

Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

MARCH 29, 2018

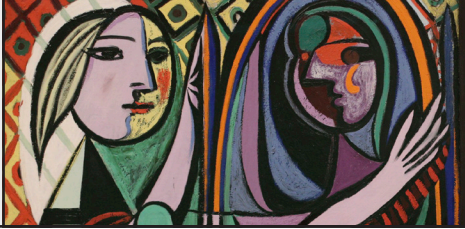
THURSDAY

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

Opinion | 2

Endorsements

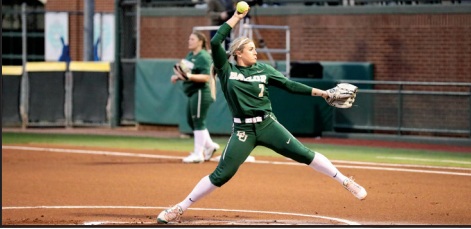
Elections are next week. Here's who we endorsed this year.



Arts & Life | 5

Tortured Artists?

Professionals weigh in on pain behind artwork.



Sports | 7

Softball vs. OU

Softball takes on No. 2 OU in conference play opener.



LAUGHING LEADERS Lila Holley, DeLisa Russell, Elizabeth Palcaios and Amye Dickerson laugh along with Pearl Beverly (speaking) as Beverly shares her story of how she has reformed Multicultural Affairs at Baylor.

Leading Women

Women share stories of servant leadership

BROOKE HILL
Copy Editor

Eight female leaders from the military, the campus and the community encouraged students Wednesday at the Bobo Spiritual Life center with their stories of servant leadership.

The panel opened up discussions on transitioning between stages of life, perceptions of femininity and advice on how to become the best leader.

Combat veteran, retired US Army chief warrant officer and award-winning author Lila Holley, said she didn't have a proper support system when she started the transition from active duty to civilian after serving for 14 years.

"I went into it like everything else in my military career with a can-do attitude, but I hit a brick wall. It hit me right in the face," Holley said. "It becomes who we are. I was a soldier for 22 years, it's who I was, I was chief ... It was who I embodied. When it came time for me to

take the uniform off for the last time to make that transition, those emotions, that was the brick wall I hit. And I really wasn't ready for it, it really caught me off guard ... in my transition I realize one big thing. I didn't have a healthy system to process those emotions."

Holley said the public should be gentle with veterans, as it took three to five years for her to really feel like herself again.

"Who are you now that that uniform is off?" Holley asked. "What are the things you're passionate about? It may seem like an easy question to answer, but who are you, to a soldier? I'm a soldier. Once that uniform comes off, who am I now? That was a tough questions to answer."

DeLisa Russell, Director and Military Veteran Peer Network Coordinator for Veterans One Stop, is the daughter, wife and mother of veterans and actives. As a civilian, she said people sometimes underestimate all she does to support those in the military. Her time to step up came when America went to war with

Iraq, she said.

"This brokenness, this thing that people are going through, I didn't learn about that at Baylor," Russell said of the war. "I didn't learn about this in the book. But we've got to do something."

Senior veteran Katy Humphrey's baby, Millie, became internet famous when Humphrey brought her to class after her babysitter cancelled last minute. Her professor picked Millie up and calmed her for the duration of class after she had gotten fussy. Humphrey said she felt called to lead after two of her friends lost their legs overseas and she felt called to help them after they became double amputees.

"I felt this calling to just be helpful," Humphrey said. "I don't know if it's because I'm a woman or because I was higher rank ... I just felt this need to take care of others and I felt I could do it in a different capacity, better. Especially with women, you just juggle, and you just do. I think the military can definitely help

LEADERSHIP >> Page 4

Dan Coats

talks Trump, North Korea

DIDI MARTINEZ
Digital Managing Editor

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats says he remains "skeptical" of Kim Jong Un's upcoming talks with President Donald Trump, citing what he sees as time lost through concessions and broken promises over the years.

The former U.S. Senator and ambassador to Germany spoke at Baylor University on Wednesday ahead of a speaking engagement at an intelligence conference in Austin.

Coats was appointed as the fifth director of the agency by Trump last January and has since been tasked with providing the president with daily intelligence briefings. He said that on Tuesday his intelligence team met with Trump for over an hour to catch the president up to speed on the latest developments abroad.

Coats said the intelligence community is non-political, but that there is "a lot of turmoil going on in Washington." Still, this hasn't left Coats out of the political realm as he has become a leading voice in the ongoing threats presented by North Korea.

"North Korea will be among the most volatile and confrontational WMD threats to the United States over the next year," Coats said in an on the record assessment of threats abroad.

As Trump prepares to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Coats' evaluation of possible negotiations have become even more prevalent.

"That if they just want to talk or if they just want to buy time, we've seen that movie and we're not gonna do that again," Coats said. "Maybe we want to look at a different approach and actually, we have a different approach now because what we're saying is commitment to denuclearize has to be the first issue addressed, not the last issue to be addressed."

Coats pointed to experience as a factor to consider as the country moves forward with talking to North Korea. The 74-year-old intel officer pointed to a failed six-year effort in working with the rogue state in the early 2000s as reason enough to go into negotiations with caution.

At the event, which was held in the McClinton Auditorium at the Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation, Coats said keeping up with emerging technology has become a "challenge" for the intelligence community.

"We have to stay ahead of the game," Coats said. "This is why we are looking at young people. Those kinds of skills are coming out of the younger generation."



Coats

COATS >> Page 10

Habitat for Humanity puts on egg hunt fundraiser

RIDER FARRIS
Reporter

Baylor's Chapter of Habitat for Humanity held its second annual Easter egg hunt fundraising event Wednesday at the Student Union Building Bowl. The event helped raise money for the Waco regional Habitat for Humanity group.

Keller junior Connor Danaszewski, president of Baylor's Habitat for Humanity organization, said the event was so successful last year that they decided to hold the event again. Attendees had the opportunity to make a donation for the ability to hunt for eggs containing coupons, vouchers and gift cards.

"We just wanted to have something that was fun," Danaszewski said. "We felt like this wasn't going to be a drag. We're older — we thought 'how fun would it be

to go on an Easter egg hunt?' because we don't get to do that anymore."

Members of Baylor Habitat for Humanity started planning the event in January and spent the weeks leading up to the event going around to different businesses asking for prizes to give away at the event. Over 150 coupons or food vouchers were collected and placed into the over 1,200 eggs that were stuffed for the event.

"I was shocked at how many businesses that you walk up and just mention Waco Habitat and suddenly a lightbulb goes off and they go in the back and like 'here you go'," Danaszewski said. "And they hand you this huge fat stack of buy-one-get-ones and you're like 'sweet'."

Over the course of the semester, Baylor Habitat works with Waco's Habitat for Humanity group to conduct

repairs and construction projects throughout the community. Every once in a while, members of Baylor Habitat for Humanity will also meet up to help with emergency repairs for those in need. Edwardsville, Ill. junior Austin Pizzini, vice president of Baylor Habitat for Humanity, said the event is an easy way for students to get involved and help out.

"We go out and work hand in hand with Waco Habitat for Humanity helping families build their homes," Pizzini said. "Otherwise, they would have to hire contractors out to do minuscule tasks that we as an organization can do through our service. It is a great way for students to give back not only to our organization but in an indirect way back to Waco."

Baylor's chapter of Habitat for Humanity also volunteers at the biannual half-off sale

at the Waco Habitat for Humanity Restore located downtown. This store sells donated home improvement items at a fraction of the cost.

Danaszewski said Baylor Habitat for Humanity wanted to make sure attendees got their money's worth at the Easter egg hunt event. He said participants had a one-in-seven or one-in-eight chance of getting something good in their egg. He said the event was planned to be a fun way to raise money.

"It's supporting a good cause," Danaszewski said. "A lot of people have at least heard of Habitat, or at least heard of it mentioned, but a lot of them aren't super familiar with the work. And if I can even educate some of the people that are brand new coming out, that'd be a great thing because it really is a great organization to be a part of."



TEAMWORK Members of Baylor Habitat for Humanity smile at their second annual Easter egg hunt.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu

We endorse Allaire, Larson, Simpson



AUSTIN ALLAIRE
Student Body President

The Lariat identified Huxley, Iowa, junior Austin Allaire as the best candidate for student body president. Allaire has spent time in student government as both a student senator and the director of communications, and offered the most clear outline of his goals for the office. He also serves as a community leader in Martin Residence Hall.

