



Liesje Powers | Photo Editor

**WRECK** Three multiple-car pileups led to one fatality and lane closures on both north and southbound I-35 yesterday near the University Parks exit.

## One dead after multiple-car pileup on I-35

**RYLEE SEAVERS**  
Staff Writer

A four-car crash, resulting in one fatality, occurred at 3:40 p.m. yesterday on the northbound side of Interstate 35 said Garen Bynum, Waco Police Department public information officer.

All three lanes on the northbound side were closed between the 17th street – 18th street and University Parks Drive exits.

There were three crashes on I-35 on Thursday. The first wreck caused two vehicles to roll over on the northbound side resulting in minor injuries, Bynum said. The second was a minor collision

on the southbound side, also resulting in minor injuries, which caused traffic to slow on the northbound side. The exact cause of the four-car crash which resulted in a fatality is still unknown, he said.

One woman died in the car crash, Bynum said. The female has been identified by the Waco Police Department, but they have not released her identity to the public, he said. There were four others injured in the crash, two males and two females, he said. All of them are in stable condition and are being treated at Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest, Bynum said.

Baylor Police Department and the Precinct 1 Constable's office also assisted on the scene of the fatal crash.

## Study reveals how universities affect business innovation

**MEGAN RULE**  
Staff Writer

A recent study by a Baylor professor and a University of Bath professor looks deeper into the definition of a university.

"As universities get into more things like business creation, does that detract from the main mission?" said Dr. Peter Klein, professor of entrepreneurship and co-author of the study. "The study forces us to step back and ask bigger questions. What is a university? What is its purpose and what is it supposed to do?"

A study titled "The Effects of Academic Incubators on University Innovation" analyzed the impacts of academic incubators on the quality of innovations produced by a sample of United States research-intensive universities.

Academic incubators are both programs and physical locations in which people who want to start a business or a company can get help with office space, lab space, advising and consulting, Klein said. Incubators also offer networking events where people can meet potential funders and employees.

Basically, the incubator follows the idea that, just like a chick needs the sunlight and warmth to grow, businesses also need to be nurtured to grow, Klein said. The academic incubator is a location that can incubate businesses in the same way.

Klein co-authored the

study with Dr. Christos Kolympiris, associate professor at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom.

"We weren't hoping to find anything new," Kolympiris said. "It was a phenomenon-driven study."

Klein said the study looked at a question that hasn't received much attention: "When a university decides to emphasize things like business creation, what happens to other activities on campus that are also geared towards innovation and entrepreneurship?" The study focused on how emphasizing business incubation affects entrepreneurship teaching programs research and specifically, the quality of research done on other parts of campus once incubators are in place.

"I found most interesting the fact that universities are placing so much emphasis on these things, that they patent as much as they do and place emphasis on helping entrepreneurs," Klein said. "I think it's great, but at first glance you might think it's odd that they place so much emphasis on those kinds of things. It doesn't seem like that might square with the traditional mission of universities."

Kolympiris said the study was done to connect the trends in research and incubators on a university campus. This connection was found through looking at the quality of research done and the quality of patents made by

the university on other parts of campus outside the business incubators. Baylor was not one of the universities studied.

"I found it most interesting that we found negative relationships," Kolympiris said. "That the establishment of incubators is correlated with a deduction in licensing income with the quality of innovations coming out of universities, which was not what we were expecting."

Klein said the study does not say that incubators are bad at all, and it certainly does not say that universities should not establish incubators. The average patent quality falls after an incubator, but incubators have lots of benefits besides creating companies, Klein said. These benefits include opportunities for work and internships for students, the educational experience. It benefits the economy, and professors who are scientists would want to work at a university with an incubator because the business start-up is there.

"We are not claiming that the effect could be true for every single university in the sample," Kolympiris said. "There are some universities that will benefit from having an incubator and some that will lose. What we found is the average effect, so on average there is a deduction in licensing. You have to interpret our findings keeping in mind that we focus on a specific sample of universities."



