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Baylor Lariat WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

MARCH 22, 2019

FRIDAY



Opinion | 2 **Getting Along** University Chaplain Burt Burleson on loving on another.



Arts & Life | 5 **Baylor Art Show** Students gear up for Baylor's Annual Student Art Show.



Sports 7 **Baylor prevails**

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

Men's basketball beat Syracuse in the first NCAA matchup.

For the People

Baylor grad and People magazine editor-in-chief Jess Cagle reflects on his career before resigning

CAROLINE YABLON Copy Editor

Summer of 1986 was a exciting time in New York City for Baylor journalism student Jess Cagle, who experienced a one-in-a-million opportunity - a chance to intern at a renowned pop culture magazine where he checked facts and covered celebrity parties.

Little did he know then that he would climb the ranks to become the editorin-chief of People magazine as well as the editor and editorial director of Entertainment Weekly and have cameo roles on televised sitcoms and doing celebrity interviews. Last Thursday, he announced he is stepping down from all roles at PEOPLE magazine. Entertainment Weekly and People en Español. He has taken time to look back at his journey to success within the journalism community.

WHERE YOU COME FROM DOES NOT DICTATE YOUR FUTURE

Cagle, Baylor class of 1987, grew up in small-town Abilene where some people might think having a career in Manhattan was out of reach. But that was not the case for Cagle. He overcame that profile by building a career in entertainment journalism simultaneously in the Big Apple and Los Angeles for the past 32 years.

Cagle developed a sense of confidence in college while sitting in one of his favorite professor's class, Dr. Loyal Gould's mass communications class.



Photo courtesy of PEOPLE magazine

PEOPLE After five years as editorial director for Entertainment Weekly and editor-inchief of PEOPLE magazine, Jess Cagle has elected to resign.

ritzy New York City parties to interview and build relationships with celebrities. He described it as a "magical summer."

"I met a lot of famous people, and you would go to these parties to cover them, and there were a bunch of celebrities," Cagle said. "I remember Fergie [Sarah Ferguson - Duchess of New York] got married that summer, if I'm not mistaken. I remember helping to cover the wedding

Then, November of 1987, Cagle got the phone call he'd been waiting for. People offered him a job as a temporary reporter to fact-check during the holidays. Without hesitation, he quit his full-time job in Abilene and moved to New York City.

"Honestly, they did not give me a job because I was some huge talent at all," Cagle said. "I got the job because I stayed



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist

RESIGNATION Waco ISD Board of Trustees President Pat Atkins announces on Thursday that superintendent Marcus Nelson had handed in his resignation following possession of marijuana charges.

Superintendent resigns after drug charges

MATTHEW MUIR Staff Writer

Waco ISD

Superintendent Dr. A. Marcus N e l s o n officially resigned Thursday night in the wake of his arrest on a misdemeanor meeting. Nelson

noted the controversy and division his arrest caused and wrote that his resignation was for the good of the community.

"The discussion has become



'We would call his class 'Travels with Gould,' because he would just talk about himself and all the things that he had done, people he had met," Cagle said. "You know, from a small town in Texas like I was, you really had not met people with those kinds of experiences. And then you meet him, and he's just a guy like you, and he tells these stories. And you think, 'Oh, it's not impossible.' But then you soon think, 'If he can get there, maybe I can get there, too,"

Cagle knew the entertainment field was his niche from the beginning and quickly sought professional experiences, such as staff writer and entertainment editor at The Baylor Lariat.

Dr. Doug Ferdon, who ran The Baylor Lariat advisor while Cagle was on staff, said Cagle was an entertainment guy from the start. He reported all things entertainment on campus - from All-University Sing to plays to movie reviews, etc. — he covered it all.

Ferdon described Cagle as spontaneous and professional - a student who knew his deadlines and always ahead of the game.

"He looked laid back, but he was always asking questions," Ferdon said. "He always knew the answers to things."

Not only did The Baylor Lariat provide Cagle with valuable work experience, but it also gave him a sense of community where he felt his truest self.

"I just remember the feeling when I was in Castellaw and loving those late nights in the newsroom ... and never wanting to leave because it was a place where I felt like I was good at something," Cagle happily reminisced. "It was a place where I could find the occasional Democrat that I felt a kindred spirit with - that was my community. I think it was one of the first times that I discovered 'Oh, there's a community of other people like me very open-minded, very liberal, very funny, and it was fun to hang out there."

THE AMAZING SUMMER 1986 **PEOPLE MAGAZINE INTERNSHIP**

Cagle's 1986 summer internship jumpstarted his career at People. He learned how to fact-check. He also was sent to

and going to the office at 5 a.m. with everyone else watching it on television and writing down things for People."

TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND ASK FOR OPPORTUNITIES

As the summer and his internship were ending, Cagle said he desperately wanted to write a story before he left. His ambitions led to bold action. He marched into editor-in-chief Patricia Rvan's office and asked to go to lunch with her. He ended up asking to write a story.

"I didn't know better. I didn't know that people didn't walk into the editor's office, but I did," Cagle said.

Cagle's bold moves paid off because she said yes to both requests.

Soon after, "the music editor stopped me in the hallway and said, 'I want you to do a story on this new band," Cagle said. "They do this new kind of music called rap where they sample all of these different songs within the music.' He explained what rap was to me. And then I interviewed Run-DMC."

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE

As People editor-in-chief, Cagle advices interns and students to network well

"Take the time to meet the leaders in your industry because everybody is very happy to talk to students and interns. People are eager to do it. I also learn a lot when I talk to interns and when I talk to students," he said.

Cagle's senior year followed his internship, which meant it was now interview season. So he saved up enough money to return to New York City during spring break and had lunch with the People's chief of reporters, who ran the fact-checking department, as a way to check in and stay on their radar.

Even successful careers can stall unexpectedly and accelerate just as unexpectedly

Cagle graduated in 1987 but People was not ready to hire him - not just yet. So, he started working at the Abilene Reporter-News while trying to plan his career endgame.

in their face as much as possible after my internship."

Cagle said it was vital "stay in people's faces and write hand-written thank you notes all the time — those things make an enormous difference."

In 1988, Cagle's job was made a fulltime reporter. Aside from fact-checking, he said he took every opportunity to cover parties, report entertainment news and pitch stories. As a young writer, he said it was important for him to find his own stories and pitch them instead of waiting for assignments to be given to him.

He remembers two of the early stories that he pitched. The first one was about Barry Williams, who had played Greg Brady on the show "The Brady Bunch", coming to Broadway. Cagle said he interviewed Williams and got that story published in the magazine. The second story he pitched was about Kathy Najimy's (who stared in movies like "Hocus Pocus" and "Sister Act") comedy duo called The Kathy and Mo Show.

"They had this really buzzy [off] Broadway show that everybody was exited about," he said.

Cagle said he was able to break out the ranks of just fact checking because he kept pitching stories.

