

WRECKAGE A Martin Residence Hall bathroom was vandalized. Photo courtesy of Isaac Montgomery

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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Time, effort is worth it: Don't take tradition for granted

KATY MAE TURNER
Photographer

Now in its 70th year, All-University Sing is a longstanding Baylor tradition beloved by students, alumni, faculty, staff, families and anyone who loves an entertaining show. Hundreds of students come together after weeks of preparation to showcase unique acts every year featuring elaborate sets, costumes, choreography and vocal medleys. For those performing in Sing, it is a lot of hard work and late nights. After spending hours perfecting a dance, it's easy to get sick of the number. Once the first few weeks of the spring semester are gone, so is Sing.

It's something not only unique to the college experience, but unique to the Baylor experience. It's easy to fall into the mentality that the tradition is something we have to do, but let's not forget it's something we get to do.

Each act's dedicated Sing chairs spend months coming up with the ideas and balancing creativity with Sing's guidelines. Groups are judged on entertainment value, musical quality, creativity, choreography and theme development, which means a lot of time has to go into these acts. Successful performances have been worked on for almost a year in advance just to go by in seven minutes.

While many of the organizations performing are fraternities and sororities, there is a place for everyone in creating this magical event. There are plenty of ways to be involved, like working backstage at Waco Hall, being a producer with Student Productions, playing with the pit orchestra

or singing and dancing onstage with Sing Alliance. Even if you're just watching the show, your job is just as important. This year, 13,000 people will come and cheer on the performers to create an electric environment in Waco Hall.

While Sing is a spring tradition, it carries over into the fall for Homecoming and Pigskin. This is also a great tradition, but the weeks leading up to Sing bring suspense, wondering what other organizations' themes are. The opening night performance

“Sing isn't just about performing; it's about the experience of coming together as a community.”

KATY MAE TURNER |
PHOTOGRAPHER

is the big reveal, and it's exciting to see what your friends have spent so much time working on.

No matter if you love or hate Sing, you can't deny there's something magical about hundreds of students coming together to create elaborate performances to entertain thousands. Sing isn't just about performing; it's about the experience of coming together as a community.



By Gwen Ueding | Cartoonist

BREAKING THE BANK Sing tickets were just \$14, \$16 and \$18 for students in 2004 and have since doubled and can be upwards of \$30. Livestreaming and tickets should be more accessible.

Cut the cost: Sing tickets should be less expensive

CAITLYN MEISNER
Copy Editor

All-University Sing tickets are too expensive, and I'm not afraid to say it.

I know we all hopped onto the ticket website a few weeks ago to see if it was possible to get Sing tickets to watch our friends perform. I mean, we have all heard them complain about the preparation for months, so I'm sure we'd all like to see what's been taking them away from every social invitation.

But alas, tickets sell out in minutes. I'm happy they do, but I truly have to contemplate if I'm able to "splurge" on the price of them. This year, they were upwards of \$30 for students and the general public.

I understand there are a multitude of costs associated with putting on the production, but does Baylor really need to milk students of any more money?

Don't even get me started on the cost for watching the livestream. If you were one of the suckers who couldn't get a live ticket, you're stuck watching the entire show in the comfort of your home and not in Waco Hall with the crowd roaring around you.

Tickets for a livestream are \$28. Only a few dollars less than if you were to go to Waco Hall and watch your friends in person with plenty of other fans, friends and family members. I appreciate the accessibility of a livestream, but it is not a perfect system. Especially if tickets are limited, why can't they make the livestream more accessible for students? Why do we have to pay the price for not being able to sit in an auditorium?

I like the way Baylor opens tickets to students before the

public, but it's still impossible to even pay for the tickets to begin with.

I typically pay \$70 every two weeks for groceries, and that isn't my only bill either. I'm obviously not forced to pay for tickets and attend Sing, but I'd like to participate in Baylor traditions as much as I can before I graduate. Back in 2004, tickets were only \$14, \$16 and \$18 for students. Those numbers have almost doubled or tripled over 20 years.

Students don't have to pay for many other student activities, like sports games. What makes this different? I know there are different places that fund everything, but I'm confused as to why Sing is treated differently. I hope that for the years that come after I graduate, Sing tickets will become less expensive or even free to students. It's only fair to students to be able to watch their friends and happily participate in all the traditions Baylor has.

Seniors deserve Sing ticket priority

RAYLEE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Some students could go their whole college experience without tickets to All-University Sing, a Baylor tradition since 1953, because of Baylor's random lottery system and limited supply. Seniors getting ready to graduate are approaching their final opportunity to attend the performance, and should have priority for ticket purchase.

Sing is performed in Waco Hall each year and only seats about 2,200 people. Families, faculty, Wacoans and students all try to attend the event, with a total 13,000 tickets sold.

Baylor's overall enrollment is over 20,000 students. Those who perform are also required to buy

tickets if they would like to stay and watch other performances. The student body alone could purchase every ticket and still have people who didn't get a ticket, so why risk letting soon-to-be graduates miss this milestone experience?

Sing tickets already have an early release for the student body, but, this should be switched to an early ticket release for seniors only — followed by the general public ticket release.

As a freshman, buying tickets to Sing was a stressful experience. There was constant refreshing of the page, waiting for my "place in line" and frantically clicking on performance dates to disappointingly be met by the message: "the ticket number you would like is not available." I do believe freshmen

want to attend the event just as badly as seniors, but freshmen have three more years to enter the Seniors do not. When it comes to milestone

every Baylor student could attend a Sing performance, but it may even take stress off of other students purchasing tickets.

Though the performers and performances change every year, the tradition of Sing does not. If a freshman cannot get a ticket this year, it would be frustrating, but if they knew they would be promised one their senior year, it would be comforting.

Now, with 15,000 undergraduate students, there are roughly 3,750 seniors in a given year. This may be an unrealistic amount of tickets to section off considering the families, friends and other students who hope to go.

A different solution would be holding a dress rehearsal with seniors

in the audience. This would give them an exclusive opportunity to experience Sing and cheer on their friends, and would also benefit the performers with an audience filled with classmates, sorority sisters, fraternity brothers or familiar faces from campus.

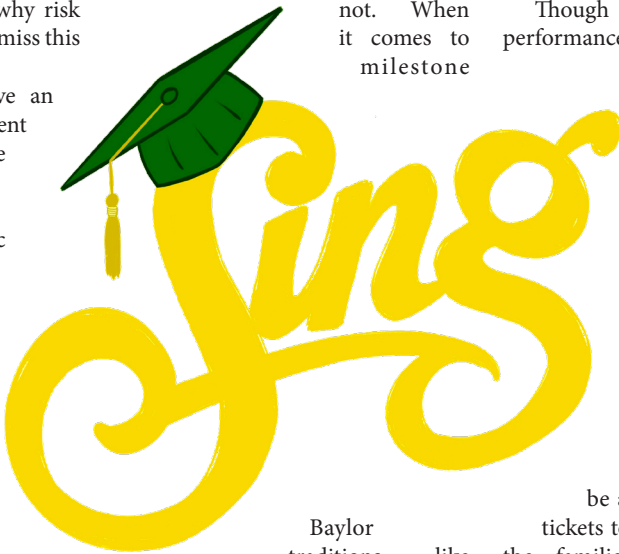
Logistically, 3,750 tickets may be too much to allot to a select group of individuals.

However, there is currently a student-only ticket launch where each student is able to obtain three tickets maximum. This could be changed to a senior-only ticket launch where each person could only purchase one ticket.

There are many ways to prioritize seniors, and being able to experience traditions are what build life long connections and memories to your college.

Don't let the students graduate without seeing the long-awaited Sing.

Photo illustration by Olivia Havre



Baylor traditions like Sing, seniors should be treated special. Not only would this ensure

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Cover photos by Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor and Josh McSwain | Roundup

Professor enters 16th Sing host year

Browning ‘bleeds green and gold,’ continues decades-old tradition

CAITLYN MEISNER
Copy Editor

After 15 years of hosting All-University Sing, Dr. Blair Browning said he doesn’t see an end to his hosting career in sight as he ramps up for another round of jokes, family photo slideshows and shenanigans on the Waco Hall stage.

Browning said it was an easy decision to become the host of Sing in the spring of 2007 while obtaining his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. Initially, he was under a single-year teaching contract with Baylor, which has now turned into a 15-year teaching career at his alma mater. He said his tenure as an associate professor of communications is similar to his tenure as Sing host.

“It was almost like, ‘oh yeah, I’ll do that, that’s kind of fun. I’ll do it for a year,’” Browning said. “They keep asking me back. It’s my 15th or 16th one-year contract.”

