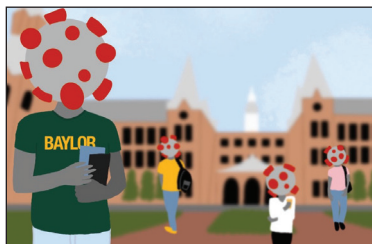


Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

Monday, August 24, 2020

baylorlariat.com



Opinion | A2

Why are we on campus?
Has Baylor handled our return well?



A&L | B1

How BLM has affected music
Artists share support, experiences.



Sports | B6

QB in control
Brewer steps up as a leader with big expectations.

Baylor threatens expulsions for COVID-19 safety violations

AVA DUNWOODY
Staff Writer

Baylor University President Linda Livingstone sent an email to parents Wednesday night outlining the repercussions of noncompliance with COVID-19 regulations. Penalties include suspension and expulsion.

Two hours later, a similar email with additional information was sent to students. The email, sent by Dr. Sharra Hynes, associate vice president and dean of students in the Division of Student Life, updated punishments for noncompliance, including a repeated suspension and expulsion threat, and added a “fine of \$250 per occurrence” for breaking local and state ordinances.

“Baylor students who fail to comply with Baylor Policies... may face significant consequences that include suspension or expulsion from the University.”

DR. SHARRA HYNES

“Baylor students who fail to comply with Baylor Policies and/or local and state resolutions and Executive Orders, and thus place the health and wellbeing of others at risk, may face significant consequences that include suspension or expulsion from the University,” Hynes said in the email.

Student organizations, including Greek life, face the threat of “removal of charter” for failing to

comply.

In order to enforce the ban on social gatherings with more than 10 people, students living off campus will see “an increased law enforcement presence in the evenings,” according to another email sent Thursday by Livingstone.

In the email, Livingstone said, “I respectfully request that you have a

EXPULSION >> Page A7



Brittney Matthews | Multimedia Editor

BACK TO BAYLOR Freshmen and their families walk by the statue of Rufus C. Burleson outside of the Burleson Quadrangle on Baylor's campus.

How Baylor planned the return to campus

VIVIAN ROACH

Staff Writer

Baylor's plan was always to get back to campus after classes went online for the second half of the spring semester in March. As the phases of the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, so did the plan to return to campus.

Jason Cook, Baylor's vice president for marketing and communications and chief marketing officer, said the top priority for the school was ultimately to get everyone back safely.

Cook said the question was “what can we do in terms of health and safety protocols and academically to

get our students and our faculty back on campus this fall?”

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and changing scientific information as the medical community has continued to learn about the virus, any plans needed to be very flexible.

Cook said other schools around the country have influenced the decision to return to campus, especially with two of the largest universities in the country being located within two hours of Waco: Texas A&M and the University of Texas. The schools have been in communication, bouncing solutions off of each other.

However, Baylor's main focus has been on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the city of Waco and its impact

on local health institutions. Though the university has taken significant efforts to have in-person classes this fall, the ever-evolving nature of the virus will be a key factor. When Baylor officials first started discussing concrete plans in early summer about a return to campus in the fall, there was a significant push from students and parents for as many face-to-face classes as possible. Cook said there was even a little frustration that there were not more face-to-face courses being offered. However, as the summer progressed, there was a shift, with more students and parents requesting online courses. Cook said

RETURN >> Page A7

Commission to evaluate ‘historical connections to slavery’

AVA DUNWOODY
Staff Writer

The Commission on Historic Campus Representations is working to respond to the Black Lives Matter movement at Baylor University. The purpose of the commission, announced on July 6, is to research Baylor's ties to injustice and form a proposal to be deliberated by the university.

Members of the commission were appointed based on their ability to contribute to the group, including their unique perspectives, expertise in diversity and historical research and different positions throughout campus. Three co-chairs lead 23 other members, including students, faculty, staff and alumni who were named in a press release published by the university.

“The Commission will develop a set of observations for consideration by the Board of Regents and Administration about how to best communicate and reflect the complete history of Baylor University for current and future generations,” the press release said.

Baylor's NAACP chapter has been particularly involved in holding Baylor



Brittney Matthews | Multimedia Editor

STATUES UNDER SCRUTINY The Commission on Historic Campus Representations will examine statues, building names and monuments in the third stage of the action plan the commission has devised.

accountable regarding their response to the state of the nation. Shevann Steuben has been the president of Baylor NAACP since 2018 and serves as president of Texas NAACP Youth & College Division.

“I know some really great people that are on [the commission],” Steuben said. “I have no doubt that those voices will speak up for not just Black voices, but minority voices.”

On June 2, Baylor NAACP published a letter to Baylor titled “We Are Done Waiting,” in tandem with the NAACP's national campaign “We Are Done Dying,” in which they urged the university to respond. The letter outlined Baylor NAACP's frustrations with Baylor's lack of statement and support

COMMISSION >> Page A7

Baylor creates new Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office in response to federal

MEREDITH HOWARD
Assistant News Editor

Unprecedented regulations in federal Title IX law that went into effect Aug. 14 have led Baylor to create the new Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office in order to investigate misconduct that's no longer covered by federal Title IX law.

The system will replace the former one that dealt only with sexual misconduct that was included in Title IX. The definitions of sexual assault and sexual harassment have been significantly narrowed, leaving some survivors with no federal protection.

For example, sexual harassment is now strictly defined as an action “so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to education.” Additionally, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking are now considered to be sexual harassment under the law, where they were previously designated as assault.

According to The

Chronicle of Higher Education, “Many fear that the mandates are too burdensome and could dissuade sexual-assault victims from coming forward ... But due-process supporters, who say Obama-era federal guidelines unfairly railroaded accused students, hailed the new rules when they were proposed in 2018.” Many major revisions were made in Title IX law this year, and Mount Vernon senior Kyla Wilson, the president of It's On Us BU, said she was happy to see that Baylor was staying the same in some instances where colleges are being given discretion on how to conduct their offices.

“I definitely wasn't surprised, but I was very excited that they were just truly keeping the best interest of our sexual assault survivors here on campus at heart, and that they were really just trying to maintain the same sense of safety [in] regards with reporting and just the different processes and things like that and just really trying to make sure that people will

still feel comfortable going into the office,” Wilson said.

Wilson also said that while she approves of Baylor's handling of the new law, she opposes the legislation itself, especially the provision requiring cross-examination.

“The entire point of Title IX, up until this point with the policy changes, has been to allow survivors to have an easier method of pursuing justice than our traditional justice system allows, simply because of the privacy and the precautions that Title IX takes in allowing survivors to have privacy and comfort,” Wilson said.

Wilson said she was worried that some survivors who choose Title IX over a criminal justice proceeding may not report now because of a narrowing gap between the processes.

“They [Title IX employees] are significantly more cautious of the mental ramifications that sexual assault may have on a person, and they put

TITLE IX >> Page A5

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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



AB Boyd | Cartoonist

EDITORIAL

Why are we on campus?

Requiring tests isn't enough. Putting up tents isn't enough. Baylor and its students need to do more if we want to stay on campus this semester.

Just take a look at examples across the country:

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 177 students tested positive for COVID-19 in their first week on campus with just 30% of its classes in person. That school has moved to an online format.

The University of Notre Dame has had 146 positive tests since Aug. 3. They've moved classes online for the next two weeks.

A little closer to home, Oklahoma State University has quarantined an entire sorority house after 23 members tested positive. No one in the house is allowed to leave for at least two weeks.

Michigan State University hadn't even planned on welcoming students back until Sept. 2, but it has moved its

undergraduates to an online-only environment this semester.

Now Baylor doesn't have to be like those. It has even made legitimate efforts to be the opposite. Testing could be helpful, and putting up tents is a smart way to combat a suddenly overcrowded campus.

But there are some choices that don't stand up to healthy scrutiny. Baylor has been put in an impossible situation, stuck between saving its revenue and spending exorbitant amounts of money to keep students on campus. We can't straddle the line between complete safety and a sense of normalcy.

Why are intramural sports happening? How do you social distance while playing football or basketball? Just requiring that participants and fans (also, why are fans allowed?!) wear masks doesn't do enough to protect students who are being more cautious.

Baylor is also allowing 25% capacity at McLane Stadium for

football games. If it is confident in its ability to house 10,000 fans, why not share the plan?

It's not just on the university, though. The students have to choose whether or not to socially distance, wear masks and not attend parties. Yes, parties happen. And they are the worst case scenario when trying to contain the virus. If students want to stay on campus — and we should with a 4% tuition hike — then we need to make the collective decision to avoid the risky situations and listen to health professionals.

And if a raise in tuition isn't enough to dissuade people, maybe the threat of expulsion, as laid out in Wednesday's email, will be.

Despite some miscalls, the university has done an exceptional job preparing for this semester, but unless students take the virus seriously, it's likely we'll be back online within the next three weeks.

EDITORIAL

Black lives matter

Black lives matter. Systemic racism is real. Racial injustice is happening everywhere.

These statements are not up for debate. They are not "political" or "radical." They simply speak truth about the state of race relations in this country. Saying these words is the first step in rectifying the way Black people have been treated in this country since the first enslaved people arrived on our shores in 1619.

Black people are 2.8 times more likely to be shot and killed by police officers than white people. Black women are two to three times more likely than white women to die during childbirth. Black people with the same levels of education as their white peers make less money across the board in all education brackets, therefore perpetuating the income inequality between Black and white Americans that has always existed in this country. Minority communities are more likely to be victims of voter suppression, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 sits today essentially gutted of its power by the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court decision. And in the midst of this pandemic, communities of color—and Black communities specifically—have been hit the hardest with the deadly virus.

It is clear that, no matter which segments of society you look at, the toxic evils of racism have seeped into every crack and crevice of our country by those both ignorant to the extent of the problem and those motivated by hatred, seeking to perpetuate racism to maintain their power.

When this evil is so obviously entrenched in every facet of what makes this country what it is, it can be capable of instilling a fear that overwhelms and freezes those of us calling out this evil for what it is.

However, it is not going to magically disappear on its own. This country, from the very beginning, has failed on every account to treat Black people as if their lives matter. As inheritors of the American democracy, each and every one of us are personally responsible for using the power we hold to make measurable changes in the right direction.

In such a monumental election year, it is prudent to remember that no presidential campaign or candidate is going to fix this pervasive issue. Keep marching in the streets. Continue to organize and petition those in power. Keep up the fight. Holding our local, state and federal politicians' feet to the fire is the only way to get things done in this democracy. They aren't going to implement these changes on their own.

Let us remember the work of anti-racism is not easy. It is oftentimes exhausting and it is frustratingly slow. But it is always, always worthwhile, and it is everyone's moral responsibility to take the work on.

