

Friday, February 18, 2022

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## SING REVIEWS

Pg. B1

Arts & Life

See how each of the 17 All-University Sing acts preformed in the eyes of The Baylor Lariat judges on night one.

## 'DOUBLE PLAY DUO'

Pg. B7

Sports

Dive into the friendship of two baseball players and their connection on and off the field.

## Baylor lifts mask policy

ANA RUIZ BRITTON  
Staff Writer

On Monday, students, staff and faculty will no longer be required to wear masks inside of labs and classrooms.

Baylor has officially changed its policies to allow anyone on campus to have the option to wear a mask.

Additionally, Baylor will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccinations and booster appointments for those who would like to get them.

As of Thursday, the Baylor community has reached an 82.3% vaccination rate, and McLennan County's cases have dropped significantly.

Law School lecturer David Henry said given the dramatic drop in cases, this is an

MASKS OFF >> Page 8



## SAY CHEESE!

Pg. A4

Take a look at the action with shots of every group as they hit the stage.

## Pi Kapp, KA removed from Sing 2022

MATT KYLE  
Staff Writer

Pi Kappa Phi and Kappa Alpha Order have been temporarily suspended from participating in campus activities after Student Activities received allegations of potential violations of university policy. Both fraternities are now under an interim pause on all chapter activities, including All-University Sing.

Matt Burchett, senior director of Student Activities, said the temporary suspension is not a

presumption of guilt. He said the pause provides an opportunity to investigate the validity of the allegations against each fraternity.

Burchett said he could not share what the allegations are, but the alleged violations "could potentially compromise the safety and well-being of students."

"In an effort to ensure we are doing everything we possibly can to protect the well-being of students, we put a temporary interim pause in all chapter operations for both organizations," Burchett said. "That results in not being able to participate in any university activities — intramurals, social events, service events — which, in this circumstance based on the sheer timing, will also include All-University Sing."

Burchett said the reports were submitted anonymously. He said a full inquiry process into the allegations will take a few weeks. Burchett said a review of the available information and an investigation to find further information will be done by a Student Organization Review Board, followed by another review of the information by a group of faculty, staff and students where students from each organization will be able to respond to the allegations.

Burchett said further consequences for Pi Kapp and KA will be determined after the inquiry process.

"Consequences are up to the Student Organization Review Board," Burchett said. "It's all based on the variables associated with the information, the severity of the potential



Grace Fortier | Photographer

SUSPENSION >> Page 8

THE SHOW MUST GO ON Alpha Chi Omega takes on its performance despite the challenges it faced with choreography after its partner for the act, Kappa Alpha Order, was suspended.

## All-University Sing skips a year, returns for 2022 season



WALK THE FLOCK Zeta strikes a pose at the end of their act, All the Birds of a Feather, in their 2022 return.

MATT KYLE  
Staff Writer

All-University Sing is back after being canceled last year due to COVID-19. The longtime Baylor tradition is set to be held over two weekends from Feb. 17 to Feb. 26 at Waco Hall.

Orange County, Calif., junior and Alpha Chi Omega president Jenna Kung said Sing brings the performers and audience together. She said she was devastated about losing out on the tradition last year.

"Sing was something that I was really looking forward to," Kung said. "I just fell in love with it. I wrote about it in my 'Why Baylor' essay when I first applied to Baylor. I thought it was the coolest thing having 200 people on stage singing and dancing. I love that stuff."

Matt Burchett, senior director of student activities, said the decision to cancel Sing last year was incredibly difficult. He said Baylor wanted to try and find a way to make Sing work with COVID-19 restrictions but ultimately felt Sing wouldn't be the same without an audience.

Burchett said Sing is one of many traditions that brings the community together and links past and present Baylor Bears.

"I love this buzz of the audience in between acts as people turn and chat with one another and reconnect, or discuss what they just saw, or go out and see friends who just performed," Burchett said. "There's this real beautiful community that surrounds these traditions and these experiences, both for undergraduates and for alumni and for families. We missed these opportunities, much like we missed so many of those moments during the pandemic."

Colorado Springs, Colo., senior and Kappa Alpha Theta costumes chair Sarah Miller said via email she is excited for Sing to return. She said she is "honored" to lead the younger members of her sorority in the long-standing Baylor tradition.

"It is hard to describe the excitement and anticipation surrounding Sing this year," Miller said. "The Baylor community missed out on the recurring spirit and buzz of campus during Sing season. Our chapter got a glimpse into the Sing mentality during Pigskin this year, but the competition of Sing adds a whole other

BACK ON STAGE >> Page 8

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

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

**EDITORIAL**

# Don't be cuffed to traditional experiences

It feels like All-University Sing is all anyone hears about during the first few months of the spring semester. It seems everyone you know is in it, and it takes up a ton of time. Here's the deal: Sing shouldn't be life or death.

What do we mean by that? Simply put, of course the process is a tradition and meant to be intense at times, but if you aren't having fun with Sing, then what's the point of doing it? Yes, it's a time to get to know those in your organization on a deeper level, but getting yelled at in a hallway isn't the way to do that. And we're not saying to fake your laughter or smile for the show, either.

For those who voluntarily go all-in on Sing, guess what? We don't want to hear you complain about how busy you are all the time. You chose this life. For those who are being forced to join their group, even if you hate it, you have to be there. Try your best to enjoy the process and balance your other responsibilities.

Experiences may vary, but regardless of whether you are forced to participate, choose to do some work or essentially put up a full-time commitment, roll up your

sleeves and know that you are not alone when things get busy.

As a tradition at Baylor, Sing is almost 70 years old. This means there is a lot of pressure on every eligible campus organization to not only perform but also give an amazing show. Maybe it's time for the organizations' members, not leaders, to be able to decide whether or not they participate in Sing. This would allow organizations to opt out without feelings of failure or disappointment going around. Having members' points of view could also allow groups to dive into themes that have understandable storylines and critical conflicts that easily come across in their performance.

While most Sing chairs start developing their theme and storyline during the previous fall semester, there's no real reason for Sing practices to not start earlier in the year. Doing this would allow organizations to get in the same amount of practice over time without having to crunch a full-time job's worth of work into six or seven weeks, while at the same time maintaining a school schedule.

Finally, Sing should try to engage



Morgan Dowler | Cartoonist

with more multicultural organizations at Baylor to make the programming more unique and inclusive. By bringing in more multicultural organizations, Sing can better represent the entire student body at Baylor. We get that Sing is intense, and without that pressure, it wouldn't be as great of a show or as visually pleasing as it is today.

It's important to note that an organization's worth isn't tied to whether it makes Pigskin Revue. Sing should be fun and a time to bond more deeply with those in the same group, not an opportunity to be yelled at. Make what you want out of the event, but remember it isn't life or death.

## It's my free time and I want to use it now

**KOURTNEY DAVID**  
Copy Editor

Being back on campus full time, there's a new kind of energy that looms over students' heads. We're buzzing around campus, just happy to be done with the mind-numbing torture our professors call Zoom class. However, our excitement and newfound pep can't shake one thing: We're tired, and we're stretched thin.

Was waking up and going to class prepared every day really this challenging before the pandemic? Or did we just get lazier? I don't think students are the problem; the problem is all the extra programs that snuck in during the pandemic that wasn't possible before. We lost our free time.

Before COVID-19 struck, my professors weren't using Zoom, Kaltura or LockDown Browser to supplement lectures and exams outside of class. Half of them barely knew how to work their own Canvas page. We took quizzes with a pencil on a scantron, and the time teachers had in class was the time they were guaranteed to take up of your day (barring textbook reading and the usual homeworks) — you know, normal stuff.

While we weren't able to be physically present, online programs made a lot



of sense. The problem now is everyone is trained to use these extra tools and they've become standard to use daily, but students are now also carrying the burden of regular college life on top of that. Instead of handing a quiz out at the beginning of class, I have to find a quiet place where I can be alone to take a 10-point quiz on my own time before the start of class — and don't get me started on the extra five minutes it's going to take me just to log in to LockDown Browser.

It doesn't seem realistic to expect students to read their textbooks and come prepared to class with notes or questions — what we were used to pre-pandemic — while also expecting them to watch your extra lecture, fill out discussion boards, complete homework, take quizzes or do whatever else you used to supplement real class time during online schooling. I don't sit at home and stare at my laptop all day anymore.

When I'm already using

my time outside of class to study and be prepared for the class, I think it's appropriate for our exams and quizzes to be given during their allotted time — maybe even leave me some time to eat and take a shower in the evening.

If we want to get back to normalcy and act like the pandemic is over, we also have to take into account the parts of life we didn't think about when we wanted it all back. I think somewhere down the line, we got used to the idea that people are available all the time because even if we can't be physically together, there's really no excuse for your absence with all this technology.

Don't get me wrong, the tools were huge advances that saved some of our educational experience when in-person learning wasn't possible. We've been introduced to online office hours and experienced the joy of taking an off-guard picture of your bestie's Zoom window. However, now that in-person classes are available and in full swing, it's time to focus on the time we have while physically meeting and use it wisely.

If you weren't handing out an extra three hours of MindTap homework or a pre-class quiz before COVID-19 hit, you shouldn't be doing it now.