Browning said his hosting career happened organically. Student Activities was searching for a new host, and he was referred because he was a younger Baylor alumnus that had already participated as an undergraduate student and had a campus presence.

“I think people trust me with the microphone [because] I’m not going to say anything that will reflect poorly on Baylor,” Browning said. “I love Baylor, so I’m not trying to be edgy with jokes that could risk Baylor’s reputation. I need to be excited about the students and get out of the way.”

Jordy Dickey, senior associate director of student activities, said she can’t say enough wonderful things about Browning.

“He’s been a staple of the show since my time at Baylor and beyond,”

for any personal gain, but instead is there for his students and the talented performers.

“If I say all the names right and I introduce each group with enthusiasm and keep it rolling, I’ve

which makes it so fun,” Browning said. “As people are coming in, they’re throwing out high-fives and waving. I think it encourages students to have a faculty member who’s just very positive towards them and what

Browning said the best part of hosting is to be a part of one of the biggest Baylor traditions.

“Getting to serve in just a small way has been a huge honor and blessing because I know it’s something that’s stood the test of time,” Browning said. “[Sing’s] got such a rich history that you’ve got people whose grandparents were on the same Waco Hall stage.”

Browning also said he loves to see the generations of Bears come through and perform in Sing; he said it’s especially fun to see his own classmates’ children perform.

He said his oldest daughter, Keely, will be a freshman at Baylor next year and is already excited to participate in this decades-old tradition, just like her parents.

Dickey said she’s happy Browning is continuing the legacy of Sing for its 70th year. She also said she loves how Browning not only hosts, but keeps the audience in the loop about the growth of his family.

“There’s that personal connection that Blair has with the audience,” Dickey said. “When you’re back in Waco Hall, you’re getting an update like, ‘Hey Blair, tell me how your year’s been [and] how you’ve been growing.’ We’re very fortunate to have someone that has taken a moment to not only lead the show well, but also personally connect with our audience.”



Lariat file photo

LEGACY Dr. Blair Browning, professor of communications, will continue to be the host of Sing at Baylor for his 16th year.

Dickey said. “He really brings a wonderful energy to the show and does a phenomenal job of celebrating all the hard work that has gone into it from our students.”

Even though Browning is a Boulder, Colo., native, he said he bleeds green and gold and is excited to have all four of his children be Bears like him and his wife, Jordan.

Browning said he’s not a Sing host

done my job,” Browning said.

Despite the late nights and performances, the benefits of hosting outweigh the costs to the host. Browning said he loves to see all the talented students at Baylor, especially watching the students he knows through his classes, church or other extracurriculars.

“I typically know a couple [of students] in every performance,

they’re doing.”

Not only is Browning’s presence encouraging to students, but he said he feels encouraged to see the commitment on behalf of the students to make a performance this amazing.

Browning said he’s excited to see the variety of themes and performances this year. He said with 19 acts, it’s possible to have a “flavor of everything.”

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ENEMIES The heroes and villains of Alpha Chi Omega perform “Heroes in the Heights.”



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

PARTNER UP Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Omega join together to perform their take on the 2023 Kentucky Derby in “A Day at the Derby.”



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

GOOD OLD DAYS The Beatles are reimagined in Sigma Alpha Epsilon's production of “The Night Shift.”



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

IT'S JUST A NUMBER Old age does not stop the men of Phi Gamma Delta from dancing in “Retirement Home Rock.”



Grace Everett | Photographer

SING IT OUT A singer from Sing Alliance performing her solo in “Some-bunny’s in Trouble.”



Josh McSwain | Roundup

COMPETITION Two teams compete against each other in Kappa Alpha Theta's performance of “Game Over.”



Josh McSwain | Roundup

CURIOUS BOYS The travelers of Kappa Sigma find themselves in their performance of “Not All Who Wonder Are Lost.”



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

WIPE OUT A chimney sweeper sweeps the audience off their feet in Kappa Chi Alpha's “Swept Away.”



STUDY HARD A nerd d... Pi and friends Perform



NEW ADVENTURES T all guests with open an



BUILD IT The constru... make a groundbreaking

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GIRLY THING Dolls come to life in Pi Beta Phi's "Be My Girl."

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FLEX AWAY The men of Delta Tau Delta show what it takes to join the circus in "Under the Big Top."

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LIGHT IT UP Firefighters and racers come together in Delta Delta Delta's "Delta Motor Speedway."

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Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor
The staff of hotel Alpha Phi aims to find himself in Beta Theta dance in "Man or a Mathlete."



Josh McSwain | Roundup

COUNTRY BOY A cowboy sings his heart out in Sigma Chi's production of "The Good, The Bad, and The Funky."



Josh McSwain | Roundup

WARMING The villagers from Phi Kappa Chi struggle to stay warm in "All Things New."



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor
The staff of hotel Alpha Phi welcomes the guests in "Hotel Phiasco!"



Grace Everett | Photographer

GOT THE MAGIC The Wizard of Oz performs his solo in Kappa Omega Tau's production of "Against all Oz."



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

EXPERIMENT The mad scientists of Zeta Tau Alpha bring monsters to life in "Experiment Z."



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor
The construction workers of Alpha Delta Pi sing their performance in "I-30PI."



Josh McSwain | Roundup

BUSINESS WOMAN The employees of Kappa Kappa Gamma are hard at work in "Kappa HQ."

Waco places marker in honor of Jesse Washington

RAYLEE FOSTER
Staff Writer

The Community Race Relations Coalition and the City of Waco worked for seven years to put historical recognition in place; however, the fight against lynching has been going on for much longer.

A marker for Jesse Washington was placed Sunday, Feb. 12, in front of Waco City Hall. This marker is not just in remembrance of Washington, but serves as a physical recognition of Waco's history of lynching.

Jo Welter, a coalition board of directors member, said the coalition has devoted time to lynching issues well before the marker became a project.

"We've been working on [the marker] for seven years, but we've been working on what we call the 'lynching issue' for 17 years," Welter said.

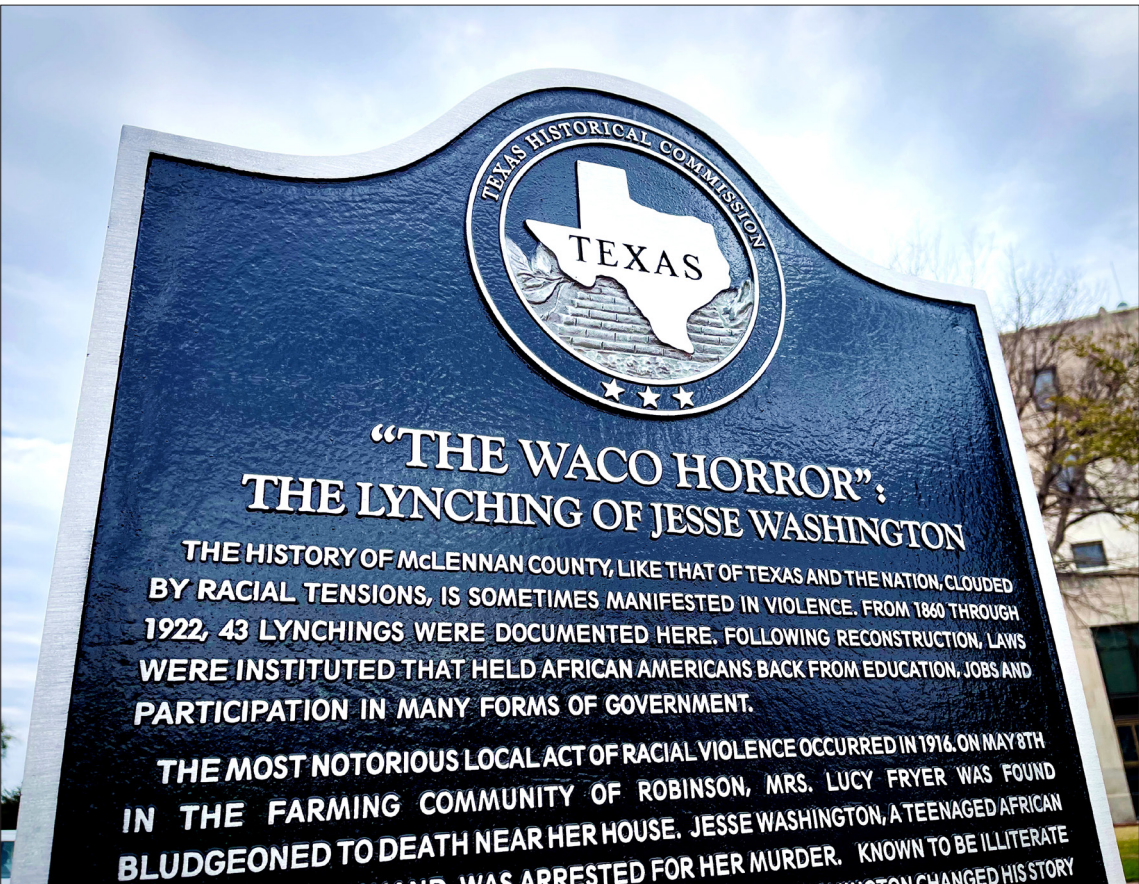
The fight to get the marker commemorated was put in motion back in 2016, before the 100th anniversary of Washington's death. Members of his family met with the coalition and had only one request.

