

Thursday, October 14, 2021

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**A&L | B1**  
**Pigskin**  
**Preview**  
Bears get ready to take the stage



**Sports | C4**  
**Basketball**  
**Gets Ready**  
Men & women make a game plan

# HOMECOMING 2021

## Homecoming traditions pass to next generation

**CAMILLE COX**  
Staff Writer

Since 1909, Baylor Homecoming has brought the Baylor family of the past, present and future together for a weekend full of traditions.

Flower Mound sophomore Lauren Leath said her parents, Blake and Dawn Leath, graduated from Baylor in 1992 and have gone as a family to homecoming over the years.

"I've been to homecoming four or five times. I don't remember the youngest times, but I have so many pictures of my dad and I at the bonfire," Lauren Leath said. "We would always watch the homecoming parade, and they would provide food and hot chocolate, so we would get up super early on Saturday mornings for that and then go to the game."

Lauren Leath said she grew up immersed in homecoming traditions, including the bonfire, Pigskin Revue, the parade and the football game. Now she is experiencing those traditions as a student.

"I remember when I was growing up and coming to homecoming, I looked up to all the students so much, and it was so cool to think at the time that my parents did all of this too," Lauren Leath said. "I talk to them about floats and pumping, and my mom said that that's exactly like what she did."

Dawn Leath said she feels it has come full circle now that she sees her daughter participating in the very traditions she did when she attended Baylor.



Photo Courtesy of Lauren Leath

**FAMILY FLAME** Flower Mound sophomore Lauren Leath sits on her father's shoulders as a child during a Baylor bonfire.

"Part of it has been a little bittersweet with COVID-19 because this feels like her freshman year would've been," Dawn Leath said. "It's been even more meaningful as a parent because as a kid, we were there as students and just going to school, but as a parent, you see that they take such great care of our kids."

Dallas sophomore McKay Harman said he had a similar familial experience growing up and is now a fifth-generation Bear.

"I have been going to every single home game since 2011 when RG3 [Robert Griffin III] was here, and he

**NEXT GEN >> Page A7**

## Homecoming court to include king for first time

**CAMILLE COX**  
Staff Writer

The homecoming court will include a king to be crowned along with the queen for the first time in Baylor history. Beginning in 1934, the tradition of crowning a queen and her court has been an integral part of the homecoming weekend festivities.

According to the Baylor Homecoming website, "members of the Homecoming Court reflect the Christian mission of the university and live out its call to leadership and service in the world."

Gravestone junior Abby Tanner, homecoming court coordinator, said that the process includes a nomination from an organization or faculty member, interviews and headshots before the court is announced at Pigskin Revue tonight.

Following the presentation of the winners at Pigskin, the court attends the parade and football game for recognition.

"They represent the best of Baylor and they represent Baylor's values, so it's kind of my job to make sure that they get the recognition they deserve because they do so much in

our community and in their spiritual life," Tanner said.

Tanner said that this year's court is setting a precedent, being the first court to include men as well as women.

"We're super excited for the addition of guys in this tradition," Tanner said. "King and his court was added because we wanted everybody to be recognized, not just women, because everybody has done great work for Baylor and is involved."

The homecoming court consists of four women representing the queen's court as princesses and four men representing the king's court as princes, making a total of 10 students who will be celebrated as the 2021 Baylor homecoming court.

Ventura County, Calif., junior Isabelle Zgorzelski, homecoming chair, explained the lengthy process for selection of the court, which began in August. The homecoming committee emailed advisers and organizations to submit nominees for homecoming court.

"We email the people who are in charge of organizations

**THE CROWN >> Page A7**

## History of the Bonfire



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**CHILLIN' BY THE FIRE** Two 1950 slime-cap clad Baylor students warm up by the bonfire.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**MEMORY LANE** An old photo inscribed "Home Coming — Bonfire" from 1932 recounts the Baylor family standing around the bonfire at night.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**BEAR BUILDERS** 1994 students wear denim and work boots to stack wooden pallets, which are used to build and fuel the bonfire each year.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**EXTRA! EXTRA!** The cover of the Nov. 5, 1982, Lariat shows a recap of the bonfire structure, Pigskin, the parade and the game.

**Want to see more Homecoming History?**  
**Check out pages A4 & A5!**

POINTS OF VIEW

# GPA shouldn't be determined by attendance

**APRIL ODDO**  
Reporter

Most of the COVID-19 protocols on campus are already confusing and difficult to follow through with, and Baylor's attendance policy only adds to the confusion. Adjusting to a global pandemic was already difficult enough for students, especially having to transition into online classes. For some, online college is the new normal; it's what most are used to after being quarantined and isolated from everyday life for so long. When I initially heard that I would be spending my junior year at Baylor in person, I was excited and ready to return to normalcy. However, many underestimated the difficulties that would arise with such a drastic transition, myself included.

Specific colleges within Baylor, such as the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Hankamer School of Business, require students to attend 75% of their classes. Using attendance as a grade that can alter a GPA when most are barely able to keep up with the transition to a normal semester is inconsiderate. Addressing the attendance policy is



not an effort to give room for laziness or free time. It's simply questioning its purpose and goal. Why are adults who pay to be here being graded for the classes they choose to attend?

It's easy to make the assumption that missing a class is a sign of irresponsibility and inability to commit to a schedule, but there could be a plethora of reasons as to why a student is not in the classroom at the beginning of class.

From personal experiences, I have noticed several of my peers suffer from poor mental health, including myself. This can have a direct impact on motivation and even attention span. An increase in anxiety and depression rates among college students, especially after COVID-19, is not

shocking. Baylor is quick to control students in how many COVID-19 tests they get a week and when they should be wearing a mask, however there has been little effort in supporting students in the long-term damages that online semesters have brought us.

In addition, there is not enough flexibility with what is considered an excused absence and what is considered an unexcused absence. How is it that the only form of excuse to miss a class is a serious illness, accident or death in the family according to the attendance policy? There are numerous amounts of other reasons as to why a student may not be able to get to class, and keeping excused absences in such a tight category is unfair.

Once again, addressing the attendance policy should not be misconstrued as a way for students to have fewer responsibilities. Professors should be more willing to hear the needs of their students and should have more understanding toward them, especially when trying to balance a return to normalcy.

# We need week long break now, not at Thanksgiving

**DANIELLE SKINNER**  
LTVN Anchor/Reporter

As the semester continues, I have noticed that fewer students are showing up to classes and more are feeling the challenges of late nights. I know I could use a break by this point of the semester with tests, assignments and all the exciting college activities. I am exhausted.

Luckily, fall break is arriving in just two weeks. But is it really considered a break when it is only an extra day off? I think I speak for most students when I say that we need a week off this semester, and we need one soon.

Now one may argue that we do have a week long break this semester: Thanksgiving break, which is at the end of November. How helpful is that, though? We get a week off just to stress about finals and then have Christmas break two weeks later. I think the obvious conclusion is that fall break and Thanksgiving break need to switch.

Imagine that in the middle of October there was a nice long break. Students could utilize this time to catch up on homework and see their families — but mainly to reflect on the semester and take a break. The chance to



unwind in times of stress allows people to relax and produce better work than they would have if they had not taken a break. Breaks are beneficial in more ways than people think.

This is also a great time for professors to have a break, because I know they have to be just as tired as we are. A week long break in October could help them catch up on grading and allow them to figure out a game plan for the rest of the semester. To me, this sounds like the most logical thing for the school to do.

The idea of reducing stress, increasing productivity is shown to be very accurate in many studies. A study from the University of South Carolina explained that rest isn't idleness, and for anyone working day to

day, a break enables them to digest material and keep their brains healthy and functioning well.

The semester is getting stressful, and there are many people suffering from the piles of work, tests and everything in between. Since there is no week long fall break, make sure you find time for yourself to relax and catch up on life.

Many students need stress management, so do not be afraid to ask for help. Also, you can tell if your friends are falling behind or can't handle the stress of the school year. Help them out or tell them to find someone who can give them assistance. Many people struggle with stress and overloading themselves; I am that type of person. Finding a plan and resting while you can will help you in the long run.

As a very busy student in clubs and organizations, I feel like I could use a mental break at this point. That is why October should have a week long break; it's in the middle of the semester, would work well for many people's schedules and would benefit everyone.

# It's OK for friendships to grow, change

**SKYLLA MUMANA**  
Reporter

Ever since I was young, I have loved the idea of friends. I loved watching kid shows and seeing the camaraderie between the characters, or reading books and thinking about all the fun adventures they could go on together. I loved the idea of being able to rely on others when in a tough spot, or being able to share unique experiences with a group of people and have those memories last a lifetime. Overall, as a kid, I just really wanted friends.

And I got them. When I was young, I was lucky enough to make some incredible friendships



that, to this day, I'm still maintaining. Even though we don't get to see each other often because of school or work, we still keep in contact through texting, FaceTime and various social media platforms. It

takes a bit of work, but it's worth it.

With that being said, outside of these friendships, there have been others that didn't end up as successful. Some that I thought would last a lifetime lasted years, others lasted months and so on. For a while, I thought it was my fault that a lot of my friendships didn't last. I thought there was something wrong with me or my personality. I re-evaluated myself countless times and looked back into past encounters and situations. Then I started reevaluating those friendships, and I asked myself if I was happy in them — only to find that I truly and honestly wasn't.

As we grow and age, we enter new environments. Those experiences help to define us, and the friends we make in those moments become the ones who are important to us, especially in a college or professional environment. We start to share the same ideologies and values as those friends, and overall we start to change. Because of this, it's almost inevitable that some of the friendships we have aren't the same as they once were.

Now don't get me wrong, friendships are hard work, and it can be even harder to let them go. You invested time, emotional energy and effort into them, so with any friendship or

relationship you let go of, you're experiencing a loss. However, it can be beneficial to you in the long run. Sometimes change is a good thing, and you have to let it pan out organically.

If you're not sure how to snuff this kind of situation out, just ask yourself a couple of questions. Do you take all the initiative in the friendship, or do you take none at all? Do you no longer look forward to hanging out with someone, or are you OK with their constant absence? Are your conversations less inviting and more tiring? Do you find yourself struggling to see them, and if you do, do you always feel mentally exhausted afterwards?

What I'm getting at is this: Don't feel bad if you unfollow that one friend from long ago or if communication with them falls out. Don't feel bad once you realize that the awkward silence between you is becoming a constant deafening sound. You're not a bad person. Just understand that you're a new person and that it's a new day. You have new things that you're exploring, and the generalities and habits you used to have aren't a part of your identity anymore. You've grown. It's OK to outgrow your friendships, too.

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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.



Photo by Olivia Martin | Photo Editor

**PULL UP A CHAIR** Students got to enjoy free food and drinks from dozens of food trucks around The Allbritton House.

# Dinner with the Livingstones event kicks off Baylor Homecoming week

**MATT KYLE**  
Staff Writer

Baylor's 2021 homecoming week began Tuesday with Dinner with the Livingstones. Students were invited to the lawn of the Allbritton House to enjoy free food from a multitude of local food trucks, visit with other students and the Livingstones and listen to live music performed by the alternative-pop band Apollo LTD.

Dinner with the Livingstones was first held during President Linda Livingstone's inauguration week in 2017, and it has been hosted every homecoming since. Last year, the event was held at McLane Stadium in order to accommodate social distancing, but this year the event returned to Allbritton.

Food trucks were situated around the president's house, offering free food and drinks from several Waco restaurants, including favorites like Shorty's Pizza, Vitek's BBQ and Pop's Lemonade. Over a thousand students gathered on the Allbritton lawn and around the house to mingle with one another, listen to live music and take pictures with the Livingstones and first pup BU.

Thirty minutes into the event, the alternative-pop band Apollo LTD began its concert. The band's song "Sunday Morning Feeling" was

used as the soundtrack for Baylor's commercial this year. Band member Jordan Phillips said that they were honored that Baylor wanted to use their song for the ad campaign and that they were excited to perform at the event.

