help to promote perception, professor says

They’re after me cake-y charms!

Campus celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with a colorful Tuesday at the dining halls. This rainbow cake, called the Pot ’o Gold Cake, was served in RFOC @ Memorial for lunch.

The unique Baylor tradition of Dr Pepper Hour received a makeover in honor of St. Patrick’s Day on Tuesday. Green Dr Pepper floats were served at Robinson Tower, at Dr Pepper Bar, in the Bill Daniel Student Union Center and at the softball games versus Texas A&M at Baylor University at Tatum Stadium.

Pinch a bite to eat on St. Paddy’s Day

The starting point for this idea came from this famous sociological paper in the 1950s written by a guy named Gordon Allport," West said. "That’s obviously the match everyone thinks about more. But to be more broad and academically, we actually looked at each in a binary of different groups.”
Stop using Lynch to play political games

Editorial

James Madison once wrote, "If men were angels, governent would be unnecessary; if angels lived among us, it would not be necessary to speak of government at all. It is the experience of mankind that a certain degree of government is necessary to human happiness, and to prevent the exercise of injustice and oppression upon one another."

With the Leonidas Lynch controversy still swirling, it is tempting to think that the question of human rights is a matter we can ignore. But the fact of the matter is, Lynch's actions can serve as a reminder of how far we still have to go in terms of truly understanding and addressing the systemic issues that continue to plague our society.

Lynch, a professor at the University of Alabama, was recently found to have used his position to promote racism and hate speech against people of color. The fact that this is happening in a country that claims to value diversity and inclusion is a stark reminder of the work we still need to do.

Lynch's actions are not an isolated incident. The issue of racial injustice is a persistent problem in the United States, and it is up to all of us to address it. Whether through policy changes, community action, or simply by speaking out about these issues, we all have a role to play in building a society that truly values equality and justice for all.

The Baylor administration's response to the Lynch affair has been commendable. The university has taken steps to address the issue and has committed to improving its policies and practices. However, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that systemic racism is not allowed to continue in any form.

Lynch's actions are a timely reminder of the work we still need to do in terms of understanding and addressing the systemic issues that continue to plague our society. We must continue to push for policies and practices that promote equality and justice for all, and we must remain committed to building a society that truly values diversity and inclusion.
The Baylor Lariat

WASHINGTON — House Republicans launched a boldly conservative 10-year budget plan on Tuesday that would force the Pentagon, partially privatize Medicare and rely on deep cuts in other social programs to help wipe out deficits at the end of a decade.

A little more than four months after winning their largest majority in 30 years, Republicans promised an overhaul of the federal tax code and called for repeal of two of the top legislative achievements of President Barack Obama: the Affordable Care Act and, in office, those are the health-care law known by his name and the translation of the Affordable Care Act into the economy for over-70 years, Republicans promote a health-care law that would provide health care for all those who are covered by Medicaid and food stamps.

The House budget relies heavily on tax increases, though the fine print assumes the expiration of about $2 trillion in breaks for businesses and individuals. Leakers of all income levels are part of a plan to increase spending and give tax breaks to the middle class.

Senators Republicans intend to outline their plans on Wednesday, and each house is expected to carry its own version next week.

The House budget calls for transforming Medicaid into a voucher-like program for seniors who join the health care program beginning in 2024. In all, Republicans said they would cut spending by nearly $5.5 trillion over the next decade.

An additional $900 billion would come from other health-care programs, including Medicare, which provides health care for the low-income. As in prior years, Republicans proposed transforming Medicaid and food stamps into state-run programs that receive lump-sum funding from the U.S. Treasury.

An estimated $1 trillion in savings would come from other budget measures. This is one of the reasons the government calls to subside the cost of college for students through grants, and even provides loans to students who come from low-income backgrounds.

Reubin Turner

Social Media Corner

Business

Wednesday | March 18, 2015
Presbyterians approve gay marriage

By Rodella Zeal
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved redesigning the marriage in the church community Thursday to include a "covenant between two people, becoming the largest Protestant group to formally recognize gay marriage as Christian and allow same-sex weddings in every congregation.

The new definition was ordained last year by the church General Assembly, or top legisla-
tory body, but required approval from a majority of the denom-
inations 167 local districts, or presbyteries.

The critical vote "yes" came Tuesday night from the Pres-
byterian of the Palisades in New Jer-
sey.

