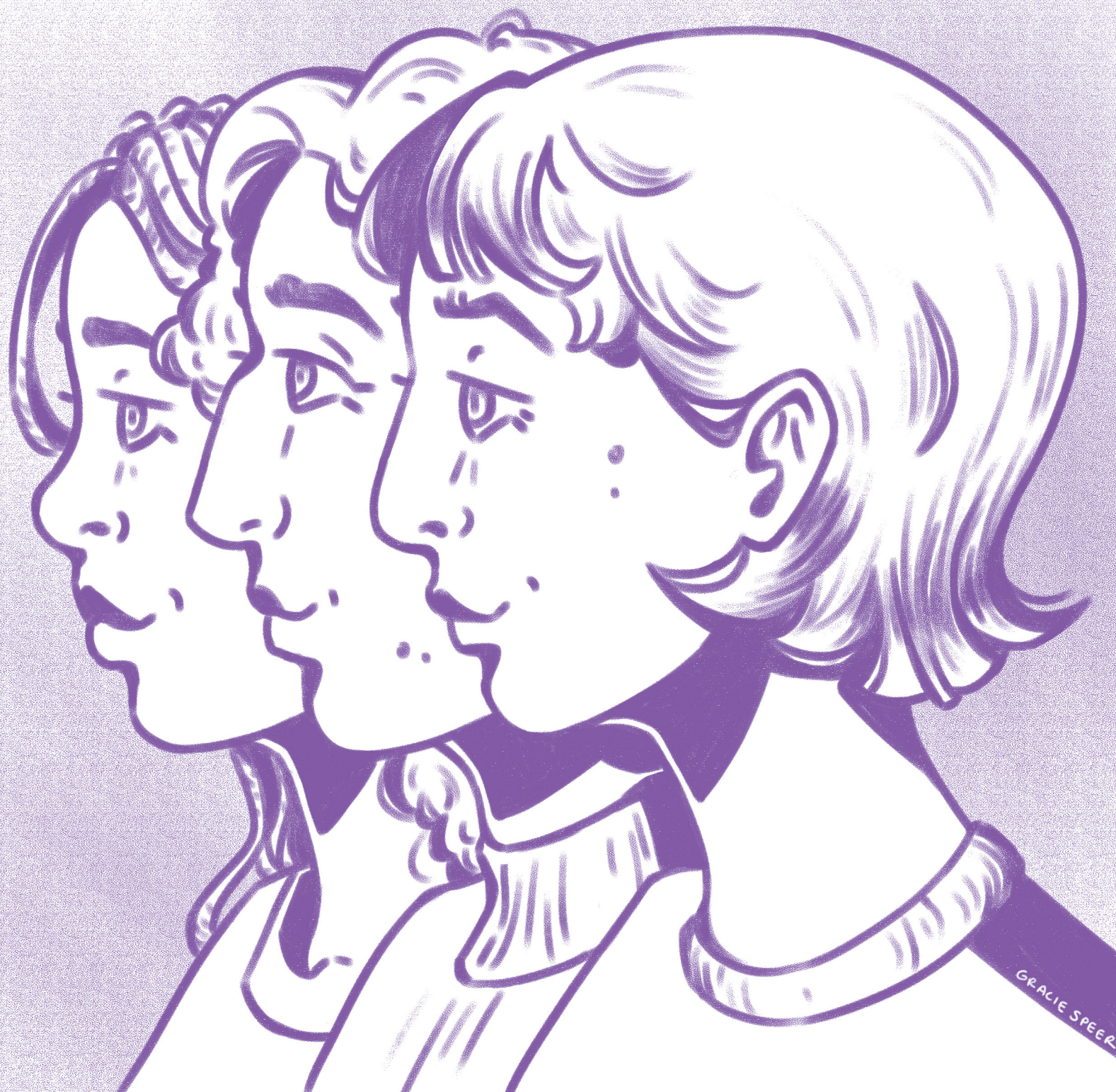


B_U BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



EDITORIAL

Women’s History Month isn’t just for the girls

Like any and all heritage months, Women’s History Month gets the same criticism. People often express the idea that Women’s History Month excludes men, but it’s time we realized that this month is for all of us — an opportunity to reflect on our history and grow from it together.

After all, what’s good for women is good for men. Information from the International Psychoanalytical Association shows that patriarchy actually hurts both genders. Because gender roles can be extremely pervasive, many women struggle with the idea that if they command a room or put their career above having a family, they will be seen as bossy or domineering. Conversely, patriarchy tries to convince men that vulnerability is a liability, not a strength, and that being sensitive or being a caregiver is feminine or weak.

The pressure to “man up” is a contributing factor to poor mental health among men, which has resulted in higher suicide rates than ever. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were

over 39,000 deaths by suicide among American men in 2022, compared to about 10,000 among women.

In a world where men are seen as weak for opening up about their mental health or for expressing emotion, bottling these feelings up leads directly to the isolation and depression that is causing these suicide rates. According to the National Institutes of Health, men are far less likely to seek therapy than women who, on the other hand, are expected to be emotional or even “weak,” so there is more stigma in reaching out for help.

That isn’t to say that women aren’t hurt by patriarchy and gender roles; they are just impacted in different ways. The National Eating Disorders Association reported that in 2020, eating disorders were twice as prevalent among women than men. The underlying cause of this is usually unrealistic beauty standards and social media trends that encourage unhealthy habits.

Outdated, restrictive ideas like these affect all of us, so it’s time to

get rid of the “this has nothing to do with me” mentality.

It isn’t just about stereotypes, either. Women’s history is American history, and this month gives us all an opportunity to reflect on how women have impacted our country for centuries. Women’s movements were closely intertwined with abolition and other civil rights movements, and women have been at the forefront of social change, even when they weren’t able to vote. Denying that Women’s History Month has anything to do with men ignores how women have fought for the rights of others — and that includes men of color and working class men.

During Women’s History Month, it doesn’t matter if you’re a woman or not. If you aren’t a woman, take time to listen to the women in your life. Hear their perspectives and learn from their experiences. This month provides a great opportunity for all of us to reflect on parts of our society that are negatively affecting us and to work to move past it together.



Gwen Henry | Cartoonist

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Baylor student explores girlhood in poetry book

KALENA REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

From girlhood to growing pains, Baylor sophomore Abbey Ferguson's poetry book entitled "everything i didn't say" is an in-depth look at her journey in love, life and college.

"It was sort of a combination of my roommate and my best friend from back home kind of encouraging me to put it together and create a collection of it," Ferguson said.

Ferguson, who is a native of San Dimas, Calif., said amid every emotion that came with the chaos of college, she always turned to poetry for support.

"When I came to college was when it kind of became a lifeline," Ferguson said. "I really just needed to write. I moved here from California and was experiencing homesickness and finding new friends and relationship troubles and trying to figure out who I was and my identity. And it kind of became like, 'Oh, I need to write actually.'"

Ferguson explores many topics throughout the book, ranging from relationships to the feminine experience, with poetic expression and inspiration. When she compiled the poems for her manuscript, she kept everything chronological, as the poems began the summer before she came to Baylor.

"I loved all of my philosophy classes [where] I read Virginia Woolf. I love Sylvia Plath, who's another big writer, Simone de Beauvoir. I loved all their work," Ferguson said. "So I kind of feel like a lot of it is definitely written out of a feminine, female perspective."