"It's a lot of fun to get to do stuff like this," Phillips said. "From what we hear, homecoming is a pretty cool time of year for Baylor. It sounds like it's going to be a party."

Matt Burchett, director of Student Activities, said the event sets the tone of Baylor Homecoming week as the Livingstones opening up their home to the student body.

"Homecoming is all about welcoming everybody home," Burchett said. "Whether Baylor is the home or, in this circumstance, the president's home, welcoming everybody home is a means in which to foster connection and belonging. I believe this event

is a beautiful articulation of the Baylor spirit in general, as we welcome students home in so many different ways."

Auburn, Ala., senior Libby Hume said the event almost felt like a Baylor reunion because of the absence of in-person events in the past year due to COVID-19.

"I'd never been to one of these," Hume said. "It was really fun. I got to see a lot of people that I know, and I feel like outside of class, there haven't been too many events on campus like this because of COVID."

Burchett said the event speaks to the "personality and warmth" of Livingstone.

"At the front end of her inauguration to now the front end of homecoming, we're able to welcome students to her home for a free meal and some great hospitality," Burchett said. "Her focus on students themselves and her willingness

to be in their lives in such a thoughtful and personal way — it speaks volumes about our president."

Geneva, Ill., freshman Sarah Carter said the welcoming attitude of the Livingstones helped her feel more at home at Baylor.

"The president being so nice and welcoming makes me feel a little bit better with transitioning into a new environment," Carter said. "I feel like I'm more a part of things, and I'm becoming a part of a community."

Burchett said the accessibility of Livingstone allows students to connect with her and to trust her as a leader.

"The fact that they are so joyously willing to be with our students and to understand their experiences — to know them by name, where they're from and what they're majoring in, but even more so knowing what their experience is doing for them and through them — I think helps Dr. Livingstone lead but also helps our students trust that leadership in a really tangible way," Burchett said.

Anacortes, Wash., freshman Nicole Romer said she came out to the event for the free food and to hang out with the Livingstones. She said Livingstone is good at making students feel heard and cared about — something that sets Livingstone apart from other university presidents.



The president being so nice and welcoming makes me feel a little better with transitioning into a new environment.

**SARAH CARTER |**  
**GENEVA, ILL. FRESHMAN**

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# Homecoming

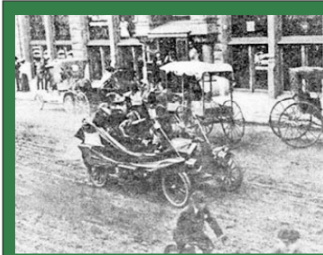


Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**THROWBACK** The original homecoming parade in 1909 moved west on Washington Street, then proceeded on Eighth Street to Austin Avenue. The 25-block line of automobiles, carriages and buggies was decorated in green and gold.

The Baylor Homecoming tradition began on Nov. 24, 1909, after alumni received a postcard signed by three professors asking them to return to campus to "renew former associations and friendships, and catch the Baylor spirit again," according to the Homecoming History page on Baylor's website. The celebration included class reunions with speeches and musical performances from student groups on campus.

There was also a parade, hitting the streets at 2 p.m. with the band, automobiles and carriages. As claimed by The Baylor Roundup yearbook, "Thousands of people wore the Baylor colors, while hundreds of vehicles, the street-cars and even the bicycles of the messenger-boys were ornamented with green and gold. The city was truly in gala attire."

Downtown Waco stores and restaurants got involved as well, according to Wacohistory.org, decorating their storefronts to match Baylor's green and gold. Music from the band and shouts from fans lining

the streets created a joyful noise heard from all around the city.

The homecoming festivities ended with a football game, the last of the season. To commemorate the end of the year, seniors wore their caps and gowns to the game. The night ended with a victory for the Baylor Bears with a score of 6-3 against TCU, making the first homecoming a success.

It wasn't until 1915 that homecoming happened again, as it wasn't yet planned as a yearly event. The next Baylor Homecoming happened in 1924, when "Baylor's 1924 football season was so successful that the Baylor Alumni Association voted to make the homecoming celebration an annual event," according to the Waco History website.

The only exceptions to the annual celebration were from 1943 to 1945, when Baylor canceled homecoming because of World War II, as many Baylor students 21 or older enlisted or were drafted. Since 1946, Baylor homecoming has been going strong, bringing students and alumni together for a tradition like no other.



**BAYLOR  
CAN-**

## The Daily Lariat

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S NEWSPAPER

Volume 33

THE DAILY LARIAT, Thursday, November 6, 1930

## UNIVERSITY PREPARES FOR HOMECON



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup  
**GET GROOVY** A student group performs at the 1972 Pigskin Revue, decked out in fringe vests and bell bottom pants.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup  
**THE SHOW MUST GO ON** It wasn't always show-stopping, extravagant numbers on the Pigskin stage. In 1958, these four women take part in performing a skit during Pigskin Revue.

## Pigskin Revue

Held by the Department of Student Activities, Pigskin Revue was started in 1958 by Marie Mathis, founder of All-University Sing. Pigskin was created as an annual event to take place during homecoming weekend in order to showcase the top acts from Sing the semester before.

These performances consist of dance numbers, a mashup of songs, costumes, backdrops and props that all go along with a theme or story.

This year, the acts featured in Pigskin are Kappa Gamma & Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Chi, Sing Alliance, Alpha Tau Omega, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Chi Alpha and Pi Beta Phi.

Scan the QR code to watch a video from Baylor University about All-University Sing and Pigskin Revue.



## The Daily Lariat

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 40

Number 2734

Waco, Texas, Friday, October 29, 1937

NUMBER 27

## PEP RALLY BEGINS GREATEST HOMECOMING

**BAYLOR'S UNDEFEATED  
BRUINS TANGLE WITH  
FROGGIES SATURDAY**

Aerial Battle Expected In  
Patterson-O'Brien Hook-  
Up

**Starting Lineups**  
Baylor: Ford, LE, Hays, C, Rogers, M. Williams, C, RG, Mayne (C), Krid, RE, White, Hemmer, RE, Lowery, Patterson, QB, O'Brien, Gerard, RB, Hall, Graham, LB, Clifford, Brandt (C), FB, Blackburn.  
Baylor's Bears, atop the Southwest conference football heap and ranked sixth in the entire nation, will face their current test of the current season here Saturday af-

WHICH ONE WILL BE SWEETHEART?



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**BONFIRES SURROUND  
CAMPUS WELCOMING  
RETURN OF ALUMNI**

Candidates For Queen Will  
Be Judged By Exes On  
Saturday Morning

With what is expected to be the largest Homecoming since its inauguration over 20 years ago, Baylor will begin its celebration tonight at 7:30 o'clock with an all-city university pep rally in the gymnasium. As a setting for the pep session, five bonfires placed at the entrance to the campus, in front of Memorial dormitory, at the entrance to the campus on Fifth street, and at the cape of Joe College, Bear mascot, will replace the large bonfire that was scheduled for Mingwood Road.

Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**ONCE UPON A TIME** The cover of the 1937 version of The Baylor Lariat. The Daily Lariat, published on Oct. 29, prepares the university for the homecoming festivities. Taking on TCU, Baylor's starting lineup is listed for the football game, the homecoming queen candidates are posed front and center and the bonfire is advertised as a welcome to alumni, or "exes."

# ng History

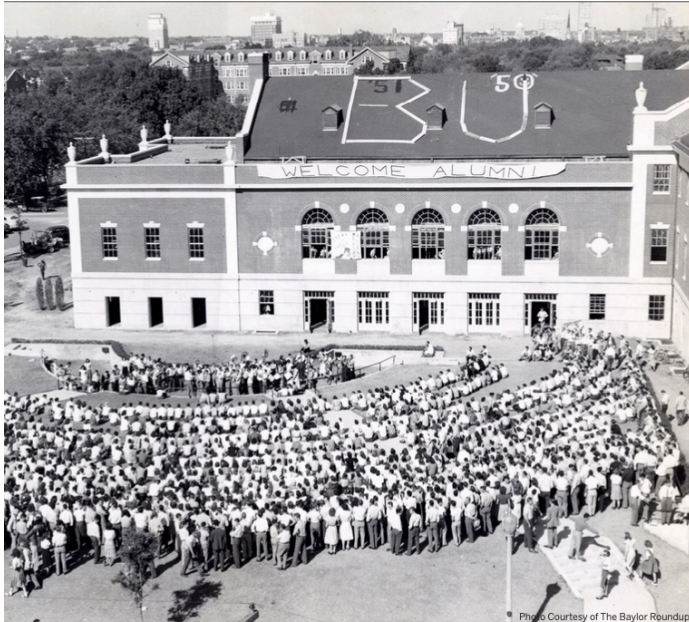
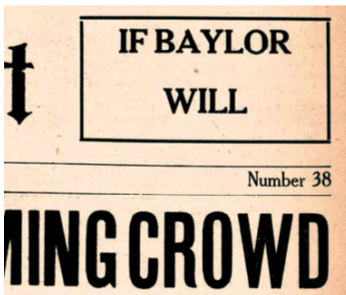


Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**THEN & NOW** On the left, Baylor alumni gather in the SUB Bowl in 1947 for a performance during Homecoming. Today, the SUB Bowl is used for a candlelight ceremony on the night before the first day of classes.



## The Big Bonfire



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**HARD AT WORK** A 1978 photo shows a student cutting chicken wire, a netting used to build Homecoming floats to this day.

## BAYLOR SPIRIT TESTED IN BEAR PRANCE

### AN EDITORIAL

More than 30,000 people are expected to witness the Baylor's Bear prance the morning of November 1.

Alumni from all parts of the state will be in Waco to celebrate Homecoming Day.

It will be the A. & M. cadets, with their crack military formations, in comparison to the Baylor spirit, in the form of the Bear prance parade.

Baylor's spirit can be shown to 30,000 people in that parade in no better way than to make the Bear prance a success. Response of 1500 Baylor students to the practice sessions will be necessary for the success.

The first one is today.

Cooperate for a greater spirit and to "Beat A. & M." Do your duty.

Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**SIC 'EM BEARS** An editorial published in The Baylor Lariat in 1924 rallies students and alumni to support the Baylor Bears in their homecoming game against Texas A&M.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**IN BABY, BURN** The homecoming flames of the 1967 bonfire burn the Texas A&M Aggies, a rival of Baylor since their first game in 1893.

## Parade & Floats

Claimed to be the first homecoming parade in Texas university history, the Baylor parade began in 1910 (see top left photo). Before the elaborately decorated and themed floats, the parade consisted of students on foot, bicycles, buggies and carriages.

Now, students work throughout the fall semester to create thematically themed float in order to compete for first place. Many Greek life organizations build floats in partnerships made of one sorority and one fraternity, and many other organizations both at Baylor and in Waco participate, such as the Baylor Driving Club and The Boy Scouts of America. The Golden Wave Marching Band also still participates, leading the parade with its upbeat tunes and fun choreography.

Just like at the beginning, cars are still driven with prominent Baylor figures riding on the back, such as the university president or the Homecoming queen.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**BEARS & BEAUTY QUEENS** A woman wears a white gown and gloves atop a giant bear float in the 1961 homecoming parade.

**Want to see more Homecoming History?**

**Bonfire**  
pg. A1

**Homecoming Court**  
pg. A7

**Pigskin**  
pg. B1

**Parade**  
pg. B7

**Football**  
pg. C1

# Global Gateway Program provides 'soft landing' for international students

**RACHEL ROYSTER**  
News Editor

In 2019, Baylor partnered up with a private company called Study Group to help internationalize the university through a pathway program called the Global Gateway Program (GGP). When the COVID-19 pandemic began, enrollment in the program was hit hard, but it is making a slow return.

Dr. Cornell Menking, GGP's director, said the program has begun to gain more students, with 223 in the program since spring 2019. He said the goal of the program is to help students from different countries become more acclimated in the American university environment by giving them a "soft landing" with some introductory courses to life on campus.

