

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008

Spiritual Life reorganizing, not replacing BSM

By Shannon Daily
Staff writer

The recent organizational move from the current University Ministries to the new Spiritual Life has brought into question the role of the Baptist Student Ministries.

The BSM, however, is not an entity specific to Baylor. Universities across Texas have BSMs related to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. They all follow the same general guidelines outlining their purpose and tend to act the way any other student organization would.

With Baylor things have started to take a new direction because with the university itself being both Baptist and private, there is no separating the reli-



Burleson

gion from the school.

Officials from University Ministries, the BSM, and the BGCT have worked together to create a new structure to allow the BSM and the university to work more in concert, said university chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson.

"That's not an 'our' decision," said Ryan Richardson, associate chaplain and director for worship. "So it's every one coming to the table and deciding that this is a good move."

This new structure may be used in the future as a model for other Baptist universities, Burleson said.

Previous to the reorganization, both the BSM and University Ministries organized functions focusing on missions and spiritual formation, causing duplicity within events.

"Spiritual formation is the contemporary language used to describe the work we do to develop and mature as Christians. It's the effort we make as individuals and as a community to be

Please see BSM, page 6



David Poe/Lariat staff

Head-on collision

Sororities Kappa Kappa Gamma in blue and Alpha Chi Omega in green get physical during an intramural soccer game Monday afternoon on the Baylor intramural fields.

Coach Drew's contract extended to 10-years

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

Anxious Baylor fans need worry no longer. Men's basketball head coach Scott Drew plans on staying a Bear for a long time.

The *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported Friday afternoon that Drew signed on to a 10-year extension to his original contract late last week, locking him up for at least the next decade in what athletic director Ian McCaw called a "process."

Baylor signed women's basketball head coach Kim Mulkey almost exactly a year ago to a 10-year contract worth more than \$1 million a year. Details concerning Drew's salary were not disclosed.

Drew's renewed contract comes on the heels of Baylor's first men's NCAA Tournament selection in 20 years and a 9-7 Big 12 record, the best in school history. Baylor dropped a 90-79 decision to Purdue University on March 20 in the tournament's first round in Washington D.C.

"Our staff is very appreciative and at the same time very excited to continue what we've started at Baylor University," Drew said. "Our program has come a long way in a short period of time and over the next several years hopefully we can take the next step."

Assistant athletic director Heath Nielson confirmed the original report to the Associated Press on Saturday. He was unable to comment on any further details regarding Drew's extension.

"Continuity is vital in our programs and we're fortunate to have an outstanding group of coaches at Baylor," athletic director Ian McCaw said. Drew said that the extension will bring an added measure of a steady future to Baylor basketball, which he said is an immense help on the recruiting trail and in the locker room.

"It helps with recruiting, especially since nowadays there's so many more coaching changes than in the past, and recruits and their families are

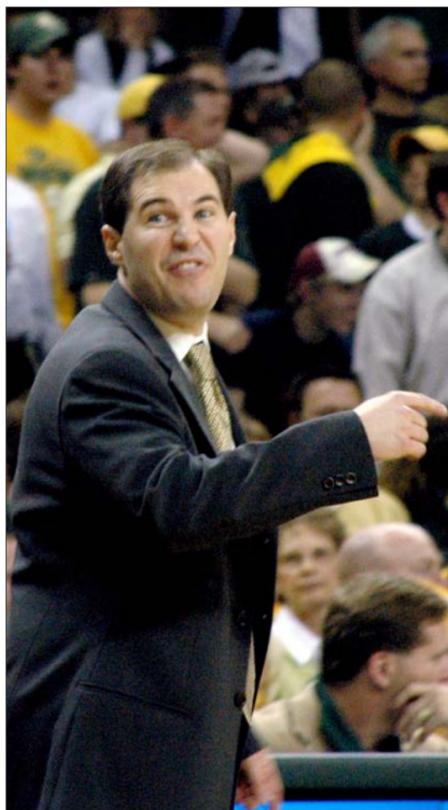
always concerned with stability," Drew said. "Recruiting is so relationship-based and the longer a staff is at a school, the bigger the advantage for developing those relationships."

Drew and his staff are currently immersed in the battle for recruits, so from that perspective he said he hasn't had a lot of time to take in Baylor's recent endorsement of his performance.

