



FACULTY EXHIBIT ART pg. 5

## Professor's vision inspires first work of fiction 25 years later

**KALLI DAMSCHEN**  
Reporter

They say that inspiration hits you when you least expect it. For Dr. Michael Thomas, this came about 25 years ago in a vision of a fighter plane soaring across the western Mediterranean sky while listening to praise music. As of earlier this month, the professor finally saw the manifestation of this vision in his fictional debut, "Pax Romana: The Rise of Seren."

Thomas is a professor in the department of Spanish and Portuguese. He has written a number of academic papers and articles. Thomas also wrote "Coming of Age in Franco's Spain," a nonfiction book about the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, but "Pax Romana" is his first work of fiction.

"I've studied novels my entire career and never wrote one," Thomas said. "It's weird, I always considered myself to be a novelist. Don't ask me why."

"Pax Romana: The Rise of Seren," which was published by LifeRich Publishing on Jan. 6, tells the story of Captain Mark Knutson, a pilot who lives in a futuristic Rome. After breaking up with his girlfriend Angela, Mark meets a beautiful French woman named Dominique Lécuyer. As Mark and Dominique grow closer,

Angela becomes involved with the mysterious Seren, who performs miracles and appears to be growing in power.

Jenks, Okla., senior Cole Moore has taken some of Thomas's Great Texts classes and is working with Thomas on his honors thesis. Moore read "Pax Romana" last summer.

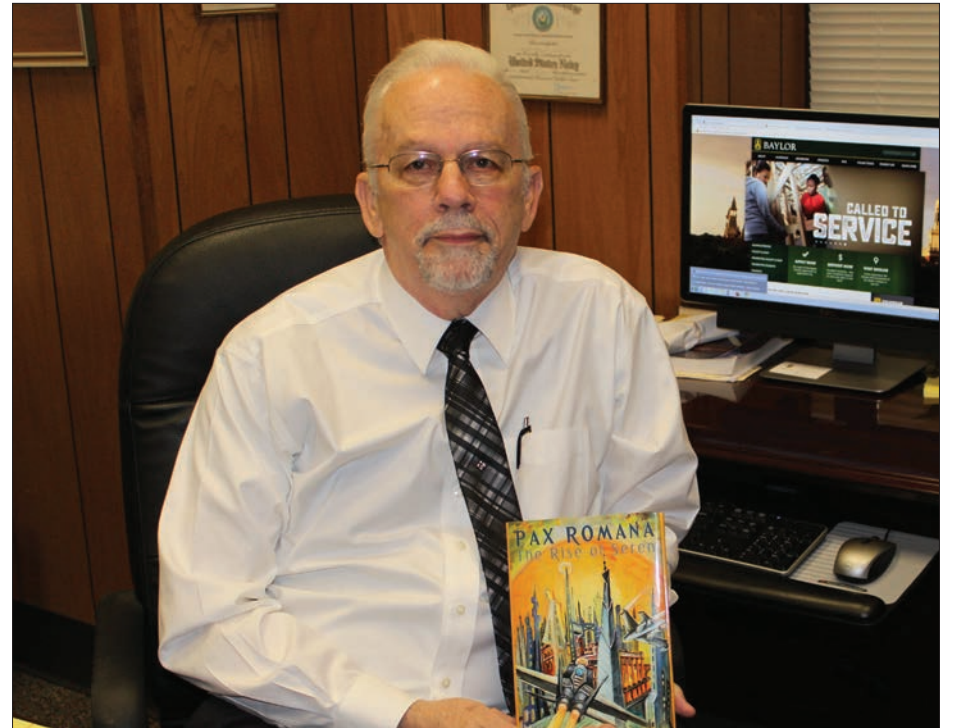
"It was interesting," Moore said. "It's science fiction, written in the not-too-distant future, but far enough away that he's got some technology he can play with in there."

"I was lying there and I thought, well that's interesting. What is that about?" Thomas said. "So I went to my computer and I started typing. I cranked out the first two chapters in 1989, close to what they are now."

It was a couple decades before Thomas returned to the story that would become "Pax Romana: The Rise of Seren." It was only after Thomas finished writing "Coming of Age in Franco's Spain" that he decided to sit down and dedicate time to finishing his first novel.

For Thomas, the experience of writing a work of fiction was very different from academic writing, which he said relies more on ideas and analysis.

"As a writer, you go by images," Thomas



Kalli Damschen | Reporter

**BOOKING IT** LifeRich Published Dr. Michael Thomas's first fiction book titled "Pax Romana: The Rise of Seren," on January 6.

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### CHOP, CHOP



Charlene Lee | Photographer

Baylor graduate and Waco resident Alexa Wible conducts her first cooking class, called "Kitchenspired", Thursday in Waco. Other Waco residents gathered to learn how to cook and be inspired to create recipes.

## Where art meets history

**KENDALL BAER**  
Reporter

Four art historians discussed art from various periods of time to students and faculty gathered at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center lecture hall.

"This was a great opportunity to see what my future professors do outside of the classroom," said Greenville junior Austin McCroskie.

Of the four professors, each chose a topic of his or her interest and gave a lecture over that specific subject.

"I know I speak for my colleagues when I say we appreciate your support of art historical research," said Dr. Amy A. DaPonte, Ph.D, an assistant professor in the art department, to the audience, "Whether you believe it or not, this is fun for us."

Nathan T. Elkins, Ph.D began the series of lectures with his topic, The Visualization of

Political Rhetoric in the Reign of Nerva AD 96-98, that discussed Nerva's coinage and the symbolism represented through different coins.

