

Baylor Lariat

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JANUARY 29, 2016

FRIDAY

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File Photo

PREVENTING CATASTROPHE Firefighters check a destroyed apartment complex near the fertilizer plant that exploded on April 18, 2013, in West. Almost three years after the West Fertilizer Company explosion, officials from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board revealed on Thursday that it could have been avoided, as proven by an investigation carried out by the organization.

Revisiting West

After three-year investigation, board concludes that fatal explosion could have been prevented

JESSICA HUBBLE & JESSICA BABB
Staff Writer & Broadcast Managing Editor

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has concluded that the fatal 2013 West Fertilizer Co. explosion could have been prevented. Board officials presented the findings from its three-year investigation at a press conference and public meeting Thursday at the Hilton Waco.

In the explosion located just 8 miles north of Waco, 15 people were killed, 260 people were injured, and more than 150 buildings were damaged or destroyed. Of the 15 people who were fatally injured 12 were emergency responders and three were members of the public. West continues to rebuild almost three years later.

The cause of ignition was not found in the investigation and neither was the start location of the fire. It was found that it took approximately 14 minutes for the explosion to occur. The fire began at 7:29 p.m. the night of April 17, 2013, and at 7:45 p.m. an opening was created by collapsing debris that let oxygen into the building. The oxygen fueled the fire, which made it hotter and heated the soot that covered the fertilizer. This is what caused the fertilizer to explode that night.

The Chemical Safety Board also found that all levels of government failed to keep buildings, homes, schools and hospitals from being built near the plant. They also presented that they found 1,300 other facilities nationwide that store ammonium nitrate.

The Chemical Safety Board is an independent federal agency that investigates industrial chemical accidents. The news conference on the final report was led by Vanessa Sutherland, chairperson and member of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, and Johnnie Banks, supervisory investigator. The report is a culmination of three years of work by an 11 member team.

"The CSB has investigated too many violent detonations," Sutherland said, "and runaway reactions like the one at West — though West was the most devastating of all."

The building was built in 1961 in open fields and was built mostly of wood and combustible materials. The fertilizer was stored in wooden bins as well. There is no federal regulation that keeps facilities from



Trey Honeycutt | Lariat Photographer

HEARING IT ALL In attendance at the meeting where U.S. Chemical Safety Board members revealed investigation findings were Navarro Mills, Phil and Cindy Calvin whose son Perry was a part of the Navarro Mills Volunteer Fire Department and died in the West Fertilizer Co. fire.

storing fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate in wood bins in buildings made of combustible materials without sprinkler systems.

"There is no doubt that West is not alone," Banks said, "and that other communities should act to determine what hazards

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StuGov rejects campus carry

SAWYER SMITH
Reporter

Student Government has decided that it will formally recommend to President and Chancellor Ken Starr and the Baylor Board of Regents that Baylor "opt out" of campus carry in a meeting Thursday night.

Campus carry refers to Texas Senate Bill 11, which requires all public universities to allow concealed guns on campus but leaves the option open to private universities. Baylor has yet to officially decide on the matter.

Over the past two weeks, student government has attempted to educate and inform the student body on the issue of campus carry. Their efforts have included an open forum discussion, public deliberation session, daily information tables and multiple focus group meetings with student leaders.

Student body President Pearson Brown, taking into consideration the concerns of those in favor for campus carry, suggested Student Senate pass a bill advising the "opt out."

Pearson and other executive council members largely cited the results from the university online poll as reason to pass the bill. Internal Vice President Lindsay Bacque said, "3,327 people participated in our poll and that is fantastic response."

Of the number of participants in the poll, it was disclosed 62 percent voted "opt out", while 34 percent wanted Baylor to "opt in", and three percent remained unsure. Despite this turnout being unprecedented in previous Student Government polling, only twenty-two percent of the entire student body participated.

The vote Thursday night passed thirty to six, but was not met by passionate opposition. Chase Hardy, a member of the student senate, contended that twenty-four well educated Texas State Senators had passed bill #11 after researching and analyzing it much more thoroughly than Student Government ever could in a matter of weeks." If this states' legislators strongly believe in campus carry for Texas universities, we should be mindful of that. They are more informed than most of us and have examined the issue more closely," said Chase.

Before the official procedural process, outsiders were given a chance to briefly make their case. A leader from the Baylor Democrats firmly stated that opting in would only increase the likelihood of gun accidents, suicides, and

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sports

Training for the Olympics: Trayvon Bromell trains to qualify for the summer Olympics in Rio. **pg. 6**

Registration for voting approaches

JESSICA HUBBLE
Staff Writer

With the 2016 primaries beginning in March, the Feb. 1 voting registration deadline is closing in quickly.

The easiest way Texas residents can decide to register to vote is during driver's license renewal. If not, one can register to vote online at www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote or go into the voter registrar's or county clerk's office to pick up an application. The only documentation required is a Texas driver's license, passport, or state-issued ID card.

When filling out a paper application potential voters should keep in mind the application must be mailed 30 days before the election.

"It's important to vote because that's someone who plays a big role in our everyday life," said Southlake sophomore Samar Aamer.

If a student is not registered to vote in the primary election, they still have time to register for the May 24 runoff by March 5. The deadline to register for the presidential election is Oct. 11.