After finishing the writing process, Ferguson began a six-month process of editing, designing and publishing, which she did all by herself leading up to the Jan. 15 release date.

"I ordered the [first] copy and had to redo the cover because it was kind of ugly and had to make sure all pages were aligned and everything like that," Ferguson said. "And then it was like three weeks into January is when it was finally going out on Amazon for people to buy."

Ferguson went into the editing and publishing process without prior knowledge and used Amazon's "Kindle Direct Publishing" platform, which sends a royalty to the author every time a book is purchased.

"I looked into how to create a manuscript and



Lilly Yablon | Photographer

PART STUDENT, PART AUTHOR San Dimas, Calif., sophomore Abbey Ferguson released "everything i didn't say" on Jan. 15.

published it through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, which basically allows anyone to upload a book manuscript," Ferguson said. "So I kind of had to watch a lot of YouTube videos and look up a lot of things like how to create a real manuscript and how to format all of it."

Grand Canyon University sophomore Alanay Banks, who is Ferguson's best friend, was one of the first to read the manuscript and encourage the book's release.

"She shared a Google Drive with me with all her poetry, and then from there, I just had access to the Google Drive," Banks said. "So every once in a while, I'd go in and read her poetry and keep up to date on it, and I just wanted to encourage her to keep doing that."

Banks said the topics covered in the book are incredibly deep and are not only personal to Ferguson but also related to the female experience.

"I think it's some of the deepest things women go through without even realizing it," Banks said. "I feel like it is personal to her, but a lot of poems in there connect to other people. Especially if you are a teenage girl during these times, then I think it just embodies how it is to be a teenage girl now."

"everything i didn't say" is available for purchase on Amazon.

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'If I can do it, you can do it'

First Black female Waco police chief talks importance of community

LUKE LATTANZI
Staff Writer

Waco Police Chief Sheryl Victorian was sworn in as the first woman and Black police chief in the city's history on March 15, 2021. Since then, her main priority has been to build a closer relationship between police officers and the community they serve.

Victorian started her career in law enforcement with the Houston Police Department, where she served for 28 years. She worked her way up to the assistant chief position and served in that capacity for three and a half years.

She also has a master's in criminal justice from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in administration of justice from Texas Southern University.

Despite her extensive career, Victorian's first impression of law enforcement was a negative one. While she said her family never had any bad interactions with police officers growing up, she was nevertheless afraid of law enforcement as a little girl.

"My mom would take me to the store just to try to get me to shake this constable's hand," Victorian said. "And I would fall out, and ... at 4 or 5 years old, I'm [like], 'Ahh no!'"

Victorian said the fear may have come from someone in her neighborhood warning her that police officers would take her to jail, making her believe any interaction she had with them would result in her being arrested.

However, Victorian's impression of law enforcement

changed after her father died when she was 9 years old.

"There were police officers standing there when we came out of the [funeral home]," Victorian said. "And they were compassionate. They were empathetic. And I watched them — I guess just to keep my mind off what was going on."

However, Victorian's biggest childhood inspiration would come from the popular TV shows "Miami Vice" and "Beverly Hills Cops." By the time she turned 15, she knew what she wanted to do.

"I always felt like cops had character, integrity," Victorian said. "So I walked a straight and narrow [path], because I was like, 'You can't do that being a police officer. I'm not going to get into the academy if I make bad decisions or hang with this group of people, right?'"

Victorian's dreams of becoming an undercover police officer eventually came true, as she graduated from college and went straight to the academy. Throughout her law enforcement career, she did undercover work for over 11 years.

Victorian's outlook would go through yet another major change when she was offered the job as Waco's police chief. While she already had leadership experience as assistant chief in Houston, she still needed to seek approval from those above her in order to make certain decisions in that role.

"A lot of my family and friends came down [to Waco for the swearing-in ceremony]



Photo courtesy of Sheryl Victorian

TRAILBLAZER Sheryl Victorian is the Waco Police Department's first female and Black police chief.

from Houston," Victorian said. "My old chief pinned my badge on me, and I stood up with this new air of confidence because I knew now the buck stopped with me. And this was my opportunity to be able to form a culture and to be able to lead and guide a police department into the 21st century."

While she said the Waco Police Department was already a great organization before her tenure as police chief, Victorian wanted to push the envelope even further and foster a stronger trust between police and the broader Waco community. She said this effort was especially important at the time, as the killing of George Floyd had sparked nationwide

outrage and protests against police brutality in 2020.

That outreach would come in the form of "back-to-school bashes," where the Waco Police Department worked closely with the community to give out free backpacks to children. After the first back-to-school bash in August 2021, Victorian said she was shocked by the department's incredible effort as well as the community's receptiveness.

"I had tears in my eyes because I was like, 'Oh my God, [the department and the community] went above and beyond what I expected, and we gave away so many backpacks,'" Victorian said. "The kids had an opportunity to see our SWAT, our canine

guys, our community partners. The McLennan County Sheriff's Office helped out, [as well as the] neighborhood association. It was a fantastic response."

Victorian said the event was a great way to humanize police officers, especially at a time when faith in them had been challenged by nationwide conversations about police brutality.

"We care about your future," Victorian said. "That thing that somebody may have told me a long time ago about, 'They're going to put you in jail' — no, we don't want to have to put you in jail. We want to make sure that you're successful in school."

Last year's back-to-school bash was held at Richland Mall, where about 1,500 backpacks were given away. That outreach has expanded over the years to include other events, such as the Waco Police Department's annual Halloween "Trunk or Treat."

Victorian said that while she wants the police department to have officers who can handle themselves in dangerous situations, she also looks for officers whose character lines up with this mission.

"We want people who are compassionate, people who are empathetic, people who can do some perspective-taking," Victorian said. "Yeah, we still need people who can handle themselves in difficult situations and critical incidents. But we need people who love people. If you don't love people, then you really shouldn't do

this job."

In addition, Victorian said it is important to make the law enforcement profession more accessible to women. According to the 30x30 Initiative — an organization devoted to having women make up 30% of all police recruits by 2030 — women account for just 13% of all police officers in the U.S., while they make up just 3% of police leadership.

"There are a couple of schools ... where I've had one young lady who stopped me and said, 'I didn't know girls could be the police,'" Victorian said. "And I go, 'Yes, you can. If I can be the police, you can be the police.'"

Victorian said young women who have law enforcement aspirations should find female mentors in the profession. She said a great way to get involved is at the Women in Public Safety Symposium, which will be on March 11. This event will provide networking opportunities for women interested in policing as well as medical support services and firefighting.

"Last night, we had a Citizens Police Academy going on, and there were three young ladies in there, and all of them mentioned that at some point they wanted to be police officers," Victorian said. "And I was like, 'Come talk to me. Come sit down and talk to me, and ask me those questions and those things that may concern you. We can talk about it, and we can get over it, because if I can do it, you can do it.'"

Running shouldn't be a death sentence

JENNA FITZGERALD
Editor-in-Chief

Laken Riley did all the right things. She ran in the daylight. She stuck to a popular route on the University of Georgia campus. She let her friend know when and where she was going.

And none of it mattered, because the 22-year-old nursing student was just the next woman in line to lace up her shoes and never make it back home.

In 2022, kindergarten teacher Eliza Fletcher left for her 8.2-mile run around the University of Memphis campus. She was found four days later with a gunshot wound to the head, blunt-force trauma to the leg and jaw fractures.