## #OscarFanFavorite vote appeals to larger audience

**CAMILLE COX**  
Staff Writer

The 2022 Oscar nominations were filled with surprises and snubs: "Spider-Man: No Way Home" received absolutely nothing, Lady Gaga was snubbed from a nomination for her performance in "House of Gucci" and "The Power of the Dog" surprisingly led nominations across the board.

While the Academy Awards are known for being a prestigious awards ceremony within the movie industry, critics have said the Oscars not only lack diversity in nominations but also appeal to a small community of elite moviegoers.

This year, the academy decided the public will vote via Twitter for the #OscarFanFavorite movie, which will be announced at the award broadcast ceremony on March 27. Something the academy has never done before, should bring in a wider audience. Although I think what's most interesting is how this new tactic will showcase what the public thinks deserves recognition despite the academy's position. Additionally, three movie fans who vote in the poll will be randomly selected to travel to Los Angeles and



present an award.

This new vote implements the average moviegoer's opinion. While I love movies, I often find myself lost in the list of Oscar nominations every year. I

“I love movies, I often find myself lost in the list of Oscar nominations every year”

saw a lot of the nominees for various awards: "West Side Story," "Belfast," "House of Gucci," "No Time to Die," "Don't Look up," "Dune," "Encanto" and more. But I was disappointed to see that "Spider-Man: No Way Home" was snubbed from the best picture category. Now, fans like myself who

believe this movie deserves an Oscar can go to Twitter to vote.

In 2021, Oscars viewership plummeted, reaching an all-time low. According to Forbes, people stopped watching the Oscars due to the lack of diversity among the academy's nominees and because the award show did not appeal to the average moviegoer. With the implementation of the fan favorite vote, fans can feel much more included in the decision-making of the winners. However, in regards to the Oscars continuing its lack of acknowledgment of people of color within nominations, USA Today reported that the list of 2022 nominees fails, yet again, to make positive strides toward inclusivity.

Overall, the Oscars are trying. They are trying to make their show more appealing for a wider audience. I applaud their efforts and look forward to voting for my favorite movie of the year, "Spider-Man: No Way Home," and I hope other fans will interact and do the same. Even if other people don't agree about "Spider-Man: No Way Home" they can still put in their vote for whichever movie they feel should be included in the category.

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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.

**News**



**SETTING THE STAGE** Behind the scenes of Pi Kappa Chi's University Sing act with a large handmade backdrop of a mountain scene. Photo courtesy of Nick Hurt

## Going backstage at All-University Sing

**CAMILLE COX**  
Staff Writer

While the dazzling acts of All-University Sing captivate audience members with vocals and dance skills, behind the stage, Waco Hall professional staff members and student workers manage and produce the lighting, audio, visual and overall performances.

Waco Hall director Joshua Gilliam said the staff begins working with the Sing chairs of the competing organizations months prior to the show.

"The Sing process starts in May of the previous year," Gilliam said. "Our staff gets involved from the get-go and begins getting more heavily involved in September when we start talking about lighting for the show, props and audio."

In the month leading up to Sing, Waco Hall hosts open-stage practices where each group can come at its assigned time and practice its act on stage.

"We have a pretty intensive four-week process," Gilliam said. "They will get a designated period of time for them to come on the stage — just them with no equipment and no effects — to have open-stage time to work on spacing and choreography and other things like that."

Beginning in February, groups participating will have the opportunity to come to the performance hall to schedule and program their lighting and audio cues with the staff.

"They get an hour and a half to create all the lighting looks for their show," Gilliam said. "Rehearsals take place from five to midnight. We'll see four groups a night. The next week after, we'll add vocalists and audio."

Following the weeks of preparation, the

Waco Hall staff and students will be in charge of producing each act at every performance on both weekends.

Frisco senior Elizabeth Anderson said she works as a stage hand and crew leader to smoothly produce the acts she is assigned with her coworkers.

"I am the stage manager for Crew A," Anderson said. "We have two crews for every show, so Crew A has a total of nine acts, and for those nine acts, I am in charge of the score, lighting effects and rail cues."

Each crew member has been assigned a task to complete during the show, such as managing the props or running the rail cues. Rail cues are the commands to raise or lower the curtains.

Dallas junior Logan Blum said he runs the rail cues, managing the curtains for the acts.

"For Sing, I love seeing all the acts — especially for me being on the rail, it's kind of a tradition for the people on the rail to dance along with the sororities when they are performing their acts," Blum said.

Katy junior Morgan Ochsner said working behind the stage seems chaotic, but the production teams stay on top of everything so that the acts run smoothly.

"Every act is utter chaos backstage, and it's really hard to make sure you know what's going on and that everybody on stage has that same sense of knowledge of what's happening because it's so fast-paced," Ochsner said.

Gilliam said the staff has looked forward to putting on this production after missing the in-person performance last year due to the pandemic.

"There is a big desire to come back into the theater for shows for this," Gilliam said. "It's needed, and people are excited about it."

## Sing chairs choose themes carefully

**EMMA WEIDMANN**  
Staff Writer

Months before the curtains rise on All-University Sing, lots of unseen work goes into choosing the themes for each group performing at the event.

Fort Worth senior Devon May, who serves as Sing Alliance's props and backdrops chair, said as soon as one Sing season ends, a new theme is already in the works. The first stage of conceptualizing a show begins in the spring and is typically decided by July. Then, the song choices to go along with the theme must be finished by the end of the following fall semester so that rehearsals can begin in the spring semester.

"As soon as Sing is over, we get a new leadership group, and they start having meetings and coming up with ideas," May said. "Usually before the end of the semester, we have a set theme that we can then build songs and choreo and costumes around, and whatever we want to go with it."

Houston sophomore Caleb Balladares, head Sing chair for Beta Upsilon Chi, said as soon as he was appointed to his position, he immediately began to come up with ideas for the theme, everything from the story to the music. Balladares said he gained inspiration from past Sing chairs who were able to guide him with ideas and advice.

"The president at the time sent me some ideas that he had worked out when he was a Sing chair and also spit-balled some ideas from older Sing chairs," Balladares said.

According to Balladares, what makes a good theme is how well it can be put to music

and how easily and effectively the story can be conveyed to the audience.

"My next step was to explore every theme and see potentially what song and what story could go with it," Balladares said.

As head Sing chair, he was able to choose other chairs to come up with ideas and act as a sounding board for each other, but ultimately, the decision for the theme was his. The most important aspect for Sing chairs is work ethic, Balladares said.

"I hand-picked people who I knew would bring great ideas and great work ethic. I wanted people who would be there," Balladares said.

Similar to Greek organizations, Sing Alliance is also occupied for months coming up with themes and working hard to meet deadlines.

However, unlike BYX, each Sing Alliance chair has a hand in deciding on their theme. There are five chair positions — music, props and backdrops, choreography, costumes, and administration — each of them bringing their own perspective to theme ideas.

May said when Sing Alliance met to decide the theme for this year, it all began with the chairs writing their ideas onto slips of paper and placing them inside a bowl. During the meeting, ideas were called and decisions started to be made.

"We start whittling it down from there until we get about five ideas," May said. "Then we figure out what a plot line would be and what those themes would actually look like."

May said passion for the themes causes lively discussion in these meetings, but that each theme is unique and those that make final consideration are always great.



**TOUGH DECISIONS** Choosing a theme is a very hefty part of the Sing process that sometimes takes organizations months to complete. Grace Fortier | Photographer



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# All-University



**CHI OMEGA** shines under the light, making sure no one takes them for granite.

Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor



**DELTA TAU DELTA** brave the storm with puffer jackets and c

Grace Forti



**BETA UPSILON CHI** creates a real life sea shanty on the Baylor campus.

Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor



**KAPPA OMEGA TAU** comes alive at night making you give a second look at your lawn.

Grace Fortier | Photographer



**KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA** brings a classic rivalry dance battle breaks out at the hop.

Brittany Tanker



**KAPPA CHI ALPHA** takes one large step for All University Sing as they travel through space.

Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor



**KAPPA ALPHA THETA** bakes all the right moves to dish o performance.

Brittany Tanker



**PI BETA PHI & PHI KAPPA CHI** strike gold in Waco for All University Sing.

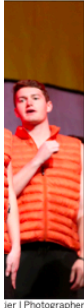
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**DELTA DELTA DELTA** takes Baylor students through the reef until fishermen bring a hal their party.

Brittany Tankersley | Photo

# ty Sing 2022



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Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**ALPHA CHI OMEGA** fills the stage with campsite fun for all Baylor students.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**ALPHA PHI** makes for a magical night with fairy godmothers and real life Cinderellas.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON** watches cowboys and clowns wrangle bulls in A Rodeo to Remember.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**SING ALLIANCE** solved the case with special help from Colonel Mustard Miss Peacock.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**ALPHA DELTA PI** danced the night away while ignoring bed time in their dance-crazed sleepover.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**KAPPA SIGMA** brought classic tunes to life with the help of their barber shop quartet.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**ZETA TAU ALPHA** shakes their tail feathers to the beat of their own drums during their flamboyant performance.



