

BU BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students

Bears, beats and a well- kept secret

Take a look inside the
president's house for an
exclusive tour with first
gent Brad Livingstone
and pup BU
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Best bathrooms on campus ... and the worst

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Morgan Dowler | Cartoonist

All about Allbritton: the presidential crib

AVA DUNWOODY
Editor-in-Chief

What has five bedrooms, a giant teddy bear and is nearly impossible to get pizza delivered to? The Allbritton House — home of Baylor presidents and the first families since 1974.

Located in the middle of campus, the Allbritton House was built after well-known donors Joe and Barbara Allbritton refused to give the university another penny until its funds were used to build a permanent family residence for the Baylor president. Judge Abner McCall and his wife Mary were the first residents of the Allbritton House.

“Baylor University is deeply grateful to Joe and Barbara Allbritton for their generosity that is evident across the university, including Allbritton House, the home of Baylor presidents and their families for nearly 50 years,” said Lori Fogleman, Baylor spokesperson.

In 2017, current President Linda Livingstone and first gent Brad Livingstone moved in to what was an empty house, left vacant for a year after former president Ken Starr’s firing.

“As far as the actual physical place, I would say when we first came in here, it just felt weird, especially with all the dead cockroaches and



Photo courtesy of Baylor Photography

FAMILY PHOTO The First Family sits in front of their fireplace during the 2018 Christmas season.

things like that,” Brad Livingstone said. “But being able to transform this house into our home, we always realize this is Baylor’s ... it’s the university’s house, but we get to make it our home.”

With first pup BU at his feet and coconut HTeaO in his Baylor cup, Brad Livingstone met with The Baylor Lariat inside the Allbritton House for an official tour.

Livingstone said when they moved in, they replaced most of the furniture with their own and added personal decor to lighten up the rooms. Above the fireplace stands a family photo of the Livingstones with their now 25-year-old daughter Shelby as a child, as well as a stone nameplate with the family last name engraved on it.

Around the house, there is scattered Baylor memorabilia, family photos, a few of Shelby’s beloved stuffed animals and a cabinet with over 100 coffee mugs collected by the first gent from various locations.

They were not required to keep any of the previous furnishings, but the family decided to hold on to a grand piano, an antique grandfather clock adorned with the university seal and a wooden crib that Brad Livingstone said may have belonged to Judge Baylor’s family.

The Livingstones also made a few foundation updates, including raising the downstairs door frames to 7 feet to accommodate both the president, who is 6 feet tall, and the first gent, who is 6 feet, 10 inches tall. They also wanted a wheelchair-accessible bathroom for guests, which led them to discover a well-kept secret during the remodel.

“This is where it gets kind of cool,” Livingstone said. “They started ripping out Sheetrock all over the place, and that’s when Linda and I realized No. 1, that this house was built in 1974 and No. 2, that the NoZe Brotherhood snuck in here

during construction.”

The NoZe Brotherhood is a secret society at Baylor founded in 1918 that is known for its satirical newspaper, The Rope, and its notorious pranks.

“In all of the studs in the walls that are covered up by Sheetrock, the NoZe Brotherhood snuck in here and had stenciled ‘NoZe Brotherhood Construction Company 1974’ spray-painted on every one,” Livingstone said.



Photo courtesy of the NoZe Brotherhood

WHO NOZE? The first gent sent these photos to the NoZe Brothers in 2017 during renovations.

But the history of the house is marked by more than just the affectionate jest of a student group, Livingstone said. The Allbritton House represents the desire of the Baylor president to be involved on campus and visible to students.

“As you walk out that door, you’re on, and there are thousands of students that will be walking around,” Livingstone said. “When we first got here, we made a conscious effort to go out among the students and be visible. And when you’re 6 feet, 10 inches, it’s really easy to be visible. You don’t hide anywhere.”

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Photo by Ava Dunwoody | Editor-in-Chief