"In the coaching profession you're always on to the next thing, and since the season we've focused mostly on recruiting," Drew said. "We get our chance to relax in May sometime."

Baylor's 21-11 record this year came just five short years after a murder on the team and the ensuing cover-up from then-head coach Dave Bliss resulted in heavy self-imposed and NCAA sanctions. The team was forced to fight through a 16-game season, heavy scholarship restrictions and an unhealthy national stigma.

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Luis Noble/Lariat staff

In this March 5 file photo, head coach Scott Drew works the coach's box during a tough loss against Texas A&M University. Drew signed a 10-year extension to his contract, after having a very successful 2008 season.

Dr. Choucair presented outstanding professor award

By Sarah Rafique
Reporter

"Yeah, take them. Their class is so much fun that you lose track of time or forget that what you're doing is actually homework," most students have probably said at one time or another. Everyone has had that one professor who they recommend that all of their friends take because the professor intrigued, touched and inspired them through their coursework and personal interactions.

The senior class of 2008 elected Dr. Mona Choucair, senior lecturer in the English and education department, as the Collins Outstanding Professor this year. The Collins Outstanding Professor Award gives a \$10,000 cash prize provided by the Carr P. Collins Foundation to honor one professor each school year.



Choucair

"It was just a humbling, wonderful surprise," Choucair said.

After receiving news about winning the award, Choucair said her first reaction was just crying, and feeling humbled and shocked.

"Just to know that you made an impact on a student is an honor and is humbling," Choucair said.

To receive any award is a touching experience, but to receive an award from the students is even more flattering, she said.

"I think there are so many deserving professors," Choucair said. "I am so grateful to the Collins family for providing this recognition."

Choucair's love for the English language was clear, even during her undergraduate years here at Baylor.

Dr. Dianna Vitanza, interim chair of the English department, remembered having Choucair as a student in her 3000-level advanced grammar course.

"She was an excellent student, and grammar is one of those subjects that some people are put off, but it is something that is very interesting and engaging," Vitanza said. "(Choucair) was

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Waco declares today External Vice President Day

By Christina Kruse
Staff writer

City of Waco officials have declared today External Vice President Day, a position that connects Baylor students with the city of Waco. This year's external vice president, Garland junior Bryan Fonville, along with his cabinet, will be recognized for providing a link between the university and the community.

Cabinet members include Garland senior Chelsea Saylor, Beaumont senior Amanda Beattie, Sugar Land junior Breia Fisher, junior Caleb Gallifant, Garland sophomore Kara Fonville, Kingwood junior Gina Gollub and Houston freshman Jacob Vancannon.

"We are calling attention to the importance of this position within Baylor University," City of Waco mayor Virginia DuPuy said. This

is the second year the external vice president and the cabinet has been recognized by the city. DuPuy said that this honor is an annual event.

"I feel very honored — it's not often that the work you do gets recognized on such a large scale," Fonville said. "It's been such a pleasure working so closely with Waco."

Saylor said that the proclamation is personally satisfying due to the fact that "our personal mission has been to strengthen the bond between the community."

Students have spurred a new series of conversations and events

that have helped strengthen the bond between Waco and Baylor, DuPuy said.

"It's a leap of faith to reach out and make contacts," DuPuy said.

This year, the external vice president and his cabinet have been working with Waco on projects such as One Book, One Waco — a city-wide reading program that was reinstated this year after being absent for three years. Over three hundred community members, high school and college students gathered to discuss *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a book that dealt with an unlikely friendship between an art dealer and a homeless drifter.

Also, Fonville said that he and cabinet members were successful in handling the College-Community Summit, where community leaders, business experts and students convened on campus and discussed the future of Waco. "It raised an aware-

ness of what's going on in the community," DuPuy said.

"We'll walk around with our chin a little higher," Fonville said.

Today, the external vice president and his cabinet members will conduct their usual day-to-day tasks with an extra sense of pride and possibly go out to eat, Saylor said.

The honorees are also continuing to work on providing a stronger campus-community relationship. For example, the committee is currently planning a conference for community pastors to be held later this month. Those involved in conference will deal with issues regarding how local churches can work more closely with Baylor. Proclamation will be brought today to campus, on the anniversary of last year's declaration, which honored former external vice president Alan Marshall and fellow cabinet members.