The second speaker of the evening, Dr. Heidi J. Hornik, a professor in the art department, discussed Michele Tosini and The "Baptism of Christ", a painting specifically done in the reflection of the gospel of Luke.

"It's so interesting to hear about an artist who has done a lot and the fact that people aren't looking into it," said Spring junior Kat Largent. "It really surprised me that some of this stuff is just out there waiting to be discovered and no one is out there discovering it except for these awesome Baylor professors."

In the third part of the lecture, Dr. Sean DeLouche, a lecturer in the art department, presented his topic of Art Criticism and Celebrity Culture at the Salon of 1840, discussing a piece of art by Émile de Champmartin that was

harshly criticized for its style and representation of the subjects it depicted.

To close the lecture series, DaPonte gave her presentation over A Postmodern Theater: Günther Förg's Stations of the Cross, which showed the work of Förg that depicted the crucifixion of Christ in various abstract pieces and his motivations for the pieces.

"I liked that the lectures spanned so much of art history," said Frisco junior Geordyn Hoge. "You have the ancient, the renaissance, and then modern, and that appealed to a lot of different parts of art. I thought it was interesting to learn about something so specific and tangible."

A reception for the Faculty Exhibition followed the lectures and showcased original art produced by Baylor art studio faculty.

The exhibition will be on display from until Feb. 28. at The Martin Museum of Art.

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## Ala. executes first man in 2 years

**KIM CHANDLER**  
Reporter

ATMORE, Ala.— A man convicted of the 1992 rape and beating death of a woman received a lethal injection Thursday evening in Alabama's first execution in more than two years.

Christopher Eugene Brooks, 43, was pronounced dead at 6:38 p.m. at the Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, authorities said. The procedure began at 6:06 p.m., shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court had denied a last-minute defense request for a stay.

Brooks was convicted of capital murder in the death of 23-year-old Jo Deann Campbell, a woman authorities say he first

met when they worked at a camp in upstate New York.

Prior to a three-drug combination being administered, Brooks had some final words, saying: "I hope this brings closure to everybody." He thanked his loved ones repeatedly, adding "love you all ... I will take you with me in my heart ... I love y'all. Bye. I love y'all."

A prison chaplain held Brooks' hand and appeared to pray with him as the first drug, a sedative, began flowing. Brooks' eyes closed, his mouth gaped open and his breathing slowed. A prison captain pinched the inmate's upper left arm and pulled open his eyelid to check for consciousness before the final two drugs were

administered.

Corrections Commissioner Jefferson Dunn said the execution went as planned. Brooks showed no obvious signs of distress.

Authorities said it was the first execution since Alabama announced in 2014 that it was changing two of the three drugs, including switching to the sedative midazolam to render an inmate unconscious.

The victim's mother, Mona Campbell, said afterward in a written statement that the execution offered her no closure, but it did end the appeals that had been stressful to her family for 23 years.

"This execution did not and will not bring back my precious

younger daughter who I loved all my life," the statement said. Mona Campbell witnessed the execution along with two other daughters.

Three of Brooks' attorneys were in the witness chamber, along with a spiritual adviser and two friends, one of whom sobbed quietly throughout.

A jury convicted Brooks in 1993 of capital murder for murder committed in the course of a robbery, burglary and rape.

According to the court record, witnesses said the victim Campbell was seen speaking to Brooks at a restaurant where she worked on Dec. 30, 1992, and she later told a friend someone

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## EDITORIAL



@asherfreeman

ASHER

# Degree audits: the most difficult thing you have to read in college

A degree audit is one of the first pieces of paper that a student receives after deciding on a major/minor. It is perhaps the most useful tool for tracking academic progress toward graduation. However, its function is severely limited by a confusing layout and ambiguous terminology that make it challenging to navigate through graduation requirements without the help of an adviser. The university should consider providing a more concise how-to guide or online tutorial for students to be able to interpret their degree audit.

Baylor uses a software called the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) by College Source, Inc. According to the Office of the Registrar's website, one of the many benefits of having this software in place is that it allows for major changes to be made. With a "what if" option students can see how their degree requirements would change if they were to change or add a major/minor.

While the system's ability to reflect such changes is surely a plus, the uniform layout of information is hard to sift through. Many factors contribute to this confusion such as multiple abbreviations, not enough distinction between groups and subgroups of information and words like "OK," "NO," "NA" and "Work not applicable" to describe the completion of a requirement. While the Office of the Registrar and University Advisement do provide a brief guide on how to read the audit on their websites, this is hardly sufficient to analyze the scope of data provided for the average student. Because of this, many undergraduates find themselves needing the assistance of an adviser to help them read it.

Aside from posing a burden on students, the necessity of going to an adviser to look through a degree audit can put a strain on the advisers themselves. This is especially true at the beginning and end of each

semester. During this time, they are not able to dedicate to each student because the sheer number of appointments made.

Another problem arises due to the fact that the amount of training that each adviser receives is subject to variation because each school within Baylor is in charge of training their faculty. This combined with the periodic updates made by the university and automatically on the software itself leave much room for inconsistency in degree audit advising.

According to Degree Audit Coordinator Kathy Mulkey, who works in the Office of the Registrar, Baylor is looking at purchasing a more interactive degree planning program from College Source, Inc. While it is still unknown when exactly this software will be put in place, Mulkey said that it will take a while before it will be ready for mass use due to staff training. In the meantime, a solution to the problem of reading through audits using the software in place now needs to be offered.