In 2020, nurse Sydney Sutherland went on a jog near Newport, Ark. Her body was discovered two days later, and she had been rammed with a truck, raped and beaten to death.

In 2018, University of Iowa student Mollie Tibbetts headed for a run in her rural hometown. She was found 34 days later, hidden under corn leaves and marked by stab wounds.

As I train for my first half-marathon and try to pack in 20 miles every week, I think about these women. After all, the ROAD iD that slides under my shoelaces serves as a constant reminder of the risk of crimes of opportunity — a risk female runners are taught to fear from the moment they step outside.

In a 2023 study by Adidas, 92% of female runners reported feeling concerned for their safety, while 38% reported having experienced physical or verbal harassment. Of the latter group, 56% received unwanted attention, 55% received sexist comments, 53% were honked at and 50% were followed.

How many women have to be murdered and harassed before we take their safety seriously?

In response to the 2023 study, Adidas

released an ad called “The Ridiculous Run,” showcasing how absurd a run must become for a woman to feel safe. The woman is seen wearing loose clothing and one headphone, surrounded by other runners, bikers, skaters and a literal protective crew.

It's crazy — almost as crazy as the fact that it's true.

Women should be able to run in a sports bra with both of their AirPods without fearing for their lives. Women should be able to run alone on a trail without fearing for their lives. Women should be able to run in the dark without fearing for their lives. *Women should be able to run without fearing for their lives.*

My heart shattered when I read the news about Laken Riley. Her murder was the first homicide on the University of Georgia campus in almost 30 years, and it should serve as a humbling reminder that things like this can happen anywhere. The twists and turns of Cameron Park and the Bear Trail are certainly not much different terrain.

Women, be vigilant. Men, be conscious of your behavior when passing solo female runners. The running community is one of the most uplifting I have experienced, and we must come together to create a safe environment for everyone. I think we can all agree that women deserve to lace up their shoes without having to question whether they will make it back home.

Until that dream turns into reality,

though, I will continue my ritual of taking a moment to look down at the ROAD iD under my shoelaces before I head out the door. Under all the usual information, like my name and emergency contacts, is a phrase: “ad majorem Dei gloriam” or “for the greater glory of God.”

I look down at it, and I pray — not for sunny weather or a personal best but for the simple chance to exercise peacefully in creation.

May the Lord bless Laken Riley.



“Women deserve to lace up their shoes without having to question whether they will make it back home.”

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Meet the ‘cool aunt’ of Baylor

Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer’s journey from Puerto Rico to the BSB

JOSH SIATKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer, senior lecturer in Baylor’s chemistry department, never planned to become a professor. Now she’s in her 24th year at Baylor, serving the campus community in a myriad of different ways.

Klausmeyer arrived at Baylor in 2000, and she now balances teaching with her other roles, like director and co-founder of Science Research Fellows, director of undergraduate research and chair of Baylor’s branch of Women in Science and Engineering.

Dover, N.H., junior James Lotter is a Science Research Fellow and has known Klausmeyer since he came to Baylor in fall 2021. Lotter said he and his peers often call Klausmeyer the “cool aunt” of the university.

“She’s very charismatic,” Lotter said. “She makes you feel very comfortable. It can be very daunting as a freshman. ... But when you’re around her, you can tell she knows her stuff, and you know it’s going to be OK.”

Lotter also said Klausmeyer has a strong will that has been helpful when advocating for students.

“She has a strong character and doesn’t deviate,” Lotter said. “You know she’s going to get it done.”

Although her personality is suited nicely for helping students navigate stressful professions in the sciences, teaching wasn’t in Klausmeyer’s original plan.

Klausmeyer was born in Puerto Rico and grew up on the dairy farm that her father managed. Although her mother was a school principal, Klausmeyer said she was never encouraged to go into teaching.

“Even though [my mother] loved teaching, she said, ‘Don’t go into teaching,’” Klausmeyer said. “You know how parents are. They want their kids to be doctors, lawyers or engineers. Those are the top three.”

Following her parents’ hopes for her, Klausmeyer enrolled at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, as a pre-medicine student. However, after an unsettling anatomy lab in which she and her classmates had to dissect an abnormally large cat, Klausmeyer learned she had no interest in medicine.

“That thing was apparently a well-fed cat

because it was massive,” Klausmeyer said, laughing. “[The lab] is forever in my mind as the grossest experience ever.”

Deciding to nurture her love of science while avoiding any more dissections, Klausmeyer switched to an organic chemistry major with the intention of working for a chemical company in Puerto Rico after she got her degree. However, at the advice of a graduate student mentor, she applied for a Ph.D. program in organic chemistry, ending up at Texas A&M.

Though she was still expecting to return to Puerto Rico after her Ph.D. was completed, Klausmeyer’s trajectory changed while at Texas A&M.

“At Texas A&M, I met my husband, Dr. Kevin Klausmeyer,” Klausmeyer said. “And he wanted to be a professor, ... and I knew that if he wanted to be a professor, we had to go wherever a position opened.”

Her husband took a brief role at the University of Illinois, so Klausmeyer applied to teach there too, even though the idea of becoming a professor “had never crossed [her] mind.”

Though a new one, the experience went quite well.

“Apparently, I did not know this at all, I had a knack for teaching,” Klausmeyer said. “And I loved it.”

Her husband, however, left just a few years after starting at Illinois, accepting an offer to teach at Baylor. This transition, along with the birth of their first daughter, seemed to be closing the door on a career in teaching.

“I was supposed to be a stay-at-home mom,” Klausmeyer said.

Klausmeyer was a stay-at-home mom for about a month. The Klausmeyers moved to Waco in August 2000, and by September, a sick professor’s leave had already opened a spot in Baylor’s chemistry department. Her husband suggested that she fill the role temporarily, to which the administration agreed.

“[The sick professor] never came back, and I am still here waiting here for her,” Klausmeyer said.

Klausmeyer did far more than simply wait, addressing needs whenever they came up. In 2013, feeling isolated after moving her office to Earle Hall, Klausmeyer founded a chapter of Women in Science and Engineering.