то

PROMOTION **ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY**

In 1989, a group of people at People magazine started the development of a new kind of magazine for its time, Cagle said. They named it Entertainment Weekly.

"It was all about pop culture and all the different mediums of pop culture," Cagle said.

The new group asked him to work on the prototype. A year later, Entertainment Weekly launched and Cagle got promoted to staff writer.

Cagle said Entertainment Weekly had a very rocky start and almost folded. But then it became a massive success years later.

"I kind of got my big break as a writer at Entertainment Weekly," Cagle said.

PEOPLE>> Page 4

charge of marijuana possession March on

6. Nelson delivered his our students and their resignation via a letter to the Waco ISD Board of Trustees, who announced it at Thursday night's

more about me and my poor decisions than our schools,

RESIGNATION >> Page 4

How an atheist views **Baylor**

MAYA BUTLER

Contributor

Baylor is known for its religious integration into courses, athletics and social organizations. However, not all of Baylor's students are Christian. In fact, unlike a lot of her classmates, New Braunfels senior Morgan Pettis is an atheist.

Pettis' childhood never placed religion as a top priority as she was raised by a non-Christian mother in one household and a non-devout Lutheran father in her other household.

"It wasn't really an up front topic in my family - basically in the same realm as going to soccer practice. You could go to Bible study if you felt like it, but no one's going to encourage it or discourage it," Pettis said.

Pettus, a professional writing and rhetoric major, attended Texas Lutheran University her freshman year because it was close to

home and preferred it over Texas State University, but eventually transferred to Baylor. She said Baylor offered her a reasonable scholarship and she liked the English department and didn't think much about the religious difference between her and Baylor.

"I didn't think it was going to be that big of a deal. All the people I knew who went to Baylor weren't very religious at the time, so I assumed that Baylor was a lot like Texas Lutheran, where it was very laid back."

It was during her first year at Baylor that Pettis said she experienced a personal crisis in her life, leading her to the counseling center on campus. They eventually recommended she see the spiritual life center, where she met Dr. Ryan Richardson, director of

ATHEISM ON CAMPUS >> Page 4

Marcus Nelson



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: LariatLetters@baylor.edu

EDITORIAL

Top 10: Baylor Bucket List

The few weeks of class between spring break and graduation can be hectic — between applying for jobs, acing your last finals and celebrating your last Diadeloso, there may not be much room for free time.

However, most Baylor graduates will leave Waco after crossing the stage in the Ferrell Center, which is a big change. Before leaving the city you've called home for the past four years, there are a few of things we recommend you do.

Other local websites have Baylor- and Waco-specific bucket lists, but our top 10 was compiled by students for students, and should be a bit easier to complete than waiting in line for two and a half hours at Magnolia Table on a Saturday morning.

1. Visit the Waco Mammoth National Monument.

This monument is located less than 20 minutes away from Baylor, and the fossils there are the only recorded evidence of a nursery herd of ice age Columbian mammoths, according to National Park Services. Tickets are \$4 for students, and the park is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

2. Attend a concert at Common Grounds.

How cool is it that we not only have a hip, local coffee shop so close to campus, but that the space doubles as a concert venue on the weekends? Tickets for these shows are anywhere from \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased on Ticketfly. Upcoming artists include Honest Men and Joseph, and these next few weeks are the best time to go before the weather heats up too much.

3. See a movie at the Waco Hippodrome.

The Waco Hippodrome has been showing films and theater performances for more than 100 years and offers showings of popular films multiple times each day. Waco is a city that's big on tradition, and it's always fun to think of Baylor students from a different decade doing the same thing you're doing.

4. Try a new local coffee shop or restaurant.

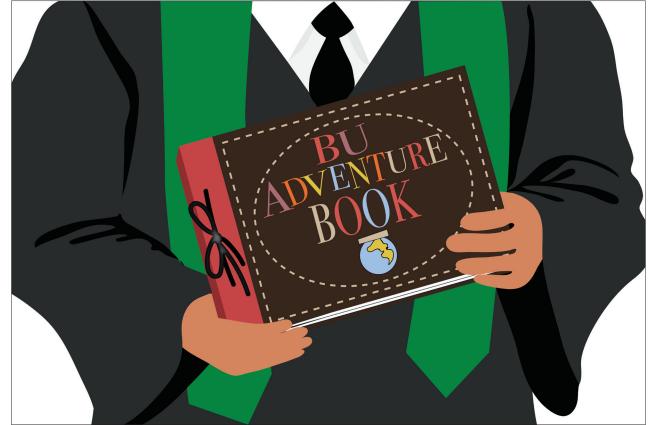
This is a really easy one to check off. Waco's local food scene is very up-and-coming, and there are plenty of places to test out with some pals. Some of our personal favorites include Stone Hearth Indian Cafe, Hecho en Waco and Pinewood Coffee Roasters.

5. Have a mental breakdown and/or take a nap in Moody Memorial Library.

Let's face it: We've all had that one impossible class that makes us want to cry or scream or eat a tub of ice cream — or, in the case of Baylor science classes, all of the above. It's almost finals season, so spend the night in Moody with some friends and embrace the stress, but be sure to bring some blankets along for a quick power nap before Starbucks re-opens.

6. Enjoy a play/musical/opera put on by Baylor students.

Baylor's music and theater students spend hours perfecting these shows, and these performances can be just as fun, if not more fun, than a Baylor football game. Tickets for "Mnemonic"



Rewon Shimray | Cartoonist

are on sale right now, and the play takes place at 7:30 p.m. on April 2-6 and at 2 p.m. on April 6-7. Tickets for "Bad Liar" go on sale on April 15.

7. Attend a multicultural event for an organization you are not part of.

Baylor is home to more than 40 multicultural organizations, and there is almost always something going on in the Bill Daniel Student Center or on Fountain Mall. Step out of your comfort zone and get to know students who come from a different culture than you. A full calendar of events can be found on the Department of Multicultural Affairs website.

8. Play a game of capture-the-flag (or Frisbee golf, or hide-and-go-seek) around campus with a big group of friends.

Ideally, you'd need a dozen or so people to play any of these games, but aside from getting everyone together, there's not much planning necessary.

9. Take your favorite professor out to lunch.

Nearly every student can say that they have at least one professor that made a notable impact on them during their time at Baylor. Invite them to Penland Crossroads if you're balling on a budget, or the Baylor Club if you're feeling fancy, and make sure

to let them know how much you appreciate their role in your life. If you can't afford a lunch, or maybe don't have that kind of relationship with the professor, send them a handwritten thank you note.

10. Grab some friends and go fountain hopping.

Students who attend Baylor Line Camp take part in this campus tradition before they're even technically real freshmen. If you were a Line camper, use this as a chance to re-connect with the people you met that summer, and if you didn't make it to Line Camp, now is your last chance to enjoy the various fountains around campus.

Share your Baylor Bucket List!

Tag us in photos of your senior year adventures!

