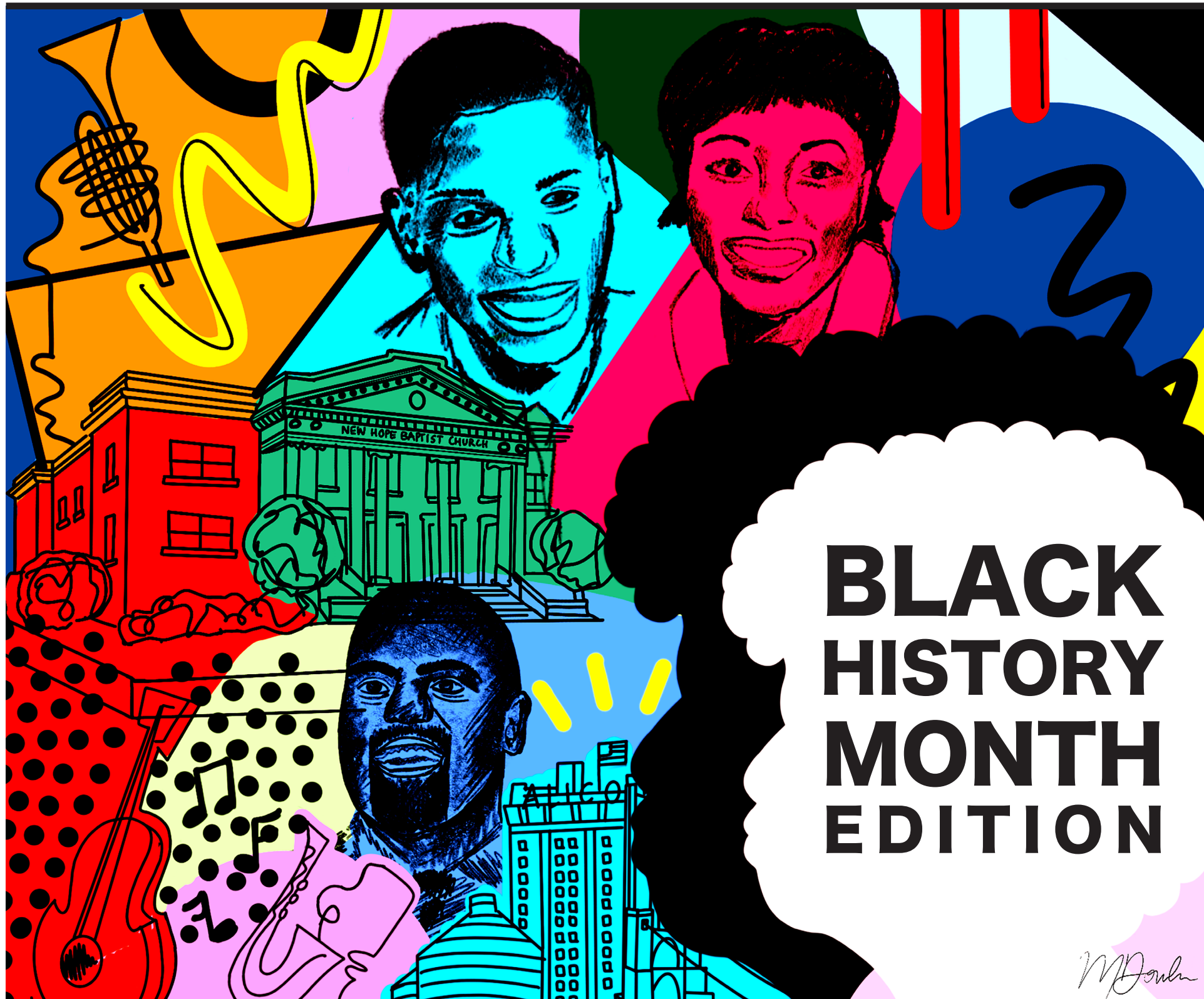


# B<sub>U</sub> BAYLOR LARIAT

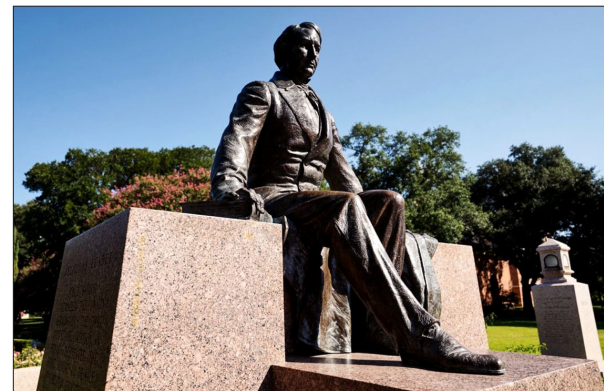
*News for the students by the students*



# BLACK HISTORY

## at Baylor University

### BHM Resource Guide:



Brittney Matthews | Photographer

On Feb. 1, 1845, Baylor University's charter was officially signed and the school was formed. Black students were not allowed.

### Baylor is Founded 1845

Dr. Vivienne Malone-Mayes was hired in 1966 as a professor of mathematics. After being rejected from Baylor as a Ph.D. candidate in 1961 because of her race, she returned triumphantly to make history as the first Black Baylor professor.

### First Black Professor 1966

In the wake of the BLM protests on and off campus, Baylor received a report from the newly sanctioned Commission on Historic Campus Representations in December of 2020. This committee worked to evaluate Baylor's connections to historical racism and slavery and offered suggestions the university is still working to carry out today. Scan this QR code to read more about the report.

### 2020-Present

#### Baylor Speaks

### Students Voice Views On Racial Integration

By BURTT POTTER  
Lariat Staff

The recent controversy over integration caused the Lariat to seek the opinions of the Baylor students. The following question was asked to a cross-section of students on the campus: "Do you think Baylor should integrate?"

