## BAYLOR LARIAT News for the students by the students



## Wedding bells ring out 'celebrate' for Baylor seniors

#### **EMMA WEIDMANN**

Staff Writer

Sunnyvale senior Claire Knight and her fiance senior William Lazenby are looking forward to a life together following graduation this fall after getting engaged last month.

Knight and Lazenby, Bossier City, La., began dating during their sophomore year at Baylor after meeting through mutual friends as freshmen. They grew to be close friends throughout the year, but eventually became inseparable. By the time the two started dating the following year, they had already built a solid friendship based on hanging out often and studying together at Moody Memorial Library.

"I sat next to her and I was making her laugh," Lazenby said. "She was doing nursing

so we were watching pimple popping videos and making jokes. And then, in the beginning of Welcome Week, we hung out almost 24/7. Moody is a special spot for us."

The two would meet in between classes at the SUB Bowl, where William would hand off a box of Chick-fil-A fries to Claire so that she could have a snack on her way to class. It quickly became a tradition for the couple, who are set to marry in October.

"When we first started dating, he would get me my own Chick-fil-A fries and meet me right in the SUB Bowl and walk me to class," Knight said. "Moody and Chick-fil-A at the SUB are our two places."

Being able to be open and honest in a relationship is the key to success, according to Lazenby. He said having conversations about faith, or as he described it, giving each

other their testimony, was one way that the two grew close and were able to be their honest selves with each other.

Knight said she comes from a Baylor family that stretches back generations. Her grandparents met at Baylor, as did her parents and her aunt and uncle. Similarly, her aunt and uncle on the other side of her family connected by graduating from Baylor. Despite the tradition, Claire didn't go into her freshman year expecting to meet her husband at Baylor.

"It's just something in my family, but I thought it would be a stretch for me. I thought, 'I won't even try," Knight said. "But there you go."

Lazenby the most important aspects

relationship that make it successful are communication. as well as keeping their relationship Christ-centered. Before he proposed to Claire he prayed about it and decided it was the right time.

"It's cheesy, but we have God as our foundation," Lazenby said. "We had similar stories so we didn't have to pretend to be someone else and we just laid it out with each other. Open communication is key. She's my best friend forever."





Photo courtesy of Evan Banks

SHE SAID YES! Sunnyvale senior Claire Knight and Bossier City, La., senior William Lazenby enjoy their recent engagement.

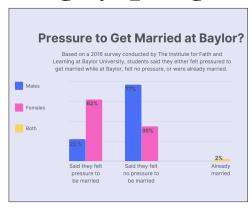
## How many Baylor students embrace 'ring by spring?'

#### **LUKE ARAUJO**

Staff Writer

By the time spring rolls around, Baylor students' social media feeds are blooming with engagement announcements and photos of rings.

As a Christian university, "ring by spring" is the tonguein-cheek goal of many students according to Baylor's Institute for Faith and Learning, but how many embrace the push to get engaged by the spring semester of their senior year?



Graphic courtesy of Brittany Tankersley

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## Wedding traditions unveiled

#### **ANA RUIZ BRICTSON**

Staff Writer

As couples plan their weddings, few know where their must-have traditions came from. Knowing the history of some of these traditions can help to determine if they are worth including in the celebration.

#### **Tossing the bouquet**

In ancient England, it was traditional for wedding guests to rip off pieces of the bride's dress or flower bouquet in hopes of good luck. Given it was a very violent tradition, brides began to toss their bouquets to a crowd to avoid the cat fights.

#### **Wedding garter**

Back in the 14th century in France, it was a tradition to prove to friends and family the marriage had been consummated after the wedding through the garter. Nowadays, the garter is worn above the right leg's knee and is removed by the groom with either hands or teeth and then tossed at the groomsmen for good luck.

## Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

Bringing something old can include anything that ties the bride to her family to represent the past she has with her family.

Bringing something new represents the new life that the couple is going to embark on together.

The idea of having something borrowed is to have a friend or family member who is in a happy relationship lend anything to the engaged couple for the wedding in order to transfer the good luck and happiness they share and to begin a good marriage.