> Instagram @baylorlariat Twitter @bulariat

Baylor chaplain emphasizes importance of getting along

DR. BURT BURLESON

Contributor

The Bible, cover to cover, recognizes the significance of — and challenge of — getting along with one another. In some texts, it's the "yard stick" for Christian discipleship. In some



passages, it's evidence of wisdom. In others, it's the calling to love whomever happens to be our neighbor or our enemy. In some verses, making things right with others is essential for being made right with God. Getting along, seeking peace in community, being kind, being truthful in

loving ways, reconciling as we are able, offering forgiveness. These practices are biblical and have been taught by saints throughout the ages as essential spiritual work for individuals and communities.

I emphasized the idea of work for a reason. Sometimes it's really hard work getting along, whether it's our families or roommates or old friends or fellow citizens or fellow disciples in church or the person who took the parking place

we had been waiting on at H-E-B. Relational challenges seem to be a fallout from "the fall" and why we have spiritual work we must do.

It is work we must do at Baylor. At every institution, some of this work is prescribed and insisted upon, and these helpful behaviors essential in community are reflected in certain policies and expectations for us all. Human beings need rules and guidelines, so we have conduct codes to help us be safe, fair, healthy and in community.

Although complying with expectations is something we all must do, the heart of our work is the conviction that we all bear the image of God and are worthy of love, respect and kindness. When we work to love others, we are not only expressing that conviction, but we are manifesting that loving reality within us - that Scripture tells us God is - that flows to us and through us into the world.

President Linda Livingstone often reminds us, "The world needs a Baylor." The world has always needed Christian communities that are manifesting love, justice, righteousness, equality, peace and all that is good. Our community can be about that, and Baylor can offer that to the world.

We are to reflect our higher calling. But

like every community, we also reflect a culture, for better... and sometimes, for worse. What is out there, seems to be in here. What is now out there in our culture and nation is more divisive, louder, more fearful, angrier and more suspicious and threatening.

The sin and brokenness of the world never bypasses anything. We bear something of it and so we bear it at Baylor, whether we are looking at the sin of Baylor's segregated past, the more recent brokenness of relational violence or these last few weeks as we have struggled with one another because of an incident in Chapel. We bear the brokenness of our world and we rightly lament, "The world is too much with us."

Yet, scripture tells us that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it (John 1:5). Our community can and does bear the light of God and can and does reflect our calling to love. Sometimes it seems easy, flowing to and from us, but at other times. it's hard spiritual work. Sisters and brothers, we are called to that work now. The world needs a Baylor bearing God's love and that is not captive to our divided culture.

The earliest Christian thinkers were led by Scripture, by their experience and by the Spirit to describe God as a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They said that in this divine mystery, there is unity and difference. At the heart of our faith is our central doctrine claiming that reality itself is characterized by "unity and difference." This is the DNA that is all things God created and that resides in all things, including us. As Baylor grows and grows with differences, we can also grow in unity, manifesting the divine building blocks within us all.

From that very large confession, a million small things will flow. We will be patient with someone or seek to understand someone or intentionally befriend someone who is different from us. We will offer help to someone in need or let our heart feel compassion for someone broken or express our convictions with civility. We will take time to know someone's story or lovingly have a hard conversation or, as Jesus would, we will forgive someone who took our parking place at H-E-B. There's a lot of spiritual work to do. My prayer is that, as we do that work, those beyond our community will say of us as they did of the early Christians, "Look at them, how they love one another."

Since 2007, Dr. Burt Burleson, B.A. '80, has served as university chaplain, nurturing the depth of faith, spiritual wholeness and missional life with students and the entire Baylor community.

Meet the Staff

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Opinion

Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat Letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat. 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.

Lariat Letters

To submit a letter to the editor or guest column, email submissions to LariatLetters@baylor.edu. Lariat Letters should be a maximum of 500 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

News

What your skin says about your health

EMMA WHITAKER Reporter

Experience with the freshman 15? Well, it is found that college students struggle with eating well in college. Away from home and high school track coaches, many students treat their body unhealthily those first months, and even years, of college.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, your skin is your body's largest organ. What goes on within your body is often paralleled in the appearance of your skin.

Dr. Elena Villanueva, a holistic doctor whose practice is in Austin, explains that your skin is one of the first platforms toxins are revealed. Villanueva has a passion for holistic healing that stemmed from her personal medical history.

"When I was in my 30's I became very ill and normal approaches to healing were not working. The medications would help for a little while, but after a while they stopped working. So I started looking for the cause of my illness, instead of covering up symptoms with medication," Villanueva said, "That's actually how I ended up doing naturopathic work."

What Villanueva and many others within this generation are voicing is the concept that food is medicine. Villanueva explains that while putting the wrong foods in your body can cause disease, putting in the right foods can heal.



"The first thing a college student can do to

"Eating healthy is so important. But eating healthy can be different for everybody," Villanueva said, "Diet is very bio-individual."

Villanueva said that not everyone will do well eating the ketogenic diet, and not everyone will do well eating vegan. This is why it is important to understand your food sensitivities. By weaning yourself off certain

food groups, Villanueva said you can reintroduce them into your system to test side effects.

"Because of a compromised gut, you body may start reacting to everything you eat," Villanueva said. "The first thing a college student can do to improve gut health is buy whole foods. Decrease processed foods, and buy foods in their natural form."

For Lee, when her gut was

healed, her skin began to heal as well. "Now whenever I break out it's usually because I eat too much grease, dairy or processed sugars," Lee said.

People with skin conditions go and get topical medicine without thinking about the cause for the inflammation. Villanueva goes on to say that even depression and anxiety

can be linked to gut health.



Josh Aguirre | Multimedia Journalist

ACNE Many college students struggle with acne and skin problems, especially during times of stress and lack of proper nutrition

What's 💥 J Happening on Campus?

Friday, March 22 🔆 Hail Caesar! and the

Comedy of Democracy 3:30 p.m. Sara MacDonald, professor of political science

and philosophy at Huron University, and Barry Craig, president at Huron University, will discuss their new book on the comic films of the Coen Brothers, The Coen Brothers and the Comedy of Democracy in Draper 340.

Women's Tennis vs. Kansas

5 p.m. Support the Baylor Women's Tennis team against Kansas at the Hurd Tennis Center.

Men's Tennis vs. Arizona State

7 p.m. Celebrate the Baylor Lights Match by watching your Baylor Bears play Arizona State at the Hurd Tennis Center.

Festival Latino

6:30 p.m. Take a journey through Latin America in Burleson Quadrangle as the Hispanic Student Association hosts Festival Latino, featuring cultural

Tuesday, March 26

🔅 Confessions of an Entrepreneur Lunch Speaker Series

12:30 p.m. Enjoy pizza and hear from local entrepreneurs Brett and Emily Mills from Jesus said Love in Paul L. Foster, room 250!

Dr Pepper Hour

3-4 p.m. Head to the Bill Daniel Student Building to enjoy a delicious Dr Pepper float and hear about all the opportunities for your Baylor Summer in Barfield Drawing Room!