Degree audits have the potential to be an effective way of tracking progress. They are relatively easy to acquire through BearWeb. Why not set up a link by the degree audit option that redirects you to an updated manual (there is one that exists online from 2008) or a supplementary video tutorial? This would allow BearWeb to become a one-stop destination for degree audit information rather than having it scattered across multiple Web pages to sift through online.

An initiative like this could serve as the first step toward promoting a foundational degree audit literacy among current and future student populations. This would in no way make the role of an adviser obsolete. Rather, it would aid in making advising sessions more effective based on a common understanding what it takes to leave Baylor with a diploma in hand.

## COLUMN

# No plans, no problem, God's got you covered

**Sarah Pyo**  
Web & Social Media Editor

What if I don't get a job after graduation? What if I end up living with my parents forever? What if I never get married?

Once you start, there seems to be no end. At least up to junior year, we had the excuse of, "We're still young. We still have plenty of time," whenever we felt doubts about our future careers. Now, with the prospect of graduation, the future seems just as, or even more, obscure.

Some students have it all figured out. Some have had the same goal, the same major, since entering college. Some even have a job waiting for them after graduation, while others don't.



There are many graduating seniors that dread the coming of May and are drowning in their anxieties. Many feel incompetent and amateurish because they still haven't figured out what their calling is in life, unlike some of their peers. When did students become 'failures' for merely not knowing? When did these expectations start determining our self-worth?

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

We've heard this verse countless of times in Sunday school, yet we sometimes forget it when we need it the most. We're not on this journey alone and it's far from the end. This is only the beginning.

In Matthew 25:1, Jesus says, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

He will provide. This doesn't mean you can sit back and relax in your recliner, though. Again, the journey is far from over.

Oftentimes, we couple success with wealth. We stress that we won't be financially stable enough individually and for our families. We look past what we're truly passionate about for that miserable job with the larger paycheck. Sure, it'd be nice to have an idea of what our future will look like, but maybe it's a good thing that we don't know, so we can venture out to find what truly makes us happy. Shouldn't there be more to life than landing a job for the sake of having a job?

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you," Jesus said in Matthew 7:7.

Pray and work hard. Stop stressing about the ambiguities of the future. Some of you seniors might be anxious because you know you haven't been giving it your all. You know you need to do that extra research for your studies, for your interviews, but you'll "worry about it later" and push it off for another day. Eventually, you won't have another day.

Proverbs 13:4 says, "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."

Don't be lazy. Research your options, get connected and build-up your resume.

*Sarah Pyo is a senior journalism major from Chicago. She is the web & social media editor for the Lariat.*

## Lariat Letters

### And go support the Bears on Saturday

Baylor Nation,

You should all go to the men's basketball game Saturday at 11 a.m. against Oklahoma!

Reasons:

Our team has won 5 straight games and is now the number one team in the Big 12, which is the strongest basketball conference this year. And we are playing the number one ranked Oklahoma.

And we love to beat Oklahoma.

And our team is now ranked thirteen; think how much we would jump if we won this game.

And we need fans to do that.

And we are going to "stripe the stadium" so we need people wearing green and white.

And the basketball games only take two hours, so you can go and still

have most of your Saturday to study (smile).

And the hot dogs are better than at the football games (I don't know why this is, but the informal poll I took last night proved it).

And they play music during the time outs, and people dance, and you get to watch people dancing poorly, which is always fun.

And they beat Texas Tech last week with a last-second buzzer shot.

And they beat Kansas State last night in double-overtime.

And the team is fantastic; they play hard and fast and it is truly poetry in motion (and I know poetry).

And we love to beat Oklahoma.

**Dr. Sarah Ford**  
Associate Professor  
English Department

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## Lariat Letters

To submit a Lariat Letter, email [LariatLetters@baylor.edu](mailto:LariatLetters@baylor.edu). Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.



# Potentially historic storm advances

**BEN NUCKOLS & SETH BORENSTEIN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The forecast for a historic blizzard has been there for days, looming over the nation's capital like the UFO from "Independence Day." Projected snowfall totals have ticked steadily upward, to the point where the National Weather Service — known for its conservative predictions — says more than 2 feet of snow could land on Washington.

Residents and elected officials throughout the Eastern United States are heeding the warning.

States of emergency have been declared in five states and the District of Columbia. Schools and government offices are being closed preemptively. Thousands of flights have been canceled. Food and supplies are disappearing from grocery and hardware stores. College basketball games and concerts will have to wait.

"It's going to be dangerous out there," said Tonya Woods, 42, a Washington Metro station manager who lives in suburban Clinton, Maryland. "I say they should shut things down."

On Thursday afternoon, she got her wish. The capital's subway system announced that it will shut down entirely late tonight and remain closed through Sunday for the sake of employee and rider safety. Underground stations usually stay open during major snowstorms.

The director of the National Weather Service said all the ingredients have come together to create blizzards with brutally high winds, dangerous inland flooding, white-out conditions and even the possibility of thunder snow, when lightning strikes through a snowstorm.

The snowfall, expected to continue from late tonight into Sunday, could easily cause more than \$1 billion in damage and paralyze the Eastern third of the nation, weather service director Louis Uccellini said.

"It does have the potential to be an extremely dangerous storm that can affect more than 50 million people," Uccellini said at the service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

Washington looks like the bull's-eye of the blizzard, and New York City is just inside the slow-moving storm's sharp northern edge, which means it is likely to see heavy accumulations, Uccellini said. Boston will probably get off easy this time, forecasters said.



Associated Press

**SNOWMAGEDDON** Traffic in Maryland is almost at a standstill after Wednesday's snow. Weather forecasters are anticipating blizzards and flooding across the East.