Allaire’s campaign is based on affordability, accountability and accessibility. He said he recognizes the strengths Baylor has in unity and tradition, but believes there is always room to improve.

Among Allaire’s plans for next year is an increase in Counseling Center resources for students, as well as an added Title IX reporting center on this side of the I-35. These ideas resonated particularly with us, as we have supported expansions in both of these departments.

Allaire’s vision is to build a “Baylor that works for everyone on the campus [and] reaches everyone that calls this place home.”



ELIZABETH LARSON
Internal Vice President

For internal vice president, the Lariat endorses the re-election of Fort Worth junior Elizabeth Larson. Although Larson is running unopposed, she has proven to be an integral part of Baylor, has accomplished a great deal in her time as IVP, and certainly deserves another term.

Larson told the Lariat she views herself as a facilitator, and has had the unique opportunity to work with both students and administration, as the IVP also serves as the president of Student Senate.

Various passions have presented themselves to Larson in the last year, but her main running points include reforming transportation on campus, as well as updating campus security and decreasing food insecurity.

In particular, Larson hopes to provide students who ride the bus to and from Baylor with an awning to protect them from rain or sunlight. Larson said she sees her job as very practical, and hopes to continue serving students in the “right now.”



SLOANE SIMPSON
External Vice President

For the position of external vice president, the Lariat endorses San Antonio sophomore Sloane Simpson. Simpson has served on student government since her freshman year as both secretary/treasurer and director of student organization engagement, and stood out as a detail-oriented and driven candidate.

Simpson said she hopes to integrate the people of Waco more with Baylor students by creating a monthly meeting on campus called “Waco Wednesday’s.” She also hopes to connect students to alumni to benefit the students through mentorship, and the alumni by allowing them to still be involved at Baylor.

Simpson also said one of her goals is to develop an event or conference where the Baylor community can come together and focus “not on what separates everyone, but what makes everyone come together.” Another hope for Simpson is to involve as many voices in student government as possible.

EDITORIAL

Learn to recognize the effects of systemic racism

This country needs to wake up. People need better awareness of the fundamentally challenged society African-Americans live in. Flaws in our justice system, economic policy and social awareness have been an issue since this country was established.

We’ve been raised in a country filled with stereotypes and improper practices in regards to African-Americans. As a country, we must notice these flaws and question why things seem to typically be a certain way rather than just accepting what seems to be the status quo.

We should pay more attention to government representatives in charge of changing policy to aid this damaged social climate. We should be more aware of the way our lawmakers view members of different ethnic communities, along with any preconceived notion that may be attached. We shouldn’t judge people we see struggling from unemployment, but rather, try to find solutions.

For far too long, America’s overall response to struggling African-Americans was for them to simply pull up their bootstraps and find a way to do better and try harder. Instead of trying to truly trying to see their struggles on all sides, we fall to accepting common stereotypes: “They have no excuse, they should just work harder,” “They’re just lazy, thats why they don’t have a job,” or “If they just work hard they can be

successful.” Rare is it to find people cognizant of the disparities between races systematically throughout the United States. There needs to be an awareness that things aren’t equal, and even if constitutional laws say things are, change is still necessary.

A recent study led by researchers at Stanford, Harvard and the Census Bureau suggested that income inequality between blacks and whites is not based on coincidence.

African-American boys raised in the United States earn less later in their adult life than white boys, even if they were raised under similar economic conditions.

“White boys who grow up rich are likely to remain that way. Black boys raised at the top, however, are more likely to become poor than to stay wealthy in their own adult households,” the New York Times reported in its article on the study’s findings.

The study followed over 10,000 boys who came from what was considered to be a rich family. The experiment concluded that black men, even when growing up next to wealthy white men, get along worse than 99 percent of them in America.

Struggles and misconceptions surrounding the African-American community seem to start with unemployment and incarceration.

The Washington Post reported that African-American men are two times more likely to be unemployed than white people.



Rewon Shimray | Cartoonist

“This fact was as true in 1954 as it is today. But the economic picture for black Americans is far worse than those statistics indicate. The unemployment rate only measures people who are both living at home and actively looking for a job,” the article reports.

Part of this struggle has to do with the striking numbers in which African-American men are incarcerated in the United States.

With disparities in arrests and sentences, the growth that the prison population has seen within the last 40 years has severely affected the black community. Many African-Americans are unable to get jobs to begin with because of these incarcerations. These numbers begin to perpetuate the cycle that we currently are in as a society.

Reform is necessary to fix some of the gaping holes between the white

community and black community. While the change may not happen quickly, the problem must at least be noticed by the citizens of this country. Without the awareness of a problem, it can never be solved. We must look past what we think of as being due to coincidence, and instead start adapting our mindset to help craft a reformed society.

Meet the Staff

- | | |
|--|--|
| EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Bailey Brammer* | SPORTS EDITOR
Nathan Keil |
| PRINT MANAGING EDITOR
Molly Atchison* | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Jessica Hubble |
| DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR
Didi Martinez | OPINION EDITOR
McKenna Middleton* |
| SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Kaitlyn DeHaven | CARTOONIST
Rewon Shimray* |
| NEWS EDITOR
Kalyń Story* | STAFF WRITERS
Julia Vergara
Micaela Freeman
Thomas Moran |
| ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Adam Gibson | SPORTS WRITERS
Ben Everett
Max Calderone |
| DESIGN EDITOR
Penelope Shirey | COLUMNIST
Collin Bryant* |
| COPY EDITOR
Brooke Hill | BROADCAST MANAGING EDITOR
Christina Soto |
| ARTS & LIFE EDITOR
Meredith Wagner | |

- | |
|--|
| BROADCAST REPORTERS
Elisabeth Tharp
Rylee Seavers
Meredith Aldis
Branson Hardcastle |
| MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISTS
Baylee VerSteeg
Josh Aguirre
MJ Routh
Ryan Barrett |
| AD REPRESENTATIVES
Josh Whitney
Evan Hurley
Sheree Zou
Quinn Stowell |
| MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE
Luke Kissick
Caden Bell |
| DELIVERY DRIVERS
Cayden Orred
Alexis Whiteford |

Contact Us

- General Questions:**
Lariat@baylor.edu
254-710-1712
- Sports and Arts:**
LariatArts@baylor.edu
LariatSports@baylor.edu
- Advertising inquiries:**
Lariat_Ads@baylor.edu
254-710-3407

Opinion

- The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents, the student body or the Student Publications Board.
- ### Editorials, Columns & Letters
- Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.
- ### Lariat Letters
- To submit a Lariat Letter, email Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

Students receive prestigious toxicology awards

MICAELA FREEMAN
Staff Writer

Oxford, Miss. senior Yoomin Jo and Houston senior Dan Dinh received awards from the Society of Toxicology, the nation's leading scholarly society in the field of toxicology.

On Mar. 11, Jo, a University Scholar concentrating in environmental health science received the Pfizer Society of Toxicology undergraduate research travel award at its 57th annual meeting in San Antonio. Jo was one of only 14 recipients of the award recognized.

Jo said that the award and her research has greatly affected her time at Baylor and looks forward to the future.

"I have been working on this project for two years, and even though it's been quite challenging it has been very worthwhile," Jo said. "I have learned a lot by working closely with professors and graduate students who are always willing to help and who have become great mentors throughout these two years."

The past four years for Jo, she said, have been full of opportunities and has helped her further her research in many ways with help from

professors and support from friends.

"For the most part, Baylor professors are very approachable when it comes to working with undergraduate students," Jo said. "All of my friends are currently working on a wide array of thesis projects in very diverse topics such as: agricultural practices in Vietnam, holistic health in Brazil and democratic peace processes in Latin America."

On Mar. 13, Dinh, who studies environmental health sciences, received an award from the risk assessment specialty section. Dinh was the only undergraduate to receive this award, and was also selected as one of the top 10 submissions in human health risk assessment for her abstract at the Society of Toxicology international conference.

Distingusihed professor of environmental science Dr. Bryan Brooks said on the Baylor Proud blog that he is ecstatic with both Jo and Dinh for their research and representation of Baylor.