🗱 First: Sandra Day O'Connor, an Interview with Author Evan Thomas

4 p.m. Join New York Times bestselling author Evan Thomas as he discusses the inspiring life of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, with special guest the Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. A book signing with Thomas will follow.

improve gut health is buy whole foods."

DR. ELENA VILLANUEVA I HOLISTIC DOCTOR

Park Ridge, Ill. sophomore Lexi Lee spent six years struggling with acne that felt all-consuming. She went to her last resort: changing her diet.

"I tried so many different medications, whether topical or oral, and they would work for a little bit but my skin would flare up eventually. Acne had such a bondage of shame and insecurity over my life for such a long time and I was over it. After my freshman year I went on a two-week fast, only eating fruits and vegetables. After only like four days I saw a huge difference. Not only did I feel better, after the two weeks my skin was glowing." Lee said.

According to Villanueva, skin health is directly related to gut health. Students do not realize that what happens in their bathroom might be a key factor in understanding their skin and gut health.

"It is important to notice if you have a lot of acid reflux, diarrhea, constipation, or if you are alternating between the two, like in Irritable Bowel Syndrome, these are key signs your gut microbiome is off," Villanueva said. "Acne, eczema, rosacea, and psoriasis are other external signs that the gut is hurting."

According to Villanueva, when one's gut health is not proper, foods that normally would not cause reactions, start to cause reactions.

crafts, cuisine, music and dance groups like Grupo Kache and Ollimpaxqui Ballet Company!

Friday and Saturday, March 22-23

Sundown Sessions

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Head to the Bill Daniel Student Center for some late-night fun of blacklight bowling, movies and crafts. Friday, enjoy a movie night featuring Teen Titans Go! To the Movies. Saturday, participate in Coffee & Canvas with free Common Grounds coffee in the Barfield Drawing Room.

Saturday March 23

Bearathon ÷.

8 a.m. It's "The Toughest Half in Texas." Take a scenic run through campus and Cameron Park in this year's Bearathon! Register at **baylor.edu/studentactivites** or cheer on runners at Rosenbalm Fountain and McLane Stadium.

Monday, March 25

Free Enterprise and American Enterprise Institute

5:30 p.m. The Free Enterprise and American Enterprise Institute presents a screening of the Arthur Brooks Movie, The Pursuit, in Paul L. Foster, room 143/144.

Movie Mondays at the Hippodrome: On the Basis of Sex

7 p.m. This week's Movie Monday features On the Basis of Sex, which follows the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who fought for equal rights and her confirmation as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice. Admission is free. Tickets can be picked up at the Baylor Ticket Office or Hippodrome Box Office.

MLC World Cinema Series

6 p.m. The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures presents MLC World Cinema Night featuring the Japanese film, 1890: 125 Years Memory, in Bennett Auditorium.

Acrobatics and Tumbling vs. Converse College

6 p.m. Come watch Baylor's acrobatics and tumbling team stunt against Converse College in the Ferrell Center.

Wednesday, March 27

Softball vs. Texas

6:30 p.m. It's out of the park at the Getterman Softball Stadium! Come support the Baylor softball team against Texas.

Thursday, March 28

🛞 Spring 2019 Colloquium

3:30 p.m. Join Dr. Jon Bradley, assistant professor of statistics at Florida State University, as he speaks on "Empirical Fully Bayesian Hierarchical Models" in Marrs McLean Science Building, room 101.

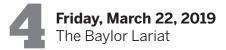
-×-Albaugh Lecture

4 p.m. The Baylor chapter of Phi Beta Kappa presents this year's Albaugh Lecture with Ian Hutchinson, lecturing on "Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?" in Bennett Auditorium.



Follow @BaylorStuAct, @BaylorMA and **@BaylorUB** on Twitter.





News-

PEOPLE from Page 1

His big story that really established him as a writer at Entertainment Weekly was "Whoopi Goldberg duels with Disney" in 1992 which was about the production of the iconic movie "Sister Act" starring Goldberg.

Cagle knew who wrote the original script, as well as one of the stars in the movie. He said they told him that the movie was having a very troubled production where Whoopi Goldberg had all these fights with Disney and that the script was being re-written every day.

Being an ambitious journalist, he tracked down production creatives to get the scoop. A lot of the biggest writers in Hollywood, including Carrie Fisher, were brought on to help produce the movie. As a result, Cagle said he pieced together a really funny story about the making of "Sister Act."

"It was just really intense and then, of course, it turned out to be this gigantic hit, and it all worked out," he said.

Soon afterward, he began garnering bigger assignments, which he said led him to become a senior editor of Entertainment Weekly.

In 2000, he left Entertainment Weekly and moved to Los Angeles to write for Time magazine, where he got to write cover stories for celebrities like Julia Roberts, Tom Cruise and Reese Witherspoon. A few years later in 2002, he wanted to go back to editing, so he returned to People to oversee their showbiz coverage until 2009. He said he remembers being there during the Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston breakup. At the same time, he was a contributor to the CBS Early Show from 2003-2008.

"I discovered I didn't want to do television fulltime, but it was a great skill to have as a print reporter," Cagle said.

Then in 2009, he became the editor of Entertainment Weekly. His crowning promotion broke in 2014: editor-in-chief of People and editorial director of Entertainment Weekly.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DOES MORE THAN JUST PRINT

When Cagle took over Entrainment Weekly in 2009, that was a time when print was on a decline where advertisers and people were moving more to digital. So as editor, it became not only Cagle's job to "stabilize" print and keep it vital, but it was also finding ways to grow its readership digitally and finding new revenue streams, he said. Cagle integrated the print and digital teams into one for both Entertainment Weekly and People. By doing that, under his leadership, launched

"If you're the editor-in-chief of People, it's not about just print, although it's definitely important," Cagle said. "I spend a lot of time on the People cover because People sells a lot on the news stand. But a lot of my time is spent on these other brand extensions."

Cagle also wanted to use People platform for good, he said.

"One of the big things with People, besides growing digital, TV shows, and lots of celebrity exclusives, People is this gigantic brand with a gigantic reach," he said. "And one of the things that I wanted to do while I was in charge of it was really use it as a force for good. We've done so much for the LBGTQ community. We've done so much for gun violence. We published a couple of times, in print and on our website, the numbers of every member of Congress so you can call and ask them what they are doing about the epidemic of gun violence in our country. We've really tried to make it a force for good and we're really proud of that."

Over his career, he has become an insider on the lives of celebrities. For an outsider, seeing even one celebrity walk by on the streets of Los Angeles might make one star struck. But for Cagle, he said he does not get starstruck when he interviews them because they are people like him who are just working.

Meeting a "legend" is different story, according to Cagle. He said when he met President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman he was star struck.

"It's always surprising, and it kind of makes sense, because these people are so iconic," he said. "You suddenly just can't believe your sitting just two feet away from them, but you know them so well and these are people who's faces are recognized around the world—that's when you get star struck."