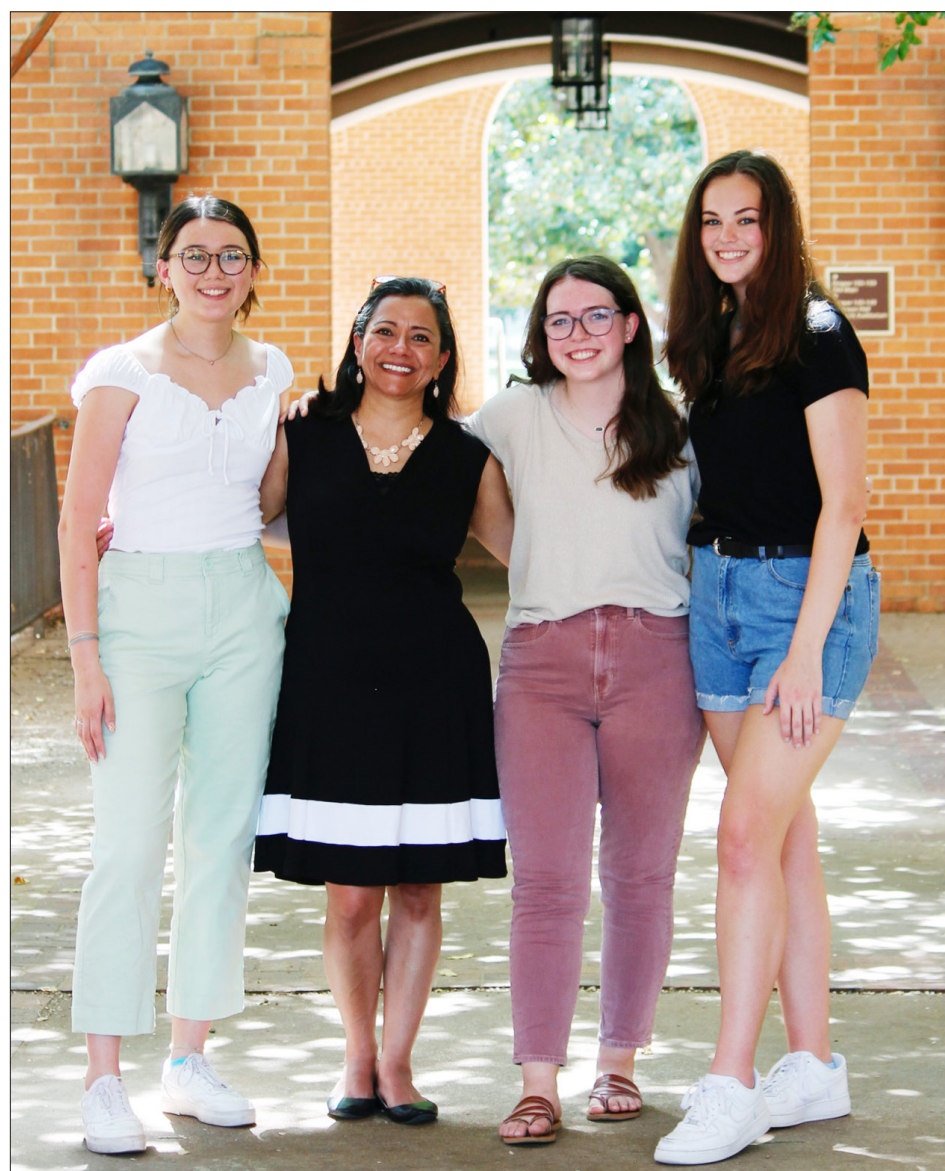


Photo courtesy of Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer

WISE BEYOND YEARS Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer (second from left) stands with members of the Baylor chapter of Women in Science and Engineering.

“I wanted the women in the building to be connected, because sometimes you just need someone to talk to,” Klausmeyer said.

In 2017, Klausmeyer helped found Science Research Fellows — a major that allows undergraduate students to participate in scientific research. Part of the exigence for the program, Klausmeyer said, came from her

own experience.

“You can’t just knock on doors until someone accepts you. Why? Because I did that. It doesn’t work.”

Ultimately, Klausmeyer said she does it all for her students.

“I’m here to defend the students and protect the students. I will do anything for my students.”

Saints, goddesses and dolls: Baylor professors fill gaps in women's stories

CAITLYN BEEBE
Reporter

From the birth of the Christian church to Barbie, women's stories span across all of history — and the research of two Baylor professors is starting to fill in the gaps.

Dr. Beth Allison Barr, the James Vardaman Endowed Professor of History, explored how the role of women in the church has developed throughout history in her book titled "The Making of Biblical Womanhood."

Despite the patriarchal impulses of the culture around them, Barr said women played an important role in the ancient world and the early church.

"We learn a lot about the church fathers, but what we don't learn about are the church mothers," Barr said. "And there's just as many women running around in early monasticism who are influential in the beginning of the church."

For example, Barr said St. Marcella, a fourth-century Roman woman, collected biblical manuscripts and taught women how to read biblical languages. St. Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible relied on this collection and labor, Barr said.

Additionally, Barr said historical evidence suggests women served as presbyters, bishops and deaconesses throughout the sixth century, and it wasn't until the central Middle Ages that clerical roles became more male-dominated. Even after then, Barr said women never stopped filling clerical roles.

For instance, Barr said St. Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century German abbess, wrote poetry, influenced leading bishops and advised the pope.

"She emphasizes the ... idea that both women and men are made in the image of God and that both women and men complement each other," Barr said.

Barr said these women's stories tended to be left out when history textbooks were written in the 19th century, because the modern education system began to form when women had little legal or public power.

"History is written primarily by men, for men and about men, and women's voices are left out of it," Barr said. "We're still trying to correct that today. We also see nonwhite voices left out

of these histories as well."

Dr. Lenore Wright, the director for the Academy for Teaching and Learning, analyzed motherhood archetypes using religious, mythological and pop culture figures in her work titled "Athena to Barbie." Wright said she wanted to explore how these archetypes can be used to reinforce or disrupt norms of femininity.

Wright said the Virgin Mary represents the womb as a spiritual space, and some traditions view her as a mediator who stands in solidarity with those who pray to or through her.

"There are moments where she's given a lot of agency," Wright said. "Some scholars read her as making a rational choice and assenting to give birth to the Christ-child."

Conversely, Wright said Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and war, represents the womb as a political space.

"[Athena's] origin story is so fascinating," Wright said. "She's born out of the head of Zeus, so the male imagination creates Athena, and she never gives birth herself. She gives birth to the state."

Wright said Athena is a symbol for professional women fighting for equal recognition in the public sphere, as society often stigmatizes professional women who aren't mothers.

"Unless you've birthed a child and reared a child, there's always some question about your legitimacy," Wright said.

Wright said Venus represents the womb as an erotic space, but she said Venus is often oversimplified. Wright said Venus held the ability to calm violence and bring societal unity.

"Really, her purpose — at least in Roman mythology — was to help bring together men and women," Wright said.

Meanwhile, Wright said Barbie represents the womb as a material space.

"She should be subversive in a way because she's not a mother figure," Wright said.

Wright noted that Barbie appears in several occupations and doesn't marry or have children. Although contemporary artists have used Barbie to disrupt ideals about femininity, Wright said Barbie retains some of those standards.

"The packaging and the wrapping of Barbie still conforms to feminine ideals and normalization," Wright said, "She's not subversive because people look at her and think,

'Well, she presents as if she could be married and have children.'"

Both Barr and Wright continue to write about gender issues that span history.

Barr is working on two more books about how the role of women in ministry has changed over time.

"As a historian, what I'm attempting to do is to show people that their belief about this is actually not rooted in the Bible, that it's actually rooted in historical changes," Barr said.

Wright is authoring a scholarly article relating Barbie to the writings of St. Augustine. She is also working on a companion to "Athena to Barbie" that will analyze masculine archetypes.

"It's good for all of us just to think together and talk together about, not just feminist thought, but the status of women [and] gender," Wright said. "Let's not just give ourselves over to these cultural forces that I do think run the risk of impoverishing who and what we are."



Photo courtesy of Henry Wright
RETELLING WOMEN'S STORIES Dr. Lenore Wright's work highlights the forgotten women's voice and delves into female characters across all time periods.

Former Bearette Suzie Snider Eppers embraces impact, leaves hoops legacy

MICHAEL HAAG

Sports Editor

Baylor women's basketball has a track record for producing notable athletes.

It's easy to recognize names like Brittney Griner, Odyssey Sims, Kalani Brown or Sophia Young, who are all national champions at Baylor. Those are just a few former Lady Bears who have their jerseys retired.

