

Buddhist-turned-Christian
Bro. Vincent Van Noze -
Cunning Linguist of The Rope
Emmy Nominee
Police Officer
Lecturer
University
Stuttering
Student Forensic Scientist
Hair Stylist
Baylor
President
On-call Hospice
Chaplain
Member of
LGBTQIA+
Community
MARRON

ONE:ONE

A Baylor Lariat
Special Edition

BAYLOR'S 'GADFLY': NOZE'S CUNNING LINGUIST

MATT KYLE

Assistant News Editor

Throughout its long and occasionally controversial history, the Noble NoZe Brotherhood has put Pat Neff Hall up for sale, unleashed 5,000 ping pong balls in Chapel and made fun of just about anything to do with Baylor in its satirical newspaper, The Rope.

11

Our aim is to be the gadfly of this university: poking a little fun at everybody, but also, in doing so, pointing out real issues that should be addressed.

**BROTHER VINCENT VAN NOZE |
CUNNING LINGUIST**

While the brotherhood's goal with The Rope is to satirize everyone, Brother Vincent Van NoZe, the Cunning Linguist of the group, said her goal is to poke fun at various Baylor idiosyncrasies while also addressing serious issues — all while keeping in line with the brotherhood's satirical tone.

As the Cunning Linguist, Van NoZe edits The Rope, which is published about three times each semester. The Rope was first published in 1954, and it has been one of many vessels for the brotherhood to wreak havoc on the university.

Van NoZe said the process of making a new issue of The Rope is ongoing through the semester, but most of the work gets done on "Rope Nights," during which members of the brotherhood gather at the NoZe Brotherhood's "mansion" — its home base filled with stolen fraternity memorabilia, dozens of pairs of the group's signature Groucho Marx glasses, wigs and portraits graffitied with mustaches and genitalia. At Rope Nights, the brothers workshop articles, goof off and occasionally make progress on upcoming issues.

"[Rope Nights are] absolute chaos," Van NoZe said. "A lot of our brothers — because this group requires such bold-facedness — can be at ends with each other, yelling and doing bits, because that's how we are. To be in this group, you kind of have to have that strong sense of humor and a strong personality to stand out. It just ends up with the group playfully screaming at each other a lot."

Once the brothers have written their articles, Van NoZe compiles the best ones and puts them together using InDesign — a process she said takes her about a week. With the content of The Rope, Van NoZe said she aims to use satire to make people think critically about important issues.

"Our aim is to be the gadfly of this university: poking a little fun at everybody, but also, in doing so, pointing out real issues

that should be addressed," Van NoZe said.

The most recent issue of The Rope — the annual ComeHoming issue (published under the masthead of "The Baylor Lariat") — featured articles satirizing the Southern Baptist Convention's reaction to the chartering of PRISM and the Texas abortion ban, as well as the usual articles lampooning Baylor Greek Life. Van NoZe said some of the issues The Rope has satirized have been prevalent for years, showing exactly why the issues need calling out.

"At the Texas collection, we have a lot of past Ropes and cool documents and stuff about the brotherhood," Van NoZe said. "The last time we took a trip there, we were reading one from the mid '90s making a joke about chartering an LGBT organization that could have worked just as well now. It's been a long time coming, and the fact that it's still so controversial is a little silly, and I wanted to make them look a little silly."

Through the years, the brothers have kept many traditions solid, including the worship of "Elmo," who Van NoZe said is the group's "god or deity" and is represented in idol form as a small statue of a snowman. Van NoZe explained that Elmo's name originates from Elm Mott, where the group's hideout was located after leaving Brooks Hall, where the NoZe Brotherhood was founded in 1924.

Van NoZe said Elmo even plays a role in the choosing of the brothers' secret identities, as neophytes — new members of the group — must pray to Elmo for their name.

"[The names] all have a little bit of a personal connection," Van NoZe said. "Mine to Vincent Van NoZe is that I consider myself kind of artistic and very mentally unhealthy, so we vibe. I wanted Vincent Van NoZe, and Elmo was gracious

FOLLOW YOUR NOZE >> Page 3

Meet the Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rachel Royster*

COPY EDITORS

Jenna Fitzgerald
Sam Dutschmann

WEB EDITOR

Nick Cook

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Maggie Alexander

NEWS EDITOR

Ana Ruiz Britton*

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Matt Kyle

ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Erienne Lewis*

SPORTS EDITOR

Michael Haag

OPINION EDITOR

Tatum Mitchell*

PHOTO EDITOR

Grace Everett

CARTOONIST

Gwen Ueding*

ARTS & LIFE WRITERS

Emma Weidmann
Avery Ballmann

ARTS & LIFE INTERNS

Clay Thompson
Lily Nussbaum

NEWS WRITERS

Mariah Bennett
Samantha Garza
Caitlyn Meisner
Gillian Taylor
Sarah Wang

SPORTS WRITERS

AnnaGrace Hale
Gio Gennaro

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Olivia Havre
Kenneth Prabhakar
Assoah Ndomo
Katy Mae Turner

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Ry Renshaw
Sophia Berry
Will Obar

EVENT MARKETING

Tyra Humphreys

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Lucy Hasty

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Brynley Jones

Lariat TV News

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

George Schroeder*

MANAGING EDITOR

Nate Smith*

SPORTS DIRECTOR

Joe Pratt

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Alexandra Laurence

BROADCAST REPORTERS

Braden Murray
Kaity Kempf
Danika Young
Pierson Luscy
Kaitlin Sides
Jessica Rajkumar
Brady Small

* Asterisks indicate member
of The Editorial Board

Contact Us

General Questions:

Lariat@baylor.edu

254-710-1712

Sports:

LariatSports@baylor.edu

Arts:

LariatArts@baylor.edu

Advertising inquiries:

Lariat_Ads@baylor.edu

254-710-3407

Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents, the student body or the Student Publications Board.

Editorials, Columns & Letters

Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

Lariat Letters

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.

PRANK BANK from Page 2

enough to give it to me, but that's not always the case. Ultimately, it's up to his full discretion. We don't question the word of god. Like, why would you do that?"

Other traditions include pranks, which have led to the group having a historically rocky relationship with the university. In 1978, Baylor President Abner McCall suspended the group for being "lewd, crude and grossly sacrilegious," the same year the brothers printed a fake version of The Baylor Lariat and declared Homecoming was canceled. Ten years later, the brotherhood impersonated The Baylor Lariat again with a headline announcing Baylor President Herb Reynolds had died, complete with an obituary. Among other infamous NoZe acts, the brothers once painted and repainted a bridge near Collins Residence Hall pink, later burning it down.

Professor Robert Darden, the faculty adviser to the group from 1995 to 1999, said the bridge burning incident happened because the group took McCall's words literally.

"McCall called them in and said, 'I'm tired of this. It's an embarrassment. I want you to return that bridge back to its original state,'" Darden said. "When you tell that to the NoZe, the original state is Native Americans and no bridge, so they burned it down. That got them kicked off in a hurry."

Brother NoZe By Any Other Name — an exile, meaning a brother who has graduated — said when he was a member of the group in the late 1980s, they had to drive 30 minutes to Hillsboro to print The Rope, as they had to find a publisher who wouldn't be "easily intimidated or discovered" by Baylor.

NoZe By Any Other Name said an advertiser once removed an ad from The Rope due to pressure

from Baylor.

"A local restaurant that I won't name, who is still in business, they did catering I think for Baylor events," NoZe By Any Other Name said. "And so they were discouraged from continuing to advertise in The Rope at Baylor's suggestion."

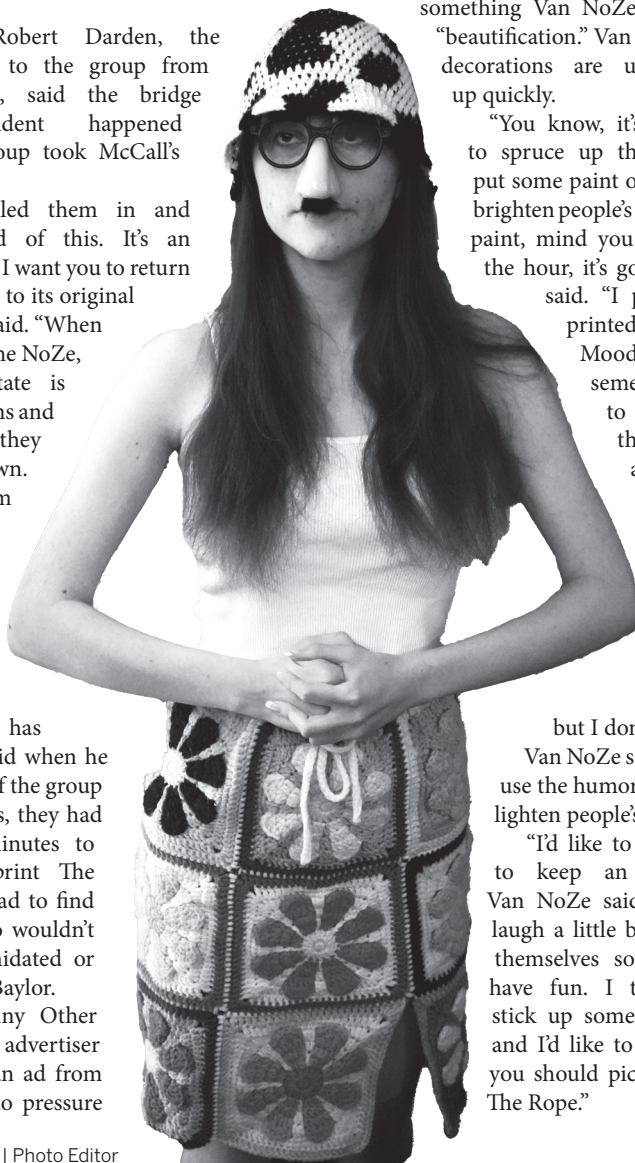
VanNoZe said the brotherhood's relationship with Baylor is better now, as the group stays in communication with Student Activities senior director Matt Burchett. Burchett said the group — which has always been an unofficial group and thus unaffiliated with Baylor — has built trust with the university in recent years and is a great tradition, adding to the Baylor experience.