EMBARKING ON A NEW JOURNEY

Last Thursday, Cagle announced that he will be stepping down as editor-in-chief of People when his contract expires on March 31. He will also be stepping down from his role as Editorial Director of Entertainment Weekly and People en Español.

Cagle has been working at weekly magazines at Time Inc. (now Meredith Corporation) for the last 32 years, running weekly magazines for the last 10-years and running People for the past last five.

"While that's a fun job, it is really all consuming, and I've realized that there are a lot of other things that I want to do while I am still young or at least alive," he said. He said first and foremost he wants to live under the same roof as his husband, writer-producer Matt Whitney, and their dog who both live full-time in Los Angeles. They got married last May and for the last couple of years, Cagle said he has been traveling back and forth from New York City to Los Angeles, which has been hard on him and his husband.

RESIGNATION from Page 1 —

success," Nelson said. "I have to acknowledge that people disagree about what consequences I should face, and if this debate continues, I fear that it may end up dividing this community and distracting us from what should be our focus – the kids."

Waco ISD Board of Trustees President Pat Atkins praised Nelson's work with Waco ISD.

"Dr. Nelson is a man with great talent and tremendous gifts, but like all of us he's also flawed, and at times a broken man," Atkins said.

Atkins went on to explain the need for Waco ISD to move forward in Nelson's absence.

"I also want you to know that what's happening in our community is bigger than one man," Atkins said.

Nelson's resignation was announced after nearly three hours of closed-door deliberations by the Waco ISD Board of Trustees on Thursday night. The board previously met in a closed-door session on Tuesday night, but they failed to reach a decision on Nelson before the meeting was adjourned after more than four hours.

Community opinion was split in the days leading up to Nelson's resignation. A change.org petition in support of Nelson garnered more than 5,800 supporters by the start of Thursday night's meeting. Conversely, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported the story of a Waco ISD special education aide who was given the choice to resign or be fired after being arrested on a misdemeanor marijuana charge, noting the double standard between the aide and Nelson.

Julie Sykora, a Waco resident who has had numerous family members work for Waco ISD, attended the meeting said that while tough to hear, Nelson's resignation was the right move.

"It's so sad that this had to happen," Sykora said. "I think now like they were saying in [the conference,] let's go forward."

Larrye Weaver, who also attended the meeting, calls himself a "concerned citizen" and has five children who were all put through Waco ISD schools. Weaver praised Nelson for considering the needs of the community.

"Offering his resignation shows a great degree of wisdom," Weaver said. "He probably did the right thing because some are of the opinion that with that kind of blemish it's hard to lead some folks."

Nelson, who has held the position of Waco ISD superintendent since June 2017, was arrested on March 6 and charged with a misdemeanor of marijuana possession.

ATHEISM ON CAMPUS

from Page 1 —



Photo courtesy of Morgan Pettis

ATHEISM ON CAMPUS New Bransfels senior Morgan Pettis recounts her experience at Baylor while being non-religious.

worship and chapel. She started going to University Baptist Church every Sunday at his suggestion. While she no longer goes to UBC, Pettis appreciates the experience.

"I saw that time not necessarily as finding God but a community of good, supportive people," she said.

As expected of a Baylor student, Pettis also attended the required Chapel and religion classes, taking one of the alternative chapels with Dr. Burt Burleson, who also helped her at the spiritual life center. Pettis described Burleson's alternative chapel as more self-reflection than biblical.

"He was great. He never pushed anything; he was very open to just, 'You figure your way out. My office door is always open if you need it,"" Pettis said.

Burleson, who has served as both university chaplain and dean of spiritual life at Baylor for over 12 years, explains that one part of his role involves campus ministry while the other deals with pastoral counseling.

"We walk alongside students, especially, but really anyone in the university who is dealing with a crisis," he said.

The number of atheists that attend Baylor has increased, according to the latest Institutional Research and Testing report, which noted a bump in atheists attending the university from 60 students in 2012 to 100 in 2018. The number has remained stable over the last few years. Pettis said that she's thought about converting to Christianity but has never acted on it.

"I've thought about it. I don't want to try to commit myself to something that I don't think that I would actually believe. I don't want to just put a name to it and go through all the work just to say I'm something that I'm not. I've tried very hard to believe. It just doesn't happen," Pettis said.

Despite absense of her faith, spirituality surfaces in many areas of her life. In fact, it serves a crucial role at the Beauchamp Addiction Recovery Center on campus, where Pettis works.

"The spiritual aspect of holistic wellness isn't necessarily a religion, but just grounding yourself in the moment," Pettis said.

At Baylor, Pettis says the spiritual aspect of holistic wellness "tends to be the starting point" for many visitors who seek help at the BARC. Interestingly, the service Pettis provides at her work reflects the founding values that helped establish Baylor in the first place, Burleson said.

Read more on the Baylor Lariat website.



many brand extensions, including Entertainment Weekly Radio on SiriusXM.

During his time as editor-in-chief of People for the last five years, Cagle also integrated print and digital together. With his guidance, People's editorial staff has grown the magazine's digital content by producing hundreds of pieces of digital content every week. They have also produced many television programs including the People Magazine Investigates franchise on Discovery ID, and a live daily web series, People Now, on People's OTT network, PeopleTV. Cagle also hosted The Jess Cagle Interview, where he interviewed celebrities and was broadcast on all of the brand's digital platforms and SiriusXM's Entertainment Weekly channel, according to Entertainment Weekly.

"You can only fly back and forth to LA all the time for so long," he said.

As for whats next for his career, he said he wants to keep telling stories. "I'm looking for interesting projects and finding ways to tell stories because that is what I've done for my whole career in some form or fashion," he said. According to the Waco Tribune-Herald, Nelson was pulled over by a state trooper for driving in the passing lane on US Highway 190 near Hearne. His car was searched after the trooper smelled marijuana, which resulted in less than two ounces of marijuana being found on the passenger seat. Nelson was held in the Robertson County jail overnight and was released the next morning.

Nelson has already agreed to a plea deal, which includes a \$500 fine and 90-day diversion program. At the conclusion of the program, the charge will be dismissed.

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> Wednesday, March 27: NO UNDERCLASS PHOTOS

Thursday, March 28: NO UNDERCLASS PHOTOS

Friday, March 29: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Moody Library foyer

Tuesday, April 2 - Friday, April 5: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Moody Library foyer

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SENIORS

Tuesday, March 26: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Foster Center atrium

Wednesday, March 27: Noon to 6 p.m., BEAR FAIRE: Cashion Academic Center

Thursday, March 28 Noon to 6 p.m., BEAR FAIRE: Cashion Academic Center

Friday, March 29: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Foster Center atrium

Tuesday, April 2 - Friday, April 5: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Foster Center atrium



arts & life

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ALL ABOUT BRAND

Check out Cultivate 7twelve's latest exhibit about celebrity and brand-making. **pg. 6**



WHAT TO DO Here is where to be and when this week in Waco.

pg. 6

6 The reception is exciting because you don't know if you got in or not, and it's kind of gambling at that point."

Jennifer Conrad

udents prepare for annual art show

THOMAS MORAN Arts and Life Editor

The Martin Museum of Art closed its exhibition "Neoclassical Gaze: Myth and Reality of Ancient Sculpture" March 8, and the 2019 Baylor Art Student Exhibition is in the works to replace it. Students are able to submit pieces through 4 p.m. Wednesday to potentially be selected for the show.