After all regional bodies voted and top Presbyterian leaders offi-
cially accepted the results, the change will take effect June 21. The de-
notation has nearly 1.7 million members and about 16,000 con-
gregations.

"It's time to bring the reality that many families headed by LGBT couples have been waiting for decades to enter this space cre-
ted for their families within their church communities," said the Rev.
Robert White, a leader of More Light Presbyterians, which advo-
cates for gay acceptance within the church.

So far, 37 presbyteries have ac-
nost the redaction, which in-
cludes a provision that no clergy would be compelled to preside at a gay marriage or host such a cer-
money on church property.

The vote in one presbytery was tied, according to a tally by the Com-mittee of the Presbyterian of the denomi-
nation, a pro-gay group that works to keep Presbyterian united despite theological differences.

Last year, the church had al-
lowed ministers to provide at gay weddings if local church lead-
ers approved in states where the unions were legally recognized. The new wording for the church Book of Deuteronomy, which authorizes same-sex marriages, will not, read, "Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to live and support each other for the rest of their lives."

Church leaders released state-
ments Tuesday saying "intelligent forbearance" amid disagreements over the amendment. "We hope that such "magnanimous" voting does not mark the end, but the continu-
ation of our desire to live in com-
ity," the two top General As-
mmites officials said.

Between 2011, when the Pres-
ter and New Light Presbyterians, a pro-gay group that works to keep Presbyterian united despite theological differences, and 2013, the latest year for which figures are available, 424 of the denomination's churches left for more conservative denomina-
tions or dissolved, though some theological conservatives have remained or decided how to move forward.

Cameron Muether, pro-
dent of the conservative Presby-
tian Church in the U.S.A., said the new de-
nition was "an express repudiation of the Bible" and approved, "What God does not bless."

But the group has urged Presbyterians to protest by redirecting donations away from the national church until the original marriage definition is restored.

Paul Dettman, national di-
rector of The Fellowship Com-
nity, a network of theologically conservative Presbyterian church-
s that have stood with the de-
nomination, said his organization will "minimize faithfully engaged in conversations with those of differ-
ent views on the church."
It’s a (wo)man’s world
Editors unveil anthology for Texas women

The female legacy in Texas is as strong as the women of all walks of life who have given themselves to art, writing and music.

A new anthology titled “Her Texas Story, Image, Poem & Song,” which celebrates the female identity, was the subject of an event honoring poetry reading from anthology contributors Tuesday evening at Baylor’s Armstrong Browning Library.

The event was hosted by the anthology’s co-editors Donna Wayne Nixon, Dr. Gary Burleson, senior lecturer of journalism, public relations and new media, and Rachel Crawford, as well as publisher Bryce Milligan.

Texas Poet Laureate Rosemary Catacalos and international poet Naomi Shihab Nye read original works aloud to an audience.

“This year – I haven’t done a reading in quite a while and also lost my mother – but I sense a feeling that I’ve had it a long time. Thank you very much.” Catacalos said in a press release. “I expressed the need to write and read what I wrote, ” she said in a press release.

Texas Poet Laureate Rosemary Catacalos reads poems from “Her Texas” on Tuesday evening in Armstrong Browning Library. (Photo courtesy of Bryce Milligan, Texas Poet Laureate Rosemary Catacalos)

Noting the experience of Eliza- beth Browning, Catacalos added, “I believe that the arts are important in the fight for equality for women. ”

“Many people are well re- knowned for their fight – that’s Post Laureate, or they’re well known for a kind of activism,” said Burleson. “They all very deliberately set out to find new and emerging women artists of all kinds. ”

Milligan, who published the first all-Latino anthology, said “Her Texas” is a book that will benefit more people that just the women who wrote it.

“All editors are donating all of their royalties toward the research of ovarian and breast cancer,” he said.

At the event, Burleson said the book is important because it brings women of different trades and interests together in one place, and in an example of how many of these women are able to succeed in more than one area.

“I believe that the arts are illuminating. I think that it’s important to represent that in the book with the kinds of genres that we have,” Burleson said. “I think that women who are photographers and poets and short story writers, or painters, or sculptors. They have more than one talent and I think that is the way things are moving. ”

Burleson said “Her Texas” aims to create a community among readers, female and male.