DuPuy

Obama's statements misworded but defensible

The word of the weekend: bitter. Just as the pastor controversy started to die down, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) has a new hurdle to cross. This one, some say, could prove even more detrimental to his campaign, as his competitors are using it to cast an elitist shadow over the Illinois senator.

In a private fundraising event with Democrats in San Francisco, Obama discussed the concerns of blue-collar workers in Pennsylvania, saying they're "bitter" and cling to guns and religion to cope with their socioeconomic status.

Both opposing camps released statements within days on their strong disapproval of the "condescending" words.

Mark Saulter, a senior campaign adviser for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Obama apparently believes that for less privileged Americans, "religion is an economic-based and not faith-based condition" and "the arrogance and elitism (Obama) shows here is truly astonishing."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., defended small-town Pennsylvanians, saying she doesn't see bitterness but resilience and that Americans don't need a president who looks down on them but stands up for their hardships.

But what is the big deal? Candidates have been using this argument as a way of identifying with peoples' frustrations

point of view



BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

for the last year.

They've all claimed to understand the worries and concerns Americans are facing due to a declining economy. Obama could have worded it more flowery, but at least he's not lying about undergoing sniper fire in Bosnia.

For his opponents to claim he is "out of touch" with middle-class Americans seems to be ignoring the whole basis and success of Obama's campaign

and his ability to reach out to diverse groups of people.

Hasn't he been the one who refuses to accept money from political action committees and lobbyists? Hasn't he been the one stirring up one of the largest grassroots movements this country has ever seen? Hasn't he been the one who worked as a community organizer for poor neighborhoods in Chicago?

Obama needs to reiterate his record of relating to the people and not let this media wave of elitist accusations wash away his past.

And why is it suddenly degrading to assume that people are bitter over the loss of jobs and the shut-downs of manufacturing firms, which in several

cases have brought down the stability of entire towns? We hear over and over again that the economy is the No. 1 issue for voters, and Obama has made this connection with audiences at rallies before, so it seems odd that it has a whole new meaning when said in a private meeting.

But that's the power his opponents have in shaping the controversy through the media.

They're painting Obama as if he was Mr. High and Mighty relaying the poor attitudes of the lowly workers in Pennsylvania to rich Democrats in California.

I'm not saying Obama is perfect, but no one deserves such an overblown series of attacks for a few statements that seem to have been said, if you listen to

the audio version, out of legitimate concern.

I hope all the election players can clean it up and focus on the positive rather than dragging the negative out of nothing and swaying public opinion based on inflammatory rhetoric.

It's brutal and ridiculous, but that's politics.

That's the broken road one travels when journeying to the White House.

So kudos to whoever makes it; they must be motivated by something bigger than themselves to voluntarily enter that path.

At least, let's hope so. Ashley Killough is a junior international studies and journalism major from Plano.

Editorial

Ranger raid justified

An April 3 raid on a religious compound in Eldorado, Texas has many making the inevitable comparison to the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco. However, there are many differences between the two events — most notably the fact that the investigation has so far been conducted without bloodshed.