Tommy Powers, Corpus Christi, sophomore: It is the place of Baylor as a Christian institution to take a lead in integration. However, it isn't something to be accomplished in a short period of time. Much study and preparation by the faculty and students should lead the way. The policy of Christians should be, "all men have equal right."

John Meyer, Houston, junior: No, they should forget the whole idea. Integration at Baylor would cause the radicals to want the rooms in the dorms integrated also. This is the only way it could be accomplished. I have gone to school with the colored in the North, but I didn't have to live with them.

**VOICES** Baylor students share their thoughts on integration with The Baylor Lariat in 1957 after The Little Rock Nine stepped foot into Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

### 1963 - Baylor Integrates

Baylor's Student Congress voted unanimously to integrate the university in 1955, but it wasn't until 1963 that Baylor gave up its "right to discriminate" as a private university and enrolled the first Black students in 1964. The Rev. Robert Gilbert ('67) and Barbara Walker ('67) were the first Black Baylor graduates and are being honored still today (see page 3).



Baylor Student Activities

### 1972

### The Start of the Divine Nine

The first chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), is chartered at Baylor: the Nu Iota chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. This is one of nine historically Black Greek organizations represented at Baylor, making up the "Divine Nine." There are currently seven active chapters.





# Artist for statues of first Black graduates chosen

## Sculptor to be announced Feb. 3

**ANA RUIZ BRICTSON**  
Staff Writer

President Linda Livingstone is scheduled to announce the artist for Baylor's first Black graduates statue will be announced on Feb. 3.

In 1967, Barbara Walker and Robert Gilbert became the first Black students to graduate from Baylor. On March 23, 2021, Baylor announced its plans to create a historical representation of them.

According to Jason Cook, vice president for marketing and communications and chief marketing officer, the artist was selected a week after four finalists were interviewed on Nov. 31 and Dec. 1.

Cook said that in addition to members of the Campus Experience Project team, Barbara Walker and members of Robert Gilbert's family were invited to help conduct the interviews.

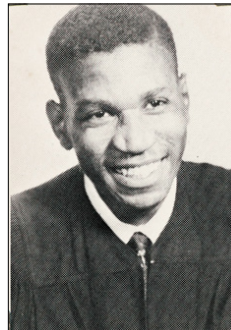
Additionally, the Campus Experience Project team brought in Dr. Heidi J. Hornik, chair and professor of art and art history, to review, interview and give her expertise.

"All of the artists were very, very qualified," Hornik said. "I felt like the selection was very difficult. They each presented their work, and they also did moquettes or small models of how they envisioned the work, should they be given the decisions."

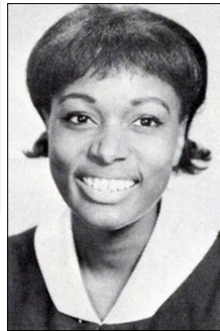
Cook said Baylor received a tremendous number of responses from artists across the country.

"These are sculptors who have worked with other institutions of higher education, who have works in museums and even a statuary hall at the U.S. Capitol," Cook said. "We could not have been more pleased with the interest of sculptors across the country in this important for Baylor."

The project is expected to have a process of around 18 to 24 months. According to Cook, this process includes the sculptor working with the families of the graduates and sculpting the statue, after which the statue will undergo the bounding process to be cast and bronzed before being delivered to the front of Tidwell Bible Building.



**Gilbert**



**Walker**

"I am so proud that we are showing our community, showing visitors, showing anyone who comes into that space of the strives that we have made as a community toward inclusion, toward diversity," Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson, associate professor of history, said. "I think statues represent that the road to equality and inclusion are not easy, but they are so necessary. And the strives that we make and the successes that are made should be celebrated, and I think these statues go a long way to do that."

Johnson's office is located in Tidwell Bible Building, and he said he looks forward to walking past the representations of Walker and Gilbert every day. As the only African American in the department of history, Johnson said he takes great courage and inspiration from the first Black graduates of Baylor.

"I can't imagine what it must've been like to be the only African American male and the only African Americans you know [are] these two very isolated students," Johnson said. "I take great inspiration from them as I navigate the spaces around Baylor."

Cook said the project has been a little delayed because of COVID-19, dealing with schedules and flying families and finalists in. Cook said the team is excited to announce who received the commission, given the importance of this project to the campus community.

### Meet the Staff

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Photo courtesy of Baylor University Texas Collection

**PART OF WACO HISTORY** New Hope Baptist Church (pictured here in 1943) was founded by Black members of the Waco community



Camryn Duffy | Photographer

**PRESENT DAY** New Hope Missionary Baptist Church still stands as an integral place of worship for the Black community in Waco.

# New Hope Baptist Church looks back on 156 years of Black history

**LUKE ARAUJO**

Staff Writer

In 1866, 18 Black members of the Waco community founded New Hope Baptist Church after Black people in America were emancipated, according to Texas Archival Research Online.

Dr. Kenneth Hafertete, chair of museum studies at Historic Waco Foundation, said New Hope Baptist Church is one of the oldest Black churches in Waco.

"It was founded just one year after the end of the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation," Hafertete said. "The congregation was founded with assistance from Rufus Burleson, who was the president of Baylor. He was trying to promote the Baptist religion among newly freed Black people along with white Waco residents. It has a long history, and New Hope ended up becoming the most prosperous congregation among Black churches."

Hafertete said the church was built in a time when slave owners were worried by the idea of Black people worshipping a higher power.

"During slavery times, there was a great deal of controversy among slave owners about whether they should allow slaves to worship at all," Hafertete said. "Some thought that it shouldn't be done; it encouraged them to think of higher powers other than the slave owner. There were some slave owners who let slaves attend service. Sometimes the slave owners would listen to the sermon

to make sure there was nothing said that would be considered [to be] encouraging them to run away or think for themselves."

Hafertete said the church tended to attract highly educated Black people, such as doctors, lawyers and other sorts of professionals.