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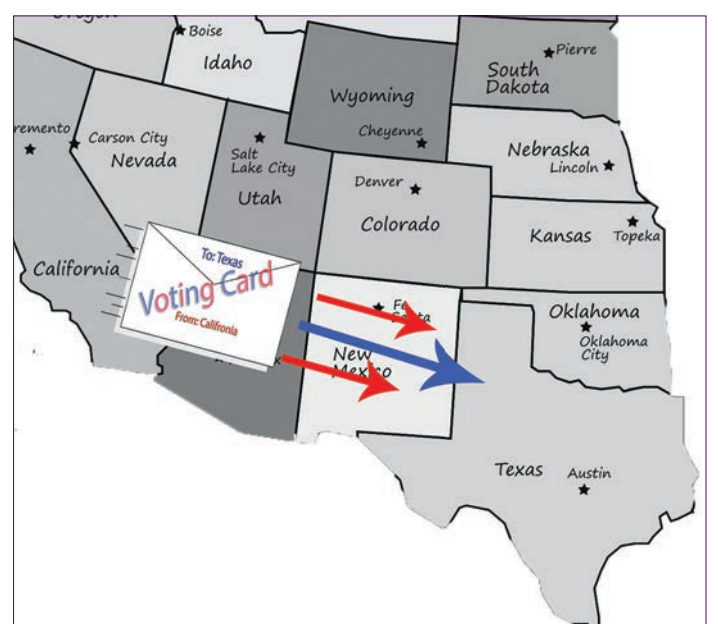


Illustration by Trey Honeycutt | Lariat Photographer

REGISTER NOW Registering to vote can be a long process for those who live out of state. As a Texas resident, one can register to vote online or by filling out a paper application.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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EDITORIAL

Force-fed?

Meal plan requirements should be more flexible for students living in residential colleges

Having a required meal plan is almost a rite of passage for every student at Baylor. With the rare exception here and there, every freshman is required to pay for a dining plan their first year. By sophomore year, students are free to choose which plan, if any, best suits their on-campus eating habits — that is, unless you live in Teal or Brooks Residential College.

The residents of these living and learning communities are required and limited to choosing between The Weekday 100, The Weekday 200, The Everyday 50 or The Everyday 150 regardless of their year classification. For a student who does not mind the extra meals, this will not be a problem. However, those who do not want one of these plans seem to be out of luck. In fact, these students will be faced with nothing but a lack of answers and misdirected authority in their search to get this restriction taken off. Someone needs to take responsibility for the enforcement of this plan and answer to the students who do not need or want to pay for one of the only four meal options offered.

A look at both the Brooks and Teal Residential College websites suggests that a meal plan is required upon approval to live in

the community. However, the first problem with this is that the meal plans are designated by Dining Services. This makes it easy for the meal plan requirements to be subject to change, as was seen this year when the top four dining packages were introduced and the old requirement of at least 11 meals per week was tossed aside.

For a student who just had a plan similar to this one last year, a change like this could come as a surprise. Hypothetically speaking, if a student were to get a meal plan of 11 meals a week last year, in the course of a 16-week semester they would be able to eat at the dining hall 176 times (not counting guest passes). By comparison, with the minimum Weekday 100 plan, a student is automatically given a pre-set number of 1,000 meals to use over the course of one semester. Despite the fact that the plan prohibits you from using any of them on weekends unless you use a guest pass, BearBucks or pay out of pocket.

Aside from potentially having too many meals going unused, the imposed meal plans don't come cheap, either. In fact, the gap between The Classic 10, which is the highest plan on the lower tier, and The Weekday 100,



asher

@asherfreeman

the lowest of the required plans for Teal and Brooks, is \$550.79. The price of a meal plan at Baylor itself is not the debate here, but rather the fact that a student has no choice in deciding how to spend their \$550.79. This amount is an especially significant figure for students who must rely on scholarships to help fund their education. It is even more unfortunate to think that a required meal plan could be the deciding factor in choosing where to live on campus.

While some may argue that having this restriction in place is the price one must pay to be part of a residential college, there is an exception to this rule that breaks down this line of logic: Honors. The Honors Residential College is a college that, unlike Brooks and Teal, does not require its upperclassmen to have any one particular dining plan. Why then are Teal and Brooks any different?

In trying to find an answer to this question and explore the possibility of having this restriction taken off, the Lariat has attempted to talk to residential college staff, the Cashier's Office, Dining Services, Aramark and Campus

Living and Learning, all of which referred us back to one of these authorities. A run-around like this is more than a nuisance. It's concerning. With thousands of dollars going into campus dining, you would think that there would be at least be one person a student could talk to concerning this restriction. After all, the residents of Teal and Brooks were never asked how they feel about the changes. The least they deserve is a person to whom they could refer all their questions or seek a suitable alternative to the issue at hand.

A description above the eight meal plans outlined on the Baylor Dining Services website reads, "At Baylor University, meal plans are convenient, flexible and loaded with options." If this is indeed the goal of offering a dining meal program, then the system has let many students at Teal and Brooks Residential Colleges down. Being unable to choose a dining plan that best suits you or talk to anyone about it is neither convenient, flexible nor gives you many options at all.

Meal plans 2015-2016

Freshmen*, Brooks College & Teal Residents	Price per semester
The Everyday All Access & 150 Dining Dollars	\$ 2,675.47
The Everyday All Access & 50 Dining Dollars	\$ 2,600.37
The Everyday All Access & 200 Dining Dollars	\$ 2,350.93
The Everyday All Access & 100 Dining Dollars	\$ 2,275.83

Voluntary Residents and Commuters can choose from any meal plan above or below.

Voluntary Residents & Commuters additional meal plans	Price per semester
The Classic - 10 meals per week & 150 Dining Dollars	\$ 1,725.04
The Basic - 7 meals per week	\$ 1,250.29
The Socialite - 5 meals per week & 150 Dining Dollars	\$ 1,000.85
The Light Eater - 3 meals per week & 250 Dining Dollars	\$ 770.68

Graphic by Hannah Neumann

*"Freshmen" are high school graduates who have not attended higher education for either a fall or spring semester after their high school graduation.

COLUMN

Dominion does not mean destruction; be good stewards of creation

DANE CHRONISTER
City Editor

I was reading an article for class the other day titled "The Historic Root of Our Ecological Crisis," by Lynn White Jr., which discusses the reason Christianity is the root of many environmental issues.

White was a professor of medieval history at Princeton and Stanford before he died in 1987. White explains that "all life forms modify their contexts" and he believed that some of these modifications were done on behalf of a specific life form's belief system.