The color blue may represent love, purity, faithfulness and happiness. The bride usually wears either blue jewelry or may have something written on her shoe in blue.

## Maid of honor and bridesmaids

The role of the maid of honor and bridesmaids is mainly to assist the bride. Its history, which can be traced back to Roman law, is there used to be a requirement of at least 10 people having to be witnesses for the marriage to be possible. The reason why the bridesmaids are mainly required to dress the same is to protect the couple from the evil spirits that would show up at the time of the wedding. The identical dressing would fool the evil spirits into not knowing who was actually getting married.

As for the maid of honor, the choice of the bride mainly relies on who their closest friend is and their job is mainly to assist and help the bride get everything ready for the wedding.

## Best man and groomsmen

As it continues to be a tradition today, the groom would have to ask for permission from the bride's family in order for the wedding to be able to be possible. Back in Biblical times, if the groom did not receive the family's blessing, the groomsmen would come in to take the bride away and have the wedding be a "wedding-by-capture."

During the 16th century, the best man would not be the groom's best friend, but rather the best swordsman. This was to protect and prevent for anyone to take away the bride or to even let the bride herself run away.

#### White dress

In 1840, Queen Victoria of England began the tradition of wearing a white wedding dress.

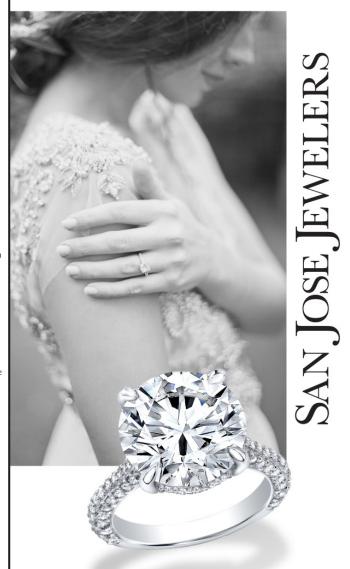
Before the 19th century, there was no specific color associated with the bride, she would usually wear the best dress she owned. Given her wedding to Prince Albert was very public, it became a tradition for the bride to wear the color white.

Although the trend began in the 19th century, many western societies believe the color white can signify purity.

## Walking down the aisle with father

In history, father's used to "own" their daughters and the practice of giving them away at the end of the aisle stood to receive a dowry in exchange. Nowadays it is used to show respect and love for the new couple.

Cartoon by Grace Everett | Photographer Sources: BRIDES, Wedding Wire, Danversport Weddings, Complete Video Solutions and History of Yesterday



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## Guest etiquette: Do's & don'ts

#### **MORGAN DOWLER**

Cartoonist

As we get older, it's fairly common for the wedding invitations to start accumulating on our fridge. In this day and age it's an honor to get invited to a wedding because it means that the bride and groom want to include you in their celebration. However, accepting that invitation means you have a responsibility to uphold as well.

You are the guest to the bride and groom's special day, so no matter how much you like to be the center of attention, you need to refrain from stealing the spotlight from them. Here are some tips

and tricks for you to be able to enjoy yourself while still respecting the couple. First, upon receiving your invitation you should plan accordingly if you will be able to attend or not. If you can, great. You need to RSVP as soon as you can to respect the couple's time, energy and money in planning the celebration. They need to know how many people are coming so they can best prepare for you to have an enjoyable experience too. With that being said, you shouldn't bring an uninvited plus-one unless the invite savs you can. Unwanted guests aren't going to look good on your part.

If you want and are able to attend, it's kindest to also bring a gift. Most couples spend

hours making a registry wish list filled with things that they genuinely need and already know they like because they personally picked it out. As much as you want to go out and get the couple a special or homemade gift, they will really appreciate that you got them something they wanted. You should honor the wish list and, when in doubt, cash is always a good option for newlyweds. It's important that you

dress appropriately and wear nothing that is going to outshine the bride or groom. Unless the bride says so, don't wear white. Make sure you know the venue and the plans for the night. You probably aren't going to have a great time if you are trying to break

in a new pair of sparkly heels or fit into your suit from high school prom. If there isn't a dress code, make sure you keep your inner fashionista under control for the evening.