"[These students] are good candidates to come to Baylor, but their English is just a little bit low — not beginner, just a little bit low," Menking said. "They all have studied English in school, but they're just not quite ready for college-level English yet, so our program helps ease them into an English immersion, American university environment in a sheltered program. We provide a high level of service and support for these students. We call it a concierge-level service."

Support includes academic help from advisers like senior student success manager Meridith Moore, who Menking described as "the mother of the program."

Moore said her job also includes helping international students with the often overlooked details of their day, like showing them how to work the laundry machine in their university housing or even explaining to them what the "gross black bugs" all over campus are.

"When we had that big cricket infestation in 2019, they were all over the Penland dorm," Moore said. "Our students left their dorms and stayed with friends because they didn't know what they were. They were terrified of the crickets. We just had to reassure them that they don't bite. They don't do anything. They're just annoying. We help them know what's safe and what's not."

Another challenge of coming from another country, Menking said, was getting used to an entirely different culture. He said a specific challenge is our reliance on written materials.

"[In the classroom,] we lay it all out with painstaking clarity about what we want from our students," Menking said. "We have rubrics. We have syllabus. We have this we have that. And we expect our students to read it, and there it is. International students are not used to that kind of, you know, rigor and clarity and reliance on detailed instructions."

In order to get acclimated, students take between one and three semesters of GGP courses along with their Baylor courses to help them understand English and the American culture. Classes include grammar, listening, speaking, reading, writing and transitions.

"To me, that's one of the most important core series because it focuses on what you need to know to transition to university here in the United States," Moore said. "So for example, there's a whole unit on the health center. How do we use the health center? How do we use doctors in the ER and everything in between?"



Audrey La | Photographer

**SAY CHEESE** The Global Gateway Program students and staff pose for a picture at their homecoming alumni and current student event.

How to get around Waco, and how to prepare food, and — you know — just all kinds of topics in transitions that are pertinent to living in this culture, and then more narrow living in Waco and living at Baylor."

Vietnam first-year student Anh Le and China first-year student Qiaoqi Liu said they specifically chose Baylor because of the GGP.

"Even though I don't have enough English skills for the college level, I can improve with Global Gateway Programs," Le said. "This program gives me the chance to communicate with other people. So now, I have Chinese friends and American friends that I get to learn and communicate with."

The GGP also helps its students build a community of people who are experiencing circumstances similar to their own.

"[Qiaoqi] is my roommate, and because I see her almost every day, I don't feel as homesick," Le said. "And now, I know more about new cultures because I'm from Vietnam, and when I came here to study abroad, I'm not only studying the American lifestyle but also some of her country."

Liu said that through the pathway program, she has been able to see more of what a citizen's life is like in the United States.

"This program has lots of activities, such as visiting the Mayborn Museum," Liu said. "I attended an exhibition about dinosaurs in some natural life and also learned some more about the museum's history."

Menking said one expectation they have for the GGP is to see the international students exceed the academic success of those not in the program. One way he said they have met that expectation is that 25 of the 132 international students on the

spring 2021 Dean's List students were from their program.

"Our main goal is that they're successful at Baylor; that's our



This program gives me the chance to communicate with other people. So now, I have ... friends I get to learn and communicate with.

**ANH LE |  
VIETNAM FIRST-YEAR STUDENT**

No. 1 goal," Menking said. "But at the same time, we hope that they stay at Baylor. We hope that they're integrated into Baylor, that they feel like Baylor students by the time they're done with our program, that they really favor culture, that they feel like part of the community by the end of that — you know — that pathway program. And we've been super successful with that."

# Baylor alumnus creates educational opportunities for Thailand and American citizens

**MARIAH BENNETT**  
Staff Writer

The American-Thai Foundation will be hosting an informational session for students interested in applying for its collaborative project Teach Thailand Corps from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 20. This session will take place in the Career Center's lobby conference room, located within the Sid Richardson Building. It will include a Q&A, and RSVPs will be required on the Handsshake page for the event. The program is searching for graduate students of any major to teach at schools in underdeveloped areas in Thailand. Interviews begin in January. Career Center office manager Amanda Kuehl said.

"I am beyond thrilled the American-Thai Foundation is here," Kuehl said.

The American-Thai Foundation was created to support and empower underprivileged Thailand citizens through education. It also supports their beneficiaries' health, as well as public and civic affairs in Thailand. The American-Thai Foundation created Teach Thailand Corps with its sister foundation, the Yonok Foundation.

All three organizations were founded by Lampang, Thailand native and Baylor alumnus, Dr. Nirund Jivasantikarn. Jivasantikarn also founded Yonok University in 2012.

"I'm a serial creator," Jivasantikarn said. "When I went back home ... I started so many organizations."

Jivasantikarn is currently the president of Teach Thailand Corps, created in 2011 with the mission to strengthen education in primary and secondary schools in underdeveloped areas by hiring American college student graduates to the towns to teach students English. Jivasantikarn said hundreds of Baylor students have participated and English was a very helpful tool in his own life.

"I became successful because of language, because of English," Jivasantikarn said. "I could convey my meaning, my mission,

I could connect."

Jivasantikarn earned his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1970 and a doctorate in education in 1981. Jivasantikarn said he learned about philanthropy while at Baylor. The self-coined social entrepreneur created his foundation greatly based on the Peace Corps. He also started it based on how the Baylor founders earned funds. His university was also based on numerous Baylor qualities. Specifically, the qualities of campus life and curriculum.

"I said, 'There must be dormitories!'" Jivasantikarn said. "Campus life is important to me, I grew up and made friends on Baylor campus."

In his time at Baylor, Jivasantikarn said he received great support and advisement from former president Herbert H. Reynolds. When Jivasantikarn wasn't able to attend his father's funeral in 1988, Reynolds made sure he was looked after.

"He sent someone to take me out to dinner and to reach out to me," Jivasantikarn said.

Jivasantikarn said Reynolds also helped him network and connect with others.

President Reynolds eventually helped me find a way to organize the American-Thai foundation and to mobilize resources," Jivasantikarn said.

Eventually, Reynolds attended the opening of Yonok University in 2012. Other past Baylor involvement has included fellow graduates and alumna Whitney Smith.

"I know Baylor, I think the school is great," Jivasantikarn said. "It provides nurturing of a type of volunteerism, one of compassion and caring."

Notably, Jivasantikarn previously visited to recruit students in 2012 with his son. Jivasantikarn said a Baylor graduate first worked with the American-Thai Foundation in 1988, Jivasantikarn said.

"It's a life changing experience for those who return," Jivasantikarn said. "They always tell me, 'I've grown and never realized I could do so much.'"



Grace Fortier | Photographer

**TEACH ME** Dr. Nirund Jivasantikarn, Thailand native and Baylor alumnus, spoke to students about how he's been able to aid in both American and Taiwanese educations.

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**News**

**NEXT GEN** from Page A1

was literally my idol when I was little," Harman said.

Harman said Baylor Homecoming was a time for his extended family to reconnect and watch the traditions and game together.

"Homecoming was always a time that my whole extended family would come to the game, and we'd go to the homecoming parade together," Harman said. "Homecoming was a family reconnection between long-lost relatives that I don't see that often."

Southlake sophomore Hannah Holmes said it feels special to be able to experience the same traditions that her mom, Kari Holmes, class of 1993, and her older cousins did when they attended Baylor.

"I always came to homecoming things growing up, specifically Pigskin with my family, which was really fun because my cousins are seven years older than me, so seeing them perform was always special," Holmes said.

According to Baylor's website, Pigskin Revue provides a showcase of winning acts from the previous year's All-University Sing competition.

While the 2020 Pigskin Revue was held virtually, this year, the event will take place in person in Waco Hill.

"I'm really excited to participate in Pigskin because I always saw my cousins do it, so it was something I always saw as a big deal," Holmes said. "I know there will be young kids in the audience watching us, just like I did growing up."

While hundreds of alumni flock to Waco for homecoming weekend, students can choose to participate in various traditions, including the parade at 8 a.m. Saturday. Various student organizations can choose to make a float and walk the path from downtown Waco to campus, celebrating the rich community the school holds.

"I'm part of the Dr Pepper Hour Club because I went to enough Dr Pepper Hours last semester, so everybody in the club gets the opportunity to be in the homecoming parade," Harman said. "Kind of watching from the sidelines as I grew up, knowing I would go to Baylor, and now that I'm actually in it, it's a different experience."



**BUILDING A LEGACY** Dallas sophomore McKay Harman poses with his family next to the Immortal Ten statue on campus before coming to Baylor.

**THE CROWN** from Page A1

# Homecoming Court History



**FROM STAFF REPORTS**  
Thursday night at Baylor's Pigskin Revue, the homecoming court was crowned. The queen and her court will be presented at Pigskin Revue tonight and Saturday night. The court will also appear at half time at Wednesday's football game against the University of Missouri Tigers.

Organized throughout the campus life committee did women, this year. All nominees were asked to attend an interview session. Who would be crowned? The court will also appear at half time at Wednesday's football game against the University of Missouri Tigers.

Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**TAKING THE THRONE** This clipping from The Baylor Lariat shows Georgetown senior Kristin Hopkins being crowned homecoming queen in 2000. She was selected from a pool of 64 nominees.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**HAIR DONE, VOTES IN**  
These 1963 nominees for homecoming queen put on their best smile (and a lot of hairspray) in preparation for their shot to win.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**AN HONOR** The Baylor Lariat announces the winner of the 1942 homecoming queen will be presented by the Waco Mayor.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**BEAUTY IN BLUE** The court smiles for a photo in 1989 after the crowning ceremony, roses in hand.

**Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!**

and ask them to nominate at least one person, so for this year we had them nominate one male and one female," Zgorzelski said. "This is someone who not only exemplifies Baylor's values, but who is kind of a student pillar in our community representing Baylor well."

A homecoming queen has been selected every year except for 1943 and 1944 due to World War II. Baylor believes the traditional values of the court have remained the same as the members chosen are a representative of the university during homecoming weekend.

The court and all of the nominees ride in the homecoming parade and the queen, king and members of the homecoming court are presented at the homecoming football game.

"This is a way that we are able to highlight those who have done great services for Baylor, whether they are in higher office positions or they have done a lot of service for the Waco community," Zgorzelski said. "This allows them to be not only recognized by Baylor but allows for us in homecoming, as it is a time for alumni to come back and the broader Baylor family to come together, to celebrate them as well."

The queen and king's courts will be announced at the first Pigskin Revue presentation tonight.

"I think it's going to be so fun and exciting to have guys up there representing all of the men around campus," Tanner said. "I have had such a great time with all of the nominees."



Cartoon by Morgan Dowler

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

What goes into building floats for Baylor's Homecoming parade?  
**pg. B6**



## PARADE HISTORY

Find out the history behind one of Baylor's oldest traditions.  
**pg. B7**

**“That’s what we did, and we just worked every day, and the fruit of that labor was this record.”**

Jordan Phillips, with Apollo LTD, talks music... and the pandemic. **pg. B2**

BaylorLariat.com

# Pigskin preparations in full swing

**KATELYN PATTERSON**  
Staff Writer

Choreography practices, costume designing and vocal rehearsals are taking over as organizations prepare their acts for this year's Pigskin Revue. Pigskin Revue is a Baylor tradition that was established in 1958. The event features a showcase

of the top 8 winning acts from the 2020 All-University Sing. Those acts include: Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Chi, Sing Alliance, Alpha Tau Omega, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Chi Alpha and Pi Beta Phi.

Pigskin will take place on homecoming weekend —today through Saturday — in Waco Hall.

Jonathan Thomas, Cypress senior and All-University Sing chair for Phi Kappa Chi, said this year is especially exciting because of the gap year Pigskin took in 2020 due to COVID-19. “I think we so desperately missed it last year, that when we got the opportunity to get Pigskin again and put this act back on stage, we were just so excited,” Thomas said. “A big step has been teaching our new guys how to do it because a lot of our guys haven’t done Pigskin or Sing before. The juniors and sophomores have had a bit of a curve, which has been really cool because they’ve gotten to experience something new.”