Weather Prediction Center meteorologist Paul Kocin, who with Uccellini wrote a two-volume textbook on northeast snowstorms, estimated more than 2 feet for Washington, a foot to 18 inches for Philadelphia and eight inches to a foot in New York.

The snowfall could be as heavy as 1 to 3 inches per hour, and continue for 24 hours or more, Kocin said.

That could put this snowstorm near the top 10 to hit the East, with the weekend timing and days of warning helping to limit deaths and damage, said Kocin, who compared it to "Snowmageddon," the first of two storms that "wiped out" Washington in 2010 and dumped up to 30 inches of snow in places.

Unfortunately, more than just snow is coming. Uccellini said it won't be quite as bad

as Superstorm Sandy, but people should expect high winds, a storm surge and inland flooding from Delaware to New York. Other severe but non-snowy weather is likely from Texas to Florida as the storm system chugs across the Gulf Coast, gaining moisture.

At a supermarket in Baltimore, Sharon Brewington stocked her cart with ready-to-eat snacks, bread, milk and cold cuts. In 2010, she and her daughter were stuck at home with nothing but noodles and water.

"I'm not going to make that mistake again," Brewington said.

The Mid-Atlantic region is notorious for struggling to cope with winter weather, and a light dusting on Wednesday night served as an ominous prelude to the massive blizzard.

Less than an inch of snow was enough to turn

roadways treacherous in the District, Maryland and northern Virginia, causing hundreds of accidents and leaving drivers gridlocked for hours. President Obama wasn't spared, as his motorcade slowly weaved and skidded along icy streets to the White House.

Mayor Muriel Bowser apologized to the city, saying more trucks should have been sent out to lay salt ahead of the snow — a mistake she said wouldn't be repeated ahead of the much bigger storm arriving Friday.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama would hunker down at the White House and is confident local officials will get it right.

On Thursday, icy conditions caused accidents that killed two drivers in North Carolina and one in Tennessee. A truck with a snowplow killed a pedestrian while it was snowing in Maryland.

States of emergency were declared in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and parts of other states, where road crews were out in force Thursday. Blizzard warnings or watches were in effect along the storm's path, from Arkansas through Tennessee and Kentucky to the mid-Atlantic states and as far north as New York.

Train service could be disrupted as well, by frozen switches, the loss of third-rail electric power or trees falling on overhead wires. About 1,000 workers will be deployed to keep New York City's subway system moving, and 79 trains will have "scraper shoes" to reduce icing on the rails, the Metropolitan Transit Authority said.

All major airlines have issued waivers for travel over the weekend, allowing passengers to rebook onto earlier or later flights to avoid the storms. The flight tracking site FlightAware estimates airlines will cancel at least 2,000 flights Friday and another 3,000 Saturday, which is the slowest travel days of the week. By Sunday afternoon, however, the airlines hope to be back to full schedule.

One major event in Washington was still on: the March for Life, an annual anti-abortion rally that's usually one of the largest events on the National Mall. It will be held Friday, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.

The U.S. Capitol Police said sledding on Capitol Hill — which only recently became legal after an act of Congress — would be welcome for the first time in decades, as long as conditions are safe.

## Pope changes Holy Thursday rituals

**NICOLE WINFIELD**  
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has changed church regulations to explicitly allow women and girls to participate in the Easter Week foot-washing ritual, after having shocked many Catholics by performing the rite on women and Muslims just weeks after he was elected.

Vatican rules for the Holy Thursday rite had long called for only men to participate. Popes past and many priests traditionally performed the ritual on 12 Catholic men, recalling Jesus' 12 apostles and further cementing the doctrine of an all-male priesthood.

Shortly after his election, Francis raised conservative eyebrows by performing the

rite on men and women, Catholics as well as Muslims, at a juvenile detention facility in Rome.

He has continued to include men and women, young and old, sick and healthy and people of different faiths, traveling each year to encounter them to show his willingness to serve. It was a tradition he began as archbishop in Buenos Aires.

On Thursday, the Vatican published a decree introducing an "innovation" to the church's rules that better corresponds to Francis' way of doing things.

The decree said the rite can now be performed on anyone "chosen from among the people of God." It specifies that the group can include "men and women, and ideally young and old, healthy and sick,

clerical, consecrated and lay."

Priests must make sure that those participating are instructed beforehand as to the significance of the gesture, the decree said. While the phrase "people of God" generally refers to baptized Christians, the decree also said that pastors should instruct "both the chosen faithful and others so that they may participate in the rite consciously actively and fruitfully."

In an accompanying letter, dated Dec. 20, 2014, but released Thursday, Francis wrote to the head of the liturgy office saying he wanted to change the current rules "to fully express the significance of Jesus' gesture ... his giving of himself to the end for the salvation of the world and his unending charity."

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ALABAMA from Page 1

was spending the night in her living room. The next day, police found Campbell's partially clothed body under the bed in her apartment in the Birmingham suburb of Homewood. Prosecutors said she was bludgeoned with an 8-pound dumbbell and sexually assaulted.

Brooks' bloody fingerprint was on a doorknob in Campbell's bedroom and a latent palm print on her ankle, according to court records. The documents say Brooks was found later with Campbell's car keys and had cashed her paycheck.

At trial, defense lawyers argued another man who was at the apartment that night might have committed the killing. A prosecution witness said semen on the victim's body was consistent with Brooks' DNA.

Lawyers for the state have argued Alabama's new drug combination is "virtually identical" to one Florida has used multiple times without incident. But attorneys for Brooks had argued that

midazolam was used in problematic executions, including one in which an Oklahoma inmate took 43 minutes to die.