"At that meeting, one of the questions that one of us asked was, 'What's the most important thing to you in recognizing this?'" Welter said. "They said, 'a formal acknowledgment, like a marker.'"

The coalition board discussed commemorating a marker for Washington before this, but, the family's request inspired immediate action.

Welter said the marker serves justice for all those who suffered the inhumane practice of lynching throughout Waco's history.

"We were not just focusing on Jesse Washington's lynching. We



Olivia Havre | Photographer

HONOR A historical marker dedicated to Jesse Washington was placed in front of Waco City Hall on Feb. 12. The marker is in remembrance of Washington while also serving as a physical recognition of Waco's history of lynching.

really felt from the beginning we wanted to focus on also the lynching culture that existed here," Welter said.

Washington's lynching was not a stand-alone incident. His death was one of 43 that occurred in Waco between 1860 and 1922, according to the Jesse Washington complete narrative constructed by the coalition. His death marked violence unrecognized, the 1916 lynching was an act of terror — and its effects are still felt today, Welter said.

"We want to point the finger at other countries and other cultures and things being terroristic, but we have been very terroristic throughout our history, and this was nothing but pure terrorism. It was horrible," Welter said. "There are so many lasting effects from this. This was meant to keep a group of people in their place, and five generations later, it still does. There are many people of color in Waco who don't feel everything is open to them."

Feb. 12 also marked the 114th

anniversary of the founding of NAACP, an organization whose advocacy against Washington's lynching in 1916 resulted in a national response to what had occurred.

"The NAACP in 1916 had everything to do with the fact that Jesse Washington's barbaric, horrible, unbelievably awful lynching became internationally known and it changed the perception of Waco forever," Welter said.

Waco NAACP president Dr. Peaches Henry said the chapter's

goals have always involved lynching laws and Jesse Washington's death was one of the injustices they hoped to raise awareness for.

They sought to invoke a moral and emotional response in society to act against these unfair treatments.

"Raising awareness is not the right word because people were perfectly aware of what was going on. What they were attempting to do was raise outrage," Henry said. "They wanted to get people to be so morally outraged by what they saw that they would act."

The NAACP has continued this fight into the 21st century. Henry said it wasn't until March 2022 that anti-lynching laws were put in place in all 50 states.

This victory, however, did not mark the end of the fight. Henry said he encourages people to stay involved and for students to make their mark, particularly to "vote where you sleep."

"We are to continue the fight, to continue to stand up for our rights," Henry said. "The work of any justice organization is ongoing. The fight never stops because the people who would deny other people their rights in all kinds of forms never stop attempting to do that."

Welter said she encourages the community to reflect on each member's individual contribution. Although she cannot predict what will come from the marker, she said she believes the recognition of the past is what will spur healing and encourages Wacoans to be a part of it.

"We don't tell people how to be, we try to provide situations for them to learn and I always encourage people to say not what can we do, but what can I do," Welter said. "I called on everyone last Sunday to look inside themselves and really deal with the truth."

Wellness program offers professors alternative instead of canceling class

SARAH WANG
Staff Writer

Apart from focusing on academic achievements, Austin Kelsey, assistant director for Collegiate Recovery, said Baylor shows how it values students' health and wellness in order for them to thrive beyond academics by providing services like Don't Cancel That Class!

Don't Cancel That Class! is a program led by Baylor Wellness that offers an option for faculty who are unable to teach their classes on a certain day.

This program invites a member of the department of wellness is invited to provide students an interactive and informational presentation about a wellness topic of their choice in lieu of their regularly-scheduled class.

The program's lectures include common wellness problems students tend to face in their college lives, which include stress management, technology hygiene, Narcan training and more.

Kelsey said Don't Cancel That Class! is a mutually beneficial program that helps professors by

providing information and resources that are digestible and applicable to their students.

"Our students have invested so much to take the classes and to get education and information here at Baylor," Kelsey said. "Sometimes just because a professor isn't available for that class time, I think we can still show students that we value their time and we value them as members of our community on campus."

Kelsey also said she has heard feedback from students saying they feel like they are usually given an extra work assignment they have to complete on their own when their in-person class is canceled.

"That doesn't always feel valuable or meaningful to students," Kelsey said. "So I think that for students, us coming in and providing information on these resources can be just a more engaging and valuable alternative to a typical classroom setting."

Christiana Owusu-Ankomah, assistant director for well-being initiatives in the wellness department, said the program is still in its initial phase.

She said members of the program are learning how to maximize the effects of the service by presenting valuable information.

"We've gotten a few emails about professors that know they may not be present for a certain class, and instead of cancelling, they are reaching out to us," Owusu-Ankomah said. "I'm going to assume that the reception has been good, because we wouldn't still be getting contacted if it wasn't invaluable."

Apart from it being a new program, Owusu-Ankomah said the greatest challenge is learning what the needs and gaps are for this service.

"Over time we'll tell, but I think probably the big thing would just be making sure professors know about us and know that we are available and can provide that service," Owusu-Ankomah said.

Kelsey said the wellness department and Baylor see their students and want to address student needs in any way possible.

"Baylor sees you and wants your needs to be met, and this is one of the ways we're trying to do that," Kelsey said.



Photo courtesy of Kappa Delta Chi

GIRLS NIGHT OUT The women of the Kappa Delta Chi sorority gather after a fun night out.

Kappa Delta Chi spreads the love on Valentine's Day

KASSIDY TSIKITAS
Staff Writer

Kappa Delta Chi — a Baylor sorority that represents the Latina community — had a carnation flower sale Tuesday to celebrate Valentine's Day and raise money to support the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the chapter's philanthropy.

The organization strives to grow representation for the Latina community

at Baylor. Founded in 1987 and officially chartered at the university in 2004, the sorority currently aims to show how friendships blossom within the organization.

Kappa Delta Chi nationally supports the American Cancer Society. The Baylor chapter specifically supports the National Breast Cancer Foundation, which help expand breast cancer awareness through education.

ALL THE LOVE >> Page A7



Grace Everett | Photographer

STOP Don't Cancel That Class! is a program led by Baylor Wellness that offers a substitution for professors who are unable to teach their classes on any certain day of the week.

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FRIENDSHIP from
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The sorority supports the foundation through profit shares and fundraisers with their tabling events. Although Kappa Delta Chi is unable to work closely with hospitals, members are still able to communicate with its national organization to keep up with their events.

Sorority members said they also volunteer at La Vega Junior High School mentoring students for them to improve their grades and attendance. At the end of the school year as a reward for the kids, they throw a party.

According to their website, the organization encourages members to lead with integrity and be united through service. Kappa Delta Chi was founded by Latina women, but it is currently open to accept anyone interested to join.

Boerne senior Elise Barone, president of Kappa Delta Chi, said the sorority has opened up many opportunities for her. As an officer who plans events with other organizations and communicates with both national and local philanthropies, Barone said she has been able to build and gain many relationships out of it.

“Just knowing I always have someone there is so nice,” Barone said. “I’m pre-med, but the people I would hang out with, I only studied with them at the BSB. I wanted to find a community that reminded me of home and people I was able to connect with.”

Barone also said she loves helping the Kappa Delta Chi community grow and she encourages people to not be afraid to step out of their comfort zone.

“Never be afraid to talk to someone new and meet new people,” Barone said. “Do research on all of the different organizations that Baylor has to offer.”

Houston junior Emily Alfarnos, head of social expansion and fundraising, said she plans events with other organizations, such as their brother fraternity, Omega Delta Phi. One event they have organized in the past is Service Saturday where members write letters to a people in a nursing home.

“It is always nice getting to know each other, especially since there aren’t a lot of us,” Alfarnos said.