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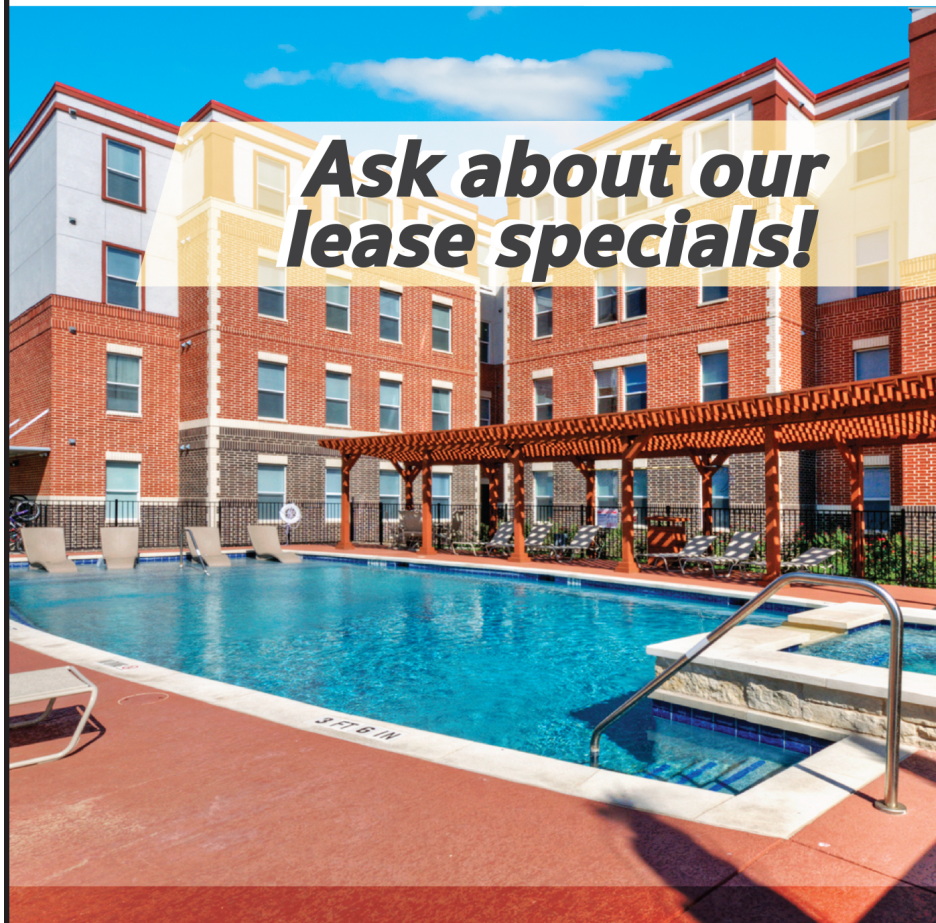
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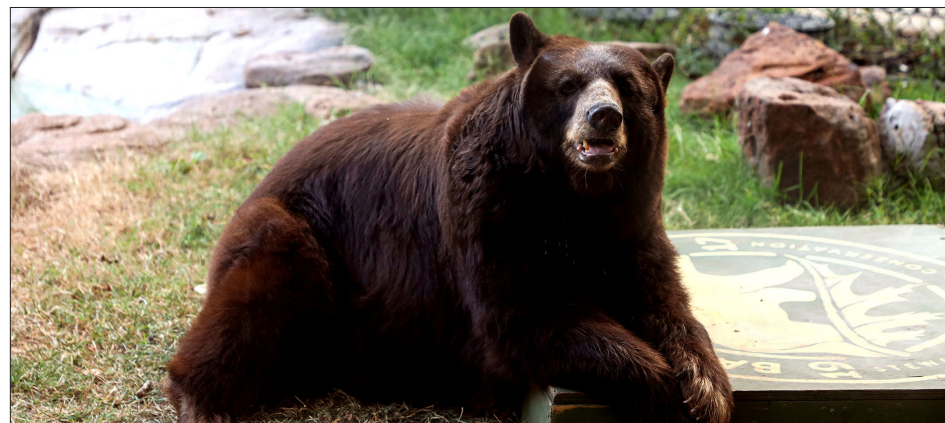


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Brittany Tankersley | Photographer

CASA DEL OSOS The Bill and Eva Williams Bear Habitat was constructed in 2005 with the idea of being a “bear’s dream world.” It is licensed by the USDA as a Class C zoo.

A bear’s dream world

MATT KYLE
Staff Writer

It’s hard to imagine Baylor without thinking of the school’s iconic mascots. For over 100 years, American black bears have served as the symbol of Baylor. Throughout the years, they have attended football games, guzzled Dr Pepper and acted as a common link for generations of Baylor alumni.

The current bears, Joy and Lady, reside at the Bill and Eva Williams Bear Habitat located in the heart of campus, bringing in 250,000 visitors each year. It hasn’t always been this way, as many previous bears were housed off campus in zoos, and one of the bears, Joe College, even lived in his owner’s backyard.

The very first on-campus habitat, nicknamed the “Bear Pit,” was dedicated in 1945 and featured a swimming pool and areas for the bears to walk and climb. In 1977, the bears got an upgrade, and the Steve Hudson Bear Plaza was constructed. The new facility was three times larger than the old one and had a waterfall and AstroTurf. Both of the previous facilities were located along the banks of Waco Creek, the same spot the current habitat is today.

According to Dakota Farquhar-Caddell, the Robert Reid Director of the Baylor Chamber of Commerce, the current bear habitat was constructed in 2005 with intentions of a “bear’s dream world.” The 1,000-square-foot facility features three caves, a waterfall, three wading ponds, a night-house and more, which Farquhar-Caddell said is rated for a category-five hurricane and is the safest place on campus. The facility is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is licensed by the USDA as a Class-C zoo. It also has technologies such as water pumps with a filtration system, hydraulic-powered hands-free doors, security cameras, motion sensors and a kitchen stocked with all of Joy and Lady’s favorite snacks.

Joy and Lady are cared for daily by the Baylor Chamber of Commerce’s Bear Program, which

is almost entirely made up of students, for over 80 years.

The two lead trainers, Grapevine junior Abby Tanner and Plano senior Brandon McClain, oversee all of Joy and Lady’s daily feedings and enrichment activities.