Generations of people have fought to ensure that all people are treated equally in this country. That fight now rests on our shoulders. May we all have the courage to pull this country forward into a future where our Black friends, family and neighbors are treated with dignity, respect and equality in every avenue of their lives.



AB Boyd | Cartoonist

COLUMN

Death of the water cooler: How this pandemic will change work forever

CARSON LEWIS
Assistant Digital Managing Editor

Many major changes have been made to the American lifestyle due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mask wearing, social distancing and an upending of the sports world are just some of the biggest changes to our daily lives. However, some of the adjustments that will affect society for decades to come have yet to be seen.

I believe that labor and the American workplace will be profoundly affected by this pandemic. When students graduate from college in the next few years, they will be lucky to hold a job — and that job will likely look different from anything in the history of American business.

Necessity has caused companies to acknowledge the benefit of working from home, and many jobs have transitioned to online only. I'm certain that many people experienced that over this summer, with family

members and friends no longer having to commute to the office for work. This has some benefits, including reduced importance on "work clothing," allowing for some employees to have more freedom in their daily wear during the weekdays.

However, this increased focus on working from home has some managers and bosses worried. The level of control they once had in the office has been threatened. In a recent article for Slate, Alison

Green, who runs the blog "Ask a Manager," described the ways in which some managers are treating the issue.

"At Ask a Manager, an alarming number of people have shared stories with me of managers insisting on multiple detailed status updates every day, holding unnecessary lengthy daily team meetings (sometimes hours a day) and even requiring



“...labor rights have not prepared for such a massive move to a different form of employment. This will likely become a problem for groups that already find it harder to hold employment”

CARSON LEWIS |
ASSISTANT DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

employees to keep their webcams on all day so they can be observed over video as they work," Green said.

This is likely to become the new normal in many jobs. Increased worker surveillance has already become normal in many workforces that prioritize productivity. With online work becoming a necessity, it will continue to escalate.

While some workplaces return to the old way of doing things in person, some businesses may never transition back. In May, Twitter announced that many of their employees could work from home — permanently. Google has said that its employees will work from home until at least 2021. An assortment of other companies have followed in those footsteps, including Amazon corporate and Sony Music.

While some companies are offering benefits to workers at home in the form of reimbursement for child care expenses, labor rights have not prepared for such a massive move to a different form of

employment. This will likely become a problem for groups that already find it harder to hold employment: women with children and those with poor internet access.

Access to fast, affordable internet service is essential in the world of telecommuting post-COVID-19. The costs of production, including office costs and simple things such as air conditioning, water fountains and electricity will be pushed onto the employee, who now will have to pay for those things themselves with the income they generate from their employment.

What will happen when the places of business that adorn our cities' skylines sit emptier than usual? How will people react when the lack of community in the workplace, once a major source of connections for American adults, vanishes? What will fill that space? It's clear that we are undergoing a new revolution in the way work takes place, but the beginnings of it may be rough, especially for employees.

Carson is a junior journalism major from Gilbert, Ariz.

Meet the Staff

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Opinion

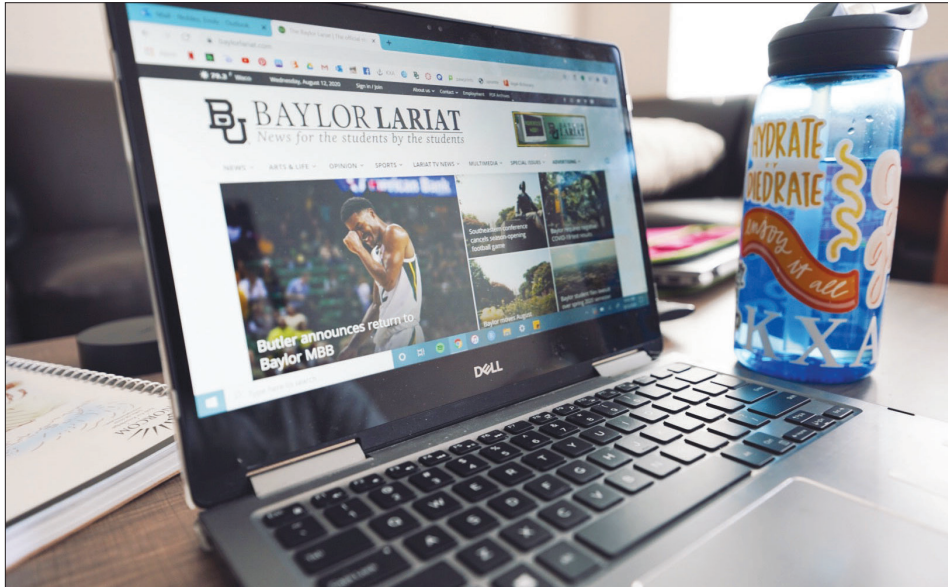
The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents, the student body or the Student Publications Board.

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.



Brittney Matthews | Multimedia Editor

LARIAT ONLINE The Baylor Lariat student newspaper has decided to transition to an online-based format for the upcoming school year with around six special print issues each semester.

The Baylor Lariat moves to online-focused content

SARAH PINKERTON
Staff Writer

As the journalism industry continues to grow and change, The Baylor Lariat newspaper has decided to transition to an online-based format for the upcoming school year and beyond with around six special print issues each semester.

After Bruce Gietzen, director of student media, Julie Reed, assistant media adviser, and Jamile Yglecias, manager of advertising sales & marketing, researched data about online media before Gietzen presented that information to the Student Media Board. The board made the official decision to go digital.

While the impact of COVID-19 played a role in this decision, Gietzen said it was not the determining factor. Other colleges and universities such as Iowa State, Stephen F. Austin and Loyola-Marymount are also focusing on a digital product.

The University of North Texas is also scaling back on print issues and the OU Daily decreased its number of print issues last year.

In recent years, there has been a physical print copy of The Lariat released each Tuesday and Friday. However, there will now be six each semester.

“We didn’t want to stop print altogether because we think there’s value to students knowing how to do that print design and there’s some people who still like to pick up a paper,” Gietzen said.

During the fall semester there will be special issues with the topics of welcome back, housing, homecoming, election and holiday. During the spring semester there will be another welcome back issue along with health, All-University Sing, spring break, career and graduation issues.

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, chair of the journalism, new media and public relations department, said that this decision was not made lightly, and it has been something that the department has been considering for around three years.

“We feel like having the newspaper online

will not take away from what The Lariat has to offer,” Moody-Ramirez said.

In an email sent to Lariat staff members, Gietzen said two-thirds of print sale revenue during the 2019-2020 school year came from special issues and that he believes this will be a more sustainable business model for the shifting dynamics in journalism.

Gietzen also said that most people prefer to get their daily news online or through mobile apps, and that online media is the direction in which the industry is heading.

“We’re just kind of changing how we deliver our news to match our customers’ needs and also prepare our student staff for jobs after they graduate,” Gietzen said.

Moody-Ramirez emphasized that many students may not even notice the shift as most already read The Lariat online rather than in print. She believes it will be more convenient to share stories from reader to reader on a digital platform and that the digital platform will also help readers interact with the story itself.

“Sometimes they don’t come to campus,” Moody-Ramirez said. “Nowadays, you know, maybe they just come to campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They’re able to read it online and then that’s just as good.”

Houston junior Grace Kosley said she is more likely to read the news through technological means than a physical newspaper in the current day.

“I think it’ll be easier for students to read the news on their computers or phones since they will already be adapted to doing that with their schoolwork,” Kosley said.

Gietzen said that the fundamentals of journalism aren’t going to change for The Lariat staff. The delivery of the news is only shifting to align with the progressing field.

“The Lariat has been published since 1900, and that long award-winning tradition is not going to stop,” Gietzen said. “We’re very mindful of that history and we want that to continue.”

Articles continue to be uploaded on a daily basis to the Lariat website.

Welcome Freshmen!

☒ Get accepted to Baylor

☒ Register for classes

☒ Attend orientation

☒ Move in

☐ **Send in my yearbook picture**

☒ Start classes

☒ Make friends and start making memories!

FORGET SOMETHING?
Go back and finish your list.

BAYLOR
 **NAVIGATE**

Go to your navigate app for instructions on how to upload your yearbook photo.

ROUNDUP YEARBOOK
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

DAILY CRIME LOG

Aug. 10-17

This list is mandated by the Clery Act and is a compilation of all criminal incidents, alleged criminal incidents and fires reported to the Baylor Police Department or received by BUPD from an outside source. Crimes on this list are reported, but not all confirmed and may be pending an investigation. For definitions of listed dispositions and Clery Act information, go to www.baylor.edu/dps. Information may be limited because of federal guidelines.

Date reported: 08/17/2020
Location: 1900 block of S 5th St.
Offense(s): Burglary of Habitation
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/16/2020
Location: University Parks Apartments
Offense(s): Burglary of Motor Vehicle
Date Occurred: 08/16/2020
Disposition: CLOSED

Date reported: 08/15/2020
Location: 1000 block of Speight Ave.
Offense(s): Burglary of Motor Vehicle
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/15/2020
Location: 1000 block of Speight Ave.
Offense(s): Burglary of Motor Vehicle
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/14/2020
Location: 1800 block of S 8th St.
Offense(s): Fire — Property
Date Occurred: 08/14/2020
Disposition: CLOSED

Date reported: 08/14/2020
Location: Burleson Quadrangle
Offense(s): Theft of Property
Date Occurred: 08/11/2020
Disposition: UNFOUNDED

Date reported: 08/14/2020
Location: Moody Memorial Library
Offense(s): Theft of Property
Date Occurred: 08/10/2020
Disposition: SUSPENDED

Date reported: 08/13/2020
Location: 1700 block of S 8th St.
Offense(s): Domestic Disturbance
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/13/2020
Location: 1900 block of S 8th St.
Offense(s): Theft
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/12/2020
Location: 1700 block of S 5th St.
Offense(s): Burglary of Motor Vehicle
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Date reported: 08/11/2020
Location: Brooks College
Offense(s): Graffiti
Date Occurred: 08/09/2020
Disposition: SUSPENDED

Date reported: 08/10/2020
Location: 1900 block of S 5th St.
Offense(s): Domestic Disturbance
Date Occurred: Unspecified
Disposition: HANDLED BY WACO PD

Baylor Theatre

baylor.edu/theatre/calendar
254.710.1865

2020
a pivotal season
2021



Baylor University

FIRST SHOWS ARE SEPTEMBER 11-12!