In addition, she also said it was hard to find a community at Baylor until she discovered Kappa Delta Chi.

“This is a community of girls that are like-minded. Coming here was a big cultural shock [but] when I came to Kappa Delta Chi, I was able to meet girls who have had similar backgrounds. I can count on them,” Alfarnos said.



Photo courtesy of Alpha Kappa Psi

FANCY Alpha Kappa Psi’s new recruitment class dresses up for the occasion at the Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation.

Alpha Kappa Psi spread suicide prevention awareness

KASSIDY TSIKITAS
Staff Writer

The largest co-ed business fraternity chapter, Alpha Kappa Psi, is encouraging students from any major to join them in spreading awareness about their philanthropy, The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The organization is dedicated to helping those who are affected by mental health. Alpha Kappa Psi supports this foundation and the community by hosting profit shares and participating in service activities throughout the semester.

Bloomington, Ill., junior Ana Marie Turner, service chair of the fraternity, said they have a mock career fair coming up on March 30 with the Special Olympics.

“We’re going to help the athletes and people with disabilities and help them find resources to help aid in the job search,” Turner said.

Turner said she loves the service side of the fraternity because she gets to know fellow members and keeps everyone motivated.

“In the past, there have definitely been some issues with people not being fulfilled, and I want to change that and get the community involved,” Turner said. “Doing community service has helped me get to know people that I never really talked to before.”

Along with volunteering, Alpha Kappa Psi is also involved in hosting social events like tailgates and participating in intramural sports.

“I always like to say our fraternity is the best of both worlds. You get everything you can ask for from a social organization with a small-

family feel,” Carlsbad, Calif., and Alpha Kappa Psi president Jason Nacario said.

Throughout the pledge process, Collierville, Tenn., sophomore Bryson Quinn said everyone in the fraternity is allowed to get closer to the new members, a fun time for all involved.

He also said the recruitment process is really enjoyable, especially with all of the events they do. An example of a past recruitment event they have done is “Bowling With The Bros.”

“We also did a profit-share at U-Swirl, and it helped the new possible members relax and helped everyone be themselves. We all indulged in good conversations,” Quinn said.

Alpha Kappa Psi participates in Steppin’ Out and teams up with organizations like The Salvation Army to help organize the donations in the stores to create stronger bonds among everyone.

Tulsa, Okla., junior Abby Bush, secretary of Alpha Kappa Psi, said she loves growing with the fraternity and enjoys the opportunities offered. She said her membership in the fraternity has opened doors for her.

“It has a number of advantages as a professional co-ed fraternity. We host social events, formal events and just grow together,” Bush said. “You’ll be able to make friends and grow professionally.”

Bush also said Alpha Kappa Psi has been helping her prepare for job applications for when she graduates the following year.

“The best advice I can give is to get to know as many people as you can, and you can grow in this community,” Bush said.

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College of Medicine pioneers seek new, low-cost COVID-19 vaccine

LUKE LATTANZI
Staff Writer

Two vaccinology pioneers from Baylor College of Medicine are looking to continue advancing their new form of COVID-19 vaccine technology to help struggling countries increase their immunization rates at a cheaper price.

Dr. Peter J. Hotez and Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi, have developed a new COVID-19 vaccine called Corbevax, that is different from the three main ones developed by pharmaceutical companies Moderna, Johnson and Johnson and Pfizer.

The newly developed vaccine, Corbevax, has been used to vaccinate over 70 million people in India, and its counterpart, Indovac, has seen over 10 million doses in Indonesia.

“As a technology, [Corbevax and Indovac] utilizes a way of producing vaccines that is based on recombinant protein technologies, which is on some level a conventional technology because it has already proven to have worked before,” Bottazzi said.

Vaccines made with recombinant protein technology use a specific protein of a virus to provoke a strong immune response in order to help the body better fight infection. They can be used with almost anyone and are useful to those with compromised immune systems, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The technology has already been used to create vaccines that have long since been routinely administered, such as the widely-known Hepatitis B vaccine, Bottazzi said.

Bottazzi also said recombinant protein technology can be made in many settings around the world in a manner less logistically challenging than the mRNA vaccine technology made by Moderna, Johnson and Johnson and Pfizer.

“The recombinant protein technology also brings a different dimension,” Bottazzi



Katy Mae Turner | Photographer
SPEAK TO ME Maria Elena Bottazzi speaks at the BSB about vaccinology research.

said. “It can be made in many settings around the world. There’s economies of scale because there’s so much know-how and infrastructure, which makes it more affordable. They also don’t have very onerous requirements. You can keep them and store them at refrigeration compared to some more difficult ways of storing them.”

Bottazzi also said that due to Corbevax and Indovac’s conventional vaccine technology, there can be less hesitation

Corbevax vaccine — aside from the vaccine technology it uses — is that it’s unpatented, making it much more affordable to struggling countries suffering from vaccine inequities. It was also meant to “enable the decolonization” of the vaccine-making process, enfranchising countries that would otherwise be shut out of vaccine production.

“Our technology that we created in our labs was really intended to enable the decolonization of the way you do the vaccine sciences, empowering local, regional producers to make something that they can claim [for themselves],” Bottazzi said. “We didn’t have to go through big multinational companies to be able to use our vaccine technology. We didn’t have to use any for-profit, multinational entity.”

Dr. Hotez also said mRNA vaccine technology didn’t develop fast enough to combat COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic due to its novelty. The mRNA vaccines were approved for American and European countries, but not for struggling countries such as Africa or Asia. Corbevax and Indovac, he said, provide an effective and affordable alternative.

“What we set out was to make a vaccine that was specifically compatible with lower and middle income countries because the world paid for that in a big way, not having vaccines right away for lower and middle income countries,” Dr. Hotez said.

According to Dr. Hotez, the COVID-19’s Delta variant arose out of an unvaccinated population in India, and the Omicron variant arose out of an unvaccinated population in Africa.

“The world paid for vaccine inequality and vaccine inequity, and that’s what we’re all about, trying to fix that,” Dr. Hotez said. “I think we’ve provided proof of concept that you don’t have to be a multinational pharma company to do big things.”

“Texas has become an epicenter of anti-vaccine activism and the anti-science movement.”

DR. PETER J. HOTEZ |
VACCINOLOGY PIONEER

among populations who might be skeptical of COVID-19 vaccines, particularly those produced with new mRNA technology.

Dr. Hotez said he’s also focused on combating COVID-19 vaccine conspiracy theories to reduce hesitancy among the population.

“Unfortunately over the past couple of years, Texas has become an epicenter of anti-vaccine activism and the anti-science movement,” Dr. Hotez said. “Of the 92,000 Texans who lost their lives during the COVID pandemic, about half of those were unnecessary. They happened because they refused a COVID vaccine. They were victims of anti-vaccine activism.”

One of the most notable features of the

Miracle at Baylor raises money for child health

KASSIDY TSIKITAS
Staff Writer

With the slogan #DoItForTheKids, Miracle at Baylor has worked with McLane Children’s Specialty Clinic to share children’s stories and provide assistance to the clinic, along with fundraising for children’s causes.

Houston senior Alyssa Vasquez, president and co-founder of Miracle at Baylor, said she hopes to carry the message of what the organization does for the community beyond the university.

“I wanted to directly impact change,” Vasquez said. “I noticed lots of organizations don’t focus on fundraising as much. I’m hoping to cultivate this environment that fosters hope, friendship and community.”

As president, Vasquez said she serves as the barrier between McLane Children’s Specialty Clinic and Baylor, by communicating about the projects they host throughout the year.

McAllen junior Hali Temkin, event coordinator of Miracle at Baylor, said the club is planning to do a 5K race to fundraise. Temkin also said she is an advocate for affordable health care and loves to help families in need.

“Having a hospital that has good funding that is near you is really important to me,” Temkin said.

Beaumont sophomore Sherlyn Rabago, public relations officer for Miracle at Baylor, said she uses the organization’s social media to share children’s stories as well as information about upcoming events and meetings.

“We do things like Motivational Monday, Word Wednesday, which relates to our Family Friday that talks about the treatment the child had to grow through,” Rabago said.

Rabago also said the club does various pop-ups to talk about how it helps fund research and treatments for the children at McLane Children’s Specialty Clinic.

“I know that there are families with financial issues around the nation that haven’t been addressed,” Rabago said. “The kids make up the future generation, and I want to prolong and ensure accessible health care services to them.”