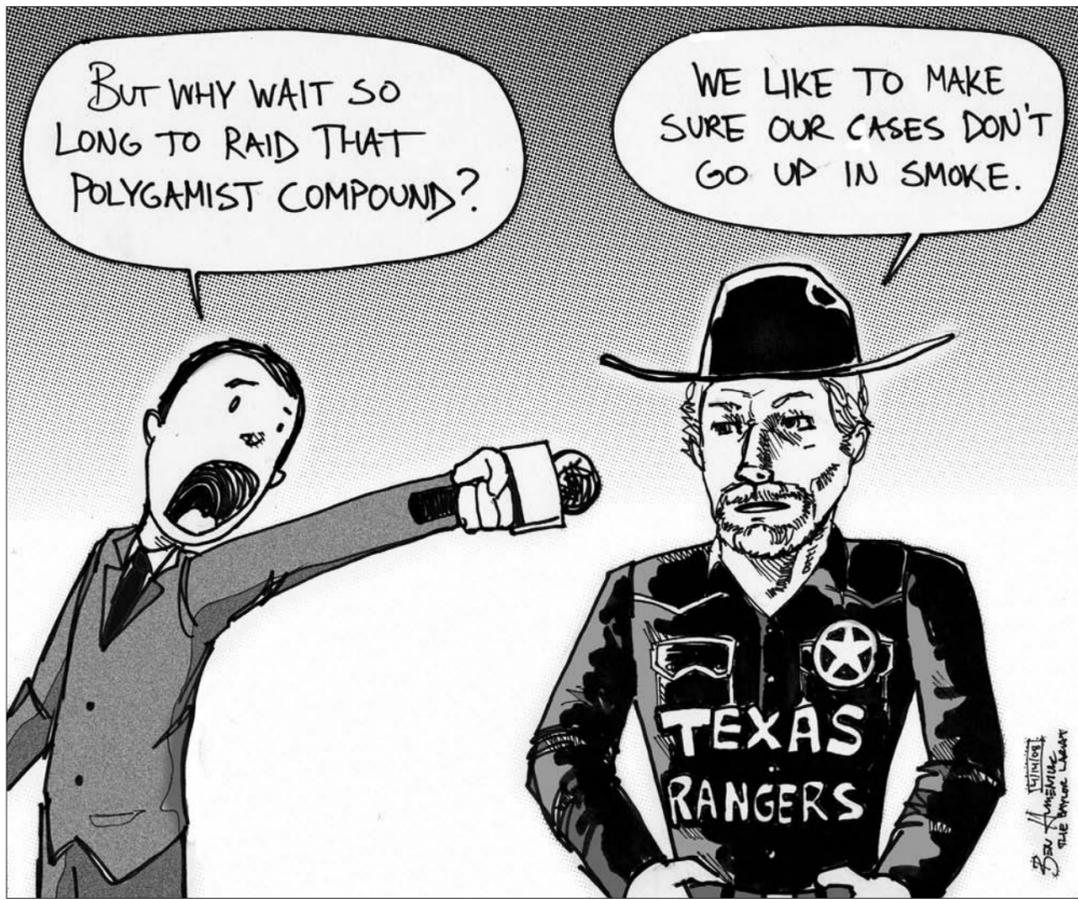
On March 29, a 16-year-old female called a Texas domestic violence hotline saying she was pregnant with her second child and was beaten by her husband when he was angry. She also said that she was trapped and not allowed to leave the Yearn for Zion Ranch.

Following the phone call, Texas Rangers and other authorities raided the 1,700-acre compound, and 416 children were removed because of suspicions that they were being both sexually and physically abused.

The ranch is owned by a group called the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The church encourages the practice of polygamy and is led by Warren Jeffs, who is currently serving a life sentence in prison in Utah for a 2005 and 2006 conviction of forcing underage girls into marriages.

Recently, the Texas Rangers have come under fire for either waiting too long to raid the compound or for not having probable cause to do so. However, both of these accusations are unfair and unfounded.

Jeffs' attorney, Michael Piccarreta, told *The Arizona Republic* that authorities were "duped" and that the call was not a real threat. Despite his assertions, authorities have uncovered signs of abuse — and the fact remains that, allegations of abuse aside, poly-



amy is illegal. It is also illegal in Texas for any person under the age of 16 to marry without a court order.

And even if there had been no signs of abuse or no laws broken, it's a credit to the Texas Rangers that they took the call seriously and investigated it.

Attorney Gerald H. Goldstein said that sect members' rights were violated and that the raid constituted "detention of a community's inhabitant, disruption of prayer ... and forcible entry of the sacrosanct Temple."

However, allegations of abuse are a serious matter, as are polygamy and underage marriage. Engaging in illegal activities often means that some

personal rights must be forfeited.

As to the question of whether the Texas Rangers should have done something sooner, the answer is a definite no. In this case, the authorities did everything they could do. The raid was not the first time the authorities have visited the compound.

Texas Rangers have been working with an informant and watched the compound for the past four years, waiting for probable cause to investigate.

The authorities waited until they had legal ground to make their move against the sect, even though they were under pressure by both Utah

and Arizona authorities.

In an April 11 interview with CBS news, Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran said, "We are aware that this group is capable of (sexual abuse), but there again, this is the United States. We are going to respect them. We're not going to violate their civil rights until we get an outcry."

This is a nationally broadcast story that both Texas officials and the FBI have handled both appropriately and sensitively, given the magnitude of the situation. We applaud the authorities for their behavior in this case. Naysayers should check their facts before being so quick to judge.