Baylor Theatre will continue our great tradition of storytelling this year in a variety of innovative and exciting ways:

- online streaming of musicals and plays
- fully virtual play productions
- live outdoor theatre for small audiences

Please check our website and social media often for ongoing updates about **Baylor Theatre** show titles and dates!

Where are the tents on CAMPus?



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Ava Sanborn | Photo Journalist



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Chase Li | Photo Journalist



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Ava Sanborn | Photo Journalist



Brittney Matthews | Photo Editor



Ava Sanborn | Photo Journalist



Ava Sanborn | Photographer

EATING APART Students experience new dining hall regulations at The Penland Crossroads. Changes include contactless payment options, socially distanced seating and outdoor tents for overflow.

Dining Services socially distances

VIVIAN ROACH
Staff Writer

Along with the many changes to campus Baylor students will see this fall semester, dining services have been adjusted to meet health recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state and local health authorities.

Baylor announced that all dining facilities, retail eateries, convenience stores and coffee shops will be open this fall semester. Changes to meal plans, technology, service style, employee safety measures and cleaning enhancements by Aramark are planned.

Aramark Resident District Manager Sean McMahon said there will no longer be any self-serve bars around the dining halls to mitigate the risk of contamination. Aramark employees will

be serving food to guests instead. Employees are following safety guidelines including utilizing face coverings, temperature checks, frequent hand-washing and daily wellness checks for symptoms. McMahon also said employees will be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks.

There will be an expanded Quick Eats Grab and Go service to limit physical contact and wait time at the dining halls. Individualized catered boxed meals will be available along with extensive grocery offerings to reduce the need for students to leave campus as well as the opportunity for individualized catered boxed meals.

Aramark issued a statement saying it will use “a new platform to safely support and deliver catering orders as clients re-open and students return to the campus community.”

President Linda Livingstone outlined in an email that signage and floor stickers will be

used to direct guests through the dining areas, and tents will be used as overflow for seating areas due to limited seating in the facilities. New technology will also be introduced for contactless swipes as guests enter the facility and mobile ordering for pick-ups.

McMahon said that the number of customers in the dining halls will be monitored by a technology called Occuspace.

“Occuspace is an app that monitors building occupancy via Bluetooth and WiFi signals. Our locations will follow the state guidelines of 50% capacity,” McMahon said.

Aramark is also taking extra precautions toward sanitizing.

“All of our residential dining locations will close for cleaning between meal periods and will utilize the use of electrostatic sprayers for added disinfection of large areas,” McMahon said.

In the statement, Aramark listed its new cleaning enhancements: “Implementing heightened sanitation throughout dining areas for employees, faculty, staff, and students; Frequent disinfectant at high-touch areas; Deep cleaning of campus facilities and dining halls in both front- and back-of-house areas; Installing hand sanitation stations at all building entry and exit points and dining areas; Encouraging students to continue washing their hands and using hand sanitizer on a frequent and consistent basis.”

Baylor has been working in partnership with Aramark and McLennan County with guidance from the CDC and Texas to ensure that dining hall capacities and other changes are up to standard. McMahon said that they have also developed several contingency plans covering a variety of situations in the case of an outbreak.



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Delta Delta Delta

CHEESE! Members of Delta Delta Delta smile for photos that were used during rush last year.

Sorority recruitment anticipates changes due to health concerns

EMILY COUSINS
Staff Writer

Normally, fall semesters at Baylor University are full of all-university events, Panhellenic Previews and philanthropy events for potential new members to explore the sorority options. This year, recruitment will take on a new look as Baylor closely follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Panhellenic Council and the recruitment chairs from each sorority have been meeting and discussing the options for recruitment this semester. Chicago senior and Panhellenic Council vice president of recruitment Trisha Porzycki said there is a possibility many activities and events will be online.

“We’ve been working with the Baylor task force as well as Student Activities, so right now we’re still in the planning process. We’re working with them to get capacity numbers for Stacy Riddle, which is kind of a big thing because they’re just so many activities that happen in that building,” Porzycki said.

San Antonio senior Jenna Grund, recruitment chair for Alpha Phi, said they are working hard to make sure potential new members meet as many active members as possible.

“We just want to make sure we are able to create a plan that’s going to give potential new members the best possible experience going

through recruitment in the spring, and we’re trying to create different, unique and creative opportunities ... in order for all potential new members to have the same type of opportunities they’ve had in years past,” Grund said.

Potential new members usually get to know active members through in-person events or during their classes, but this will be a challenge since many classes are online, said Sioux City, Iowa, senior Isabel Hamburger, vice president of marketing for Alpha Delta Pi.

To make sure potential new members are getting to know as many active members as possible, Hamburger said to not be afraid to reach out and ask to hang out.

“If they’re not comfortable meeting up, ask to Facetime ... so they’re not missing out on meeting people,” Hamburger said.

Porzycki said this may be an opportunity to make some long-term changes to recruitment.

“Each chapter ... their rooms look a little bit different. So I know it’s just kind of taking away the idea of the appearance of the room being a deciding factor and focusing more on the girl’s personalities and their morals,” Porzycki said.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, Greek life is going forward and will still be available this semester.

“There is a Panhellenic community that’s working very hard to make sure they have the best experience possible,” Grund said.

Baylor University officials did not respond when asked to comment.

TITLE IX from Page A1

forth effort to ensure that the justice proceedings will be as least traumatic as possible, and part of the way that they have done that in the past is by not holding hearing-style, I don’t want to say interrogations, but honestly that’s what it seems like it will come down to under the new policy.”

Wilson said she thought the live hearing process seems like it will be “significantly more public proceeding” than the single investigator model.

“So that just seems like a very easy way to resurface trauma for survivors, whereas our old policies tried to avoid that at all costs,” Wilson said.

Baylor has transitioned to a new “Sexual and Interpersonal Misconduct Policy” to be in compliance with new regulations. Sexual misconduct is now split into two general categories at Baylor: Title IX misconduct and non-Title IX misconduct. Dr. Laura Johnson, associate vice president for equity and Title IX, said the major differentiator between which category a certain report falls under relates more to the location than content of the incident.

One major development in Title IX law is that colleges and universities are no longer required to investigate reported off-campus incidents if they aren’t linked to a university-sponsored event. About 52% of undergraduate Baylor students lived off

campus in the 2019-2020 academic year according to Baylor Institutional Research and Testing.

The newly developed Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office will investigate these off-campus reports as “non-Title IX misconduct” since they are no longer covered federally.

Another difference in the new Title IX law is that colleges may now elect to use a “clear and convincing” standard as opposed to the formerly required preponderance of evidence standard. “Clear and convincing” is a higher level of evidence, leaning closer to the legal standard yet not as strict as courts, and a preponderance of evidence means it is more likely than not that someone has committed an offense.

Baylor is electing to continue to use the standard of preponderance of evidence.

Other major changes in Title IX this year:

- Colleges are no longer required to designate most faculty members as mandated reporters. Johnson said Baylor will still require the same faculty members to report misconduct as last year.
- The single investigator model of investigations has been scratched, and investigators will no longer have the responsibility of making a finding and choosing sanctioning measures.

Hearing officers will take on that role.

- Colleges are now required to hold live hearings involving cross-examination, a process that survivor advocates have long opposed. A complainant and respondent will not cross-examine each other; an adviser will facilitate the discussion. Colleges will have to provide advisers for students who do not elect one of their own choice. Johnson said Baylor was still working out how to provide an adviser under this circumstance. She said that most students come with an adviser. Data is not available to confirm how many students have their own adviser.
- The previously recommended timeline for investigations has been nixed. Johnson said the old Title IX timeline was “nearly impossible” to meet, and that Baylor will now provide a 90-day estimate for the fact-gathering portion of investigations. The hearing process could take longer according to Johnson, because of conflicting schedules of involved parties.
- Videoconference will be an acceptable platform for Title IX hearings.

Overall, Baylor will be investigating the same misconduct it did last semester, just between the two systems of Title IX misconduct v. non-Title IX misconduct.



Brittney Matthews | Multimedia Editor

INFORMING THE PUBLIC President Linda Livingstone outside of Pat Neff answers questions about Baylor's response to COVID-19 Tuesday

Back to School: COVID-19 Edition

MEREDITH PRATT
Staff Writer

Students returning to Baylor's campus in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak will experience a semester like no other. In order to familiarize students with the new policies and procedures, President Linda Livingstone has sent out several emails outlining changes that can be expected this fall.

The new rules and organizational changes being implemented are to ensure that all COVID-19 requirements recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health authorities are met.

Dr. Kevin Jackson, vice president of student life, said in a Facebook Live video with Livingstone that his goal is to give students the most "vibrant Baylor experience as possible" while keeping them healthy.

With this mission in mind, the university continues to evaluate and plan for accommodations to student activities and Baylor traditions taking place this fall.

Planning for events such as Family Weekend, Homecoming and All-University Thanksgiving is still in the works, but students can anticipate online activities in place of ones traditionally held in-person in addition to some "scaled-down" in-person events. Additionally, Homecoming's date has been changed to Oct. 16-17. Fall break was canceled, and classes will take place on Labor Day.

A favorite event for Baylor students, Christmas on Fifth, will not take place this semester as students will not be returning to campus after Thanksgiving break. Jackson said his team is hoping to arrange a Christmas event that can be livestreamed from campus.

Jackson also said one of Baylor's athletic traditions — running in the Baylor Line — will still take place, but with some modifications.

"Our goal is to provide the opportunity to every new student to run in the Baylor line at least once this year," Jackson said.

Daily life at Baylor will also look different this semester.

One of the most evident changes on campus will be the enforcement of social distancing guidelines, both in and out of the classroom.

In addition to offering online and hybrid-style courses to minimize crowds, building occupancy levels and seat density in rooms will be reduced. Lines in dining halls, the bookstore and the mailroom will be spaced out as well.

Sixteen tents, located at Fountain Mall, Glennis McCrary Music Building and the Baylor Law School, have been assembled to provide overflow academic space for students. These structures are climate-controlled and will

feature WiFi and LED lighting. Additional tents can be found outside of all dining halls.

Other academic changes include revised attendance policies and office hours offered both virtually and in person. Moody Memorial Library and the Student Life Center will remain open for public use.

Students can also expect to see increased health measures this semester. Face coverings are mandatory and over 550 hand-sanitizing stations will be spread out around campus. Plexiglass barriers will be installed where deemed necessary.

Drinking fountains will not be used, and hand dryers will be turned off or removed and replaced with paper towel dispensers. These precautions aim to minimize potential student-to-student transmission.

All dining locations will be cashless, accepting only Dining Dollars, Apple Pay, Google Pay or credit/debit cards. Self-serve will be replaced with grab-and-go meals from an adjusted menu in order to speed up service.