While the group doesn't pull as many big pranks as it once did, it still paints noses on statues around campus pink — something Van NoZe referred to as "beautification." Van NoZe said their decorations are usually cleaned up quickly.

"You know, it's disheartening to spruce up the campus and put some paint on a few statues, brighten people's day — washable paint, mind you — and within the hour, it's gone," Van NoZe said. "I put out freshly printed Ropes down in Moody earlier in the semester and had to watch people throw them away, as I put them down. So I mean, honestly, not saying Baylor doesn't want you to see our stuff, but I don't know."

Van NoZe said she hopes to use the humor of The Rope to lighten people's moods.

"I'd like to remind people to keep an open mind," Van NoZe said. "They might laugh a little bit and not take themselves so seriously and have fun. I think there's a stick up some people's butts, and I'd like to remove it. So you should pick up a copy of The Rope."



Grace Everett | Photo Editor

PLATO'S
CLOSET

4600 FRANKLIN AVE
Waco, TX 76710
(254) 399-9600

MONDAY - SATURDAY:
10:00 am - 9:00 pm
SUNDAY:
11:00 am - 6:00 pm



Up to 10% OFF regular retail

SHOP
SHOP
SHOP

»»» LOCAL

SHOP
SHOP
SHOP



In a world where you can
shop anywhere, **SHOP LOCAL**
at Plato's Closet.

Baylor junior shares battle with speech disorder

RACHEL ROYSTER

Editor-in-Chief

At 20 years old, Hendersonville, Tenn., junior Hayden Downs describes his relationship with his stutter as “a bad marriage [which he stays] in just for the kids.”

“I would definitely not choose to have [my stutter] again, but there have been aspects of it that I’m very thankful for,” Downs said. “It has made me an exceptional listener, and I can really relate to other people who have had their own challenges in life and lots of other groups who face discrimination too.”

Born to two parents who work in health care, Downs said he was put into speech therapy soon after he first started talking. Additionally, he attended a summer camp in North Carolina geared toward young people with stutters.

“It was the first place where I could meet other people who actually stutter and also adults who stutter,” Downs said. “It’s not

the largest community, and it’s hard to meet other people. But it’s really nice to have that exposure.”

From a young age, he endured the effects of a prominent stutter and the social side effects that accompanied it.

“Back then, I was waking up most mornings just knowing that each day would be hell,” Downs said. “Going to school, I would pretty much not be spoken to at all, and I wouldn’t speak much myself.”

Years later, he figured the people around him were trying to protect him in a way by keeping him from the presumed discomfort of speaking. Instead, it did him a disservice and pushed him further into the escape he found in reading young adult novels like “Percy Jackson,” “The Hunger Games” and “Harry Potter” cover-to-cover.

“Things had gotten pretty bad, and I was on a really steep decline,” Downs said. “Going weeks and weeks and months and years on end with very little social interaction when that’s core for us as human beings — especially as we are developing — can be quite harmful.”

Dr. Paul Blanchet, Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology associate professor, said it’s not uncommon for people who stutter to feel isolated from their peers, even if there are others around who have similar experiences.

“If I went to a medium-sized high school with say, 450 students — and I didn’t know anybody who stuttered there when there very well could have been — naturally, I’d think I’m the only one,” Blanchet said. “A lot of people I talk to, they don’t know anybody who stutters, and they’re all speech path grad students.”

Although there are more than 80 million people in the world who stutter — about 1% of the population — Blanchet said the isolation is due to a lack of exposure and public awareness.

When he was young, Downs said being ostracized from classmates due to his disfluency was extremely damaging to his mental health. As a stutterer, he said trying to meet new people and not being able to communicate what he wants to is “dehumanizing,” especially once the other person realizes Downs has a stutter.

“Upon trying to meet a new person, you have the first moment of disfluency, and the person gets a little bit confused, and then as you keep on speaking, it kind of dawns on them,” Downs said. “That’s always the not quite fun part about it. Communication is the bedrock upon which we make friendships and how we share and express our thoughts and feelings and are vulnerable. I think that’s an aspect that’s not really discussed as much as it should be.”

Downs said he thinks males in the stuttering community endure “a perfect storm” specialized to damage mental health.

“It’s very damaging to mental health because, of course, the isolation is always bad and the overall stuttering community is largely male too,” Downs said. “As we all know, men have a much higher rate of suicide and depression, and it’s kind of a taboo for men to talk about those things — even more so among men as vulnerability is not encouraged.”

Due to his speech disorder, Downs said he is often limited in how he can express himself to others. He said anybody who has a stutter has a deep understanding of the words that are especially challenging for them to say. To combat it, many plan out what

II

People who stutter aren't truly used to being listened to because we often have so many things said to us like advice that we don't want or having our words filled in.

HAYDEN DOWNS |
Hendersonville, Tenn., junior

they want to say and may decide to fill in new words to make what they want to communicate easier to verbalize.

The most anxiety-inducing time tends to land on the introduction day in classes.

“Every class period on the first day of school, we go over the syllabus, and one of the big things we always do is have everyone say their name, major, year and where they’re from,” Downs said. “As that turn gets closer and closer to me, things start to get a little bit panicked. My heart races, I get nervous and I almost kind of plan out what I want to say, because I don’t want to be seen as less competent than I really am.”

Downs said at 14, he started to get tired of the exhaustive speech therapy sessions that made limited progress. After just over a decade spent in different speech pathologists offices, his parents approached him with a new idea.

The two-week program in Norfolk, Va., called the Precision Fluency Shaping Program was led by a male speech pathologist named Ross Barrett, a fellow stutterer.

His program was the thing that really turned me around in my own speech,” Downs said. “Seeing what he was able to do for others, making use of his own stutter to do good, really was what inspired me. So it was thanks to him that I actually chose to go into speech path.”

Before the program, Downs’ only plan was to follow in his father’s footsteps and become a surgeon. Instead, he decided to use his unique experience to give back to his niche community and “live a meaningful life.”

“Prior to the Ross Barrett program, I had no clue that I could be a happy adult who was also successful and had a solid career and a loving spouse,” Downs said. “That showed me how good life could be, so coming out of that program, I wanted to live that out for myself.”

Downs said if the prior trend of isolation had kept going, he’s not sure he’d be here today.



Photo courtesy of Hayden Downs

WILD LIFE Hayden Downs attended Camp SAY, a summer camp for stuttering youth, for three years of his childhood.

HIS SPEECH PATH from Page 4



Katy Mae Turner | Photographer

BALANCE Hayden Downs is a communication sciences & disorders major who is balancing his daily life with a stutter.

"I don't think I could quite see it for what it was in the moment, but in hindsight, I can really see how bad things got," Downs said. "I'm really happy I was provided with a great resource to change things around."

Since then, he has a newfound mindset surrounding the "bad marriage" he continues to live with today.

"For years and years, I always really struggled with trying to use the speech therapy methods I'd been taught," Downs said. "Disfluency discouraged me from trying to practice those to get better, but over time, I've gradually come to the realization that those times of disfluency just show me where I need to put in more work. The moments that I am fluent are small wins that encourage me to keep working. So instead of taking that negative look on things, it has become much more positive."

Now on Baylor's campus, Downs said he starts his day with short stints of self-administered speech therapy. He attends classes toward his communication sciences and disorders major and ends the day relaxing at home after the stress and expenditure of talking all day.

"Most people can just kind of rattle off whatever they want to say without any thought whatsoever," Downs said. "But for me, it is all very effortful and done with purpose and thought. That's another pro of the stutter — I put a lot of thought into what I want to say."

Blanchet, who Downs has assisted in researching the overlap between stuttering and suicide, said he is confident Downs will be an immense help to future speech pathology clients.

"When Hayden came in to talk to me, it was quite clear that he wanted to do [speech path]," Blanchet said. "It was obvious. If you've ever met him, you know immediately that he's the real thing. I don't know how to explain it, but his own experiences,

his enthusiasm. He asked a lot of questions, was very motivated. I think he'll be great. He knows what he's getting into. That's the good thing about having a speech problem in this field: You know what you're signing up for because you were a client yourself for many years."

Blanchet said to be a good speech pathologist, one must know how stuttering affects everything about a person's life.

Growing up, Downs said he often had speech therapists who voiced his symptoms but never truly understood what it was like to live with them. It's something he hopes to bring to his professional career and, one day, into his own private practice.

He's already begun his journey to helping others in the stuttering community, as he has returned to his old summer camp, Camp SAY, with a counselor's badge replacing the camper one.

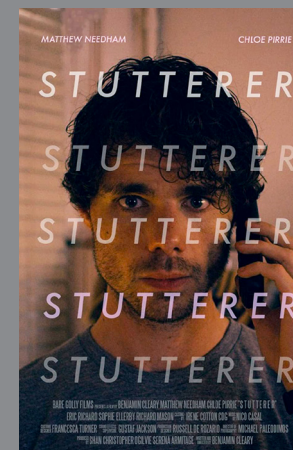
"People who stutter aren't truly used to being listened to because we often have so many things said to us like advice that we don't want or having our words filled in, like saying our names for us and all kinds of things," Downs said. "It is really, really rewarding when there's a camper who is completely new to it. They have their first moment where they are stuttering, and they are scared because they've been made to be scared of it by others. But in this moment, they have a look around and see that they're not being judged, but that they're being loved and being listened to."