Opinion policy

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

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. All submissions become the property of *The Baylor Lariat*. The *Lariat* reserves the right to edit letters for length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or mailed to *The Baylor Lariat*, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

Correction

The April 11 article "Faculty research affected by tenure denials" incorrectly identified a mug shot as that of Dr. Randall Jean. The picture was of Dr. Antony Augoustakis.

Letters to the editor

Awkwardness not just burden

I'm writing to inquire about the title of Alex Abdallah's April 9 opinion piece, "Awkward" as catch phrase abets stilted social interaction."

Though I don't consider myself to be a Ph.D. in English by any means, I do read a fair amount and was still left befuddled with the phrase "Awkward" ...abets stilted social interaction."

Can you clarify what this means? With dictionary.com at my side, I referenced what the average Bobby Baylor may trans-

late this into, and what I came up with was this: "Awkward as a catch phrase encourages formal/pompous social interaction." Do journalism majors really use "abets stilted" in normal conversation?

Additionally, I thought I would suggest that there are indeed some of us who are genetically disposed to being awkward.

Am I wrong for being the way I am? Am I wrong for letting "groovy" die with Austin Powers? Am I wrong for flirting over instant messenger?

Maybe you don't have a per-

sonality defect, but I do. Let me live it in peace.

Samer R. Baransi
Baylor Business Fellows, 2008

Professors offer career advice

Students seeking quality internships should not only use Career Services but also keep in contact with the professors in their field of study.

I successfully recruit Baylor students for paid internships at the *Wacoan* by keeping in touch with Baylor faculty. They have a good idea of which students

are most qualified to work at a magazine like the *Wacoan*, and students who have a good relationship with their professors generally get referred to us first.

It's true that students usually end up paying more for internship classes than they receive back in their internship paychecks, but former *Wacoan* interns will tell you that the experience and industry connections their internship provided are worth it. And many of them have a Baylor professor to thank.

Ryan Young
Alumnus 2006

Homosexuality film misguided

The April 11 article "Change needed, film on homosexuality says," made the claim that the biblical prohibitions on homosexuality are based in an Old Testament culture which is no longer relevant today, and thus Baylor should change its policy on it in order to remain a force for positive social change.

While it is absolutely the duty of Christians to help the needy, that is not the salvation preached by Christ. Charities exist solely to help the poor, the Church exists to save people

from Hell and to praise God.

Also, the article did not address New Testament prohibitions against homosexuality, which were made hundreds of years later, after Christ, in a culture which was rather fond of homosexuality. Still, none of these justifies the horrible behavior of the Church toward homosexuals.

If we can feel comfortable ministering to murderers in prison, we should be capable of discussing God with homosexuals.

Andrew Hill
University Scholars, 2009

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THE Daily Crossword

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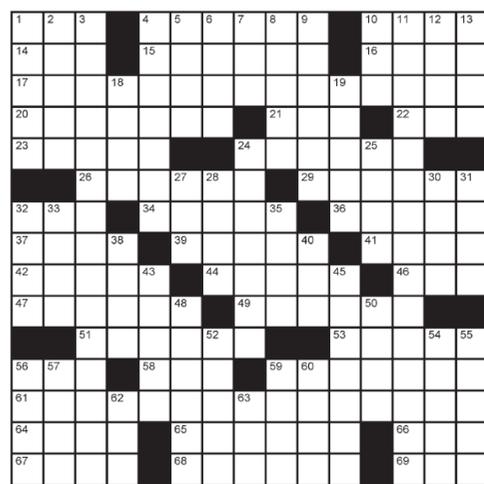
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- 56 Criticize severely
- 57 Verdi opera
- 59 Doughnut feature
- 60 Maple genus
- 62 Jamaican music
- 63 Fireplace shelf



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

4/15/08

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat



Alex Song /Lariat staff

Beat a drum

A performer from the Kiyari Daiko group plays the taiko Saturday as part of the Japanese Spring Festival.

Bus-driving race kicks off Texas Transit Conference

Victoria Mgbemena
Staff writer

The Texas Transit Conference and Expo kicked off on Baylor's campus at the parking lot of the Ferrell Center Saturday morning with the Bus Roadeo, a competition in which bus drivers from around the state drove buses of varying sizes through a course.

The conference came to Waco Friday and will conclude with an awards luncheon on Tuesday.