But there's one name that may fly under the radar. One that — if you asked all 7,093 Foster Pavilion fans who attended Griner's recent jersey retirement if they knew who she was, the ones that answered 'Yes' would probably be in the minority.

Insert Suzie Snider Eppers, the first of a long line of stars to play in the green and gold. Eppers played at Baylor from 1973-77 and was the first women's scholarship athlete in school history, boosted by her shot put throwing ability for Clyde Hart's track and field program.

But for how good Eppers was at the shot put — she still holds the Central Texas high school record at 50 feet and 10 inches — her legacy was destined on the hardwood under Olga Fallen.

"I took being the [first] scholarship athlete to heart, and we were building a program," Eppers said.

Eppers enrolled at Baylor following a stellar career at Robinson High School, which rests just down the road from campus. She grew up in Waco and moved to Robinson in the fourth grade, where she ended

up leading the Rockettes to their first-ever state championship in 1970.

The 6-foot-1 forward said she only lost about seven games across four years in high school, and that in junior high, her squad lost only once. Eppers said she went to Baylor with a winner's mentality that she looked to continue.

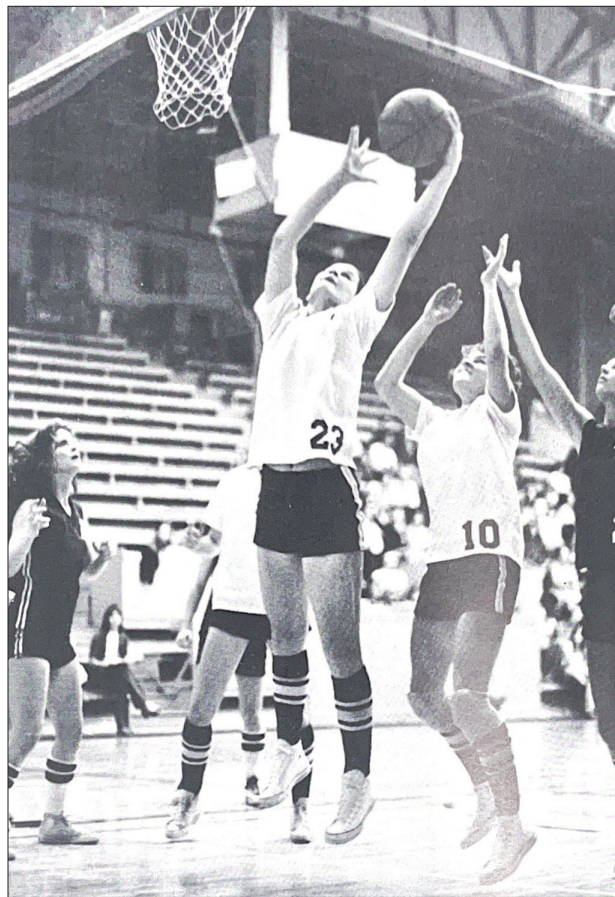
But once Eppers realized she was stepping into something she called "a step above intramurals," she knew it was important to trust the process.

"I knew I was a building block," Eppers said. "I didn't know to what degree, but I knew things were going to change. And my job and my responsibility at Baylor was to go and help that program get off the ground, and I wanted to win. I don't get a lot of satisfaction out of playing a good game and not winning."

The adjustment from high school to Baylor was also more than just putting a different jersey on. Eppers' high school games were still 3-on-3, half-court style, and she had to pivot to a full-court game in which she had to play both offense and defense.

Giving credit to her junior high and Robinson High School coaches, Eppers had little issue transitioning, as she went on to score 3,861 career points with the then-named Bearettes. That point mark still stands as an overwhelming school record, as it's over 500 more than Griner's total (3,284).

Eppers averaged better



Roundup file photo

I GOT IT Suzie Snider Eppers hauled in a Baylor women's basketball record 2,176 rebounds during her four year career with the then-Bearettes from 1973-77.

than 22 points per game in her career. And her 3,861 points happened when the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) governed women's basketball, so her mark isn't an NCAA record. Yet her total holds as the highest recorded in collegiate women's basketball history despite Iowa senior guard Caitlin Clark's rising status (3,617 points and counting).

"That's the freest I've ever felt as an athlete because I can play offense, I can play defense, rebound, outlet the ball, get it on a fast break," Eppers said of her time at Baylor. "I could a lot of times shoot the ball on a fast break because I could get down the floor."

She went on to become a Kodak All-American, marking the university's first basketball All-American since 1948. Eppers' No. 23 jersey was later

retired by the Lady Bears, and she led Fallen's fifth-place AIAW national tournament team in 1977 (33-12 record).

Eppers said she still keeps up with the Bears, who are now led by head coach Nicki Collen in her third year, as much as she can. Eppers has lost touch with most of her former Bearette teammates, but said they will always share a "strong bond."

As someone who played nearly 50 years ago, Eppers added that she's seen the growth of women's sports, especially in terms of how different basketball looks now.

"It's fantastic to watch," Eppers said. "Obviously, there's a lot of excitement right now with Caitlin Clark. ... It's good to see the game progress the way it has. It's very athletic, and I like seeing that. I like seeing what girls are doing now in the game."

She said she still reflects and wonders where basketball could've taken her if she had modern technology and equipment.

Eppers was also inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 2022 class. She said she "still can't believe" she was given the honor.

"I'm proud of the things I've accomplished, and I can recognize that, but to be up there with that class was something else and something I'll never forget," Eppers said. "And really in all honesty, the night was kind of a blur for me. ... I think I know where my place was up there, but those were such great athletes,

just beyond my thought that I would ever be up there sharing that stage with them."

The forward who finished with a school-record 2,176 rebounds also said this new age of basketball makes her think she can go out and play still.

"I know I can't, but I think I got it," Eppers said.

She's just grateful to have become a role model for future women's hoopers, something she didn't have growing up in the pre-Title IX days.

"I was watching Brittney Griner the other day and I think the best part about that whole game for me was watching the young girls go up to Brittney and having her autograph a shirt or whatever it was that they had," Eppers said. "And they have heroes. We didn't have them. We worshipped guys that played the game well. We had obstacles. One, we had gender obstacles. There was a lot of stereotyping going around for girls who wanted to continue to play. There were gender issues, there were equality issues with the schools that didn't really want to fund the girls' programs."

"My message to young girls is, now they have these heroes that they can look up to. Now the message to them should be 'Go for it.' Don't let them stop you. Get out there, be what you want to be. For these kids to have this opportunity to see it, live it, have the heroes to look at, golly that just is a world of a difference than when I played."



Mia Crawford | Photographer

NAILED IT! EM Nails, located two minutes from campus, services the Baylor area and is one place to get a spring break manicure done.

Cool girls don't gatekeep: The best of Waco salons

ERIKA KUEHL
Staff Writer

Most of us have gone to the same hairstylist for years, and sitting in a new chair gives me a fright like no other. There's nothing worse than getting a bad manicure and reluctantly giving up \$50 just to take it off when you get home. And don't get me started on getting your eyebrows waxed by a stranger — those '90s brows are never coming back in style.

This Women's History Month, treat yourself to things that make you feel beautiful, inside and out. Here is a list of where to get your self-maintenance done without running the risk of streaky highlights.

HAIR

Looking for a blowout to refresh your identity? Check out On The Avenue for the best Victoria's Secret Angel curls.