The bears’ day starts at around 8:30 a.m., when Tanner and McClain arrive at the habitat. McClain said Lady and Joy can hear their vehicles when they pull up and will sit and watch their “favorite show” as the food gets prepared in the kitchen through a window in their enclosure.

Most of Joy and Lady’s food is provided by Aramark food services and comes from Penland Dining Hall. Their diet consists of raw beef, chicken, turkey, tuna and salmon as well as a wide range of fruits and vegetables, including apples, oranges, cherries, pears, berries, lettuce, avocados, carrots and apricots.

McClain said after eating breakfast, Joy and Lady find somewhere to nap until their mid-day enrichment activities ensue around noon.

“We have enrichment toys like a red ball that we put nuts in and [Joy and Lady] have to get the nuts out,” McClain said.

The enrichment activities are meant to stimulate the bears’ brains and keep them active.

There is also a series of enrichment activities unique to Baylor football game days. Even though Joy and Lady haven’t attended a game since 2003, football games are played over the habitat’s speakers so they can still hear the game. In 2019, the Bear Program constructed a mock-ESPN College Gameday desk for Joy, where she picks her prediction for the winner of Baylor’s home games. During the 2019 Baylor football season, Joy did not make a single incorrect prediction. Other game day enrichment activities include snacks themed with the opposing team and for the most recent Kansas game, the destruction of a Jayhawk-themed birdhouse.

BU's best, worst places to take care of business

MALLORY HARRIS, GEORGE SCHROEDER AND NATE SMITH
Opinion Editor, Broadcast Managing Editor and Executive Producer

Going to the bathroom is something everyone experiences, so why do some of the bathrooms on campus feel as though no one goes in there?

In those 15 minutes between classes, there's a lot to get done. Between foot traffic, stair-climbing and getting settled into a desk, the last thing anyone wants to deal with is a dark and musty bathroom. Here are the definitive best and worst of campus bathrooms.

Men's Division

#1 Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation
Have you ever wanted to use a bathroom at an Apple Store? Look no further than Baylor's newest building, with bathrooms fit for a king. They're very spacious, with suitable amounts of privacy when it comes to the urinal setup. Issues with cleanliness are few and far between. This is exactly what every public bathroom should strive to be.

#2 Baylor Sciences Building
The commode is very similar to that of Foster, with slightly less privacy in the urinal setup. The floors and toilets are usually nearly clean enough to eat off of, but Foster gets the slight edge since it's newer. Make no mistake, though. Baylor's crown jewel bathrooms have lights that shine bright like a diamond.

Morrison Hall
I have one question: Why is this bathroom so dark? The lack of light makes the room feel like the Chamber of Secrets. One would think that the building that houses the Honors Program would have top-tier bathrooms, but unfortunately, that's not the case. Don't make eye contact in this bathroom because the urinals are, quite literally, a part of the walls, extending from about waist high down to the floor and offering no privacy. As you can imagine, the setup leads to some cleanliness issues that can be a little gnarly at times, but at least the toilets function.

Carroll Science Hall
This is a beautiful building, and it definitely has its charm. However, this bathroom is the opposite of charming. It is essentially a closet that someone decided to put a couple of toilets in over 40 years ago. It is a relatively clean bathroom, which is a plus. However, the lack of attention that the appliances have been given is just too much to overcome.

Women's Division

#1 Sid Richardson Building
Now this may be a surprise, but once again the multitude of stalls, space to set down bags and decent cleanliness shows a side of bathrooms that not many think to include. While at times water and biohazardous material can cause a mess, the wide space and doors on each side of the room allow for plenty of space and enable people to come and go as needed.

#2 Moody Memorial Library
The Moody bathrooms are like a brand new Toyota Camry. It isn't an attention grabber, but it gets you exactly where you want to go, and always leaves you satisfied. Good amount of stalls, space to set items down, good amount of mirror space, although the lack of height on the main floor bathrooms almost kicks it all to the curb. There's also minimal lighting which one could argue fits with the library scene, but in the end makes you feel like you might be walking into a cave.

Bill Daniel Student Center
Now, while the SUB remains clean in most cases, the availability of only two stalls on the courtyard level makes waiting seem like an eternity. Simply adding one or two more stalls could really improve the experience within the building, especially since so many students come in and out.

Draper Academic Building
While it's already in a confusing layout in connection with Old Main and Burleson Hall, the bathroom situation doesn't make me eager to enter here. It might be the oldness of the building and the lack of basic updates but the bathrooms here just make me feel like it's better to just go somewhere else. Maybe we can revisit this bathroom once it's brought through the 20th century and into the 21st.



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'Crusty' Collins renovations coming in May

EMILY COUSINS
Staff Writer

Beginning in May 2022, Collins Residence Hall will be renovated as part of the master plan for campus renovations. The \$38.5 million project is scheduled to be completed in July 2023.

Collins has been dubbed "Crusty Collins" by Baylor students, and renovations have been encouraged by former residents.