Associated Press

**WALL** A Mexican soldier stands guard at a checkpoint near the Mexico-U.S. border fence, on the Mexican side, separating the towns of Anapra, Mexico, and Sunland Park, N.M.

## No clear method in measuring border wall effectiveness

**ELLIOT SPAGAT**  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO** — The United States does not have a way to measure how well fencing works to deter illegal crossings from Mexico, according to a report released Thursday by Congress' main watchdog as President Donald Trump renewed his pledge to build "a great wall" on the border.

The Government Accountability Office said the government spent \$2.3 billion from 2007 to 2015 to extend fences to 654 miles of the nearly 2,000-mile border and more to repair them.

Despite those investments, the Customs and Border Protection agency "cannot measure the contribution of fencing to border security operations along the southwest border because it has not developed metrics for this assessment," the agency said in a 75-page review.

Efforts to better measure success were aborted in 2013 because of a budget showdown between President Barack Obama and Congress, according to the report, which recommends developing new measures to justify more spending.

Trump, speaking at a news conference Thursday, reiterated plans for a wall with Mexico — one of his signature campaign pledges — and promised to negotiate a lower price.

Border Patrol leaders have struggled to say with any degree of precision how well fences work, in part because it's unknown how many people get away. Another unknown is the extent to which fences or other factors such as the number of agents explain why people are caught.

The GAO estimated capture rates in areas with and without fencing but cautioned that no cause-and-effect relationship has been established.

Construction cost estimates have varied widely. The GAO report stuck with its 2009 estimate of an average of \$6.5 million a mile for a fence to keep out people on foot and \$1.8 million a mile for vehicle blockades. There are currently 354 miles of pedestrian fencing and 300 miles of vehicle barriers.

Republican leaders in Congress have said Trump's wall would cost between \$12 billion and \$15 billion. Trump has suggested \$12 billion.

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# Chemistry professor steps up to new position

**AMANDA HARGETT-GRANATO**  
Reporter

A familiar face has taken up residence in a brand new office at Baylor. Dr. Kevin Chambliss, professor of chemistry, has taught and performed research at Baylor for 15 years, but his new title has only existed for six weeks.

## Q&A

At the beginning of the spring semester, Chambliss became the associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences. This position is new to Baylor and focuses on facilitating programs for research and graduate students. We sat down with Chambliss to discuss his new position, his personal research and his plans for the future.

### Tell me a bit about your new job, how did it come to be?

This is a new position for me, and it's also a new position for the College of Arts and Sciences. Having an associate dean for research and graduate education is certainly not uncommon at other universities. We've just never had one in Arts and Sciences.

This started really as an evaluation by a faculty committee over a year ago. I think Dean [Lee] Nordt asked them to determine if there was a need within the college for the position like this. The committee ultimately recommended that there be one. They got the approval of the council of chairs, and there was an internal search. I obviously was one of the applicants and was offered the position and said yes.

### What is the goal for the associate dean for research and graduate education?

The real goal is to try to have someone who, on a daily basis, is thinking about and is a vocal advocate for the research aspirations that are spelled out in both the university's Pro Futuris strategic plan as well as the college's Aspire document.

At this stage, the job is six weeks old. When I started, Dean Nordt and I both agreed we knew what this job looked like from maybe 40,000 feet. I think now six weeks into it, maybe we know what it looks like at 20,000 feet. But a lot of what initially I'll be doing is just trying to figure out how can someone advocate effectively on the behalf of faculty and departments in the larger context of growing the research enterprise and graduate programs affiliated with the research program at Baylor.

### Why does Baylor need a position like this?

I think historically what we all know we're good at is being a great undergraduate institution. We're rapidly becoming more recognized for graduate education and for research on the national scale, and I think it's a good thing for everybody. Anything we can do to grow the research enterprise at the graduate level, and just faculty scholarship in general, will always have a positive influence on increasing the quality of and numbers of undergraduate research opportunities as well. I'm excited to get the chance to see what I can do in this regard.