Phi Kappa Chi took second place at Sing in 2020 with its act “So Tied Up.” Thomas said their act is a beautiful portrayal of the gospel.

“I think we so desperately missed it last year, that when we got the opportunity to get Pigskin again and put this act on stage, we were just so excited.”

**JONATHAN THOMAS | PHI KAPPA CHI SING CHAIR**

“The basic story is that the scarecrows, they’re out in the field, and they’re so tied up in these ropes,” Thomas said. “The ropes are kind of a metaphor for sin, so they’re kind of lamenting and seeing this bondage that they feel they have. And then a hymn is sung: it’s this cry out to God, and they’re free from their ropes and celebrate.”

Rylie York, Round Rock senior and Chi Omega president, said not having Pigskin last year makes everyone feel more enthusiastic this year. The Chi Omega act is “Maid to Mooove” and features cows and milkmaids. “I think the girls we just recruited are even more excited about being on stage and representing Chi Omega because it means that they’re getting involved and becoming more normal members than before COVID,” York said. “For the seniors, it’s a little weird because this is the act that we did our sophomore year. It’s been like a fun, kind of nostalgic flashback to what we did. It’s a little more special because we know that it’s some of our last times to be on stage.”

This year, Baylor will offer an online alternative for people unable to attend in person.

“For those who can’t make it back to campus, enjoy Pigskin Revue at home,” the Baylor Homecoming website said. “This online streaming option brings the Waco Hall stage to your home so you and your family can enjoy the sights and sounds of all the acts in real time.”

Tickets for Pigskin Revue are on sale now at [baylor.edu/tickets](http://baylor.edu/tickets).



Caleb Boren | Roundup Photographer

**CAN'T HOLD ME DOWN** The men of Phi Kappa Chi perform “So Tied Up,” their second place winning act at Sing 2020.



Caleb Boren | Roundup Photographer

**READY TO MOOOVE** Chi Omega sorority members perform their act, “Maid to Mooove,” during Sing 2020.

## What to Do in Waco : Homecoming Edition

**ERIANNE LEWIS**  
Arts and Life Editor

### THURSDAY, OCT. 14

**Heart 'O Texas Rodeo and Fair:** Oct. 7 – 17 | 4 p.m. – Midnight (Monday – Friday) Noon – Midnight (Saturday & Sunday) | Extraco Events Center | Come out to this rodeo and fair to enjoy food, games, livestock, rides and more.

**Pigskin Revue #1:** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

**Mass Meeting:** 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. | Fountain Mall | This tradition welcomes first-year students to homecoming and features the retelling of the story of the Immortal Ten and the presentation of the Eternal Flame.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 15

**25th Class Reunion: Honoring the Classes of 1995 and 1996:** 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Baylor Club North Room | The classes of 1995 and 1996 will gather to socialize and celebrate their 25th reunion during homecoming.

**The Department of Multicultural Affairs' Annual Homecoming Reception:** 5 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. | Bill Daniel Student Center - Third Floor | Join Multicultural Affairs, Baylor Asian Alumni, Baylor Black Alumni Alliance and the Baylor Latino Alumni Alliance for a meet-and-greet event in the SUB.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council Gardens 10th Anniversary Celebration:** 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | NPHC Gardens adjacent to Fountain Mall | The current National Pan-Hellenic Council invites the Baylor family to its 10th anniversary celebration of the NPHC Gardens.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE FULL LIST OF EVENTS

### Extravaganza, Pep Rally and Bonfire:

6 p.m. – 10 p.m. | This night of celebration is brought to life with family-friendly activities, carnival games and local Waco food trucks.

**Pigskin Revue #2:** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

**Singspiration!:** 7 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. | Seventh & James Baptist Church | A Baylor tradition that has been going on for over 70 years, this free worship service is presented by Baylor Alumni for all students to enjoy.

### Royal & Pure Homecoming Stroll-Off:

7 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Bill Daniel Student Center | Watch the men of Phi Beta Sigma along with the National Pan-Hellenic Council host their annual Royal & Pure Homecoming Stroll-Off.

**Pigskin Revue #3:** 10:20 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 16

**Baylor Homecoming Parade:** 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Downtown Waco on Austin Avenue to Fifth Street through the Baylor campus | Join former, current and future Baylor students in commemorating this time-honored tradition.

**Celebrating 100 Years of Baylor Spirit:** 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | McLane Stadium | The Baylor Spirit Alumni will celebrate 100 years with a special tailgate and other events and activities.

**Football vs. BYU:** 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | McLane Stadium

**Pigskin Revue #4:** 8 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. | Waco Hall | The top eight winning acts from All-University Sing 2020 will perform in this annual event.

## Pigskin History



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**STACK ATTACK** Ladies' Birth is pyramided in clown outfits during a 1965 show.

**COSTUMING IS KEY** The Chamber of Commerce takes the stage with white gloves, suspenders, face paint and moustaches in 1976.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**WINNING ACT** The men's social club in 1958 performs its Pigskin act, which took home the trophy that night.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**STARRY NIGHT** Kappa Alpha Theta dresses as stars in hopes of shining bright in its 1951 Pigskin act.

**Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!**



**DYNAMIC DUO** Alternative-pop duo Apollo LTD features their hit "Sunday Morning Feeling" in a recent Baylor commercial.

Olivia Martin | Photo Editor

## Apollo LTD performs at Dinner with Livingstones

**ERIANNE LEWIS**  
Arts and Life Editor

The alternative-pop band Apollo LTD performed at Dinner with the Livingstones at the Allbritton House on Tuesday from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Jordan Phillips, one member of the duo, said he didn't always know he was going to go into music. He said he didn't consider it to be a career for himself until he met bandmate Adam Stark.

Phillips said before Apollo LTD, he and Stark were in another band called The Kicks. They started it in college, and it propelled them into the music industry, Phillips said. They went on tour and made three albums, which is what led them to do music as a full-time career.

Phillips said he grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta and didn't come from a traditional music background. His parents bought him a cheap guitar from a Christmas catalog when he was younger and that night, he played it until it broke. That's when his parents knew he was serious about music, Phillips said.

"I didn't start singing until I was like 17 years old. I had never put it together that I could actually sing. Honestly, that's what kind of changed the trajectory of my life," Phillips said.

Phillips said after he moved to Nashville, Tenn., to attend college, he began to fully submerge himself in music. Phillips said he met Stark, the other half of the Apollo LTD, by chance during his freshman year of college.

"He was the first dude that I met when I went to school," Phillips said. "I walked onto campus with my dad, walked up to the registration table and Adam was standing right there at the table. He also happened to be my roommate."

Phillips said he and Stark just clicked, and they started making music together.

"Over time we just started playing gigs," Phillips said. "We would do a coffee shop gig and one thing just led to another, and we started playing shows together."

Phillips said he would describe Apollo LTD's music as joyful, hopeful music that encompasses the human interaction.

"We write songs for other artists. We are also songwriters and producers in Nashville," Phillips said. "We have done a lot of stuff for film and television, a lot of TV shows and advertisements. We are very fortunate in that in over the years we have had the opportunity to do a lot of different kinds of music."

**"I didn't start singing until I was like 17 years old. I had never put it together that I could actually sing. Honestly, that's what kind of changed the trajectory of my life."**

**JORDAN PHILLIPS | MEMBER OF APOLLO LTD**

Phillips said some of the TV shows they have worked on are "The Vampire Diaries," "Grey's Anatomy" and some networks such as ABC and NBC.

Phillips and Stark live down the street from one another, so during the pandemic their families spent a lot of time together. When the lockdown initially happened, Phillips and Stark were five days into a long tour, Stark said. They were immediately sent home when they got

word that the world was essentially shutting down.

That did not stop the drive Phillips and Stark had to make an album. They decided to dedicate the time spent in lockdown to making one. They began working on the album from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day.

"We called it our 'quaranteam,'" Phillips said. "[Adam's] family and my family, we were just like, 'Look, if you guys are safe, we'll be safe. We'll just work on this record and when we need to bring outside people in, we'll just FaceTime them in.' That's what we did, and we just worked every day, and the fruit of that labor was this record."

Phillips said the biggest lesson he learned from the pandemic was that he is more flexible than he initially thought.

"Where there is a will, there is a way," Phillips said. "I think that we kind of had a system, a method of creating, that we were pretty accustomed to and when the pandemic hit, it kind of forced us to change up how we did things ... When we are writing and working on records, we still prefer to be in a room together, but we know that if we have to do a songwriting session remotely, via FaceTime, then we can. Since, we've done it a lot."

Jason Cook, vice president of marketing and communications and chief marketing officer of Baylor, said popular music has been used in Baylor's annual marketing campaign in three of the past five years due to Baylor's desire to be distinct from other universities. That is why Baylor's media team chose to reach out to Apollo LTD to be in their commercial as well as to perform at the Dinner with the Livingstones.

"Our goal is for Baylor to stand out in the 'sea of sameness' that is found within higher education marketing and communications," Cook said. "When we were searching for this year's music, we wanted a song that was positive and had a lot of upbeat energy as we move past the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Sunday Morning Feeling' definitely captures this energy, as well as Baylor's momentum as a university."

We then reached out to Apollo LTD through our marketing agency of record, Dallas-based Johnson & Sekin. When we first selected this song, we had no idea that it would become so popular so fast. We could not be more excited for Apollo LTD to share 'Sunday Morning Feeling' with Baylor students here on our campus."

Phillips said they were thankful that Baylor reached out to them, and they truly enjoy performing at opportunities like this.

"We were obviously very grateful and very honored that [Baylor] wanted to use our music for the ad campaign. It's a lot of fun to get to do stuff like this."



Olivia Martin | Photo Editor

**STELLAR PERFORMANCE** Josh Phillips, a member of Apollo LTD, puts his heart and soul into his performance during the Dinner with the Livingstones event.



Olivia Martin | Photo Editor

**MAN ON A MISSION** Adam Stark, a member of Apollo LTD, plays the guitar to accompany his bandmate, Josh Phillips' singing.

## REVIEW: HEART O' TEXAS FAIR FOOD

**ERIANNE LEWIS**  
Arts and Life Editor

On Monday I attended the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo in Waco. When I arrived on the fair grounds, I really didn't know what to expect. As a Houston native, I grew up going to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo every year since I was about six years old. It is a time-honored tradition that I have enjoyed so much. So when I saw that Waco had a rodeo that is considered



Erienne Lewis | Arts and Life Editor

**STAND AT THE HEART O' TEXAS FAIR AND RODEO**

to be a pretty big deal, I knew instantly that I had to check it out.

I feel that it is only right that I start with my favorite fair food item of all time, fried Oreos. The love I have for this high-calorie treat is indescribable. To my surprise, the Oreos at the fair were much better than anticipated. I would rate them a 5/5. I would even go as far as to say that it was comparable to the fried Oreos at the Houston rodeo.

The second item I tried was the brisket street tacos. Unfortunately, they did not live up to my expectations. They were



Erienne Lewis | Arts and Life Editor

**BRISKET TACOS**

cold, flavorless and overall just disappointing. I would rate them a 2/5, because I believe they have potential. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that you shouldn't get them. I'm a huge believer in trying stuff for yourself, so I would still encourage you to try them.

The third item I tried was the funnel cake. It was just as amazing as the fried Oreos. The powdered sugar on top added that extra

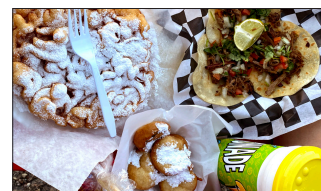


Erienne Lewis | Arts and Life Editor

**FUNNEL CAKE**

pizzazz. Unfortunately the booth was out of strawberries, which is another topping I love to add. The funnel cake was warm and it quite literally melted in my mouth. I would have to rate it a 5/5, because it was honestly really good.

