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#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## DEAR READERS,

Welcome to Bear's Declassified: School Survival Guide! I think Ned would be proud to see us all grown up and tackling life in college on our own. After all, he prepared us well, didn't he? But every now and then, it's helpful to get some guidance along the way, so we put our own twist on the beloved 2004 hit Nickelodeon comedy "Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide." We thought it would be fun to end the year with some tips and tricks on how to get through the final push before summer break.

It has been two years since we have had a full, normal spring semester, which means about half of the student body has never experienced the stress and burnout that can come with a full year of college. On the flip side, however, that means many people were able to experience good firsts too, like living on campus, making new friends or witnessing their first Diadeloso. Even this group of graduating seniors have been hitting new milestones, like filing for their diplomas and taking grad pics in front of Pat Neff Hall.

Here in the newsroom, I've hit a milestone of my own. After a year as editor-in-chief, this marks my final print edition and my last week of publication before I move on to student teaching next year. I can say with confidence that The Baylor Lariat has made this the best year of my life, and I am going to miss late print nights and pizza parties more than I can even imagine. To my team: Thank you for supporting me and becoming some of my favorite people in the world. I'll be back to visit. And to the Baylor family: Thank you for allowing me to serve you this year -1 hope you felt that your voices were heard.

I wish all of you luck during finals and hope this survival guide gives you that last push of motivation to make it happen. Enjoy your summer breaks, and as always, Sic 'em Bears!

SIGNING OFF, AVA DUNWOODY / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## **POINT OF VIEW** Don't stay locked in your room

From someone who spent the majority of his freshman year of college locked in his room, get up and go do something. Years from now, when you're looking back on your college days, I promise you'll never think to yourself, "Man, I should've spent more time in my room."

Personally, I'm not one for parties or big events. However, there are so many different ways to have fun. Find a good group of friends and make as many memories as possible. One night of my college experience that I remember having actual fun was when my friends and I went to the top of a parking garage at 2 a.m. and recorded videos of us doing dumb dances. It's not something I ever do and haven't till this day, but it was a fun memory that has stuck with me.

My friends and I hang out almost every day, whether it be playing basketball at the McLane Student Life Center, going out to eat or finding any random thing to do. These days, my favorite nights are spent on my apartment balcony with my friends, lawn chairs, music and good vibes. I lost a big chunk of college because of COVID-19, and it helped me realize



that anything can be fun if you're with the right people.

College is a beautifully difficult time. We have the freedom of adults, but at the same time, we are facing the world as adults for the first time and trying to figure out our lives. Although we don't quite have the same responsibilities as real adults, we have a lot more leg room. Take advantage of that. There's no limit on how much fun you can have or how many memories you create; it's

simply up to you on what you do with your opportunities.

Please don't stay locked in your room scrolling through your favorite social media app and watching what other people are doing. Try something new, go dance atop a parking garage, try an on-campus event or watch a movie with your friends. As comfortable as your bed is, I promise you it'll be there when you get back.

Cover by Morgan Dowler | Cartoonist & Ava Dunwoody | Editor-In-Chief

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\* Asterisks indicate members of Editoria Board.

# Upperclassman advice: Packing your dorm and moving off-campus

#### ANA RUIZ BRICTSON Staff Writer

As many freshmen begin to pack for the summer and prepare to move to an apartment in the fall, knowing what they should keep, buy and throw away could be very helpful.

Houston junior Ella Hext said in her freshman year, she began to pack and clean her dorm room at Collins Residence Hall two weeks before she planned on moving out.

"Our dorm was so tiny," Hext said. "I think I packed what I didn't use, that I knew that I wouldn't need, just because I could pack it and wouldn't need it in those two weeks."

One of the things Hext did while packing was place all of the things she did not use throughout the year together; later, she went through them to see what she would take with her for her off-campus apartment. She said she donated anything she didn't find a use for anymore.

Hext said most of the items she did not bring back were clothes and school supplies.

Additionally, Hext said getting ready to move out while living in Collins was chaotic.

Hext said something she found helpful was having her dad and brother bring their truck to take all of her larger items home. She said she only had to take her bedding and clothes in her car.