### How did you get interested in the sciences?

It was not something I would have thought of... I had a chemistry professor when I transferred back to Ouachita [Baptist University] who thought I was a good student in his class, and he actually approached me and said, 'Would you be interested in doing research over the summer?' I had never considered it. I got involved and learned that not only did it pay pretty well, but it was a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed it. When I graduated from college — and I joke when I say this, but it's kind of true — I said I didn't want a real job, so I went to graduate school. One thing just kind of led to another. It wasn't something I had aspired to through high school or my youth or anything like that. It was a relationship that I had with a professor that really pushed me in that direction.



Photo Courtesy of Randy Fiedler

**NEW POSITION** Dr. Kevin Chambliss recently became the associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences.

### How did you end up at Baylor?

I grew up in Arkansas, on the other side of Texarkana. I knew both my parents were getting older, and so when I was looking for jobs, the proximity to my folks was something I was interested in. Waco was about the right distance. Close enough that I could be there quickly if I needed to be but far enough away that I still didn't feel like I was going home.

Combined with that, at the time I was hired was sort of at the beginning of the Baylor 2012 initiative about making research and especially graduate students at that level more of their emphasis. I was drawn, I suppose, to the challenge of, 'Can we do that?' It's been fun to be a part of that building process, and that was attractive even then.

### What kind of research are you personally involved in?

We've done a lot of environmental chemistry. I've collaborated with Bryan Brooks, who is in environmental science, really ever since we both got here. We studied pharmaceuticals and other emerging contaminants in the environment and that has been a very fruitful line of investigation for us, for a decade and a half.

My group has also done a lot of work related to alternative fuels. I suppose most of our funds came with the bioethanol push, but since the price of oil has dropped we don't just talk about bio-fuel anymore, we talk about bio-based products. But the general idea is, 'can we use renewable resources to generate fuels and other products that help drive our economy?'

This to me is an interesting academic exercise, it's also an important human exercise. Petroleum is the cash cow of all of society. We don't just drive around with gasoline, it's the precursor to almost every product in our economy. Whether we run out of oil in the next forty years or the next forty million years from an academic standpoint is sort of irrelevant. The bottom line is that it's a finite resource and at some point, we will no longer have it.

### What is your personal philosophy when it comes to research?

My philosophy has largely been one of interdisciplinary study, and that really goes all the way back to the professor I worked with as an undergraduate. It got reiterated to me when I was working on my Ph.D. I've always worked with scientists who work across boundaries. It was hard to say they were just a chemist or just an analytical chemist. I'm of the opinion that the most effective scientists in the next century will have broad training across traditional academic boundaries. If students can learn to think that way and interact that way with colleagues, I think they have an opportunity to work on some of the most challenging problems that we have in science. They all seem to increasingly occur at interfaces between chemistry and biology or

between chemistry and physics.

One of the big initiatives that I'm working on already in this office was started before I got into this role but has become something that I'm helping push forward, is to extend that interdisciplinary idea to collaborations between faculty in STEM disciplines and faculty in the humanities and social sciences.

That's something that translates to this position but is also something that is near and dear to my own heart and in my own lab. It's been neat for me to find specific examples, where I can take that model and apply it in a research setting. Increasingly, it is becoming the norm, not just at Baylor but across the nation and around the world. That this is how research gets done."

### How do Baylor's Christian identity and research focus fit together?

I think they work well together. It's funny, a lot of my science colleagues outside of Baylor are skeptical of the Christian faith. This is not uncommon, but for me it's never been anything to resolve. In the 15 years that I've been here, I think we've merged these two areas really well. One of the exciting things that I've been approached with already in this position is whether or not I would be interested in being involved in a science-religion seminar series that's typically been offered to graduate

students. It may have started by saying it's important for graduate students in the sciences to understand the potential issues that come up in a religious setting that they need to be aware of and what is the right perspective from a Christian standpoint on those issues, but I think our conversation, we're rapidly recognizing, needs to go both ways.