"I couldn't be more excited for Dan and Yoomin. Their dedication to research in environmental health science, facilitated by Baylor's support of experiential learning and

STEM education, research and service, is exemplary. To be awarded by the Society of Toxicology for their research represents gold-standard recognition of Yoomin and Dan's accomplishments as outstanding undergraduate researchers at Baylor."

As an advocate for toxicology, Jo said she hopes her research helps other comprehend the effects of toxicology and her research.

"Through this study, we want to achieve a better comprehension of alternative toxicological models in order to better understand the toxicity of the thousands of unknown compounds in our environment," Jo said.

Dinh, who is Baylor Habitat for Humanity Fundraising Chair, said Baylor has aided her in her research and that working with fellow professors has encouraged her to pursuit competitive research.

"Professors within our department are very eager and willing to expose students to research," Dinh said. "I started out working as a lab assistant in the Brooks lab and that's how I started this independent research project."

Jo said she is looking to further her research

“I have been working on this project for two years, and even though it's been quite challenging, it has been very worthwhile.”

YOOMIN JO |
HOUSTON SENIOR

at graduate school and is grateful for the opportunities Baylor has given to her.

"Thanks to this experience and their guidance I have been able to discern that I would like to build a career as a researcher," Jo said.

LAST CHANCE

to take your senior portraits

TUESDAY, MARCH 27 - THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Noon – 7 p.m., Moody Library Foyer

Sunday best is required. Cap and gown photos will also be taken.
Make your appointment at thorntonstudio.com using school code 03545.
Walk-ins are also welcome.



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

E-mail the student's name & ID number to roundup@baylor.edu or order online via BearWeb.

All yearbooks cost \$80, will be charged to the student account and mailed in Sept. 2018 to the student's permanent address on BearWeb.

*We mail the yearbook to most locations, excluding Baylor P.O. boxes, Waco apartments, Baylor-area residences and areas outside the continental United States. Students who list their current address as "permanent" often move out without updating their Baylor records, resulting in returned books and wasted postage. Students at these addresses can pick up their books at our office. Haven't received a previous yearbook you paid for? Call 254.710.4562 or email roundup@baylor.edu.

Photo by Kyle Wang

COATS

from Page 1

Indeed, the director made various references to the DNI’s career’s website as a place for Baylor students to start considering a job in the field.

“I came to Baylor because I thought this was a rich ground for people who have a balanced view of who they are,” Coats said. “...to provide

the leadership we need.”

An effort to bring the leader on campus was an effort undertaken through the work of the Baylor Ambassadors, who lobby on behalf of the university in Washington D.C. and Austin.

Kyle senior Nik Fisher, Baylor Ambassador president, said they were able to get

Coats to arrive in Waco through various contacts within Baylor’s Office of Government Relations.

“We are just very thankful that he was able to stop by and hopefully inspire and open some minds on Baylor’s campus,” Fisher said.

Puppy Therapy Break



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Journalist

HAPPY HEART Remington, a therapy dog from Angel Paws, greeted students in the BARC Wednesday night.

Bear Briefs

Mayborn to host molecule talk

As a part of Science Thursdays, the Mayborn will host Dr. Touradj Solouki for a presentation at 7 p.m. Solouki will be leading an in-depth discussion about how molecular signatures of biological fluids can be used as early markers of human diseases such as cancer. Solouki will be discussing his own research and the instruments his team has developed in their laboratory. Cookies and beverages will be offered at 6:30 p.m.

McLane offers tours

Tours of McLane Stadium will be offered on March 30 and 31 at 12:00 p.m. The tour costs \$10 and is a 90-minute experience. The tours kick

off in Bruiser’s Locker Room. Participants will get a sneak peek of the Baylor Bear’s Locker Room, the Presidential Level, the Press Box, Recruit Lounge, and Field!

For more information please contact: tickets@mcLANEStadium.com or (254) 710-8118.

Speaker series hosts talk about children

Baylor’s Institute of Faith and Learning will host its annual Bill and Robert Bailey Family lecture in Christian Ethics will be delivered at 3:30 p.m. April 5 in the Barfield Drawing Room.

This year’s speaker will be James Davison Hunter, the Labrosse-Levinson Distinguished Professor of Religion,

and Social Theory at the University of Virginia and Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. His address will be “Good Kids: Thinking Anew about the Moral Formation of Children.”

Zeta and Delt to host bone marrow drive

Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and Delta Tau Delta fraternity will be teaming up for the Be The Match Bone marrow drive Tuesday and Wednesday (Apr. 3 and 4) at Fountain Mall.

Be The Match is an organization that helps bone marrow recipients get matched to donors. Students can RSVP for the event on Baylor Connect’s website.

LEADERSHIP

from Page 1

out in knowing how to juggle and compartmentalize and do all these things that you end up juggling but I think when you feel a call to serve ... you have to realize you can lead in different ways.”

Dean for student development Dr. Elizabeth Palacios began her Baylor journey in 1976 when the minority enrollment was at just 1percent. She said she constantly finds herself in committees or meetings where she’s the only woman, and she said she’s treated differently because she’s a female. Palacios said she’ll something and it will be ignored, but a man will say the same thing and it’ll be praised.

“I grew up here at Baylor, and so seeing the different roles I had before me, you have to decide who you are, be true to who you are, and let other people know who you are, because folks will tell you who to be and how to be and what to be, and you do not let others decide who you are,” Palacios said.

She said females are treated differently in the workplace, but urged others not to be discouraged by it.

“Be ready and be prepared,” Palacios said. “Don’t be defensive, be educational. Let people know who you are and all the things you’re capable of, and surround yourself with the people who have those same dreams for you.”

When Lindsey Bacque was elected as student body president, she was the first woman to be elected to the position in 22 years. She said she grew up at an all-girls private school and came to Baylor with a “girls rule” mentality.

“I think some women at Baylor tend to take a more traditional role or have a more traditional understanding of what a woman’s place is in our society,” Bacque said.

Sexual assault cases began bubbling up while Bacque was in student government, so her friend encouraged Bacque to run for president, since she said she couldn’t trust someone else to sit at the table and have those conversations.

“You don’t always feel prepared and you don’t always know what you’re doing but sometimes you just have to rise to the occasion even though you know you’re in way over your head,” Bacque said.

Katy senior and current student body president Amye Dickerson said she took part in a study done by a graduate student who interviewed female student body presidents over the last nine months, and her findings were that most of them consistently doubt themselves and their abilities. Dickerson said there’s lots of pressure, externally and internally.

Director of multicultural affairs Pearl Beverly stressed that if students want to live out Baylor’s mission of becoming world-wide leaders,

they won’t always be working with people who look just like them. She encouraged students to break out of their comfort zones.

“One of the things that I learned in serving is that you want the people you serve to be successful, and the only way you can do that is you have to give a lot of yourself,” Beverly said. “You can’t just give and expect to get anything back, because sometimes you won’t even get a thank you. You have to give and forget. You have to do it and do it from your heart. If you say you’re a true servant leader and you say want to be more like Jesus Christ there are certain things you have to lay aside, and mostly that’s yourself.”

The wise words of the panelists resonated with Bulverde freshman Kara Jones, who attended in hopes of applying the womens’ advice as a Line Camp leader this summer.

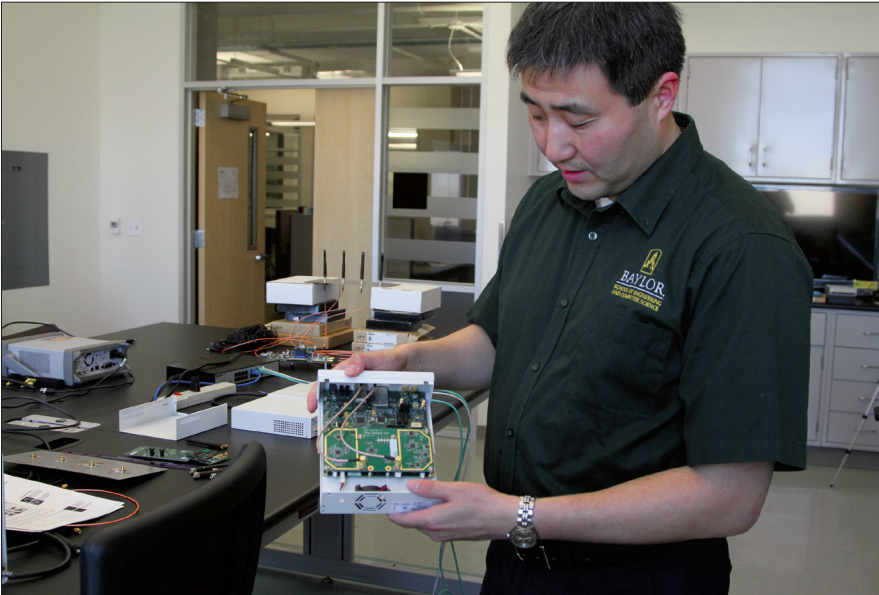
“People aren’t going to thank you for what you do but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t do it anyways,” Jones said. “I think in order to truly be a servant leader you have to set aside yourself and really want the best for the people you’re serving.”