More personally, Downs said he hopes to continue to grow into a healthier relationship with his stutter.

"As it is a lifelong part of myself, it's very hard to love something that doesn't treat you well and makes your life so hard," Downs said. "I would prefer to be walking along with it beside me rather than having to drag it along."

Immerse yourself into a stutterer's perspective with Hayden's top picks

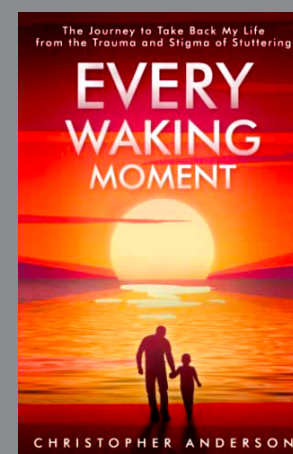
SHORT FILM: STUTTERER



"Occasionally I'm asked what it's like to live with a stutter," Downs said. "It's frustrating because I can't adequately explain it. Stuttering affects not solely your speech but also your mind, mental health, career, social life, love life and

more. It's all-encompassing. To sum it up into a sentence or two is impossible. Now, though, I have the perfect way of explaining."

NOVEL: EVERY WAKING MOMENT



"A little over two weeks ago, I was given a book called 'Every Waking Moment,'" Downs said. "I know that it's important for me to keep learning about other people's stories in stuttering, but I commonly avoid it because it raises

strong negative emotion. ... So, curious, I sat down to read. It felt like I'd been hit by a train. I was reading out every detail of my life as a mirror image to this man's. Chronological, mental, emotional, it was all laid bare. Speech easy, speech therapy, escapism, avoidance, the pitch, self-doubt, all of it an exact copy."



FROM THE CRIME SCENE TO THE CLASSROOM: 'SARGE' HUGGINS TEACHES THROUGH EXPERIENCE

SARAH WANG
Staff Writer

Although theoretical knowledge often works hand-in-hand with real-world practices, it is challenging for students in the field of forensics to get in touch with real crime scene investigations, acquire expertise and put what they have learned into practice. However, senior lecturer James Huggins bridges that gap by taking students to meet the real side of crimes in the classroom.

After more than 29 years of service at the Department of Public Safety, the former Texas Rangers sergeant retired from that group in 2011 and came to work at Baylor.

Throughout his 11 years at the university, Huggins has taught 10 undergraduate courses in forensic science and anthropology, as well as three independent upper-level studies, according to the Baylor website.

Huggins received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 1981. He said he first saw the need to enter the field of forensics while he was being trained as a forensic hypnotist, a polygraph examiner and a hostage negotiator.

"When I got to the area that I was in, which was fairly rural, I noticed that in order for the proper resources to be deployed there, you would have to make a phone call to a crime lab — somewhere that might be hours away," Huggins said. "During that



SMOOTH CRIMINAL Senior lecturer James Huggins sits in the middle of a crime scene that he created for his students to work on.

Kenneth Prabhakar | Photographer

period of time, there were a lot of things happening in that scene that were either being contaminated or destroyed from an evidentiary perspective."

Noticing there needed to be a staff improvement at crime scenes, Huggins took it upon himself to start training in forensics. He said he learned everything he could by attending training seminars and reading every book he could get his hands on — enjoying the field so much that

he decided to get a degree in it.

"I was getting lots of calls, even from rangers in other areas, to come and assist with investigations because of the science side of my experience that I had, and I just became immersed in it," Huggins said.

Huggins was offered the opportunity to come to Baylor and teach students in the field of forensics, showing them what he has done, what forensic science is and what mistakes have been made in the past in order to

improve forensic science.

"It was a good opportunity for me," Huggins said. "There were lots of young rangers coming in with new skills and new experiences. And over the course of between 29 and 30 years [of being a Texas Ranger], the types of cases that you work — as well as the hours and being on-call all the time — does cut into your family life."

Preferring to be called "Sarge" by his students, Huggins said his Texas Rangers

standpoint or from an experience standpoint," Huggins said. "I try to bring those experiences to class to show what has been successful for me as well as what hasn't worked. I try to bring things and to make things as real-life as I can, since I can't take students necessarily to a crime scene."

Nolan Yard, office manager for the anthropology department, said he has worked with Huggins for more than three years and knows him as an instructor that gives his students hands-on experience and skills that are transferrable to the field.

Yard added that he appreciates the realness to Huggins and how he goes about daily instruction.

"What I like most about Professor Huggins is he's a down-to-earth person who doesn't sugarcoat things, and he has a deep commitment to the success of Baylor and its students," Yard said.

Yard said Huggins' background with the Texas Rangers makes him an expert instructor, and the fact that Huggins brings real crime scene investigations into his classroom is a testament to his effectiveness as an instructor and how valuable the student experience truly is.

"I try to show that not everything in this world is happening in the nice, safe confines of Baylor University," Huggins said. "It's happening outside. Real life is going on outside of the university, and that's where crimes are."

experience impacts his way of teaching. After students learn core concepts, techniques and skills, he brings the cases he has worked on for them to review in class. Students are then able to use the strategies they learned in class to recognize key information in a simple picture, such as how long a person has been dead, the cause of death or the weapon that was used.

"I bring everything that I've learned to class, whether it be from an educational

SUNDAY SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP TO SECOND CAREER: WILLIAMS' JOURNEY TO THE CLASSROOM

CAITLYN MEISNER
Staff Writer

Paul Williams was a Sunday school teacher in Waco when his friend recruited him to be a part-time lecturer at Baylor, teaching a juvenile delinquency course on top of his full-time career.

Williams said he started his career as a police officer in Raleigh, N.C., but only for a short period of time since he felt he wasn't suited for preventive patrol.

Williams then moved to a job as a juvenile probation officer with at-risk juveniles, spending 10 years in McLennan, Coryell and Fort Bend Counties.

Afterward, Williams got a job with the federal government, working with adults as a pre-sentence investigator. He has held this position for 12 years, allowing him to move back to Waco — a town he said he loves.

"I met my wife in Waco and she went to Baylor, so we really enjoyed Waco when we were here," Williams said. "We couldn't wait to get back to being close to family, and it's just a great town."

In his current role as a senior probation officer, Williams said there is a process he must go through with his clients.

"I sit down with someone who has committed an offense, and they've either been convicted by plea or found true by a trial," Williams said. "I'll sit down with the offender and find out everything that I can about them, and essentially find out everything about their life that goes to the sentencing judge."

Williams said this report typically includes their background, what led to the current circumstances, their criminal history and facts of the current offense. After compiling this information, he makes a sentencing recommendation to the judge. He said this recommendation is

likely a range of months and/or an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Williams said he transitioned to working with adults because working with adolescents was challenging.

"It felt like I was building sandcastles next to water's edge," Williams said. "It's difficult work, and it wears you out. I always want the best for these kids. I'm glad to work with adults because I like telling people's stories."

Williams said he encourages students to reach out in their communities to mentor these adolescents. Students can work with them one-on-one and mentor them through school, family issues or anything that's needed.

Sociology professor Dr. Kevin Dougherty said he met Williams at their church, Highland Baptist Church. Williams was an adult Sunday school teacher at the time, and Dougherty was a part of the class. Dougherty said he knew Williams was passionate about his work and was a good teacher, so he asked him to be a part of the sociology faculty.

"I thought, 'Wow, my friend and my teacher could be a good colleague,'" Dougherty said. "He brings extensive background in law enforcement from the local and federal level. Rather than someone who's read about and studied these issues, he's been involved with it at a practical level."

Dougherty said he is very happy Williams took up his offer to join the department because he is someone of deep faith.

"His work is motivated in his faith," Dougherty said. "That pairing of his practical background and his faith commitments that motivate that work make him a great fit at Baylor."

Williams also said his work is motivated by his Christian faith.

"When I'm talking about justice, I want them to know who Jesus is," Williams said. "Working with our youth is how we show love to our neighbor."

Dougherty said the teaching Williams does is an act of service, and he said he sees the sense of commitment his friend has to teaching the next generation.

"He's giving to Baylor something not because he needs another job," Dougherty said. "It's an opportunity to help other people through the eyes of someone who's been there. He stayed during COVID, even though that wasn't what he signed up for. I really appreciate his desire to make his course a meaningful experience for his students."

Guangzhou, China, junior Tommy Lin said

he took Williams' class last spring and really enjoyed both the material and the structure. He said he chose the juvenile delinquency course over the criminology course because he knew it was interesting.

"The class is very fun, and it's not about taking notes," Lin said. "We focus on learning something in sociology."

Lin said Williams often brought in guest speakers to talk about different fields and career outcomes that are possible. He said he shared some personal experiences with Williams because during his childhood, Lin's father was a police officer.

Williams also has four children, three of whom were once fostered and are now adopted. Due to the time commitment of working a full-time job, teaching and maintaining family responsibilities, Williams said he is taking the spring semester off.

Dougherty said he isn't sure how Williams is able to balance all that he does.

"He's an active leader in the church, coordinates adult Bible fellowship [and] runs half-marathons," Dougherty said. "I'm not sure how he does it. He demonstrates excellence in every aspect, and I'm grateful to have him as a colleague at Baylor."