Six Alabama inmates contend in an ongoing lawsuit that midazolam is an ineffective anesthetic and that they would feel the effects of the subsequent injections of rocuronium bromide and potassium chloride to stop their lungs and hearts.

Earlier Thursday, U.S. District Judge W. Keith Watkins, responding to a motion by lawyers for the death row inmates, ordered prison officials to retain execution medical records, including data generated by an electronic heartbeat monitor. He didn't say whether inmates' lawyers would get to see those records.

The U.S. Supreme Court — in a split decision in June — allowed Oklahoma to proceed using midazolam.

And on Thursday evening, the Supreme Court denied Brooks' request for a stay without explanation.

VISION from Page 1

said. "You don't think ideas. You don't think philosophy. You don't think politics."

Thomas said examining his own writing is different from the way one might examine literature. He mentioned that he often discussed "Pax Romana" with Dr. Roberto Pesce, an Italian lecturer and the general director of the Baylor in Tuscany Summer Study Program. Pesce would comment on aspects of the novel that Thomas himself had never considered.

"I can't look at it analytically or critically," Thomas said. "It was something from my heart. It was something from my imagination."

As a reader, Pesce said he was able to look at the novel from a more analytical perspective, so after finishing it, he had a lot of questions he wanted to discuss with Thomas.

"Most of the time when you read a novel, you just follow the author's point of view," Pesce said. "He tells you what he wants you to see. But this novel was different, because the reader was challenged by understanding."

Pesce said the novel raised a lot of questions about reality, making the reader questions what was and wasn't real.

"That was, I think, the best part. It makes you think, and it's a very nice futuristic novel, with several twists you don't expect," Pesce said.

Cranston, RI., senior Prashant Appikarla has taken some of Thomas's Great

Texts classes.

"I think it will be a great novel because he said he's combining a lot of the literary themes that he taught from late 400 B.C.s, all the way up to including some of the themes of 'Don Quixote,'" said Appikarla.

After making his debut as a creative writer, Thomas offered some advice for other aspiring novelists.

"Learn by doing," Thomas said. "You have to have passion burning in your heart for something, something you feel really strongly about. Whether it's fiction or nonfiction, you have to believe in this. Love it, and that will come through."

Before Thomas's book was published by LifeRich, he self-published it on Amazon CreateSpace.

"I think it's a great way to start out," Thomas said. "Get your work out there, get people to read it and tell you what's right or wrong with it."

After he received feedback from reviews online, Thomas then incorporated some of that feedback in his revisions before the book was published by LifeRich.

Thomas is currently working on a sequel, "Pax Romana II: Escape from Babylon." He hopes to finish it this summer.

"Pax Romana: The Rise of Seren" is available from both Amazon and Barnes and Noble. To learn more about the book and stay up-to-date about its sequel, like the "Pax Romana" Facebook page or visit the book's official blog.



Associated Press

**CROSSING THE BORDER** Immigrants from El Salvador and Guatemala who entered the country illegally board a bus after they were released from a family detention center on July 7, 2015, in San Antonio. With thousands of Central American families arriving on the U.S.-Mexico border in the last two years, federal authorities have crafted a new plan to try to encourage more of them to show up for immigration court.

New program aims to get immigrants into U.S. court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES— With tens of thousands of Central American immigrants arriving on the U.S.-Mexico border in the last two years, federal authorities are launching a program Thursday to encourage more of them to show up for their hearings in immigration court.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement hired a contractor to help some immigrant families find transportation, housing and low-cost lawyers, hoping that getting them on stable footing will make them more likely to attend court hearings that determine whether they should be allowed to stay in the country or deported.

When immigrants show up for court, federal authorities can keep track of asylum cases to ensure those who lose return home. Advocates want immigrants to attend the hearings because they believe many of those arriving from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have a strong shot of winning asylum but must be in court to do so. Judges routinely issue deportation orders for those who don't show.

As many as 800 families who pass an initial asylum screening can join the

program in Los Angeles, New York, Washington, Chicago and Miami starting Thursday. Caseworkers will help newly arriving immigrants with tasks such as finding transportation to immigration court and enrolling their children in school. Later, they will help those who lose their bids to stay in the country head home.

The program will cost \$11 million a year and reach a tiny sliver of the 54,000 Central American immigrants with children who have arrived on the southwestern border since October 2014. It comes as the Obama administration faces court-imposed limits on the detention of immigrant families and as authorities began arresting those who lost their asylum cases in raids earlier this month.

Those eligible for the program include pregnant women, nursing mothers and immigrants with mental illness, ICE said.

"We are looking at Central American mothers, predominantly heads of households, because that is what we're seeing now as the biggest population to be served," said Andrew Lorenzen-Strait, a deputy assistant director for enforcement and removal at ICE.

Since 2014, immigrant

families have been sent to family detention centers or released and told to appear in immigration court.

Nearly 790 deportation orders have been issued for immigrants with children who have arrived since July 2014 and were detained. More than two-thirds were for those who didn't show up for hearings, court statistics show.

Advocates welcomed the new program, hoping immigrants can prove they are fleeing persecution and win the right to stay in the U.S. It faces opposition from those who want the government to quickly screen immigrants on the border and turn away those who don't qualify for asylum.

"Instead, the administration continues to take actions that encourage more illegal immigration, such as providing taxpayer benefits to those who have come here illegally," said Rep. Bob Goodlatte, the Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Immigrant advocates said newcomers are often overwhelmed when they start life here and may miss key hearings if they get bogged down with enrolling their children in school or forget to update their address with the courts.