### What is the most important thing for people to know about your new position?

I think the biggest thing is for people to understand it's all new. It's exciting. But how it translates day-to-day is difficult to detail at this point. My job is to be a servant to faculty, to students, to departments. Help me help you. That's certainly where I've been trying to put my focus. I've been going out and meeting a lot of department chairs and learning more about their programs and what their needs are. But also asking them how can I, in this role, help you be successful at the things that you're trying to be successful at.

If there was something I wanted people to know, that would be it. [This office] is for the whole college, it's not just for the sciences. Research is a completely global statement within the College of Arts and Sciences. My greatest hope is that I can be helpful to them achieving their goals.

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**SPORTS TAKE**

Baylor vs. Kansas this Saturday is the make-or-break game of the season.

**pg. B10**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

Step into the life of a "Rail dog" and what they learn during All-University Sing.

**pg. B2**

**“ We met and it was happily ever after. We had the ultimate Sing experience.**

Zeta Tau Alpha alumna speaks about her All-University Sing experience. **pg. B3**

**On-the-Go >> Happenings:** Visit @BULariatArts to see what's going on this weekend (besides Sing). [BaylorLariat.com](http://BaylorLariat.com)

# Sing stage home to skill, spies, swans

**MCKENNA MIDDLETON**

News Editor

**GENESIS LARIN**

Assistant News Editor

After months of practice and anticipation, the curtain opened Thursday night on the talent, creativity and determination of sorority and fraternity members in this year's All-University Sing. On opening night, the stakes were high, but the entertainment lived up to its suspense in this display of Baylor tradition and culture. The performers kept their themes, songs and choreography a secret for months as they toiled away for a chance to wow the audience on Waco Hall Stage.

**KAPPA SIGMA**

"Lewis & Clark: The Corps of Discovery"



Kappa Sigma set the bar high as the first act of the night. Their interpretation of Westward Expansion was full of energy and patriotism with good vocals and choreography. While the energy seemed a little over-the-top at times, the audience was engaged throughout the act.

**KAPPA ALPHA THETA**

"Miss Spectacular"



In a number showcasing the story of a rivalry between two pageant contestants, Kappa Alpha Theta took a more musical approach to All-University Sing. The storyline kept the audience intrigued as contestants moved through the stages of the pageant amid vocally strong songs. The song choices were a bit disjointed but held together the storyline of the musical.

**PHI GAMMA DELTA**

"To Lands Beyond"



Phi Gamma Delta gave a Game of Thrones-inspired performance. However, their costumes looked more like medieval peasants rather than Vikings seeking battle and glory. While the beginning of their performance took time to get underway, they came into full sail toward the end.

**CHI OMEGA**

"Ice Ice Baby"



It's a good thing the snow was fake in Chi Omega's performance because they were on fire! The choreography was as fun to watch as it was well executed. The songs were catchy and delivered by talented vocalists and penguins alike while igloos, a mountain backdrop and foggy snow surrounded them. Complete with a twist ending that provided a positive outlook on global warming, the performance delivered hope and quality entertainment for the audience.

**SIGMA CHI**

"Bear Bucks"



Sigma Chi's suits were just as stiff as their choreography and facial expressions. However, their elaborate set design and vocals compensated for their mediocre dance moves. Their performance was not only an entertaining take on the acquisition of wealth, but also a positive message that graduating seniors will take with them.

**SING ALLIANCE**

"Piece by Piece"



Building on creativity and childhood pastimes, Sing Alliance stacked up against Greek life in a Lego-themed number. The talent levels were inconsistent with some strong choreography and vocals mixed with some weaker performances. The group invoked comedy, tragedy and teamwork throughout the clever and colorful show.



**DANCE IT OUT** Kappa Kappa Gamma performs "Forever Young."



Pi Kappa Phi and Alpha Chi Omega perform "The Art of Espionage."