"They became extremely well known for their choir and their orchestra," Hafertete said. "They had an extremely ambitious program of music. Dr. George Conner was the music minister for decades. He was one of the earliest Black doctors in Waco and became associated with New Hope very soon after moving to Waco."

Like many other downtown churches, Hafertete said New Hope's membership has been declining and it is no longer the "dominant" Black church in Waco. The sanctuary, however, has changed little throughout the years. The biggest change was the transition of the auditorium seating to more modern pews.

"All the stained-glass windows are original," Hafertete said. "There is a painting in the baptismal area of the church. It shows a river on the backdrop of the stage, and it is an imagining of what the River Jordan looks like in Israel. There is also a quotation from the Old Testament's Book of Proverbs: 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'"

When the church was built, it had rooms made for Sunday school and had double parlors, one for men and one for women.

"It had a library, a gymnasium and a nursery," Hafertete said. "On the ground floor was a dining room, kitchen and offices. It was really a full-service church. They even had a radio-listening

room when radio was a new technological innovation."

When the grounds were broken for construction, Hafertete said it was mentioned that New Hope was one of the largest Black churches in the South.

"The current church building was dedicated in May of 1923," Hafertete said. "It's a very attractive church." The church is located on N. 6th Street.

Jocelyn Pierce, an attendee of the church, said Black schools held their baccalaureate and graduations at the church when schools were segregated.

"It has always had a vital role in the Waco community, although the membership has diminished," Pierce said. "We still remain there. By God's grace we are still there and still trying to have our place in the community."

Pierce said the church is currently not being used because of damage from winter storms last year.

"The insurance company and the restoration company that we have are working to restore some things," Pierce said. "Unfortunately, the company we selected is also overseeing projects for 24 other churches, and materials have been hard to get in. We are not planning any services in the church, per se, but we are doing weekly worship services through conference call and Zoom."

The church has gone through troubling times, but Pierce said she has faith the church will push forward and look to God for guidance on where to go next.



# Michael Ford builds legacy

**MARQUIS COOLEY**  
Sports Editor

Track and field head coach Michael Ford says he never imagined his life turning out as it has. This past summer, Ford became only the third Black head coach in Baylor athletics history. He followed Harry Miller, who coached men's basketball from 1994-99, and LaPrise Harris-Williams, who coached acrobatics and tumbling from 2011-2014: Ford said it's an extreme honor and wants to do his part to pave the way for more minority coaches in the future.

"I always say that I have a weight on my shoulders just because we've only had three Black coaches at Baylor," Ford said. "I think there's always been a lot of qualified minority coaches out there. We have to make sure that we do our part [so] we can have more minority head coaches in our university if that's in God's plans."

Ford said he's already begun seeing a change across the nation in terms of minority head coaching hires.

"When we were at the meet this past weekend, I noticed there were, say, 15 schools there and it was like 10 Black head coaches," Ford said. "For me, it was just like, 'Wow, we made it.'"

While he enjoys coaching now, it wasn't always his plan. Even though Ford was a track star at Baylor, breaking a school record and winning back-to-back national championships in the 4x400 in 1995-96, he took a job in the marketing and research department of a law firm in his hometown of Rochester, N.Y., after graduating.

Ford eventually decided to give coaching a shot, spending three years at the University of Rochester as a part-time assistant coach, helping establish eight school records in sprints and relays. However, once former Baylor track and field head coach Clyde Hart called and offered him a job at his alma mater in 2000, Ford said he knew he couldn't pass it up.

In his 21 years at Baylor as an assistant coach, Ford mentored several high-profile student-athletes such as Olympic gold medalist Jeremy Wariner, two-time NCAA champion and Olympian Trayvon Bromell and 17-time All-American sprinter Tiffany Townsend.

"When I met him, there was a connection there that I knew, he's the coach for me," Bromell told Baylor Insider Jerry Hill in 2021. "It was more than just track and field talent with him, it was more of, 'I'm looking out for you. I'm here when you need me.' And that's the type of coach



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**HISTORY** Baylor track and field head coach Michael Ford looks to make history once again.

that I felt like I needed."

One of Ford's biggest supporters has been Todd Harbour, who retired after 16 seasons at the helm.

"[Ford] cares deeply about the total athlete and the ministry that we all have to the mission here at Baylor," Harbour told Hill. "He is a great choice to lead this great program into the future, and I am excited to see what the Lord does through him."

Ford is the fourth head coach of Baylor track and field in the last 65 years and said he's taking some of what he learned from his time with both Hart and Harbour to lead the program the best way he can.

"I piggyback on the spiritual part [of Harbor] and wanting to maintain the tradition that Baylor's been known for in the 400 and 4x400 [under Hart], but also, I think we have a really good overall team too. So I wanted to mesh all that together," Ford said. "The one big key to me that was probably the most important part was that both of them stressed family. I wanted to make sure that we kept our family atmosphere with the student athletes and the staff."

When it's all said and done, Ford said he doesn't just want to be known as a Black head coach. He wants to take the program to another level and leave the program a better place for the next coach down the road. To do that, he wants to do something none of the previous coaches have been able to do: bring home a national championship.

"I want us to be really consistent [and be] as nationally relevant as we can," Ford said. "The goals have always been to win nationals. But I think we also have to put the pieces in place to be able to do that ... It's going to take some time. It's going to take some hard work, but we're willing to work and get it done."

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# Black Gospel Music Restoration Project featured in ‘Life’s Work’ documentary

**MATT KYLE**  
Staff Writer

The Black Gospel Music Restoration Project is one of four projects featured in “A Life’s Work”, a documentary about people who have dedicated their lives to projects that will outlive them.

The project began back in 2005 when Robert Darden, a Baylor professor of journalism, sent an editorial to the New York Times titled “Gospel’s Got the Blues” after he discovered that 75% of music from Black Gospel’s Golden Age was unavailable to the public.