The last two items I got were cotton candy and a candy apple. The cotton candy was average, but I would rate it a 4/5. It's pretty hard to mess up cotton candy. I would rate the candy apple a 3/5



Erienne Lewis | Arts and Life Editor

**COTTON CANDY, CANDY APPLE, STRAWBERRY LEMONADE**

because the apple looked a little old and it tasted kind of funny. It also seemed to stick to my teeth more than previous candy apples I have had.

I also decided to try a strawberry lemonade from the same stand I got the brisket tacos. I hate to say it, but the strawberry lemonade was not good either. It was really watered down and I would unfortunately have to give it a 2/5.

Overall, I enjoyed the time I spent at the rodeo and fair. This was the first time I had ever been to the HOT fair and rodeo and it exceeded my expectations. It also made me miss the Houston rodeo and I am now starting to look forward to its return.

# Many students to experience their first homecoming week after COVID-19

**ANA RUIZ BRICHTSON**  
Staff Writer

After a year of limited homecoming festivities, the tradition is back in full swing. This will be the first time many transfer students, freshmen and sophomores get to see Baylor crowded with students and alumni alike celebrating the university's age-old tradition.

Throughout this week, Baylor is hosting its annual homecoming with full capacity welcoming families and alumni to campus to celebrate Baylor pride.

The university has organized 15 main events for everyone who plans to attend, like Mass Meeting, Pigskin Revue, Dinner with the Livingstones and more. Within these events, attendees can expect something different every day. Compared to last year, it is a big change for students who just joined the Baylor community. Neither the class of 2024 nor last year's transfer students got

“I didn't get to experience many things as a transfer in the midst of COVID-19.”

**PALOMA BENAVIDES |  
TRANSFER STUDENT**

the opportunity to engage with a full-capacity and normal homecoming event.

“I didn't get to experience many things as a transfer in the midst of COVID-19,” Willis transfer student and junior Paloma Benavides said. “I'm very out of the loop, and inclusion was geared more towards freshmen on my first year.”

Benavides transferred as a sophomore to Baylor, which means she has missed the homecoming celebrations prior to COVID-19. She said one of the parts of homecoming she looks forward to



Anna Prendi | Roundup Photographer

**AN UNUSUAL YEAR** Baylor cheerleaders observe COVID-19 guidelines at the 2020 homecoming game.

most is meeting alumni who can answer questions about her major.

An important event homecoming offers is one allowing students from specific majors to interact with alumni who have graduated from the same department. There are events both on Friday and Saturday planned for many majors in which they can meet with alumni. This is an opportunity given to students to ask questions and make connections.

Other students, like The Woodlands senior Madison Manherz, have gotten to experience a normal homecoming and are ready for underclassman to get to go to one too.

Manherz has witnessed two homecomings during her freshman and sophomore years. She said she has a lot of school pride and would wake up at 6 a.m. to get the best spot to view the homecoming parade and the bonfire.

“I remember trying to get a spot because it happens in the middle of Fountain Mall, and people were starting to get there so early to try to get a good spot, but at the end of the day it didn't really matter where you were standing because the fire was so massive,” Manherz said.

One of the things Manherz enjoyed from homecoming was being surrounded by many people and said there was always really great energy from everyone and every event.

“I know a lot of people who haven't experienced it on a normal year should go,” Manherz said. “I feel like it's going to be semi-normal this year, but we just haven't had a normal homecoming in a couple of years.”

Houston freshman Emma Jessen said she is excited for her first experience with the celebration and is looking forward to Pigskin Revue and the bonfire.

“I'm super excited for homecoming,” Jessen said. “As a nursing major, I only get to be in Waco for two years, so I want to make the best of it while I'm here.”

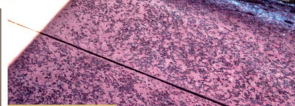
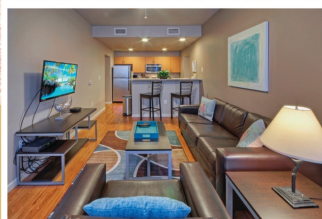
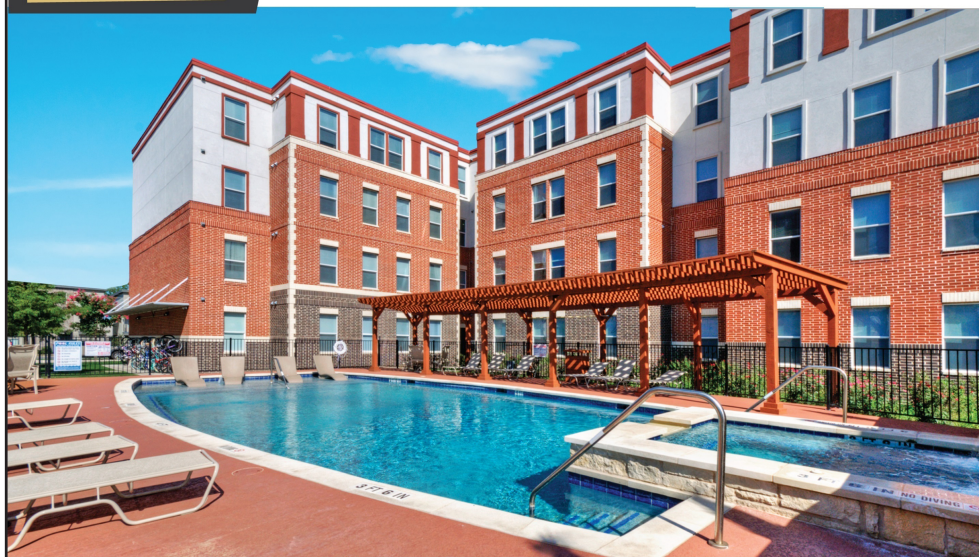
This year's homecoming will give the opportunity to freshmen, sophomores and transfer students to experience one of the biggest and oldest traditions Baylor has. After not being able to have a fully normal experience last year, students and alumni alike can finally enjoy a tradition once again that will allow many to feel part of the community.

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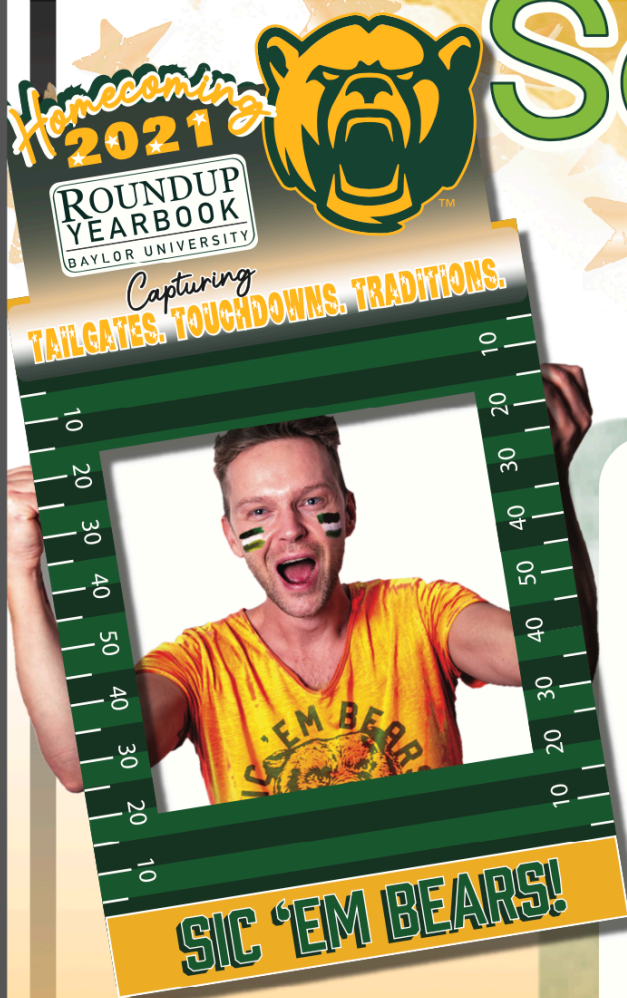
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# Homecoming 20

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# Greeks continue historic float tradition

EMMA WEIDMANN  
Intern

Baylor annually hosts the oldest and largest collegiate homecoming parade in the country, where each year Baylor’s Greek organizations work tirelessly to represent their chapter and uphold Baylor tradition. Floats first appeared in a homecoming parade in 1915 and have become a staple in student life ever since.

Round Rock senior Rylie York, president of Chi Omega at Baylor, said homecoming is a tradition that is taken extremely seriously, especially by Chi Omega, as the defending grand champions.

“Homecoming at Baylor is like an Olympic sport,” York said.

Float building begins in the spring, when the sorority members decide the theme for that coming fall. The themes, as well as the aesthetics and crowd appeal, hold a lot of weight when the floats are judged before the parade.

Once school begins, it’s all hands on deck from August to October. In its entirety, it takes about six months for a chapter of nearly 300 girls to complete the float.

“

The chairs have been doing such a good job organizing what girls are out there and when and what they’re getting done on certain weeks.

RYLIE YORK |  
CHI OMEGA PRESIDENT

“It’s a long process, and we have had girls out at the float site every single day,” York said. “We are paired with Sigma Chi this year, so that has been a huge blessing.”

The two organizations have been partnered in float making for a few years — an ongoing relationship that York said is still so exciting and a rewarding experience to have together.



Photo by Grace Fortier | Photographer

**BEHIND THE SCENES** Kappa Alpha fraternity preapres to build their float for the traditional Baylor Homecoming parade. With giant letters, tissue paper galore and an exciting theme their float is sure to catch eyes.

Allen junior Anna Stephan, Kappa Alpha Theta’s head float chair, said this year Theta is paired with Pi Kappa Chi. The fraternity helped with building and construction, while Thetas lended their eyes for detail towards paint colors, design and “pumping the skirt,” which is putting tissue paper through chicken wire,” Stephan said.

The making of the float is equally a logistic challenge as it is a creative one. York said the hardest aspect is time management.

“The chairs have been doing such a good job organizing what girls are out there and when, and what they’re getting done on certain weeks,” York said.

Stephan said it is important to complete deadlines and adhere to regulations. Setting out to execute the plan and bring the vision to life is one of the biggest obstacles.

“We have had a lot of late nights out there,” Stephan

said. “The toughest part is just finishing in time for homecoming.”

Despite the toil and the effort put in, one of the most essential aspects of the floats is the tradition and the legacy that they represent.

York said she reminisces on watching the floats from the sidewalk, as a child raised in a Baylor household. These are some of her earliest memories and she said getting to be involved in creating a float is an important part of her life. For students like her and for those just joining the Baylor family, the homecoming floats are a way to connect with the deep sense of belonging and community on campus.

“That is why we do what we do and continue to show up every year,” York said. “We just want to uphold that Baylor tradition that people in chapters have done in the past.”



Photo by Grace Fortier | Photographer

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER** Sorority Alpha Chi Omega and fraternity Kappa Alpha worked together to create their float for the 2021 homecoming parade.



Photo by Grace Fortier | Photographer

**FINISHING TOUCHES** Aldie, Va. sophomore Julia Kim, an Alpha Chi Omega works to paint the float for the parade, set to kick off at 8 a.m. on Saturday.



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Photo courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**BLAST FROM THE PAST** Former Baylor Bears celebrate homecoming during the 1940 parade.

# Floating through Baylor's homecoming parade history

**MARIAH BENNETT**  
Staff Writer

The Baylor homecoming parade is being held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, after it was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the parade doesn't consist of beloved miniature mascots for attendees anymore, the event has remained mostly consistent, with notable pauses related to current events.

Thousands have flocked to witness the floats made by students for generations — including Dallas sophomore and fifth-generation Baylor Bear McKay Harman and his family. Harman said he has attended the parade an estimated five to 10 times, while his grandfather has attended around 40 times.

"The homecoming game is just connecting all our family together," Harman said. "A way we connect is going to the homecoming parade."

Dr. Stephen Sloan, director of the Institute for Oral History and creator of the Waco History website and mobile app, said the parade provides an opportunity for alumni to engage with current Baylor life.