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

**ALPHA TAU OMEGA** Before Peter met Wendy, the lost boys lived life to the fullest in Neverland.

# Education concentrations offer pathway to careers

**JENNA FITZGERALD**  
Copy Editor

Although they're a little-known opportunity in the School of Education, education concentrations give students majoring in biology, health science studies, history and mathematics an alternate pathway to a career in secondary education.

Education concentrations, which are similar to minors and require 31 additional course hours, allow students who are studying one of those four core content areas to supplement their degree with not only pedagogical instruction but also hands-on classroom experience as a teaching associate and intern.

Dr. Suzanne Nesmith, associate dean of undergraduate education, said one of the biggest benefits of education concentrations is that by offering an alternative to the traditional education major, they enable more students to learn about and pursue the field of secondary education.

"We want individuals who are interested in education — be that interested in 'I want to teach young children' or 'I want to share my love and passion and expertise in this content with others' or 'It was a teacher that got me interested in chemistry, I would love to do that for young people,'" Nesmith said.

Dr. Madelon McCall, coordinator of the secondary education program, said there are multiple reasons why students may choose to concentrate

in education instead of majoring in it. While some may want to have a more in-depth study of their chosen content area, others may realize later on in their college careers that they want to pursue education without having to extend their time in undergrad.

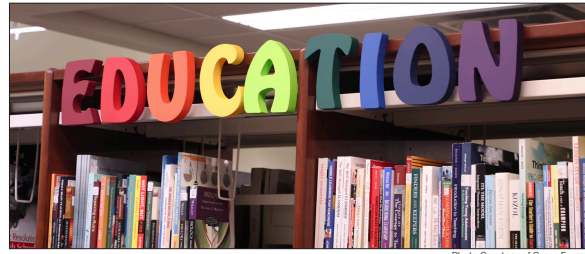
"Baylor students often get involved working with middle school or high school students and realize how much fun it is to help mold those young lives and decide, 'You know what? I love the content. I love the kids. What job can I possibly do that would marry those two passions?'" McCall said. "And teaching is one of those options."

No matter what leads students to choose a concentration over a major, McCall said those who are on the path to becoming teachers are united in their desire to serve.

"Baylor students are very mission-minded, so they want to serve, and they find out that the best way to serve is to be a teacher," McCall said. "There are really no other career opportunities where you get to touch a student's life every day of the week. Even pastors and youth ministers do not see folks in their flock as often as teachers do."

Since part of Baylor's mission is "to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service," Nesmith said Baylor's students are uniquely suited to the field of teaching.

"I truly believe that teaching is more than a profession; it's a calling," Nesmith said. "And I think individuals who come to Baylor, by



**THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX** School of Education offers concentrations to a variety of majors.

Photo Courtesy of Grace Everett

and large, choose Baylor because they are very service-oriented. They look at ways to serve their communities, ways to serve society, and one of the most incredible ways to serve is through education."

Dr. Jennifer Johnson, director of recruitment and first-year experience, said education concentrations provide students with a strong skill set that will benefit them regardless of whether or not they end up with a job in education.

"I think the biggest benefit is the skill set you learn," Johnson said. "I think a lot of times, people think about education, they know that they're going to be teachers, but teachers also know how to be organized, know how to reach different types of learners, learn how to speak professionally and things like that. And you can take

those skills with you into any role that you decide to pursue."

Nesmith, McCall and Johnson all said the existence of education concentrations is not very widely publicized on campus, but the School of Education is working to spread the word on this opportunity.

"We want all students in college to know their options," McCall said. "We don't want them to think, if they cannot do whatever they came into college planning to do, that there are only one or two options when there are many, many options. So letting students know that teaching is not only an option, it is a life service — something that they can do and channel their passions for kids, for serving people and for their content area."

Austin senior Didi Maloney,

who is majoring in biology with an education concentration, said it is especially important for students to be aware of this opportunity now because of the teacher shortage brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. She said her biggest piece of advice to those who are considering adding an education concentration is to "just do it."

"Just 100% go for it," Maloney said. "You would be surprised at how much you can accomplish. A lot of the classes in the minor kind of mirror what you're already doing for your major. So if you plan it, you can actually have additional experience in those classes and kind of solidify the content that you're learning in your major classes. So it's just like an added bonus."



Photo Courtesy of Jess Schurz

**BE THE NEXT JUDGE BAYLOR** Application deadlines to fill the two openings on Student Court are approaching.

## Student Court settles disputes, defends Student Constitution

**RACHEL ROYSTER**  
News Editor

Baylor's Student Court serves students in a unique way by interpreting and upholding the Student Body Constitution in order to settle disputes all across campus.

The court acts as part of the judicial branch of student government in Baylor's reflection of the U.S. Federal Government's system.

"Controversies are inevitable and the court's role is to interpret and apply the Student Body Constitution to whatever controversy is brought before the court," Student Court faculty advisor David Murdock, Ph.D., said. "The court operates separately from the other two branches but also works with both the executive and legislative branches, as the constitution requires."

Associate Justice and McKinney senior Krishna Kandury said the Student Court is imperative to the student body because it encounters experiences similar to those of the students they serve.

"Some issues about students can only be resolved by other students, especially on matters of StuGov, and that's what the court is here to help resolve," Kandury said.

Chief Justice and Frisco sophomore Isabelle Terry resolving important issues is what inspired her to become part of the Student Court.

"Most of the time, Student Court handles parking ticket appeals that Baylor Parking Services wants us to review," Terry said. "There have been times when the court will see cases of violations against the student constitution. When I was a freshman, I attended Groves v. Student Government. The case was incredibly interesting and is what motivated me to join the court."

Kandury said in his time serving in the court, he has grown to appreciate the diversity of perspectives each of the seven justices and two clerks provide in each case.

"Honestly, I think it's the other judges on the court that make the most difference; even on small issues like parking tickets, different people have different insights and ideas on how to go about coming to a verdict, and you learn to listen as much as you do to speak," Kandury said.

Associate Justice and Austin senior Grace Gilmour said she sees her own personal improvement because of her time serving on student government.

"I have learned critical reading skills through analyzing appeals, as well as the Student Body Constitution. I have also learned how to better communicate," Gilmour said. "From individuals making appeals to other associate justices, Student Court has helped me learn how to communicate with individuals who view an issue or a law in a manner very different from my own."

Murdock said Student Court gives participants a rare insight into the inner workings of the student government.

"For students who serve on the Student Court, they get exposure to a judicial system that can help develop and improve their skill sets, such as active listening, critical thinking, research and writing," he said. "Moreover, these skills are transferable to other disciplines and other career pursuits which can only benefit our students in the future."

Gilmour said she wouldn't be surprised to see her fellow justices take their talents further into the nation's judicial systems.

"Student Court is a diverse group of very talented and smart individuals, who genuinely desire the betterment of Baylor," Gilmour said. "I am constantly inspired by my fellow members of Student Court, and I truly believe that many of my associate justices will go on to serve not only Baylor, but our country and the global community after graduation."

Terry said she strongly urges sophomores who are interested to apply for the court's two associate justice openings before applications close on Feb. 21.

"When I was a freshman, I thought the only way a person could be involved in student government was by running for senate or presidential positions," Terry said. "When I learned about court, I thought it was an interesting opportunity to experience student government from a different perspective. Being in court has given me the opportunity to be involved in campus life. I have had the opportunity to hear about things happening at Baylor and in Waco that are really exciting that I would not have known about without being in student government."

## Waco Hall faces staff shortages

**CLARA SNYDER**  
Staff Writer

Yakima, Wash., junior Kaitlyn Gerard started her job at Waco Hall the first semester of her freshman year. Compared to then, Gerard said Waco Hall has barely been scraping by to have enough employees. With employees stretched thin for each event, Gerard said Waco Hall is in desperate need of more student workers.

There are three positions open to applicants at Waco Hall: stagehand/crew member, usher and ticket office team member.

According to the Waco Hall website, the stagehand position handles technical support on all events, ushering involves setting up the lobby prior to events and welcoming guests and working in the ticket office deals with collecting and distributing tickets for campus partner events and student activities.

Since the positions offered at Waco Hall are part-time jobs, Gerard said a lot of students do their work-study at the hall. She said the hours are flexible to accommodate student schedules, and although employees are required to work 12 events a semester, they have the freedom to choose which events to work.

"[At the start], I worked only eight hours a week, but now that I'm more solidified in the job and I love it so much, I work more," Gerard said.

After two and a half years at the job, Gerard said her experience working at Waco Hall has been her favorite thing she has participated in at Baylor.

"It was a completely random thing I did," Gerard said. "I just needed a job, and I applied for every single work-study job on the website. They interviewed me, I got the job, and I said to myself, 'I'll give it a semester, and if I hate it, I'll quit.' But I loved it."

Gerard said her bosses are some of the most kind, funny and hardworking people she has ever met, and they genuinely care about their employees.

"The atmosphere we are wanting to create is one of professionalism, creativity and to give students an opportunity to lead a group of their peers," Joshua Gilliam, associate director of student activities and Waco Hall director, said.

Gerard said the job offers real-life experience and soft skills that can help any student in their future career. She said it taught her how to mix live sound and run a soundboard — something

she can now do at her church. Gilliam said the experience available at Waco Hall is intended to be useful for future endeavors.