5 FREE BONELESS WINGS WITH MINIMUM \$5 PURCHASE



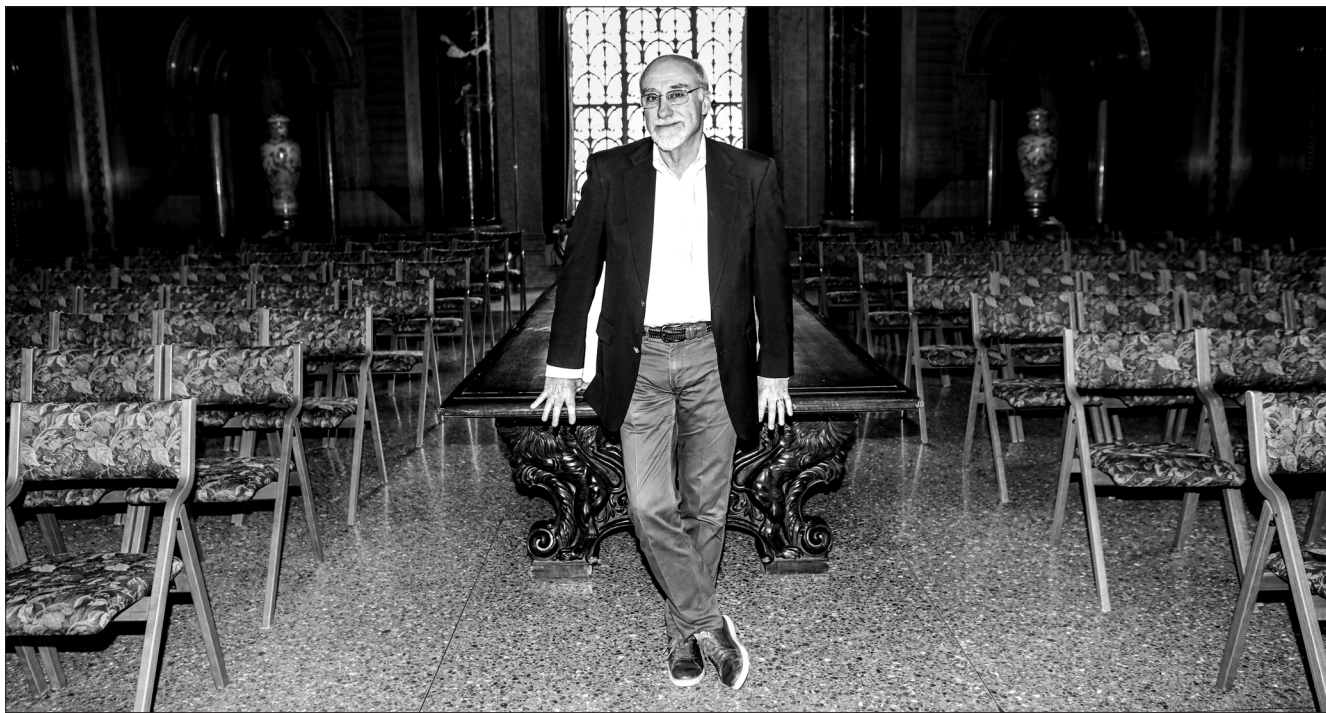
WACO:
5201 West Waco Dr. 254-776-1324
919 South 6th St. 254-752-2929



One coupon per customer/visit. No substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Cannot be copied or sold. Internet distribution prohibited. Must surrender coupon at redemption. One coupon per transaction. Valid only at participating locations. Expires 10/30/22
Coupon Code: C92667

Price and participation may vary by location. Limited time only. Fazoli's and logo are federally registered trademarks of Fazoli's System Management, LLC Copyright © Fazoli's 2470 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, KY 40509-1117

FROM SING CHAIRMAN TO CHAPLAIN



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photographer

LIVING LEGEND Burt Burleson continues his legacy at Baylor serving as the university chaplain and dean of spiritual life.

EMMA WEIDMANN

Staff Writer

Dr. Burt Burleson left Baylor in 1980 a fresh alumnus and returned to campus in 2007 as the university's chaplain and dean of spiritual life. He has seen Baylor shift immensely in diversity, lift the dance ban and more.

His own time at Baylor often informs his mission as university chaplain, even as the student body and the culture on campus changes.

Q:

What made you come to Baylor?

"My journey at Baylor began before I was a student ... Rufus Burleson's father and my great-great-great grandfather are brothers ... There were a number of things drawing me to Baylor, but primarily it was that I was a Texas Baptist ... I was following Baylor football, and we'd listen on the radio ... My brother is two years older than I am and he came to Baylor and was a student athlete ... I really never thought about going any other place."

Q:

What was it like at Baylor in the '70s?
"The disco era started; 'Saturday Night

Fever' came out. It was an exciting time to be at Baylor in a lot of ways ... I was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and I was a Sing chairman and I was part of a dance group. They'd actually pay us to show up at dances to dance ... I just loved that experience; there was a lot of joy in it for me."

"Academically speaking... College was in many ways something for me to get through for me to go to seminary, and I regret that. I wish someone had grabbed hold of me and said 'You need to be more thoughtful about this.'"

Q:

How does your Baylor experience inspire your mission as university chaplain?

"I grew up in a small Texas Baptist church, and I loved the people there and I loved the experience in many ways, but it was not a place where in the life of the mind, questions could be answered, or really even asked. By the time I was halfway through high school, I was beginning to wrestle with some of these things and I didn't have anywhere to go or anyone to go to.

"I had some things happen [at Baylor] that were fairly serendipitous or providential that opened some doors for me into

expressions of faith that I really needed ... There was this sense of 'OK, there is a path for someone who maybe is less traditionally Baptist,' and that remained true for me. It starts at Baylor, where I felt blessed to explore some things."

Q:

How has Baylor changed since you were a student? How has it changed since being university chaplain?

"For one thing, we're more diverse. We're more diverse spiritually speaking, and all of these aspects of diversity have come together. Most everybody came from Texas back in the day, most folks had grown up in a Baptist environment ... I don't remember knowing an international student. I knew very few people who weren't from Texas ... Students probably think about these things more now, but we never thought about it."

"The other thing that has changed ... In the '90s, there was an intentional, strategic, missional decision to think about the way faith animates and enlightens the academic journey of someone, and how the academic journey in the life of the mind, informs and animates faith. We really took a step in our faith mission that has led us to where we are today."

PRESIDENT L

RACHEL ROYSTER

Editor-in-Chief

Q:

What are your and your husband's favorite things to do around Waco?

"We, of course, love doing things on campus, whether it's theater or music or athletic events or things that we get to watch our students perform and show off their giftedness and skill. We also love some of the outdoor things you can do here. We don't do them as often as we would like, but biking or walking along the river. We love Cameron Park. It's an amazing city park — kind of a hidden gem in Waco. We've always really loved the Cameron Park Zoo, and part of that is because we were here in Waco [when] Shelby was born. Some of our earliest memories with Shelby in particular after she started walking were going to Cameron Park Zoo. It's a really wonderful zoo for small children. We even have a brick in front of the lion habitat at the zoo that we gave a donation when they were building

that. It has su little g

"Sh to Bayl old. So when s her wh at bask fun m childh

Q:

"Le because we're g Brazos at our jet skis out on skis. W



Kenneth Prabhakar

INSIDE SCOOP Linda Livingstone reflects on her experiences of Baylor University.

LIVINGSTONE TELLS ALL

"It's a really wonderful zoo, but also because it has so many great memories from when Shelby was a little girl."

Shelby was born in April, so she started coming to Baylor for athletic events when she was like 5 months old. We took her to football games that next fall, and she was a tiny baby. We have lots of pictures of her when she was just a little girl, baby and toddler basketball games at Baylor. So those are great memories — lots of good memories of her growing up here in Waco."

Describe your perfect Saturday.

"It's assume there's not a Baylor athletic event, but if there's a Baylor athletic event, that's what I'm going to be doing. We have a place out on the Brazos River, so a perfect Saturday would be being out there at the river. We have a boat and we have a house, so it's probably some combination of being out on our boat on the Brazos River or on our jet ski. We love being out there. It's very relaxing, and it's quiet."

Q: Where is the farthest place you've traveled to by car?

"The longest road trip we've ever taken was when I moved from Pepperdine to George Washington University. Pepperdine is in California; George Washington University is in Washington, D.C. Our daughter, Shelby, was going to her freshman year at Rice, so we drove to Rice in Houston and dropped her off. And then we drove the rest of the way to Washington, D.C. We did a cross-country trip."

Q: What is your go-to snack for road trips?

"For drinks, I'm a Coke Zero fan. Although we're a Pepsi school, I'm a Coke Zero fan. I also love iced tea. For snacks, I'm a chocolate fan — pretty much anything that's chocolate. Something with chocolate and caramel is even better. I do like crunchy snacks like chips and stuff. Brad loves nuts,

so he always has nuts with him. And Brad's really the snacker on our trips. It doesn't matter how far we're going; he will have a snack bag for trips."

Q: What has given you the drive to pursue more leadership positions throughout your career?

"I think I've always liked to be challenged, and whether it was academically or athletically to try to be the best at whatever it was I was doing and then to be willing to take on new opportunities and new challenges. I think whatever the direction I would have gone, it would have been, 'What's the next challenge I can take on? What's the next opportunity where I can have an impact?' I think given where I went and academics and then began leadership, that was kind of the driver of wanting to continue to grow and develop myself and then saying, 'How can I have an even more significant impact on whatever organization I'm a part of?'"