Luikart's Foreign Car Clinic

Since 1976 Noted for Honesty, Integrity Skill and Fixing Cars Right the First Time.

Volvo, BMW, Mercedes, Volkswagen
Honda, Toyota, Nissan, Lexus
Infiniti and American Cars

254-776-6839



Baylee VerSteeg | Multimedia Journalist

PAVING THE WAY Dr. Liang Dong is leading deep learning research. Here, he shows off a digital communication board.

Artificial intelligence,
deep learning lead
way to smart houses

SAMANTHA AMARO

Reporter

Plans for smart houses in the future are slowly becoming more and more plausible. A house that does all the manual labor for the occupants, where dinner is ready on the kitchen table and all the amenities in a house are included in these plans. Thanks to Baylor University’s School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and deep learning research, a future with smart houses is getting closer.

Listed among the research opportunities in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is deep learning. This research is helping Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop into what is presented in science fiction novels and television shows.

Dr. Liang Dong, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, is leading this research. Dong has been with deep learning for about three years, but only brought this research into Baylor two years ago. The research is being funded not only by Baylor, but by Intel and a prospective new funder, the United States’ Department of Defense (DOD).

Intel is interested in the AI research going on in Dong’s deep learning research, while the DOD is interested in applying Deep Learning in combat.

“The computer teaches itself,” Dong said. “Deep learning is more to mimic a human brain.”

Through the use of algorithms and data, computers are able to compare results against many other previous

studies. So far, the deep learning project is being tailored for the specific use of analyzing medical images like from positron emission tomography (PET) scans and computed tomography (CT) scans in hospitals. This would help to more accurately catch the development of cancer and other diseases. The research — conducted at the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative (BRIC) — is essentially split up into two categories.

The theoretical research is composed of distributed deep learning and energy-efficient deep learning. Distributed deep learning deals with investigating how to use several local machines to compute different parts of the main neural network. It solves the problem of the large amount of time it takes to train a deep neural network in a single machine. Energy-efficient deep learning focuses on the problem of being able to provide a constant source of energy for necessary continuous projects.

There are many possible and practical applications for deep learning, such as in building smart hospitals or for the production of smart homes. The idea for utilizing deep learning in hospitals is to take an x-ray using less radiation and power, then comparing the results to other x-rays that have been taken in the past. The computer would compare a single x-ray to hundreds, if not thousands, of previous results and point out which areas seem uncommon for a healthy human system, or which areas look like

they’re developing a kind of disease by comparing a person’s x-ray to those of others who already have the disease.

Dong is already working with a hospital in Dallas, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, to test if this research is efficient and plausible enough for doctors to implement in other hospitals.

There is also the smart home project — to see if a house can measure a person’s overall health. By applying sensors throughout the house, or even by sticking to a certain area of the house like the kitchen, sensors would read a person’s biorhythm and send alerts if something looks wrong. It will alert the occupants of the house that there is a sign of lower heart rate or of a drop in heart rate — things that can flag some serious health issues in the near future.

Several Ph.D and masters students are involved with this research, helping Dong in the labs at the BRIC. Among these is Hailing District, China, doctoral student Yuchen Qian. He is working on his own project as well as being involved with Dong’s Deep Learning research. The research process, he explained, is rather simple.

“When we have ideas we talk about them to him in his office. Then we program the codes and we run the coding,” Qian said. “Since we can to the experiments, we can also do the experimenting.”

All in all, there are still many things expected to generate from Dong’s research in deep learning.

OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Rent so low, you'll still have cash left for the weekend!

- Rent starting at \$390/month • Walking distance to class
- Summer discounts available • Small pet friendly
- One and two bedroom apartments

CALL: (254) 754-4834 • EMAIL: MGTOffice1@SBCGLOBAL.NET

DAILY
CROSSWORD

Try our daily crossword puzzle on **pg. 6**. Answers available online at **baylorlariat.com**



MAKE YOUR OWN
TORCHY'S TACO

A recipe for the Torchy's Independent, complete with fried portobello mushroom and pickled escabeche carrots. **pg. 6**

I think artists, like all other professions, succeed from research, discipline and hard work.”

Winter Rusiloski | Baylor professor of painting **pg. 5**

FOLLOW ARTS & LIFE ON TWITTER >> @BULariatArts >> **READ MORE ONLINE AT** BaylorLariat.com

Fact or Fiction?



Associated Press

PICASSO A woman looking at Pablo Picasso's Sleeping Woman by a Mirror, 1932, during a preview of the exhibition Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy at Tate Modern in London, Tuesday March 6, 2018.



Associated Press

PICASSO AGAIN A woman looking at Pablo Picasso's The Three Dancers, 1925, during a preview of the exhibition Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy at Tate Modern in London, Tuesday March 6, 2018.

The myth of the ‘tortured artist’ according to professors and professionals

SAMANTHA AMARO
Reporter

It's a general theory for those on the outskirts of the art world looking in — artists harness their pain and suffering in life in order to create beauty. This raises the question — does misfortune translate into an artist's work? Is suffering necessary for the artistic genius? This is not the first time these questions have been proposed, as they are often disputed and debated in the art world.

Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Caravaggio — each of these names echo in history, and each of them have undergone some painful experiences that seem to translate into their work. Their lives were fraught with pain and other emotions, but determining whether it was their pain that influenced and gave their art a certain “je ne sais quoi” seems to be a hot topic of discussion in the art world.

Winter Rusiloski, professor of painting in Baylor's art department, said she does not agree with the implication that pain is necessary for inspiration or artistic genius; the life of an artist does not need to be a tortured one for them to find success.

“I think artists, like all other professions, succeed from research, discipline and hard work regardless of their circumstances,” Rusiloski said.

Van Gogh, an artist well-known for his suffering, is frequently referenced as proof of the ‘tortured artist’ concept, and that pain is indeed necessary for success and synonymous with genius. In truth, Van Gogh is a single example of an artist who created masterful paintings and simultaneously led a painful life. His life was one that mostly revolved around art, and he arguably succeeded both because of the way his suffering influenced his work and because of his passion and dedication. His paintings, in fact, were only revered post mortem, as he was mostly perceived to be crazy and unconventional during his life.

Picasso is another notable figure that links high-selling paintings and pain. Picasso's painting “La Gommeuse” sold for over \$67 million, which broke a record during that time. However, it was not Picasso's most expensive painting sold at an auction. His “Nude, Green Leaves and Bust” was purchased for over \$106 million in 2010.

Aine Ni Laoghaire, an Irish actor and performer based in Dublin, wrote for the Irish Times about how inspiration comes in waves. Laoghaire wrote the popular idea of a tortured artist was nothing more than a myth, describing it as “a concept we've invented to turn people who create into demigods.”

Laoghaire writes that the idea that those who have not succeeded in becoming such “demigods” are restricted from art is untrue. “As a result, the idea of one of us lowly ones [those who have not succeeded in becoming such lauded artists and demigods] making art, or even attempting to, seems absurd.”

Christopher Zara, journalist and author of the book Tortured Artists, presents an argument on the other side of the spectrum. His view, which is reflected in his book, describes a direct connection between experiencing personal tribulations and creating masterpieces.

“Van Gogh may have suffered from anxiety, absinthe addiction, and debilitating seizures,” Zara writes, “but his suffering gave him insight, and that insight, in turn, gave the world a new kind of art called Post-Impressionism.”

In his article from the Huffington Post, Zara writes that, without suffering, the art will likely not be as great.