"Working at Waco Hall will help students gain exposure from a variety of events, from theater, orchestra, lectures and concerts, as well as learning transferable skills that they will use in the workforce once they graduate," Gilliam said.

Gerard said the friendships and community that are cultivated among the Waco Hall staff have added to her desire to stick around as an employee.

"For the most part, people stick around because the job is genuinely really fun," Gerard said. "Even if we are doing something so boring like sweeping the floor, we're goofing around, and there's always this lighthearted, fun environment."

Gerard said students can gain invaluable experience and skills regardless of their major, and Gilliam encouraged students to apply if they have a desire to work within a team in a fun environment, to learn new things and to be involved in the Waco/Baylor community.

If you are interested in working at Waco Hall, you can access the application at the student employment section of its website.



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**News**



**PAINTING A DREAM** For the last 69 years, Baylor has hosted All-University Sing featuring sororities and fraternities across campus.



**LASTING IMPACT** Throughout the years, All-University Sing has increasingly become more competitive and creative in their choreography, theme development and song choice.

## From 1950s to 2020s, Sing throughout decades

**ANA RUIZ BRICHTSON**  
Staff Writer

All-University Sing has maintained significant traditions throughout its 69 years of production. Alumni shared some of the differences they have noticed across time.

Krista Howell, assistant dean of undergraduate programs and 1985 Delta Delta Delta Sing chair, said compared to now, her experience was different.

One difference Howell said she noticed is the number of Sing chairmen each organization has. When she was chair, there were only two people responsible for the leadership within the organization.

"The sorority basically picked the head person, and then you would pick somebody to help you," Howell said. "Now it looks like they'll have four and five and six people to split up the load. That's one of the biggest differences."

"The sororities are so much larger than they were back then, so you didn't have nearly as many people out on that stage," Howell said.

One of the traditions several organizations continue to this day is a signature move.

Russell Beard, 1970s Kappa Omega Tau

(KOT) member, participated in both Sing and Pigskin for three years during his time at Baylor.

"The KOTs back before when I was there had a dance move that wasn't difficult to do or anything, but became known as the KOT Turn," Beard said.

Cole Croce, Southlake senior and current KOT Sing chair, confirmed the fraternity will include the KOT Turn in its performance this year.

Croce has participated in Sing since his sophomore year and said he has noticed a change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think there's such a greater appreciation for it," Croce said. "I feel like this year, since we didn't get to do it last year, there was such a spark in all of the guys."

One difference Beard said he noticed throughout his years in Sing was the selection of material in the costumes.

"By the time I got to Baylor, most of the costumes were double net, which of course caught the light and reflected it and everything," Beard said. "And prior to the invention of double net, the clubs had all danced in Roth cloth."

David McDaniel, 1989 KOT chairman, said one difference that he noticed was the length of acts. During the late 1960s, acts would last up to

12 or 13 minutes. When McDaniel participated in the 1980s, acts would be approximately 11 minutes long. Today, acts can only last a maximum of seven minutes.

Both Howell and McDaniel said Sing has always been a competitive scene where everyone's goal is to win and move forward to Pigskin, where the top eight acts from Sing perform at homecoming.

"You didn't want to be the Sing chairman that didn't make Pigskin," McDaniel said. "Much less, you wanted to win. You wanted to beat all the fraternities and sororities — so lots of pressure."

Howell said that when she participated in Sing, making Pigskin was the only goal. There were no first, second and third place awards.

"So if you didn't make it, you just didn't get anything for it," Howell said. "So it's evolved a lot. It's good because for the amount of time that you put in, it'd be nice to be awarded something."

Howell said that during her years at Baylor, she noticed a pattern of men usually winning Sing.

"Normally back then, the guys' acts won," Howell said. "I think part of that was, first of all, they were louder, and secondly, you weren't used to seeing guys dance."

Samuel Kaestner, 2016 Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) member, said everyone in the fraternity takes Sing very seriously.

"You wouldn't expect a bunch of fraternity guys to take singing and dancing so seriously," Kaestner said. "But I think because it's such a unique thing and it's such a rich Baylor tradition, the members understood how significant it was and they could let their guards down."

David Henry, current ATO adviser, said he has been an adviser for 17 years and has seen several changes in the last few years.

One of the changes Henry said he noticed is the new rule adopted around three years ago focusing on safety, according to which groups are only allowed to have up to 200 people on stage.

Henry also said Sing skill levels get higher every year.

"The choreography is ever more complex," Henry said. "The energy levels are more complex — the complexity of the story, of the props and all of that."

Henry also said if students are planning to be involved in Sing, they should understand that it is a major commitment but that it is very rewarding and a memory that most members take with them for the rest of their lives.

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## SUSPENSION from Page 1

allegations and any other information that may be received related to the actual circumstances. That review board both takes that information in and determines the potential course of action from that point forward, who ultimately has to also get affirmed by the vice president of student life's office."

Pi Kapp and KA were partnered with Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) and Alpha Chi Omega (AXO), respectively, for their Sing acts, meaning the sororities were left without many of their performers a little over a week before Sing began.

Orange County, Calif., junior and AXO recruited Jenna Kung said via text AXO recruited members of Sigma Chi to fill the void left by KA. She said due to Sing guidelines, a formal partnership between AXO and Sigma Chi was

unable to be established this late in the process.

"We were disappointed upon hearing the news, but we knew our chapter could adapt and overcome this setback to create a great performance," Kung said. "We considered multiple options upon hearing the news, but our chapter ultimately decided that we were very passionate about performing in Sing. Under the current policies and guidelines for Sing, we were able to bring in external participants to minimize the number of changes to the original act."

The Lariat contacted members of the Baylor chapters of Pi Kapp and KA for comment, but the interview requests were declined.

## BACK ON STAGE from Page 1

element of motivation for our girls."

Burchett said the spirit of Sing has remained the same throughout the years, but the level of creativity and expression has gotten better and will only continue to grow.

"I think what makes Baylor traditions so meaningful is that 20 years ago, now and 20 years from today, there is this continuity of experience that allows it to feel familiar even as it begins to evolve and change," Burchett said. "These traditions continue to get better. You look at a video from Sing in 2000 whenever I was around versus Sing today — the improvement is dramatic. But there's enough familiarity there where it still feels like we're a part of the same thing, which I think is what draws us all back to want to be a part of it."



Christina Cannady | Photographer

**SHUT DOWN** Back in 2021, All-University Sing was canceled due to the pandemic. It has since returned, with the first performance of 2022 on Thursday.

## MASKS OFF from Page 1

appropriate response that will not be placing students, staff or faculty in danger.

"I think psychologically from a community standpoint, it's very therapeutic," Henry said.

Additionally, he also said it is a relief to see that as a community, Baylor has begun to move on from this.

Houston junior Brianna Lockwood said this news is a little nerve-wracking, but at the same time, it is exciting because masks did not allow her to breathe easily while she walked through campus.

"I think they've played a part in keeping us all safe," Lockwood said.

Lockwood also said she believes people may be getting sick from illnesses other than COVID-19 because people's immune systems are not used to not having a mask to protect them.

On Thursday, staff and faculty received an email from Provost Nancy Brickhouse announcing that the mask policy will no longer be a requirement within labs and classrooms.

After consulting with the President's Council, the university's academic leadership, the Health Management Team and Faculty Senate leadership, Baylor administration made the final decision to remove the policy throughout all areas on the Baylor campus.

Faculty and staff who may be concerned about the mask mandate being removed may still decide to require others to wear a mask in their personal offices.

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# Sing REVIEWS

ERIANNE LEWIS  
Arts & Life Editor

GEORGE SCHROEDER  
LTVN Managing Editor

## Kappa Omega Tau



### It's a Gnome's World

So much fun. A simple concept fantasizing a front yard coming to life brought the stage to life. The high energy, solid vocal performances and fun choreography paired with simple yet comical storytelling kept the audience entirely engaged.

## Delta Tau Delta



### Expedition Delt

Delt brought fun elements to an entertaining show that ultimately felt underwhelming. The costumes, backdrop and vocals were average, though the stage performance was pretty solid, keeping the audience engaged. The storyline was simplistic, boiling down to "climbing their mountain." There could have been more there.

## Pi Beta Phi & Phi Kappa Chi



### Greater than Gold

This dynamic duo truly struck gold with their act. The diversity in their costumes from miners to gold was really creative and fun. The vocals were top tier and the transitions between songs were sharp and polished. The clever storytelling portrayed a deeper spiritual meaning and left you satisfied with an outstanding performance.

## Chi Omega



### Taken for Granite

Taken for Granite puts a creative spin on the centuries old Medusa myth. The act opened with the excellent vocals and costumes of the Muses, then introduced Medusa creatively as the dancers immediately turned to stone at first glance. The act ended with an eye-opening twist, and Medusa got a taste of her own medicine.

## Alpha Chi Omega



### Kamp Lyreside

While they try to reel you in with summer camp nostalgia, Kamp Lyreside ultimately doesn't bring enough to the table to beat out the other acts. It felt relatively basic, but of course, it doesn't help that their fraternity partner was removed from Sing a week before opening night. Even so, the energy felt like it never reached its full potential. Unfortunately, AXO ranks towards the bottom of the list.