Freshii, located in the Bill Daniel Student Center, will be closed and converted into a mobile order pickup station for other restaurants in the SUB.

Livingstone said air circulation in buildings will be improved with air filtration technologies like HEPA filters and UV-C light treatments.

"UV air purifiers use short-wave ultraviolet light to kill airborne pathogens and micro-organisms such as mold, bacteria and viruses," Livingstone said.

Livingstone also said pastimes across campus will take place as close to normal as possible.

"We will have intramural activities," Livingstone said.

"Some sports won't be engaged in that have [been] in the past because they have a lot of physical contact, but other activities will continue. So our student life staff have looked at how we can continue to have activities on our campus, but do them in ways that respect social distancing."

Despite the many new policies and structural changes, Livingstone has praised those preparing for the students' return.

"I am so appreciative of how our faculty and staff have stepped forward on behalf of our students to deliver what promises to be a Baylor-quality educational experience this fall in the midst of this pandemic," Livingstone said.

Similarly, Boerne senior and student body president Sutton Houser expressed his gratitude for the steps Baylor has taken to ensure students return to a safe environment. He also said his hope is that students adopt a positive mindset about the semester ahead.

"The Baylor family has endured much this year and, despite it all, we find our strength in turning fear of the unknown into hope and collectively supporting one another," Houser said. "We each have the ability to share our light with others during this uncertain time, so let us radically love one another as we embark on a new school year."

Frisco senior and student foundation co-president Geneva Moore's message to students as they return is also one of optimism.

"This year is going to be filled with lots of things, but you have the choice to make several of those things positive or negative," Moore said. "There is hope for brighter days ahead."

Coronavirus cases decrease locally as fall semester nears

MATTHEW MUIR
Copy Desk Chief

Waco's coronavirus outbreak shows tenuous but steady improvement. After a significant spike during the summer, the estimated number of active cases continues to slowly decrease.

The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District reported 47 new and 5,760 cumulative cases in the county as of Sunday afternoon, including an estimated 1,732 active cases. The rolling 7-day average of new cases continued the downward trend it's followed since July, though the 112 new cases recorded Wednesday represent the highest single-day total so far this month.

The rolling seven-day average test positivity rate has also decreased from its mid-July high of 23% to roughly 10%. Health experts generally recommend waiting to relax restrictions until an area's positivity rate is 5% or lower.

COVID-19 has claimed 79 lives in McLennan County as of Sunday. Forty-seven people are hospitalized.

The City of Waco held its 20th weekly COVID-19 press conference Wednesday. Dr. Brian Becker, who works with Ascension Providence, said during the press conference that hospitalizations for COVID-19 were down.

"We continue to monitor viral activity in the community and [I'm] happy to say that we've seen some reduction, approximately 25% reduction, in hospitalized COVID patients in the past two weeks," Becker said.

At the press conference, Mayor Kyle Deaver said the Waco community needs to stay aware to avoid undoing the progress made in battling the pandemic.

"Our rate continues to look good; we've just got a lot of things coming up with reopenings of schools and the upcoming Labor Day weekend," Deaver said. "We've got to continue to be vigilant and do what we know we need to do to keep ahead of this virus."

That vigilance includes measures such as wearing a face mask, frequent hand-washing and maintaining social distancing. Social gatherings of more than 10 people are currently banned in the state of Texas. Masks



Photo courtesy of Timothy Arterbury

LOCAL HISTORY The ALICO building, located on Austin and 5th Street, is the tallest building in Waco, standing at 282 feet tall.

are mandatory anywhere it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing, and noncompliance could result in a \$250 fine. Deaver said local law enforcement will take reported violations seriously.

"We've seen around the state and the nation different pictures of parties that have been happening, and those obviously are huge risk factors for our community," Deaver said. "If our police department receives a complaint they will certainly investigate for violations of the order."

Baylor University's COVID-19 policy requires face coverings on campus and in any public location off campus, as well as social distancing and adherence to local and state ordinances. A statement released Wednesday evening by Dr. Sharra Hynes, Baylor's dean of students and associate vice president in the Division of Student Life, said students who don't comply could face penalties up to suspension or expulsion. Any student organization caught hosting events which "endanger the health and wellbeing" of the Baylor community may face penalties including suspension or the removal of its charter.

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News

EXPULSION from Page 1

conversation with your student regarding the University's COVID-19 policies and consequences for non-compliance as soon as possible."

Tulsa, Okla., senior Addi Smith, spokeswoman for Baylor Delta Delta Delta, said she believes parents can act positively in terms of holding students "to a higher standard," but it is ultimately the responsibility of each student to manage their own actions.

"As college students, we should be able to be trusted to act independently from our parents at this point," Smith said.

Jason Cook, vice president for marketing and communications and chief marketing officer at Baylor, said there were two separate emails because "the messages are tailored to each specific

audience."

Cook said there was no intention in delaying the student email and attributes the gap to the different offices and accounts from which the two emails came from.

In wake of the recent school closures, including the University of Notre Dame, Baylor included "Time Sensitive" in the subject line of the student email to draw attention to the new implementations before the upcoming weekend.

"As a Baylor Family, we need all students, faculty and staff to do their part — both on and off-campus to prevent community spread of COVID-19 as we start the fall semester," Cook said.

For students, this means that failure to follow the Interim COVID Policies can result in the most severe punishments related to

COVID-19 the university has yet seen.

One of the most significant changes includes the risk for student organization charter removal.

Smith said she is worried about how this will impact Greek life.

"It's a huge deal. The amount of leadership, philanthropy, and service opportunities that Greek life organizations bring to Baylor's campus is such an important aspect of growth," Smith said. "If collectively, enough people are concerned and actually taking into account the consequences, then I do think there will be a change."and Thursday from 6-8 at the intramural fields. For more information about the team or if you are interested in trying Ultimate Frisbee, contact Keon Cleary: keon_cleary@baylor.edu.

RETURN from Page 1

about 1,400 students requested a completely online schedule this fall, which advisers and professors are working through to deliver a completely online version of their courses.

"We worked to prioritize incoming freshmen having an in-person instructional component this fall, whether face-to-face or hybrid, unless they requested an all-online schedule," Cook said.

"For freshmen, to plug in and find a sense of community within the university, these are such formative times as young adults in and outside of the classroom," Cook said.

President Linda Livingstone sent an email Aug. 10 outlining the extensive measures the faculty has taken to most effectively convert their courses to an online learning environment.

"This year, Baylor's annual Summer Faculty Institute, our five-week, intensive development opportunity for faculty, explicitly focused on hybrid and online teaching," Livingstone said. "The Institute focused on answering questions like, 'What does it mean to serve in the context of a pandemic? How do we use technology to teach interactively?'"

Faculty members have also been enrolled in a mentorship program where they are paired with an experienced online instructor in a similar academic discipline or career stage to invite conversation.

Faculty seminars have been focused on online learning and teaching methods, and in addition to a purely academic focus, the video series "Being Baylor Online" shows faculty conversations about Baylor's commitment to integrating Christian missions through online learning.

Right now, in-person classes are prepared to be delivered online too, Cook said. The faculty

has been asked to prepare their curriculum to be delivered in a range of modalities, whether that may be a face-to-face, hybrid or online method.

"There have been several different COVID-19 task forces since January, and the latest group is focused on a health, medical and safety standpoint. Back in the winter, it was more of an emergency management situation," Cook said.

Cook said the current task force includes a multidisciplinary group from across campus, medical professionals, researchers, epidemiologists, and several administrators.

In the case that the return to campus is compromised, the school's task force created a dashboard to manage many different data points across campus. There is not one lone factor or number that would trigger a decision in terms of what the university does, but a wide range of considerations including what is happening in the local community.

Thursday, Livingstone said in an email to the Baylor community that the dashboard will be updated daily at 3 p.m.

"The dashboard will include daily reported new cases, total active cases, positivity rate and cumulative cases, as well as several other important data points," Livingstone said.

Baylor's COVID-19 testing program has seen a positivity rate of about 1% as of Thursday. Additionally, the school will be testing about 10% of the campus community every week to track the prevalence of COVID-19 throughout the semester.

"The key is that we have learned that we are not in control of the situation, the virus is in control, we need to be prepared, we need to be flexible. But be assured we will start the semester in-person on Aug. 24th," Cook said.

COMMISSION from Page 1

for racial justice.

"We restlessly await Baylor University's active stance on hate, racism and police brutality," Baylor NAACP said. "The time is now!"

Twenty-four days later, on June 26, the Board of Regents made a statement acknowledging Baylor's historical ties to slavery and the Confederacy. The Commission on Historic Representations was created as part of that resolution.

The commission has specifically been charged with a four-phase action plan. The first step is a discovery phase, where they will review historical records in the context of the university and its founders in depth.

Second, they will propose a plan for documenting and communicating the complete history of the university to the public.

Third, the commission will evaluate the original intention behind statues, building names and monuments on campus to provide observations for consideration.

Finally, they will prepare a final report for the Board of Regents by Dec. 20. The commission will then be dissolved.

The commission is the first action step following the Board of Regents' statement about the university's ties to racial injustice. It was developed to start the process of reviewing Baylor's history and proposing changes as needed, but it will ultimately be up to the Board of Regents to decide what will be implemented.

"A lot of people immediately thought this was ... revisionist history," said Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, chair of journalism, public relations and new media and a member of the commission, said. "But it's not a matter of us trying to go in and rename Baylor or remove statues. It's a matter of us evaluating this history and then coming up with a plan."

Steuben said while the Baylor NAACP thinks the commission was "definitely needed" and is a "positive" first step, she hopes that Baylor digs even deeper than its past.

"If we are going to say this commission is just for the history, we also have to deal with the present," Steuben said. "If you don't want this commission to have to happen again in 20 years ... then you need to address what the

concerns are on campus now."

In a Baylor Conversation Series video titled "Our Responsibility as Christians to Elevate Conversations on Race, Peacemaking and Conciliation," President Linda Livingstone addressed Baylor's hopes of finding common ground.

"It certainly took us many years to get to the point we are at on these issues of race and injustice, and it will probably, unfortunately, take us many more years to reach a stage of reconciliation," Livingstone said. "We have the opportunity to take a huge leap forward that could shorten that timeline significantly to get to true conciliation."

The commission is still in its early stages and their meetings will continue throughout the semester. Until they release an official statement of their progress and development of their plans in late October, the commissioners have postponed further insight or comments.

"I know we will do what we have been asked to do," Moody-Ramirez said. "Now what will be done with the final product—which is the report—that part is yet to be seen."