Q: What would your younger self (early college, high school) say or think about where/who you are today?

"I certainly would have never thought I would be a university president, and I don't know that I even then would have thought I was going to be anything like a professor at a university. I really didn't start thinking about that until I was in graduate school. So I think I would be really surprised ... I would understand that I loved education, but I don't think I would have ever thought that this is where my career would have led me or where my life would be right now. I think I'd be really happy though that that's where I ended up, and probably proud of myself for that's where I ended up."

Q: I heard that you sewed your own wedding dress. How long did that take you, and what prompted you to do it?

"Brad and I got engaged in May of 1983, and our wedding was in September. We'd been dating for three years. So I would say, probably two or three months that summer ... It was kind of a joint project between me and my mom. It was really special to do with her."

"I learned to sew when I was quite young. In second or third grade, I started sewing for myself. I was quite tall when I was young, and particularly [in] middle school [and] high school, it was much harder to find clothes to fit taller girls and women. It was just easier to make my own clothes. I did that really until I went off to college and certainly haven't sewn hardly any since then. It's actually much easier to find clothes now for all different types and sizes of people, so I really appreciate that."



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photographer

OUTBREAK President Livingstone sits down with Rachel Royster, the editor-in-chief of the Baylor Lariat, for the final interview of the last 2022 print edition.

Q: What excites you about basketball? What do you miss about playing on a team? Do you have any guesses as to what this season will look like for the Bears?

"My dad was a college basketball coach, so I grew up in the gym on a university campus around college basketball. I kind of grew to love the game of basketball and then of course, had the opportunity to play it. There's something going on all the time, so I love that about it. The fact that Brad and I played basketball, you know the game. That's good and bad. Because you know the game really well, you're probably a little bit more of a critical observer of the game. But I think it also makes you appreciate the skill level at which women and men participate, because you know how hard it is to do it at that level. You just love that there's just really talented young athletes out there performing at a really high level. I would say that about any of our athletic teams — and frankly, even our music and theater kids, because really, they're so talented, and I know how hard it is to be really good at whatever it is you do."

"I'm well past the time of knowing that I could play like that or at that level, and there are parts of it you miss. But the game is so much better and faster and higher now than it was when Brad and I played it. I'm really fortunate because I have lots of opportunities to continue to work with teams. So I have a leadership team that I work with regularly. It's just in a different setting in a different environment. But I do think having been on a team, as a student-athlete, helps prepare you for those other kinds of teams that you're on later in life."

"Both our women's and men's teams have a lot of really talented players on the team, but they also both have quite a few new players. I think that there's this process of them kind of learning how to play as a team and how to adapt and grow as a team. Both teams, you've seen really great talent and great performance. You've also seen times they

haven't probably performed at the level that you know they're capable of. I have great confidence in how they're going to progress and grow as teams as the season goes on. I think they'll be unbelievably competitive in the Big 12. Of course, I love Coach Collen and Coach Drew; they're both amazing. We're thrilled to have them, and the men and women on those two teams are just wonderful young people and really proud of having them represent Baylor."

Q: Who is your mentor, and what is the best advice they have given you?

"I've had different mentors or colleagues that have kind of spoken into my life at different points in time that were all, for different reasons, really significant. People think there's some model of what a leader should be and look like and sound like, act like. And if you're trying to be and do and act like something that's not authentically you, people figure that out, and it's not going to be effective in a leadership role. I think that has stuck with me. I also try to encourage others that whatever you're doing, you've got to be authentically who you are, and you've got to truly live out your values and stick to those values so that you can look back on your life and feel good about what you've done in a way you've influenced people and the impact you've had."

Q: What do you want people to remember about you (not just as Baylor's president, but also as a person)?

"I hope that they see kind of an authenticity and genuineness in me — that I really care about people and I care about the organizations I'm a part of and really want to do everything I can to help, whether it's the people or the organization to be better. And that hopefully, I leave a place better than it was when I got there. I hope they see my deep personal Christian faith as well and know that that's actually a really significant driver of why I do what I do and the way in which I engage with others."

EMMY NOMINEE SHARES HER PASSION FOR STORYTELLING

MARIAH BENNETT
Staff Writer

Dr. Sarah-Jane “SJ” Murray is an associate professor of great texts and creative writing in Baylor’s Honors College. She is also an Emmy-nominated writer and producer, an award-winning director, a multilingual author, a speaker at two TED Talks and a decadeslong academic who began her lecturing career at just 21 years old.

Most importantly, however, Murray is a human dedicated to stories. Whether it is preserving them, telling them or encouraging others to share their own, she said her life revolves around storytelling.

“I’ve loved storytelling since I was a kid,” Murray said. “I think that we often take for granted the stories that surround us. We don’t realize how important it is to think about the stories we’re creating or the stories we’re consuming.”

Murray earned degrees from Auburn and Princeton, as well as a certificate in screenwriting

from UCLA. After earning her undergraduate degree at Auburn, she delved into academia as a lecturer in the French department. She said she got a sense of mentoring students outside of class when she took her first French class to Paris for spring break.

“I really realized from that how I enjoyed teaching,” Murray said. “It became a passion. So I ended up applying after that experience to grad school at Princeton ... and I’ve been at a university ever since.”

Murray said she fell in love with the Middle Ages and studying ancient documents — especially the context of those who really lived with them — while at Princeton. Her passion knows no bounds, as she even spent 10 years translating “The Ovide Moralisé,” which comes out next year.

“I was living up close and personal with these old artifacts that were the only way that people had back then of preserving storytelling and sharing it with other people,” Murray said. “I became fascinated with what you might call the sort of bestsellers of the High Middle Ages, or what you might

think of today in terms of our hit TV shows.”

Murray said her love of great texts is what got her interested in doing medieval studies into film.

“What I’m really interested in is how stories shape civilization, including our own modern worlds,” Murray said. “They can also draw our attention to problems in the world and make people care about them so that we can build from that place to make change.”

Murray said stories can be opportunities to shine light into really dark places. This can be seen in her documentary project “IX,” which is set to come out in late 2023 or early 2024. It was filmed from September 2021 to May 2022 across the nation.

“We essentially built the entire school year leading up to the 50th anniversary of Title IX,” Murray said. “The topic of the film is speaking with young people about dating sexual assault and Title IX, but looking at it from all issues and in a depolarizing way across the political spectrum.”

Murray said they spoke to those who have experienced harassment or assault, experts on the front lines and the small percentage of those who were wrongly accused — along with people all across the political spectrum.

“What was really encouraging is you find that people in America from north to south and east to west are far less polarized than the news would have us believe,” Murray said.

Courtney Smith, line producer and assistant editor for “IX,” is a former student of Murray’s. She said she also saw similar behavior.

“What we saw more than anything ... talking to people with different areas, different beliefs and perspectives — they were all willing to come to these conversations and go to new places, listen to each other, to be respectful,” Smith said. “It was amazing because we saw that not just with the participants in the film, but we saw it also with the crew that we traveled with.”



Photo courtesy of Courtney Smith

JUST THE ESSENTIALS Murray poses with her three favorite things: her dog, her coffee and her camera.

Smith said they were really lucky to be able to find an incredible crew for the course of the project.

“[Murray has] been very instrumental in teaching that one of the things that is often forgotten in a lot of companies is that idea of the triple bottom line, that idea of human capital — if not the most important thing, one of the most important things to foster and to care for,” Smith said. “Because you can’t replace a person who has that passion, has those skills and who has that integrity.”

However, this isn’t Murray’s first foray to shine light. Her Emmy nomination came from the 2013 documentary “Primary Concern,” which covered the primary care crisis in America. She worked with Joanie Livingston, a PBS producer at the time, interviewing multiple doctors and caregivers and even reading the entire Affordable Care Act in her research.

“I’m really grateful to Joanie Livingston and to Renee McKay for giving me the chance to earn my stripes in documentary filmmaking,” Murray said.

Murray went on to be an executive producer on the Netflix exclusive “LIBERATED: The New Sexual Revolution” — a documentary about today’s young adult hookup culture and the stories in pop culture that

influence it.

Murray said “LIBERATED” was viewed not as a way to talk down to young people or even to document young people; rather, it was a way to have a conversation about what they want from relationships.

“Young people have to be so tired of hearing older people telling them what they think,” Murray said. “There’s a really easy solution, which is to go ask young people what they think.”

Lubbock sophomore Meredith Neeb is a film and digital media major. She said she thinks it is really cool that there is a professor at Baylor who was nominated for her work in a documentary.

“I think that’s really awesome,” Neeb said. “It’s giving more exposure to film in other departments within Baylor.”

Murray said she encourages students to share their stories through any platform.

“If you have a story inside you, don’t think about who’s going to read it or who’s going to see it,” Murray said. “Pick up your pen and write. Pick up a camera to shoot. Because if you have a gift that has been instilled in you and that can help you make a difference in the world, all you have to do is respond to that invitation. God will honestly do the rest. You have to believe in yourself first.”

||

If you have a story inside you,
don't think about who's going to
read it or who's going to see
it. Pick up your pen and write.