Get those roots touched up, and head to 202 Beauty Lounge for your bleach and tone.

For the women with 3c-4c curls, I've heard BraidupbyK and BeauTee Braids are exceptional salons in Waco when you can't get an appointment with your girl at home.

I got my hair done by Paige Hall at The Ruby Salon LLC. last week, and I was blown away. She blended my highlights at a reasonable price, and though it was a little hard to find from the street, the "girl talk" made it worth it.

NAILS

Regarding the perfect manicure, I'm loyal to Nail Creations. If you don't want to make the 15-minute drive from campus, though, EM Nails is just as amazing.

WAXING

Glow Waxing Studio takes the cake when getting your eyebrows done. There's nothing better than clean brows for that flawless car selfie.

SPRAY TAN

With spring break right around the corner, I'm definitely in need of a spray tan before I head to Florida. Palm Beach Tan is the cheapest and easiest place to get bronzed before you hop on your flight.

FACIALS

With the weather changing, our skin is not in the best shape. Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa will unclog your pores from all that midterm-week stress.

MASSAGE

In terms of massages, I've heard nothing but amazing things about Pura Vida Day Spa. It's close to campus and right next to Spice Village if you want to do some shopping afterwards.

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News for the students by the students

Society of Women Engineers challenges stereotypes in male-dominated field

ASHLYN BECK

Staff Writer

In the midst of a male-dominated field, the Society of Women Engineers at Baylor is dedicated to giving female engineers a sense of community along with opportunities to further their career goals.

Kenosha, Wis., junior Lily Peterson serves as the program director and service outreach director for the organization. She said she first got involved after seeing its booth at Late Night. She then joined its freshman council, which trains freshmen to grow in their leadership abilities before becoming officers.

“[The Society of Women Engineers] really strives to just build a healthy community,” Peterson said. “We realize that this is more of a minority type of thing. Let’s find a way that we can advocate for that minority to build balance and equality in the field.”

Peterson said the organization is important for female engineers at Baylor because it provides a sense of belonging in an intimidating, male-dominated field.

“[We’re] just encouraging them to keep going, encouraging women to have that passion for [STEM] as opposed to letting those stereotypes weigh them down.”

LILY PETERSON |
SWE PROGRAM, SERVICE
OUTREACH DIRECTOR

“I like the idea that we have this commonality,” Peterson said. “We know the adversity that we’re all facing, and [we’re] doing it together.”

The commonality of the members helps build their confidence and gives them a safe space in the field, Peterson said.

“Those people that understand my situation are not going to judge me simply because I am not in the majority,” Peterson said.

Valparaiso, Ind., junior Macey Schmetzer is the president of the organization. She said participation in the Society of Women Engineers gives female engineers credibility and helps portray them as valid players in STEM, as it has been well-organized at Baylor for a very long time.

“[We’re] building that connection and giving women a route of success that they might not have known about, like giving them those paths and channels to succeed,” Peterson said.

Schmetzer said one of the best qualities of the organization is its size. While there is a small group of officers and consistent attendees, she said there are about 90 to 100 women who are considered members.

“It feels like there’s no women in my classes. It feels really small,” Schmetzer said. “But when you put everyone in a room and you look at this list of everyone who’s in [the Society of Women Engineers], there is a good amount of us.”

According to Peterson and Schmetzer, the presence of the Society of Women Engineers on campus challenges the sexism inherent in the field.

“I think [the Society of Women Engineers] makes it harder for men to ignore the female presence by saying, ‘Hey, there’s more than just one of us who has this belief, who has this passion for STEM. You kind of have to let us in at some point,’” Peterson said.

Peterson and Schmetzer both said being a woman in a male-dominated field is intimidating. They said women are usually one of very few in their engineering classes and tend to clump together as a defense mechanism.

“If you go in as a minority in situations like this, you go in expecting and fearing judgment,” Peterson said.

Peterson said the sexism she faces in the field is very subtle, but it manifests in things like her



Photo courtesy of Macey Schmetzer

CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION The Society of Women Engineers gives a sense of community with opportunities for female engineers to reach their goals.

labs, where the men of the group naturally take charge and reject her ideas.

“It’s a little bit harder to get people’s attention or get them to listen to you and think what you’re saying is correct,” Schmetzer said. “They kind of write you off.”

Though the sexism is rarely explicit, Peterson said it still scares many women into remaining silent about their opinions. She said she notices herself and other women being afraid to ask questions out of fear of losing the respect of their peers.

“It’s kind of like [they’re] looking at you, waiting for you to fail, so they can say, ‘That makes sense. That’s what we expected,’” Peterson said.

Peterson and Schmetzer both said they must be hyperactive to share their ideas, and it usually takes a lot of effort to gain respect among their peers.

“People don’t take the things we say quite as seriously,” Schmetzer said. “We have to really

convince them that we’re right.”

However, Peterson and Schmetzer said the Society of Women Engineers challenges those ideas and gives women the confidence to challenge them themselves.

“Having multiple voices backing you up — I think that on its own helps women have that willingness to challenge the status quo and to kind of go about their passions and things like that, because they know they’re not alone,” Peterson said.

The Society of Women Engineers is a place that shows female engineers there are others like them and others will be on their side, Peterson said.

“You’re going to see challenges. You’re going to see that kind of daily casual sexism and just the presence of more males,” Peterson said. “[We’re] just encouraging them to keep going, encouraging women to have that passion for [STEM] as opposed to letting those stereotypes weigh them down.”



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RUNNING THE TRENCHES Women have only been running the Line since 1994. In 2017, Baylor alumnae from 1974-98 ran the Line for the first time.

Photo courtesy of Baylor Proud

That co-ed Baylor Line

Beloved tradition celebrates 30 years since expansion

ASHLYN KENNEDY
Reporter

While the Baylor Line has been showcasing school spirit on the football field since 1970, the beloved campus tradition has only been open to women for the past 30 years.

When the Baylor Line was first established, only men were allowed to run. The following year, the Baylor Sideline was created as a “parallel organization” for women so they could support the football team in alternate ways.

Baylor alumna Dana Lee Haines, who currently works in financial services, participated in the Sideline as a freshman.

“We made cookies and brownies for football players, and we had a shirt that said ‘Baylor Sideline,’” Haines said. “I didn’t consider [not running the Line] that big of a deal since we had that.”

Baylor alumna Dr. Kim Scott, who

currently serves as director of campus recreation, grew up in the Waco area and began attending the university in the fall of 1980. She said she always wanted to run the Line but was told that “girls weren’t allowed to run” as a freshman.

“I was just disappointed,” Scott said. “That’s just the way it was, and that’s what we knew at the time.”

In 1994 — 24 years after its founding — the Line became a co-ed line and paved the way for generations to come.

Baylor alumna Monica Pope started attending Baylor in 1999 and got to run the Line five years after it had expanded. She said her experience was “colored” by the recent changes.

“I felt fortunate that I had the opportunity to do it, because it was something other women hadn’t gotten a chance to do,” Pope said. “That drove me to do it.”

Pope said it is special for the Line

to include all freshmen because it allows students to come together in school spirit.

“Being excited about Baylor football is not exclusive to men,” Pope said. “Having women there, it’s just a more collective experience for the people who are excited about Baylor football.”