After the piece ran, Darden said he was contacted by a man named Charles Royce who offered funds to help him preserve Black gospel records. He also said he discussed the project with the staff at Moody Memorial Library and figured out all the equipment necessary to preserve and digitize a fast-disappearing genre of music.

“A Life’s Work” has been screened at a number of film festivals and won the Audience Award at the San Francisco Independent Film Festival. The film will be shown at the Waco Family and Faith International Film Festival, which takes place from Feb. 3 to 5 at Cinemark Waco.

David Licata, producer and director of “A Life’s Work,” said the projects featured in the film are important to recognize because they show people preserving things and passing them down to the next generation.



It’s one of the best chronicles we have of what life was like in Jim Crow America.

**ROBERT DARDEN | THE FOUNDER OF  
BLACK GOSPEL MUSIC RESTORATION  
PROJECT**

In addition, the film features Jill Tarter, an astronomer searching for extraterrestrial life; David and Jared Milarch, a father-son duo that clones old growth trees to combat climate change; and Paolo Soleri, an architect who designed a town to test his theories about overpopulation while also preserving the environment.

“I listened and I thought, ‘This is absolutely perfect,’” Licata said. “He was obviously very intelligent and very articulate. I loved his accent. So when I heard about him and heard what he was doing, it was just perfect, and the scope of it was just right. I mean, he had no illusions about what he was doing.”

The goal of the project is to preserve and catalog the most at-risk music from the Black gospel music tradition. Darden said he was frustrated by the loss of Black gospel music because of its importance to American history.

“It’s one of the best chronicles we have of what life was like in Jim Crow America,” Darden said. “This music provided the fuel that ran the engine of the Civil Rights Movement. And 20 years later, people had just forgotten about the music, the freedom songs and the spirituals. So it just got left behind, and there wasn’t anybody championing the preservation of it for future generations.”

Darden also said Black gospel music is the foundation of American popular music.

“The truly American music comes from African Americans,” Darden said. “The music that we identify with this country — whether it’s blues or jazz or rock ‘n’ roll or rap or gospel — all of those have their roots in Black music, which all has their roots in the sacred music and the work songs of African Americans.”

After 17 years, the project’s collection of digitally archived Black gospel records sits at around 14,000 recordings according to Darden, many of which are the only known copy. Darden said it is believed to be the largest digitized collection available to the public, and it provides gospel music for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The collection also contains around 2,000 physical vinyls on hand in the Black Gospel Archive and Listening Center, which opened in November on the garden level of Moody Memorial Library.



Photo courtesy of Grace Fortier

**WATCH THIS** Robert Darden was contacted by a man named Charles Royce who offered funds to help him preserve the Black gospel records.

The digitization process for the gospel project occurs in the Riley Digitization Center, located right next to the Listening Center, which Darden said is the “world’s greatest digitization lab.” In addition to digitizing records, the lab digitizes old film reels, cassettes, books, manuscripts and more.

Darryl Stuh, director for Digitization and Digital Collection Preservation Services, said digitization is important because many older technologies like film and vinyls can be unstable and deteriorate.

Hannah Engstrom, an audio specialist, said the first thing the lab does with a record is inventory it. Then, after cleaning the vinyl, the record is taken into a recording booth, where it is played on a turntable and recorded by a computer.

Stuh said the raw audio is then preserved before the file is compressed in order to be uploaded to the internet. Stuh said compression reduces some of the quality of the recordings.

“One of the things that we offer in the Black Gospel Archive is the ability to listen to those high-resolution .wav files on some high-fidelity equipment,” Stuh said. “Listening to the high-resolution audio on that equipment is a great experience.”

Jeffrey Archer, dean of university libraries, said the Listening Center was designed to immerse listeners in the music and give them direct access to it. He said the center was important to fund because he feels there is little multicultural celebration on Baylor’s campus.

“When we had the dedication, a student said that this is the first time that she felt heard and seen because she saw her own culture being reflected in our spaces,” Archer said. “So we want to do that with other cultures as well. That is another incentive for us to do this for students here at Baylor.”

While traffic to the Listening Center has been slow, Stuh said the reaction from students has been positive. He said he hopes to get more students excited about the project.

Darden said he is set to retire in May 2023 but plans to still be involved with the project as much as he can.

“This will go on long after I’m done,” Darden said. “This is just one of those great joys. I never get tired of walking across the parking lot when they call and say, ‘Hey, we got a new box. You want to come see what’s in it?’ It’s like Christmas every day. Nearly every piece of vinyl I open up is something special. Each one of these is sacred to me.”





Associated Press

**WHERE YOU LEAD, I'LL FOLLOW** Colin Allred started in the Baylor football program in 2001 and made his way to the House of Representatives.

## From football to US House: Allred represents Baylor all over

**CAMILLE COX**  
Staff Writer

Baylor football alumnus Colin Allred now serves as US representative for Texas's 32nd District.

The Dallas native played football at Baylor from 2001 to 2005 before playing for four seasons with the Tennessee Titans.

During his time at Baylor, Allred studied history, earned All-Academic Big 12 in 2004 and 2005, served as team captain of the 2005 team and was named the 2020 Baylor Football Legend by the "B" Association.

"I learned so much about being a leader at Baylor," Allred said in an interview with The Waco Tribune-Herald. "I had never really been outside of Dallas, even though Waco wasn't that far away. It was a new experience going from Hillcrest to Baylor. We weren't the most talented team in the Big 12, but we wanted to be the hardest working."

Following his football career, Allred attended the UC Berkeley School of Law before entering a career in politics. Allred's website said he decided to run for his own district's office.

"I'm trying to run to represent the community that I came from and to make sure that the values that I grew up with here are being represented in Washington," Allred told the Baylor Lariat in 2017. "I think I have a story to tell of someone who the community gave me a chance."

Baylor alumnus Nick Dean, class of 2012, worked directly with Allred on his first congressional campaign in 2018. Dean said

Allred's story mirrors his and he found it easy to support him while working with him.