What I got from this was in order to survive, each species and creature must adapt to fit their environment. Many species do this in the only way that they know how, survival of the fittest. Sometimes it can be beneficial if an adaptation benefits the environment and the organism living there. However, other times it can be harmful and almost parasitic, much like the way human beings tend to take resources from the earth.

White also explains, "When the first cannons were fired, in the early 14th century, they affected ecology by sending workers scrambling to the forests and mountains for more potash, sulphur, iron ore, and charcoal, with some resulting erosion and deforestation." Again this is an instance of "forms of life



modifying their context" in order to survive.

White believed these are descent concepts, but how truly do you reverse the process of this. It almost seems too idealistic. The question is can we even survive our own implications at this point, can we come back from what we have started. I don't get this graph. Can you reword it?

White mentioned in his piece that "there are many calls to action, but specific proposals ... seem too partial, palliative, negative: ban the bomb, tear down the billboards, give the Hindus contraceptives and tell them to eat their sacred cows. The simplest solution to any suspect change is, of course, to stop it, or better yet, to revert to a romanticized past."

However, in order to stop the advancement of environmental degradation, one has to first understand where the idea and the belief system began.

Christianity, White believes, could even be part of the problem. Not only did Christianity establish a dualism of man and nature, but also insisted that it is God's will that man exploit nature for his proper means.

White states that "man shares, in great measure, God's transcendence of nature and is therefore the utmost anthropocentric religion in the world."

However, God does not call man to conquer and destroy the earth. I believe God depicts to man the beauty of free will. With this freewill, man has the ability to choose to care for creation.

As I was taught, mankind should worship the creator by caring for creation. Being a good steward and caring for the earth is a way people can live a life worthy of God.

I believe that White was right about numerous things. We seem to almost be destroying ourselves through our own actions. Knowing where our advancements and ideals first began is important in order to understand where we might end up. However, I do not agree with White's belief that we will continue to have a worsening ecologic crisis until we reject certain Christian ideals.

Stewardship is a large part of what Christianity is. "For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain." -Titus 1:7

Therefore, to rule out certain Christian beliefs because of one notion in Genesis that discusses God creating man to be the ruler of the sea, land and the beasts, doesn't make sense. This verse does not mean we are to destroy creation. I believe White generalizes Christianity by one verse and fails greatly in his argument.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." - I Corinthians 4:1

We have been entrusted with something so precious that we are to govern and rule over how we use our resources. I believe God give us the opportunity to care for the environment if we so choose. There is no way to survive on this earth without using its resources. Even the air we breathe can be considered hurting or injuring the environment, which is why trees were created to replenish it. All things work together for good because of God. He is not an excuse to destroy anything.

Dane Chronister is a senior journalism major from League City. He is the city editor for the Lariat.

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Opinion

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Lariat Letters

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

Study confirms racial stereotypes

KALLI DAMSCHEN
Reporter

Young, white students at elite universities stereotype Asian-Americans as more competent than blacks and Latinos, a Baylor study found in December 2015.

"It started off with an observation that a lot of the research out there on this concept of the model minority myth about Asian-Americans mainly focused on media representations that Asian-Americans are always perceived as this racial minority that outperforms everybody else," said Dr. Jerry Park, associate professor of sociology.

To investigate whether these media representations of Asian-Americans are in line with people's perceptions, Park and researchers from other universities looked at responses from the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen. This survey asked 898 participants from highly selective universities across the country, such as Oberlin College and Rice University, how they would rate groups in terms of their intelligence, perseverance and work ethic.

Park and his fellow researchers found evidence that white students do perceive Asian-Americans as more competent, and this stereotype makes the students more likely to agree that blacks and Latinos do not work hard enough.

"We were just floored when we saw that," Park said. "It confirmed what folks have been saying about media representations and the implications of those media representations when Asian-Americans are portrayed or viewed

as more competent than other groups. You wind up having this connected relationship to your attitudes about whether or not there is such a thing as racial inequality, especially directed against blacks and Latinos."

The results of this study have potential implications in multiple domains, Park said. Stereotypes about Asian-Americans could affect one's belief about racial inequality, which could have consequences in a person's education, career or financial life. These stereotypes about Asian-Americans also tend to endure despite the education of a person's parents or the diversity of a person's friend group, the study found.

Houston junior Kat Largent has experienced stereotypes towards herself and other Asian-Americans from students at Baylor. Largent is a Baylor Business Fellow studying marketing and communications.

"I have experienced that there are stereotypes," Largent said. "Especially at Baylor, where there are so many people in health science studies. People kind of assume I'm doing the same and are usually surprised to find out I'm doing something quite different."

Though Largent said she's not too bothered by these stereotypes, the assumptions individuals make about her academic pursuits are in line with the study's findings.

The study was published in Social Psychology Quarterly. Park's previous work has been featured in several other publications. He specializes in religious media consumption, religious attitudes of academic scientists and Asian-American religiosity.