DR. SARAH-JANE MURRAY |
AUTHOR, PROFESSOR

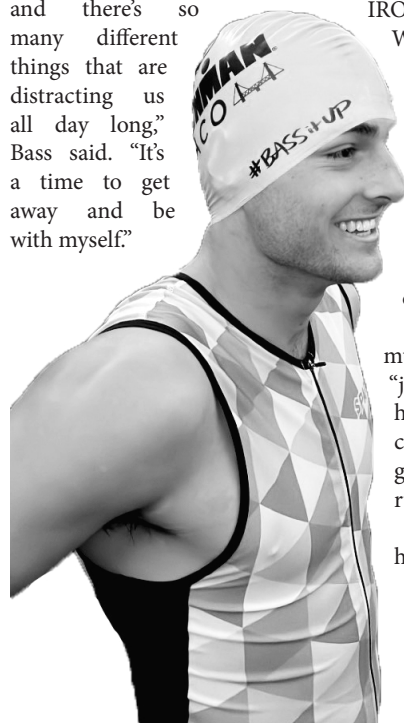
ALL ABOUT THAT PACE: BASS RUNS FOR PEACE, CHALLENGE, COMMUNITY

LILY NUSSBAUM
Staff Writer

Houston junior Collin Bass participated in cross country and swimming all through high school, but he said he was never one to excel. While he didn't make varsity any of the 14 seasons he was part of the sports, he developed an addiction to the characteristics of long-distance solo competition.

Bass said he appears to be an extrovert to many, but he considers himself more of an introvert. To fuel this side of himself, he uses long-distance running. Strapped up in his pair of Brooks and surrounded by the steady thrum of nature, he allows the world's worries to slip away.

"Life goes so fast, and there's so many different things that are distracting us all day long," Bass said. "It's a time to get away and be with myself."



During his first two years of college, Bass said he became interested in running half and full marathons because of the commitment — it was a way to challenge himself. In spring 2022 alone, Bass ran both the Bearathon and the Silo District Half Marathon.

"The IRONMAN was like that next big step," Bass said. "I'm never going to be more in shape than I am right now, and so let's just see if I can do it or not."

The Sunday of the Silobration half marathon, Bass' runner's high led him to look up how long it would take to train for an IRONMAN. The answer was 30 weeks.

How far away was the Waco IRONMAN? 30 weeks.

Bass said he immediately kicked into gear, training for IRONMAN Waco 2022.

With the guidance of his elementary school teacher-turned-IRONMAN coach Charlotte French, Bass endured nine hours of cardio each week, increasing the number as race day closed in.

Bass said he often muttered the phrase "just keep pedaling," but he never gave up. He centered himself on his goal and the quiet of a run or swim.

"When you spend half of a year training for something every single day with that level of commitment, you know, that's a big

deal," Allen junior Benjamin Nopper, Bass' enthusiastic best friend, said. "There's a lot of sacrifice that goes into that."

In addition to his coach, Bass said his mom prepared and inspired him during training. Starting at three feet tall, he said his childhood was spent making posters and ringing cowbells with his siblings for his mom's triathlons and his dad's marathons.

The roles reversed on the day of Bass' race.

His parents flew in from Ohio for the race and joined a large group of supporters spearheaded by Nopper. They cheered from the sidelines during each stroke, step and peddle of the race and were the first to greet Bass as he crossed the finish line at 13 hours, 43 minutes and 35 seconds.

"He is a very steady figure, but you could see the joy but also the relief and then like the emotion of having his family there," Nopper said. "You knew how much that meant to him."

While finishing a full IRONMAN is a big achievement, the medal and prestigious title weren't the focus for Bass. He runs for peace, for the challenge and for the community found in each step of the sport.

"I couldn't have done it without the people training next to me or the people on the sidelines cheering and screaming their heads off along the way," Bass said. "Those really sentimental moments are more important than the big end goal."

Photo courtesy of Collin Bass

New Baylor Sports Podcast **Baylor Lariat Radio**



DON'T FEED THE BEARS
BAYLOR LARIAT RADIO



Tune in on **DECEMBER 6th** to see where **BAYLOR** will **BOWL** & get insights into the **NCAA Standoffs**.



Harper Mayfield and **Foster Nicholas** host Baylor Lariat Radio's sports podcast, "**Don't Feed the Bears**", discussing high and low points covering an array of Baylor athletics, including including football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and more!

Also, tune in for their takes on the Big 12, NCAA and professional sports, along with a quick look at intramural matchups on campus **every Monday on Spotify**.

A NEW EPISODE EVERY MONDAY

Student shares good and bad experiences as a member of Baylor LGBTQIA+ community

SAMANTHA GARZA
News Writer

Coming out to family and friends is not always easy Houston junior Andrea Perez said. Sometimes it takes courage and bravery, and other times, it requires sacrifice and luck.

Although she said she prefers to not label herself as of right now, Perez came out as gay to her immediate family a year ago. While some cultures have slowly progressed and evolved, others still hold very traditional and stigmatized beliefs regarding the LGBTQIA+ community.

The LGBTQIA+ community has been a steadfast growing group the past few years. Slowly, members of the community all over the world have tried to normalize the idea of homosexuality in different cultures, societies and religions.

"It was a little bit difficult [coming out], just coming from like a Mexican family and being the first one to come out," Perez said. "Not all of my family knows; all of my immediate family knows, but the extended ones don't really know. It's not like I'm hiding it. It's just keeping the peace."

Since coming out, Perez said she and her mom have been working on their relationship and have come a long way.

"There's a lot of

homophobia within the culture and just like jokes within the culture that I think she just didn't know any of the stereotypes," Perez said.

She said it was tough to receive questions and comments from her parents such as "How are you gay? You're just so feminine" and "You like masculine girls? Oh, you just like boys. You're confused."

"I've had to just understand that it's just her not understanding and not knowing," Perez said.

She said compared to some people, her coming out story was relatively easy. She said she has had friends who have been kicked out of their homes or shunned by their families.

"My parents just said, 'We don't agree with it, but like, we love you. It's not your choice, and we get it,'" Perez said.

She said one of the reasons her mom changed her mind and began to give her more support was her girlfriend. She said that watching her girlfriend's distress after coming out to her family was an eye-opener for her mom.

On the other hand, when coming out to her dad, Perez said there wasn't much initial tension.

"Also, I don't really poke at it because I don't want to hear something that I don't like and it affects our relationship," Perez said. "We just have a

mutual understanding that if they want to know something, they'll ask. But I don't want to be the one to bring it up."

Perez said the list of people she has not come out to in her own family include her grandparents — something requested by her mom.

"It hurts to hear your mom say, 'Don't say that yet,' but it's just one of those things where you have to pick your battles," Perez said.

She said growing up in the Mexican culture and being a member of the LGBTQIA+ community has forced her to develop a thick skin. Since she was little, her mom has always taught her that not everyone is going to agree with her, but that does not mean she has to change who she is.

"I'm just accepting that one day, one of the happiest days of somebody's life — which is getting married — I might not have all my family there," Perez said. "I might not have all of my friends there, just because they don't agree with it."

Although Baylor is Christian and has had controversial views on gay marriage in the past, Perez said it had always been her dream school.

As a first-generation American and first-generation student, Perez said she had a lot to prove not only to herself but also to her parents. Despite knowing Baylor has a small LGBTQIA+ community, she

said she wanted to be able to say that she got into Baylor, is getting good grades and is persevering.

"I liked the fact that I was going to be able to learn how to be in an environment where not everyone agrees with me," Perez said.

Perez said because she is "straight passing," she has never personally experienced any hate comments or negativity from anyone in the Baylor community. However, she said she has heard homophobic comments from other Baylor students about the LGBTQIA+ community.

"People will say things, and they don't assume like 'Oh this person might have a girlfriend,' or they don't assume 'Oh this person might be part of the LGBT community,' because that's just not the first thought that people go to," Perez said.

On campus, Perez serves as the social chair for PRISM — an LGBTQIA+ friendly and inclusive group.

"I have friends here at Baylor that say, 'My extended family will never know because my life will be in danger if I tell them,' so they have to hide who they are," Perez said. "PRISM has been a really good place for them to just go to."

Perez said even though Baylor has made progress in becoming more inclusive — such as by allowing organizations like PRISM to be chartered — there is still a

long way to go.

"The fact that whenever we take pictures and we say,

'Oh and by the way, this might be posted,'

and then people might not want to get their picture taken anymore, just makes me sad,"

Perez said. She was excited to join PRISM because she wanted to show Baylor that people like her exist on

campus

and need

their

voices

to be

heard too.

"Life's

tough,

but what

somebody

thinks of

you does not

mean that you

are that," Perez

said. "And if somebody

has something bad

to say and they are

coming from a point

of faith, just know

that Jesus loved

everybody, and

your relationship

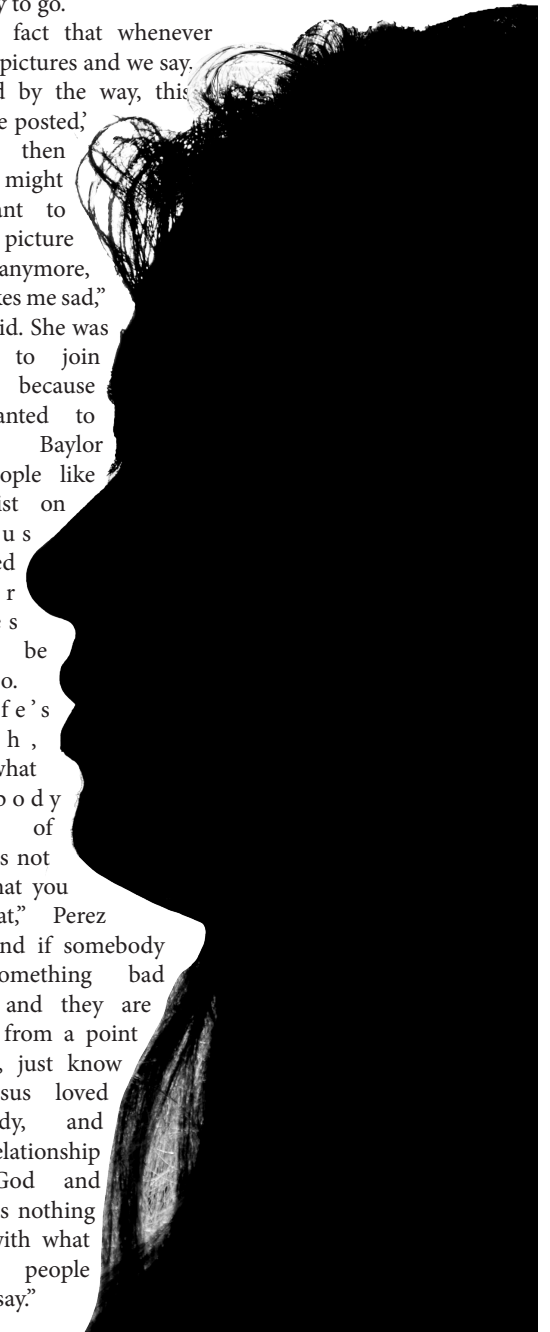
with God and

Jesus has nothing

to do with what

other people

have to say."