Now that Hext lives off campus, she said one of the most helpful items she and her roommate bought was a mini toolbox. She also said it was useful leaving storage areas throughout the apartment in order to have space for blankets and other stuff.

"I would say lots of storage for your closet," Hext said. "If you have a small closet, like a shoe rack that you can hang over the door and a plastic dresser organizer thing."

Hext said she loves living off campus because of the independence she has. She said she likes to be able to differentiate between her high school life, being on campus and being in her home off campus.

Houston junior Casey Sadler said when she had to pack her freshman dorm, it was the



Photo illustration by Brittany Tankersley

beginning of COVID-19. She said she used a lot of boxes and trash bags to protect her clothes, and she went back and forth from home to her dorm as she needed things.

Sadler said when she moved into her apartment for her sophomore year, she used tools like Wayfair to find items like a bed frame and a mattress. Additionally, she said she used Facebook's marketplace to find a lot of things for her apartment.

Sadler said one of her must-have items in her apartment is her desk.

"I love using my desk; it's such a functional place for me," Sadler said. "So that's where I have things like my laptop and books, and it's got really great drawers, and I'm spending a lot of time there."

For incoming freshmen and students who plan to live on campus this fall, Campus Living & Learning provides a packing list with recommended items to bring.

"We encourage students to bring various reminders of home and items that express their personalities and make them feel more comfortable," the website reads.

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ONE CLICK AWAY These 10 Amazon finds will help make every student's experience at Baylor 10 times better.

## **Top 10 Amazon Bear necessities**

#### LAUREN HOLCOMB

Reporter

Amazon is every college student's go-to shopping site. With Amazon Prime delivering in only two days, I do all of my shopping from the comfort of my bed. After living a year as a Baylor student, I've collected a list of my top 10 Bear essentials, all available on Amazon.

## Rolling laundry basket

Whether you're in a dorm or off campus, laundry is a hassle. Carrying a full basket across the hall or down flights of stairs is not fun — hence the rolling laundry basket. This makes transport simple and easy, and it fits easily in my closet.

#### Brita

I cannot stress the importance of a Brita enough. Waco water is not the cleanest, so this filter keeps your water clean. They come in multiple shapes and sizes, and some can fit in your fridge to stay cool. You can refill it with sink water, shower water — you name it and it filters it all.

#### AirPods

A little bit of a splurge item, but AirPods are the best investment I have ever made. I have had my pair for four years now with no issues. They are perfect for walking to class, Zoom classes and watching your favorite show while your roommate is around. They make newer models with noise-canceling capabilities too, if you're feeling fancy.

#### Microwave-safe tableware

Living the dorm life or off campus, you are going to need microwave-safe plates and bowls. Easy to clean and safe to use, these tableware sets are a must for easy microwave meals. They come in fun colors, too.

### Keurig

The Keurig is another item that's a bit of a splurge but definitely comes in handy. Coffee is a college student's best

friend, and a Keurig makes it quick and convenient to make this staple drink every morning. Grab your favorite K-Cups and a bottle of creamer, and you're all set for on-call coffee.

## Wrinkle release spray

If you are lazy like me, whipping out the iron and ironing board for every little wrinkle feels like far too much work. This spray is magic in a bottle. Spray right on wrinkles, let the item hang dry, and voila. It is a lifesaver and it leaves your clothes smelling fresh and clean.

#### First-aid kit

Every now and then, you are going to need some Neosporin or a Band-Aid, and spending time to find a kit that has it all is time well spent. The perfect kit will come in handy for when the tough times roll.

### Pepper spray

The world is scary, but having a pepper spray on your keychain makes you a little more prepared for the worst. It is always good to have safety protective equipment on you in case of emergency. Pepper spray is relatively small and transportable to always have on the go. Make note of certain places on campus where pepper spray is allowed.

## 10-foot charging cord

Investing in a longer charging cord was a game changer for me. This 10-foot cord can reach all angles of my bed, and on the go, it's perfect for class or the library when the closest outlet isn't nearby. This may seem a little extra until you try it out yourself.

## Mattress topper

College students may not sleep much, but when we do, we want to do it in a comfortable bed. Dorm mattresses are not comfortable on their own. A mattress topper turns a wooden plank of a bed into a plush dream. There are many options on Amazon to find your optimal comfort.