Allison Chew, director of the Martin Museum of Art, said the annual event showcases some of the best work being produced by students in the art department. Pieces are selected by a qualified juror every year, Chew said.

"We have a jury process where we select someone who will go through all the works and pick out the cream of the crop, in essence, and choose awards based on the types of works submitted," Chew said.

This year's juror is Tish Brewer, owner of The Center for Art Conservation in Dallas. She'll decide everything from which pieces enter the show, to which win the awards, to which criteria she is looking for, Chew said.

"It is a blind process, so she doesn't know who the artist is, how many works they've submitted," Chew said. "She is jurying solely based on the work in front of her. We let her go through and decide what she wants in the show, and then she'll come to the opening the following week and explain the process and the things she was looking for that she felt were successful in the work, maybe some of the things that she felt weren't successful, and then she'll talk about why she chose some of the winners."

Students are able to submit pieces under eight categories: painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, textiles/fabrics, printmaking and drawing.

"Each category has a winner, and then we have a best of show," Chew said. "We also allow the general public to come in and vote for a people's choice award that we give out at the end of the show."

The art show welcomes pieces from any student enrolled in an art class since last year's show, Chew said.

Katy junior Jennifer Conrad is one of two sculpture majors at Baylor and won the best of show award last year for her ovaloid, which she made in her 3D design class. She is planning on submitting several pieces in hopes of being selected to appear in the show and potentially chosen for some of the awards. The annual student show generates plenty of buzz and excitement among the art students, Conrad said. "I'm always really excited about it," Conrad said. "We never really know who gets in, none of the professors or the students, and so going to the reception is exciting because you don't know if you got in or not and it's kind of gambling at that created after a year of hard work, Conrad said.

"Most of us are working in our classes and focusing on our own pieces and we don't really get to see what everybody else is doing," Conrad said. "In that, we get to see what our friends are doing, what everybody else is working on, and it's exciting."

Robbie Barber is a professor of sculpture and 3D design in the art department, and his students submit pieces to the show every year.

"I think a comparison would be to theater," Barber said. "You go through all that trouble to write the play, practice the play, direct the play, build the sets, and if you didn't show the artwork, it would be like theater not having the production so that you would have an audience to view it."

The show is a great setting for students to show their work to friends, family and the greater community, Barber said.

Beyond opening the achievements of the art students to public viewing, appearing in the show is also a valuable professional opportunity.

"It also builds their resume, especially if they win an award," Chew said. "They can list that as they're applying for graduate schools or going into the workforce or looking for employment in the arts community."

Alongside the 2019 Baylor Art Student Exhibition, another exhibit will also be opening: "The Expanse Between Exhibition."

"The Expanse Between' is two visiting artists, Alexis Serio and Dewane Hughes, and they're both professors at the University of Texas at Tyler," Chew said.

The exhibit will primarily feature watercolor paintings by Serio and large metal sculptures by Hughes.

The departments hosts a big celebratory event the night of the opening of the student show.

"It will be a big reveal, reception and award ceremony," Chew said. "So none of the students will know if their work is in the show or not until the 28th at 5:30, and we hand out awards the same night."



10 Women to know for Women's History Month

 Founder of the Women's Social and Political Union, Emmiline Pankhurst endured 13 imprisonments throughout her fight for women's suffrage.

2. By refusing to give up

her seat to a white person, Rosa Parks helped spark changes that would lead to equal rights in the 1960s.

> **3.** Marie Sklodowska Curie's discoveries in radioactivity laid the groundwork for modern cures for cancer.

> > **4.** Mathmetician Ada Lovelace

is considered the first computer programer.

5. Rosalind Franklin provided evidence of the double helix structure of DNA.

6. Margaret Thatcher was the first female prime minister of England.

7. Florence Nightingale's work during the Crimean War was instrumental in establishing permanent military nursing services.

8. Jane Austen wrote several of the most well-known novels in history.

9. Diana, Princess of Wales, became well known for her charity work for sick children and activism in cancer awareness.

10. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Cultivate 7 twelve exhibit explores branding through social media

LINDSEY REYNOLDS Reporter

The power of social media is one of the foremost hot button issues of the 21st century, and Cultivate 7twelve's latest exhibit addresses the topic head on, featuring pieces that explore branding and advertising through the medium.

"The Art of Celebrity and Modern Brand Making: POP" is a mixed media exhibit that features photographs of presently famous personas, portraits of influencers from the past and even an artistic take on a recent Twitter argument between Hillary Clinton and President Trump. Each piece highlights the power that creating a persona has upon society and how it has transformed the way we place value upon people and things.

Jordan Wallace, venue manager at Cultivate 7Twelve, said he believes that social media has grown to play a crucial role in the way we advertise our personal brands.

"In this age, a large part of our persona comes from advertising. We identify with advertising. We find out what the latest app is, learn how to dress, and what new phones are out," Wallace said. "Social media is a key marketing tool."

Wallace explained that when people see an image, they identifies with it in some way or another. The influence of the image could be negative or positive, but ultimately a message is relayed. Wallace interpreted a piece by Waco artist Jenna Brooks of famous Spanish Surrealist Salvador Dali and how she captured the late artist's bold persona in a lone black and white painting.

"Everything you see in the gallery right now is marketing some kind of message. Salvador Dali was an iconic figure of his time in the way that his style was really different and unique," Wallace said. "Just by painting his face, she expressed an entire genre of art he created in the 1900s."

No strangers to the art of brand making, two Waco photographers turned entrepreneurs, Eric Linares and Andreas Zaloumis, related personal experiences of creating their brands to the pieces in the exhibit.

Linares, owner of Taqueria Quetzal Co. in Waco, explained both the upsides and downsides of modern brand making through social media.

"Branding has become its own entity. It doesn't even matter who you are personally; your brand is its own living creature," Linares said. "It creates a sort of clash between people's mental perception of their brand and of who they truly are."

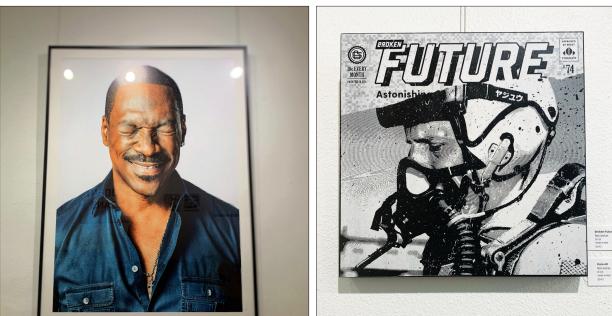
The struggle toward authenticity in social media portrayal has been a prevalent conversation since the origins of sites such as Six Degrees, Friendster and Myspace. The issue has become increasingly more prominent with emerging "catfish" stories and scandals such as the Fyre Festival, each instance misleading audiences on both small and large scales.