"He's nationally recognized as an expert

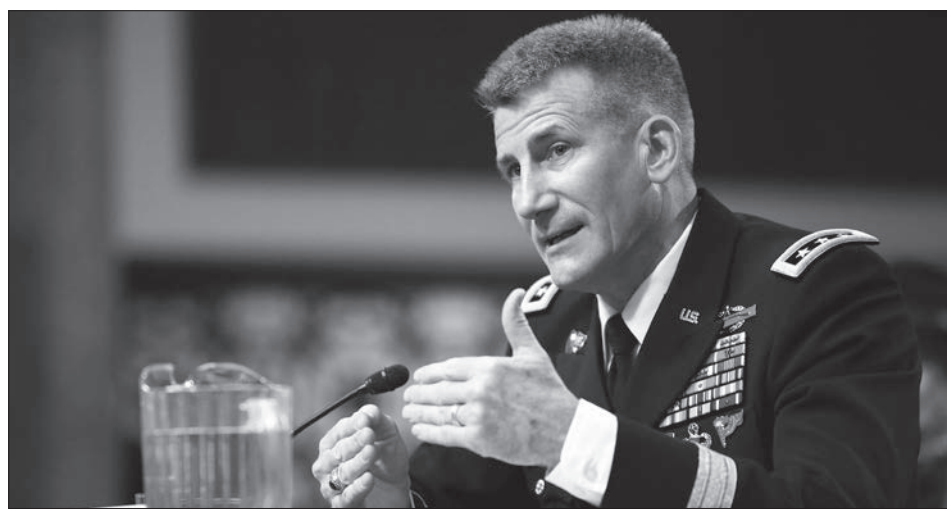


Lariat File Photo

RESEARCH Dr. Jerry Park, associate professor of sociology, along with researchers from other universities, performed a study investigating the perception of Asian-Americans. The December 2015 study polled almost 900 participants and concluded that white students tend to view Asian-Americans as more intelligent and competent than blacks and Latinos.

on the subject of race and ethnicity," said Dr. Carson Mencken, the chair of the department of sociology. "He has a good knack for finding trends in data and explaining that in ways that are sociological and tie their implications both to a broader context."

Park is now working on a follow-up study to investigate whether these stereotypes can also be observed among black, Latino and Asian students, and what implications they have on their racial attitudes and beliefs about inequalities in America.



Associated Press

SPEECH Army Lt. Gen. John Nicholson Jr. addresses the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday after being nominated to be the next U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

Nominee to lead Afghanistan forces speaks on situation

RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's nominee to be the next U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Thursday the security situation in the war-torn country is deteriorating and assured senators he will do a thorough review of American troop levels needed to stabilize the nation.

Army Lt. Gen. John W. "Mick" Nicholson Jr. told the Senate Armed Services Committee he will have a better sense of conditions in Afghanistan within a few months if he is confirmed by the Senate.

As wartime commanders must often do, Nicholson walked a fine line during his confirmation hearing. He supported the Obama administration's exit strategy, which critics have derided as politically driven, while also promising the senators his decisions will be grounded in sound military strategy.

He peppered his answers with phrases like "right-sized" and "right-sourced" to make sure Afghanistan didn't devolve into the same terrorist harbor it was before the 9/11 attacks. The U.S. mission in Afghanistan is to conduct counterterrorism missions and to train and assist the Afghan security forces.

Nicholson would succeed Gen. John F. Campbell, who is expected to retire.

There are about 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. At Campbell's urging, Obama decided last October to

abandon his plan to reduce troop levels to near zero by the end of 2016. Instead, he said they would shrink to 5,500 by the end of the year. His advisers could press Obama to maintain the current level of 9,800 troops until he leaves office in January 2017.

Asked at a Pentagon news conference whether the Taliban is making a comeback, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said: "That's happened this past fighting season. We expected that." And while the Afghans fought well last year, he said, they are still "a force-in-the-making" that can be expected to perform better this year as they gain more experience and capability.

Carter said Campbell has not recommended to him any increase in U.S. troop levels.

During an exchange with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Nicholson said he would be concerned that the military would not be able to perform counterterrorism operations if the number of American troops fell to a hypothetical 1,000 suggested by Graham.

Nicholson said he supported the decision to retain the 9,800 American troops and he agreed with Campbell's approach. But the general also said at numerous points during the hearing that he would conduct his own assessment.

The committee chairman, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opened Nicholson's confirmation hearing with a blistering assessment of Obama's handling of the war in Afghanistan and the president's adherence to a

"calendar-based withdrawal."

"By now, we should have learned from the precipitous withdrawal from Iraq and the disaster that ensued that wars do not end because politicians say so," McCain said. "Nor will any politician be able to schedule an end to the threat of radical Islamist terrorism emanating from Afghanistan or the region more broadly."

McCain prefaced a question to Nicholson about the security situation in Afghanistan with his own stark appraisal of the conditions there. He cited recent battlefield successes by the Taliban, who he said are being aided with weapons from Iran, and the presence of the Islamic State extremist group in Afghanistan.

"The view of many of us is that the security situation in Afghanistan has been deteriorating rather than improving," McCain said.

"Sir, I agree with your assessment," Nicholson said. Later, he added, "This is Afghanistan. There will always be some level of violence in Afghanistan."

Nicholson, a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a career infantry officer, is currently commander of NATO's Allied Land Command, headquartered at Izmir, Turkey. Among numerous tours of duty in Afghanistan starting in 2006, he served as deputy chief of staff of operations for the international military command and for U.S. forces in 2010. Before that he spent 14 months as director of the Pentagon's Afghanistan-Pakistan coordination cell.

New North Korea sanctions bill passes Senate committee

MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation Thursday to tighten sanctions against North Korea following its latest nuclear test explosion.

The bipartisan measure expands on legislation that passed the House two weeks ago aimed at denying Pyongyang hard currency for its weapons programs.

Republican chairman Sen. Bob Corker said the bill would "tighten the web of sanctions" as part of a policy to denuclearize North Korea and promote human rights.

North Korea already faces wide-ranging sanctions from the United States and, under existing U.N. resolutions, is prohibited from

trading in weapons and importing luxury goods.

The new legislation seeks additional sanctions — both mandatory and at the discretion of the president — against the government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and those who assist it.

It would require the investigation and punishment of those who knowingly import into North Korea any goods or technology regarding weapons of mass destruction; those who engage in human rights abuses, money laundering and counterfeiting that supports the Kim regime; and those who engage in "cyber-terrorism."

The bill also bans foreign assistance to any country that provides lethal military equipment to North Korea, and targets Pyongyang's trade in key industrial commodities.

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domestic murder violence. "Our school is not a warzone," he said, "we need to embrace and strengthen our campus safety leaders, not weapons."