"I largely focused on digital communications efforts for the campaign," Dean said. "Colin Allred is the real deal: what you see and what you hear about him is the same in person. I personally connected with him because he's got a story really similar to mine, being raised by a single mother in Texas."

Dean said Allred stands as a strong Baylor alumnus and represents Texas well in his role as a congressman.

"I think that one really interesting thing about college in general and especially at Baylor is that it attracts people who are bound by the same desire to help the people around them," Dean said. "For Colin, he was a civil rights attorney, which is where he was actively helping people, then he turned then did all this hard work to become a congressman, where he can also do this hard work on a larger scale."

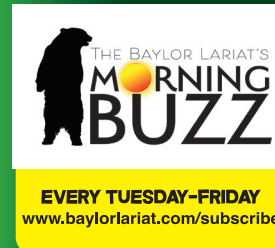
Dean said Allred was one of the first congressmen to take paternity leave, which resonated with him as a new father.

"It was such a great example there, and it's such an important thing for our country to see," Dean said.

Spring sophomore Payton Perez shares her fields of interest with Allred, who originally entered the university on the pre-med track before switching his major to history.

"I think it's super cool to see somebody be so successful that studied the same things I'm studying as a political science major and history minor," Perez said. "It's cool to see that it's possible to go here and ... then do that."

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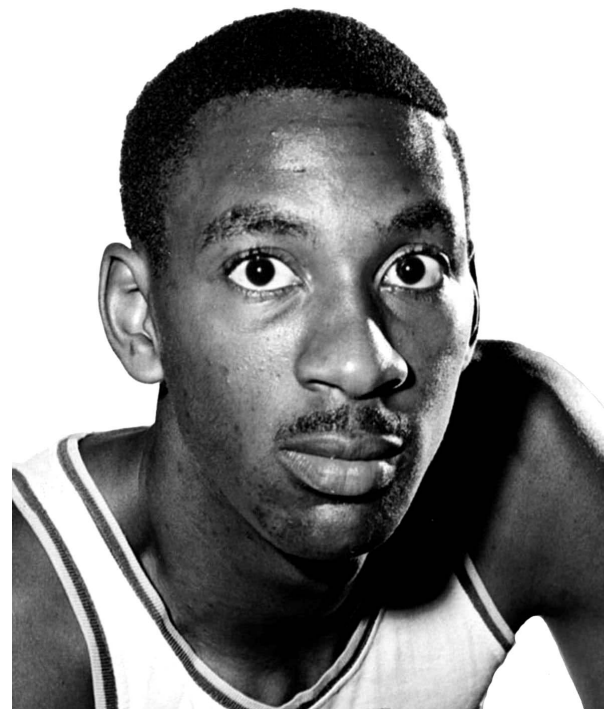
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# Black Baylor Athletes Through the Years

## John Hill Westbrook “Baylor’s First Black Athlete” (1965-1969)

In 1965, Westbrook started college at Baylor and joined the football team as a running back. On Sept. 10, 1966, Westbrook broke the color barrier, becoming the first African American athlete to play in the Southwestern Conference. In a nationally televised season opener on ABC against No. 7 Syracuse, Westbrook took the field in the fourth quarter of the Bears’ stunning 35-12 upset.



## Tommy Bowman “The First Recruit” (1968-1970)

Bowman was Baylor’s first Black scholarship athlete when he was recruited by the Bears in 1966. He was a two-time All-Southwest Conference player for the Bears during his career from 1968-70, leading the Bears to second and third place conference finishes in 1969 and 1970.

## Michael Johnson “The Fastest Man Alive” (1968-1970)

In his time at Baylor, Johnson won five NCAA titles and went on to claim four Olympic gold medals across three Olympics in the 4x400 relay (1992), 200 meters (1996) and 400 meters (1996; 2000). In his historic 1996 Olympic run, in he became the first person to win gold in both the 200 meters and 400 meters in the same Olympics, setting world records to earn him the title “Fastest Man Alive.”



## Robert Griffin III “The Heisman Winner” (2008-2011)

In his junior year at Baylor, RGIII had one of the biggest highlights in Baylor Athletics’ transformational “Year of the Bear” (2011-2012), in which Baylor claimed two national championships and three Big 12 titles. Griffin led the Bears to a 10-3 season and a shootout Alamo Bowl victory over Washington for their first bowl win in 19 years. He edged Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck in the final Heisman balloting. During the season, RGIII passed for a school-record 4,293 yards and 37 touchdowns and 699 yards and 10 touchdowns rushing. He also caught one pass for 15 yards and even punted three times. RGIII finished his career as a leader in 20 categories and one of three players in FBS history with 10,000+ (10,366) passing yards and 2,000+ (2,254) rushing yards and was drafted second in the 2012 NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins.



## Kiara Nowlin “Miss National” (2013-2017)

Nowlin is the most decorated athlete in Baylor acrobatics and tumbling history. During her career, Nowlin was a three-time All-American and named the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association Most Outstanding Player twice. She helped the Bears win the first three (2015-17) of six consecutive national championships and also captured a school-record 10 individual NCATA national event titles.



## Yossiana Pressley “The Killer” (2017-2021)

In her freshman year, Pressley became the first freshman in Big 12 history to lead the league in kills per set with 4.37 and named Big 12 Freshman of the Year as well as a unanimous first-team all-conference pick. She was selected to the U.S. Women’s Collegiate National Team in 2018 and one of 17 players invited to participate in the U.S. Women’s National Volleyball Team spring training camp in March 2019. In the 2019 season, Pressley helped the Bears win a share of their first Big 12 title and make it to the Final Four for the first time in program history. She was named National Player of the Year by both the AVCA and ESPNW. She recorded 5.41 kills per set and hit .276, adding 126 digs, 46 blocks and 13 service aces. In her final season, Pressley broke the program kill record, finishing her career with 2,395 kills.