Kappa Alpha Theta performs "Miss Spectacular"



Sing Alliance performs "Piece by Piece."



Delta Delta Delta performs "Sister Suffragette."



Phi Kappa Chi performs "Fool's Gold."



Pi Beta Phi performs "Bonjour, Paris."

**BETA THETA PI**

"Raiders of the Lost Act"



The theatrics of Beta Theta Pi's performance conveyed a comic and entertaining take on Indiana Jones. While the singing and dancing were not consistent, the detailed stage design was movie-like. Their props from the gold bear to the giant boulder kept the audience laughing throughout the performance.

**KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA**

"Forever Young"



Taking it back with retro songs, Kappa Kappa Gamma set the scene for a high school reunion. While the beginning dance moves were slow and unimpressive, they just highlighted the quicker and more complex choreography that took place after a major plot twist in the storyline. Classic song choices were paired with talented vocalists and old school class.

**KAPPA CHI ALPHA**

"How To Save a Life"



Kappa Chi Alpha gave a heartfelt performance with a refreshing message about hope. Despite, their inspiring message, their singing was inconsistent and their dancing out of sync. Their costumes also looked like they needed creative saving. The performance included a good deal of acting and centered around the storyline.

**PI KAPPA PHI & ALPHA CHI OMEGA**

"The Art of Espionage"



The deadly duo of Pi Kappa Phi and Alpha Chi Omega joined forces for a spy adventure. Full of energy and adventure, a huge mob of spies danced around a complex stage design. While at times the performance was chaotic and disorganized, particularly during a cringe-worthy romance scene, the overall story and execution of theme was anything but top secret.

**PI BETA PHI**

"Bonjour, Paris"



Although usually silent, the Pi Beta Phi mimes made their voices heard with their powerful singing. They danced with energy that matched the power of their vocals. While there were a couple of mishaps, these energetic mimes kept the show going.

**DELTA TAU DELTA**

"Firefighters"



Fireman tropes ran wild in Delta Tau Deltas performance. This act was full of comedic relief which showed they didn't take themselves too seriously was a recipe for a good time. While the main event turned up the heat with dance moves consisting mostly of pulling on suspenders and flexing, the background was the real show. A firehouse dog, a cat in a tree and firetruck crashes were hilarious but often overshadowed by the dancing firemen.

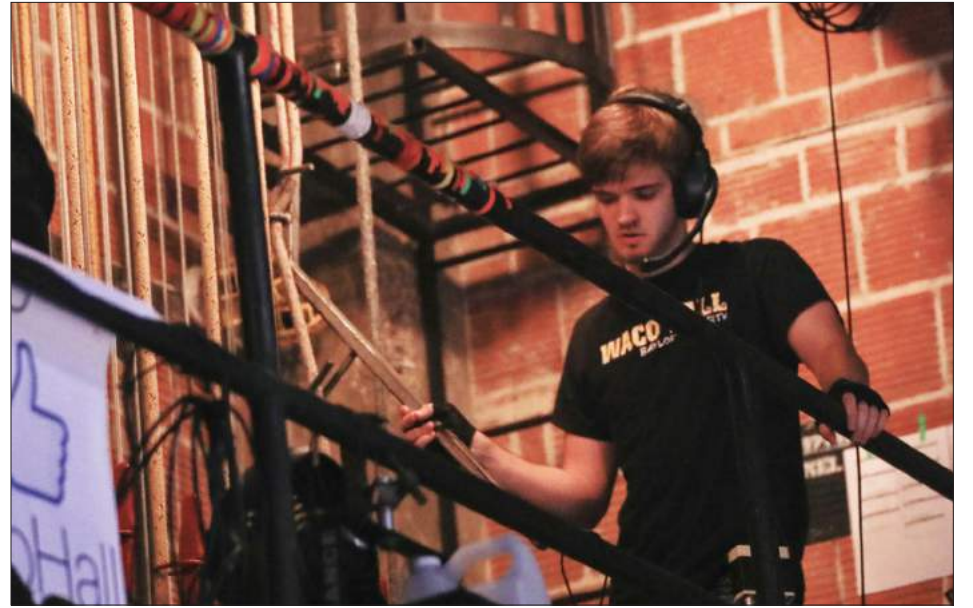
**ALPHA DELTA PI**

"Swan's Shadow"