Every year since 1957, 600 freshman women have lived in Collins. The renovations were originally going to be completed in 2018, but construction took a two-year pause, and renovations were postponed to begin in 2019. COVID-19 further delayed the renovations.

"This year's budget reflects the start of a

comprehensive resource planning process that will guide us over the next five years and support the university's aspirations under Illuminate," Chief Business Officer Brett Dalton said in a news release. "Now we are able to take advantage of favorable market conditions that will allow us to ... address much-needed renovations in key residence halls."

Baylor spokesperson Lori Fogleman said Collins will have updated amenities, facilities and security. She also said the fire protection, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, information technology systems and elevators will be updated and that the building will have modifications for accessibility purposes.

Memphis, Tenn., sophomore Bella Snow, who lived in Collins during the 2020-2021 school year, said she is thankful the elevators are being fixed because she remembers people

"I cannot count how many times I saw people get stuck on elevators."

BELLA SNOW | MEMPHIS, TENN. SOPHOMORE



Brittany Tankersley | Photographer

GROUNDBREAKING The Collins Residence Hall renovation will start in May 2022 and is scheduled to be finished in July 2023 complete with all new amenities, facilities and security.

would often get stuck on them.

"I cannot count how many times I saw people get stuck on the elevators," Snow said. "The first day of school, I saw two security or police officers coming up to the fifth floor and having to pry the door off to get these girls out."

Snow said she hopes the community

bathrooms are spruced up.

"I have been in the other community bathrooms in other dorms, and ours are definitely the worst," Snow said.

Snow also said even though Collins wasn't the most updated building, she loved the community and friends she made there.



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Photo courtesy of Rachel Royster

SMILES ALL AROUND Houston sophomore Rachel Royster gets to spend the day with her foster dog, Kenneth, even though her apartment lease doesn't allow him to stay full time.

Humane Society looks to students to foster pets

CAMILLE COX
Staff Writer

Albuquerque, N.M., junior Evan Pfeiffer fostered Ghost, a Siberian husky, for a few weeks after learning the Humane Society of Central Texas was reaching capacity.

"Someone told me that the Humane Society was at capacity and that they were going to be potentially putting dogs down," Pfeiffer said. "I went in with the intent to foster to adopt, but he was just a little bigger than what I could've given him in an apartment."

According to the Humane Society's website, animals can be fostered for a short period of time: 24 hours or one to six weeks.

"I kept him for as long as possible, but then I had to go out of town," Pfeiffer said. "I returned him back to the Humane Society after two weeks ... but he got adopted in the two days he was there."

San Antonio sophomore Megan Huff also fostered a dog through the Humane Society over Labor Day weekend, giving the dog a short break away from its cage.

"My roommates and I decided to foster because we thought it would be a fun bonding experience, and we wanted to help a dog in need," Huff said.

While students living on campus cannot foster animals, students living off campus in apartments or homes can often foster or adopt animals if permitted to do so in their lease.

"I think that if you can foster, you should," Huff said. "Yes, it was a lot, and I don't know if I could do it again with my current workload, but if you can, you should because it's important and fun to have an animal."

Through the Humane Society, those who foster will have a weekly check-in with a Humane Society of Central Texas foster family liaison to make sure the situation is a good fit.

"Animals don't care if you live in an apartment or a house, if you have a yard, what kind of job you have or what time you wake up in the morning," the Humane Society said on its website.

While fostering does benefit the animal, the animal can also help students feel at ease. According to a 2017 academic article in the modern psychological studies journal published by

the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, professors from Troy University wrote "animals have been shown to have positive effects on people who suffer from various conditions including depression, stress and homesickness."

Animals, in the right situation, can help students relieve stress and achieve better mental health.

"Pet therapy may be useful in destigmatizing mental illness and increasing the chance that students will seek counseling," the academic article said.

Students at Baylor who have fostered have felt the benefits of having a dog — even if just for a short time period.

"It was very fun to have a dog because I have three dogs at home and I miss being around them," Huff said. "Not having animals in college is sad, but having a companion by my side for a weekend was something I enjoyed doing."

Those interested in fostering, volunteering or adopting through the Humane Society can visit its website for more information. Additionally, Humane Society of Central Texas is holding a 5K Zombie Run on Oct. 30, complete with a human and doggie costume contest.

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Photo by Morgan Dowler and Grace Fortier

POINT OF VIEW

Combating homesickness

LAKESYN MELIA
Assistant News Editor

Whether you just got to Baylor to start your freshman year or you are quickly realizing you're almost done with college, homesickness is something that loves to creep up on you. Trust me, everyone experiences it. You're not alone.

When I first got to Baylor, I knew two people. All of my friends went to schools closer to home and already knew so many people who were attending. I don't admit this very often, but I struggled. I compared my experience to everyone else's online. You know what they say about comparison: it's the thief of joy. As a freshman in college, there's not that much joy to begin with. I believe, without a doubt, you have to create your own.

My mission as a freshman was to find my happiness in places and activities rather than people and things. Sure, making friends really helps when you miss your hometown friends, and a new Outdoor Voices order cures that 30-minute breakdown the night before. However, temporary happiness won't help minimize homesickness in the long run.