Results from the public deliberation forum indicated that student opinion is very split, and strong beliefs exist on each side of the debate. Fifty-one percent encouraged Baylor to opt in and forty-nine percent said opt out.

Focus group meetings reflected oppositely with

three of eight groups expressing interest in opting out and just two wanting to opt in. The other three groups were split decision.

The question still remains if opting out will be popularly supported by the entire student body, but it has been decided for now, the Student Government will formally advise decision makers to not allow gun carry at Baylor University.



Charlene Lee | Lariat Photographer

DECISIONS The Student Senate gathers Thursday evening to discuss and vote on Baylor students' views of campus carry.

WEST from Page 1

might exist in proximity to populated areas."

Citizens can find out what proximity they live to a hazardous chemical plant, but they cannot find out exactly where that plant is, or what the plant's name is.

Several insurers that inspected the West Fertilizer facility, both liability and property, did not focus on the fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate hazards in their inspections.

"One of the things that came out of this investigation was that when West Fertilizer submitted their tier two to McLennan county the fact that they store fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate was not properly recognized," said Lucy Tyler, investigator, "and as a result of that there were changes made in the monitoring and collection of tier two reports."

Fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate is not a chemical covered in the Environmental Protection Agency's list of chemicals that require operators to adopt safety management systems for handling of the chemicals. Fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate is a stable chemical under normal conditions, but when it is heated, it becomes highly explosive.

The company had 40-60 tons of fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate. The insurance-related losses were estimated to be in the hundreds of millions.

The investigative team presented their results relating to the key issues of the West explosion being regulatory oversight, hazard awareness, emergency planning and response,

fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate storage practices and land use planning and zoning.

After the formal presentation, there was a time allowed for public commentary on the proposed recommendations. Several audience members voiced their concerns about the gaps and flaws they saw in the investigation.

"I think they did a great job investigating and everything, but I think the work starts tomorrow," Phil Calvin, a volunteer firefighter for the Navarro Mills Fire Department said. "There are more recommendations to be made."

The Chemical Safety Board created a proposal for the board with recommendations on how to prevent future incidents such as the one in West. The proposal was voted at a public gathering at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Hilton Waco. The board unanimously passed the proposed recommendations.

"The recommendations are geared to address the shortfalls we have discovered in the regulatory area and also in the areas of emergency planning and emergency response," Johnnie Banks, Supervisory Investigator said. "The point of these recommendations are prevention, and by sharing these recommendations as broadly as possible, hopefully other facilities carrying fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate story facilities would consider the construction of their storage."



Penelope Shirey | Lariat Photographer

STUDY ABROAD Going to a foreign country can present its own share of complications. Losing a passport can lead to having to pay for additional airfare or staying behind until a replacement is attained.

Drama Abroad

Issues can arise with passport loss

Last spring, Dallas senior Lauren Moore, along with several peers, boarded a train from Madrid to Maastricht - leaving behind a fellow student who had lost his passport with what little money they could scrounge up to give him. He would go on to illegally cross the Spanish-French border in the rain led by a bearded man with a staff to take a train back to Holland.

Another student on the same trip had to stay behind and buy a ticket home while she waited for the embassy to create a new passport.

Losing a passport while studying abroad does not only require a trip to the closest American embassy, but could potentially cost thousands of dollars in last-minute airfare purchases or as in Moore's case, an excursion across borders.

Though border-crossing may seem like a viable option in times of desperation, there are ways to avoid ever having to be in such dire straits.

Moore said she and her peers were advised to store their valuables in a money belt, which is like a fanny pack worn under one's clothes. But no one

chose to follow that advice, Moore said. Having a passport lost or stolen is not the only way to be stranded without identification abroad. Rochester, Minn. junior, Paige Tierney studied in France during the fall semester with a student who accidentally traveled with an expired passport.

"He went to get out of the country, and they saw that it was expired, and they held him at the border for a couple days," Tierney said. "So it was a huge ordeal to figure out the fact that he did actually have a valid passport, but he just brought the wrong one. It was just a big inconvenience."

The price of an adult passport book is \$110, excluding service fees. More information on applying and purchasing a passport can be found online at travel.state.gov.

Keeping an up-to-date passport secured in a money belt ensures students can avoid these inconveniences, as well as prepare them for the ease of travel if they are studying in Europe.

Tierney, who was in Paris when the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks took place, was still able to travel without being heckled

by police because of her American passport.

"The agents wouldn't even look inside [the passports] as soon as they saw they were American," Tierney said.

People from other countries did not get off so easy.

"There was a man from Africa that was sitting behind us and [the agents] completely grilled him with questions," Tierney said. "It was a little bit disconcerting to see the difference in how they treated us versus someone from Africa. I mean, there was major profiling going on."

Having a passport in hand has other benefits as well. Because her passport had been previously verified, Moore only needed to show her Eurail train pass while traveling between countries.

"Europe's transportation system is phenomenal," Moore said. "It's all really clean. It's all really efficient."

For more information on study abroad and exchange programs, contact the Center for Global Engagement on the second floor of the Poage Library.

Voting from Page 1

Out of state voting is a little more complicated as it varies by state.

"The absentee ballot is annoying for me because in my state I have to register so early," said Yazoo City, Miss. freshman Ariel White. "And if the people can't say what they want to happen, then they're putting their lives in the hands of other people."

To register to vote as a citizen of California that now resides in Texas the citizen

must vote by mail. The last day to register to vote by mail in California is March 29 for the April 5 primary. November 1 is the last day to register to vote by mail for the primary election.

For more information on voting by mail California residents can go to <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail/>.

Colorado also requires that absentee ballot forms be mailed in and sent in 29

days before the election. To find the form to mail in residents of Colorado can go to https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/mib_application_eng_clr.pdf.