Tirunelveli, India, sophomore Kirupa Sargunaraja, a studio art major, said she thinks the concept of the ‘tortured artist’ is not true. Life experiences are necessary for expressing various concepts, but having a painful life does not guarantee that the work is easier to complete, or better in the long run.

“It's wrong to think that it makes an artist's work stronger or more interesting,” Sargunaraja said.

Voices and Vinyl

Concert places contemporary twist on classic black gospel music

JP GRAHAM
Reporter

The Baylor Libraries hosted the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir for the third annual “Voices and Vinyl” concert Tuesday afternoon, performing versions of classic gospel music inspired by the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project at Baylor University.

The Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir performed versions of “Deliver Daniel” by Dexter Walker, “Don't Cry” by Kirk Franklin, “Take My Hand, Precious Lord” by Thomas A. Dorsey and “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power” by Andrae Crouch, a crowd favorite from last year. The harmonization of the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir created a contemporary feel to these original songs.

Journalism, public relations and new media professor Robert Darden began the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project 13 years ago when he wrote an editorial expressing the importance of preserving gospel music for future generations. Partnered with Baylor Libraries, Darden said he had no idea the project would grow to this magnitude.

“It's the largest initiative in the world to identify, acquire, digitize, scan and catalog black gospel music vinyl from the golden age of gospel music,” Darden said. “We have a larger collection than the Library of Congress. We provide the gospel music for the international museum of African American history and culture in Washington DC.”

Eric Ames, assistant director of marketing communications for Baylor University Libraries and ITS, emceed the event and said the purpose of the Voices and Vinyl Concert was to utilize the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project at Baylor and encourage students on campus to get involved.



MJ Routh | Multimedia Journalist

HEAVENLY Members of the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir sing at the “Voices and Vinyl” concert Tuesday afternoon in Moody Allbritton Foyer.

Ames said many students don't recognize the influence that America's black gospel music has had on modern musicians; artists such as Kanye West, Lecrae and Moby all exhibit the influence of '60s and '70s gospel music in their music today.

Ames said the concert allows him to witness the reactions of students attending, including the evident joy the music invokes.

“The most exciting part is to see how the music affects everyone who attends the concert,” Ames said. “Whether you think you like black gospel music, or you've never heard a gospel song in your life, you'll find yourself getting wrapped up in the message of hope, freedom and joy that comes with these students' performance.”

Keller sophomore Keiaron Randle said she joined the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir because she liked the idea of adding a more contemporary style to original gospel music.

“We get to rearrange different traditional gospel music to

make it more contemporary,” Randle said. “But we also still get to focus on and listen to the original gospel music while we're in rehearsal.”

Sulphur Springs senior J.T. Grant said the Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir is an organization that presents an opportunity of worship to those that may have trouble getting to church on Sunday.

“If you have anything that you're going through, and you don't go to a church regularly on Sundays, you can always come here [Miller Chapel] Mondays at 7 p.m.,” Grant said. “Sit down and listen. You don't have to participate with us. Just come here, sit down and listen and worship with us.”

The Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir can be contacted through their Facebook page and Twitter account, and will be performing at Gospel Fest on April 28. A location has yet to be determined.

Make your own Torchy's Taco

A homemade version of Torchy's fried portobello mushroom 'Independent'

MEREDITH WAGNER
Arts & Life Editor

If you've ever indulged in a vegetarian taco from Torchy's, you likely understand the craze. Piled high with various toppings and flavors, including a hard-to-come-by, satisfactory meat substitution, they're a great fix for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike. Nothing beats the taste of a home-cooked meal, however, and the creativity that cooking your own meals calls for can be a stimulating form of stress relief, a rewarding task that helps you wind down at the end of a long day. I did my best to recreate a restaurant favorite at home so that you can enjoy the process of producing your own food and save some money in the long run. Torchy's 'Independent' is described on their menu as a taco with "hand-battered and fried portobello mushroom strips, refried black beans, roasted corn, escabeche carrots, cotija cheese, cilantro and fresh avocado." Try it at home for yourself.

There are three parts to this recipe, some of which can be purchased at the store if you're short on time.
*This recipe makes two servings (two tacos per person).

INGREDIENTS

Pickled Carrots and Onions*

- Jar of pickle juice.
- 4 small carrots, shredded or sliced into thin strips (can be purchased shredded from the store)
- 1/4 sweet onion, sliced into thin strips

Refried Beans

- 3/4 can black beans

- 1 T olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- a dash of salt

Mushrooms

- 2 portobello mushroom caps, thoroughly washed
- 2 T coconut oil
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp cumin

Tacos & Toppings

- 4 tortillas (corn or flour)
- 1 small avocado
- Fresh cilantro
- Cotija cheese (optional)
- Torchy's Diablo Sauce, salsa or other hot sauce

DIRECTIONS

Pickled Carrots and Onions

- Complete this step two days in advance. Alternatively, simply purchase pickled carrots from the store.
- Using leftover juice from a jar of pickles, add the shredded carrots and thinly sliced onions to the jar. Refrigerate for at least two days. They should retain the flavor of the juice, so buy pickles with interesting flavors.

Refried Beans

- Warm 1 T olive oil over medium heat on a skillet.
- When oil is warm, add 2 cloves minced garlic and 3/4

- can of black beans. Sprinkle salt over the top.
- Immediately begin mashing the beans with a potato masher. If you don't have one, a fork works well, too.
- Mash the beans until they are even and consistent throughout. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Keep them warm if you can.

Mushrooms

- Slice the mushrooms into strips about 1/2 inch thick. 2 portobellos should produce about 8-10 slices.
- Prepare an assembly line: In the first bowl, add 2 eggs and whisk together. In the second bowl, add 1 cup all purpose flour, cumin and paprika.
- One by one, coat the mushroom slices in the egg, then the flour, then set aside on a plate. Repeat this process until all mushrooms are evenly coated.
- Heat 1 T of coconut oil in a skillet on medium heat. Save yourself an extra dish, and use the same skillet you used for the refried beans.
- Place mushrooms directly into the oil. If the pan becomes dry and begins to create smoke, add more coconut oil a little at a time.
- Fry for 2 minutes on one side. Use tongs to flip mushrooms over and fry for 2 minutes on the other side. They're ready when they are tender all the way through.

Assembly

- Smear refried beans onto tortilla.
- Add 2 portobello slices, 2 avocado slices, fresh cilantro, pickled carrots and cotija cheese (optional).
- Top with Torchy's Diablo Sauce, salsa or your favorite hot sauce.



BREADED TO GO Mushrooms are coated in egg and flour before facing the frying pan.



PLENTY TO GO AROUND Ingredients purchased at H-E-B and the Waco Downtown Farmers Market.



DINNER FOR TWO Mushrooms after frying. The above recipe makes enough for two people (four tacos).



ASSEMBLY LINE Step 2 in the recipe above: Prepare an assembly line with two whisked eggs in the first bowl and all-purpose flour, paprika and cumin in the second.



VIOLA It takes some time and effort, but the finished product is well worth it.



PICKLED Pickle juice from a jar of pickles is recycled for another round of pickling, this time with carrots and onions.

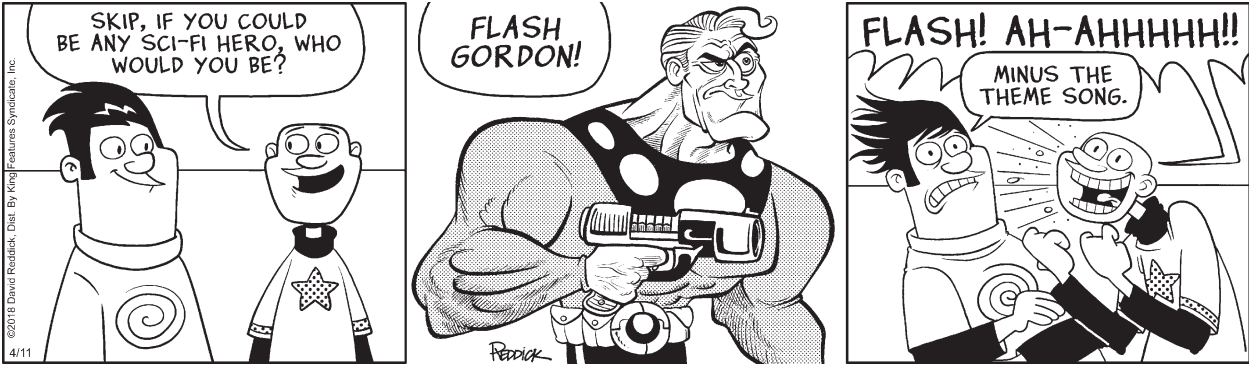
All Photos by Meredith Wagner | Arts & Life Editor

INTELLIGENT LIFE

Right A comic strip featured weekly on our pages. >>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Below Also featured on each issue of the Lariat is our weekly crossword puzzle. Answers can be found under "Puzzle Solutions" under the drop-down Arts & Life tab at baylorldariat.com.