Alpha Delta Pi gave a modern spin on the classic Swan Lake. The moving props, intricate choreography and music selection kept the audience intrigued and entertained to see whether innocence or darkness won. The most eye-catching part of the performance was the unexpected costume change, which showed that ultimately darkness won.

**REVIEWS >> Page B3**



Photos by Liesje Powers | Photo Editor

**SUPPORT FROM ABOVE** The “rail dogs,” not only work behind the scenes of All-University Sing, but also learn the moves to the routines and try to mimic them as the women perform. Westlake Village, Calif., freshman Adam Geller (left) dances along with one of the routines, while Fort Worth freshman Grant Tucker (right) makes sure everything is in order before the next act takes the stage.

# In the dog house

‘Rail dogs’ learn choreography of Sing acts, popular among performers

**KASSIDY WOYTEK**  
Reporter

If you listen closely before the curtains rise on a All-University Sing act, you might hear the distant sound of barking from a crew of students up above the stage. They call themselves the “rail dogs,” and their work behind the scenes can help transform a good performance into a great one.

Houston junior Jeshua Gonzales has been working as a rail dog since his sophomore year. He said his favorite part of the job is trying to learn the sororities’ Sing routines during practices.

“Whenever a sorority’s act comes on, we try to learn their dances and mimic them as best as possible,” Gonzales said. “The goal is to get sororities to give us a rail call.”

Getting a “rail call” means hearing the performers yell their support for the rail dogs before the curtain rises. The

standard response to a rail call is a round of enthusiastic barking, and an encouraging yell back to the sorority.

Livingston junior Melanie Moore, a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, said her organization always makes an effort to show the rail dogs some love.

“Before every single act, we always yell out, “We love you, rail dogs!” Moore said. “And they always yell back, “We love you, Tri Delt!”

According to Gonzales, the rail dogs already have Delta Delta Delta’s dance moves perfected for this year’s performance. They’re close to mastering Zeta Tau Alpha’s act and are still working on learning the other routines.

“They definitely get into the dances,” Moore said. “I think they’re just the type of people that really want to interact with the performers onstage.”

Although the audience can’t see their performances, Gonzalez said he thinks they should get a chance to show off all of the dances they’ve learned.

“Every year we always say that the rail dogs should have their own Sing act,” Gonzales said. “But that movement hasn’t taken off yet.”

Houston sophomore Adam Kobs said the rail dogs are a close-knit community. During a Sing act, they communicate with each other and with the stage crew through headsets.

“We threw a lot of shade at each other through the comms,” Kobs said.

After working his first Pigskin performance last semester, Kobs said he was officially initiated into the ranks of the rail dogs. For an initiation ceremony, the new rail dog is knighted with one of the iron bars that supports the backdrops and

given a dog nickname.

On the rails, Kobs goes by the name of “Newfoundland,” while Gonzales is known as “Pug.”

Although female students are allowed and encouraged to become rail dogs, Kobs said the crew is currently made up of all men.

When they’re not busy perfecting their dance moves, the rail dogs work on lighting, audio tech and set building for events in Waco Hall. Besides Pigskin and Sing, the rail dogs also work events like After Dark and Stompfest.

Kobs said getting acknowledged by rail calls is a great feeling because the work they do backstage oftentimes goes unnoticed.

“Our work is very important,” Kobs said, “considering half of the work that goes into each number is backdrops, signs and props.”



Associated Press

**FORD** In this Jan. 10, 2016, file photo, Harrison Ford arrives at the 73rd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## Harrison Ford evades close call collision

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Actor Harrison Ford had a potentially serious run-in with an airliner at a Southern California airport, NBC-TV reported Tuesday.