Now, all you have to do is find these on Amazon and click "add to cart" for your experience at Baylor to improve.

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	dont's of
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	• Get involved in organizations
	on campus.
	• Take advantage of your meal
	plan if you have one.
	• Invest in a pair of rain boots
	or waterproof shoes.
	Don't:
_	•Be afraid to explore or
_	change your major.
	•Stay in your dorm room for
	the entire semester.
	•Assume you will dislike
	something before even giving
	it a chance.
	•Be afraid to talk to other
	students.
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	LUKE ARAUJO A M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M

# Student to professor: Bears come full circle

#### TATUM MITCHELL Staff Writer

When students are going through the motions on campus, most don't expect to end up back in the classroom for their professional life. Yet some professors who work at Baylor did exactly that. They share their advice and their journeys that came full circle.

Dr. Stacy Atchley, professor in the department of geosciences, aid the search process for colleges was much different when he was applying. Atchley said he made his decision based on the people from his church and his brother who went to Baylor.

"It's going to be really valuable for students to learn how to deal and accept students from a very wide range of perspectives," Atchley said. "Every place you go has its own culture. Even within that culture, you're going to see a lot of variety, a lot of diversity, which is beneficial."

Dr. Julie deGraffenried, undergraduate program director and associate professor in the department of history, started as a student and has been at Baylor for 21 years. Incoming students do not need to stress about having their degree and line of study decided right away,

deGraffenried said. Dr. Sarah Ford, professor of American

literature and director of Baylor's annual Beall Poetry Festival, said she had a great experience as a Baylor student, though the university was much smaller when she attended.

"What I loved about Baylor — that I think we have retained even though we've grown larger — is it felt like a community," Ford said. "When I walked

across campus, I saw people I knew. I was able to get to know my professors. I felt like I got to know everybody in my classes."

full-circle advice.

Ford said the community at Baylor is what she enjoyed as a student and what she still appreciates as a professor. The growing diversity of Baylor is a good progression, Ford said, and investing in the resources available to students is important.

"Go to lectures, even outside of your field," Ford said. "Attend a concert. Go to an art exhibit or a poetry reading. Really enhance your time here. It's not something that most people have, that kind of rich, intellectual environment. So I'd say take advantage of it here."

If she could advise her younger self in college, deGraffenried

said she would study abroad and build a Baylor bucket list.

"I just never even thought about [studying abroad]," deGraffenried said. "Now, looking back on it, I realized there's actually no way you can go to some of these places for that kind of money. For that small amount, it seems like a lot, but there's scholarships to help. That will never happen again in your life."

Dr. Elizabeth Palacios, special assistant to the vice president of student life for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, started as an undergraduate student at Baylor and went on to work at the university for 40 years.

Palacios said her time at Baylor has been an amazing journey of challenges and celebrations. Coming in as a student was a big transition from her hometown; she said the population was mostly white, and she did not see a lot of people who looked like her.

"God used my experiences so that I could turn around and actually help students make pathways and help them be successful in navigating higher education," Palacios said. "So, that really was a blessing in disguise."

Palacios advises students to be authentic to their culture, traditions and individuality. She said it is important to be responsible for your well-being, like resting when needed.

"I really hope that our students can bring [all of] who they are, be proud of who they are, love who they are," she said. "When you love yourself, it's a lot easier to love others and to be loved."

# Check out libraries' resources

#### **MARIAH BENNETT**

Assistant News Editor

Baylor is full of countless resources for students to get ahead on their writing, research and assignments. The university has several research libraries and centers. Moody Memorial Library and Jesse H. Jones Library — the main research complex and libraries on campus — provide over 3.5 million physical resources and over 1.3 million electronic resources to students.

As final papers deadlines quickly approach, Houston junior Sanjana Natarajan found that OneSearch, Baylor's unified search platform for research resources, has been the best online resource she's come across for students.

"The university libraries give me access to papers and books I can't find online," Natarajan said.