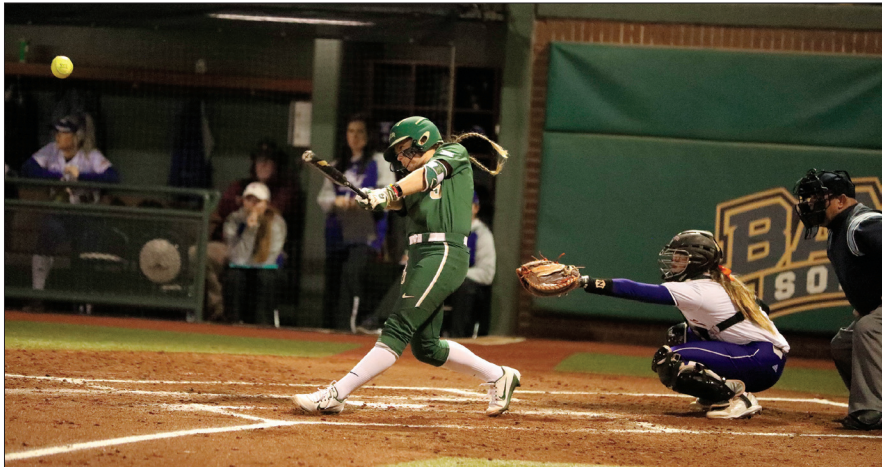
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo									
ACROSS									
1	Of Christian ritual	62	Rock singer	117	Jar coverer	13	Pasta sauce brand	48	Conical homes
21	Immersion	63	Epitome of easiness	118	Riddle's answer	14	Actress — Aimée	52	Wildlife park
10	Fish also called a "jack"	66	3/15 or 4/13, day-wise	125	Flying geese formation	15	U.S.-Can.-Mex. treaty	53	Stir in, e.g.
17	Ship for ETS	68	315 or 413, phone-wise	126	Stud farm owner, e.g.	16	Schnozz suffix	54	"You don't say!"
20	Work partner	70	Riddle, part 4	127	Waterproof sheet	17	Planet with 27 moons	56	"Funny joke!"
21	Everlasting	73	Roget's references	128	Suffix with govern	18	Focus one's gaze	58	Joss or tiki
22	Edge	76	"Taken" star	129	More lathery	19	Final Greek letters	59	Hauling trucks
23	Start of a riddle	77	China's Lao —	130	Got testy with	24	Vocal quaver	61	Panasonic alternative
25	Log cutter	78	"Blue Bloods" airer			29	Really rise	64	Like pogo sticks
26	Reply to "Shall we?"	81	Cat sound			30	Sluggish	65	Mailer's "via"
27	Bruins	82	Tide type			31	Ripken	67	Arch across
34	Bobby	84	Scissor cut			32	Raise	69	Far off the shore
28	A dieter may try to lose it	86	For only the case at hand			33	British runner	70	ENE's reverse
29	Obstruction	88	Rest house			34	Jostle	71	One-named singer with the 2005 hit "Oh"
30	Riddle, part 2	89	Player getting a goal			35	Scents	72	Simple-living sect
37	Decline to vote	91	Hourglass fill			36	Heady brew	73	"I didn't need that level of detail!" in texts
41	Earsplitting	94	Plus			37	Really longed	116	"— that right?"
42	Alleviates	95	Riddle, part 5			38	Wedding party?	118	"American Dad!" airer
43	Riddle, part 3	99	Part of Iberia			39	"Wake Up Little —" (1957 hit)	119	Meanie Amin
49	Cat sound	102	Crab part			40	Trial balloon	120	Singer David — Roth
51	Make fun of	103	Plush			44	"O Sole —" (Italian song)	121	Hound sound
52	Zig's reverse	104	End of the riddle			45	High storage room	122	Madrid Mrs.
55	Archie's sitcom wife	110	Go offstage			46	"Memento" director	123	Antonym: Abbr.
57	Name on an elevator	111	Geologic span			47	Soul	124	Disparity
60	Minor error	112	Lennon's lady						
61	Bicycled, e.g.	113	Cuisine with tom yum						

LITERATURE FIEND	
89	Reasonable
90	Depend
92	Twelve p.m.
93	Bamboo
95	Droop
96	British rule in old India
97	— more (greater than one)
98	Bloke
99	Postpone
100	Fairies
101	Stage actors' whispers
105	India's first prime minister
106	Gluttony, e.g.
107	Records on a cassette
108	Army outfits
109	Like Livy
113	"That's right!"
114	Embraced
115	Korea locale
116	— that right?"
118	"American Dad!" airer
119	Meanie Amin
120	Singer David — Roth
121	Hound sound
122	Madrid Mrs.
123	Antonym: Abbr.
124	Disparity



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

THROW IT Baylor softball pitcher Gia Rodoni throws the ball in the Lady Bear' softball opening day on Feb. 9, 2018.



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

SWING The Lady Bears played against Northwestern State in their softball opening day on Feb. 9, 2018.



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

RUN, RUN, RUN The Lady Bears finished off a three-game sweep of Northwestern State at Gettnerman Stadium.

Big 12 Showdown

Softball hosts No. 2 Sooners in at-home conference play

NATHAN KEIL
Sports Editor

Baylor softball has spent much of its spring season playing away from home. The Lady Bears have played just five of their first 26 games at Gettnerman Stadium, making it difficult to catch a glimpse of them this season.

As Baylor opens conference play against second-ranked and two-time defending national champion Oklahoma this weekend, there won't be an empty seat in the stadium.

Senior outfielder Jessie Scroggins, who leads the team with a .545 average, said that playing the Sooners is always one of the most exciting matchups of the season and getting to do it at home, is an added bonus.

"It is always exciting to play Oklahoma. They're one of the best teams in the country and it's always nice to see how we compete against them," Scroggins said. "We haven't been here for awhile and we do have a sellout crowd, so it's going to be exciting to play in front of them."

When the two teams met in Norman, Okla. last season, the Lady Bears took game two and nearly won game one, but lost a late inning lead before falling in extra innings. The two teams tangled for a fourth time in their opening round game in the Women's College World Series, a 6-3 win for the Sooners as they won their second straight National Championship.

But despite the Sooner's three wins last year, Scroggins and the Lady Bears are confident as ever, partially because of the difficult non-conference schedule and the quality pitchers they've already seen this season.

"It does give us confidence. But it is a new team, new year and it all matters what we do this weekend, so we're just going to compete like we know how and hopefully it ends up our way," Scroggins said. "It [the non-conference schedule] definitely prepares us well. We faced [Florida's] Kelly Barnhill in California and [Oklahoma's] Paige Parker kind of has that same pitching style so I think that helps us out a lot."

The Lady Bears are also confident because of their offensive success this season.

Baylor head coach Glenn Moore said this might be the best offensive team he has had in his 18 years at Baylor.

"I have one of the best offenses I've had at Baylor since I've been here, so I have a lot of confidence in the ability to make things happen offensively, and to make them make plays. That's why you play the game," Moore said.

That offense is led by Scroggins, who leads the team with 48 hits and nine extra base hits. Junior outfielder Kyla Walker, who has recently returned to the lineup after suffering an ankle injury and missing 11 games, is hitting .426. Senior catcher Carlee Wallace, sophomore second baseman Nicky Dawson, senior first baseman Shelby Friudenberg and sophomore Goose McGlaun are all hitting above .300 while sophomore shortstop Taylor Ellis is just below at .299.