The luncheon will include a presentation on the growing population changes of metropolitan areas statewide in relation to increased public transportation usage.

The conference is hosted by the Texas Transit Association, a non-profit, professional corporation comprised of metropolitan transit authorities, small urban and rural district authorities.

The association works to advocate for funding from the federal government to provide riding services for the public statewide.

The conference activities are hosted by Waco Transit and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

John Hendrickson, general manager and president of the Texas Transit Association, said that the conference was held once before in Waco, at least 20 years ago.

He said that the conference is usually held in larger cities and that the Baylor and Waco were chosen as a backdrop to highlight the city's appeal.

Monday morning activities included a presentation by former congressman Charlie Wilson, the subject of the film *Charlie Wilson's War*. Wilson is a long-time supporter of public transportation services.

In the evening, retired Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson spoke on his life as a Ranger and experiences policing the country roads in the 1960s.

Hendrickson was present for Wilson's speech on his experiences with helping to end the Cold War.

"Mr. Wilson is a national treasure," Hendrickson said. "He was instrumental in helping Afghanistan beat the Russians, and then spoke on the importance of transportation. He made the point that 'earmarks' is a dirty word, and stressed that congressmen had the opportunity to put the money where it is needed, which is toward supporting transportation and building infrastructure."

"The Ferrell Center was chosen for the Bus Roadeo because it had plenty of space to load the course," Hendrickson said. "We wanted to showcase the nature of the conference and to give people a chance to see the university as they looked across the lot. It's just beautiful."

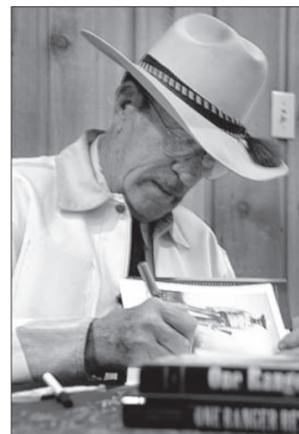
The closing speaker for the conference on Tuesday will be Michael Cline, a demographer in Office of the State Demographer.

Cline's focus will be on the growing population of Texas urban centers and the relation to transportation services.

"We are especially looking at the growth in metropolitan areas around large cities," Cline said. "We are looking at demographic changes and currently have four different scenarios which promote an estimated growth of two million in counties like Harris by 2030. The demographic changes that are occurring across the state will help increase the demand for public transportation."

Hendrickson said that transportation must continue to be funded to provide for older generations.

"We are having a demographer come in and talk about projections and how to plan for the large percentage of working people who will be retiring as the population ages quickly,"



Joe Photographer/Lariat staff

Retired Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson signs a copy of his book, *Our Ranger*. Jackson spoke Monday.

Hendrickson said. "Something must be in place to take care of them."

Hendrickson said that gas taxes pose a challenge for transportation services, and supports the current federal transportation bill reauthorization for 2009, which will increase public transportation funding by \$3 billion by 2009.

"The reauthorization will be the most important piece of legislation for the aging generations," Hendrickson said.

Mark McKown, transportation planner for the Waco Transit System and the Baylor University Shuttle, said the transit system projects a 10 percent increase in overall ridership for the current school year.

"We have drivers and staff participating in the conference," McKown said. "We get an equal amount of positive comments and complaints regarding our services. It seems to me that there is not a misconception about the services, but that people are just not aware of them and how they run."

BEAR BRIEFS

Baylor Students for Social Justice and the Baylor Activities Council are sponsoring a screening of "NOW: A Living Wage," a brief documentary about the living wage movement at 7 p.m. today in 103 Cashion Academic Center. For more information contact Catalina_Murillo@baylor.edu.

The English Graduate Student Association will hold a conference titled "Revelations: Discoveries in Sacred and Secular Literature and Art" Friday and Saturday in the Baines and Beckham Rooms of the Bill Daniel Student Center. For more information contact Noelle_Davies@baylor.edu.

CHI'S Service Sorority is holding Mission Nutrition through April 21 to collect children's vitamins, Band-Aids and blister ointment for orphans in Vietnam. Drop boxes are located in the Bill Daniel Student Center and in dining halls. For more information contact Anita_Aitwal@baylor.edu

To submit a bear brief, send an e-mail to lariat@baylor.edu

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CONTRACT from page 1

Now that he's broken through that barrier, the 37-year old Drew received his reward.