“Our hope is that the women who read ‘Her Texas’ can find other women with whom they can identify – and that men who read it will find it helps them better understand the women in their lives,” said Burleson in a press release.

One of the stories in the book centers on the experiences of Eliza- beth Browning, an assistant professor of journalism, public relations and new media. In the anthology, Bates describes the effects of her cancer diagnosis.

“My husband stood when he read what I wrote,” she said in a press release. “I expressed the devastation I felt after being di-agnosed, but also the hope I have now because I have him and my son to fight for. ”

During the recitation, Nye said she wished to see the book influence readers in the very place she found herself so often as a child – the library.

“I hope this book will live in every Texas library, and all the small town libraries,” she said. “It’s a mighty fine tour of Texas and make sure it’s everywhere. ”

Prince Harry seeks new job ventures

By Gregory Katz

LONDON — Prince Harry is looking for work — but don’t expect him to be sending out invitations to connect on LinkedIn.

No one is likely to keep the fourth in line for the British throne waiting for a job interview, so grill him about his background — even though he’s been caught smoking pot and photographed playing “strip billiards” in Las Ve- gin.

And if it takes him a while to find the right position, the family fortune should tide him over until his first payday.

Royal officials said Tuesday that the 30-year-old prince will leave the armed forces in June. Kensington Palace said he will volunteer with a program that helps wounded service members “while actively considering other long-term employment opportunities.”

In the statement, Royal officials said that army duties will include a four- week assignment in April and May at the Defense Staff College and a three-month deployment in 2013 after extended training as a helicopter pilot, and become an air-ambulance pilot.

Harry was the first British roy- al to see combat since his uncle, Prince Andrew, who flew Royal Navy helicopters during the 1982 Falklands War.

Harry’s military career also seemed more comfortable as a soldier than in his royal duties, and he has been visibly energized by his work with the armed forces.

“Very much I am looking forward to doing a civilian job,” the prince said after a decade of service, which included two tours of duty in Af- ghanistan, as a battlefield air controller for the Navy and a four- month deployment with a 150-strong helicopter pilot, and became an air-ambulance pilot.

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collage experiences and a high-level program," he said.

Mills found a connection to Baylor in an unusual way: playing pickup games with former Baylor star and current Oklahoma City Thunder forward Perry Jones III. "I was playing in the summer with Perry and he was just raving about the program," Mills said. "He made me want to get involved with them." Mills made a few phone calls and decided that he would move from the beaches of Malibu, Calif., to Waco. Despite being a walk-on, Mills has found ways to contribute on the court. He has appeared in 15 games, including quality minutes in Baylor's last five games. In Baylor's five-game win over Iowa State, Mills hit a 3-pointer that ignited a game-clinching run.

"It's a great feeling to know that my hard work is paying off," Mills said. "I want to earn that. I'm always ready, because my name could be called at any time."

THE LEGACY
Contrary to Mills coming to school in Texas for the first time this year, Heard is very familiar with Baylor basketball. Joining the son of Baylor guard Larry Heard and Baylor graduate Caroline Heard.

"When I was growing up, I came up to all of the football and basketball games," Heard said. "I've always dreamed about being part of one of the sports programs here." Coming out of Episcopal High School in Houston, Heard naturally decided to attend Baylor like his parents. After watching Baylor reach the Elite Eight in 2012, he set the goal to try to walk on to the men's basketball team.

"I wasn't on the team, " Heard said. "I can't even explain that feeling," Heard said.

BEING A WALK-ON
The work does not stop for a player or coach to earn a spot on the roster, Jacob Neubert said. "It's a big-time commitment that people don't necessarily understand," Neubert said. "I think that's a plus of being a walk-on."

The program does walk-ons a few players each year, according to head coach Scott Drew. Each program does walk-ons a few players each year, according to head coach Scott Drew. However, Drew told Heard that with two walk-ons already in the mixer, Jacob Stubble and Logan Lowery, there was not space on the roster for him.

"That day eventually came," Mills said. "I was on the team, but I was looking forward to having a bigger role in the program." Hearing that he would be better than his 200. "I'm pretty excited," Mills said.

"Travis has done a great job of coming up in practice," Neubert said. "I think he's got a great future here." Mills also said he brings a servant mentality, while trying to create for his teammates and fill his role on the court.

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WALK-ON
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