## Delta Delta Delta



### We Got the Reef

Tri Delt took us on an underwater adventure with one of the most colorful performances. Decorations and vocals aside, everyone seemed to truly be enjoying themselves with constant smiles across their faces. The act opened with magical jellyfish, transitioned to rock lobsters and ended with an unlikely hero coming to save the sea. Maybe life is better down where it's wetter.

## Sing Alliance



### Get a Clue

Sing Alliance pulled together another incredibly fun show this year with no lack in creativity or storyline, including a rotating culprit for each performance night to add a tasteful touch of variety to each show. The song choices were great, but the vocals and choreography, while still quality, were not the best in the lineup.

## Beta Upsilon Chi



### Pirates of the Brazos

BYX opened with a capella pirate call that set the stage for the crew to set sail. The choreography was fun and the vocal performances were solid, but portions of the act definitely brought the energy level down. The act also suffered from a smaller number of performers who struggled to fill the stage at times; however, the creativity and enthusiasm of the cast kept these pirates out of Davy Jones' locker. I

## Alpha Phi



### Got the Magic in PHI

There wasn't as much magic in Phi as we would have liked. The costumes lacked creativity, and the musical choices were not spectacular. They remained energized throughout the performance, though, and that made it more enjoyable to watch, and their stage presence was biddi bobbidi boom!

## Kappa Alpha Theta



### Baking Care of Business

Baking Care of Business had almost all the ingredients of a great Sing performance. Where they lacked in theme, development they quickly made up for with cute costumes and fun choreography. Their song choices could have been better, but they gave it all they had and left no crumbs on the stage.

## Sigma Alpha Epsilon



### A Rodeo to Remember

This "Rodeo to Remember" faded into the middle tier on our list. The choreography was simple, and the theme development boiled down to cowboys versus rodeo clowns. Beyond that, the story was unclear at times. With high energy and solid vocals, these cowboys entertained us and moseyed to the middle of our pack.

## Kappa Chi Alpha



### One Small Step

The beautiful starlit backdrop, clever props and colorful costumes brought to life the best storytelling in Sing: the story of a girl who dreams of traveling through the stars. The solid choreography and song choice keep the audience engaged while killer vocal performances paired with an incredible live playing of the soprano saxophone take the audience out of this work. KXA took to the stars, so we gave them five.

## Alpha Tau Omega



### Lost Boys: The Prequel

Taking us back to Neverland, the Lost Boys' act was magical. It was full of high energy, interesting choreography and great music. Peter Pan led his vocalists to an incredible performance through an entertaining storyline. These lost boys navigated themselves through an exceptional act to reach a five star rating.

## Alpha Delta Pi



### Girls Night In!

Good choreography and a fun theme were unfortunately brought down by what felt like either low energy or low enthusiasm. A big detractor from an otherwise bubbly performance came from the extremely simplistic set and backdrop. The sleepover brought a solid performance which lacked key details, putting this act to bed early.

## Kappa Sigma



### The Jukebox Barbershop

They were on key in every possible aspect. From the dance moves, the music choices and the costumes, "The Jukebox Barbershop" knew exactly how to stay funky throughout. Their ability to never stray from the beat was almost as impressive as their choreography. This incredible quartet brought classic songs to life in one of the best acts of the night.

## Kappa Kappa Gamma



### Dine 'n Dance

This diner dance brought some of the best choreography in Sing this year with a classic Jets versus Sharks battle; however, what drags this down to four and a half stars is their use of choreography from Teen Beach Movie and Westside Story. Regardless, the excellent costumes, rapid synchronized dancing and outstanding vocals bop this act toward the top.

## Zeta Tau Alpha



### All the Birds of a Feather

People say that birds of a feather flock together, and in Zeta's case, that was a huge benefit to them, because everyone was in sync throughout the entire performance. Their Rio-inspired act was nothing short of fantastic, and to think they had to fly solo after Pi Kapp was removed from Sing only makes the whole thing more impressive.





**A SHOW-STOPPING SIGNATURE** Zeta Tau Alpha performs their signature move, The Zeta Move.

Brittany Tankersly | Photo Editor

# Greeks strike signature moves

**AVERY BALLMANN**  
Staff Writer

All-University Sing, a long standing competition at Baylor, involves not only vocals but also choreography. With 18 groups competing this year, it is key to have dance moves that stand out. Some groups stick to their signature moves, while others try to spice it up with new techniques.

Sing Alliance, a group that is not affiliated with Greek Life, uses its signature moves in new ways to continue being progressive but also because they know what looks good on stage.

Maumelle, Ark., senior Carly Faulk has been a part of Sing Alliance for four years and is excited for the upcoming competition.

"We have been working on this act for two years, since the last Sing that happened," Faulk said. "It's going to be super exciting to see what we've been working on for so long come to life."

Faulk said Sing Alliance has a running list of signature moves, but the one that is most prominent is the Turkey Lurkey, which began in their 2010 act, "A News Sensation." Faulk said the Turkey Lurkey is where the performers flail their arms and legs at the same time, which she said, "feels weird when you're doing it, but it looks amazing on stage."

Zeta Tau Alpha's move, coined The Zeta Move, is incorporated at the end of their shows. Tomball junior Manning Thrower, administrative Sing chair and performer, said The Zeta Move is a traditional and sharp move.

"I think ending with that move ties it all together and has a

happy ending to it, and it gets the crowd super excited," Thrower said. "I know all of us as a chapter feel super excited to do that move at the end because it's our one last hoorah, big dance move before we hit our final pose."

The move consists of the entire group being on stage with each performer moving their legs and arms oppositely, while their arms create an "L" shape. Every other count, the girls shout "woo," which gets the crowd excited at the end of their act.

Kappa Chi Alpha, another non-Panhellenic group, is a nondenominational Christian sorority that is also performing at Sing. Since Kappa Chi Alpha does not have a chapter room on campus, the group has been practicing at theCENTER at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

Houston junior and Sing chair Rachel Harsley said it is a unique opportunity for their sorority to be able to perform in Sing.

"We are a Christ-centered sorority, which I think is really cool," Harsley said. "We definitely place that emphasis on doing it all for the glory of God. Singing and dancing and having fun together, goofing around, that's all great, but ultimately it's all for him."

Kappa Chi Alpha does not have a name for their signature move, but Harsley said it like this: the back foot of the performer pushes off of the ground while their arms are "pushing air" back and forth. After this motion, the girls bring their arm up to their head and shake their hips four times while the arm falls down to their side. They then switch to the opposite side and repeat the move. This is performed toward the end of their act so fellow members recognize the move and feel united.

Beta Upsilon Chi, also known as BYX, is another Christian group taking on the Sing stage. The difference with BYX in comparison to other groups is that they have created a new dance move that no one has seen them do before. Houston freshman Lauryn Edwards created this move over Christmas break while she was listening to BYX's music choices for the competition.

"It's really fun when you hit it exactly right," Edwards said.

This move has no official name, but it's done at the beginning of one of their final dance breaks, cueing the audience to get excited because BYX is about to go all in. Edwards said this move looks really good because it goes exactly with the music. In this dance move, the boys do a patch step where they lean on one foot to the side, then shift that weight to the back foot, like a rocking motion. They then move their right arm bent with their hand making a fist while their left arm is down, and they repeat this step with the opposite feet and arms. This move gives a swagger vibe and is easy to teach to a group of 45 men.

Houston sophomore and head Sing chair for BYX Caleb Balladares said only 10 people in BYX have done Sing previously, so they have basically started from scratch.

"While it does seem small compared to other acts, I would say it's definitely a little bigger than some of our previous acts," Balladares said. "We are growing exponentially in number."

What makes Sing unique is that all groups, big and small, have a chance to showcase their talents and their best moves on stage in front of their professors, peers and family. For the judges, choreography alone is worth 20 points, but for these groups, these dance moves are worth more than that.

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# Singing by the rules

Participants, attendees prepare for  
All-University Sing performances

**LUKE ARAUJO**  
Staff Writer

All-University Sing is held before spring break every year. Any club or organization chartered and recognized by Baylor University may take part in Sing. All acts proposed for performance must

abide by university policy regarding propriety and sensitivity for campus and community presentations, as reflected by costumes, themes, music, makeup, movement and choreography. Information has been provided by Baylor University and Cheryl Mathis, assistant director of campus programs.



## General Rules

- Sing is held before spring break every year.
- Any club or organization chartered and recognized by Baylor University may take part in Sing.
- All acts proposed for performance must abide by university policy regarding propriety and sensitivity for campus and community presentations, as reflected by costumes, themes, music, makeup, movement and choreography.
- The first 20 groups to send their signed contract will receive priority.
- Judges will select eight of the best acts during Sing. These members will be invited to perform their winning act during the next fall semester's Pigskin Revue.

## Participant Rules

Grade point average (GPA): Sing chairs must have a cumulative GPA of 2.67 and a current GPA of 2.0. All other participants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.33 and a current GPA of 2.0.

Full-time students: All participants must have full-time student status.

Graduate students: Graduate students must have signed permission from their graduate school adviser as well as the dean of the Graduate School.

## Audience Rules

Late seating and reseating policies: Late audience members will be seated by an usher in a suitable seat. The theater opens about 30 minutes before the curtain rises. To avoid being late, patrons should arrive early.