Katy Mae Turner | Photographer

FROM FEAR TO FAITH:

Earle Hall chaplain's journey to Christ

JONAH KRAMER
Staff Writer

Truett Seminary student Kinley Tenzin serves as Earle Hall's chaplain, mentoring students spiritually and helping them grow in the Christian faith — a faith that Tenzin said he did not grow up with himself.

Born in Bhutan, a country of around 800,000 people bordering China and India, Tenzin said he was instructed in the teachings of Bhutan's state religion: Buddhism.

"I was a very hardcore Buddhist," Tenzin said. "I had that huge, strong belief in Buddhism."

At the age of 7, Tenzin moved with his parents and younger brother from Bhutan's capital, Thimphu, to Wangdue Phodrang, a district in central Bhutan. Three years later, his family's world was flipped upside down.

Tenzin's father died, leaving him — at 10 years old — with a big responsibility as his mother fell into depression and alcohol addiction.

"Both of them were very lovely as a husband and wife," Tenzin said. "And after that incident, everything changed."

At the age of 14, Tenzin worked on construction sites and private farms in addition to jobs at hotels and restaurants in an effort to support his mother and younger brother. In the same year, he said he heard the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time while visiting his uncle for winter break back in Thimphu.

"When I heard the gospel, I was not able to accept it easily because I had that fear: what other people will say, what the government will do, what my family will think about me [and] what my friends will say about me," Tenzin said.

While Tenzin was not ready to identify himself as a Christian, he said he was curious about Jesus. Two years later, his uncle gave him a New Testament pocket Bible, which he eagerly read. Verses like John 3:16, Romans 3:23 and Ephesians 2:8-10 "struck" Tenzin and stood in stark contrast to what he grew up believing.

"[Buddhists] believe that you have to earn good merits," Tenzin said. "You have to do good things, and your next life will be better."

In comparison, Ephesians 2:8 challenged Tenzin's mindset, saying, "for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

"I had all that fear, fear of sin [and] fear of death," Tenzin said. These few Bible verses brought a newfound hope. In the same year that Tenzin received the pocket Bible, he accepted Christ, got baptized and joined Christian fellowship groups in Thimphu.

Tenzin moved back to the capital permanently, engaging with churches that met in homes due to restrictions on public worship that were imposed by Bhutan's government. Tenzin's mother and brother joined him, not only in moving back to Thimphu but also in accepting Jesus.

"I told them that humans cannot be saved by doing good deeds," Tenzin said. "I told them about [how] Christ is the way, the truth and the life."

Tenzin also taught them about "a real joy in suffering" that Christ brings, which became a reality for his mother.

"My mom was still struggling with that depression, mental illness and addiction," Tenzin said. "Now she has left that all. I give credit to the grace of God. That is the power of God."

Tenzin, who said he has "seen many people transform," continued to share the gospel with those around him. However, the reaction to his belief in Christ was not always positive, as he said he faced verbal harassment, discrimination and exclusion.

"My own relatives hated me for believing in Christ," Tenzin said. "What a stupid thing you're doing," [they said]. "We don't want to consider you as a part of our family." "You are a traitor of your country, of your government [and] of your kin."

Tenzin did not let the denunciation deter him, as he said, "God has given me that boldness to stand firm in what I believe to tell about the good news." He faced further criticism when he decided to attend Clark Theological College in India to pursue a bachelor's degree in divinity.

Initially desiring a career in business, Tenzin had received a scholarship to the Royal University of Bhutan and planned to enroll in the national university. However, he said his plans changed after a revelation at a youth conference in India.

"[At] that time, [it was] kind of like God gave me a very new being," Tenzin said. "God spoke through that preacher."

Tenzin excelled at Clark, earning an academic proficiency award and serving as a student chaplain during his final year at the college.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented Tenzin from returning to Bhutan after graduation, so he stayed in India, where he served with several organizations — primarily as a gospel recorder at Words of Hope Ministries.

Tenzin worked with Words of Hope to produce gospel message videos in Dzongkha, Bhutan's official language. He said the distribution of Christian literature and media resources in his home country is crucial, as "there is no strong Christian literature in Bhutan."

In order to best prepare himself to spread the gospel in Bhutan, Tenzin decided to attend seminary in the United States.

"Coming to America was my dream," Tenzin said. As he began researching schools, Tenzin said he heard about Baylor from a former Clark classmate. In August, he began his pursuit of a master's degree in divinity from Truett Seminary, becoming the first Bhutanese to come to the United States and study in seminary.

In the future, Tenzin said he plans on pursuing a non-theological graduate degree — one that the Bhutanese government will recognize.



Assoah Ndomo | Photographer

FAITH STANDS TALL Earle Hall Chaplain Kinley Tenzin shares his story of finding Christ and his way to America

With the hope of one day returning to Bhutan, Tenzin said he aspires to spread the gospel while advocating for religious freedom.

"My vision for coming here is to be an advocate of Christians in Bhutan — to be the voice to them [and] to see them one day have that complete freedom to worship God," Tenzin said.

The fellowship that Tenzin said he desires for Bhutan is the type of fellowship that he fosters as Earle Hall's chaplain — a role he assumed about a month into the fall semester.

Before moving into Earle Hall, Tenzin lived in an apartment with other graduate students, including fellow Truett student Praveen Kumar, who said Tenzin has a "very joyful spirit."

"He's one of the few that I've seen that is always smiling," Kumar said. "It's hard to find somebody like that."

Tenzin brought his smile with him to Earle Hall, where he said he wants to "give students a new perspective," challenging them to grow in their faith while promoting the hope and joy that come from Christ.

One of Tenzin's outreach programs is "Chai Time," a weekly event where he prepares a popular Asian chai recipe for students in the Earle Hall lobby.

United Arab Emirates freshman Dinili Suraweera said the chai reminds her of what she makes back home. She said she and Tenzin bonded over their international backgrounds the first day they met; Tenzin knew exactly where her home country was — a familiarity she said she rarely encounters in the United States.

"He was so welcoming," Suraweera said. "He's really easy to talk to. I feel like I can just come up to him and tell him anything."

While Tenzin is over 8,000 miles from home, he is already working to promote and propagate the goodness of Christ in Bhutan and in the world as a student at Truett Seminary and the chaplain at Earle Hall.

DYING AND DEATH EDUCATION PROFESSOR TEACHES STUDENTS VALUABLE LESSONS ON GRIEF, GRAVES

AVERY BALLMANN
Staff Writer

The first week of each month, from 5 p.m. Friday until 8 a.m. the next Friday, Dr. Craig Klempnauer is at the mercy of God's will and a phone call, as a hospice chaplain for AccentCare.

Once the nurse confirms the death and the family requests a chaplain, Klempnauer drives to the family — within a 65-mile radius — to provide support until the body is retrieved. Klempnauer is present from the first hours the family experiences being without their loved one, to the visitation or funeral service. On top of this responsibility, he's also a part-time lecturer for dying and death education at Baylor.

Since 2018, Klempnauer has taught this course, usually for students who are pursuing the medical field. Within the curriculum students plan

their own funeral and visit a cemetery and funeral home.

"As a future physician, death is going to be important to that doctor's practice," Klempnauer said. "They can't keep their patient alive forever and ever, so they need to know the outcome of death and what all that entails."

Klempnauer is familiar with the details of death, from when it occurs to the behind-the-scenes procedures. When he's on-call, Klempnauer said he attends three to four funeral services, while most of his students have never stepped foot into a funeral home before.

Klempnauer partners with Grace Gardens Funeral Home and Crematorium, located in Woodway, a place his students can tour to help overcome the eeriness that befriends death.

Kris Rhodes, Baylor alumna and funeral director at Grace Gardens, took dying and death education in the

mid 1990s. When she began working at Grace Gardens, Rhodes said she inherited Craig.

When they arrived this October on a cold night, they were greeted by Rhodes and Glenda Holland, embalmer, funeral director and care center coordinator. The students were quiet and huddled around the fish tank while they made quick glances to the coffin in the other room.

"I love it, because it does take some of the mystery out of it," Rhodes said. "You can tell they're a little uncomfortable when they walk in because everybody expects funeral directors to be like 'The Addams Family' or something, and we're just people."

During the tour, Klempnauer, Rhodes and Holland were cracking jokes and sharing stories from what they've encountered in the business. Holland had all of her chemicals and instruments laid out next to the embalming table, and Rhodes showed the coffins and urns they offered. They took the students back to the crematorium, which was being used.