"Scott Drew has done a tremendous job turning around the program," McCaw said. "What I've recognized is that its gotten better each year under his leadership. We appreciate the fact that he wanted to make a commitment to Baylor."

Polygamists' children taken from mothers

By Jennifer Dobner and Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

to allow parents to accompany the child when an abuse allegation is made," Gonzales said.

The women were given a choice: Return to the Eldorado ranch of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon sect, or go to another safe location. Some women chose the latter, Gonzales said.

The state is accusing the sect of physically and sexually abusing the youngsters and wants to strip their parents of custody and place the children in foster care or put them up for adoption. The sheer size of the case was an obstacle.

"Quite frankly, I'm not sure what we're going to do," Texas District Judge Barbara Walther said after a conference that included three to four dozen attorneys either representing or hoping to represent youngsters.

Of the 139 women who voluntarily left the compound with their children since an April 3 raid, only those with children 4 or younger were allowed to continue staying with them, said Marissa Gonzales, spokeswoman for the state Children's Protective Services agency. She did not know how many women stayed.

"It is not the normal practice



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Senior day brings victory to women's tennis over OSU

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

Emotions ran high at the Baylor Tennis Center Sunday afternoon, but not because it was a particularly close match against Oklahoma State University.

The Lady Bears rolled over the Cowgirls, 5-2 to remain undefeated in Big 12 play.

However, the outing marked the last regular season home match for senior Zuzana Zemenova.

"It was a very emotional day," she said after the match. "I didn't get much sleep last night."

Despite her lack of rest, Zemenova was able to dominate long-time rival Iryna Tkachenko in No. 1 singles, taking the match 6-0, 6-1.

"I've played her all four years," said Zemenova. "I think I did a really good job."

Head coach Joey Scrivano said he thought it appropriate that the two play again on the day celebrating Zemenova's four seasons with Baylor.

"They played each other at the end of ZZ's freshman year and basically whoever won that

match was going to be the Big 12 freshman of the year," he said.

Zemenova won the match, the award, and NCAA Singles Championship that year, the first player ever to do so after entering the tournament unranked.

"Now, four years later, it was fun to see them play again on another significant day," Scrivano said.

This year's match also garnered an award for Zemenova, who was named Big 12 Women's Tennis Player of the Week for the third time this season and a Big 12 record seventh time in her career for her performance.

But, though it was clearly Zemenova's day, the decorated All-American would need the help of her teammates to seal a victory over OSU.

After taking the doubles point and no doubt feeding off Zemenova's early victory, and an even earlier victory by Jana Bielkova, the rest of the Lady Bears also rose to the occasion.

Sophomore Zuzana Chmelarova clinched the win for Baylor shortly after the conclusion of Zemenova's match, defeating Maryna Tkachenko 6-1, 6-2 in No. 5 singles.

The Lady Bears also took the

No. 3 singles match as Jelena Stanivuk beat OSU's Jo-Anne Karaitiana 6-4, 6-1.

"I thought Jelena played very well today," Scrivano said. "She had a very strong showing and gave us the performance that we needed."

However dominant Baylor was as a whole, the team was unable to keep the Cowgirls from taking two matches.