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CLASS CHANGES

Visual, performance arts majors discuss how their classes will change due to COVID-19 concerns **pg. B2**



STAYING BUSY

Find out how one Baylor student made the most of her time stuck at home **pg. B3**

“We will survive and will be – in a way – better for it.”

Rachel Young on keeping her business afloat **B1**

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Family-owned restaurants shift to survive COVID-19



Brittney Matthews | Multimedia Editor

ALL IN THE FAMILY Xistro's Cafe on LaSalle Avenue has made it through the pandemic by offering family meal packs and participating in community outreach programs.

MADALYN WATSON
Editor-in-Chief

While the COVID-19 outbreak had a devastating economic impact on small businesses, the support of the local community is helping vulnerable family-owned restaurants in Waco such as Xistro's Cafe and Revival Eastside Eatery.

Sophia Garman is one of six siblings who help their parents run Xistro's Cafe on 810 La Salle Ave. After graduating from college, she moved back home to help manage the business.

"It was always a big ambition of my parents to be able to open their own restaurant one day, but they just never really thought it was a possibility," Garman said.

The family-owned restaurant was established in 2013. Since then, Garman and her five siblings continue to be a part of Xistro's Cafe.

"My siblings and I were all very involved," Garman said. "We all made recipes. We learned how to do pretty much everything when we opened and we've worked in the business ever since."

In response to the spread of the coronavirus, Xistro's Cafe closed its dining room and shifted its focus to drive-

thru and call-in orders. The Mediterranean restaurant also takes orders through third-party delivery services such as Favor, Postmates, DoorDash and Sic'em Delivery.

"We're very fortunate that Waco is pretty community-based," Garman said.

With support of the local community, another family-owned restaurant, Revival Eastside Eatery on 704 Elm Ave., hit its one year anniversary in July.

Danielle Young, the owner and manager of Revival, said the constant support of regular customers helped the restaurant reach this major milestone amid the changing restrictions caused by the pandemic.

"We had to completely close the dining room," Young said. "We shifted from not doing any online orders to completely setting up an online system [so] that people could order and do curbside."

In addition to selling items from its regular menu, Revival started selling larger, family-sized meals to help out its patrons when grocery stores had limited items in stock and to subsidize their business where they lost

EATS >> Page B4



Smiley N. Pool | The Dallas Morning News | Associated Press

WE CAN'T BREATHE Protesters clash with Dallas police at Griffin and Young on Friday, May 29, 2020, in Dallas. The protest was organized by Next Generation Action Network in response to the in-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

REVIEW

Black artists release new tracks in solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests

CAMILLE RASOR
Arts & Life Editor

As Black Lives Matter protests continue across the country in the wake of the police killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., Black musicians both participated in protests and released new music expressing their support of the movement and their anger and sorrow over lives lost.

This is not the first time Black artists responded to police brutality with new songs.

In August 2014, rapper The Game released a track called "Don't Shoot" featuring nine other artists, including DJ Khaled, Rick Ross and 2 Chainz, in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. The song ends with a haunting verse sung by The Game's then-4-year-old daughter that includes the lyrics "God ain't put us on the Earth to get murdered, it's murder / Don't point your weapons at me."

In March 2015, Kendrick Lamar released "Alright," a single that has since

been played at protests against police brutality across the country. The song preaches a hopeful message while also calling back to injustices Black people have faced in this country since slavery and the Reconstruction era following the Civil War. The chorus features the lyrics "We gon' be alright / Do you hear me, do you feel me? We gon' be alright."

In May 2018, Childish Gambino released "This Is America," which went on to earn Song of the Year and Record of the Year at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards. With the lyrics "Look how I'm livin' now / Police be trippin' now / Yeah, this is America / Guns in my area," the song speaks to police brutality against Black men as well as general gun violence that plagues America. In the music video there are 17 seconds of silence which critics and fans have interpreted as a tribute to the 17 deaths of students at the Feb. 14, 2018, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

However, in the wake of recent police killings and broad support of the Black Lives Matter movement, a new wave of

songs came out as a way to support the protests and to celebrate of Black culture in America. Some of the most popular ones are detailed below:

Beyoncé - Black Parade



This new Beyoncé single calls back to African history, indigenous religion and the land itself while also celebrating the African diaspora and those within the Black community in America. The singer

MUSIC >> Page B4

WHAT TO DO IN WACO AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 12

Cade Kegerreis: Devolved — Unity Through Evolution, Diversity and Connection | Aug. 7 through Sept. 26 | noon to 7 p.m. | Cultivate 7thelove, 712 Austin Ave. | Free | First solo exhibition of local artist Cade Kegerreis

2020 McLennan County Mud Fest | Aug. 28 & 29 | 7 p.m. each night | Riesel Lions Club, 1270 E Frederick St, Riesel, Texas | Adults \$20, kids 5 to 12 \$10, 4 and under free | Mud races, fair food, vendors, etc.

Dueling Pianos | Aug. 29 | 7:45 p.m. | Waco Hippodrome Theatre, 724 Austin Ave. | \$10 | Pianists Mark Johnson and Gray Gregson play song requests while guests eat and enjoy

Waco Downtown Farmers Market | Aug. 29 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | 500 Washington Ave. | Free | Variety of vendors featuring local agricultural producers and artisan vendors

August Skellington Market | Aug. 30 | noon to 4 p.m. | Bosque Square Shopping Center, 7524 Bosque Blvd. | Free | Vendors, artists and food outdoors for those who like a spooky aesthetic

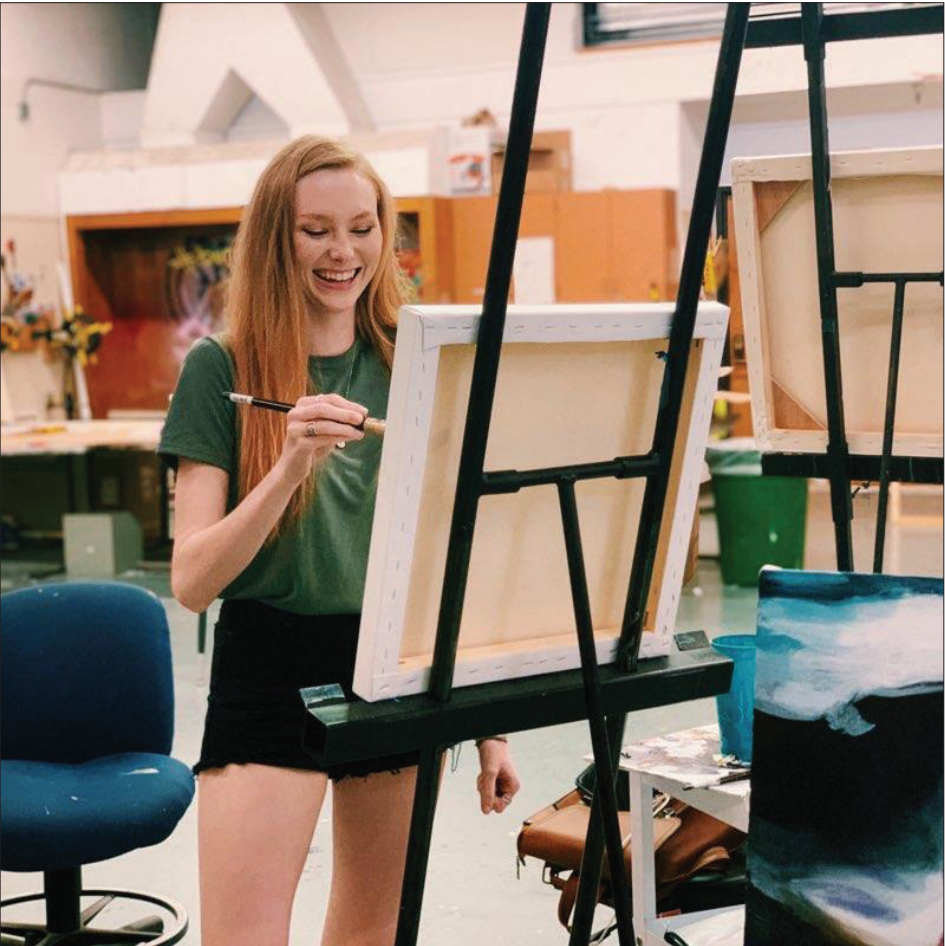
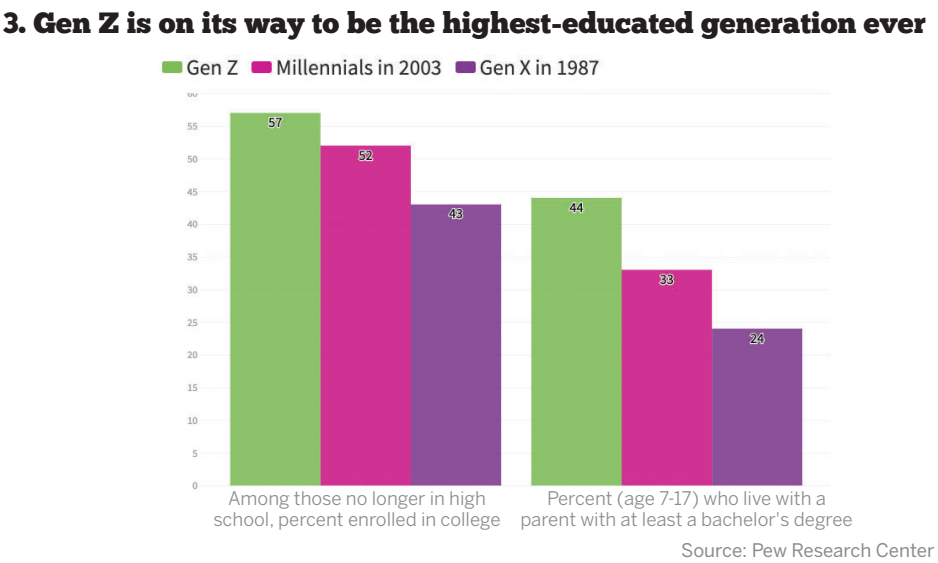
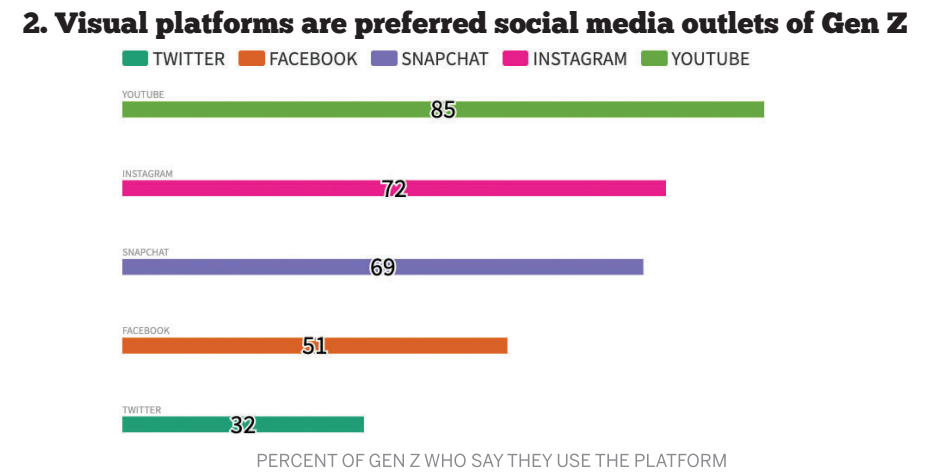
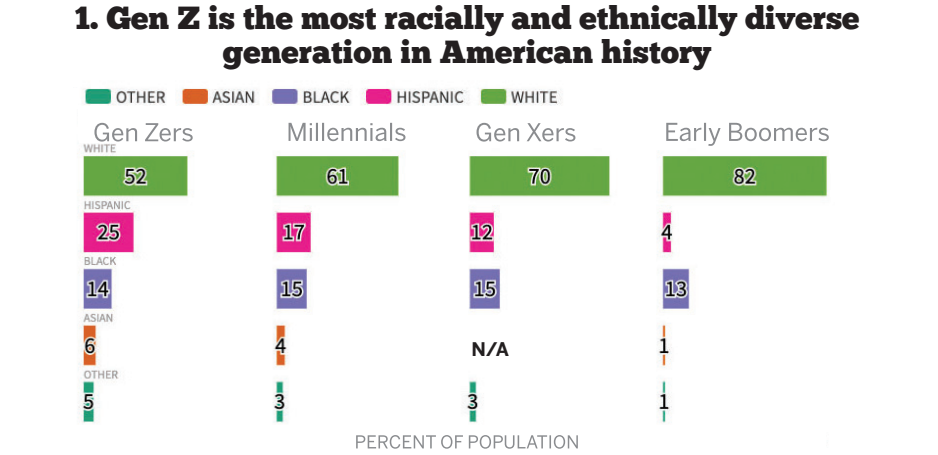
31st Annual ANHA Shootout | Sept. 4-7 | schedule online at anhabarrelrace.com | Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd. | Free | Equestrian event with prizes for competitors