Respect the seating plan and sit where you are supposed to. The plan is there for a reason, so enjoy dinner even if you aren't sitting next to your favorite family member.

Get off your phone and let the photographer do their job. Couples pay thousands of dollars to have their special day documented in their desired aesthetic. Having your iPhone get in the way definitely isn't a part of it.

Leave your drama and comments at the door. Even if the venue, dress, food or cake

SINE THE DISTE

Brittany Tankersley | Photo Editor

isn't your style, that's OK — you're just there to celebrate the couple. Don't bring up old stories and issues of the past because it's not the time for you to try to bring down the mood. You also shouldn't make huge announcements like pregnancy, engagements or — most importantly — get

down on one knee at someone else's wedding to take the spotlight off the couple.

Weddings are a big deal and it's important that you are a great guest when attending one. It's important that you follow these guidelines to make sure the couple remembers you for all the right reasons.



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## What to wear to a wedding

**AVERY BALLMANN** 

Staff Writer

Being a plus-one at a wedding can be exciting, but picking out what to wear can pose

a difficult challenge. Whether the wedding has a dress code or not, here are some tips to find the appropriate attire for your newlywed friends.

Black tie is one of the fanciest dress codes. This insinuates long, formal dresses, but not a prom style. Depending on the season or time of the event, be aware of what color to wear. If it is a

day, spring or summer wedding, wear bright colors. If it is an evening, fall or winter wedding opt for darker and muted colors. I think this dress code is the best for the bride to stand out and it is a fun way for the guest to get dressed up for one night.

Beach weddings are going to get messy and hot. With the sand and wind, this dress needs to be secure and not go past the ankles. Beach weddings usually call for

more casual dress due to the elements. A

to the elements. A sundress or romper would suit this location, but if you don't like dresses, khaki pants and a button-up will look great as well. If you're confused about what colors to wear, I would say any blues, greens and browns will work, but absolutely no white since this is what the bride will

be wearing. For the shoes, a sandal would be best, but make sure they aren't flip-flops.

Think of cocktail dresses as a semi-formal look. The dress or pantsuit needs to be nice, but can be shorter or have a unique design. Cocktail outfits

are easier to find and can be worn multiple times, unlike the formal dress code. The whole point of the dress code is to focus on the couple and not the guests,

> so be selfless and save the extravagant looks for another setting.

Recently, colorcoded weddings have
been more frequent
on social media. The
bride, groom and
the photographer
have decided that
a monochromatic
wedding looks amazing
in photos. Honestly, I
love the monochromatic
wedding guest dress
code. It's easier for the
guest and looks great

on camera. Weddings are supposed to be fun days filled with happiness. Don't make the day complicated by what you are going to wear. If you think the outfit might not be right, go for a different look.

Photos by Grace Everett | Photographer



Photo courtesy of Dr. Robin Wallace FROM FACEBOOK TO FOREVER Two Baylor professors connected over social media before meeting and becoming married in real life.

### Professors find love online

#### **TATUM MITCHELL**

Staff Writer

A spark lit from over 900 miles apart when Dr. Robin Wallace, professor of musicology, and Meg Wallace, adjunct in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, first met each other online. The now-married couple connected in 2011 through an internet discussion group that sparked from a blog of Sojourners magazine.

"We met online, but in a very strange way," Meg said. "It was just this group of readers of that magazine who really enjoyed talking about politics and faith, and then we really got to know each other and became dear friends to one another."

From the online group, Meg and Robin became Facebook friends from afar — Meg living in Chicago with her kids and Robin working at Baylor three state lines away. Both were facing personal struggles when they became friends. Robin's previous wife, Barbara, had passed away, and Meg's divorce was finalizing. By the end of 2012, both had been single for over a year.

Meg said she noticed how highly regarded Robin was by his students, colleagues and friends online. She said she read his reflections he had linked on Facebook about his experience with Barbara's passing.