Maximum number of seats: 2,221

Bag check policy: Audience members are asked to only bring essential items for the safety of everyone. Allowed bags include: Clear bags that do not exceed 12" x 12" x 6" (items in clear bags may not exceed 6.5" x 4.5" x 2"). Non-clear, small clutch bags that do not exceed 6.5" x 4.5" x 2".

Cameras and recording devices: Visitors are only allowed to take photographs outside the venue and in the lobby. Flash photography or recording devices are prohibited from being used in the theater.

## Act Rules

- Maximum number of acts: 20
- Number of performers: 20 to 200
- Maximum act length: seven minutes
- Set up + strike time: four minutes
- Maximum budget: \$4,500\* (Groups without a permanent rehearsal space are granted a \$500 waiver for space rental.)
- Maximum number of battens (including backdrop): three
- Musicians in pit (excluding costumes): 10
- Rehearsal time and preparation time together are expected to take no more than 14 hours per class week for each participant.
- Sing chairs must send a proposed schedule covering their preparation and rehearsal hours at midnight every Sunday.
- Student pledges, new members and neophytes may not take part whatsoever in their own organization's Sing act and/or Pigskin Revue act during their pledging semester.

## Judging Criteria

30 pts — Entertainment Value: Measures the act's ability to intentionally control the emotions or reactions of the audience, the audience response and the general showmanship of performers.

20pts—Musical Quality: Measures the musical presentation of student-performers. This includes soloists, ensembles and large group singing, as well as song cuts and arrangement decisions.

15 pts — Creativity: Measures a group's decisions concerning costuming, backdrops, props, special effects and lighting design.

20pts—Choreography: Measures the act's movement and how it enhances the presentation.

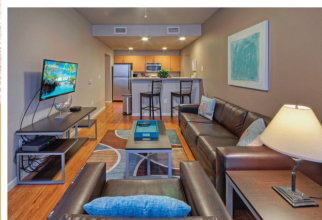
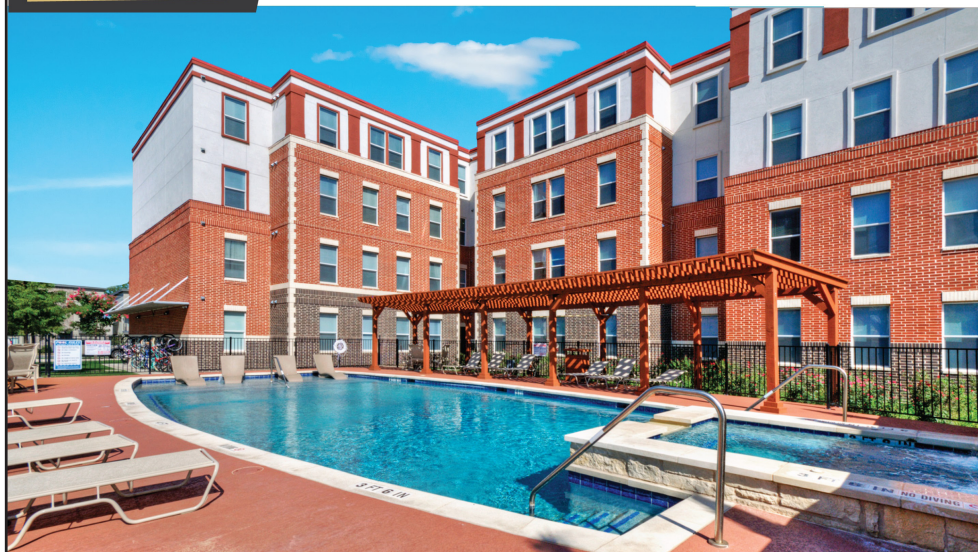
15 pts — Theme Development: Measures a group's portrayal of its stated theme to the audience and how much supporting elements enhanced the performance.

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# Baylor Tabletop Club rebuilds

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Reporter

The Baylor Tabletop Club has successfully rebuilt itself after the pandemic and is back to being a place where students can play board games in a community with similar interests.

Houston junior and club vice president Charles Remien has helped grow the club and found a home with the friends he has made throughout the process.

"Really, it's snowballed into probably my favorite part of being at Baylor," Remien said. "I've made all my friends in this club. It really was a good, wholesome experience in an otherwise tumultuous time. It is the fire and fuel in my life. After every Friday, I spent the weekend just really happy and content with life, and it makes the schoolwork much easier knowing that at the end of the week, I'm going to hang out with all my friends and just have a break from the school stress."

Houston junior and club president Daniel Airola said he has grown with the club and continues to grow the club into an environment where gamers can go and have a great time.

"Everything that's played on a table, we play," Airola said. "We have Warhammer — which is the major game — Dungeons and Dragons, Magic, and a huge board game community. Basically, if it's on a table, it's in our club."

At the start of the pandemic, many of the former staff members of the club had graduated, and the club was in a vulnerable position. Remien and Airola eagerly jumped into leadership roles and built the club back up from the ground.

"Face masks, hand sanitizer



Joshua McSwain | Roundup

**BIGGER AND BETTER** During the pandemic, the Baylor Tabletop Club struggled to hold events. Now, it has recovered, providing a fun activity for Baylor students again.

and leadership — basically, whenever you want to schedule a meeting, you have to go through risk management, just read over rules, be very adept at handling big crowds and keep people safe and clean from COVID-19," Airola said. "We did everything we could to prevent people from catching it."

By February 2021, the group had resumed gaming under strict precautions, but it is now running cleanly after nearly a year of rebuilding.

Waco senior and club treasurer Kathryn Hartung has been a part of the club since she was a freshman. She said she has met several friends who she has continued to play games with for the past four years.

"There's a real physical aspect

“Really, it's snowballed into probably my favorite part of being at Baylor.”

**CHARLES REMIEN | VICE PRESIDENT**

to it. So you know, sometimes just showing people what exactly is going on and explaining it, sometimes they realize that this sounds kind of cool and you'd like to get more into it," Hartung said. "I think there is something special about having all your friends around the table and actually being able to physically touch stuff."

Hartung is the only current member who was around when the club began, and she said the club's growth has been exciting.

"There's definitely been a lot of growth overall in the course of the club," Hartung said. "I was here, and I'm a senior now. I was here during some of the baby steps of the club, and we went from maybe five or six people to having to be off campus just so we can get

everyone in the same room."

The club meets six to eight times per semester at The Game Closet in downtown Waco. However, the club thrives from its Discord, which now has over 100 people who plan their own meetups to play games and share their game ideas, painted miniatures and passion for board games with each other. While there aren't many scheduled meetings with the club, many people in online chats have been able to make several friends who they now play games with multiple times a week.

"People who join up often find an outlet that they normally don't have in their daily lives," Remien said. "I like the community aspect but also the relaxed nature. In our club, you can be part of the community."

## Drama Club takes center stage

**MARIAH BENNETT**  
Assistant News Editor

Baylor Drama Club is taking the stage after being chartered this semester. The organization "is open to any and all students who are just interested in being in a club that does theatre things," according to its Connect page.

The club's co-founders, Burnet freshman Erich Kassner and Richmond freshman Elizabeth Walker, started working on the club after they met at Line Camp this past summer.

The club currently has about 15 to 20 active members. Walker, the vice president, said she is currently the only theater major in the club.

"For me, [Baylor Drama Club is] just something to involve people who don't get theater constantly in their lives, to let them have that involvement of theater in their everyday life," Walker said.

As president, Kassner wanted to start the club because he wanted to be able to do theater even though he wasn't majoring in it. "I loved theater in high school, so I was like, 'Why isn't there a theater club on campus?'" Kassner said. "I wanted to do something that other people who are in my situation can also come in and join."

Kassner said there are two parts of the

organization: monthly club meetings and the performances. The meetings will be filled with theater games.

"There's something for people who are just interested in wanting to do theater things, then there's those who are more heavily invested," Kassner said.

On March 4, the club will be hosting an Oscars Night — a talent show open to the whole Baylor campus, not just club members.

Musical Night, which is entirely made up of musical numbers from different shows, will be held on March 18. Then, on April 22, the club will be hosting an all-skits show filled with a range of skits but with a focus on comedy.

Walker said in the future, she would love the organization to get to a point where it is filled with enough people for every job required.

"Where we have people who are doing tech, people who are casting, people who are directing, if we have people who are interested in film, people who are doing little film projects — where we could work with everybody's interests, being very versatile and diverse," Walker said.

"We're not exclusive to anyone," Kassner said. "Diversity is a big thing [to us]."

For more information, go to the organization's Connect or email the club at budramaclub@gmail.com.



Photo illustration by Camryn Duffly | Lariat Photographer

**MOTHERLY LOVE** The On Campus Mom Foundation provides emotional and financial support to students in need.

## On Campus Mom Foundation begins chain of kindness

**EMMA WEIDMANN**  
Staff Writer

The On Campus Mom Foundation (OCM) is a Waco-based nonprofit run by Beth Dutschmann — the mother of a Baylor student — along with her sister-in-law and a team of volunteers.

The OCM Foundation began in 2019 when Dutschmann's son was a freshman, and it has grown in size ever since. It has helped hundreds of students find food when their meal plans wouldn't cover them, pay for textbooks and find rides to the airport, and it has brought food and medicine to students in quarantine.