Here's what I've learned in my last three years as an out-of-state student: people are not always dependable, sometimes you will have multiple breakdowns about school in one day, and my mom doing the laundry that I've drowned myself in for weeks would probably solve most of my problems.

However, relying on other people — or your academic success — for happiness and validation won't make you feel any more at

home. What will help, though, is exploring where you are and forcing it to feel like a second home.

The word "force" sounds a little harsh in this respect, but you're here and you have no other choice. At least, that's how I got myself through my first semester of freshman year. As a pessimistic person, I hated the amount of optimism I forced upon myself when I first got to college. Now, I'm so grateful that I tried so hard to make myself love where I am, because I do.

Of course, my friends make Waco feel like home, but the local restaurants, the coffee shops I love, the weird traditions, the way it randomly turns into fall on some summer days and so many more things make Waco home.

I wouldn't have ever become comfortable in Waco if I didn't take the time to appreciate it. Although the amount of construction can be frustrating, you can find plenty of great spots if you take people's recommendations and go out to look for them.

What I hope you're getting from what I'm saying is this: find your places. Force yourself to explore all that the small town of Waco has to offer. Do things that make you excited about your surroundings, whether that's grabbing a morning latte and breakfast tacos at El Crucero, trying new restaurants, cramming for a test in your favorite study spot or driving through Cameron Park.

You will feel less homesick if you make yourself at home. My biggest tip is to incorporate small aspects of where you're from and allow yourself to love where you are.

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HOME from Page 2

Mansfield junior Adam Hunt said he appreciates the visibility of the first family.

"I think seeing them all the time on campus and other events just shows others that they are dedicated to making us feel at home and special," Hunt said. "It's nice being on a campus where the president and her family are so involved."

Fogleman, the Baylor spokesperson, said, "Living on campus in Allbritton has connected [the First Family] to Baylor students in many meaningful ways, from special events on their front lawn to the time they spend meeting students as they walk our beautiful campus."

It's not uncommon for the first family to be stopped on walks for a selfie with students or for students to snap photos of them around Waco, paparazzi style. Livingstone said one time, he was in the Chick-fil-A drive-thru line with his daughter and BU, and before they even got their food, they saw photos of themselves pop up on social media with the caption, "First pup BU is at Chick-Fil-A!"

Livingstone said he loves seeing photos like that and thinks they are hilarious. BU even has his own Instagram, run by Shelby Livingstone, with over 3,000 followers: @firstpup_bu. But for Livingstone, being in the public eye is more than just funny photos — it's an opportunity to minister.

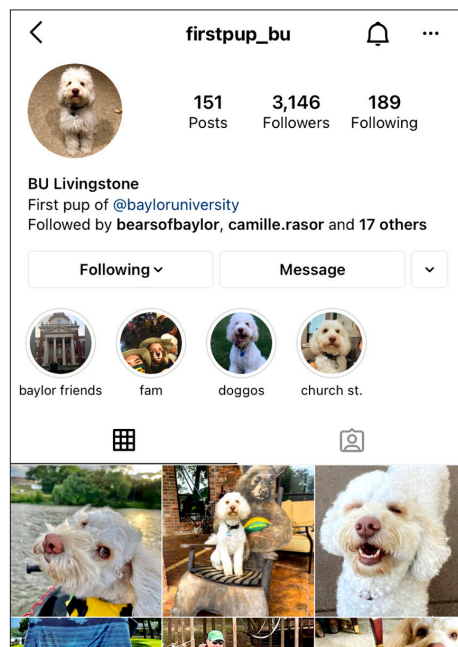


Photo Courtesy of Instagram @firstpup_bu

INFLUENCER ALERT The first pup, BU, has over 3,000 followers on Instagram.

"I'll put [BU] on leash and I'll go out and I'll just say, 'OK, God, let us meet at least one person that needs a word of encouragement,'

and he'll honor that prayer fifty fold every time we go on a walk," Livingstone said.

Another way Livingstone uses the Allbritton House for ministry is by playing music on the speakers in the backyard. He said the idea came to him one week when he felt the anxiety of test week in the students he talked to, so he wanted to play music to brighten their day. Livingstone said he asks God from his prayer chair in the house if that day would be a good day to play music for passersby to hear.

"There's something about music that just makes you feel good or reminds you of things," Livingstone said. "And so I put together a playlist, just a fun song playlist, and most of it is just contemporary songs. But I'll throw in a song that is spiritual, that is a Christian song, and that is very powerful."

Hunt said he appreciates the effort Livingstone makes with the music.

"It's nice to walk past while going to another class and hearing a random song that you like," Hunt said. "Something as little as that can make me smile."

In the evenings, the Livingstones attend a variety of banquets, dinners, ceremonies and more on campus.

"Usually, there's one or two Baylor events that will be taking place [each night], but we love that," Brad Livingstone said. "If we lived off campus, it would be much more inconvenient for us to go to all of these events, but living right on campus, we can walk to almost every event."