"I could just see he is an excellent writer," Meg said. "What came through in those writings was just his real goodness as a husband and father, someone who really cared about his family, and I value those things so much"

Robin said in November, he woke up in the middle of the night to a Facebook message from Meg. He said he remembers the message said that if they were living in the same place, they would meet up for coffee. Meg went on to ask for Robin's email address to begin talking.

"My first thought was, 'Did that really happen or did I just dream that?" Robin said. "So, I looked again, and the message was still there, so we exchanged emails."

The couple met in person for the first time in January. Meg said it was like her Facebook page had shown up in the middle of the airport. The Valentine's Day after, Robin came to Chicago. By July, they were engaged, and they got married in January 2014.

"In February, we were like, 'You know, this just feels right," Meg said.

The pair said it was very important to them both to spend time in each other's communities. They were deliberate about meeting both of their families, bringing friends into the conversation and getting to know the other's world.

"It's the attitude of 'Your family is my family," Meg said. "Even though we haven't been married for 20, 30 years, we really consider each other available to both sides."

Now, Robin has been at Baylor for 19 years, and Meg adjuncts in the BIC, teaches GED classes at McLennan Community College and directs a nonprofit called the Amberley Collaborative.

"We dated long distance for a year, and then we got married," Robin said. "We were married long distance for a year and a half. Then, I got a sabbatical from Baylor, so I was able to spend the 2015-2016 academic year in Chicago with Meg. Then, her younger daughter graduated, and we moved down here. The rest is history."



#### **DUELING OPINIONS**

## Why wait? Start your life together now

#### **MALLORY HARRIS**

Opinion Editor



Your early 20s are meant to be a magical time. If you know you're with the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, why wait another day? Get married young and have the ability to not only start a life together but also build it and live

out what you envisioned together.

Realistically, who hasn't watched the opening scene of "Up" and wanted to recreate the love between Carl and Ellie? Of course, their love was their own, but there's no reason you can't build a house, share picnics, work together and quite literally live a life together in your early 20s. Think about it — they struggled financially, had emotional moments and experienced difficulties starting a family. There isn't a single issue they faced as a young couple that an older couple hasn't encountered.

I know that recently, getting married has not been the move for people in their 20s due to a multitude of factors. Pew Research Center has shown that the age in which people enter their first marriage has increased since the 1960s. The study shows that in the age group of 18- to 29-year-olds, 59% were married in the 1960s while only 20% of people that age are married today. I believe we can bring back the trend of getting married in our early 20s and build each other up in a mutual way. The mentality of marriage has changed in the past six decades, but that doesn't mean you can't spend your life with who you

However, what isn't talked about enough regarding getting married

young is the benefits of being together with the person you feel most comfortable with. Besides the obvious perk of growing together, there is research from the National Library of Medicine showing that couples who get married early often have a happier marriage. This isn't to say that getting married later in life won't lead to an equally successful marriage, but factors such as compatibility and reliability earlier in life with a committed relationship are helpful for young couples because they've already found what they're looking for. To each their own in how they pursue a relationship and the boxes that need to be checked off, but don't hold out waiting for someone or get stuck thinking there is someone better when what you have is already strong on a base level.

As a final thought, get married young if you are at that stage with your partner and if that's the next step. Don't do it because it feels right or because you've put two years of your life into the relationship, because if you go into it with the wrong intentions, it won't be what you want. Many people stereotype young married couples as the ones most likely to divorce because of "rushing into things," but if you're ready with your significant other, then nothing is getting hurried along.

Getting married young is a realistic proposition for couples who are at that stage in life. Start your life together and build a foundation that's strong and will only grow alongside you as people and as a couple.

## Marriage can wait; don't be impatient

**CLAY THOMPSON** 

Intern



who know me well, it might seem strange for me to be taking a stance on when someone should married, since I've never been in a relationship in my entire life. But just because I don't have

experience regarding relationships doesn't mean I am foolish or ignorant.

Being a student in college, with many different factors all grabbing my focus and attention constantly, it has always seemed strange to me why so many get into relationships in college, as well as sometimes get married even before they graduate. While I do not judge and only share happiness for those who choose to pursue relationships or marriages earlier on in their lives, it seems counterproductive to add yet another factor of attention to an already busy and stressful college world.