"The parade is a way for alumni to engage with student life on campus, which the game doesn't present that sort of opportunity," Sloan said.

For most of history, the parade was mainly spearheaded and sponsored by the Baylor Alumni Association, which voted to make the sporadic celebration a consistent event in 1924. Sloan said this leadership has changed throughout the years.

"The university has taken over a lot of the parade, and the Baylor Chamber of Commerce has always had a role in organizing the parade," Sloan said. "The Alumni Association organized it early on and for most of its history."

Multiple student organizations, including sororities and fraternities, have also been involved in parade participation. Sloan said an increase in student organizational floats began in the 60s and 70s due to the growing number of student organizations.

One student organization, the NoZe Brotherhood, has been involved in controversial moments throughout the homecoming parade's history. In 2016, it attached a rug on a truck bumper for its float to represent the university sweeping things "under the rug," making a comment on the handling of scandal at the time. While its float received some positive feedback, past decisions made by the organization didn't. In 1978, The Rope falsely published that homecoming had been

canceled, causing the NoZe Brotherhood to be banned from campus for a year. The homecoming parade also saw other iconic moments, such as the announcement of Baylor's bear mascot in 1915 and the return of the parade in 1946, after a three-year hiatus due to World War II.

For years, the parade has reached outside of Baylor into the Waco community. Even in its beginnings, the parade consistently started downtown before making its way to campus. In an audio file from the Baylor University Institute for Oral History, former store owner Gertrude Levison said parade attendees flocked to her store in the '30s and '40s.

"It was a constant flow of returning people from Baylor who would come in to see their friends," Levison said.

Even at the 1909 parade, local businesses decorated for the event. Sloan said Waco's economic dependence on the parade was felt mostly from the '60s to the '80s and has definitely lessened due to the growth of activities downtown.

Late Health Camp co-founder Jack Schaevitz attended the parade until his retirement in 1989, decorating his business with event pictures. According to Brandice Nelson, author of a Baylor Homecoming Parade article that was published on the Waco History website, the relationship is still pertinent despite Waco's growth.

"I think Waco's relationship with the parade is still a relevant relationship," Nelson said.

Nelson, also a Baylor alumna, said that as an undergraduate student in the 2010s, she noticed an increase in parade floats related to athletics.

"The focus on athletics has exploded," Nelson said.

Sloan said themes for parade float have shifted year to year, from the popular patriotic floats of the '20s to the more floral presentations of the '60s. He also said that in the past 30 years, diversity in the parade has increased; in recent years, he has seen floats based on Monopoly, the Gold Rush and even "The Fresh Prince of Baylor."

"Even the diversity of student life has increased," Sloan said. "You can sit in one place and see the Baylor experience pass before your eyes as the parade goes along."

Despite these changes, Sloan said a consistent trait of the parade has been student involvement, even with students' increasingly busy schedules.

"It's pretty remarkable that student involvement has continued to be vibrant," Sloan said. "Students still have the desire to invest hours, time and effort into presenting floats for an event that happens one morning out of the year."

## Float History



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**IT'S A WIN!** This 1965 float titled "Expecting a Victory" makes its way down the street to announce the hoped-for win for the game later that night.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**CREATIVE CANDID** A student works on her organization's float for the big parade in 1963.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**TAG TEAM** A group of men in 1978 work to piece together the chicken wire for their float.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**BEARS TO THE RESCUE** Pi Kappa Alpha won an honorable mention in 1980 with its float depicting Bruiser as a superhero fighting for truth, justice and the Baylor way.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Roundup

**TAME THE DRAGON** The 1961 homecoming parade features a giant dragon float with a woman holding the reins as she waves to the crowd.

**Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!**

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Brittany Tankersley | Photographer

**LONG TIME NO SEE** Baylor football junior quarterback Gerry Bohanon dives for the goal line against West Virginia on Oct. 9 at McLane Stadium. The Bears are facing off against future Big 12 conference member BYU for the first time since 1984.

## Baylor takes on future conference rival No. 19 BYU in homecoming game

MARQUIS COOLEY  
Sports Editor

Fresh off their commanding 45-20 win over West Virginia, Baylor (5-1, 3-1) will take on No. 19 Brigham Young University at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at McLane Stadium for the 97th homecoming game in school history and a chance to become bowl eligible. Sixth-year senior cornerback Raleigh Texada said it's the crowd that makes homecoming so exciting to play in.

"Just going out there in front of all teammates, alumni, coaches [and] family, it's just huge," Texada said.

For some of the Bears, it'll be their first time participating in a Baylor Homecoming game.

"I've heard a lot about homecoming," sixth-year transfer wide receiver Drew Estrada said. "Obviously [we've] got a really strong opponent we're going to play. We've been able to perform really well at home, so [I'm] looking forward to coming out on Saturday and playing our best game."

Even head coach Dave Aranda is looking forward to the atmosphere after having last year's homecoming game postponed due to COVID-19.

"I remember coming to Baylor and hearing about homecoming and the traditions and the importance, so way looking forward to that, and so excited for our team and excited for my family to see that," Aranda said.

After suffering their first loss of the season to

Boise State University over the weekend, head coach Dave Aranda knows BYU (5-1) will be looking to make a statement in this one, with an intensity Baylor needs to match.

"I know that BYU is going to be an angry team and they're going to be motivated. They're going to want the stage, to show that they belong," Aranda said. "Here's a team that's looking to prove something and bringing some intensity that we have to exceed."

BYU sophomore running back Tyler Allgeier will be a major point of emphasis for Baylor's defense. The 5-foot-11, 220-pound running back that Aranda describes as a "linebacker playing running back," ranks No. 10 in the nation with 637 yards rushing. Aranda said Allgeier's physicality is what gets BYU's offense going.

"I think it may start with [Allgeier], just the driver of that attack and the physicality," Aranda said. "He has an 8-yard run, falls forward and gets off of a linebacker that he just put in the ground. I think that drives the offense. Everything is kind of energized by that ... We've faced running attacks before, but not to the level of this. And so you know, [we] can see it. Believe it. Now it's up to us to stop it."

Texada said the defense is aware BYU turned the ball over four times against Boise State last weekend and Baylor hopes to do the same itself, as forcing turnovers has been something the Bears have focused on all season.

"Each turnover, each interception, it just

I know BYU is going to be an angry team and they're going to be motivated. They're going to want the stage, to show that they belong.

DAVE ARANDA |  
HEAD COACH

makes everybody more hungry to get more and just to help the whole team," Texada said. "Creating turnovers each game is huge just to flip the momentum switch."

On the offensive side of the ball, the Bears look to continue to air it out down the field. Over the past two games junior quarterback Gerry Bohanon has thrown the ball a total of 54 times, including a career-high 29 pass attempts last Saturday, which resulted in a career-high 336 passing yards and four passing touchdowns. However, Estrada said he knows the job won't be easy.

"[BYU plays] really sound football, not a lot of mistakes on their end. They're going to be in the right position every single time," Estrada said. "They have a lot of good athletes, they're really well coached and we have a lot of respect for them defensively."

This will be just the third matchup between the Bears and Cougars as their all-time matchup is tied at 1-1, with each team having won at home. Despite not playing each other since 1984, Aranda said this weekend's matchup will be a good one and that BYU will be a great addition to the Big 12 conference.

"I think they're going to be a great fit," Aranda said. "There's a lot of respect for BYU, for their physicality, for their maturity, for their toughness. A lot of athleticism, but they're very much the gym rat ... They have been able to pull out wins [in] all different types of ways. It's going to be a good matchup."

### Football History

#### Baylor preps for Homecoming game, events



#### Teaff leads big games

Coach Grant Teaff will lead the Baylor football team in its 10th homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 14, at McLane Stadium. Teaff, who has coached the team for 10 years, has led the Bears to 10 consecutive wins in homecoming games. The team is currently 5-1 overall and 3-1 in conference play. Teaff is looking forward to the atmosphere of homecoming and the traditions of the game.

Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**READY FOR A WIN** This clipping from The Baylor Lariat on Nov. 5, 1982, features a preview of the homecoming game, with previous coach Grant Teaff preparing his team to take on Arkansas.

### Welcome Baylor ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

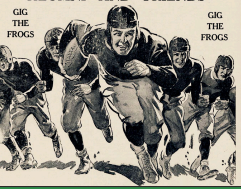


Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**GIG THE FROGS?** An advertisement for the Baylor Bookstore published in The Daily Lariat on Oct. 29, 1937, urges Baylor football to "Gig the Frogs."

### ALUMNI WILL GATHER WHOOPING FOR BAYLOR AT BEAR-AGGIE GAME

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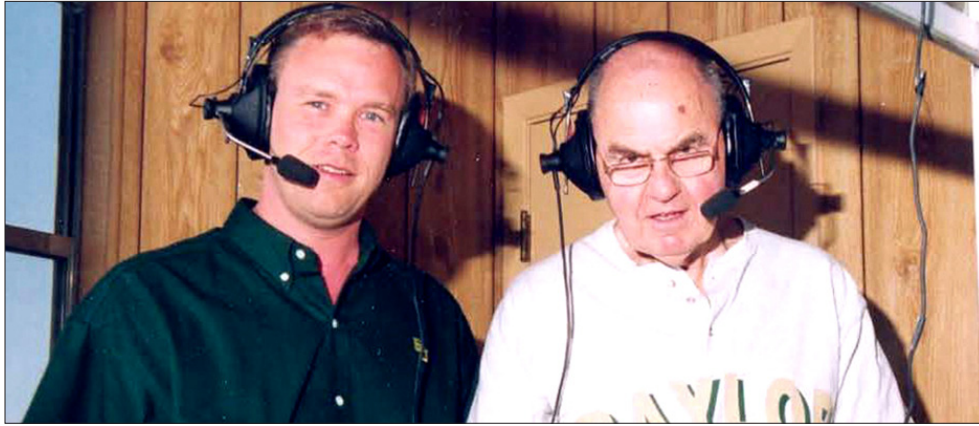
Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

**PREPARE TO BE WHOOPED** A 1924 article featured in the student newspaper previews the plans for Baylor to defeat Texas A & M.



Photo Courtesy of The Baylor Lariat

Want to see more Homecoming History? Check out pages A4 & A5!



**MAKING FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY** John Morris (left) with his broadcast partner Frank Fallon on the job. The pair worked together from 1987 to 1995. Photo Courtesy of Baylor Photography

# John Morris is the ‘Voice of the Bears’

**KAMRI ALEXANDER**  
Reporter

Many Baylor Bear fans arrive at McLane Stadium during football season to cheer on the Bears at home games, and they have for years. But whether you cheered on the Bears in 1994 or 2020, there's a common experience those Baylor fans have in common, and that's the voice heard throughout the stadium.

The man behind the voice is a well-known Wacoan and Baylor alumnus, John Morris. Morris carries the official title of “Voice of the Bears,” but he doesn't carry it lightly. Seasoned Baylor fans might know of the original and legendary “Voice of the Bears,” Frank Fallon. Morris owes his time at Baylor as a broadcaster to Fallon offering him the opportunity to come work alongside him. Because of the great broadcaster and mentor Fallon was to

**“**  
I'm the caretaker of this position, but Frank will always be the voice of the Baylor Bears.

**JOHN MORRIS |**  
**ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
**FOR BROADCASTING**

Morris, Morris said he works hard to continue his legacy. Morris doesn't even consider himself the real voice of the Bears, saying Fallon will always be the true voice.

“He was the best. He was absolutely the best, and anything that we do good is a reflection of him because we learned from Frank. And we just want to honor him by doing our best and living up to that standard,” Morris said.

Morris has served as the play-by-play announcer for Baylor football for 27 years now and at the beginning of the 2021 season

had announced 390 consecutive games. He has worked for Baylor for 35 years, the first eight alongside his predecessor, Fallon. He was even named the Texas Co-Sportscaster of the Year in 2019 by the National Sports Media Association.