Over two decades of female Baylor graduates were unable to run the Line during their time at the university, but that changed in 2017 when President Linda Livingstone invited alumnae who were freshmen between 1970 and 1994 to participate in a ceremonial running of the Line. On Oct. 28, 2017, more than 800 women ran the Line for the first time.

Scott said the day was like a “mini homecoming,” and the enthusiasm was palpable.

“You could just feel the excitement,” Scott said. “It wasn’t born out of any pain we felt. It was just born out of a common experience we

were excited to be a part of.”

Haines ran the Line with several friends from different graduating classes. She said the event was a special opportunity to connect alumnae back to the university.

“Freshmen get to do it every game, but we’re not ever going to do it again,” Haines said. “For us to get to do it as the women who didn’t get to do it back then, it was such an honor.”

Jordy Dickey, director of Student Activities, said the Line is an important milestone for all students because it is “a tangible representation of the spirit of Baylor.”

“We’re positioning these traditions to really reflect our mission holistically,” Dickey said. “We look at how these moments, no matter how they were designed, really reflect today’s students but also reflect who we say that we are: a caring Christian community that loves and cares for all individuals.”

Baylor alumna Alison Cherry

graduated from Baylor in 1995 and never ran the Line. She said she didn’t even think of the impact until touring the university with her daughter and getting to watch her run the Line.

“There’s a lot of things that have changed from when I was here to now,” Cherry said. “It’s little changes like [the Baylor Line becoming co-ed] that build the foundation for bigger changes.”

Dickey said it’s important to acknowledge the history of the Line while also moving forward in making traditions accessible to all future students.

“That’s the powerful thing about traditions — that they can be long-standing, but we can also make them better for future generations,” Dickey said. “We want to reconcile those moments so that it can provide a powerful way for our alumni to really feel a deeper connection to their institution.”

Baylor's bright stars: Female alumnae who have shaped the arts

BELLA WHITMORE Intern

It's no secret that Baylor has produced a number of famous and talented alumni across all different fields, from prominent politicians to successful business owners.

While those in the arts are often overlooked, numerous incredible women got their start as Bears before entering the spotlight in acting, literature and the visual arts.

ANGELA KINSEY

First and arguably most notable on the list, Angela Kinsey got her bachelor's degree in English from Baylor in 1993. She went on to join the entertainment industry, famously portraying the character of Angela Martin on "The Office."

During her time at Baylor, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, took countless theater classes and studied abroad with the Baylor in London program. Kinsey was known as kind and charming — quite different from her character.

DOROTHY SCARBOROUGH

Diving deeper into Baylor's history, Dr. Dorothy Scarborough studied writing at Baylor and graduated in 1896 — only 10 years after women were allowed to attend the university.

Scarborough was a noteworthy teacher, writer and folklorist who founded Baylor's journalism department, which was the first in the Southwest. She went on to get her Ph.D. from Columbia University, publish several novels that were adapted into movies and teach creative writing at the college level.

BESS WHITEHEAD SCOTT

Continuing in the 20th century, Bess Whitehead Scott graduated with her bachelor's degree in journalism in 1912. She went on to become one of the first female news anchors in Houston and was a prominent member of The Houston Post.

Scott is known for her accomplishments in reporting, public relations, advertising and teaching. She influenced journalism for women and helped demonstrate how women are capable in the workplace.

CANDICE MILLARD

More recently, Candice Millard graduated with her bachelor's and master's degrees in literature from Baylor in 1992. Millard became an incredibly successful writer and novelist, writing three New York Times bestsellers.

In 2012, Millard won the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime Book for "Destiny of the Republic" — an account of President James Garfield. The book also received a PEN Center USA Award and the 34th Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence from the American Association of University Women.

JOANNA GAINES

It's no secret that Joanna Gaines and her hit TV show "Fixer Upper" have become household names all across the world and put Waco on the map. Gaines graduated with her bachelor's in communications in 2001, which is very fitting for the trajectory her career took post-grad.

Her background in playing roles in local television commercials for her father's local business, Jerry Stevens Firestone, helped make her comfortable on camera and propel her career to where it is today.



Photos courtesy of BaylorProud

MAKING HER-STORY Dorothy Scarborough (top left), Bess Whitehead Scott (top right), Angela Kinsey (bottom left), Candice Millard (middle) and Joanna Gaines (bottom right) have done iconic work in various fields.

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Photo courtesy of Josh McSwain

HOME SWEET HOME When Baylor was chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845, it was co-educational. However, in 1851, it was split into a male department and a female department.



Photo courtesy of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

DOWN THE ROAD The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor grew out of the female department and experienced five name changes before adopting its current one.

From separate universities to equal opportunities

The shared roots of Baylor University and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

RORY DULOCK
Staff Writer

Like many older universities in the nation, Baylor has witnessed significant advances for women in education. From the creation of a separate university for women to the establishment of equal opportunities for them, Baylor has seen a transformation throughout its history.

Baylor was chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845 through the efforts of Baptist pioneers, including its namesake, Judge R.E.B. Baylor. The university was co-educational until 1851, when a male department and a female department were created. Then, in 1866, the female department got its own charter and separated from Baylor University to become what is now known as the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Dr. Andrea Turpin, associate professor of history and graduate program director, said around 1837, before Baylor was founded, women were starting to be admitted into higher education in the U.S.

“For Baylor, which was not as progressive

on average on these sorts of things, to go co-educational in 1845 was pretty progressive,” Turpin said. “Co-education [and] women’s higher education ... was very new.”

Elizabeth Norvell, associate director of museum and alumni engagement at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, said the female department went through five name changes over the years. It became Baylor Female College in 1866, Baylor College for Women in 1925, Mary Hardin-Baylor College in 1934 and finally University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 1978.

“Originally, we were the female department that was allowed for in the original charter that was in 1845,” Norvell said. “In 1866, we got our own charter, and then we moved to Belton.”

At the time, Norvell said separating from the male department was done in the best interest of those in the female department.

“There was a lot of conflict on leadership and how leadership within the college should be conducted, whether the president of the university should also be the principal of the female department,” Norvell said. “Because of the separate

physical locations, I think it was really hard to manage both under one umbrella of leadership, so separating actually made a lot of sense.”

Around 1887, Baylor began readmitting women and became co-educational again. Turpin said by 1900, almost 50% of undergraduates were women, which was a huge burst from 1870, when only 20% of undergraduates were women.

“It’s a huge floodgate, and a lot of it has to do with opportunities to teach, which is the expansion of common schooling, so public schooling in the new nation,” Turpin said. “Women don’t get paid the same as men until 1963 by law, and so with your tax dollars to fund a school, it’s easier and cheaper to have women teach it. And also, it went with the ideology at the time that mothers were good at teaching kids, so it was a profession for women that was accepted.”

Turpin said the advent of other professions also brought many women to university.

“In addition to teaching, there are new female professions of social work or nursing that women are sort of channeled

into during this time, whereas men are channeled more into business, into positions in higher education or into science,” Turpin said.

Later on, during the second-wave feminism of the 1960s, Turpin said students began to demand new areas of study.

“The initial women to attend graduate education in large numbers in the field of history in the 1960s and 70s changed the field of history and started calling for more study of people like them, of women’s history,” Turpin said.

Turpin said this moment in the history of education changed the way subjects were taught, as the diversity of institutions required people to ask questions about equity and inclusion.