They applauded the aid to immigrants but questioned ICE's selection of a contractor to run the program that is a unit of GEO Group, which also oversees immigration detention centers. The company declined to comment.

The Obama administration arrested 121 people with deportation orders several weeks ago in raids targeting Central Americans who came here in recent years.

Since last year, federal authorities have released immigrant families more quickly from detention centers after a federal judge ruled that mothers with children could not be held for lengthy periods of time. Some were outfitted with ankle bracelets after being freed.

Before launching the new plan, ICE ran a pilot program with two nonprofits in which participants almost always attended their immigration hearings and appointments, agency officials said.

"A lot of these people are not going to be deported," said Annie Wilson, chief strategy officer for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. "The more important question is: How should we be treating people who are going to be here, and who are going to win asylum?"

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## State of the Art: Baylor profs show off

**HELENA HUNT**  
Arts and Life Editor

Baylor faculty engage in work that goes far beyond what their students witness in the classroom. Research, visiting lectures and writing all form a significant part of the professor's working life. For professors in the department of art, their work extends into the creative realm as well. They don't just teach; they do.

At the Department of Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition, which opened Thursday in the Martin Museum of Art, students and faculty have the opportunity to see a collection of what their professors and colleagues work on outside the classroom.

The exhibit, which used to run annually alongside student work, showcases the creative preoccupations and fixations of the studio art faculty. Since two years ago, the exhibit has taken place every two years and has showcased only the work of faculty.

"It gives the faculty time to generate new work," said Allison Syltje, the director of the museum.

The exhibit is composed of the work of the 16 instructors in the studio art department. The four members of the art history faculty presented lectures yesterday on their respective research interests.

"It helps the students to see what their faculty mentors are doing," said Mary Ruth Smith, who teaches fiber art and fabric surface design.

Smith takes her own students to the museum to learn from the methods of her colleagues. Viewing the work of their teachers is helpful for them to learn the application of classroom techniques, Smith said.

The work of the studio art faculty



**CHAMBER VIII** Professor Paul McCoy draws inspiration from the squash in his own garden.



Photos by Trey Honeycutt | Lariat Photographer

**VEGGIE CREW** Professor Robbie Barber molds fruit and vegetables in sand, peels off the molds and carves into the bonded sand to create heads and faces.

ranges from Professor Terry Roller's graphic designs for Baylor University to the squash castings Professor Robbie Barber transforms into grotesque figures.

In addition to seeing the technical mastery of their teachers, the exhibit also offers students a glimpse into their thoughts and preoccupations.

"I've been working with the basic ideas surrounding these pieces for decades. The pieces ultimately derive from my wondering about life," said Paul McCoy, who teaches ceramics and drawing. "What I'm doing in the show is the same process as any person writing a journal. It's tracking my life."

McCoy's work is placed on a series of pedestals throughout the museum's second gallery. His "Chamber VIII" resembles one of the pieces of squash that grows in his garden but is made of stoneware and porcelain. It

is a combination of elements, representing the natural change and transformation McCoy said he has always been fascinated by.

Memory is another theme on prominent display in the museum exhibit. Smith's work is made by transferring dress patterns to fabric through a laminating process and embroidering the resulting outlines in thread. She chooses patterns from the 1920s through the 1950s that remind her of the clothing her mother and grandmother once made and wore. Now, she repurposes patterns like those her family once used and adds her own embellishments.

"They take me back to my childhood," Smith said. "Now, as an art professor with an art degree, I'm looking back. I'm trying to elevate it to a more artistic endeavor."

Professor Leah Force, who teaches 2-D and 3-D design, uses a similar form to reference

her own past. She has reassembled several clothing fragments that her grandmother made and, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, later destroyed with scissors. Force's work shows both family connection and the fragility of creation.

Nature, memory and the passage of time are only a small sampling of the themes and interests on display in the exhibit.

### THE DETAILS

**Martin Museum of Art Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Exhibit runs until Feb. 28.

## Made in Waco: Leslie Medlin lives and works local

**HELENA HUNT**  
Arts and Life Editor

As a fashion design major at Baylor, Leslie Medlin did what she was supposed to do. Her free-spirited undergraduate designs earned her the praise of her professors and a prestigious internship with Anna Sui in New York City.

However, despite her clear talent, her ambitions lay elsewhere. She didn't want to pursue the ideal life of the fashion designer, ruling the runways of New York City.

She wanted to start her own business, maybe something on a smaller scale, that would satisfy her own budding sense of creativity.

"I knew I wasn't made to do anything else with my life, but I was just drowning," Medlin said.

Deadlines and other workplace pressures didn't suit her, so Medlin, with her dad's help, opened her own business in Waco just after she graduated in 2010.

Coming back to Waco presented its own set of challenges, of course. Medlin's work designing clothing, southwestern-inspired scarves, and

minimalist accessories was not enough to sustain her in a town without its own Garment District.

"I just couldn't make it financially with just design," Medlin said. "I think that post-college is one of the hardest times because you have an identity crisis. We get frustrated because we start a business and it takes time. But whatever your dream is, it's worth fighting for. Every time you have a failure, it's making you better."

Now, while Medlin works in visual merchandising, designing store displays for Magnolia Market and Grae Apparel, she has her own permanent booth in Anthem Studios Artisan Market downtown and sets up weekly at the Waco Downtown Farmers Market.

"Waco needs more of what she brings," said Peter Ellis, one of the owners of the Artisan Market. "She really is a shining example of the creatives we're seeking to encourage."