Working for Baylor for so long has been all the greater, though, because Morris' roots are at Baylor. The school is both his and his wife's alma mater. He graduated in 1980 and his wife, Terri Morris, graduated in 1985. The two had three children become Baylor Bears as well. Needless to say, Baylor pride runs deep in the Morris family.

Though Morris is a big fan of Baylor sports, he does admit that game days are his job first. He actually hasn't sat in the stand of a Baylor football game in over 27 years. He has to use his job as an outlet for his team spirit while also remaining professional. But Morris loves his job so much, some would say his job doesn't even feel like work.

“I am a fan, but I'm also working, so work has to take priority. I have to do my job, but part of my job is getting excited when Baylor does good things. So we get more excited when Baylor scores a touchdown ... but you have to be fair to other programs as well,” Morris said. “It's a job, but it's a labor of love also ... It's a job but it's not really work because I enjoy it so much.”

After 35 years following Baylor sports and 27 years of play-by-play announcing, how can he still enjoy that same job with the same team? Some might think the same job for that many years would become monotonous, but Morris said if his job ever became monotonous he would have to retire the next day because of the privilege is it to do what he does.

“I need to appreciate the position I have [and] appreciate the responsibility I have to do the job well and to represent Baylor well. If I ever lose that, I need to retire the next day,” Morris said. “I hope I never feel that way. I've never felt that way—that I'm not excited about doing a game—and I hope I never feel that way.”

People can attest to how well Morris represents Baylor. Drew Humphrey and his wife Holly Humphrey are friends of the Morris family and are also both graduates of Baylor. They both have a shared experience of Morris announcing their football games in college, but now they have special memories of taking their four children to football games. But the one common denominator between their college and adult experience is Morris over the speakers.

Not only though do they have the shared experience of Morris announcing their games, they have the privilege of knowing his character. Drew spoke highly of how well Morris has done his job in broadcasting over the past decade. Drew said often people want broadcasters to have extreme or negative opinions on athletes, but he commends Morris for staying positive.

“I think [Morris is] the best of the best ... I think he is able to keep everyone from being toxic, especially because you're talking about college athletes. They're students, they're kids,” Humphrey said. “John does a good job of keeping all the generations engaged without getting toxic, which is especially important at a Christian university like Baylor.”



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Photography

**THE FACE BEHIND THE VOICE** Baylor announcer John Morris sits inside his booth at McLane Stadium. Morris has been announcing Baylor games for 27 years.

On TV and during broadcasting, some perceive Morris to be a stand up guy and very respectable. To Humphrey and those who know John, that isn't just his public persona — that's who he is on and off the air.

“[Morris] is the exact same person he is off the show that he is on the show; not just his voice, but his vibe and everything,” Humphrey said.

The Humphreys even have personal memories of Morris being the same friendly and uplifting guy to them that he is as a broadcaster. At their wedding, Morris welcomed them for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey as the “Voice of the Bears.”

Morris has spent his time at Baylor working humbly and not wanting praise, acclaim or even to be known as the “Voice of the Bears” in light of his late mentor. But because of his character and the legacy he's building, to a younger generation of Baylor Bears and to those who love him, Morris will go down as another legendary “Voice of the Bears.”

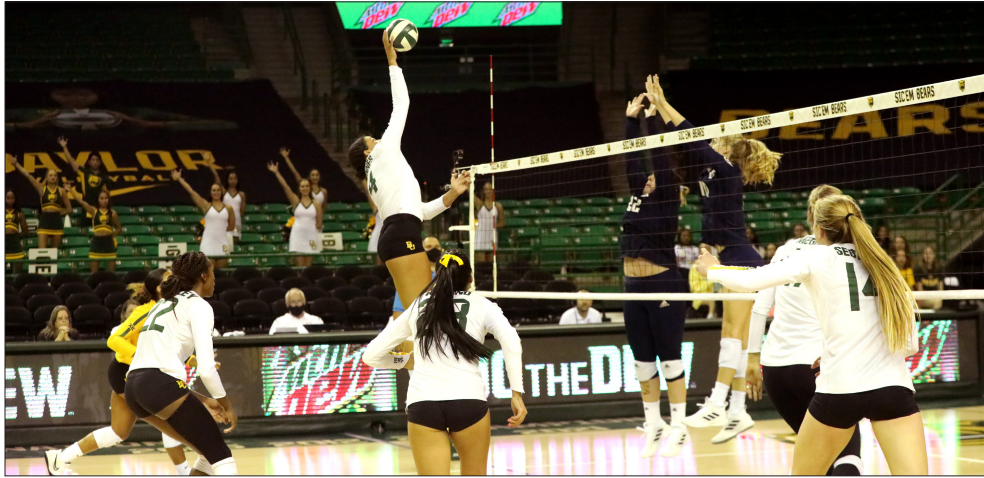
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NOVEMBER 6	@ TCU*
NOVEMBER 13	OKLAHOMA*
NOVEMBER 20	@ KANSAS STATE*
NOVEMBER 27	TEXAS TECH*

HOME AWAY \*BIG 12 GAME

A close-up photograph of a Baylor Bears football player wearing a green jersey with yellow accents and a gold helmet. The player is looking down, and the image is partially obscured by the schedule text on the left.

Photo Courtesy of Baylor Athletics



Audrey La | Photographer

**KILLING ME SOFTLY** Baylor volleyball senior outside hitter Avery Skinner spikes the ball against Rice University on Sept. 16 at the Ferrell Center. The transfer from the University of Kentucky has had multiple matches with over 20 kills in recent weeks, earning herself her first ever Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week award while also getting herself closer to reaching 1,000 career kills.

# Skinner looks to continue hot streak going into homecoming weekend

GIO GENNERO  
Sports Writer

Senior outside hitter Avery Skinner is excited for her first homecoming weekend as a Bear as she gets to play two matches and attend homecoming events. Skinner's father, Brian Skinner, is a former NBA player as well as a former Bear. With an alumnus in the family, Skinner used to attend Baylor homecomings when she was a kid and now gets to keep the tradition going.

"I am really excited," Skinner said. "I always loved coming to homecoming growing up, so I am extremely pumped to not only be able to play this weekend but also attend the events that the university will be holding. It's going to be a lot of fun."

After playing four seasons at the University of Kentucky, which included a national championship, Skinner said she decided to

transfer to Baylor for academic reasons. She said she wanted to come here for a graduate degree and being eligible for a fifth year of volleyball was the "cherry on top."

Skinner has had a solid season, but has recently really hit her stride. Skinner earned her first Big 12 conference award by winning Offensive Player of the week, has had multiple matches of 20 or more kills and multiple double-doubles. She said she has gotten more comfortable on the team and credits her teammates, such as senior setter Hannah Sedwick, as big contributors to her success.

"While getting that award is exciting, it would not be possible without my teammates," Skinner said. "This is a team sport, and going to battle with them is something I love to do. There are always some growing pains when you join a new team, but I would definitely say I have gotten more comfortable. Hannah and I's connection has been really good lately, which helps a lot, and

the team chemistry overall is coming together every day."

Sedwick said she has loved having Skinner on the team this season as Skinner has been great for the team on and off the court.

"It's been awesome," Sedwick said. "She's a great addition to our team, great firepower from the front row, obviously, and the back row, solid on defense and serve receive. Just such a hard worker, always in the gym getting reps. That aspect has been great but also she's just such a fun person and such a kind person."

Skinner is just nine kills away from reaching 1,000 career kills. She looks to reach the milestone in tonight's matchup against the University of Kansas at 6 p.m. in the Ferrell Center, which will put an even bigger stamp on this year's homecoming for Skinner.

"It feels great," Skinner said. "This is something I have been working towards my whole career and I would not have achieved this goal without my fifth year, so I am excited to reach this milestone in the near future."

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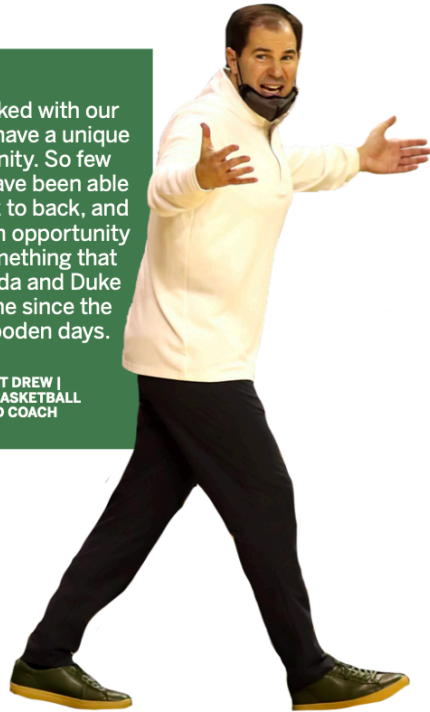
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SCOTT DREW |  
MEN'S BASKETBALL  
HEAD COACH



Calling on Collen



“

I think everyone wanted to expand their games; that's one of the reasons I came here is to have that pro mindset and be able to expand your game more ... we all have a high motor, we want to be competitive.

JORDAN LEWIS |  
TRANSFER GRADUATE GUARD

“

We're all here to win a national championship at the end of the day. All the changes aren't really going to affect us drastically, we're here to play basketball. So [at] the end of the day, we are trying to get a Natty, so that's our biggest goal.

NaLYSSA SMITH |  
SENIOR FORWARD



# Champions

Running it back



“We already forgot that we won a national championship a couple of months ago. We are already locked in on next season ... We haven't won a single game this season, so we have everything to prove.”

JONATHAN TCHAMWA TCHATCHOUA |  
JUNIOR FORWARD

“It's a new year, we're past that right now. That's for fans to continue to soak in. Right now, we're on another mission.”

LJ CRYER |  
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“We're not shying away from saying this is a championship program. We're always going to expect to compete for championships. We talk a lot about keeping the main thing the main thing and that being basketball in general.”

NICKI COLLEN |  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD  
COACH



# Different Bears, Same Dream

## Bears begin quest for a national championship

**MARQUIS COOLEY**  
Sports Editor

A lot has changed within the Baylor women's basketball team since losing to the University of Connecticut in the Elite Eight last season. Head coach Nicki Collen took over the helm after Kim Mulkey departed for Louisiana State University, and former Baylor standouts Didi Richards, Moon Ursin and Dijonai Carrington all left the program. Senior forward NaLyssa Smith said all the change isn't necessarily a bad thing, though.

"A change isn't always bad; change can be good. So I feel like a fresh start is good for everybody," Smith said. "Having Coach Nicki, having new players, it's going to take a lot of adjusting, but I feel like at the end of the day, we're built around adversity. So I feel like we'll be fine."

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the new look for the Baylor women's basketball team is that they are no longer going by the Lady Bears. Earlier in the school year, the team announced it would be dropping "lady" from its name to remain consistent with the other Baylor athletic programs. Smith said the name change has no effect on the team's mindset.

"I feel like a name doesn't really define us," Smith said. "At the end of the day, we're here to play basketball, no matter what's on our chest, what's on the back of our jersey."

With a new coach comes a new philosophy, and Collen, coming to Baylor from the Atlanta Dream, is bringing a WNBA-style approach to her offense in which she spaces out the floor to encourage more three-point shooting and passing up good shots for great shots. Collen said she is "100% confident" in her offense, as she's seen it work against the best athletes in the world.

"Certainly there are growing pains and just changing and all these players learning something new, but there's a reason why the NBA does what they do," Collen said. "The WNBA steals stuff from the NBA that steals stuff from Europe; none of us are creating something new. But when you take the best athletes in the world, you figure out what gives you the best chance to score and what's the hardest thing to defend."

"A lot of the things we do are simply hard to guard because of spacing," Collen said. "If you can create great spacing, which you have to have shooters and people that can create space, but if you have the right personnel, I think there's no doubt it can be successful because you just put the defense in a predicament. ... I think the key is, there's no reason to take contested shots. I mean, you have the ability to create open shots on every possession, so why not?"

Smith said she is excited for the pro-style offense, as she feels it'll help her expand her game. That is something Smith has been wanting to do for a while, as she plans on taking her talent to the WNBA.