## Brittany Griner “The Face of Women’s Basketball” (2009-2013)

Griner is the most decorated Baylor athlete ever. In her time with the women’s basketball program, Griner was a two-time National Player of the Year, three-time All-American, three-time WBCA Defensive Player of the Year and three-time Big 12 Player of the Year. In 2012, she led Baylor to a perfect 40-0 record and the program’s second national championship. In the same year, Griner won two ESPYs as the outstanding female athlete and outstanding female collegiate athlete and was named Big 12 Athlete of the Year. Griner was drafted No. 1 overall in the 2013 WNBA Draft by the Phoenix Mercury.





Grace Everett | Photographer

# Black students express different ways to celebrate February

**CLARA SNYDER**  
Staff Writer

The beginning of February ushers in Black History Month and the university's celebrations of individuals' Black experiences.

Lanham, Md., junior, Annette Moukoury, Black Student Coalition intern, said this year the events will reflect the uniqueness of each person.

"There are so many ways to celebrate Blackness," Moukoury said. "We don't want to highlight one over the other, so [the month is] going to be a lot of significant events that highlight everybody and everybody's Black experience."

Keyanna Gayden, Schertz senior and Black Student Union representative, said the theme for this year's Black History Month is "I love my Black \_\_\_\_."

"We came up with the theme simply because [during] Black History Month, we're used to talking about Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and history," Gayden said. "[Instead,] taking the time to reflect on what you love about yourself, especially when you're in a community where you don't always feel like you fit in."

The Black Student Union has

planned several events throughout the month that are related to the theme. The first event, which is on Feb. 3, is called I Love My Black Culture. Gayden said at the event, participants are invited to hang out, play games and socialize.

The second event is Neighbor Night on Feb. 8. This evening is being brought to life by Better Together in cohorts with the Black Student Union. Neighbor Night will include a meal of soul food while guests are broken up into small groups to discuss traditions, holidays, professional/academic world experiences, stereotypes and religion.

"We all do experience kind of the same things, but it's even different when it's split into gender identity," Gayden said.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, the Black Student Union will be hosting a Valentine's paint-and-sip on Feb. 13. There will be mocktails and painting, Gayden said.

The Black Student Coalition is hosting a myriad of events, and there will be a list of full details for what they are doing on the Multicultural Affairs website. One of the events that falls under the Black Student Coalition's umbrella is a virtual African American Leadership Panel.

"We are getting a group of people from around Waco with different job titles," Moukoury said. "They're going to talk about their experiences in Waco."

The Black Student Coalition will also be holding a student mixer with the Black Faculty and Staff Association. Moukoury said the mixer allows Black students and staff to get to know each other.

"It's kind of hard for us to find each other or have that space to just communicate, so that's what it's for," Moukoury said. "Everybody deserves to have a time and space to reflect on who they are culturally, who they are as people in general."

Information relating to Black History Month at Baylor can be found on the Baylor Multicultural Affairs website.

"Obviously, one place or one school can't tackle everybody's experience of Blackness, but just taking that time to sit and acknowledge your Blackness and what that means to you, I think that's what Black History Month means to me," Moukoury said. "It starts and ends with humanity."

## ChangeWaco works for social change

**MARY ELLIS**  
Staff Writer

ChangeWaco is an organization that connects local social justice-focused nonprofits to one another and is working to enact initiatives in Waco and McLennan County at a governmental level.

"We recognize that there must be an intersectional alliance between Black and brown-led organizations and white allies. ChangeWaco is a coalition for other nonprofits and organizations to be able to follow their missions," program administrator Theyah Thomas said.

ChangeWaco is currently working on three initiatives: a Cite and Release ordinance, a Criminal Justice Committee on Equity and a Waco Bail fund.

A Cite and Release ordinance is a policy that directs police officers to citations for low-level, nonviolent offenses instead of making an arrest. Thomas said the goal of enacting a cite and release policy is to reduce the jail population.

"That is pretty much the goal for a lot of the initiatives we have, to reduce the jail population," Thomas said.

A Criminal Justice Committee on Equity is "a group of representatives set up to evaluate local data and identify systemic issues to improve McLennan County's criminal justice system," according to the changewaco.org website.

ChangeWaco is in the process of contacting local officials have made progress but ultimately "the city commissioners still have a lot

of questions," Thomas said.

Cuevas Peacock, a co-organizer of Change Waco, said that after the Black Lives Matter rally that took place in summer 2020, a question arose.

"What happens next and how do you generate action from the awareness that has been raised?" Peacock said.

The initiatives ChangeWaco wants to enact takes place on different levels. The "Criminal Justice Committee on Equity looks at criminal justice at a countywide level," and the Waco bail fund will look at "citizen input and citizen representation on a Waco PD level," Peacock said.

"Change happens at the speed of trust," Peacock said. "We are trying to build trust with [city officials], but the goal is not to achieve these outcomes and continue more work. With ChangeWaco, the goal is to achieve these initiatives and set a foundation for broader community input where eventually ChangeWaco will be able to potentially dissolve itself," Peacock said.

ChangeWaco is a link between other social justice-based and ethnically diverse nonprofits in Waco with the intention of making their missions more accessible and easier to achieve.

The Waco community can aid ChangeWaco by "remaining aware of our social media and the various calls to action that will hopefully help get people involved and raising awareness about the efforts that we are trying to enact locally," Peacock said.