As a team, Baylor is hitting .348, and averages just under six runs per game with 17 home runs, led by McGlaun's eight. Friudenberg is second on the team with three, has 43 in her career and is just one shy of tying Chelsi Lake for the program record.

"I'm just really excited. I'm here to get the wins and do what we can for Baylor softball and make it to the World Series, it's cool for me, but we're doing it all for one reason," Friudenberg said.

But that offense will be put to the test against Oklahoma's pitching combination of seniors Paige Parker and Paige Lowary and sophomore Mariah Lopez. Parker is 15-1 with a 0.34 earned run average with three complete games and two shutouts, while holding opposing hitters to a .114 batting average. Lowary is 3-1 with a 0.73 ERA and three saves while Lopez is 8-0 with a 1.35 ERA. The Sooners' pitching staff has only allowed 27 runs in its first 30 games and has posted 16 shutouts.

As dominant as the Oklahoma pitching staff is, Moore said he is impressed with his as well. It begins with junior Gia Rodoni, who picked up Baylor's lone win against the Sooners last season.

Rodoni is 12-4 with a 1.78 ERA with nine complete games and has racked up 123 strikeouts.

"I think Gia can go toe to toe with anybody in the country," Moore said. "I said earlier that I didn't think she was going to be a strikeout pitcher and she started putting up double digit strikeouts every game, threw a no-hitter, nearly had a perfect

game the other day. She's very capable of beating anybody in the country."

Junior Regan Green, who will get the start in game two, is 5-1 with a 2.06 ERA and has a pair of complete games.

"I think Regan is on the verge of being able to beat top 20 teams. Just fine-tuning a few things. She gives us some great innings then she'll lose focus a little bit, but that's growth," Moore said. "I've challenged her a little bit and now it's time to push through and be able to compete with a top 20 lineup. To be able to compete with a lineup like Oklahoma, you have to be able to have a good defense and we do have a good defense."

Oklahoma's offense will certainly test the Baylor pitching staff. The Sooners hit .341 as a team, but have relied substantially more on the home run ball (41) than Baylor has. Nobody is better with the big swing for the Sooners than freshman utility player Jocelyn Alo, who is hitting .488 with 16 home runs and 40 RBIs this season.

Moore said Alo presents a stiff challenge for his pitching staff that they will have to figure out how to attack this weekend.

"It says something about a team like Oklahoma, when they have a freshman walk in there and she's in the number three hole," Moore said. "It's pretty amazing and a little bit scary. She's got 16 home runs and certainly someone we have to figure out how to pitch to."

Junior infielder Sydney Romero is in a distant second with eight gopher balls, but is hitting .505 on the season with 46 hits and nine doubles. Senior outfielder Nicole Pendley has hit seven and junior infielder Caleigh Clifton six for Oklahoma.

Oklahoma enters 28-2 on the season, its second best start in program history. The Sooners have won 19 straight games since a Feb. 24 loss to No. 13 Arizona and have won 33 consecutive true road contests dating back to a March 18, 2016 loss to Cal-State Fullerton, which includes a three game sweep of Baylor at Gettnerman Stadium April 8-10 two seasons ago.

No. 15 Baylor (20-6) and No. 2 Oklahoma (28-2) will open with a 6:30 p.m. first pitch Thursday and Friday and a 6 p.m. start Saturday at Gettnerman Stadium. The first two games will air on Fox Sports Southwest while game three will air on ESPN.

Veteran pitcher Phillips returns following elbow surgery

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

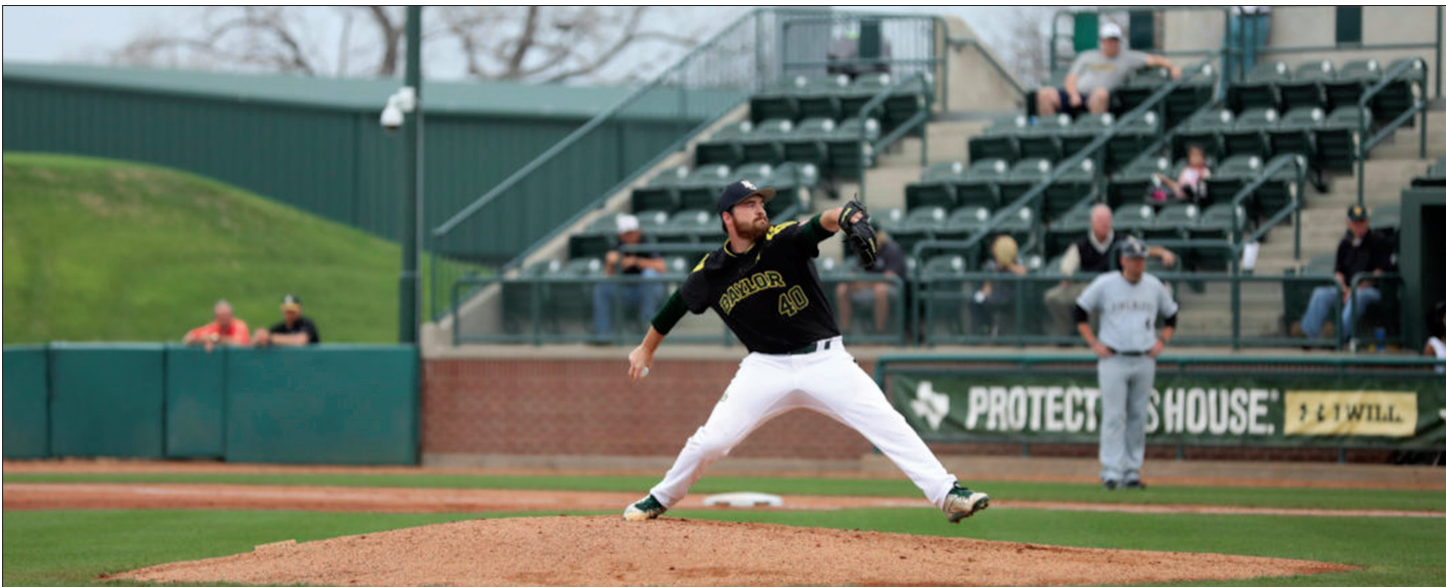
Baylor baseball is getting one of its veteran arms back in the fold as it moves forward in Big 12 Conference play.

Senior pitcher Alex Phillips has started two games on the mound since returning from an elbow injury that kept him out for a month and a half.

Phillips made his return on March 20 against Dallas Baptist University, pitching two innings and giving up zero runs to pick up the win for the Bears.

Phillips said finally being able to help out the team is rewarding.

"It always feels good anytime I can get a zero for my team," Phillips said. "That's the reason I'm here. I love being out there, helping my team as much as I can. I finally get back out there and see the support my teammates are giving me, it's a great great feeling."



Lariat File Photo

TIME TO PLAY BALL! Baylor redshirt junior Alex Phillips pitches in a Feb. 28, 2017 game against Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Baylor Ballpark. The Bears won 17-3.

Baylor baseball to face Sooners in three-game road test over weekend

MAX CALDERONE
Sports Writer

Coming off of a series loss to Kansas at home, the Baylor baseball team is looking to rebound this weekend against Oklahoma.

The Bears will travel up to Norman, Okla., for a three-game set against the Sooners, spanning from Thursday to Saturday, earlier than a typical Friday through Sunday series because of the Easter holiday.

Baylor (13-9, 3-3) has a tough test in facing one of the Big 12 Conference's best pitching staffs. Oklahoma (17-10, 3-0) is led on the mound by senior Devon Perez and junior Jake Irvin, who have a combined 7-0 record in 12 appearances. The Sooners lead the conference in pitching strikeouts with 275, well above Texas Tech's second-place mark of 240.

Baylor head coach Steve Rodriguez said his team will need to do well offensively in order to put up runs against a talented Oklahoma rotation.

"Their starting pitching is very good," Rodriguez said. "They have some great returners back. We've got to go out there and pound the zone, command our at-bats really well."

Rodriguez said he has been impressed with the way his team is swinging the bat and feels like that will carry over into the series with OU.

"I'm really happy with how well we're seeing the ball," Rodriguez said. "If you look at our strikeouts to walks ratio, I'm really excited about that. I think if our guys go out and play the way we can play, it'll give us three good baseball games with a chance to win at the end."