Residents of Florida can register to vote online and by mail. Residents can also register to vote over the phone by calling their county's supervisor of elections. For more information on registering to vote using an absentee ballot

and apply online residents can visit <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/absentee-voting/>. The deadline to register for the primary there is Feb. 16.

"I personally think it's your job as an American citizen to vote," said Palatine, Ill. freshman Hope Schroeder. "A lot of people sacrificed greatly to give us this privilege. I am excited to vote for the first time and I will continually do so."

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On-the-Go >> Happenings: Follow @BaylorLariatArts and look for #ThisWeekinWaco on Twitter

BaylorLariat.com

Waco Weekend:

>> Friday

6 p.m. — Rising Sons at The Waco Hippodrome. Free.

7:30 p.m. — “Miss Nelson Is Missing” at the Waco Civic Theatre. \$10.

7:30 p.m. — “Die Fledermaus” at Jesse H. Jones Theatre. \$10 for students, \$15 for the public.

8 p.m. — Lomelda, Tapajenga, and Evan and the Condors at Common Grounds. \$5.

>> Saturday

9 a.m. — Waco Downtown Farmers Market

5:45 p.m. — Cultural Food and Dance Night at the World Cup Café. \$15 online, \$18 at the door.

7 p.m. — The Battle on the Burning Sands Step Show at Waco Hall. \$15 for floor seats, \$10 for balcony.

7:30 p.m. — “Miss Nelson Is Missing” at the Waco Civic Theatre. \$10.

7:30 p.m. — “Die Fledermaus” at Jesse H. Jones Theatre. \$10 for students, \$15 for the public.

>> Sunday

2:30 p.m. — “Miss Nelson Is Missing” at the Waco Civic Theatre. \$10.

3 p.m. — McLennan Chorale at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church. Free.

High Culture

City leaders, community members apply to turn downtown Waco into Cultural District

HELENA HUNT
Arts and Life Editor

A sun-washed Waco Suspension Bridge rose above city leaders and members of Waco’s creative community yesterday as they signed the application to make downtown Waco a Cultural District. Mayor Malcolm Duncan, City Manager Dale Fisseler and executive director of Creative Waco Fiona Bond celebrated the city and its landmarks before putting their signatures to the application.

The application for Cultural District status is the culmination of years of Waco development. If the application is approved by the Texas Commission on the Arts, downtown Waco will become eligible for state-sanctioned funding and support.

The movement to receive Cultural District status has been spearheaded by Creative Waco, a local nonprofit organization that promotes and fosters the city’s cultural growth.

“The project emerged originally from a recognition of our arts and

cultural resources,” Bond said. “Waco has an amount of activities that it didn’t have even a few years ago.”

The state has already approved 29 Cultural Districts in large urban centers like Austin and Dallas, as well as in the smaller cities San Angelo and Bryan. Last year, the state allocated \$5 million to develop and promote these districts.

If Waco’s application for Cultural District designation is approved, it will be eligible for a portion of this funding, which would be dedicated to marketing the city and its downtown area.

“It allows Waco to be promoted at the state and national levels as a place that takes the arts seriously,” Bond said.

Bond said Waco has all the necessary components to be designated a Cultural District. She listed Waco’s location at the Brazos River crossing, the opening of Magnolia Market, the success of the Baylor athletics program and the recent flourishing of businesses like Dichotomy and the Waco Hippodrome downtown among the many factors that have contributed to the city’s cultural development.



Penelope Shirey | Lariat Photographer

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED Mayor Malcolm Duncan and Creative Waco executive director Fiona Bond speak at the Waco Suspension Bridge before the signing of downtown Waco’s Cultural District application.

Creative Waco has been responsible for raising awareness of these initiatives and coordinating the different efforts to make downtown Waco a cultural destination.

Megan Henderson, the director of Waco’s Downtown Development Corporation and a member of the task force for Waco’s Cultural District application, said the city is uniquely poised to become a new Cultural District.

“People getting started in life can afford land, buildings and businesses here,” Henderson said. “If you’re excited about making art, starting businesses

or making amazing coffee, we want you here.”

Bond said these opportunities have not always existed in Waco, and the city’s recent growth is a testament to the business owners and city leaders who have made it prosper. The state’s support would make those outside Waco aware of the city’s potential as well, attracting even more creatives and entrepreneurs who want to call Waco home.

“Waco has had its ups and downs along the way, but it has all the ingredients to be a great cultural hub,” Bond said. “It’s time. It’s Waco’s time.”

Lomelda, Tapajenga come home to Waco

HELENA HUNT
Arts and Life Editor

Hannah Read doesn’t live in Waco anymore. But in her band Lomelda’s song “Brazos River,” and throughout album “Forever,” she remembers the city, and the nights she rode her bike down University Parks Drive to watch the sun rise from the Waco Suspension Bridge.

As she sings in “Brazos River,” Read drove away from Waco to see all the things she hadn’t seen before. But instead of going north, as she does in the song, she went south to Austin in pursuit of a career in music. Her bandmate, drummer Zach Daniel, stayed in Waco, and now the two commute to rehearse, record and perform together. Today, Lomelda and fellow Waco-rooted bands Tapajenga and Evan and the Condors come back to Waco to play a \$5 show 8 p.m. at Common Grounds.

Read, Daniel and former bandmember Andrew Hulett played their first show as Lomelda at Common Grounds, where Read worked while she was an undergraduate at Baylor.

“There’s something about Waco that makes it a great place to work and create,” Read said. “The cost of living is low, and you have the luxury of time to make music because you’re not always stuck in traffic.”

Lomelda recorded its most recent album “Forever” in Waco and released it in October. Read said the album’s expansive melodies and complex rhythms came out of recording in the heat and quiet of Waco’s



Photo Courtesy of Madeline Harvey

FOREVER AGO Lomelda members Hannah Read and Zach Daniel play a homecoming show at Common Grounds tonight.

summer.

“Waco was extremely influential in the sound and themes of that record,” Read said. “The welcoming attitude of people, and also the more isolating tendencies you can have in a town like that where there’s not a huge music identity, affected the music.”