“It’s important when colleges integrate racially, it’s important when they admit women as well as men, because different students ask different questions,” Turpin said. “And that causes us to restudy the past, but to restudy any field from the perspective of different people. We learn more when more people are educated and asking different questions.”

Why women's acts don't win All-University Sing

SHELBY PECK
Copy Editor

There's something about watching 90 fraternity brothers wearing gingerbread costumes singing and dancing to a compilation of '90s pop that you really can't explain. But at Baylor, it somehow makes sense.

Sing brings out a bit of everyone's inner theater kid, and audiences are continually amazed at how dedicated college men are to their seven minutes of Waco Hall fame.

I'm not saying they don't deserve the praise. It's no easy task to perfectly sync choreography, not to mention create an entire act that's entertaining, compelling and excellently executed..

What I am saying, however, is that maybe some of the praise all-men's acts receive is because of expectations placed upon them. No one expects a 20-year-old male college student to whip out a near-perfect rendition of "My Way" by Frank Sinatra or dance to The Rolling Stones and make it look impressive.

These expectations for men create sky-high expectations for women, which is part of why an all-women's act hasn't won Sing since 2016.

Sing is judged on five categories: entertainment value (30 points), musical quality (20 points), choreography (20 points), creativity (15 points) and theme development (15 points). While creativity and theme development don't seem to be as easily influenced by who comprises the group taking the stage, entertainment value, musical quality and choreography — 70% of the scorecard — carry more discrepancies.

Starting with entertainment value, the largest component of judging, audiences just seem to like all-men's acts more. They're more entertained by watching college men fight giant green swamp monsters than by seeing college women follow their counts perfectly (which, to some extent, I understand — that was one act you had to be there for).

However, all-women's acts are already placed at a disadvantage, just because it's infinitely harder for them to carry out that "wow" or "shock" factor that is so much more attainable for all-men's acts. The humor typically evoked by all-men's acts simply wouldn't bring the same results if attempted by an all-women's act.

This leads me to choreography — 20% of the scorecard. It's impressive when college men dance in perfect sync. But it's equally impressive when college women do the same. The expectation that all women who participate in Sing have danced their whole lives must be thrown out the window. In most all-women's acts, the front two rows are the lifelong dancers, while the rest of the members are learning intricate and challenging choreography all within six weeks.



And while some men's acts hire a choreographer, women's acts typically choreograph their acts in house, showcasing the depth of talents and personalities present within their organizations. Just because women aren't stomping and creating complex choreography by introducing more sound doesn't mean the moves they use aren't impressive or worthy of the same admiration.

Regarding musical quality — 20% of the scorecard — women's voices are harshly compared to one another. When a man sings a solo in his act, it's said to sound impressive because he has a good voice. Sure, there might be differences between male soloists, such as if one sings more bluesy than another, but overall, their voices are easily admired.

Female soloists, however, are compared and critiqued more harshly. It takes much more for their voices to transcend "just good" and to truly stand out because of previous expectations that women should have good voices.

All of the acts that have won Sing since 2016 are impressive, and I'm not trying to undermine their success. Sing is a beloved tradition that strengthens bonds between members of any organization, giving students a break from schoolwork and the chance to build memories of the good ol' days.

As we watch Sing next year, however, I challenge us to revisit our expectations. Ask yourself what is entertaining and what is excellent, and why you believe an act fits in either category (or both). I don't think it's a coincidence all six of the people's choice awards from this year went to all-women's acts.

For now, the winners should enjoy their spotlight, and all organizations should be proud of the dedication and hard work they gave their respective acts, regardless of the outcome. And I hope that in 2025, we see girls get the gold.



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Women of Waco pursue church leadership roles, bridge the gap

SARAH GALLAHER
Staff Writer

While the presence of women in ministry has long been a controversial topic within Christianity, Andie Pellicer is bridging the gap in her new role as the first female lead pastor of University Baptist Church of Waco.

Pellicer said she first felt a call to ministry in high school when she began attending church regularly. While she felt conflicted about the role of women in ministry, she said she knew the church was where she belonged.

"It was the first place that I felt genuinely wanted and loved," Pellicer said.

Eventually, Pellicer decided to put her doubts aside and pursue ministry. She attended Fuller Theological Seminary to get her master of divinity and began serving as the lead pastor of a Presbyterian church in eastern Oregon.

"The first church job I ever had, I took it not even sure that women biblically could be in ministry," Pellicer said. "It was a really strange space to enter — feeling such a strong call to ministry and also the fear of, 'Am I doing something wrong?'"

Although Pellicer's congregation accepted her as a leader, she said she still shied away from embracing traditionally feminine traits like tenderness to try to prove herself to others. Over time, she said she was able to embrace these traits along with being an "aggressively outgoing leader."

To Pellicer, the biggest challenge as a woman in ministry was pushing back against theological and societal perspectives that told her women could not serve in leadership capacities within the church.

"You're literally shifting a worldview," Pellicer said. "When you're bringing women into spaces of leadership, I think it's really easy to keep them in the spaces they have been [in]."

However, Pellicer said she managed to overcome this challenge and fully believes women in ministry is a biblical concept.

At Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary, students study ministry and evaluate the role of women in the church through a



Camie Jobe | Photographer

WOMEN IN MINISTRY Andie Pellicer, pastor of University Baptist Church in downtown Waco, strives to serve her church while making space for women in pastoral roles.

biblical lens. Third-year seminary student Holly Massie said Truett is very affirming of women in ministry, which impacted her decision when choosing a seminary.

"To those who say it is not biblical, I would say they haven't studied their Bible enough or in the proper context," Massie said.

Massie cited Psalm 68:11 as a verse that supports women in ministry. In the New

International Version, the verse reads, "The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng."

When Pellicer heard about University Baptist Church, she said she felt an immediate connection and applied for the lead pastor position. Although the church has long been affirming women in ministry, Pellicer is the first woman to serve in the lead pastor role.

"UBC unequivocally supports women in ministry," the University Baptist Church website reads. "Women can serve in all capacities here, including preaching, pastoring and any form of leadership."

After landing the lead pastor role over the summer, Pellicer said she decided to take a leap of faith and move her family across the country from their home in Walla Walla, Wash., to Waco in the fall.

"There was something really compelling about offering a place to heal and explore that I wanted to be a part of," Pellicer said.

When University Baptist Church announced Pellicer's appointment as lead pastor, she said she received an influx of messages from people supporting her and welcoming her to the church. Now, after months as lead pastor, Pellicer said she has not received any pushback from the congregation related to her gender.

On UBC's introductory page on Pellicer, their statement said she's spent time getting to know and connecting with the church.

"Andie is open, honest, and prioritizes transparency and vulnerability in her life and ministry. As an extrovert, Andie finds beauty and fulfillment in building relationships with people from different backgrounds and stages of life, all who teach her something about the nature of God," the website reads.

In addition to the support from the entire congregation, Pellicer said she has received affirming messages from women at the church, many of whom never expected to see a woman at the head of church leadership.

"Representation is so wildly important, so for women to see another woman in the pulpit, there has been some healing among our congregation," Pellicer said.

Although women have become church leaders in recent years, female lead pastors are still uncommon in the U.S. Despite the controversy, the growing role of women in ministry has inspired people like Pellicer and Massie to pursue careers in the church.

"I think it's important for girls to see that women can be leaders in ministry and have a place to serve in God's kingdom," Massie said.