Livingstone said one unique aspect of their lifestyle is they don't have a lot of time for regular household duties. Because the first family is required to live in the Allbritton house, they do not have to pay house bills, and they are provided with a housekeeper who comes three times a week. For food, they often eat out at events or pay for a meal delivery service. If they do cook, however, they have a few favorites.

"Linda is, among other things, an amazing cook," Livingstone said. "She makes the best fried okra you'll ever try. I make the ribs or anything cooked on the grill. That's what I do. That's my area."

When there is time to wind down, the couple enjoys riding bikes or watching "Ted Lasso." The Livingstones said they also try to get away once in a while to a house on the Brazos River, which they bought right before the pandemic.

"As soon as I get to the river house, it's like my whole body just says, 'We're done. We're just going to relax for the rest of the day and get out on the boat or the jet ski or the swimming pool and just relax,'" Livingstone said. "So that's a place that we can actually decompress. But since school has started, we don't get a chance to go out there very often."

When they aren't using the river house, they open it up to groups like Baptist Student Missions to use for student retreats.



Ava Dunwoody | Editor-in-Chief

COME ON IN The Allbritton House is approximately 6,400 square feet, with five bedrooms and four bathrooms.



Ava Dunwoody | Editor-in-Chief

LEAVE A LEGACY Every resident gets their name on this plaque near the front door.

"When I'm out at the river, it's like I don't want to leave it; it's just so peaceful and so nice," Livingstone said. "But when I get in my car and I get close to campus, it's just that great feeling, and you see students and you just realize, 'OK, this is why we're here.'"

Being on campus in the Allbritton House is what Livingstone said has made the president's job so meaningful. With the marks of history over the years left inside of the house, Livingstone said he's not sure what they plan to leave behind after they are gone.

"I'll be more than happy to loan Baylor one of my coffee mugs," Livingstone said. "But we haven't even thought about that because we're not planning on going anywhere anytime soon. ... We're not done here."

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Brunch & learn, Bobo Spiritual life Center

Tuesday, 09.28 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Dr. Pepper Hour, Barfield Room

Tuesday, 09.28 | 3–4 p.m.



Love local Fest, Vava Martin Daniel Plaza

Wednesday, 09.29 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Global Missions Informational

Thursday, 09.30 | 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.



Power Hour Simulation

Friday, 10.01 | 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.



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Olivia Martin | Photo Editor

JAMMING
Charlotte, N.C., senior Will Boatwright turned a part of his bedroom into a studio where he can pursue his creative music passion.

Music close to home

Student turns bedroom into studio

TORI TEMPLET
Staff Writer

Many students rely on creative outlets to express themselves during their time in college. Charlotte, N.C., senior Will Boatwright finds comfort in music.

During his time at Baylor, Boatwright said he has learned how to create a space in his bedroom for his love of music along with other things of importance to him.

"I'm pretty into the aesthetics of a room and implementing what I do into my own room, whether it's clothes, soccer or music," Boatwright said. "When it came to music, I wanted to have professional-type things that really could help me do what I loved — but in a semi-professional way, where it was high quality. I felt like I had to do that in order to really have that space where I can step into that world and be surrounded by those articles of music."

To try and find a sense of balance, Boatwright has separate areas in his room for music writing and production, coffee and gatherings, schoolwork and sleeping.

Mililani, Hawaii, senior Paschal Curlin, Boatwright's roommate, said he has seen firsthand how Boatwright has set up his room to showcase what he is passionate about.

"Will does a great job of utilizing his space," Curlin said. "If you go into his room, you'll notice that everything is sectioned off thematically and that different parts of his room serve different purposes."

Boatwright said it is not difficult to separate his music from the rest of his living space. However, it can be difficult to stay away from his music, which can sometimes be an outlet of procrastination that distracts him from his schoolwork.

"If I just randomly have an idea, then it'll turn into an hour," Boatwright said. "That's the problem. It's not hard to get into that headspace for me."

Growing up, Boatwright played classical piano but never really used music for his freedom of expression. He said that even though it was not the best, it gave him a background in music theory and a deep appreciation for music in general.

Throughout high school, Boatwright started playing guitar, writing songs and pursuing music as a channel to process emotions and for his own enjoyment. He said he fell in love with creating his own style and found his sound within a hybrid genre of alternative, pop and rock with influences from acoustic, singer-songwriters.

"Through college, [music has] been something that if I'm exhausted and need a detox, it's there," Boatwright said. "If I'm feeling inspired and want to write something, it's there. It has a feeling of nostalgia but also excitement and being able to create something new."

Boatwright said creating music allows him to take a step back from the mundane chaos of being a college student.

"Through freshman year, music was a way for me to just take a deep breath and be creative, but over time there has been a realization that 'Oh, maybe I could actually do this and pursue this,'" Boatwright said.

Boatwright has not yet released any music, but he said he is waiting for the right time and right opportunities to come along to push him forward in his music endeavors.

"Music is something that will always be there," Boatwright said. "It's not going to go away. It's going to be something that I do for the rest of my life, and I find comfort in that."