Moody and Jones also host the University Writing Center, which offers students free personal consulting in all areas of writing and composing at any stage of the writing process. The center offers multiple consultation options, including in-person tutoring, video consultations and written feedback. Austin senior Cassandra Shin has worked as an undergraduate consultant for the Writing Center for one and a half years. She said she thinks the Writing Center is vital to students' success due to its lack of judgment toward the quality of the work.

"We are solely here for the purpose of helping students with their writing and work to improve their skills holistically," Shin said. "I think that this is what makes the Writing Center unique from other resources ... We look at the student holistically and work with them to improve their skills, not their assignments."

"So not just focusing on .. how to get them a A grade, but focusing on how to improve their writing skills as a whole so that their quality of writing is already at A plus work," Shin said.

Sacramento, Calif., junior Josefine Green went to the Writing Center to have a group presentation looked over.

"I saw a really helpful girl named Justice," Green said. "Her comments were really thorough, and I was very grateful I went."

Students can check out more than books and research from Baylor's libraries, specifically at the Helpdesk+ at Moody's garden level. Natarajan said she believes it is an underused resource at Baylor.

"They have a lot of stuff you can rent out and borrow at

\* \* BEAR'S TIP: USE THE LIBRARY RESOURCES!

Baylor," Natarajan said.

The Helpdesk+ provides technological support and allows students to check out equipment for audio/video production, 3D printing, and other maker services. These tools are provided in both the Media Lab and Maker Space.

Through these tools, Baylor libraries aim to accomplish a mission "that undergirds scholarship, fosters teaching and learning, and builds communities," according to its webpage.



WISE WORDS Dr. Sarah Ford, a Baylor

professor and former student, gives students

Photo courtesy of Baylor University



Photo Illustration by Grace Fortier | Photographer

## Tips for dealing with roommate rumbles

#### FOSTER NICHOLAS Reporter

For many students, college is the first time they are away from their parents and living with other students. College is designed to be a bridge between fun and the real world, and one of the only things that can make this experience bad is unpleasant roommates.

Almost every student hears a story told by someone in their family describing the crazy roommate who eventually dropped out. It's tough to accept that there is a possibility you're rooming with someone just like that. However, most of the time, these stories are widely exaggerated for comedic purposes. But what can be done when living with a bad roommate?

The easiest and most cliche way to deal with a situation is to simply be removed from it and take some time alone. Whether that be going to a place to study or grabbing a snack, taking some time to de-stress and get back in the right mindset can be very beneficial. However, getting space is really only a temporary fix and isn't necessarily the best solution if real issues are happening.

If a situation arises where it feels nearly unbearable to live with a roommate, how can it be handled? One of the most difficult things to do is confront the person doing something irritating.

It's not difficult because of the confrontation, but he tone that has to be used in the situation. When confronting a roommate, it's important to be respectful and stray away from being passive aggressive or trying to retaliate in any way. The importance of a calm, collected state when approaching a roommate cannot be overstated. If the conversation stays calm, then there are much better odds the other person will actually listen and the situation can be resolved.

Now, in situations where roommates have stolen personal items, partied in the room without consent or possibly done even worse, then neither of the above strategies are going to work. While these for sure sound like one of those bizarre tales our parents tell us right before we move off to college, it happens to be a reality for some students.

As the semester goes on, students begin to realize that the best way to handle a sticky roommate situation is to start living outside of classes and staying in the dorm. They became more involved in outside-of-class activities and make new friends, who eventually welcome them into their dorm on occasion, as well as talking to proper administration if needed.

College is supposed to be fun, so please don't let a little roommate drama ruin the whole experience. Other small fixes for roommate drama include buying your own things so borrowing isn't necessary, learning to accept not speaking to the roommate, not making any weird adjustments to your schedule to fit around a bad roommate or make sure you know what your side of the room looks like.

Be kind, maybe it will change, and of course you can always ask for a roommate reassignment.

Don't let someone else determine how good of an experience college can be. Sometimes roommates can be the worst, but that doesn't mean that your experience will be.

## **Monitoring finals fashion at Moody**

#### EMMA WEIDMANN Staff Writer

Finals season is upon us, which brings a swarm of students to Moody Memorial Library at all hours of the day, armed with cold brew.

From shoes to backpacks to technology, the Baylor starter pack is an aspect of the culture on campus that's hard to miss.