The Bears have struck out just 138 times so far this season and have worked 95 walks, compared to the Sooners who have struck out 205 times. The lineup has gotten strong contributions from sophomore first baseman Andy Thomas who is hitting .400 through 22 games and freshman utility man Nick Loftin who was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Week after going 8-for-17 in Baylor's last four games, including hitting his first two career home runs.

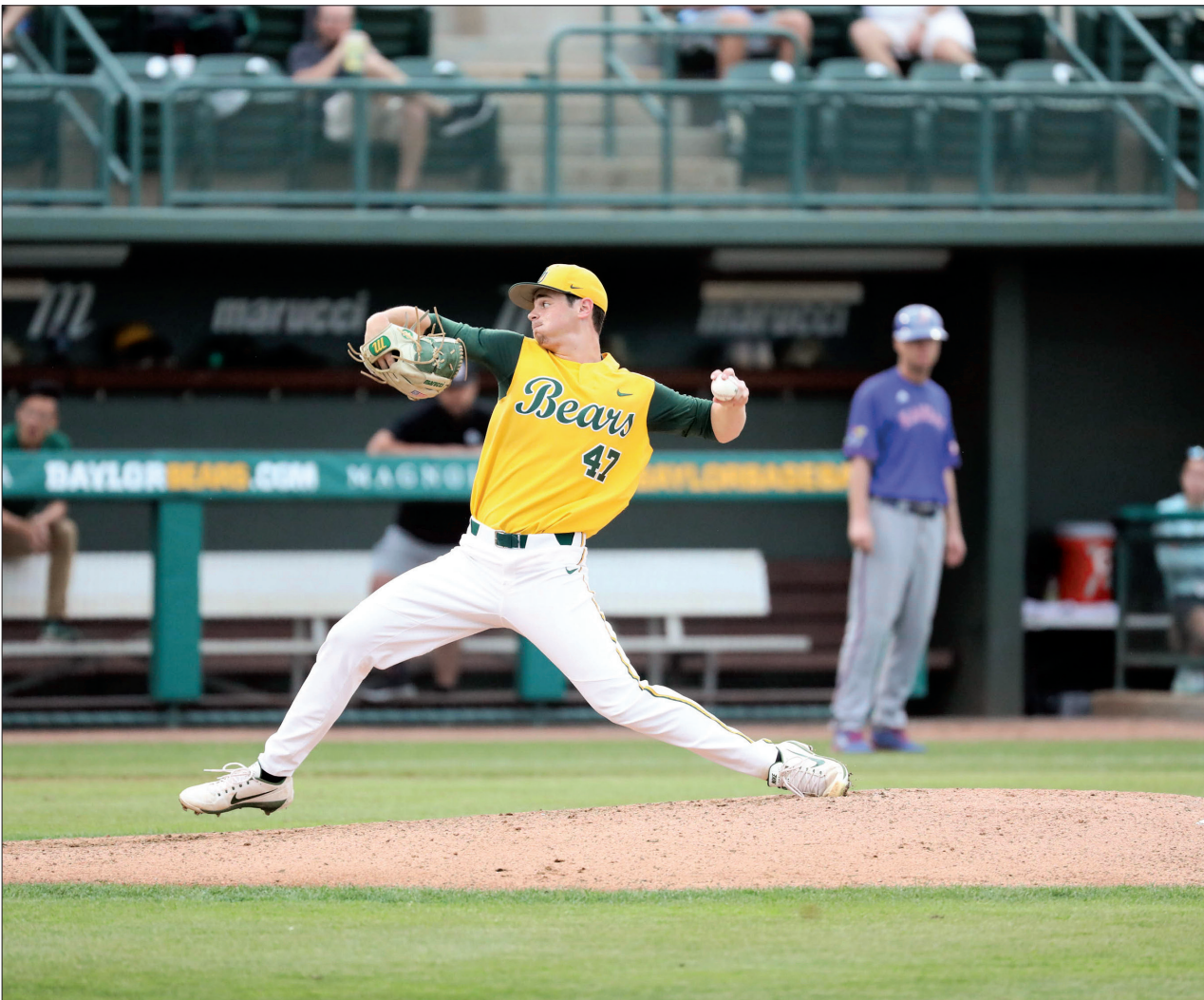
Loftin said he was happy to earn the award, but is staying focused on the upcoming games with Oklahoma.

"I'm pretty excited about it," Loftin said. "I've just been working hard, really hard for it and getting ready for OU this week."

Sophomore catcher Shea Langeliers blasted two home runs in two of Baylor's last three games and currently leads the team with five total home runs. Junior second baseman Josh Bissonette is close behind with four, having already doubled his career total.

Rodriguez said Bissonette has come back nicely from an injury in the fall that caused him to miss much of the team's strength and conditioning workouts.

"Being able to maintain some health and get in to the weight



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

COVER ALL YOUR BASES Baylor baseball pitcher Tyler Thomas throws the ball in the team's game against Kansas on March 25, 2018.

room allowed the strength he was able to gain to play into his ability," Rodriguez said. "That's what I really like seeing out of him lately is that strength is slowly starting to get into his ability and we're getting to see more home runs."

The Bears will make one change to the weekend rotation, adding sophomore right-handed pitcher Jacob Ashkinos (0-1, 3.68) to start the third game of the series. Sophomore lefty Cody Bradford (3-2, 2.95) will take game one and sophomore right-hander Hayden Kettler (3-2, 2.72) will follow in game two.

Ashkinos has made nine appearances this season, including

two starts in mid-week games. He said after pitching against strong competition and developing since the start of the season, he feels prepared to take on a larger role as a starter.

"I don't think I could have done this at the beginning of the year. I don't think that I was ready," Ashkinos said. "But facing Texas Tech, facing Kansas, going through the ups and downs, I'm really ready for this."

Game one between Baylor and Oklahoma is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on today, with first pitch coming in game two at 6:30 p.m. Friday and game three starting at 4 p.m. Saturday.

SURGERYfrom Page 7



Penelope Shirey| Design Editor

FULL THROW Junior Alex Phillips pitches in a March 2017 game against Dallas Baptist. The Bears won the game against Dallas Baptist 8-6.

The Nacogdoches native appeared in 17 games last season, starting eight of the games and going 4-3 as a starter with a 5.83 ERA.

Phillips said this injury was nothing serious, but did hinder him from performing on the field.

"The right side of the elbow, something funny was kind of happening," Phillips said. "Every time I would throw the ball, it started affecting me. The doctor said there's some junk in there that we just gotta clean up, and so that's what they did. They scoped it and cleaned up a bunch of junk."

Phillips missed the entire 2016 season at Baylor after having Tommy John surgery following sophomore and freshman seasons at San Jacinto College and Arkansas, respectively.

Phillips redshirted that season, and now as a seasoned veteran, is currently serving as Baylor's midweek starter.

Phillips said this surgery was much less painful than Tommy John, so getting back to form will take less time.

"I know what to do at this point," Phillips said. "I know how it's supposed to feel and how it's not supposed to feel. This was nothing like Tommy John. Tommy John you're in that splint for the first six weeks and your arm is hurting all the time. This one I was in the cast for two days. I already had full motion after about a week."

Phillips started on the mound Monday night in the Bears' 17-5 win over Prairie View A&M, but gave up seven hits and three runs in just three innings pitched.

Baylor head coach Steve Rodriguez said the more pitches Phillips gets under his belt, the better.

"The biggest thing is we need to get his pitch count up," Rodriguez said. "He did a good job going three innings for us. It was nice to see him get out there. I think he was up in the 50 or 60 range, so that was really good to see. So now we know that we can put him out there at least for a couple innings in the future, which is gonna be good."

Sophomore pitcher Cody Bradford said Phillips is a vocal leader, so getting him back in the dugout and on the field will help the team's morale.

"It adds a lot of hype to the team," Bradford said. "[Alex Phillips] is a big part of this team. He's a vocal guy. When he's healthy and he's competing out there, it's fun in the dugout. It's fun on the field when you hear guys chirping like that."

The Bears look to pick up a series win over Oklahoma as they face the Sooners starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Norman, Okla.

Steppin' OUT



Saturday, April 7, 2018

Serve the Greater Waco Community!

www.baylor.edu/engage/steppinout



Kick-Off Celebration starts at
8:30 a.m. in the SUB Den
FREE Breakfast and T-Shirts for the first 200!