While Waco may not have the musical identity of her new home in Austin, Read found a few local musicians to play and perform with during her time here. In 2011, she was a member of the band Dormer with her brother Tommy Read and guitarist Paul Mitchell, who now plays in Tapajenga.

Mitchell has been playing in Austin with Tapajenga for the last year. Before that, he started at Baylor in

2005, taking three years off after his sophomore year to play in local bands like Dormer, Goodfellow and Judas Feet. During his time as a musician in Waco, he played with Read, her brother and Evan Lecker of Evan and the Condors.

“Playing with people like Evan, Hannah and Tommy Read shaped me a lot,” Mitchell said. “When I moved to Waco I just knew how to play chords on guitar. When I lived there, I learned how to actually play.”

Mitchell also worked at Common Grounds during his time here, splitting time between the coffee counter and the stage. He said he continues to consider Waco his hometown and looks forward to any opportunity to play with old friends and bandmates.

Of course, Tapajenga’s style has changed since the band worked in Waco full-time. Mitchell said his songs have become far calmer than they used to be, perhaps as a sign of his own growing maturity.

Read said Lomelda’s music has changed as well, adopting more varied tones and textures to exert a stronger emotional pull on the band’s audiences. However, Read said the band has held to the intentions it had when it played its very first show at Common Grounds.

“The core of Lomelda has always been the same. We talk a lot about home and what it means to be with other people, connecting and interacting,” Read said.

When Lomelda, Tapajenga and Evan and the Condors play tonight, they will be coming home, in a way, to the place where they got their first start.

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Today’s puzzles

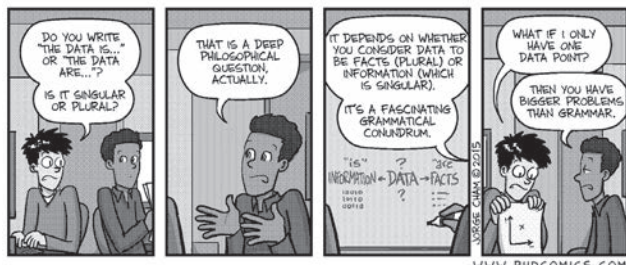
Across

- 1 Takes shape
- 6 Military installations
- 11 Armonk, N.Y.-based tech company
- 14 Quarterback with the 2011 autobiography “Through My Eyes”
- 15 Tell’s target
- 16 PBS funder
- 17 Downpour
- 19 40-yr.-old NBC show
- 20 Mature insect
- 21 Singer Vannelli
- 22 Fairy tale word
- 25 Weasel relative
- 29 Horned Frogs’ sch.
- 30 Spot
- 31 Forward, in a way
- 32 Ankle bones
- 34 Put up
- 35 1980 sci-fi thriller, and a hint to this puzzle’s circles
- 40 Sister of Clio
- 41 Drive respondent
- 43 It’s usually taken in twos
- 46 Rival
- 48 Reason for adolescent angst
- 49 1988 Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner
- 51 Only
- 52 Mythical arrow shooter
- 53 Key
- 55 2014 FIFA World Cup champion: Abbr.
- 56 Christmas, for many
- 62 “Wheel of Fortune” buy
- 63 “___ Grows in Brooklyn”
- 64 Carrot family herb
- 65 ___ jacket
- 66 About 17 of them equal a United States dollar
- 67 Toyota’s luxury division

Down

- 1 Former Ford model
- 2 Poetic preposition
- 3 Japanese sash
- 4 Tinseltown vehicle

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52								53			54		
55					56	57	58	○	○	○	59	60	61
62								63			64		
65											67		



For today’s puzzle results, please go to BaylorLariat.com

- 5 Show off a butterfly, perhaps
- 6 Snack sack
- 7 Grilling garment
- 8 Place to kick back
- 9 Whitney, by birth and by education
- 10 D.C. VIP
- 11 As found
- 12 “Pride and Prejudice” family name
- 13 NBA great Karl
- 18 Scruff
- 21 Underground chamber
- 22 Polo Grounds slugger
- 23 Univ. sports organizer
- 24 Circular lock
- 26 Drops the ball
- 27 Track competition
- 28 Penny ___
- 30 “The Treasure of the ___ Madre”: Bogart classic
- 33 Beer orders
- 34 Tokyo, long ago
- 36 Vice squad tactic
- 37 Peak south of Stromboli
- 38 Automaker Ferrari
- 39 Get dirty
- 42 Map abbr.
- 43 Generation-to-generation span
- 44 Calm
- 45 Illinois county or its seat
- 46 Drops a line
- 47 European capital
- 50 Tape, maybe
- 51 “Goosebumps” series author
- 54 Ben Gurion carrier
- 56 Drivel
- 57 Emptied the feedbag
- 58 Govt. collection agency
- 59 Twice cinq
- 60 Pac-12 sch.
- 61 “Of course”

THIS WEEKEND>> @BaylorMBB vs. Georgia, 3 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center

BaylorLariat.com

Road to Rio starts at BU

BRAUNA MARKS
Reporter

During his two-year collegiate career at Baylor, Trayvon Bromell built himself a future that only seems to beam brighter as his career goes on.

In late October last year, the 20-year-old Bromell from St. Petersburg, Fla., a junior in college, became a professional sprinter and signed a sponsorship deal with New Balance.

This year, the ultimate goal is the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, this summer.

In 2014, Bromell highlighted the beginning of his collegiate career at Texas Relays, where he ran 10.01 seconds in the 100-meter race to tie the world junior record.

Later that year, he claimed the NCAA Outdoor Championship and the USA Junior Championship titles in the same event.

He also holds the school record for the indoor 60-meter and 200-meter and the overall record for the 100-meter.

Bromell is now a professional athlete, but he continues to walk campus as a full-time Baylor student.