"Many students struggle financially, and they go without things that we take for granted — three meals a day or maybe some of the smaller things like a cup of coffee from Starbucks," Dutschmann said. "They have to sacrifice because their families back home are sacrificing and scraping to keep their students at Baylor." Dutschmann said while

religion is never pushed on any student, the OCM Foundation is motivated by her own Christian faith, as she strives to create a community that will pay it forward once they're able to go the distance at Baylor.

"It comes from the heart," Dutschmann said. "It comes from being led by Jesus."

Springfield, Mo., freshman Blake Degner worked all of Christmas break, but when it came time to buy textbooks for the spring semester, he said he still found it hard to keep up with the costs. Textbooks are a notorious source of stress for college students since prices are high and unpredictable.

"Any textbooks or expenses here in Waco come out of my pocket," Degner said. "When I was told about this program, I just had to reach out."

Degner said the OCM Foundation covered the entire cost of his textbooks for the spring semester — a bill of nearly \$400.

The OCM Foundation isn't just for students from a low

socioeconomic background. Even students who make too much money to receive financial assistance but not enough to pay for college without placing a large strain on their family are never turned away. Essentially, no student is left behind.

"There aren't many instances of people coming to your help like that," Degner said. "With a lot of scholarships, you have to be from a certain background or fit a certain criteria to get that. With OCM, it was pure of heart. It was out of kindness. The only requirement was that I explain to them how it would help me."

Dutschmann said she tells students who ask how to repay her that her only request is that when they graduate and become successful, they remember the kindness done to them and pay it forward.

"It's about doing unto others as you would have done to you," Dutschmann said. "It's about being kind. It's about service above self."



Illustration by Grace Everett | Lariat Photographer



**BATTLE ACROSS I-35** (Left) Senior forward Nalyssa Smith backs down a TCU defender on Feb. 16 in the Ferrell Center. (Right) Junior guard Adam Flagler scans the court while playing TCU on Jan. 8 in Schollmaier Arena in Fort Worth. Both squads will have their rematch with the Horned Frogs on Feb. 19 with men's basketball playing at home and the women on the road.

## No. 7 MBB and WBB battle TCU 90 miles apart

**MARQUIS COOLEY**  
Sports Editor

While both Baylor men's basketball and women's basketball are ranked No. 7 and are gearing up to play conference rival Texas Christian University on Saturday, their mindsets going into the contests couldn't be more different.

On the men's side, the past few weeks have been a roller coaster. After starting the season 15-0, injuries, COVID-19 and an unforgiving conference schedule derailed the Bears' hot start as they now find themselves at 21-5 with a 9-4 conference record.

Just when things were starting to look up, stringing together double-digit victories against Kansas State University and No. 20 University of Texas, the men's team was dealt a major blow with the news that junior forward Jonathan Tchamwa Tchachoua required a season-ending knee surgery. Junior guard Adam Flagler said they'll have to learn how to win without Tchamwa Tchachoua's presence on the court.

"Definitely, it's not going to be easy," Flagler said. "He's one of the best glue guys in the country, and he does some amazing things. We definitely miss him out there. It's just a work in progress. We're going to figure it out and move on from there."

Now, after a disappointing 83-73 loss to No. 11 Texas Tech University Wednesday night at the United Supermarkets Arena in Lubbock, the Bears look to right the ship against a well-coached Texas Christian University (16-7, 5-6 Big 12) squad.

"Coach [Jamie] Dixon's a great coach," head coach Scott Drew said. "They do a great job. They don't beat themselves. They're having a great year."

On the women's side, their confidence seems to be at an all-time high riding a five-game winning streak. Following back-to-back wins over No. 14 Texas, Baylor women's basketball won its last three games by 18 or more, including a 95-50 win over Kansas State.

The winning streak, along with losses by No. 6 Iowa State University and No. 15 University of Oklahoma, put the Bears (20-5, 10-3 Big 12) right back in the driver's seat for a chance at the conference title after starting out 0-2 in Big 12 play. Following an 80-55 win over TCU at the Ferrell Center Wednesday night, women's head coach Nicki Collen said they need to take things one game at a time as they prepare for a rematch with TCU.

"You look at TCU, they played us great for two and a half quarters," Collen said. "So certainly, at [their] home we're going to get another good test from them. I think they're going to get

some confidence from how they played early on and they're going to look at some of the shots that they got and missed and feel like, 'If we make those at home, we'll be in a good game with them.' So, we got to focus on TCU, and after TCU we got to focus on Oklahoma State, and through all of that we just got to focus on us."

Collen said playing the Horned Frogs in consecutive games has its advantages and disadvantages.

"The con, especially in a game that you win by 25, is making sure they understand it's a new game," Collen said. "You don't get to start with a 25-point lead in the second game. You have to show up and compete like you lost the game. The advantage is the game plan is in, you just tweak it."

Baylor women's basketball will look to stay atop the Big 12 standings with a win in the second game of a back-to-back deal with TCU at 1 p.m. Saturday at Schollmaier Arena in Fort Worth. On the other hand, Baylor men's basketball will look to regroup and bounce back in their matchup with the Horned Frogs, which will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday in the Ferrell Center, and air on ESPN2.



**YOUNG & HUNGRY** Sophomore outfielder McKenzie Wilson said despite Baylor softball's youth, they have experience.

## Baylor softball ready for first test with No. 12 Oregon

**MARQUIS COOLEY**  
Sports Editor

Baylor softball has been perfect thus far, going 5-0 to open the season, but will face its first test when the team plays No. 12 University of Oregon for its home opening series this weekend. Head coach Glenn Moore said he likes the upcoming challenge.

"I set it up this way for a reason, so that we would hopefully get some wins under our belt and have built a little bit of confidence," Moore said. "Grow some young players and inexperienced players and see what our pitching looked like and get an idea about our rotation because I knew it's not going to be very forgiving this weekend... we know we need to play people better than us to get better."

This weekend was originally supposed to be a tournament, but two teams back out and Baylor was unable to find replacements. Instead, Baylor and Oregon decided to make their matchup a three-game series. Moore said the extra matches are an advantage because they will get to see the 6-0 Ducks' entire lineup throughout the weekend and it'll be a great learning experience.

"This weekend has to be a classroom for us," Moore said. "We have to grow this team and keep everything in perspective. There's been [Baylor] teams when we would go into a weekend like this that I expect to win two of three, possibly all three of them no matter where the team

was ranked. This is not one of those teams because we're so young and there's so many unknowns with this team. But what I do expect is [for] this team to compete and for us to learn from our mistakes and be a better team at the end regardless of what the win-loss column says."

One of the things coach Moore wants to see from his team is their patience and ability to wear Oregon's pitchers down throughout the contests.

"Ultimately, that's how you beat teams that are really good," Moore said. "You have quality at bat, understand, 'Although I didn't get a base hit, maybe I ran up the pitch count a little bit multiple times. So now I'm facing a pitcher that's 70-80 pitch count in the fifth inning. Now I'm seeing a pitcher that's worn down a little bit.' That's when you can beat them — if you've played good defense and you've had adequate pitching. So those are the things I'm hoping to see from this team."

Part of the challenge for Baylor is that they're a young team filled with underclassmen and first-year transfers, such as sophomore outfielder McKenzie Wilson who transferred from Fresno State University. Wilson said that although they're young, they aren't inexperienced.

"Yes, we are a young team, but I think with a young team, we do have experience," Wilson said. "We have a lot of people on the team that have played Division I softball, and if not here, at other institutions. So yes we're young, but we've been able to kind of take the younger ones

and show them the way, and I think being young is not a bad thing whatsoever. You're going to be seeing a lot of these faces for a long time, and that's a good thing."

Despite the youth, utility sophomore Emily Holt said they're ready for the Ducks.

"It will be a good challenge for us for sure. I think we're ready," Holt said. "Coach [Moore] has had us prepared with practice and Hoot [assistant coach Steve Johnigan] with our hitting practice. We've got a good report on them and it's just going to be a good test to see how our skills are going to match up against theirs."

With it being their first home game as well their first match against a ranked team, Moore said the team could really use the fan support.

"We're excited about being at home," Moore said. "I think our weather is going to be pretty good. I just need to remind the fans that it's always 10 to 15 degrees warmer in that stadium and it blocks the wind, so it's a lot nicer. So don't be afraid to come out, we need your support."

Baylor will open its home series against Oregon with a doubleheader, the first match set for 2:30 p.m. and the second at 5 p.m. on Friday. The final contest will be played at noon on Saturday. All three games will be played at Gettman Stadium and air on Big 12 Now on ESPN+.

"If you want to see some good softball, come out to Gettman this weekend and you won't be disappointed," Wilson said.

## BSB uses 'one' as season motto

**MICHAEL HAAG**  
Sports Writer

Opening day has arrived for Baylor baseball, and the excitement continues to flow. They'll square off against the University of Maryland on Friday in the first of seven-straight at home. The team will carry a vengeance from last spring's brutal end.

Being one team shy of making last year's tournament was tough for the Bears. Fifth-year senior pitcher Tyler Thomas said he and the squad will reflect on that to build forward.