Ford, 74, was told to land his single-engine plane on a runway at John Wayne Airport in Orange County on Monday, but he mistakenly landed it on a parallel taxiway, passing over an American Airlines jet holding nearby, NBC reported.

“Was that airliner meant to be underneath me?” Ford is heard asking air traffic controllers in a recording, NBC reported.

American Airlines Flight 1456, with 110 passengers and six crew, departed safely for Dallas a few minutes later.

Ford’s publicist, Ina Treciokas, declined comment Tuesday afternoon.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor couldn’t confirm that Ford was piloting the Aviat Husky that overflew the Boeing 737, but he said the pilot received and had read back the proper landing instructions.

The FAA is investigating, Gregor said.

Ford collects vintage planes and has a long and good record as an aviator. But he has had several close calls.

In March 2015, Ford suffered a broken arm and a gashed forehead when his World War II-era trainer crashed on a Los Angeles golf course when it lost power shortly after takeoff.

In 1999, Ford crash-landed his helicopter during a training flight in which he and an instructor were practicing auto rotations in Ventura County, northwest of Los Angeles. Ford and the instructor were unhurt.

## ‘Planet Earth 2’ builds on its predecessor’s global success

**CHRIS BARTON**  
Tribune News Service

A small, scaly baby iguana no bigger than a chocolate bar hunkers down on a beach as a snake glides alongside him. “A snake’s eyes aren’t very good,” a raspy voice explains. The voice is British and immediately familiar. Comforting, somehow. “But if the hatchling keeps its nerve ... “ A low hum of strings rises in the score, and in a moment, the iguana begins a desperate, wild-legged sprint as percussion thunders.

One snake becomes three, six, maybe two dozen and the nightmarish reptile chase is on. If the newly born iguana makes it to high ground, it survives. If it doesn’t, well, nature wins.

“Planet Earth II” is, at its core, the ultimate thoughtful celebration of life. Yet this frantic chase scene from the forthcoming series, which had the Internet buzzing, is more reminiscent of something out of the “Bourne” franchise.

The clip, which was released as a teaser for the series on YouTube in November, has racked up more than 3 million views since it became a viral fixture on Facebook and offered one of the first looks at “Planet Earth II,” which debuts at 9 p.m. Saturday across three networks: AMC, Sundance and BBC America.

“The first time I saw (the iguana sequence) I just thought, I wish I had worked on a film where a director had created as exciting an action sequence as that,” said Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer (“The Lion King”), who provides the series with a score that’s as eclectic as the jaw-dropping scenery.

Already having aired in the U.K. late last year, the six-part sequel to “Planet Earth” reunites the voice of veteran naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough with far-flung locales and scenes of wildlife filmed with a startling intimacy that expands upon its 2007 predecessor.

“This is probably the most compelling emotional storytelling that I’ve ever been involved in,” said Zimmer, adding that his admiration for Attenborough and his work assured his involvement with “Planet Earth II” from the moment he was asked. “You look at our world as if

it were a science-fiction movie,” said the composer, who also has crafted Oscar-nominated scores for, among other films, “Gladiator,” “Interstellar” and “Inception.” “And then, every once in a while, you have to pinch yourself because you realize that everything that is strange and foreign and extraordinary is right here.”

It’s that eagerness to provide previously unseen glimpses of the natural world that drove the series’ crew to log more than 2,000 shooting days in over 40 countries over roughly 3 years. Like its predecessor, each episode is divided into geographic themes such as “Mountains,” “Islands” and, in an intriguing look at the frontier between man and nature, “Cities.”

With climate change still an ongoing concern amid political upheaval both in Britain and the U.S., “Planet Earth II” feels especially timely. But given the lead time and logistical demands of filming such a mammoth project, its creators had no way of predicting that would be the case.

“We were purely looking at the natural world and that sense of connectedness (with humanity),” said producer Elizabeth White, whose “Islands” episode opens the series. “It did feel timely that we wanted to try and reconnect people on a big, kind of global scale.”