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Sing Alliance



Some-bunny's in trouble

The bunnies and farmers of Sing Alliance did not dig deep enough. With a lackluster theme and choreography that fell short of the wow factor, Sing Alliance relied on their cutesy costumes and good vocals to harvest this rating. Of all the coed acts, Sing Alliance did have one thing going for them: their vocals were far better balanced between male and female voices, never burying their sound.

Kappa Omega Tau



Against all oz

The whimsical characters of Kappa Omega Tau showed they have a heart. Despite clean and cohesive choreography, they fell short on creativity by following a movie plot and took the easy route after their No. 1 performance last year. This act was on the yellow brick road to five stars, but missed the mark on theme. What KOT lacked in creativity, however, they more than made up for with their chill-raising vocals and solos.

Alpha Chi Omega



Heroes in the heights

Alpha Chi Omega brought a super performance to opening night. Their creative theme was well executed through their established rivalry and song choice, set against a visually stunning city skyline. What really saved the act was the whole ensemble of performers as they came together to rescue the city with their strength in numbers.

Alpha Delta Pi



I-30Pi

Alpha Delta Pi's costumes seemed to be under construction, as they were not nearly as polished as those from other acts. However, their backdrops and props were complex and visually interesting. The act brought something no other group attempted. ADPi threw caution to the wind and allowed their traffic cone-clad girls to run wild through the audience, zipping through rows of traffic.

Kappa Alpha Theta



Game Over

Kappa Alpha Theta had one of the most creative themes and built up their end goal well throughout. The women of KAO ran up that hill and showed strong thought and creativity with their costume choices. It was fun to watch and easy to listen to with the quality vocalists and easily recognizable hit song choices. KAO will likely advance to the next level this fall.

Kappa Chi Alpha



Swept away

Kappa Chi Alpha was a confusing mess of costumes, backdrops and overall theme. Both the audience and the women onstage were confused, especially the penguins hobbling around the performers. There were strong vocalists among the ensemble, but they should have reached into the back of Mary Poppins' brain for a hint of cohesive creativity. A spoonful of sugar would not have helped the act.

Delta Delta Delta



Delta motor speedway

The women of Delta Delta Delta raced along the stage, and the audience didn't want them to pump the brakes. The ensemble made good song choices to develop their fast-paced theme. The descriptive visuals and well-made props had the audience captivated from start to finish.

Alpha Tau Omega & Chi Omega



A day at the derby

The pairing of Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Omega was one of the best acts of the night; with a mix of strong soloists and stage presence, it was hard to look away from them. Right out of the gate, this pairing became a standout and a sure front-runner for Pigskin this fall. This act gambled on creative choreography and unique sound effects, and their horse won.

Alpha Phi



Hotel phiasco!

Alpha Phi scored big points with their props and set design, giving the audience a taste of the suite life. Their song choices were phenomenal, clearly developing the search for the missing suitcase. The audience searched for another thing — choreography that stood out. The costumes were fit for the hotel getaway, but couldn't go the extra mile for their guests.

Kappa Sigma



Not all who wander are lost

The men of Kappa Sigma wandered in theme without a strong storyline. Maybe not all who wander are lost, but many in the audience were. The soloists found their strength in an ensemble rather than on their own. What Kappa Sigma nailed was the dramatics, but failed to nail down a presence in the books. They seemed to have been unable to see the forest for the trees.

Delta Tau Delta



Under the big top

Delta Tau Delta may have brought the circus, but they weren't clowning around when it came to solos. With funny elements paraded throughout, the men of DTD gained several laughs from the audience, especially when it came to costumes and choreography. The cheerful theme was developed well, but could've taken itself more seriously.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon



The night shift

Sigma Alpha Epsilon rocked Waco Hall, bringing back musical icons through a time machine, "Night at the Museum" style. With instantly recognizable costumes, SAE brought the nostalgia. With familiar songs to sing along to, SAE executed the theme well, but didn't always make their storyline clear.

Zeta Tau Alpha



Experiment Z

Zeta Tau Alpha electrified Sing this year with a creative twist and something unique among the rest of the acts. The mad scientists of ZTA made strong musical choices and utilized impressive visuals with costumes and their backdrop to make their act stand out among the rest. As their monsters were brought to life on stage, so was the audience, reanimated soon after the first intermission.

Phi Kappa Chi



All things new

The men of Phi Kappa Chi were just as strong on their own this year as they were with Pi Beta Phi last year. Though the act took a serious turn, Phi Chi utilized their hefty vocals to freeze the audience for a few moments as the ensemble sang a hymn in perfect harmony. The ice of this somber mood was soon broken by a dance break, making this act a surprising break from the constant joyful shouting typical of Sing.

Pi Beta Phi



Be my girl

Pi Beta Phi had a beautiful backdrop and set design to really sell their new doll versus old doll rivalry. The songs were perfectly on theme and girly to match the American Girl doll props and adorable costumes. While dressed as dolls, the women of Pi Phi were certainly animated, giving one of the most energetic and memorable performances.

Kappa Kappa Gamma



Kappa HQ

Kappa Kappa Gamma clearly worked hard on their performance, but their theme felt built-in, developing through the days of the business week. With simple costumes and likable songs, the women of KKG made up for their simplicity with complex dance moves and clean-cut lines. KKG's soloists vied for performer of the month.



REVIEWS

EMMA WEIDMANN
Arts and Life Editor

CAITLYN MEISNER
Copy Editor

Phi Gamma Delta



Retirement home rock

Phi Gamma Delta's performance was highly entertaining in a way that had the audience unsure what to think. Clearly not committed to the performance, FIJI lacked a solid theme or story for the audience to follow. FIJI was amongst the funniest of the night, and the men of this act were self-aware in their antics. But, next to Sigma Chi's comeback, FIJI's return to the stage after their absence last year grays in comparison.

Beta Theta Pi & Friends



Man or a mathlete

What Beta Theta Pi lacked in numbers, they made up for in the strong soloists throughout the act. Their theme didn't take a mathlete to follow, and the group made solid choices to portray the character development. Clearly another self-aware group, their antics made the audience laugh. Beta takes the medal for the most enjoyable song choice that audiences will just have to see for themselves to understand.

Sigma Chi



The good, the bad & the funky

Sigma Chi's return to the stage after a three-year hiatus was one to remember. The men of this act utilized a classic theme with a Hollywood-like twist, especially through their soloists, who were worthy of star status. The classic dance moves were easy to follow and made for an enjoyable performance, even moving some in the audience to raise their arms and sway to the music.



HISTORY

Baylor held its first All-University Sing performance on April 25, 1953 in Waco Hall. The performance saw eight clubs perform three songs each for an audience of just 13 people.

Olivia Havre | Photographer

Blast from the past: Revisiting Sing memorabilia

OLIVIA TURNER
Staff Writer

Amid the thrills of the present, the roots of All-University Sing can be remembered with the students who started it all. It is the job of Dr. Elizabeth Rivera, university archivist, to encourage a deep dive into the past to combat this loss of history. Rivera said that without the archives, connection on this deep level to the first years of Sing would

not be possible. “These documents, programs, photographs and other materials provide a snapshot into student life at Baylor,” Rivera said.

With permission, students can view the archive’s files from Baylor’s Texas Collection to get a close-up look at some of the first Sing documents. This includes programs from the first Sing production, handwritten annotated sheet music and the original Sing

proposal form written by Mary Wiley Mathis, the first director of Sing from its beginnings until 1981.

Buena Vista, Colo. freshman Ruthie Molitor said these photographs are necessary because they often speak louder than words. “I’m a visual learner,” Molitor said. “When you look at a photo, it’s instantly absorbed.”

As university archivist, Rivera said it is her mission

to use the archives to get people connected, whether face-to-face or face-to-photo. It is through these archival connections, she said, that present students and Sing participants can discover and relate to the joy of those involved in past Sing performances. It shows that although times change, human emotion does not.

Rivera said revisiting history requires time and patience, which is something

busy students don’t always have.

“If we choose to pause and see the materials in the archive we can learn, listen and receive,” Rivera said. “The pictures and stories of the past shape us and form us, if you are willing to slow down and be present.”

Rivera said in order for generations to enjoy this same privilege, students like Molitor must work together to preserve Baylor’s history. Whether it’s

photographing events, filming them or writing a story, Rivera said they will embody this present generation in the future.

“Leaders of clubs, students who perform and those who attend Sing can save and send the material culture to the archive,” Rivera said. “Without the pictures and programs from today, then future students and researchers will not be able to meet you and discover your story.”