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OPINION



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# Where to eat in Waco: Black-owned businesses

**ERIANNE LEWIS**  
Arts and Life Editor

## Tru Jamaica Restaurant

937 Taylor St. | Open  
Monday – Saturday |  
Caribbean food

## Franklin Ave Mac House

3428 Franklin Ave. |  
Open Wednesday – Saturday  
| American comfort food

## Sascee's Southern Style Eatery

719 S. 11th St. | Open  
Tuesday – Sunday | Southern  
comfort food

## Po' Boy Place

720 Franklin Ave. | Open  
every day | Cajun creole food

## Whodaq? Daiquiris – Waco

921 S. Ninth St. Suite 310 |  
Open every day | American/  
New Orleans-style food

## Waffle Chic

2223 Austin Ave. |  
Open Tuesday - Saturday |  
Breakfast/brunch food truck

## Dos Mundos Spud Shack

2515 Clay Ave. | Open  
Tuesday – Saturday |  
American & Mexican food

## Boardwalk on Elm Food Truck

904 Elm Ave. #202 | Open  
Tuesday – Friday | American  
food

## Mama and Papa B's Bar-B-Q

525 S. Eighth St. | Open  
Monday – Saturday |  
Barbecue

## Oh My Juice!

201 S. Second St. | Open  
Monday – Saturday | Juices/  
smoothies/acai bowls

## R&S BBQ

1101 Richland Drive |  
Open Tuesday – Saturday |  
Barbecue/sandwiches

## The Blasian Asian

720 Franklin Ave. | Open  
every day | Cambodian food

## Papa Jack's BBQ

700 E. Waco Drive |  
Open Thursday - Saturday |  
Barbecue

## Friday's Seafood and More LLC

1308 New Dallas  
Highway | Open Wednesday  
– Sunday | Seafood, Cajun/

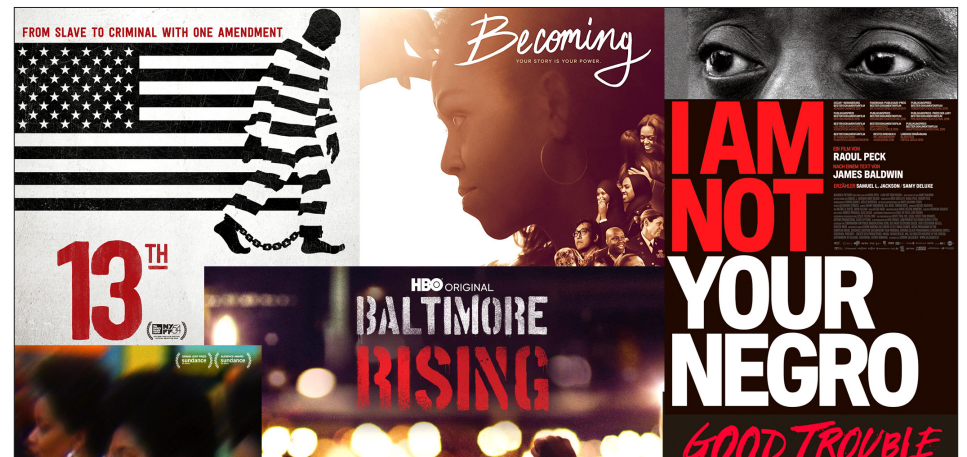


Photo Collage By Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

## Black History Month watchlist

**EMMA WEIDMANN**  
Staff Writer

### “13th”— Netflix

This documentary explores the ramifications of the war on drugs. The campaign began in the 1970s and facilitated current disproportionate incarceration rates of Black people compared to white people. The 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865, has one caveat: Servitude and slavery are allowed as punishment for a crime for which a person is convicted. “13th” dives deep into the cultural implications of this which persist today, 157 years later.

### “John Lewis: Good Trouble”— HBO

The issue of voter suppression garnered lots of attention during the 2020 presidential election. In “Good Trouble,” the late Georgia congressman John Lewis recounts his experience advocating for voting rights alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and reminds viewers of why fulfilling the civic duty to vote remains vitally important. This documentary shows that the civil rights era is not so far in the past as people may think.

“I am Not Your Negro” - Netflix  
Acclaimed author James Baldwin tells stories of his friends Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X as he analyzes the state of the

country as he saw it near the end of the 20th century. Baldwin described himself as a witness to the Black Panthers, the Nation of Islam and the philosophy of nonviolent protest. Gritty and haunting, this documentary pulls no punches. Viewers should be warned that of all the documentaries on this list, “I am Not Your Negro” is by far the most graphic. Even so, its honesty is sorely needed.

### “Becoming”— Netflix

“Becoming” follows former first lady Michelle Obama as she tours the country for her autobiography of the same name. The Obamas represent a particular moment in Black history, and a turning point in the story of America. Michelle Obama is warm and welcoming in this inspiring story of womanhood and her time in the White House.

### “The Summer of Soul”—Hulu

The year 1969 was one of civil unrest, marked by protesting, clashing politics and shifting culture. “The Summer of Soul” unearths footage of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, full of legendary performers like Stevie Wonder, B.B. King and Nina Simone. Directed by Questlove, this documentary is a celebration of the immense contributions to music that black artists have made.

### “My Name is Pauli Murray”—Amazon Prime Video

Fourteen years before Rosa Parks sat at the front of a bus, Pauli Murray was arrested for doing the same. Murray was a feminist, a preacher, a lawyer and a nonbinary person. In 1971, Murray applied to be an U.S. Supreme Court justice. As President Joe Biden prepares to nominate a Black woman to the court, Pauli Murray's story is an important acknowledgement of the efforts made for equality. Their influence on women's rights, civil rights and LGBTQ+ rights have been erased from the history books, but “My Name is Pauli Murray” guarantees their name will be remembered.

### “Baltimore Rising”— HBO

In this documentary, activists and police in Baltimore reckon with the 2015 killing of Freddie Gray and the riots that ensued. “Baltimore Rising” holds perpetrators of police brutality accountable while acknowledging the work that several people inside the Baltimore Police Department have done in order to make their community safe. It shows that communities and activists can work with law enforcement to create better policing practice and put an end to race-based violence.



# Clasé owner brings whimsical energy to events

**Avery Ballman**  
Staff Writer

In January, Deoryen Thornton, owner of Clasé Vintage and Goods, celebrated two years since his business opened. Located at 108 N. 25th St., the store is filled with unique and whimsical vintage merchandise. Thornton brings that energy to his events that support local artists and Black creators in the Waco community.