When students entered the embalming room, the smell of formaldehyde filled their noses, and many of them perked up with questions regarding that process. When asked how she copes with seeing deceased bodies, Holland pointed to her radio.

"I don't really think about it during the day that much," Holland said.

"I try to stay focused on what I'm doing, so I can make the person that I'm working with look the best that I can for the family, because it's important to that family to get that closure."

Like Holland, Klempnauer has ways to decompress after a day of being on-call. He usually watches the Game Show Network, because Steve Harvey in "Family Feud" is a mindless way for him to disconnect and recharge.

"Some were a little skeptical the first time entering into a funeral home — a little leery, not sure what to expect, even though I prepped and prepared them," Klempnauer said. "But overall, the feeling that they shared was, 'Hey, I'm glad I did this.'"

When Klempnauer's class went through the tour of Grace Gardens in the spring, Round Rock junior Bayley Humphrey was enamored by the tour so much that she now

works there part time.

"When I was able to go into the funeral home and visualize everything that we were learning and putting down in class, it really helped me learn in that perspective," Humphrey said. "That class was just so interesting, because it just changed my whole point of view on the scary topic of death."

Humphrey is pursuing a career as a pathologist assistant with a focus in autopsy pathology. She is also a hospice volunteer, because she was inspired by Klempnauer's secondary job.

"He [Klempnauer] completely changed my life," Humphrey said. "It [the class] made me decide that I really want to do autopsy pathology."

When Rhodes took the class she said she learned valuable lessons, such as making

sure the family feels that their loved one's life still lives on. Rhodes and her team ensure the family feels this philosophy by their fulfilling requests, such as having the staff wear purple ties at the service, along with with loved ones.

"There's so many details, if they're having a full traditional service, it's like planning a wedding, with none of the time," Rhodes said.

Details include whether the person wants to be buried or cremated, whether they want a traditional service, prices for caskets or urns and more. Klempnauer teaches these fine-print details by having his students plan their own funerals. Holland said she has experienced families having no idea what their loved ones would have wanted.

"I think everybody that is in any kind of health care industry needs to know what happens when someone passes away," Holland said.

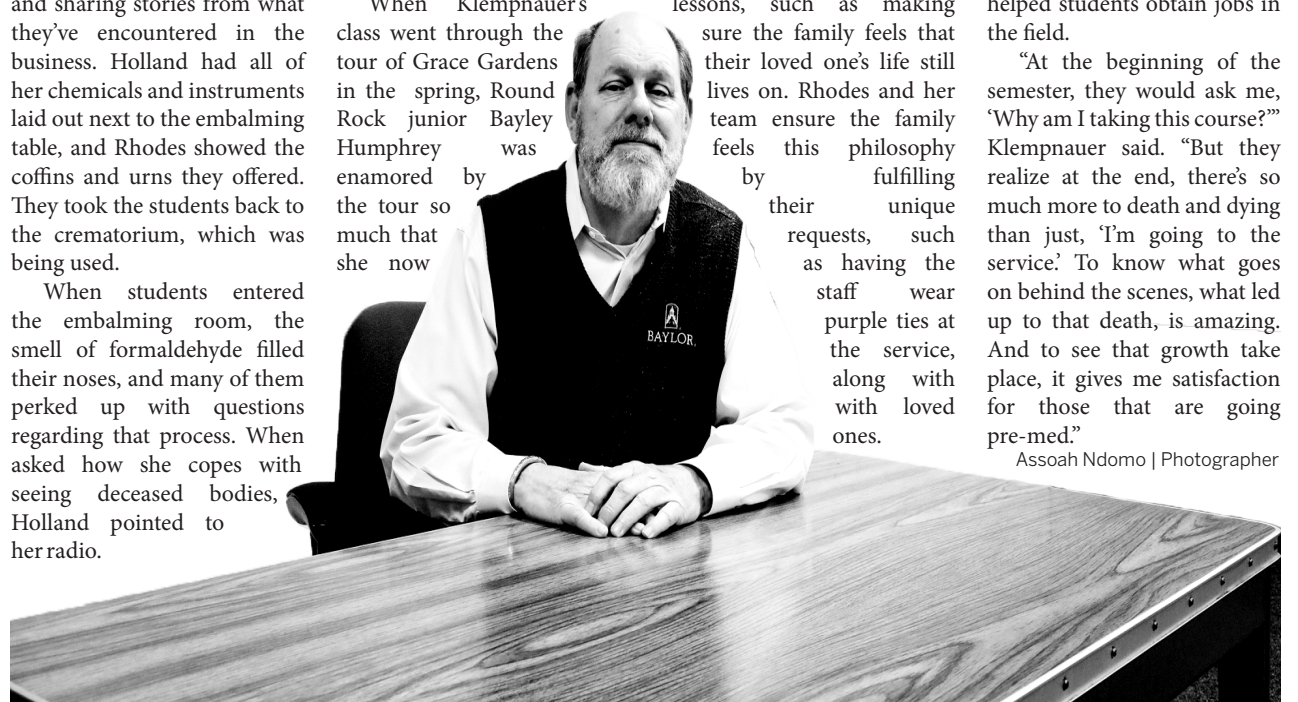
Throughout his time at Baylor, Klempnauer has opened two sections of dying and death education and has helped students obtain jobs in the field.

"At the beginning of the semester, they would ask me, 'Why am I taking this course?'" Klempnauer said. "But they realize at the end, there's so much more to death and dying than just, 'I'm going to the service.' To know what goes on behind the scenes, what led up to that death, is amazing. And to see that growth take place, it gives me satisfaction for those that are going pre-med."

Assoah Ndomo | Photographer

There's so much more to death and dying than just, 'I'm going to the service.' To know what goes on behind the scenes, what led up to that death, is amazing.

**CRAIG KLEMPNAUER |
PROFESSOR, HOSPICE CHAPLAIN**



LOC IT UP: STUDENT GIVES HER CLIENTS HAIR CONFIDENCE

KAMERON BROOKE
Reporter

Four months ago, Houston sophomore Brooklyn Joseph began her hair locking services after doing a favor for a friend. That talent soon turned into a business venture. She is a health science studies major with a concentration in physical therapy. Joseph's business offers starter locs, retwists and styling, which has allowed her to make money while in school.

Q: Can you tell me a bit about how you got started doing locs?

"Honestly, it wasn't something I really planned on doing. It was just one day, we had a group chat of Black students, and one of our guy friends was like 'Does anyone retwist hair?' And I saw it as a favor I could do for a friend. Then I just expanded that, and from there it kind of kicked off."

Q: Can you explain the difference between starter locs and retwists?

"With starter locs, there's two different variations that I do, but overall there are multiple. There's twists and comb coils. With twists, you're parting the hair and taking two strands and twisting them together. With comb coils, you part the hair, and some people use a comb, which is where it gets the comb coil name, but yeah I think that starter method gives the best look."

Q: How long have you had locs yourself, and how long have you been doing other people's hair?

"I'm coming up on 11 months [of having locs], which is crazy. I've been doing hair for about four months, which is also crazy because it feels like I've been doing it for so long. A lot of people think I also do braids, so when that happens, I usually refer them to other friends because I specialize in locs."

Q: How has your business impacted you, and who are your main clients?

"For me, I've found enjoyment in it. I think it's nice, and I love seeing locs in the community. And I understand that people are students, so I don't charge people crazy prices. It's something nice I can do for someone else, and I like that. Most of my clients are student-athletes."

Q: Do you have a favorite style you like to do on your clients?

"I really like doing two strands especially on the athletes because I know it's an easy style for them. I love that it'll give them that long-lasting effect, and when you look good, you feel good. And it works out because I don't recommend they get their hair done too often, because the more stress you put on your hair, it breaks down the strength."

Q: Why did you decide to loc your hair 11 months ago?

"I had played around with it my senior year of high school. I just liked the look. And I started coiling my hair, but didn't know if I was ready for something so permanent. I started considering my career choices, and it became easier to decide because it's a low-maintenance hair style, so it was mainly for convenience."

Q: What do you enjoy the most about your business?

"Through doing this, I've started a lot of loc journeys, and it's good to see people become more accepting of a hairstyle that's been more discriminated against in the workplace and stuff, so seeing people do that and be a part of that is really cool."



Photo by Kenneth Prabahakar

GET READY

we are

HITTING THE STANDS

SPRING 2023

Welcome Back Spring

January 24th

Black History Month

February 2nd

All-University Sing

February 17th

Spring Break Special

February 28th

March Madness

March 14th

Spring Wedding Edition

April 4th

Lariat's Choice!

April 27th

and THE BAYLOR LARIAT'S
MORNING
BUZZ

*in your inbox
every Tuesday - Friday
starting January 18th*

We'll see you soon!

BAYLOR
LARIAT
News for the students by the students



The Baylor Lariat

December 1, 2022

STAY IN THE KNOW BY KNOWING WHERE TO GO!



EVERY TUESDAY-FRIDAY
www.baylorlariat.com/subscribe



 **YouTube**
BAYLORLARIAT



24/7 NEWS/ARTS/SPORTS
www.baylorlariat.com



PRINT PUBLICATIONS
on newsstands for
Special Baylor Events



GET NOTIFIED
Letting you know
when breaking news hits



 **Mixlr**
DON'T FEED THE BEARS
and www.baylorlariat.com



@BAYLORLARIAT



BAYLORLARIAT



@BULARIAT
@BULARIATSPORTS

FOLLOW US