Grit under glamour: Former Sing chair exposes past challenges

OLIVIA TURNER
Staff Writer

Baylor’s ever-famous All-University Sing has changed tremendously through the years. From the small singing-and-dancing acts proposed by Mary Wiley Mathis, the creator of Sing, to the Broadway-level productions of the present, there’s one thing that hasn’t changed — a steadfast tradition among Baylor’s list of annual events to look forward to.

According to Baylor alumna and former Kappa Kappa Gamma Sing chair Rene Taylor, the glamour and grandeur of current Sing acts owe it all the originals.

“I absolutely believe that we are all standing on the shoulders of the first people who started all this,” Taylor said.

From 1984 to 1985, Taylor served as one of the Sing chairs for Kappa Kappa Gamma where she mainly directed choreography. In order to rehearse the athletic and often elaborate routines, Taylor said they needed plenty of space and the small chapter rooms at the time could not provide for the groups.

Before the Stacy Riddle Panhellenic Building was built in 2003, Taylor and her fellow Sing members would have to meet at other locations, sometimes landing in activity centers of churches, cafeterias of local schools or warehouses across La Salle Avenue. These places needed to be secluded enough from the university to be able to ensure the element of mystery required by the tradition for all groups, a task which alumna and former Zeta Tau Alpha Sing member Amy Ellis said she found especially difficult.

Ellis said she can recall her group using a Cadillac dealership called Rountree in downtown Waco for their practice space in the late ‘90s.

“They moved the cars out of the lobby of the car dealership, and that’s where we practiced all the years I was there,” Ellis said.

Ellis said coordinating the meetups was also tricky due to the lack of group texts current groups are blessed with. Scheduling required participants to be on their A-game, she said.

Taylor said another way phones contribute to modern Sing success is through the lens of the phone camera. She said without the ability



SING YOUR HEART OUT

Kappa Kappa Gamma performing in Sing in 1984.

Student Media Archives

to view recordings of the act while practicing, there was no way to tell how it looked to the eye of the audience. To work through the issue, she said she would have participants step out on certain run-throughs to see how it looked.

There was another angle of aesthetics Taylor said was important to consider when practicing: lighting. Unfortunately for Taylor and her sorority sisters, there was no way to be able to get a feel for how to use the technology without access to a theater.

“Lighting is an art form,” Taylor said. “Understanding how the light should expand up or go down to create the mood or go along with your act, that was where we really fell short because we really did not understand that.”

Taylor said in addition to visuals, there was sound to be considered. Projection, energy and volume were all essentials to being able to create a booming experience for the audience. Extra effort in this area was necessary due to the unreliability of the microphones, Taylor said.

“We laughed about getting the Madonna mics,” Taylor said as she chuckled. “The chances of a soloist’s mic not working was

literally 50/50.”

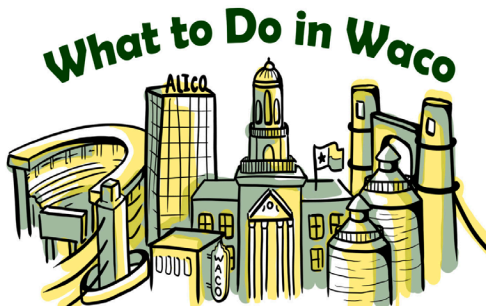
In light of the challenges of Sing during the ‘80s and ‘90s, some rules have become even more strict, Taylor said. She said when she performed when she was chair, there were unlimited hours for the groups to practice their pieces. Now, Sing groups are only allowed to practice for 14 hours a week.

Despite the challenges, she found a great thrill in performing. Taylor said she thoroughly enjoyed singing and dancing in front of an audience, and Ellis said her experience was similar.

“To hear the audience cheering and even certain people cheering on performers by name, just getting really excited to show off your hard work,” Ellis said.

When looking back on the Sing acts of the ‘80s and ‘90s, Taylor said she has seen tremendous changes since her days in the spotlight, which have left her overwhelmingly impressed.

“It just keeps evolving with the talent and the experience that comes in,” Taylor said. “I am so blown away at how incredible the club performances are. And the singing and the talent — wow, it’s crazy to me!”



Feb. 16-22

EMMA WEIDMANN
Arts and Life Editor

All-University Sing | Feb. 16 - 18; 23 - 25 | 6:30 p.m. | Waco Hall, 624 Speight Ave. | Online stream available for Feb. 25 | The beloved annual tradition returns to campus this week with 19 fresh acts sure to get the audiences out of their seats.

Waco Downtown Farmers Market | Feb. 18 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | 500 Washington Ave | This weekly event hosts local vendors, artisans and craftsmen in the heart of downtown Waco, accompanied by live music.

Eastside Market | Feb. 18 | noon | Brotherwell Brewery | 400 E | Bridge Street | Come browse various local vendors from clothing, artisans and food makers at this monthly market.

Dr Pepper Paranormal Experience | Feb. 18 | 7 p.m. | Dr Pepper Museum, 300 S. 5th Street | \$35 tickets | Experience a guided tour of the Dr Pepper Museum, where some have seen glowing orbs and mysterious figures haunting this Waco landmark.

Heathers | Feb. 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Waco Civic Theatre, 1517 Lake Air Drive | \$18 - \$20 | Silent House Theatre company puts on a production of this classic, ‘80s-inspired musical in collaboration with Waco Civic Theater. The show runs through Feb. 26.

Mini Black History Museum | until Feb. 28 | Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Friday - Saturday : 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Dewey Community Center, 925 N. 9th Street | Open to all ages, this Mini Black History Museum showcases the impact of Black history on all of America.

Art a la Carte | until March 11 | Art Center Waco, 701 S 8th Street | This collective art exhibition features works of a wide range of variety from 17 Central Texas artists.

DON'T FEED THE BEARS

Tune in to Baylor Lariat Radio's sports podcast for discussion on the high and low points of Baylor athletics

TENNIS FEATURE

Get an in-depth look at fifth-year senior Paula Barañano and how she's stepped up as a leader
pg. B6



Baylor baseball and softball gear up for home openers, both starting at 3 p.m. Friday

For a full series preview, visit BaylorLariat.com/sports

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Olivia Havre | Photographer

RAISE THOSE PAWS Fifth-year senior forward Caitlin Bickle, center, and her teammates sing "That Good Old Baylor Line" following a win in the Ferrell Center.

Bickle transforms into Nicki Collen's 'security blanket'

MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Editor

When Baylor women's basketball head coach Nicki Collen gets into a pinch and needs a bailout, she looks to the sideline and finds fifth-year senior forward Caitlin Bickle. Collen has only spent a little over a year and a half coaching Bickle, but the second-year head coach knows how valuable Bickle's presence is on the hardwood.

If Collen were playing Monopoly, Bickle would be her "Get out of Jail Free" card. "Caitlin's like my security blanket," Collen said. "She's like the blankie that your kids have. She makes me comfortable as a coach. I know we're going to run stuff, I know we're going to be in the right defenses. I know, when in doubt, she's going to go to a screen."

Collen doesn't like having to pull Bickle off the floor, especially with the youth that plays behind her at the forward position.

"When you don't have her in there, sometimes you have two kids looking at one other like, 'Are you going to go? Are you going to go?'" Collen said.

The 6-1 forward has spent most of her Baylor

career coming off the bench, especially under former head coach Kim Mulkey. Bickle stuck around and played her role before finding herself as a focal point in the rotation last year, her true senior season.

Bickle came off the bench for forwards NaLyssa Smith and Queen Egbo, who are now both on the Indiana Fever in the WNBA. That 2021-22 season was when Bickle began to produce more and impact the game.

And it came in Collen's first year at the helm.

In that year, Bickle, who battled back injuries, became most known for her toughness and ability to take charges. Smith carried the load offensively, so Bickle didn't need to prioritize leaving her mark on the game in that way.

This season is different, though, as Bickle has helped overcome the losses of Smith and Egbo. Collen said she's thankful to have the super-senior back with the Bears.

"She's just a really, really good basketball player that I'm glad stuck around and is showing our fans that she's more than a kid that can take charges," Collen said. "She can make shots, she can set

people up and she does a lot of things really, really well."

Scoring or stuffing the stat sheet isn't even what Bickle cares about. Bickle said when she's out there, she finds the most joy in setting up her teammates for success.

"I used to do it with [NaLyssa] and Queen," Bickle said. "Now, I get to do it with [Darianna Littlepage] Buggs, I get to do it with Bella [Fontleroy], I get to do it with all my guards. I really, really enjoy it."

But to Collen, Bickle's knack for improvement blows her away. Collen said the 2019 national champion is always analyzing things or diving deep into what went wrong in a loss in order to get better individually and also as a collective team.