Having her own space to create and sell in the Artisan Market allows Medlin to develop her fashion sensibility with fewer time and financial constraints. Her style has evolved from what she called her free-spirited college

days to something that is minimal and mature.

"The design world is so huge that you have to have your own voice," Medlin said.

For Medlin, living and working in Waco, and balancing financial and creative demands, has been a large part of developing that voice.



Courtesy Photo

**DESIGN HOUSE** Leslie Medlin at home in the Artisan Market, where she crafts and sells her designs.

### Waco weekend:

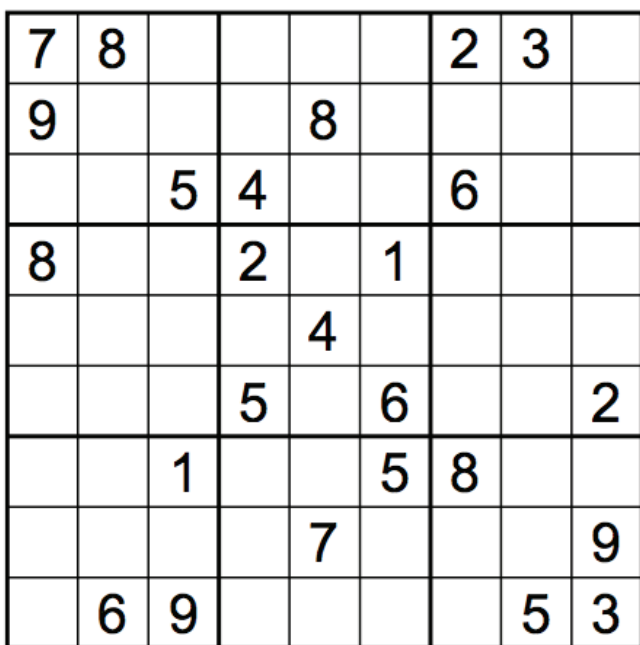
#### >> Today

**7:30 p.m.** — The Statesboro Revue with Family Folk Revival at The Waco Hippodrome

#### >> Saturday

**9 a.m.** — Waco Downtown Farmers Market

**8 p.m.** — Beautiful Eulogy with Dossey at Common Grounds



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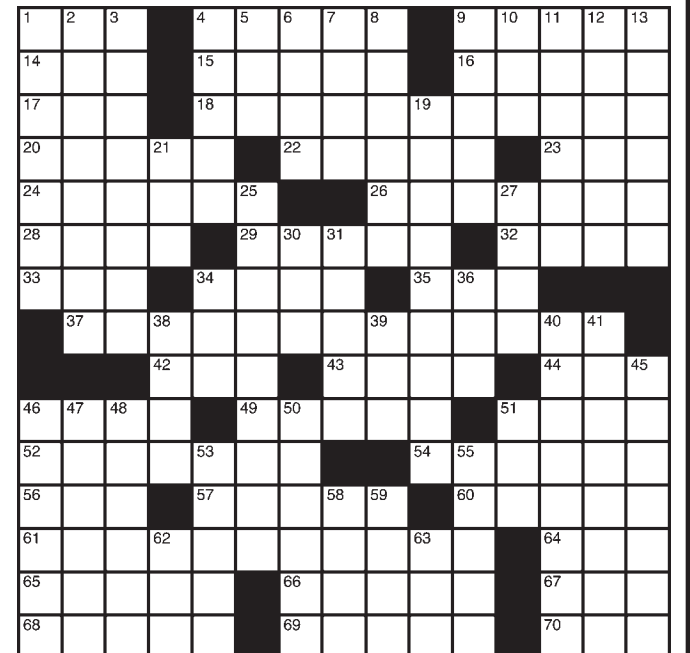
### Today's Puzzles

#### Across

- 1 Texting protocol initials
- 4 Fired (up)
- 9 Immortal Jazz trumpeter, to fans
- 14 Power \_\_\_
- 15 "That Girl" star Thomas
- 16 Chef Hall who co-hosts "The Chew"
- 17 "Bambi" character
- 18 Worker in a red, white and blue truck
- 20 Fastest of Columbus' ships
- 22 Progressive rival
- 23 Kilmer of "The Doors"
- 24 Cyclist's violation
- 26 Unlikely smartphone user
- 28 Picnic \_\_\_
- 29 Opening
- 32 "Piece of cake!"
- 33 Room for family game night
- 34 Chambermaid's supply
- 35 Hook shape
- 37 eBay event
- 42 Funds for the future, briefly
- 43 Finish filming
- 44 Done with, with "of"
- 46 Butler's home, for a while
- 49 Technician with a fork
- 51 Inactive
- 52 Lex Luthor and Superman, e.g.
- 54 Mic users
- 56 CXVI years ago
- 57 Indian royals
- 60 Belgrade natives
- 61 Document that might be subpoenaed
- 64 Mets' div.
- 65 Best Actress winner for "Two Women"
- 66 "Hooray!"
- 67 "Days of \_\_\_ Lives"
- 68 Strike out
- 69 Stuck-up types
- 70 Like freshly applied polish

#### Down

- 1 Jay Pritchett, to Manny, on "Modern Family"



- 2 Bite-size cookie
- 3 Co-screenwriter and star of "The Gunman"
- 4 University of Jordan city
- 5 Billy's cry
- 6 Uptight type
- 7 Allure rackmate
- 8 Not likely to bite
- 9 New England whitefish
- 10 Longest river entirely in Switzerland
- 11 Small stuff
- 12 Lacrosse shoes
- 13 Road hog?
- 19 Clinic service for serious injuries
- 21 Niña's aunt
- 25 Run wild
- 27 Ricky portrayer
- 30 "Think again, laddie!"
- 31 Bring forth
- 34 Dubbed dude