"Our motto this year is 'One.' We were one team away," Thomas said. "We were one game away. Maybe we were one pitch away, one hit away, we don't know. But we're not going to let that one thing stop us this year."

Consensus All-American sophomore outfielder Jared McKenzie is pumped to get the season going as well, saying this group is capable of a deep postseason run.

"We didn't hear our name called [last year]," McKenzie said. "We know there's a lot of talent on this team and that we are very capable of being one of those 64 teams and making a good run. We're definitely looking forward to getting this thing rolling this weekend."

Despite majority of his life revolving around the sport, head coach Steve Rodriguez is as excited as ever to get the season going.

"You'd have to be numb to life to not have any kind of excitement," Rodriguez said. "For me personally, opening day is one of the greatest times because this is what you work [for] throughout the fall, throughout the summer."

Rodriguez and his staff scheduled Power Five opponents to open the year, making it difficult to get off to a hot start. Thomas believes it

will help the team see where they stand.

"Facing a good team shows where we're at," Thomas said. "We're going to be exposed this weekend. If we can't do something, they're going to let us know. And if we can, we're going to find out we're good."

Playing at home for the opening slate is a major boost as well. McKenzie said the group tends to play better at Baylor Ballpark and knows the Terrapins will bring their best effort.

"Definitely helps us out at home to have the home field advantage, and we do play well here based on our past few seasons," McKenzie said. "It's good talent and they're going to be ready to play us so we have to be able to match it and then be ready to compete."

For the weekend, Rodriguez wants the group to ease into the series and do what they're expected to do. He said the team needs some time to figure out some pieces and where guys belong, but knows over time they'll get it down.

"Obviously winning the series this weekend is a big deal," Rodriguez said. "But for us, it's just finding the pieces that we need to put in the right spot, playing great defense, which I know we're capable of, and then allowing these good starting pitchers to do what they're supposed to do."

Baylor will look to get the jitters out when they play Maryland, the first game in the series scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Friday at Baylor Ballpark. The other two games are at 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. All contests can be viewed on Big 12 Now on ESPN+.

"[The] first game is always a really interesting time for all teams," Rodriguez said. "Then it's just a matter of how quickly the guys can calm down and be able to play baseball."

# 'Double Play Duo' aims to fuse harmony into wins

**MICHAEL HAAG**  
Sports Writer

Tight-knit relationships ensure the journey toward anything in life will be enjoyable, especially in sports. When playing the infield in baseball, having a close bond with someone you work side-by-side with every day will only bolster that area of the field and promote positive performance come game time. Meet the Double Play Duo, middle infielders sophomore Tre Richardson and junior Jack Pineda, two athletes that, over the course of a year, have developed an unwavering bond.

Pineda and Richardson have both started at shortstop and second base and have alternated in those roles. The ability to lock down those two spots came easy for them.

"We have the two positions anchored down," Richardson said. "When you play with each other for a year or so, you learn more about your person on and off the field. Shortstop-second base combo is like the quarterback-wide receiver combo. You're there for each other on the field all the time."

Not having to worry about the middle infield when looking at the lineup is a luxury for head coach Steve Rodriguez, who is happy to have two guys that fill some of the toughest positions on the diamond in a big way.

"I think they probably have the hardest job on our team," Rodriguez said. "When you have a head coach who was also an infielder, you have certain standards you'd like to make sure your middle infielders have. When you see the character those two possess, the athletic ability, the baseball instinct, the constant wanting to be coached, constantly learning, always asking questions, it makes my job really easy."

Pineda appreciates how Richardson's swagger and confidence rubbed off on him and has changed how he plays the game. On the flip side, Pineda's more strategic approach has influenced Richardson's style of play as well.

"Something that I really like about his game is he has a lot of swagger," Pineda said. "I think he's definitely given me some freedom and a little bit more swagger. I think on the flip side of it, I'm a little bit more analytical and it has rubbed off on him, and then it just branches from there."

Over the course of their time together, the Double Play Duo has never played on intersquads together until this year. That was always a joke for them, but now getting that experience together has helped make some spectacular double plays possible.

"The one running joke is we were never on the same team on intersquads last year," Richardson said. "Being able to play with each



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**TOGETHERNESS** Sophomore Tre Richardson and junior Jack Pineda developed a bond on the baseball field through many games played together.

other up the middle all throughout the fall and up until now, it helps a lot. We did a [double] play last week or two weeks ago, where it was just improvised but it worked. And I said this time last year, it would have been something where we would have collided or something. It makes it a lot better knowing what we can and can't do."

The credit to create unique opportunities like this also stems from the duo's age and experience. Rodriguez said the fact that his middle infielders are a tad bit older and more likely to try new things makes the game more comfortable.

"I think the great part as a coach [is] that when you have older guys, the game slows down a little bit for them," Rodriguez said. "Things can happen, they can look at me, I can nod one way or hand gesture and they'll understand exactly what I'm talking about.

It's just the comfortability with each other and them knowing that, 'Hey, I'm going to try this or do that.' They're not deer in the headlights."

That comfortability allows the tandem to make conversation and joke around a bit, even mid-game. This ability to go from fun to seriousness in the blink of an eye is part of the strength of their bond.

"We have some good conversations in between pitches on the field," Pineda said. "It's one of those things you can truly tell we're both just really comfortable with the other person out there because the intensity of the game is happening, and we're telling jokes mid-pitch or in between pitches."

The level of comfort between the duo also makes their ability so prominent. Not only does this help in their friendship, but Richardson believes it has brought their level of in-game communication to new heights.

"The communication is at an all-time high," Richardson said. "Honestly, I mean we're talking about everything in between baseball, or if it's just making fun of or making a joke of something; we're doing everything out there. It just adds to the comfort level and just knowing that as soon as the pitch hits, we're going to lock in and we're going to try to make the best play and help our team win."

Off the diamond, Richardson and Pineda enjoy hanging around each other along with some of the other guys on the team. Pineda joked that Richardson is "quite the Topgolfer," much to the dislike and disapproval of Richardson.

"I'm not good at golf," Richardson said. "That's like the thing in our house and he [Pineda] doesn't live with us but he's basically a fifth roommate. Everybody's a golfer in the house except for me and so we go to Topgolf every now and then and everybody is driving the ball perfectly fine. [Meanwhile,] I'm shanking it to the right or I'm hitting the ground too much."

What helped push this off-field growth was Pineda and Richardson's decision to stay in Waco over the summer. This allowed them to work on their craft and spend loads of time together in and out of the ballpark. They found themselves spending countless hours together.

"Our relationship really grew over the summer," Pineda said. "We both decided to not play summer ball and stay on campus and train here. Honestly, the only time we spent apart from each other was sleeping. We woke up, we would come work a kids camp here, lift after that and then we'd go home and play video games and watch baseball and then I'd go home and sleep and we'd do the same thing over again."

Rodriguez wanted his guys to stay back, not only to fine-tune their skills but also to develop chemistry and obtain that strong bond the pairing has today. Putting in those extra hours in the offseason is invaluable to the former MLB infielder, who said it is a huge bonus of their decision to stick around Baylor Ballpark.

"They were able to just stay here and, to be honest, just kind of become really good friends," Rodriguez said. "When you have that with a middle infield, that's one of your biggest gifts as a coach: to have a middle infield that likes each other and plays well together."

With the days counting down until Baylor baseball's opening series against the University of Maryland, Pineda and Richardson will look to carry this closeness into the season with the goal being to win games. And if you are ever looking for either half of the Double Play Duo, you can contact one and it will likely lead to the other.

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**Sports**



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Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor



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Brinkley Bounds | Roundup

# WEEKEND SLATE

## FRIDAY

### Equestrian:

Baylor vs. South Carolina at 11 a.m.  
Willis Family Equestrian Center

### Women's Tennis:

Baylor vs. SMU at Noon  
Hurd Tennis Center

### Softball:

Baylor vs. Oregon  
Double-Header at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
Gettnerman Stadium

### Baseball:

Baylor vs. Maryland at 6:30 p.m.  
Baylor Ballpark

### Men's Tennis:

Baylor vs. Ole Miss at 8:30 p.m.  
Seattle Tennis Club - Seattle, Wash.



DJ Ramirez | Lariat File Photo



Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor



Camryn Duffy | Photographer

## SATURDAY

### Men's Basketball:

Baylor vs. TCU at 11 a.m.  
Ferrell Center

### Softball:

Baylor vs. Oregon at Noon  
Gettnerman Stadium

### Women's Basketball:

Baylor vs. TCU at 1 p.m.  
Schollmaier Arena - Fort Worth

### Baseball:

Baylor vs. Maryland at 3 p.m.  
Baylor Ballpark

## SUNDAY

### Women's Tennis:

Baylor vs. Mississippi State at Noon  
Hurd Tennis Center

### Baseball:

Baylor vs. Maryland at 1 p.m.  
Baylor Ballpark

### Women's Golf:

Moon Golf Invitational  
Sunday-Tuesday  
Duran Golf Club - Melbourne, Fla.



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

# COLLEGE NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY

Because you **NEED** a  
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## CRICKET'S

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**FRESHMEN - JUNIORS**

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YEARBOOK PHOTOS**

ROUNDUP  
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