"Many times in media, you will see the personal aspect come to light, and you have these terrible stories of people acting out," Linares said. "It shows how much we as a people have started believing what a brand is, versus what a human is and we can't really separate the two."

Owner of Thrst Coffee, Andreas Zaloumis, agrees that while social media and celebrity personas may mislead audiences, the platforms do provide a valuable tool for an individual to market skills and attributes with minimal to no cost.

"Social media is one of those platforms that you can create an identity with, and it doesn't have to be a bad thing. "You can project something you want and are aspiring to be, and working your way to be," Zaloumis said. "Social media gives you that access and exposure without having to pay a lot."

Visit the exhibit for free at 712 Austin Ave. until April 3, or preview it on the Culitvate 7twelve website.



Lindsey Reynolds | Reporter

BRANDING The current Cultivate 7twelve exhibit explores the influence of social media on modern personal branding. Sparking mixed reactions among artists and the community, some have debated whether social media's influence has been positive or not.





Friday, March 22 Miss Sunburst Pageant and Beautiful Baby Contest | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Richland Mall

Dirty Echoes | 7 p.m. | La Fiesta Restaurant & Cantina | The rock band will be performing song's like "Emmon's Cliff" and "Relevate."

Quentin Earl Darrington - Broadway actor lecture, performance | 5 - 6 p.m. | Jones Theatre | Darrington has performed in several Broadway shows including "Once on This Island," "Cats" and "Ragtime."

Sundown Sessions: Teen Titans | 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. | Bill Daniel Student Center | The Union Board will host a watch party of episodes of Teen Titans.

Saturday, March 23

Bearathon | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | McLane Stadium | The annual half-marathon and sixkilometer race will benefit the Baylor Student Foundation.

Waco Downtown Farmers Market | 9 a.m - 1 p.m. | McLennan County Courthouse parking lot | The weekly event features fresh greens, plants, artisan breads and cheeses, eggs, pizzas, coffee and more from a variety of local vendors.

South 40 Outdoor Expo | All Day | Extraco Events Center | The expo will feature vendors and exhibitors of outdoor products, and fishing and activities for kids.

Sundown Session: Coffee and Canvas | 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. | Bill Daniel Student Center | The Union Board will host an event for students to enjoy free Common Grounds and a spring themed painting class. Blacklight bowling and the Baylor Gameroom will also be available.



PREMIER Crossword **RIDING ON EMPTY** ACROSS 1 Veg-o- — (Ronco

By Frank A. Longo



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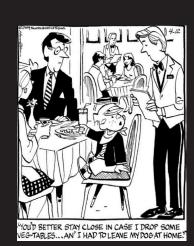
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Dennis The Menace

By: Hank Ketcham



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- 83 Calm
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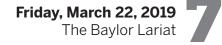
81 Special ability, for short

© 2019 by King Features Syndicate

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BIG 12 ACTION >> Baylor baseball and softball open conference play this weekend.

BaylorLariat.com



ssociated Pres

BOMBS AWAY Baylor senior guard King McClure fires a 3-pointer over a Syracuse defender on Thursday night in Salt Lake City. The Bears made 16 3-pointers in a 78-69 upset of No. 8 seed Syracuse to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Bears shoot their way to upset win over Syracuse

BEN EVERETT Sports Editor

No. 9 seed Baylor men's basketball upset No. 8 seed Syracuse 78-69 on Thursday night in Salt Lake City to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Baylor will face No. 1 seed Gonzaga on Saturday.

With both teams implementing a zone defense, the Bears and Orange didn't shy away from the 3-point line in attempt to break each other's zone. The two teams combined to make 28 3-pointers while Baylor shot a scintillating 16-for-34 from behind the arc.

In his second NCAA Tournament appearance, and first since leading Yale to an upset win over the Bears in 2016, Baylor senior guard Makai Mason notched a team-high 22 points on 7-for-14 The Bears made an early point of attacking Syracuse's 2-3 zone and finding open shooters on the perimeter. Sophomore forward Mario Kegler started the game with back-to-back 3-point makes from the corner. Of Baylor's first 11 shots from the field, 10 of them were from behind the arc and the Bears made six of them.

Despite the hot outside shooting by Baylor, the Orange stayed in the game thanks to Hughes, who scored 11 points in the first nine minutes, but Baylor held a 20-19 lead.

The two teams, in order to counteract each other's zone defense, continued to launch 3-pointers. Syracuse junior guard Tyus Battle converted a 4-point play to give the Orange its first lead of the game at 28-25.

The Baylor defense clamped down in the late stages of the first half, holding Syracuse to just one field goal in the final five minutes. Meanwhile, Mason knocked down two more 3-pointers to give Baylor a 38-37 lead heading into the break.

scored on back-to-back jumpers, but the Bears continued to bomb away from 3-point range with senior guard King McClure draining two in a row to give Baylor a 48-46 lead five minutes into the half.

On a drive to the basket, Mason knocked knees with a Syracuse defender and left the game at the 13 minute mark. Mason returned at the 10 minute mark with the game tied at 57 apiece, and the Bears went on a 5-0 run to force a Syracuse timeout with eight minutes left in the second half.

Mason and junior forward Freddie Gillespie each knocked down clutch midrange jumpers to extend the lead to five with under three minutes remaining.

Syracuse began to implement a full court press in an attempt to make a late comeback. The Bears broke the press twice, with Mason knocking down two free throws and Gillespie hammering home an exclamation point dunk to cap off the 78-69 victory.

shooting.

Syracuse was led by junior forward Elijah Hughes, who scored 25 points on 7-for-15 shooting from the field and 6-for-11 shooting from 3-point range.

Baylor switched to a man-to-man defense to start the second half, and the Orange began to make plays off the dribble. Battle The time for Baylor's second round matchup against Gonzaga on Saturday has yet to be announced.

Football hoping to build off bowl win

JESSIKA HARKAY

Sports Writer

With a week of warm temperatures, play-call echos and sweat dripping from every forehead, spring practice is in full swing for Baylor football. From a 1-11 record to 7-6 and clinching the Texas Bowl within a single year, the Bears are on the rise and optimistically preparing for the upcoming 2019 season.

This marks the third year under head coach Matt Rhule. Two factors that are beginning to define the team are the ability to create a comfortable coach-athlete relationship and striving to improve. Acknowledging how the spring season has been a time of development for the Bears, Rhule said the biggest change on the field comes from maturity and focus.