Grace Fortier | Photographer

EXPLORE Students should step off campus to experience Waco, from downtown to Lake Waco, and enjoy their new “home away from home.”

POINT OF VIEW

Pop your Baylor bubble

ERIANNE LEWIS
Arts & Life Editor

When I first came to Baylor, I remember someone saying they lived in Baylor, not Waco. I was confused by this because I thought that Baylor was the college and Waco was the town, but it seemed I was mistaken. I, as many people do, succumbed to the Baylor bubble.

Waco is more than just Baylor, but it's up to you to go out and explore outside of the Baylor bubble, especially since Waco is your new “home” — at least during the school year. So I've made it easier for you by compiling a list of some of my favorite restaurants and things to do around Waco.

Restaurants

1. Cajun Craft | 601 S. 11th St. - When I first stepped into this restaurant back in January, I immediately felt at home. I grew up eating Cajun food for almost every single meal, because my parents are from Louisiana. I love this place for many reasons, but the fried shrimp special holds a “special” place in my heart.

2. Clay Pot Restaurant | 416 Franklin Ave. - The love I feel for this restaurant is indescribable. It's probably not good that I'm writing this while I'm hungry either. If you're in the mood for

some Vietnamese cuisine, then look no further. Clay Pot has it all, from bubble tea to noodle bowls to rice platters. In addition to the excellent cuisine, the service has always been impeccable every time I've gone.

Coffee Shops & Study Spots

1. Lalo's Coffee Pastries | 1500 Colcord Ave. - I tried Lalo's with some friends at the beginning of this semester and I fell in love. Not only are the prices fair, but they also offer a student discount, which is wonderful. I also tried one of their pastries and it was delicious. I think this could be a good study spot or just somewhere to talk with friends.

2. Common Grounds - Woodway | 7608 Woodway Drive - Now before you deep sigh because I added Common Grounds on this list when it's literally on campus, hear me out. The Woodway location stands on its own entirely. Although it is about a 15-minute drive from campus, I stand by the fact that it is worth it. The location not only offers more options than the Bill Daniel Student Center and Eighth Street — for my soy milk lovers, it's offered here — but the atmosphere is just divine.

This location is also shared with Slow Rise Pizza, which has amazing wings.

Antique & Thrift Shops

1. Laverty's Antiques Furnishing | 600 N. 18th St. - This is a hidden gem, not only because of its location and the amazing staff, but also because of its hours. This antique shop has plenty of unique items to choose from for affordable prices. I went for the first time a couple of weeks ago and I snagged an old camera bag that I have decided to wear as a purse. I had to hold myself back from buying everything that I saw. I would recommend checking out this shop, but make sure to look on their website before because they are only open sporadically.

2. Central Goods | 1701 Franklin Ave. - This is a new vintage and antique home decor shop that just opened and it's like a thrift store times 1,000. It is an indoor market that offers items from various vendors in their own individual sections. I really enjoyed this place because there is so much to choose from. I also like how each vendor made their section fit a certain aesthetic. Depending on the vendor, the items can be pricey, but there are things within all price ranges. You just have to know where to look.

These are only a few of the amazing places Waco has to offer that are not just around Baylor. Support some local businesses, try



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New students build close communities living on campus

MARIAH BENNETT
Staff Writer

In this year's U.S. News Best Colleges Ranking, Baylor received a No. 15 ranking in First-Year Experiences. Baylor's first-year experience success can be seen through the goals of their residence halls, Living-Learning Centers and community leaders.

Rob Engblom, associate director for resident learning at Campus Living and Learning, said the overall goal is to create a sense of belonging.

"[Our goal] is to help students be as successful as possible and really feel welcome within our residential communities," Engblom said.

Engblom said there are a multitude of opportunities for involvement and styles of community in residence halls.

Dr. Terri Garrett, associate director for academic initiatives at Campus Living and Learning, said 5,200 students are living on campus. Of the first-year students — who are all required to live on campus — 50% live in an LLC. LLCs are communities centered on specific academic programs.

"A living-learning community is a really distinct structured learning environment for students," Garrett said. "They have an opportunity to live with like-minded students and engage with academic faculty and partners in unique ways. That combination's very powerful."

Engblom said there is a variety in both community and living choices on campus to help students acclimate to college life.

Dallas freshman Michaela Akins said that she is having a positive experience in Brooks Flats — the Business and Innovation LLC — and that LLCs are good for students who are clearly focused on their major.

"There's a lot of people who are out to support me that live in the LLC, like the faculty-in-residence," Akins said. "Community leaders are always there to talk to me."

There are seven LLCs on Baylor's campus. These include Baylor and Beyond, Business & Innovation, Impact, Fine Arts, Leadership, Outdoor Adventure and Science and Health. This line up excludes the Transfer Year Experience Living-Learning Center at University Parks, which will no longer be a community specifically



Audrey La | Photographer

SUPPORTIVE Revina Karani (pictured holding the volleyball) is one of the many CLs at Baylor who work to create loving, welcoming environments for the new students living in LLCs.

for transfer students beginning in the fall of 2022. This change is due to a lack of new transfer students to the LLC itself, which was caused by

Winchester, Va., junior Kevin Connor said he chose to transfer to Baylor because of the number of opportunities for transfer students compared to other colleges.