Collen said that before the squad watches mandatory film, Bickle has already seen it a couple of times.

"I'll have kids that don't even watch the game ... Caitlin will have watched it twice, and that's why she's so good. And it's what some of our guys need to understand," Collen said. "There's a reason Caitlin's good, because she

takes her craft seriously. And she doesn't get away with being good because she's faster or stronger or quicker. She's good because she studies and she cares and she wants to make the right play."

As a result, when Bickle is on the hardwood — regardless of who she's out there with — Collen said the Bears' analytics are off the charts. The only thing keeping Bickle off the floor is fatigue and foul trouble.

Since Bickle takes a lot of charges and does most of the brute work down low in the post, she's liable to draw a couple of fouls and be forced to miss time while on the bench. Additionally, Collen said that Bickle hasn't flipped the switch to realizing Baylor needs her more this year.

No pressure, right? Bickle said there isn't any when she's scolded about foul trouble.

"Every game that I get in foul trouble she [Collen] always thinks I'm doing it on purpose to get a break, but I swear I'm not," Bickle said. "I think I've done a good job in a couple of games where I've [hit] four [fouls] and I'm like, 'OK, you have to stay in this

Track and field sprinters aim to capture gold

GIO GENNERO
Sports Writer

Baylor track and field has seen a lot of bright spots so far this season, including the men's 4x400 squad, which has been on a tear. The relay team consists of sprinters senior Hasani Barr, junior Dillon Bedell, sophomore Nathaniel Ezekiel and senior Matthew Mooror. In the Razorback Invitational, they ran the fourth fastest time in school history with a 3:04.37. It also marked the fastest 4x4 time since the 2016 Big 12 Championships.

Barr and Bedell were quick to say their goals include conference and national titles but also to make a statement.

"We've been putting in the bank, putting in everything and putting in all the hard work," Bedell said. "Now we're making withdrawals, but we're also collecting rent, because our time is now. We've been saying it, but now we're doing it."

Barr said he credits the team's success this season to a offseason shift in mentality among the team.

"[Our] mindset is what changed in all of us," Barr said. "We're athletes, we're competitive, we always have that mindset, but it's more honed in and focused on wanting to do something collectively."

The team has made nationals three-straight seasons but have yet to crack the top eight. Bedell said their desire to renovate the team's trophy case was the trigger for shifting gears.

"We know we're fast — we've beat the teams that are running fast and winning, but we haven't been able to do it [in the heat of the moment]," Bedell said. "We're out there reminding each other, 'This is the NCAA final' or 'This is that final we weren't able to run in' or something like that. When you have that motivation and we're all on the same page, that's when things become dangerous."

Their motivation is layered and stems from beyond their time at Baylor. Barr and Bedell both cited the the late Kobe Bryant, former basketball superstar shooting guard, as someone who is part of the "foundation" of the way they attack not only races, but life. However, the duo shares a deeper common motivator that keeps each of their motors running.

"I have little siblings, and I want to be able to set a good example and set a bar of striving for greatness," Bedell said. "I might not be great, I might not become greatness, but just striving for greatness because I'm going to set a good example



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

FINISH STRONG Junior sprinter Dillon Bedell runs his leg of the men's 4x400 event during the Tiger Paw Invitational on Feb. 11.

BICKLE THE BLANKET >> Page B6

SPRINT FOR GOLD >> Page B6



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

FOLLOW THROUGH Junior Tadeas Paroulek blasts the ball back toward his Seminole opponent during a non-conference match against No. 9 Florida State University on Jan. 28.

No. 10 men's tennis awaits No. 3 TCU

FOSTER NICHOLAS
Sports Writer

On the heels of a four-game losing streak, No. 10 Baylor men's tennis is headed to Chicago for the ITA National Team Indoor Championships to try and get back on track.

"Given the schedule that we've had already to this point, there are really going to be no surprises for us as far as what the level [of competition] is," head coach Michael Woodson said. "I think our guys are starting to understand what's necessary to be able to put themselves in position to have success."

The Bears (5-5) have played against six different top-20 opponents in their last seven matches, the longest streak in the NCAA right now. After taking down, then-No. 9 Florida State

University during ITA Kickoff Weekend, the green and gold clinched its spot in the Indoor Championship for the 12th-straight year.

Following the win against FSU, the Bears lost their next four matches in a row against mostly higher ranked foes. Baylor faced all ranked teams with three of the four being in the top-five. The green and gold was able to stay competitive, but Woodson said inexperience on a young roster has prevented recent match victories.

"We're not losing because we lack talent, we're losing because we lack experience and composure in some bigger moments," Woodson said. "That comes from really good habits; good discipline is great training. I'm encouraged by what I'm seeing with how they're answering the call,

and they're not backing down. Maybe the results don't show yet, but I think it's just a matter of time."

Last year, Baylor was dominant in the tournament and managed to get to the semi-final before losing to the University of Tennessee, 4-2. This year, the Bears drew the 14th seed and will have to face Big 12 rival No. 3 Texas Christian University in the first round.

The Bears have already faced TCU (8-0) this year and lost the match 4-1, so for Baylor, the match is more than just a tournament game, but a chance at revenge.

"It's important to be aware of how difficult [the playing field] is and I think we've put together a schedule where we basically only play the best teams," Woodson said. "That's exactly what we feel like it

needs to be at Baylor, that's what these guys come here to play."

The Bears will have their shot at redemption on Friday with first serve scheduled for 9 a.m., the earliest match of the season. Baylor is guaranteed three matches over the course of the weekend.

"It's always fun to be able to play one of our biggest rivals, so we're really looking forward to the opportunity. I think it's going to be a really good match," Woodson said.



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Paula Barañano steps into tennis spotlight



Grace Everett | Photographer

SERVICE Fifth-year senior Paula Barañano winds up and gets ready to return the ball to her opponent during a non-conference match against No. 18 University of Florida on Feb. 5 in the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center.

MICHAEL HAAG
Sports Editor

Baylor women's tennis' fifth-year senior Paula Barañano was given the keys to lead the team in 2023. Barañano had spent the last four years playing under prominent team leaders like Mel Krywoj or Alicia Herrero Linana. Barañano was there for all those months, patiently waiting for her time in the spotlight. She's seen the Bears (7-3) go from a 9-21 record during her freshman year to being a top-10 team two seasons later. "She's seen the good, bad and ugly," head coach Joey Scrivano said. "And that's what you really need for your seniors. You need them to just be really well-versed in a lot of different scenarios, and she definitely brings that. She has a lot of experience." After sitting in the shadows and watching Krywoj and Herrero Linana lead by example, Barañano said she wants to have that same impact on her younger teammates. "I want to be loud, I want to fight [hard against] every opponent, I want to support the team in every possible [way] I can and just go out there and represent Baylor as best as I can," Barañano said. The Mar Del Plata, Argentina, native is coming off a 2022 spring season in which she went 16-6 individually and recorded 21 overall wins, the second most on the team. Scrivano called her a "warrior" after her momentous three-set thriller on Court Six against then-No. 25 University of Kansas on April 10, 2022.

Barañano showed that clutch gene and already started having an impact on her teammates before she even knew it. "I think she's done an amazing job," sophomore Brooke Thompson said. "Even last year, I was always looking up to her, and I think a lot of the girls on the team still do. I mean, I do. She's very positive, very confident. She's always fighting." Since Barañano has been through the ups and downs, Scrivano trusts her to lead his group to wherever it's destined to go. "Pauli's really developed, on and off the court," Scrivano said. "I love her maturity. She's been through a lot of battles." Barañano is 5-3 in singles play so far this spring, often taking on one of the top players from the opposing team. She said she likes the challenge of being one of the veterans on the team because she knows what it takes. But at the end of the day, she just wants to enjoy her final semester of eligibility in the green and gold. "[I want to] just give it my best in my last semester," Barañano said. Just like Krywoj and Herrero Linana paved the way for Barañano to become a leader, Thompson said it's trickling down to the younger ones, too. "I remember last year watching her play, I got goosebumps from just watching her and her energy on the court [and] how she carries herself," Thompson said. "So, I think she's a great role model for all of us and we all definitely look up to her."

BICKLE THE BLANKET from Page B3

game. You have to be in at the end of it.' "I think a big thing for me is knowing when and when not to take charges. I do get a lot of [calls] but you're not going to get every single one. So, if I don't get one, don't try to take the next one so soon. I've been caught a couple of times doing that. I think that's just being smart about it."