26th Annual Sorghum Festival | Sept. 7 | 10 am - 5 pm | Homestead Craft Village, 608 Dry Creek Rd. | Free | Watch the handcrafted syrup process from start to finish with cornbread to taste it



WELCOME TO COLLEGE GENERATION Z

This year, the undergraduate student population will be, for the first time, fully transitioned from millennials to Gen Zers. A cohort of people born after 1996, research shows that this demographic thinks and acts differently than their parents, grandparents and authority figures. Let's take a look at some of the defining characteristics of this generation:



FINDING INSPIRATION Shreveport, La., senior Allison German paints in one of Baylor's art classrooms before the coronavirus forced Americans across the country into lockdown.

Visual, film, performing arts majors prepare for physically distant audiences

LAUREN TAYLOR
Copy Editor

While every student has been affected by the academic changes brought about by COVID-19, art majors have the additional burden of learning how to create art for audience members who are social distancing.

Florence, Mont., senior Chase Windmueller said the Baylor School of Music is implementing the widespread changes that are being felt across the Baylor campus as well as removing live

audiences at concerts and recitals. They will continue to rehearse in Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building but will be implementing spaced-out seating within the room.

"As much good as this will do for public health, there is no way to replace live performances," Windmueller said. "The energy changes somehow and people feel inclined to listen and hear what you have to say. In live-streamed scenarios, at least in my opinion, [the audience] is missing parts that really

bring the whole experience together."

Film and digital media majors also are having to find new ways to create and share their art in a world where movie theaters are closed and film festivals are canceled.

San Antonio senior Nic Diaz said the cinema shutdown has been initially very stressful as some movies just need to be seen in a theater.

"The experience of watching something on the best screen with the best audio system with almost complete

ARTS >> Page B4

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Baylor Journalism, Public Relations & New Media is one of only 114 programs in the United States accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, which puts it in the **TOP 5% OF JOURNALISM PROGRAMS** in the nation.

BUSY AT HOME Basalt, Colo. junior Morgan Ash sits on the porch swing she built over quarantine with her dad. He guided Ash as she did most of the work while he recovered from knee surgery.

“Instead of sitting inside your house,” Ash said, “you should take the people that you enjoy doing things with, like your family, and go out and create something that could be fun for you guys to do together and enjoy having around the house—like a swing.”

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ARTS from Page B2

strangers cannot be replicated at home,” Diaz said. “Some of my favorite memories have happened in movie theaters and I have had countless dreams of having something of mine play in a theater.”

Additionally, the shift from in-person to online class instruction inflicts struggles on studio art majors. Shreveport, La., senior Allison German said Zoom classes are not ideal because so many aspects of art can only be experienced in person.

“So much of what we do involves equipment that the university provides, and one of the most important things we learn is how to participate in critiques,” German said. “Critiques based on submitted photos of [painted] work lack sufficient commentary on texture and technique.

This semester German is taking two hybrid art studios. Both of these studios require supervised use of Baylor art equipment, so going fully online would be a big obstacle.

In an email to School of Music students, Dr. Randall Umstead, associate professor of voice, spoke of the quality of online classes.

“We were already well into planning for every MUS

course to be available for remote participation,” Umstead said. “We are committed to delivering a Baylor-quality education, no matter the format of instruction.”

Today, there is still a lot of unease and uncertainty when it comes to discussing the present and future states of all of these art industries.

Windmueller said although he will try to provide the same musical experiences for his audiences no matter what, he is afraid the state of things will diminish his effectiveness.

“People need that [physical] presence to receive the full extent of the power of music,” Windmueller said. “It is irreplaceable.”

While the majority of movie theaters remain closed, film students who are getting ready to graduate are forced to face the hardships that have stemmed from the pandemic.

“In terms of Hollywood, that has given me all sorts of anxiety because I want to have a career in the industry, but they have other things to worry about right now [other] than me or anyone else trying to break in,” Diaz said. “[It’s] totally understandable as this pandemic has affected everyone and I want the people al-

ready there to have their jobs and release what they need to release, but it does make things harder for other aspiring filmmakers.”

However, this time of trial and sacrifice has not been without some encouragement. Artists of all media found new ways to showcase their talents and create ways to interact with their virtual audiences.

“Many artists have taken up social media platforms to show their work,” German said. “I used to view my work as too personal for Instagram, but recently I’ve been sharing it and the positive responses are overwhelming. I think the world needs to experience art now more than ever and we will find ways to do that safely.”

Many visual and performance art majors are in the same boat when it comes to adapting to a world in which there is not a physical audience present to take in the work they have created.

“Anyone who makes art, whether it be [physical] art, music, film, theater or literature, wants to tell a story,” Diaz said, “The only way for that story to be told is to have people who are willing to listen to [and] observe it.”

EATS from Page B1

where they lost income.

“When COVID-19 first hit Waco and things were starting to close in March, the family meals kept us afloat,” Young said. “They honestly helped us tremendously in the first two to three months.”

These family meals varied from the items Revival normally offered including meatloaf with roasted potatoes and vegetables or a penne pasta loaded with chicken, vegetables and a flavorful sauce.

“If you follow us on Instagram, you’ll see every morning around nine we post a different meal and they’re always \$30 and they’re always portioned to serve a family of four,” Young said.

Garman said her family noticed their customers ordering larger portions amid the coronavirus pandemic. Xistro’s Cafe started offering family to-go meals with serving sizes for six to eight people.

“Coming from a larger family, we would always have to order two meals of four whenever we were doing something like that,” Garman said. “So we wanted to be able to cater to people who might have people who eat larger portions like my brother or people who had bigger families.”

However, family-sized meals were not the only changes made at Xistro’s Cafe in order for the restaurant to remain in business and help the Waco community. One of these changes was through the Comfort Food Care Package program created by Gov. Greg Abbott’s Public Safety Office in partnership with Favor Delivery and the Texas Restaurant Association.

“We have seen an outpouring of support and the Comfort Food Care Package program has definitely helped make up for some of those losses that we were seeing in the first couple weeks of closing down our dining room,” Garman said.

Through the Comfort Food Care Package program, patrons can purchase care packages on the behalf of at-risk youths and families. Participating restaurants, like Xistro’s Cafe, offer these packages of food for a family of five to six people and have them delivered to these recipients’ homes.

“We heard about the Comfort Food Care Package program and decided to participate in that because it’s a really good cause, and that helped us a lot in terms of being able to continue to operate without having to take out a loan,” Garman said.

The package provided by Xistro’s Cafe for a donation of \$70 consists of popular items from the restaurant’s menu: baked Parmesan chicken nuggets, orzo pasta, a salad and house-made bread.

“So many people from the community were so generous... and donated over 20

meals for families in the area,” Garman said.

The fact that Xistro’s Cafe is a close-knit, family-run business makes them vulnerable.

“All of our workers are like my siblings — we have two employees — but we’re all very close to the family and close to my grandmother,” Garman said. “So none of us want to compromise her.”

Although they do not have a specific date for when they plan to reopen their dining room, Garman said they hope to return to business as normal when their family feels it’s safe to do so.

Young said several patrons have committed to dining with Revival on a regular basis to support the restaurant

“So many people from the community were so generous... and donated over 20 meals

SOPHIA GARMAN |
XISTRO’S CAFE EMPLOYEE

during economic downturns and in return, Revival is committed to doing the same for its community.

“We tried to support other local businesses so we have started selling Heritage Creamery pints,” Young said. “We still have beer from a lot of local places like Balcones, Brotherwell and Waco Ale.”

As the social climate changes, Revival will continue to cater to its community. They will continue to serve the family-sized meals for as long as their customers are utilizing them.

“We’re going to keep that up and probably also do single meals as the college students transition back so that way they’re not committed to a full family meal,” Young said.

Even though aspects of small businesses will change in order to keep up with health code and restrictions, Young said that Revival will continue to have what makes it Revival: the caring community.

“We’re trying to find what the new normal is, so I think we’ve done a pretty good job of still engaging with customers,” Young said.

Revival is currently operating at 50% capacity. Young said they moved tables and chairs around so that everyone is six feet apart.

“We will survive and will be — in a way — better for it,” Young said.