- 36 Additive sold at AutoZone
- 38 Hemsworth who plays Gale in "The Hunger Games"
- 39 Suffix with text
- 40 Catalog come-on ... three ways to do it begin 18-, 37- and 61-Across
- 41 Color similar to cerulean
- 45 Piece of cake, e.g.
- 46 Head piece?
- 47 Relay race closer
- 48 Shark hanger-on
- 50 Mag that merged with World Report in 1948
- 51 Picked cubes
- 53 Greek goddess of peace
- 55 Early PC platform
- 58 "\_\_\_ hardly wait!"
- 59 London district
- 62 Wii forerunner
- 63 Steal from



For today's puzzle results, go to [BaylorLariat.com](http://BaylorLariat.com).



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# Unprecedented

## No. 13 Bears, No. 1 Oklahoma clash for historic game at Ferrell Center

**MEGHAN MITCHELL**  
Sports Writer

After a double-overtime win Wednesday night against Kansas State, the No. 13 Bears look to take that momentum with them as they face No. 1 Oklahoma 11 a.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

Should the Bears win, it will be the program's first-ever win over a No. 1 team.

The game will be televised nationally on ESPN as two top 15 men's basketball teams battle for the win and first place in the conference standings.

Adding to the excitement of the game, fans are encouraged to wear green. The first 1,000 students in attendance will receive free Rudy's breakfast tacos.

The Bears (15-3, 5-1) have gone undefeated at home this season, and, more impressively, with the win against the Wildcats, the Bears took the No. 1 spot in the Big 12 for the first time in 18 years.

The Bears will also try to surpass the Ferrell Center record with a 16th consecutive home win.

With six Bears averaging double figures in conference play and the bench outscoring the opposing benches, the Bears are in good form to earn a historic victory on Saturday.

"I think it starts with the point guard. Lester Medford has been tremendous all year long," said head coach Scott Drew. "Assist and turnover ratio, Taurean Prince and Al Freeman have done a great job of improving in that area from seasons past when they were more scorers and now they are facilitators as well. We're a much tougher team to defend when you have six players in double figures."

"Our bench play has been outstanding and that has really helped us," Drew said. "We

are playing better basketball. Defensively, we are getting more stops, we are getting in transition more. Offensively, we have been exciting, shooting a pretty good percentage."

However, the No. 1 ranked Oklahoma (15-2, 4-2) team is no stranger to a challenge, and after coming off a tough loss to Iowa State on the road, the Sooners will be hungry for a win.

The Sooners have averaged 43 rebounds per game, a shooting percentage of .468, and a .721 free throw percentage.

The Bears are going to have to find a way to shut down senior guard Buddy Hield, who leads his team with 34.2 minutes of play a game and is averaging 26.1 points per game.

Drew talked about the importance of taking one game at a time and preparing for each one accordingly.

"That's why we've been successful the past four games, we've approached each game and the importance of it," Drew said. "One thing that is great about being in a conference like the Big 12, you don't have to sell your guys on how good someone is."

The Big 12 has produced some of the best talent this year, with the records and victories showing for it.

"I personally think the Big 12 is the best conference in America," said sophomore guard Al Freeman. "Every night we're going to be playing against tough teams, and you can lose on any given night. You're going to have teams taking you down to the wire every single night."

The Bears are hoping to receive full support from the Baylor fan base.

"One thing about momentum is that it is contagious, hopefully we can keep the positive momentum going," Drew said.



Penelope Shirey | Lariat Photographer

**PATIENCE** Senior guard Lester Medford handles the ball against SFA at the Ferrell Center on Nov. 13, 2015. Medford and the Bears face Oklahoma at 11 a.m. tomorrow at the Ferrell Center.



Lariat File Photo

**ALL IN THE EYES** Senior Julian Lenz focuses on a shot during the 2015 NCAA Championships at the Hurd Tennis Center on April 25, 2015.

## Lenz wins Big 12 award

**MEGHAN MITCHELL**  
Sports Writer

Baylor senior tennis player Julian Lenz was named Big 12 Player of the Week by officials Thursday after winning five-straight matches to take the 2016 Sherwood Collegiate Cup Singles Title on Monday in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

"I am happy for Julian. He played really well all weekend," said head coach Matt Knoll on Monday following the Sherwood Collegiate Cup. "This was a significant step for him. He was hurt in the fall and to come out with the focus and professionalism and the hunger that he did was a great sign for him for the spring."

Lenz, who advanced to the tournament's semifinals his junior year and to the quarterfinals his sophomore year, finally took the title his senior year after hard work and determination paid off.

"Julian has done a super job since he came back from the holiday of having the right mindset in practice," Knoll said. "He has focused on the things he wants to work on and I think that is what set him up to play so well. It is amazing how when you apply yourself in practice that carries over to the matches."

Lenz became the third Baylor player to win the Sherwood Collegiate Cup title, joining Matija Zgaga, who won it in 2006, and Lars Poerschke, who won it in 2008.

Currently at 5-2 overall, Lenz looks to keep the momentum going after losing two matches in the fall and overcame an injury.

Lenz is a key player for Baylor as the Bears look to defend their 2015 Big 12 title as he is the No. 1 player in the Bears' lineup.

Baylor will begin its 2016 season play at noon Saturday at the Hurd Tennis Center and host UC-Irvine.

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