Relationships always take work. Whether members of a couple are working to provide financially or working mentally and emotionally to avoid or address potential conflicts, it takes effort and time to get to a functional and healthy state. This can actually create fractures or destroy college-created relationships.

Emotional maturity is also a huge factor in why many students should wait to enter serious relationships or marriage.

Deborah Yurgelun-Todd, a leader in studying the brain, told Psychology Today, "The frontal lobes of the brain which are responsible for high-level reasoning and decision-making, aren't fully mature until the early 20s." This leads me to believe that most people are not fully prepared mentally and emotionally to take on a serious relationship at such a young age.

Additionally, the longer relationships last, the more that first wild, passionate love can be replaced by a more subtle compassionate or commitment love, according to Robert Sternberg's triangular theory of love. This can often make or break relationships, as those who rush into them might not be prepared for the transition of feelings and emotions. That's why it's often better for people who are looking for a steady relationship to only consider marriage after a longer period of time so that they can be fully prepared and adapt to the changing kind of love they feel for their partner.

Ultimately, I think it is really up to each individual to decide whether they are ready for a relationship or marriage themselves, and I wish all the best to those who do; however, I did want to point out there is concrete, scientific backing that cautions against such a large life change in such a volatile stage of a young person's life. Whether you have always been single, are recently single, are in a relationship or are married, just be aware that college and young adult life can take a toll. So make sure to stay informed, stay healthy and make the choice that you feel is the best for everyone,

including yourself.



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Camryn Duffy | Photographer

**FASHION** Houston junior and apparel design and product development major Olivia Havre adds seam allowance to her pattern she is working on.

## Students stitch dreams together

#### **SOPHIA TEJEDA**

Staff Writer

A wedding dress may arguably be one of the most important aspects of a wedding. Baylor apparel design majors use their skills to create long lasting impacts in the wedding business.

Houston junior Olivia Havre said she decided to major in apparel design and product development after an art project her senior year of high school where her class worked on designing a dress. She said in college, she fell in love with design and professors in the department.

"Professor Dawn Michaelson is absolutely amazing and helped me so much." Havre said. "She has helped after class or with side projects and will even share research she has done with me."

Havre said she prefers working with wedding dresses because of the beauty it allows her to create. For her senior collection, she said she hopes to design a simple and sleek wedding dress.

"A lot of people don't realize how hard it is to make wedding dresses," Havre said. "You have to make sure that the feet on your sewing machine won't snag the fabric, and sometimes intricate details have to be hand-sewn, which is why they can get so expensive."

Have said she credits Baylor for the preparation of their students within the business aspects of the wedding industry.

"Our degree is not purely an art degree; it is technically a Bachelor of Science," Havre said. "We take a lot of business classes — we take accounting, business, math and science on top of art classes. Designing a dress is great, but if

you don't know how to manage your money, advertise or sell, you won't get anywhere."

Baylor alumna Catherine Brown works at Georgio's Bridal in southwest Waco as manager of their alterations department. Brown said via email that her role consists of patience, hard work and organization.

"A lot of my clients like to add sleeves, bows, belts and even sentimental details like adding a piece of their father's shirt or tie," Brown said.

Baylor's curriculum helped prepare her for numerous aspects of the bridal business, but she said she wished the department included a facet stressing the importance of customer service.

"We have to discuss things like weight gain and pregnancy and even sometimes loss of a pregnancy. These can be sensitive subjects for many due to body dysmorphia and low selfesteem. I am the one in the store who makes sure the women feel as beautiful as they indeed are on this very special occasion," Brown said.

Though Brown did not originally plan to work within the wedding industry, the opportunity to make a difference and create beauty in the world drew her in.

"Having the opportunity to be a part of one of the biggest days in a woman's life is so beautiful and empowering," Brown said. "More often than not, I am more than their alterations specialist but also a friend they can talk to about how crazy their planning is getting or a calming voice that is helping them refocus."

application

Brown said she stresses the importance of patience and problem-solving within the industry as the job can often get hectic and stressful. Through dedication, determination and attention to detail, she said the overall experience is quite meaningful and rewarding.