Sitting in Moody, I immediately notice a headto-toe uniform donned by several people.

For the girls, it could be full Lululemon complete with a claw clip and HOKA running shoes.

Another common sight is an entire group of fraternity boys with their philanthropy shirts, khaki shorts and Birkenstocks, which isn't complete without a hat that



#### EMMA WEIDMANN | STAFF WRITER

floats on the very top of their head, being held up suspiciously high by whatever hair product they've used. But of course, it isn't just

nursing and finance majors who come to Moody.

It's easy to spot a political it's



By Camryn Duffy | Photographer

**STYLE** Student flaunts her Outdoor Voices exercise dress with a colorful and fun computer case.

science student with their sunflower yellow Kånken backpack that they've had since middle school because they promised their parents they would use that \$80 staple of the Urban Outfitters accessories section.

Although Nike Air Force 1's are also ubiquitous across the student body, I wear the same pair from my sophomore year of high school that I thought I was cool for having because a few guys asked me when I started "rocking the Forces." You can "rock the Forces" anywhere, as they're perfect for walking nearly five miles in total to classes every day, and they are versatile enough for any activity that gets thrown at you.

And then, of course, there are the pre-med students you can always identify by one of the several free T-shirts Baylor has shoved into their arms because they haven't done laundry in a couple of weeks.

Equipped with the largest coffee you've ever seen and eye bags deep enough to hold the \$500 worth of textbooks they cart around constantly, it's best to move out of the way when you see one of these people heading toward a study pod.

But something that unifies every type of Baylor student is their addict-like dependency on AirPods.

They're like a college student's security blanket. I've never walked to a single place on campus without mine in — even if they're dead because it's more about the look than anything else.

You just have to seem like you're doing something, walking somewhere with purpose, even if you're not listening to music at all.

Not just any headphones will do; it has to be AirPods. Wired headphones are one of the cardinal sins — you just don't wear them unless a tour group cart full of high schoolers has run over your AirPods, backed up and ran over them one more time for good measure.

At the end of the day college is just you, your laptop and your water bottle against the world, so dress however you want and fit into whichever niche you like. Or don't. It's up to you where you fit and flourish on Baylor's campus.

#### The Baylor Lariat Bears Declassified

## Apply yourself with study apps

#### **AVERY BALLMANN** Staff Writer

Everyone has different study techniques, whether it's the whiteboards in the garden level of Moody Memorial Library, flashcards or study apps. There are hundreds of study apps out there, but here are the most popular in each corner of campus.

#### Quizlet

Quizlet is arguably the best study app. With flashcards, testing, learn and matching games, it makes studying fun and personalized. The learning option is the best way to cram for a big test. I like how it quizzes you over the questions you missed and asks the questions in a different format. Another cool feature of Quizlet is the ability to share the flashcards, which help out your desk neighbors when they're in need of a review.

## Duolingo

If you're enrolled in a foreign language course you may need some extra help since Baylor's language courses are very rigorous. When you download the app, you select the language you want to learn. The next prompt asks the user how much of the language they're are familiar with, which is great if you are in different levels of the language course. Duolingo quizzes the user by matching words to the language you're learning. There is also a feature where the user can speak into the microphone, this is the pro version which is an upgrade. This is an easy way to get exposure to the language anywhere and anytime.

## Complete Anatomy '22

For pre-health students, this app is great to brush up on body parts and their names. They have different models such as male and female bodies, the skeletal system and the more detailed version can be purchased with an upgrade. You can zoom in on different parts of the body and click on each bone to see its name. There is also a 360-degree feature where you can turn and look at the body from different angles. Even though I am not a pre-med major I still find this app interesting.

#### Evernote

This app is an organizer for your schedule and school work. There are to-do lists, a calendar, tables, audio and more to organize your life. You can even link your Google Drive to the app. If your notes and events are spread out across your phone and electronics, make your life easier and keep them in one spot.

These are just a few apps the app store has to offer, but there are a multitude out there that will fit the student you are. Ultimately,

you get out what you put into these apps, with finals approaching these apps can help ease your anxiety and focus on which material you need to be studying.



Illustration by Grace Everett



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