"Part of the reason why I wanted to come to Baylor was the fact that they offered so much to transfer students," Connor said. "It definitely was part of the reason why I stayed."

While staying at University Parks, Connor said he enjoyed meeting other transfer students and going to events, such as s'mores nights.

Garrett said these types of on-campus housing experiences have a significant impact on retention of students.

"It helps with social contacts, with academic supports, and it really provides a new home environment for a student who is potentially away from home for the first time," Garrett said.

Nairobi, Kenya, junior Revina Karani, a second-semester community leader at Brooks Flats, said the role of a community leader is to encourage new residents.

"Our intention in creating those is if you just create a casual setting for them to connect and get to know each other better ... you can become friends," Karani said.

Garrett said a number of students come back to LLCs after their first year because of their positive experience living on campus.

"Because you're living with so many more people than just a small apartment complex, you're broadening your perspective and experiences in ways that off-campus life sometimes can't provide," Garrett said.

“
[Our goal]
is to help
students be
as successful
as possible
and really feel
welcome.
”

ROB ENGBLOM |
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
RESIDENT LEARNING

the large incoming freshman class according to Austin Morell, who worked as the Transfer Year Experience LLC Program Director. Despite this closing, acclimation tools are available for transfer students at Transfer Student Success, a program at Baylor to guide transfer students into Baylor life.




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Same room 23 years later

KATELYN PATTERSON
Reporter

This Baylor family's legacy goes beyond a father and son attending the same university. They also share the same fraternity house down to the same bedroom.

New Braunfels sophomore Caul McAuley is a member of Kappa Omega Tau like his father was back in the 1990s when he was a Baylor student.

McAuley said his dad lived in the house as a college student and walked him through the house before he ever lived there.

"When I came up, the sophomore KOTs offered me that house and said, 'It would be awesome if you lived in the same room that your dad did,'" McAuley said.

Waco sophomore Kullen Miller is also a member of KOT and McAuley's roommate. He said it was a given that McAuley would have his dad's old room in the house.

"We were just kind of like, 'We have to give it to him,'" Miller said. "It's just such a cool



HAND-ME-DOWN New Braunfels sophomore Caul McAuley continues his father's legacy in the same bedroom he lived in. Audrey La | Photographer

thing, and KOT is all about tradition. It's a really cool thing having him live there and kind of follow in his dad's footsteps."

McAuley said he enjoys being able to live through the stories that his dad told him growing up, but with his own experiences.

"He's always told me about how fun being a KOT was and going to Baylor and the experience and connections he made," McAuley said. "It's cool that I'm reliving what he did and was able to accomplish getting into Baylor, getting into KOT and living in the same house."

KOT is a Greek organization unique to Baylor. It was founded in 1960 and is a social-service fraternity.

"The men of Kappa Omega Tau are men who are dedicated to serving the communities of Waco and Baylor and making a difference," the KOT website states.

McAuley said his dad told him KOT and the house have not changed since his dad attended Baylor.

"Baylor as a whole has changed a little, but within KOT and the house, it's kind of the same," McAuley said.

BEAR PIT from Page 4

Once or twice a week, Joy and Lady are taken to a bigger off-campus facility where they can climb trees and dig holes. The big bear playground also gives Joy and Lady more privacy and allows the trainers to train them without an audience.

Because the bears were born into captivity, trainers train them to do various "learned behaviors" they would otherwise learn in the wild. The Baylor Sic 'em is a natural movement for bears in the wild to bat food out of trees making it easy for both Joy and Lady to do. Although because she is left-paw dominant, Lady is the only Baylor Bear allowed to do a Sic 'em with her left hand.

"She's just a left-paw dominant bear," McClain said. "Joy is also able to smile. She'll open her mouth really wide and smile for us."

In addition to taking care of the bears, the Chamber of Commerce also educates the community about conservation of black bears and general safety guidelines for dealing with black bears in the wild.

Farquhar-Caddell said the Chamber has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to preserve bear habitats all over the state.

"This year, we hope to take an annual trip out to one of the Texas parks and do some actual manual labor around habitat rehabilitation for black bears," Farquhar-Caddell said. "Black bears are making a resurgence in Texas, which we're really excited about."

Joy and Lady are biological sisters, born in 2001 and 2002, respectively. They each have a twin brother as well, named Ben and Cody, who have acted in TV shows and movies.

Tanner said the bear habitat is a "safe, inviting and peaceful space" for anyone to come and enjoy the presence of Joy and Lady. McClain called the bears a "stagnant tradition" of Baylor that ties many different generations of students together.

According to Tanner and McClain, the best times to see Joy and Lady are around 9 a.m., when they eat breakfast, and around noon, when the trainers engage them in their mid-day enrichment activities.

"Anyone can go and see them. They're right here in the middle of campus," McClain said. "Everyone knows the Baylor Bears, and I think they are one of the most beautiful traditions [we have]."

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