"This has become a very mature team that doesn't miss a lot, so we're not always getting pulled away from distractions. That's our number one job, is to help players develop and grow academically and socially." Rhule said. "This spring I'm really encouraging guys to make mistakes. ... The only way we can coach you and improve you is if you make mistakes and we can see where your limits are. We can make corrections and as much as anything, that's the biggest difference now than last spring. ... I think [players] truly understand we're side by side now."

The "best interest at heart" culture, which engulfs the locker room that

Rhule described, creates a sense of consistency and high expectations that returning players all understand. Senior offensive lineman Sam Tecklenburg said going through the third year with the coaching staff and teammates has helped to shift the program from forming relationships to solely football.

"I think a lot of guys know [Rhule] and what the whole staff expects," Tecklenburg said. "I think we're getting a better picture of that and hopefully at this point, in a lot of our careers, things can be a lot more football orientated than trying to figure out what they want from us and how they want things done."

Not only is the team shifting toward becoming more football orientated, but Tecklenburg said the motivation in the locker room is setting their sights on nothing but success.

"I'll never take for granted winning the bowl game. It's been an unbelievable experience and been fortunate to win a few here, but I still haven't won a Big 12 Championship," Tecklenburg said. "That was my dream when I came here and that was my goal, and to go beyond that as well. That's the same mindset for a lot of guys. We're happy with what we did last year but it's still not good enough. We want more."

With the same mindset guiding the team, the Bears look forward to a few changes going into the new fall season, including greater size on the



Josh Aguirre | Multimedia Editor

EARLY RETURNS Baylor football players participate in spring practice on Thursday night at Allison Indoor Practice Facility. The Bears will compete in their annual spring game on April 13 at McLane Stadium.

offensive line, new talent with veteran leadership, cutting down sacks and using the confidence from the bowl win to keep the players hungry for greater success. With a locker room full of individualized goals, junior quarterback Charlie Brewer said the team's confidence is growing.

"I think that everyone should have pretty high confidence after winning the bowl game and a lot of people coming back," Brewer said. "Coach kind of talks about that last year doesn't matter. We've got to get better, but I thought we had a really good offseason. Everybody's really excited to be back on the field."

The Bears' football team will hold the Green and Gold game on April 13 and the regular season opens at McLane Stadium on Aug. 31.

Baseball opens Big 12 with series against Mountaineers

DJ RAMIREZ

Sports Writer

The 2018 Big 12 Tournament champion Baylor baseball team will open conference play this weekend at Baylor Ballpark against the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Head coach Steve Rodriguez said he feels the team has a good foundation to build on going forward.

"Once we start Big 12 play, that's when championships are won. So for us, we've had I would consider a pretty successful non-conference play," Rodriguez said. "I think we've had an opportunity to get a lot of guys in. We've had some injuries and we've had to deal with a few things. But from a bigger standpoint, I think we have a pretty good foundation to work with right now. I think our guys understand that and they realize the importance of this weekend as well."

After a back-and-forth midweek loss to Sam Houston State, the Bears are looking for a strong start in Big 12 play with junior lefty Paul Dickens as the new Friday guy. Dickens, who pitched seven scoreless innings in his last start against Cal Poly, is currently eighth in strikeouts in the conference with 28 and sports a 2.88 ERA. Junior infielder Andy Thomas said that Dicken's pitching will work great for throwing hitters off.

"Paul has a mix of all three pitches, even got a little slider that he throws not very often. He throws the downhill, and when he's on, it's really hard to hit," Thomas said.

Sophomore Jimmy Winston, who leads the conference with a 0.93 ERA, will start on Saturday but the Sunday starter is still a mystery. According to Rodriguez, the coaching staff will decide who starts the rubber match depending on the results of the first two games.

Baylor, who was voted second in the Big 12 preseason coaches' poll, currently sits in fourth place in the conference with an overall 13-6 record and a .684 winning percentage. The Bears were ranked at No. 26 by Collegiate Baseball and No. 29 in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association poll this week.

The Bears are second in the conference in batting

average with .307 and are slugging .490 with a .395 onbase percentage. They also lead the Big 12 in doubles with 49, led by junior infielders Davis Wendzel and Thomas. Wendzel, who's been a consistent presence at the plate for the team, is third in the conference and leads Baylor with a .387 average, is tied for fourth with eight stolen bases and sits at ninth with 19 RBIs. Thomas said Wendzel's consistency has been great for the Bears.

"It's great having that consistent guy in the 3-hole that just absolutely bashes pitches over and over again. He has an '0-fer' day everyone's like, 'What's going on?' It's weird. But no, it's been good for the team," Thomas said.

West Virginia, who has won eight of their last 10 and back-to-back weekend series, is seventh in the Big 12 with a 13-7 overall record and a .650 winning percentage. Baylor can expect strong pitching and baserunning out of the Mountaineers as they are second in Big 12 pitching and lead in stolen bases. Their biggest threat on the mound will be Friday starter Alek Manoah, who is ranked 12th in the NCAA with 45 strikeouts and holds a 2.88 ERA.

Offensively, the Bears will have to keep an eye on sophomore second baseman Tyler Doanes, who leads West Virginia with a .342 average, a .570 slugging percentage and three triples. Junior center fielder Brandon White leads the conference with 14 stolen bases.

Baylor, however, is on top of the Big 12 in fielding with a .977 percentage and are tied for fourth with 16 double plays. They also don't have much to worry about with a Gold Glove winning catcher back behind the plate. According to Rodriguez, the Bears will prepare as much they can for what the Mountaineers will bring to the ballpark this weekend.

"They're a good team. They've stolen a lot of bases," Rodriguez said. "Luckily, we have Shea [Langeliers] back, who can hopefully neutralize those behind the plate. ...They're pretty offensive. They have two really good starting pitchers, so we're going to prepare for that as well."

The series against West Virginia will begin at 6:35 p.m. on Friday and continue at 3:05 p.m. on Saturday with the final game at 12:05 p.m. on Sunday.

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Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist

Sports

NOW IT BEGINS Baylor junior pitcher Ryan Leckich winds up for a pitch against Dallas Baptist on Feb. 26 at Baylor Ballpark. The Bears open Big 12 Conference play with a weekend series against West Virginia at Baylor Ballpark.

Baylor softball goes 0-3 in midweek matchups



Weekend Sports Schedule

Softball vs. Oklahoma State

Friday, 6:30 p.m. Getterman Stadium

Baseball vs. West Virginia

Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist

PRE-CONFERENCE SLUMP Baylor freshman infielder Kassidy Krupit sets up for a swing against Central Arkansas on Wednesday at Getterman Stadium. The Lady Bears lost to Houston twice on Tuesday before dropping an 8-5 decision to Central Arkansas on Wednesday. Baylor opens Big 12 Conference play this weekend.

Friday, 6:35 p.m. Baylor Ballpark

Men's Tennis vs. Arizona State Friday, 7 p.m. Hurd Tennis Center

WBB vs. Abilene Christian

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. Ferrell Center

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