Taking classes during the day and training in the afternoons at the Clyde Hart Track and Field Stadium with Baylor's assistant track coach Michael Ford, Bromell balances the life of a Baylor student and an aspiring Olympian.

It seems like nothing has changed, but in the spotlight, almost everything has.

A few weeks ago in Lexington, Ky., Bromell claimed the fastest time in the world in the 60-meter race



Photo Illustration by Sarah Pyo, Charlene Lee and Skye Duncan

NO FEAR Junior Trayvon Bromell decided to step away from his Baylor track career and run full speed into pursuing a professional sprinting career after signing a contract with New Balance last October. Bromell has his sights set on representing the U.S. in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

with a time of 6.55 seconds and then improved in finals with 6.54 seconds.

According to Bromell, even those times have room for improvement.

"It felt great. It wasn't my best race and I feel like it could have been better," Bromell said. "But it was a good feel and it was a good reach this early in the season for my second race. I feel like the season's going to be great."

Last season, Bromell won bronze at the IAAF World Championships in the 100-meter race, coming in behind Olympians Usain Bolt and Justin

Gatlin with a time of 9.92 seconds. Bromell is the youngest U.S. athlete to ever medal in this event. Ford said this achievement was a big step for Bromell.

"Winning USA Championships this year is my personal goal for him," Ford said.

"I've seen the #Rio2016, but for me it's #USATrials2016 because without placing in the top three, there is no Rio."

Bromell explained that his goal for 2016 is simply to be better than he was in 2015 by staying healthy,

getting stronger and becoming faster.

These goals seem almost effortless for his talent and speed.

However, Ford said Bromell knows how to work hard and persevere.

Bromell managed to recover from breaking both his legs and hip in high school and came back after three years to cut his times nearly in half.

"He's always wanting to get better, and that's rare for a 20-year-old," Ford said. "He's doing things most athletes at his age wouldn't be doing."

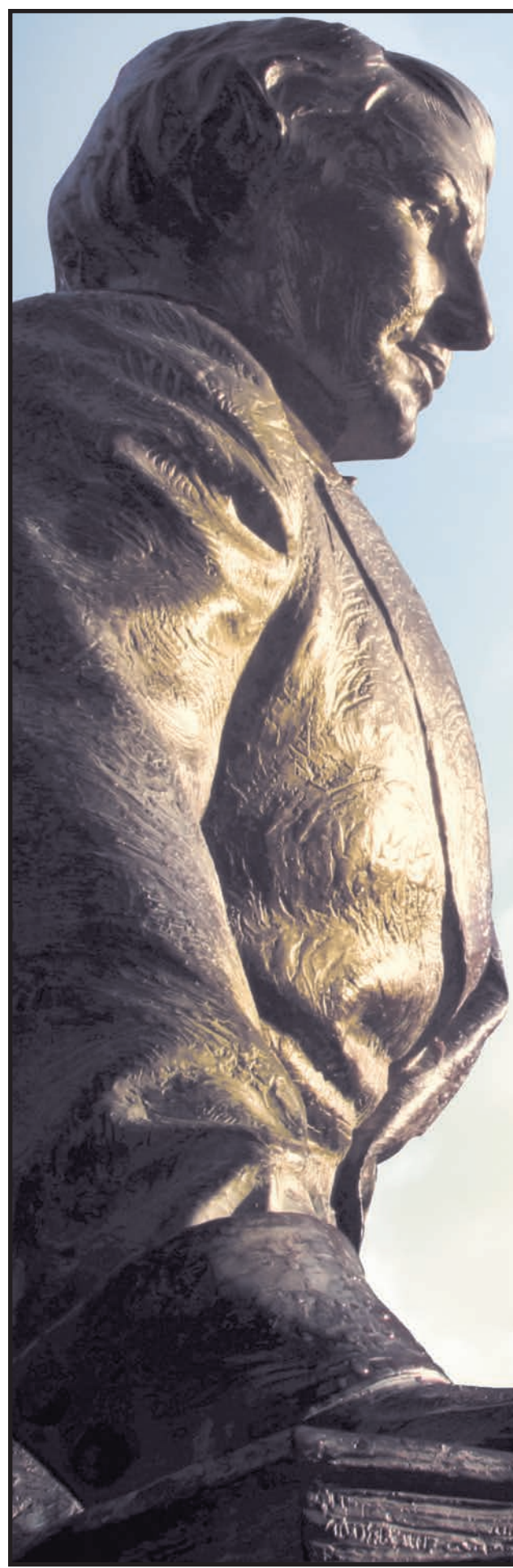
Bromell's season will continue in preparation for the U.S. Olympic

Team trials for track and field, dated for early July, and the 2016 Olympic Games that occur throughout August.

The motivation and drive that this young athlete has is just another reason to fling our green and gold afar.

"I run because it's a way to get closer to God," Bromell said. "When I'm on the track for those nine seconds, I feel like everything is free."

"Every day I have to go out there and do what I have to do. When I step on the track I have to give 110 percent and never give up."




Celebrating Baylor Founders Day

F E B R U A R Y 1

On February 1, 1845, the Republic of Texas established Baylor University – the state's oldest continuously operating university. Our Founders – R.E.B. Baylor, James Huckins and William Tryon – envisioned a university that would grow and advance over time while remaining dedicated to excellence in higher education grounded in Christian faith. Each member of the Baylor family plays an important role in the continuing Baylor story.

In honor of our founders, the University annually bestows one of its highest honors – the Founders Medal – to a member of the Baylor family whose life is a testimony of love and service to the University. This Founders Day, we also celebrate and say "thank you" to 2016 Founders Medal recipient **Louise Herrington Ornelas**.

She has contributed immeasurably to Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing, named in her honor, including gifts to the Lou Ornelas Endowment for the School of Nursing; student scholarships; and to support the simulation lab. A recent gift allowed the purchase of a building in Dallas to provide for the school's continued growth.



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