MUSIC from Page B1

released the song as a celebration of Juneteenth, a holiday that celebrates the last slaves being freed in Galveston on June 19, 1865, after word of the Emancipation Proclamation reached them two and a half years after it was made official. Featuring the lyrics “Put your fist up in the air, show black love (Show black love) / Motherland drip on me, motherland, motherland drip on me,” this song is pure, unadulterated celebration of Black culture. Additionally, the proceeds from the single will be donated to Beyoncé’s charity initiative, BeyGOOD’s Black Business Impact Fund, to support small Black-owned businesses in need.

H.E.R. - I Can’t Breathe



In this song, also released on Juneteenth, R&B artist H.E.R. sings about the fear that she experiences as a Black woman in America and the injustices she sees regarding police brutality against the Black community. The sorrowful ballad features a short chorus containing the lines “I can’t breathe / You’re taking my life from me / I can’t breathe / Will anyone fight for me?” echoing some of the final words of Floyd and Eric Garner in 2014, both of whom were killed by police. The song ends with a lengthy verse that calls back to famous Black artists of past generations such as Billie Holiday and Gil Scott-Heron. H.E.R.’s voice gets angrier throughout the last verse of the song, finally ending with a moving call to her listeners with the words “Do not say you do not see color / When you see us, see us / We can’t breathe.” Proceeds from the song will go to Black Lives Matter.

Anderson .Paak - Lockdown



This R&B and rap track, another Juneteenth release, plays on the juxtaposition between the lockdown the country was in due to the coronavirus pandemic and the mass amounts of people that took to the streets in protest after the killings of Floyd and Taylor. With the lyrics “Stayin’ quiet when they killin’ n---, but you speak loud / When we riot, got opinions comin’ from a place of privilege / Sicker than the COVID how they did him on the ground / Speakin’ of the COVID, is it still goin’ around?” .Paak speaks to the anger and frustration activists feel when those in political office and the media suggest that they protest peacefully as if rioting is an unjustifiable and unproductive form of protest. The line also speaks to the health risks protesters have put

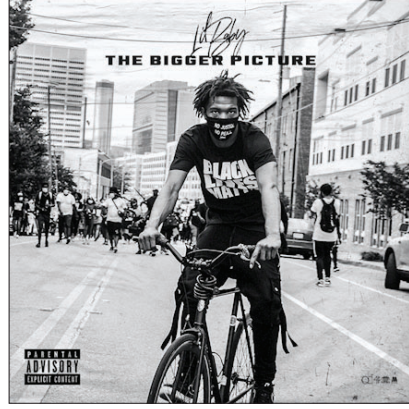
themselves in, especially during a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting Black, Latinx and other minority communities. The track also speaks to the differences between this summer’s protests compared to the riots in Los Angeles in 1992 in response to the acquittal of the police officers who brutally beat Rodney King, and in doing so, frames this moment in civil rights history as perhaps a turning point in the fight

T-Pain - Get Up



for justice and equality. This track, released on June 12, has a distinct pop feel to it with the synth line humming in the background to the encouraging lyrics “Everybody gettin’ knocked down (Knocked down) / The only thing that matters is what you gon’ do when you get up.” The music video begins with an audio clip of one of the speeches of 1960s civil rights activist Malcolm X, calling for his audience to “come together against the common enemy” of oppression. The inclusion of this audio clip along with the song’s positive message seeks to encourage those walking in the footsteps of civil rights activists of yesterday in the fight to end racial discrimination and police violence today. The proceeds from the song will go to Crime Survivors Safety and Justice, an organization of survivors of crime fighting for

Lil Baby - The Bigger Picture



justice and public policy reform. Rapper Lil Baby packed this June 12 release to the brim with meaningful lyrics on top of a beat that pulls the listener throughout the whole song. The track starts with clips of radio and television journalists speaking about the protests and the goals of those on the streets: to see the officers involved in Floyd and Taylor’s deaths arrested and charged. Baby then puts in an audio clip of protesters shouting “I can’t breathe” before launching into the first verse. It’s tough to choose just a few lyrics to highlight because the verses are packed so tightly with meaning and emotion. The chorus features the lines “It’s bigger than black and white / It’s a problem with the whole way of life / It can’t change overnight / But we gotta start somewhere.” This sums up the point Baby tries to make throughout the track: the issues protesters are fighting against are so deeply embedded in our society that tons of work will have to be done to change the status quo. It might take time to get to where they want to be, but the work has to start now.

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WELCOME HOME BEARS >> Don't miss a second when it comes to Baylor sports online at BaylorLariat.com



Caleb Boren | Roundup Photographer

LEADING THE WAY Junior linebacker Terrel Bernard celebrates during Baylor's home game against Oklahoma on Nov. 16, 2019 at McLane Stadium. The Bears fell 34-31 to the Sooners, snapping an 11-game win streak dating back to the end of the 2018 season. Bernard is the only starting linebacker to return from the 2019 squad.

BU gears up for unprecedented year

DJ RAMIREZ
Sports Editor

It's beginning to look a lot like football season. After losing spring practices due to the pandemic and going through walk-throughs and organized team activities late in the summer, Baylor football is finally putting on the pads and preparing for their first opponent: Louisiana Tech on Sept. 12 at McLane Stadium. Head coach Dave Aranda said while the team had some energetic practice and walk-throughs with just helmets on, there's a freedom to finally donning the pads. "I think when you put the pads on it allows our guard on a counter play to kind of be himself and do what he does," Aranda said. "We had a few of those where there was a freshman on the other end of that, so there's some welcome to college football." The Bears return only one starter from what

was the top defensive unit in the Big 12 last year. They also have to adjust to a new coaching staff on both sides of the ball, which, according to new offensive coordinator Larry Fedora, the team has been doing well in picking up the foundation it needs for success. "There's never been a class of kids or a group of kids that has ever dealt with anything like this in the history of the game that I know of," Fedora said. "We're asking them to do some things. That's why we have to do a great job of thinking outside the box." Baylor had the third-best scoring offense in the Big 12 but also allowed 38 sacks for 234 yards, the most in the conference. Aranda said the offensive line will set the tone this season. "I think we will go as far as our O-line goes," Aranda said. "Our guys know that, and they have a lot of pride in that. They want to get in front of it." Aranda noted senior offensive lineman

Xavier Newman-Johnson as one of the "emotional leaders" of the O-line. Newman, who started eight games on offense last year, will be an asset especially after the departure of veterans Sam Tecklenburg and Jake Fruhmorgen. As will junior linebacker Terrel Bernard, the only returning starter on Baylor's defense, who received Second Team All-Big 12 honors in 2019. However, new defensive coordinator Ron Roberts said Bernard won't be alone in lifting up the D-line to where they need to be. "I think we're not going to have to rely on two guys," Roberts said. "We can get it down to six or seven guys leading the pack, which is really what we want to do." Even though the Bears will be moving from a three-man defense back to a four-man, Roberts said it's been an easier transition thanks in part to the culture set by Matt Rhule and Phil Snow. "They were coached tough," Roberts said. "Usually, when you go into a program you've got

to change and teach them how to be a college athlete. The beauty of that is they had a firm foundation of that." Despite the uncertainty surrounding the season, Aranda and the coaching staff have expressed their faith and determination to "play in the present," trying to control only the things they can control. This is particularly true in the way they continue to respond to the pandemic as the general Baylor student body returns to campus. Aranda said he referenced a verse in Matthew chapter seven about walking life on the narrow road as opposed to the wide road. "I think our athletic team, college athletics, we're on that narrow road in terms of our daily appetites — our daily musts are all to play ball," Aranda said. "The wide road, I showed an LA freeway at rush hour with all these cars. Other people are living that life and that's just not the road for us right now."

Transfers grinding to make impact on defense

WILL CHAMBLEE
Sports Writer

The Dave Aranda-era of Baylor football is in full swing and Baylor's inaugural season under the first-year head coach promises to be as interesting and exciting as any. While college football finds itself in the midst of an unprecedented time, Baylor enters the season with more question marks than most programs, especially on defense where the Bears must replace nine starters from last year's unit. In the face of uncertainty, Aranda seems positive and hopeful. "I think our team has risen to the occasion, especially these last couple of practices," Aranda said. "The more the chatter got louder in terms of possibly not playing and other people not playing, the better we played and the more together we were." To replace the lost defensive production, Aranda decided to dip into the transfer portal to help the Bears gain players with valuable Division I experience. The Bears welcomed linebackers William Bradley-King and Dillon Doyle to the roster this fall, both of whom will play an important role in leading the defense alongside junior linebacker Terrel Bernard.

Bradley-King, a graduate transfer from Arkansas State, is perhaps the most important recruit in the 2020 class for Baylor. The Kansas City, Mo., native is also a good fit for Aranda's system, which is predicated on versatility and attacking the quarterback. Aranda expects his players to be responsible for different roles and be able to pressure the quarterback when needed. In an interview with Bleacher Report in 2016, Aranda said his players need to be able to "trade jobs" so that multiple positions will be able to generate pressure on the quarterback. "I think that forces the offense to have to play slow and play laterally as opposed to firing out and playing aggressively,"



Bradley-King



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE Recent transfers Dillon Dole and William Bradley-King will fill the middle and outside linebacker positions on a defense that only returns one starter from last season.

Aranda said. Fortunately for Baylor, Bradley-King is fantastic at rushing the passer and possesses the skills necessary to play wide-defensive end if necessary. Defensive coordinator Ron Roberts has said as much, gushing over Bradley-King's pass-rushing ability and versatility. "[Bradley-King] is an elite pass rusher," Roberts said. "He's an every down guy for us. He can do multiple things from drop to rush to set an edge. He's kind of what we're looking for prototypical on that jack position." During his impressive career at Arkansas State, Bradley-King amassed 89 total tackles, 15.5 sacks and six forced fumbles during his three years there. He was also Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference during his junior season. Bradley-King will fill an immediate need at outside linebacker for the Bears this season and will help replace Blake Lynch, who graduated last spring. Bradley-King's pass-rushing ability

should help him become a force to be reckoned with for Baylor. Redshirt sophomore Dillon Doyle, a linebacker transferring from Iowa, is another player Aranda will rely on early to provide experience on defense. Aranda has been vocal about how impressed he's been with Doyle in fall practices, citing his great "instincts," "football IQ" and "toughness." Doyle played in all 13 games last season for the Hawkeyes, recording 23 total tackles and forcing one fumble. He was projected to start for Iowa this season before he entered the transfer portal. Doyle has also impressed his fellow teammates. Bernard spoke about Doyle's impact on the team in a recent press conference. "Dillon is probably one of the smartest football players on the team," Bernard said. "He's a guy that comes in every day and he pushes me, he pushes everybody in the room to really get

better." Doyle will play middle linebacker for the Bears, taking over for Clay Johnston. The sophomore could see the field early and often for the Bears as the position requires a lot of discipline and talent, especially in the Big 12. Roberts said he's confident that both will be able to rise to the occasion. "I think we didn't just add two players. We added two quality young men as well that kind of establish what Baylor's all about," Roberts said.