Collen said she knows

that she never has to question Bickle's effort or reliability. Bickle really is just as trustworthy as that childhood blanket. Collen has even called Bickle the "safety" of the defense and "quarterback" of the offense. The 2018 WNBA Coach of the Year doesn't like looking ahead to the future, but she said she'd take Bickle for another 10 years if she could. Collen said she appreciates

Bickle for how the way she pours into the program. "She has a huge heart and she wants to be great, she wants to win, and she plays for the name on the front of her jersey more than any player I've ever coached. There's not much time left," Collen said. "I'm just going to live with what I have and be grateful for who she is and what she brings to the table."



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

SIDELINE EYES Head coach Nicki Collen directs her team from the sidelines during a game in the Ferrell Center.



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

STRIDE Senior sprinter Hasani Barr explodes down the home stretch of his sprinting event.

SPRINT FOR GOLD from Page B3

for them. "And then last year, my dad passed and that was motivation because [my] mom and my sister told me that he was proud of me and everything like that. I'm going to try to keep making him proud." Barr said he has another loved one who has passed away that he looks up to as well.

"My granddaddy, he was my coach and he always wanted me to come to Baylor," Barr said. "He dedicated everything to training me. When he passed, I was just like, 'I'm going to continue the mission [and] finish what we started.' That's been the motivation out here — trying to do something for myself, but also put my people on. All this hard work isn't just for

me, it's something bigger than myself." The Bears recently wrapped up the Tiger Paw Invitational and now look toward the postseason, which will be at Texas Tech University's Sports Performance Center for the Big 12 Conference Championships. The event is slated for Feb. 24-25 in Lubbock and will run all day long.

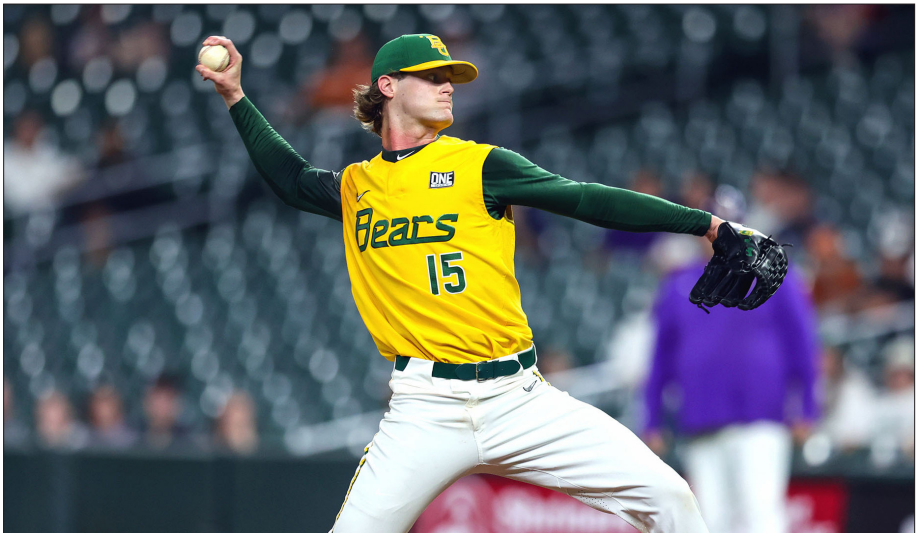


Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

STRIKE Junior right-handed pitcher Will Rigney (15) extends and hurls the ball toward the catcher's glove.

Baylor baseball head coach places faith in pitching staff

FOSTER NICHOLAS
Sports Writer

Baylor Baseball is zeroing in on opening day, and the team is looking to have a comeback season after finishing eighth out of nine teams in the Big 12 last year. Head coach Mitch Thompson is entering his first year as Baylor's skipper and has been fine-tuning his roster and getting the team ready for its first series. Thompson said he's confident that the squad's pitching ability will be the strong suit of the team. "They've done a nice job so far," Thompson said. "In the fall, they were throwing strikes and competing and getting the ball in the zone. And if you can do that and play defense behind them, you're going to be in ballgames. And that's been the key. I think the experience on our club is on the pitching staff." The Bears retained several pitchers that saw lots of action in 2022, including junior right-handed pitcher Cole Stasio, senior right-handed pitcher Blake Helton and sophomore right-handed pitcher Mason Marriott. With the group having some experience, Thompson and the Bears will look to have depth in order to match up with the rest of the conference. "We're definitely really deep as a pitching staff," Stasio said. "We have guys that, no matter who gets thrown on the mound, they're just going to fully compete and just really show out."

In addition to the returning talent, Thompson was able to recruit several junior college transfers in addition to his freshmen class. "We're going to have several freshmen out there starting, no question in my mind. And we'll have some young sophomores with very little experience that are transfer type guys or guys that are working their way into a lineup for the first time. So, there's a lot of inexperience and we're going to have to grow them up fast," Thompson said. Even though many of the recruits will be filling holes in the field, there are still several pitchers who are new to Baylor that might themselves in big game situations. "[Freshman] Andrew Petrowski and [freshman] Jared Matheson are two incoming junior college guys that we're expecting good things from," Thompson said. "Blake Rogers as a freshman has shown well. We have another freshman, Danny Valadez, who was really kind of injured all fall but is now healthy. So, we're anxious to see him. I think [they] have all shown that they're going to be in the mix and [be] able to help us get outs and compete

in innings." Petrowski played against Thompson last year when Thompson was the head coach at McLennan Community College. Meanwhile, Matheson was selected for First Team All-Conference as a relief pitcher last year while

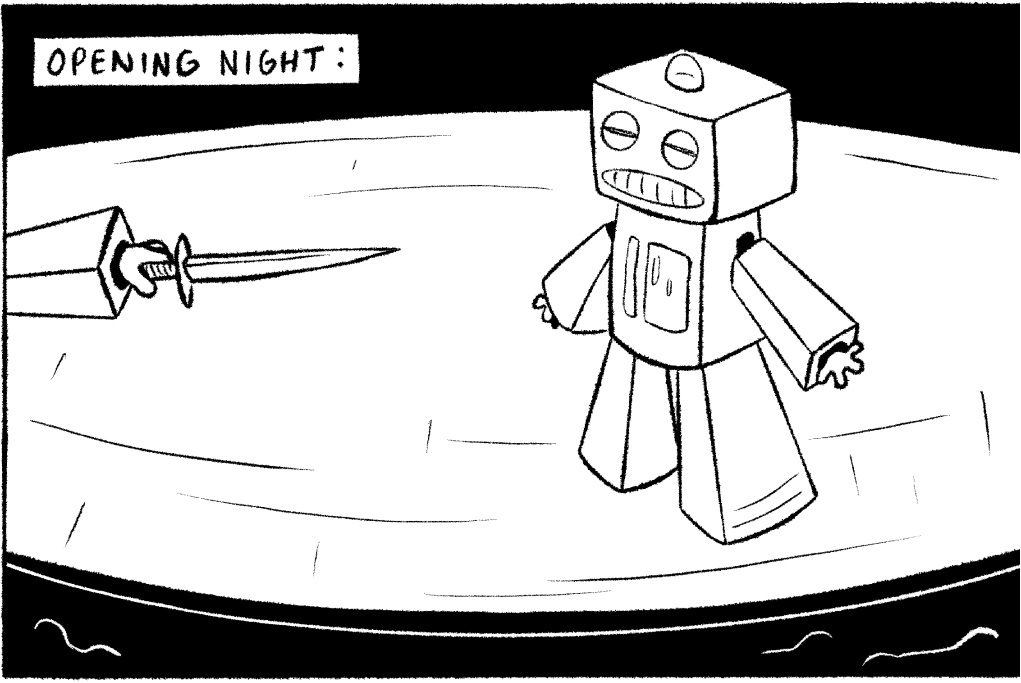
“We’re definitely really deep as a pitching staff. We have guys that, no matter who gets thrown on the mound, they’re just going to fully compete and just really show out.”

COLE STASIO | RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

playing under Thompson at MCC. Thompson was impressed enough to get Petrowski to transfer to Baylor and he may have a large role in the Bears' pitching being successful. Matheson will also insert himself in the bullpen in some way after his strong JUCO season last year. Both Petrowski and Matheson lean on high velocity fastballs that can hit 98 mph. While it's still unknown who will be in the starting rotation consistently or who will come out of the pen, Thompson has high expectations for the transfers. "Not everybody's had great careers up to this point, but I think guys are improving, guys are working hard," Thompson said. "I think they like the culture, they love each other, so it's going to be fun to watch them compete this year." The Bears open their season against Eastern Michigan University for a weekend series, starting at 3 p.m. on Friday at Baylor Ballpark.

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