Thornton is the creator of the brand A Fan Of Your Happiness. The brand is based on promoting happiness to people dealing with struggles with mental health and in life.

“The brand is to represent happiness, but we also create a platform to express ourselves through art,” Thornton said. “That’s why we have events. A Fan Of Your Happiness is a platform for young artistic people.”

Suede, a local band that has collaborated with Clasé at many events, recently performed at Clasé’s two-year anniversary. The drummer of the band, Demetrius Allen, remembers Clasé “giving them a chance” when they first started playing again last year after their hiatus due to COVID-19.

“It was a great vibe, showing off great things that artists can do around Waco and boosting Waco pride,” Allen said.

Thornton has worked with many types of creators, whether that be models, bands, poets or businesses.

Thornton said his collaborations are curated to create a message. His favorite was with Pinewood Roasters in September 2021.

“The message that we got out of it was showing that there is Black art and Black creators in Waco,” Thornton said. “They are really creative on a professional level.”

Thornton said being a Black business owner is “like every other business,” and he wants to try holding collaboration events once a month for the brand. Not only does he strive to create a message for his events, but his creators involved, too.

“My message is it doesn’t matter what race you are or any type of music you play because we’re all one and all made the same,” Allen said. “We play the same type of music, so it doesn’t matter who you are.”

Clasé’s most recent collaboration is with Silent House Theatre Company. Polaroid photos have been posted in Thornton’s shop promoting their upcoming show, “This Is Our Youth,” which opens at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 3.

“Everything I do is specifically curated to give a message to people,” Thornton said. “However they receive the message through the event is how people take it, whether that’s positive or negative.”



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**KEEPING IT CLASÉ** Located at 108 N. 25th St., the store is filled with unique and whimsical vintage merchandise.



Avery Ballman | Staff Writer

**A FAN OF HAPPINESS** The brand is based on promoting happiness to people dealing with mental health issues or struggles in life.



Cannon Ross

**CLASÉ'S MELODY** A performance at Clasé's two year anniversary show at the Mission Waco Jubilee Theatre.



POINT OF VIEW

# Critical race theory isn't racist

EMMA WEIDMANN  
Staff Writer

Conservatives say that it's racist and divisive, teaching white people to hate themselves. Liberals believe its criticism of systems of injustice is accurate and important.

Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been causing a stir in the past couple of years, polarizing those on either side of the political aisle. CRT is a legal theory, another lens through which we can analyze our society, originating in scholarly settings in the 1980s. Specifically, the idea is that America operates on systemic racism that is intrinsic to our justice system and works to the disadvantage of people of color.

To put it simply, systemic racism means that even if there were no racist politicians in office, our legal system has been set up in such a way that a lack of racist policymakers makes no difference. We would have the same outcomes, because how the system is built matters more than the people working within it.

Last semester, Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA, a conservative nonprofit organization, visited Baylor to talk about CRT's impact. His general points were that CRT is antithetical to equality and to the Christian faith. He and others like him believe that CRT is

racist and teaches white people to feel guilty. Kirk said "skin color is the most immaterial part of you."

I disagree.

While race is not something anyone should judge another person on, we do not live in a colorblind society. Skin color happens to actually impact people's lives, with real material consequences. I don't think anyone can legitimately argue that race-based violence and discrimination no longer exist, as race and ethnicity equated to 61.8% of hate crimes in 2020 in America, according to the Justice Department.

Acknowledging some of the awful things our ancestors did in this country does not mean that white people have to feel guilty, as if they themselves did those things, but it does mean that we should own up to our benefiting from systems of oppression. History doesn't make us feel good. It makes us angry. At times, it makes us unbearably sad. But ignoring it doesn't make it go away, even when we take it so far as to stop teaching history itself.

No matter how much we ignore it, these things happened, and racism is very much alive in America. Recognizing its impact and how we can do better is essential to efforts for equality. If we ever want to move forward, we have to look backward first.



“History doesn't make us feel good. It makes us angry. At times, it makes us unbearably sad.”

POINT OF VIEW

# Embrace your background

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON  
Staff Writer

Race representation is an important aspect of the media that has often found its way in both the right and wrong hands.

As a Latina, moving to a new country for college has expanded my panorama of diversity and has allowed me to reach the conclusion that race representation matters both in the media and in real life.

When I was home in Mexico, it was easy to never think about my race as a minority, given that I was always surrounded by everyone who understood my lifestyle. Once I moved, everything changed.

It had never occurred to me that in a country whose first language is English, random people at the airport, H-E-B or gas station would approach me assuming I spoke Spanish because of the color of my skin. Yes, I can honestly say that this was because of the color of my skin because I specifically asked each person what made them think I knew Spanish.

It has never bothered me when people risk themselves by reaching out to me in Spanish because at the end of the day, they assumed correctly. Moreover, it has made me realize that being Latina means I can help others and embrace my culture and background even more in countries that don't have Spanish as their main language.

As my perception of the world continues to change, I have come to realize that race is such an important thing to represent. Having in mind the millions of stereotypes that contribute to each individual's background, it's important to speak up and prove that most assumptions aren't true.

To be Latina at a university where most people come from a white background gives me the responsibility to not give others the impression they expect from me. I often work hard to prove to others that I am just as smart and able to do great things as the majority of the people at this school.

I represent my race with pride and consciousness that even though I was not born and raised in this country, I have equal capability to those who were.

The media holds great power in representing race. When you picture an individual behind each account on any platform, you realize race surrounds us in every possible way. It plays such an important role in the things we consume from the media and the amount of learning we take from each post.

It is important to continue sharing the ways in which minorities continue to get treated unfairly, to educate others on what individuals go through and to never stop representing where we come from in a prideful manner.



“... even though I was not born and raised in this country, I have equal capability to those who were.”



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2:00 pm**

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WEDNESDAY, FEB 9 - FOSTER ATRIUM  
THURSDAY, FEB 10 - SUB DEN**

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