Doyle

QB 1: Spotlight still shines on Charlie Brewer



Lariat File Photo

CONTINUED GROWTH Senior quarterback Charlie Brewer throws up a “Sic ‘Em” after Baylor’s 17-14 2019 Halloween victory over West Virginia at McLane Stadium. Head coach Dave Aranda praised Brewer for his continued growth as a team leader and quarterback.



Lariat File Photo

GUNNING FOR THE PASS Brewer searches for a pass option during Baylor’s 29-23 overtime victory over TCU on Nov. 9, 2019 in Fort Worth. Brewer completed 3,161 passing yards in 2019.

WILL CHAMBLEE
Sports Writer

“Elite competitor” and “winner” were the words that former Baylor football coach Matt Rhule used to describe Charlie Brewer upon entering the 2019 season.

“I think he’s going to be one of the great players in the conference,” Rhule said.

The senior quarterback from Austin lived up to those expectations and has been a constant presence for the Bears the last four years, starting 30 of the last 31 games for Baylor.

However, this season Baylor needs Brewer to be more than just an elite competitor and winner. As the Bears transition to a new coaching staff and playbook, Brewer’s presence might need to be more of a factor if they want to match last season’s success.

According to Larry Fedora, Baylor’s new offensive coordinator, Brewer has stepped up to the challenge. During a recent press conference, Fedora called Brewer “a heck of a leader.”

“He cares about his team, he cares about his teammates, he does not want to let anybody down,” Fedora said. “He’s not a yeller or screamer, that’s not the way he leads. He’s not real vocal in what he does, but he’s got great respect from his teammates, and I would say he’s a winner is what he is.”

Head coach Dave Aranda has also been impressed with Brewer’s leadership, commenting on his growth as a leader in a press conference.

“Charlie Brewer, from the moment I met him until now, has just been a steady progression of growing into a leader and really getting comfortable with who he is and how he goes about things,” Aranda said. “I’m so proud of him.”

Brewer said he was mainly happy that football would be happening this fall, as the Big 12 announced the football schedule which consists of nine conference games and one non-

conference game.

“We’re obviously very excited that we’re going to be able to play football this fall,” Brewer said. “Now we can kind of take a deep breath and get ready for the first game.”

Last season Brewer threw for 3,161 yards and 21 touchdowns while helping Baylor earn a berth in the Sugar Bowl. Fedora said he is confident that Brewer can hit those numbers again and has been impressed by Brewer’s dedication to learning the new offense.

“Football is extremely important to him,” Fedora said. “He is concerned about every detail of what we’re doing and why we’re doing and what other guys are doing within the concept and why, so that he has a good grasp of it.”

Brewer acknowledged the similarities between the offense he ran in high school and Fedora’s offense and how it helped him adapt quickly.

“We’re going to play with a lot of tempo,” Brewer said. “We’re going to play fast. The ball is going to be out of my hand quickly.”

Getting the ball out of Brewer’s hand quickly will be a priority for Baylor this season, especially with his history of frequent injuries. Brewer suffered three concussions last season as well as several injuries that knocked him out of both the Big 12 Championship game and the Sugar Bowl. Brewer said that he thinks Fedora’s new system will help protect him.

“I’m not going to be asked to do kind of the same stuff I was asked to do last year,” Brewer said. “So, I think the system is going to protect me a little bit in that way.”

Brewer is primed to have a great senior season if he can stay healthy, especially considering the wide receivers surrounding him.

“I think all around we’ve got a really strong group at receiver,” Brewer said. “I know we have a really good offense this year and I’m ready to put it on display.”

BREWER'S CAREER STATS

2017:

8 games played
166 rushing yards
1,562 passing yards
11 passing TDs

2018:

13 games played
375 rushing yards
3,019 passing yards
19 passing TDs

2019:

14 games played
344 rushing yards
3,161 passing yards
19 passing TDs

How did we get here?

Take a look at what has unfolded in college sports during 2020.

March 12:

- NCAA cancels spring championships and remainder of spring sports seasons

March 30:

- NCAA grants eligibility relief for spring athletes

July 21:

- NCAA issues return-to-sport guidelines
- Southwestern Athletic Conference postpones fall sports

July 9:

- Big West cancels fall sports through calendar year

July 30:

- SEC announces 10-game conference-only schedule

July 31:

- Pac-12 announces conference-only schedule

Aug. 4:

- Sun Belt announces eight-game conference-only schedule

Aug. 5:

- University of Connecticut becomes first independent FBS program to cancel 2020 football season
- Big Ten releases 10-game conference-only schedule
- American Athletic Conference announces timeline to move forward with fall sports

Aug. 6:

- ACC releases 2020 football schedule

Aug. 8:

- MAC becomes first FBS conference to postpone fall sports

Aug. 10:

- Old Dominion (Conference USA) cancels fall sports
- Mountain West cancels fall sports

Aug. 11:

- Big Ten and Pac-12 cancel fall sports

Aug. 12:

- Big 12 releases 9+1 schedule
- Big East cancels fall sports

Aug. 13:

- NCAA cancels all fall championships, affecting all fall sports except FBS football

Aug. 18:

- Baylor and Louisiana Tech announce Sept. 12 game at McLane Stadium as the Bears’ only non-conference game

Aug. 19:

- NCAA grants extra year of eligibility to fall sports athletes

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DJ Ramirez | Sports Editor
DEALING AT THE DELL Senior righty Jacob Ashkinos prepares to throw a pitch for the Round Rock Hairy Men on July 15 at Dell Diamond.



DJ Ramirez | Sports Editor
KNOW WHEN TO STEAL 'EM Senior infielder Esteban Cardoza-Oquendo slides into third base in a game against the Acadiana Cane Cutters on July 25 at Fabacher Field in Lafayette, La.

Summer Ball: Playing for love of the game

DJ RAMIREZ
Sports Editor

Before there were basketball bubbles or hockey bubbles or even soccer bubbles, there was collegiate summer baseball. Just three months after sports across the country came to a screeching halt in attempts to flatten and crush the curve of the coronavirus spread, baseball was back, and several Baylor

“

You play to win — to prove that you're the best.

JACOB ASHKINOS |
SENIOR PITCHER

players jumped at the opportunity to hit the field just 90 minutes south of Baylor Ballpark. Senior pitcher Jacob Ashkinos, senior infielder Esteban Cardoza-Oquendo, sophomore outfielder Jared Mackenzie and sophomore pitcher Hambleton Oliver traded the green and gold for navy and orange this

summer, joining the Round Rock Hairy Men as part of the newly expanded Texas Collegiate League. Cardoza-Oquendo said getting to play baseball again was a special experience. “It was an absolute blessing,” Cardoza-Oquendo said. “At one point we were the only sports games that people were watching across the nation because we were the only sports being televised. So whenever you get the opportunity to be able to play like that, especially when not a lot of other people were getting to, it's pretty special.” As Major League Baseball disputed the length of their shortened season and minor league ballparks remained empty, the TCL seized the opportunity to expand to a 10-team league, partnering with minor league-affiliated ballparks across Texas and Oklahoma to host six new teams. Mackenzie, a Round Rock native, said an old high school teammate reached out to him about the opportunity to play for the Hairy Men at Dell Diamond, home of the Round Rock Express. “His dad is the president of the Round Rock Express, and so he had kind of looped me in,” Mackenzie said. “We reached out to a bunch of guys and a week later or so they announced that we'd be a part of it and we started to get everything finalized.” The Bears packed their bags and headed down to Round Rock, staying with Mackenzie and his family while fellow teammate Tre Richardson joined the Victoria Generals, an already established TCL team. “It was great,” Ashkinos said. “It was honestly a relief to hear that baseball was going to happen.” So how does one go about playing baseball in

the middle of a pandemic? The TCL put in place several guidelines for teams to follow in order to protect their players and staff. Players had to receive a negative COVID-19 test result before reporting to the field at the beginning of the season and according to Cardoza-Oquendo, Round Rock provided tests to the players throughout the season. Other precautions included temperature checks for anyone entering the ballpark, social distancing by spacing out lockers in the locker rooms as well as skipping rows in the stands for the fans and masks protocol in certain areas of the park as well as when the team was traveling. Overall, the players said that there wasn't a moment they didn't feel comfortable. “The game's going to change, and the fact that there's a lot of health precautions taking place, I just think that moving forward it was a good foot in the door,” Mackenzie said. “This might be the new reality in baseball.” Ashkinos and Cardoza-Oquendo echoed the sentiment, saying the team and the league did a good job when it came to the players' health and safety. “I think we did everything we could do with what we were given,” Ashkinos said. “I felt safe the whole time. We weren't doing anything that was irresponsible or not intelligent. I think they did a good job.” However, that didn't mean the league was untouched by the virus. The Frisco RoughRiders from the North division had to cancel several games early in the season due to positive tests, and Round Rock ended up forfeiting its spot in the playoffs when two players tested positive prior to their last series of the summer. While the team was disappointed that their

season ended the way it did, Cardoza-Oquendo said it was better to be “safe than sorry” and that canceling the last week of the season was the best thing to do. Had it happened at the beginning of the season like it did with the RoughRiders, it might have been a different story. “We got to play 27 games,” Cardoza-Oquendo said. “And that's 27 games that a lot of other players across the Division I level, and across other levels as well, didn't get to experience. Any time you can get at bats like that, it's just making you a better ball player.” Nevertheless, Ashkinos, Mackenzie and Cardoza-Oquendo spoke fondly of their summer playing at Dell Diamond. Their team ended the season with a 16-13 record, finishing with a sweep of the Brazos Valley Bombers, who went on to win the TCL title. Their most memorable moments included a combined no-hitter against the Acadiana Cane Cutters, a team out of Louisiana, as well as buying a \$160 spartan helmet while waiting for a game in Amarillo, which became their “home run helmet.” Spending time with new and old teammates was something everyone enjoyed most of all. According to Ashkinos, the best thing about playing summer baseball is that it reminds you why you love to play the game in the first place. “When you're playing in summer ball, you're playing just because you love the game and you're trying to win because that's what you do as a competitor,” Ashkinos said. “You don't play to get a scholarship or to get paid. You play to win — to prove that you're the best. It kind of puts that mentality back inside of you. And you have a great group of guys beside you that want the same thing.”

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