The first installment of “Planet Earth” offered up-close-and-personal looks at often unfamiliar wildlife and was among the first such documentaries to take advantage of HD video. The sequel ups the ante with 4K video, motion-triggered cameras and the use of drones, which helped deliver many of the breathtaking views: lemurs hopping from tree to tree in the jungles of Madagascar; the battered coast of Zavodovski Island, which a million-plus chinstrap penguins call home.

“The challenge there was finding penguins who were happy for us to film around them,” said White, who was on location at the island. “And then there was one who came out with this big, fat belly, and he was so chilled out. Literally, the cameraman kind of walked with him, following him. He’d stop. He’d wait. You find yourself with an animal that seems very receptive to it.”

Those dramatic narratives are what drive “Planet Earth II,” a detail that helped inspire Zimmer. “You can really pour your heart into this. You can pour drama into this,” he said, comparing his approach to “Planet Earth II” to working on the “Lion King” score. “You can tell the most amazing story about the human condition by not talking about the human condition.”

The series premiere also follows a regal, pale-gray albatross, which mates for life, waiting for his partner to return after six months apart. While nature documentaries can easily fixate on the most harsh, unforgiving side of nature, this series aims to strike a balance.

“It would be wrong to tell that as a ‘she never came back’ story because actually in that case, that was what we wanted, to show this continuing relationship that can go on for decades,” White said. “The film crew in many ways were going through the same sort of emotional journey (as the viewer) of, what happens if she doesn’t arrive?”

In terms of attracting an audience, the sequel’s reception has been overwhelmingly positive. The series finale averaged 9.5 million viewers in the U.K., outdrawing the finale of the popular competition show “The X Factor” (“We got something right!” Zimmer crowed). However, the series has drawn criticism for encouraging a sense of complacency about environmental issues. While each episode emphasizes that the habitats it examines are under threat, how dire can the situation be when they look so lush and beautiful?

“It’s not a hammer-people-over-the-head, doom-and-gloom message,” White admits. “It’s very much ‘Look at this wonderful place, bear in mind, this is happening, these places are fragile’ ... but it isn’t intended to be a conservation film.”

Still, there is a sense of having made a difference. White recounted instances of meeting conservation officers on location who said they chose their career after seeing one of Attenborough’s nature programs.

“I think it’s quite hard to quantify what makes it’s people take,” White said. “But if they feel more connected to nature, that’s a really good start.”

ALL-UNIVERSITY

# SING

- 1. CHI OMEGA  
"ICE ICE BABY"
- 2. KAPPA SIGMA  
"LEWIS & CLARK: THE  
CORPS OF DISCOVERY"
- 3. DELTA TAU DELTA  
"FIREFIGHTERS"
- 4. PI KAPPA PHI AND ALPHA  
CHI OMEGA  
"THE ART OF  
ESPIONAGE"
- 5. PHI GAMMA DELTA  
"TO LANDS BEYOND"
- 6. BETA THETA PI  
"RAIDERS OF THE LOST  
ACT"
- 7. KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA  
"FOREVER YOUNG"
- 8. KAPPA CHI ALPHA  
"HOW TO SAVE A LIFE"
- 9. PHI KAPPA CHI  
"FOOL'S GOLD"
- 10. SING ALLIANCE  
"PIECE BY PIECE"
- 11. DELTA DELTA DELTA  
"SISTER SUFFRAGETTE"
- 12. SIGMA CHI  
"BEAR BUCKS"
- 13. ALPHA DELTA PI  
"SWAN'S SHADOW"
- 14. KAPPA OMEGA TAU  
"BEIN' GREEN"
- 15. PI BETA PHI  
"BONJOUR, PARIS!"
- 16. ZETA TAU ALPHA  
"CAN YOU HEAR THE  
BELLS?"
- 17. KAPPA ALPHA THETA  
"MISS SPECTACULAR"