"I love that we spread the floor a lot more now," Smith said. "A lot of people really don't have like one, two, three, four or five type roles. So if you can handle the ball, [Collen is] going to put you on the wing. If you could post up, we'll throw somebody down

there. So I feel like just having that pro mindset will help you get a closer look on the league. So I feel like that'll help us a lot more this year."

While the new offense may be a little complicated and learning it has taken some time, the players feel as though Collen's coaching style has made it easier on them.

"I would definitely say she's a player's coach; you can definitely tell that she's very interactive with you," graduate student guard Jordan Lewis said. "She'll come in our workouts and work out with us, she'll guard us, she's very hands-on. And I think that's very helpful because not everybody's just a learner where you can say things. She's going to show you how to do it and the way she wants it. ... She puts us first before herself and everything."

One challenge the Bears will have to overcome throughout the season is that they only have nine players on the roster instead of the usual 12 to 13. While Collen said she's looking into working out another potential player, she has no problem going through the season with just the nine she already has.

"If you look at any good team in the country, who plays more than eight players or maybe a ninth situationally?" Collen said. "What it does is it creates a camaraderie among the team knowing that, 'Hey, we're all important, we're all going to have a role, we all have to be ready.' There's no one that's just there to give people towels when they check out of the game because if someone's checking out of the game, someone's checking in. So I think they're embracing that."

Collen said there may be moments in games when she will have to look into using timeouts for resting purposes rather than strategy, but Smith said it really just comes down to staying healthy.

"Everybody's got to take care of their bodies. Everything's a lot more serious this year because we don't have that many subs," Smith said. "So [if] everybody just tries to do their part, then I feel like we'll be fine."

Despite all the changes surrounding the Bears, one thing remains constant: their desire to win a national championship.

"We're all here to win a national championship at the end of the day," Smith said. "All the changes aren't really going to affect us drastically; we're here to play basketball. So [at] the end of the day we are trying to get a Natty, so that's our biggest goal."

Collen said she knew what the expectations were when taking the job and isn't back away from them.

"We're not shying away from saying this is a championship program," Collen said. "We're always going to expect to compete for championships. We talk a lot about keeping the main thing the main thing and that being basketball in general."

With that being said, the quest for a championship is more of an unspoken expectation the team has among itself, as its main focus is on improving each and every day.

"There's not a 'Let's talk about Final Fours' or 'We have unfinished business,'" Collen said. "We're talking about new beginnings and how we can get better. If we get better each and every day, then those things will take care of themselves."



**GOING THROUGH CHANGES** Senior forward NaLyssa Smith takes a shot against the University of Kansas on Feb. 4 at the Ferrell Center. Despite a new head coach in Nicki Collen and a new offensive philosophy, Baylor women's basketball still holds itself to a championship level standard.



**READY FOR ROUND TWO** Baylor men's basketball head coach Scott Drew speaks at season opening press conference on Oct. 4. The team looks to defend its national championship.

## Going for gold, again

**GIO GENNERO**  
Sports Writer

Despite winning a national championship back in April, the Baylor men's basketball team remains hungry going into the upcoming season.

"We already forgot that we won a national championship a couple of months ago," junior forward Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua said. "We are already locked in on next season. ... We haven't won a single game this season, so we have everything to prove."

With lots of new faces and the loss of key players such as Sacramento Kings guard Davion Mitchell, sophomore guard LJ Cryer said the transition is going well.

"It's going pretty smoothly," Cryer said. "All the guys really like each other. At the end of the day, we're brothers and that just makes it 10 times easier, which has really translated to the court because we have a lot of unselfish guys and we're really looking forward to this year."

Entering his second year, Cryer said the biggest lesson he learned was to remain poised throughout the entire game, no matter the score. Cryer also said the team's focus is not on last season's success but on being their best this season.

"It's a new year," Cryer said. "We're past that right now. That's for fans to continue to soak in. Right now, we're on another mission."

Head coach Scott Drew said he believes the team will benefit from a good mix of returning players and fresh faces.

"There's enough returning players that you have an identity and a culture and they know how and what it takes to be successful," Drew said. "At the same time, you have enough new players that there's a lot of excitement and energy because anytime something's new, normally that excites everybody."

Drew said the experience of the returning

players is important because it will help lead the team and maintain the established culture of defense and winning.

"That's where experience is valuable," Drew said. "The upperclassmen that have been around know the importance of each and every possession and know defensively just how important it is. The good thing is that's part of a winning DNA and a winning culture."

Drew also said he is impressed with the work ethic of the incoming freshmen even though they were highly ranked recruits in high school. He said he can see why they were ranked so well due to their potential, as well as their hard work, which gives them a great ability to produce and contribute right away.

"Their attitude gives them a chance to be successful," Drew said. "Sometimes you have highly touted freshmen that don't compete, don't play hard. Their ranking and their recognitions are more on the potential rather than their production, and the three guys that we have have an attitude where it's not a chip on the shoulder, but they practice and compete like a two-star guy, not a four- or five-star guy."

Drew said he knows there will be a target on their back going into every game as the defending national champions. He's also aware that with being ranked at the top, playing away games will lead to their opponents' "biggest, loudest and most intense" crowds. However, Drew said the opportunity to repeat as champions is what they're working toward because it is a rare accomplishment.

"Once we go to play our first couple games, we'll get a much better sense of just how all year long we're the defending national champs," Drew said. "We've talked with our team; we have a unique opportunity. So few schools have been able to go back-to-back, and we have an opportunity to do something that only Florida and Duke have done since the John Wooden days."

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Sports

# Kaur has professional career in sight

MICHAEL HAAG  
Sports Writer

Senior golfer Gurleen Kaur has been there, done that and seen it all during her time at Baylor. Over the last four years, she has accumulated a resume that will leave a deep impact on the program. Even with all the glory that she has, one thing remains eminent; she is hungry for more. Kaur said she isn't done yet and has big plans for the rest of her final season at Baylor and for her future professional career that lies ahead.

With it being homecoming at Baylor, Kaur said she doesn't recall ever being a part of the celebration. Normally, the team is off and playing at a tournament and she has yet to bask in the fun activities. However, it doesn't phase her, as Kaur said she loves playing with the team and is prepared for the upcoming Stephens Cup in Roland, Ark., even though it's a much younger team than most years.

"We won't be here for homecoming, sadly," Kaur says. "I don't even know if I've ever been here for homecoming, just because we've always had a tournament. We are leaving for Arkansas this Saturday and I'm super excited. For my last year we have such a great team, and we have three new freshmen and then I'm the only senior currently, so quite a young team compared to previous years."

Kaur said she fell in love with Baylor during her recruitment process, without even intending to do so. Growing up in Houston, she always thought she would end up going far away from home, but ended up staying within driving distance. Kaur said that the coaches, team and athletic caliber all stood out in her decision.

"I looked at Baylor late in my recruiting process," Kaur said. "I'm from Houston and my first wanting was to go far. I had an opportunity to come take a visit at Baylor and I just loved it from the very first visit that I took here. I took one more visit and then I completely committed here. I think it had a lot to do with my relationship with Jay [Goble]. We had a different coach before, her name is Ryan [Ashburn], she was great too. She's actually a head coach now at University of North Carolina [at] Charlotte. I had a great relationship with them, and also the caliber of our team. We had just finished at nationals really well and we had made it to the final match in 2015. I knew that this was somewhere I wanted to go because we would have a competitive advantage and always have girls who were wanting to take it to the next level."

Being at Baylor, Kaur has embodied the sense of "Baylor Family" that has been showcased by current and former Bears. She knows that no matter what, she will always have the bonds that she has built forever.

"I would definitely say that it's one of the biggest things, especially in athletics," Kaur said. "Even my whole team, we all get along really well, and my coaches Jay [Goble] and Carly [Ludwig] are so close to me. I would definitely say that I've made lifelong friendships as well as with my coaches. I know that throughout athletics, I'll be able to reach out to people and they'll always be here for me. The Baylor family thing is a huge, huge deal."

Head coach Jay Goble said Kaur is a crucial piece to the team and that it was a pleasant bonus getting her back for an extra year due to COVID-19. He said having her as a leader is huge, and Kaur has big plans to finish her career out on a good note.

"This is her fifth year at Baylor, getting a COVID year back. We didn't expect to have Gurleen on the team for this season," Goble said. "It was a nice added bonus for her and for us to get



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**LOOKING AHEAD** Senior Gurleen Kaur is staying focused on her goal of leading the Bears to a national championship. With a competitive mindset Kaur is ready to play.

to have her as a teammate for another year. She has the lowest scoring average in Baylor women's golf history, which is pretty amazing. She has been a team leader and a great player for us for years now. [I'm] expecting a lot of the same. She really wants to end her career here at Baylor on a high note. I know that having a good team around her, having great tournaments for us to play in and her trying to finish up her degree here next May, she wants to end her career here on a bang."

Kaur believes that she has been a great leader for the younger players on the team, which consist of several freshmen. She has helped steer them toward doing what is right versus wrong.

"I think I've definitely helped others push themselves and we've done a great job of just doing what we need to do," Kaur said. "I've definitely felt like I've been able to guide others, especially the freshmen, in what to do or what not to do."

Goble said that the biggest thing that stands out to him about Kaur is her competitive nature. He said her competitiveness drives her to set goals that she can achieve, which allows her to be so successful.

"She's probably one of the more competitive people I've ever met," Goble said. "I don't care if you're playing golf or doing a homework contest or whatever it may be. She's going to be the person that tries to do it the fastest, the best, the quickest, whatever you might set as the goal, she wants to be the best at it. That's what makes her a great player. She's not really ever satisfied, and I think that she always knows that if she works hard and puts her mind to it and sets high goals then she can achieve them. That's always been one of her biggest attributes, and my opinion is that she is a goal setter who achieves her goal and it's a really cool thing to watch because she seems to always do it."

Growing up, Kaur played a lot of different sports. She said she never truly took golf seriously until she was in high school, and that is when she realized she could play competitively at the next level.

"When I was younger, I first used to play basketball, soccer [and] gymnastics," Kaur said. "I played a lot of sports growing up and then I took up golf when I was maybe about seven or eight years old just because there was a golf course I could walk to from my house and my dad was a member there. I didn't start taking it

seriously until I was about 12 or 13. In high school, my freshman year, I realized I could play in college. I'm pretty good and this is what I want to do."

Goble said he knows just how competitively she has played golf throughout her life. He said that through her success and approach, Kaur will have a bright future.

"I think that she [Kaur] has a lot of self-belief through her practice and through her play," Goble said. "Throughout her life, she's played golf on a competitive level since she was a little kid, so she's got a lot of successes to build off of. She wants to make golf her career, she wants to play professionally; that's an important part of it because any lack in concentration, lack in poise, lack in practice, it costs you money."


Goble also said Kaur's biggest improvement over the years has been her maturity on the course. He thinks it'll suit her well as she heads towards a professional career.

"I think that the biggest thing I've seen with [Kaur] is that she's just grown up the last couple years and she's a little more mature in the way she handles things on the golf course now versus four years ago," Goble said. "That's going to serve her well moving forward when she's trying to play golf for a living."

With it being her last season, Kaur wants to see the team succeed. For her, winning and playing strong as a team is what matters most as they continue throughout the season.

"I would say in the fall, we only have two more events and we've played well [so far]," Kaur said. "To win next week would be such a great, great ending to our season. I think being able to get off to a great start next year, and obviously the goal is to take it as far as we can, and win nationals. That would be the icing on the cake for sure. I think just to finish strong and play well next week is one of the biggest things. We're playing a really, really tough field next week so, just being able to play well is the goal."

Baylor women's golf is a program that Kaur has been a part of for a long time. Goble is appreciative of her, saying that there is nothing he would rather see more than for the team to do well in the spring to send her off on a good note. Kaur has not been a part of a national or conference championship team yet but Goble believes that Kaur will motivate the team to do well in order to make it happen.



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