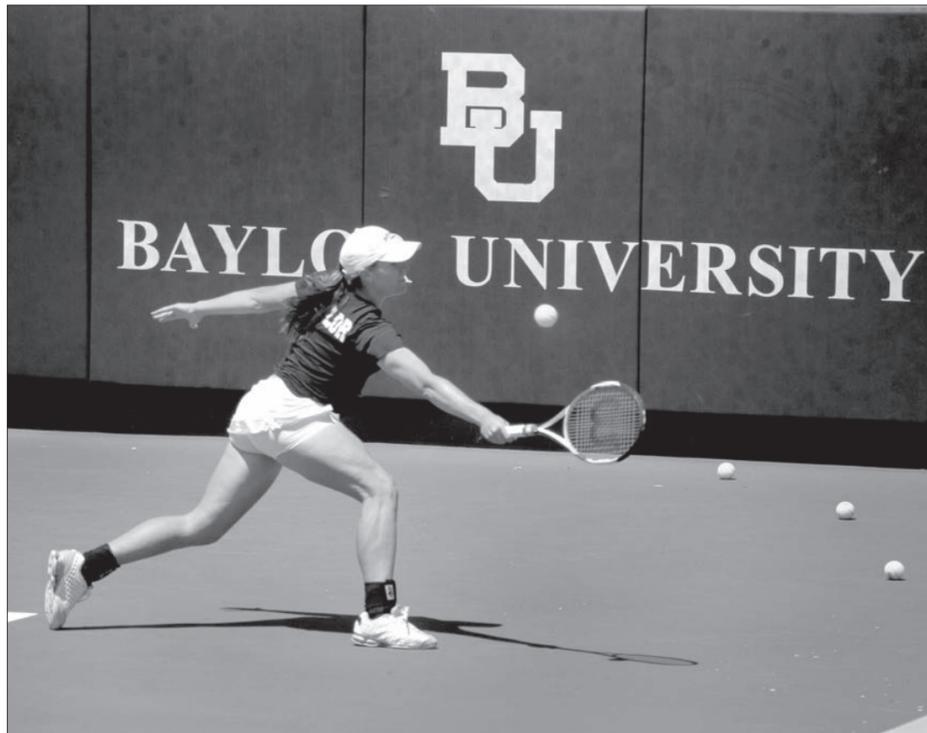
Jessica Collins dispatched freshman Natalie Holmes 6-1, 6-1 at No. 6 singles and Yawna Allen defeated freshman Taylor Ormond in a heartbreaker at No. 2 singles.

After dropping the first set to Allen 3-6, Ormond came back in a close second set, taking it 7-5 and forcing a super tiebreaker.

Despite seemingly having momentum heading into the tiebreaker, Ormond was unable to capitalize and lost 4-10.

"Taylor had a tough game today, and was a little rusty after missing a couple of singles matches in a row," Scrivano said. "But I'm pleased that she came back and made it a good battle."

The Lady Bears will now travel to Austin to take on No. 20 University of Texas at noon Saturday.



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Natalie Holmes reaches for the ball to hit a backhand in Sunday's match against Oklahoma State at the Baylor Tennis Center. Baylor defeated the Cowgirls, 5-2 and thus remains undefeated in Big 12 play.

Club baseball hopes for NCBA appearance

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

The Baylor baseball team is heading to the post season.

No, not Steve Smith's 22-13 squad, although those Bears still hold hope of making a regional.

It's Baylor other baseball team, the 10-2 club baseball team.

"I guess you could say it's like a JV team with the Bears being varsity," junior left-handed pitcher Nick Arredondo said.

The Bears' squad consists of 24 players, all following eligibility requirements similar to the NCAA, which governs all college sports.

Competing in the Northern division of the Gulf Coast Conference, the Bears take the mound against teams from the universities of Texas, North Texas, Texas Tech and Southern Methodist University.

"A lot of schools don't have Division I one baseball teams, so for those schools their only

other outlet is club baseball," said pitcher Brian Ozols, a former special teams player for the Baylor football team.

The governing body of club baseball, the National Club Baseball Association, uses the same rules and regulations as the NCBA, with the only significant difference being the game schedule.

"(The) same goes for us," Magnolia senior Joeseph Soto said. "We're students that don't have a six-to-seven hour job playing baseball. We're still part of fraternities and Student Foundation. We still go to class and then come out to practice three times a week."

Baylor's club baseball team has games every weekend. Saturday the team plays two seven-inning games in a double-header, and Sunday the Bears compete in a full, nine-inning game.

The team holds fielding practice at Riverbend park, batting practice at Waco Sports Academy and plays its games in McGregor.

"It's a lot more laid back because we don't have a designated adult coach," Ozols said. "We chose just to have all players and elect one player to coach."

That player is Soto, the team's catcher, utility infielder and coach.

"Being a player, he's more of a facilitator," Ozols said.

Soto, who is currently batting .650 with 13 RBIs in 20 trips to the plate, has had tough decisions to make.

After winning their first 10 conference games, the Bears faced the University of Texas. Baylor held a perfect 10-0 record and needed just a single victory to send the Longhorns home and propel itself to the NCBA post-season.

However, the Bears struggled against Texas, dropping the first two games 11-7, 11-4.

"Everybody was just really tense. We made 10 or 11 errors," Soto said. "Saturday night we changed the line up, moving people around."

The change paid off, as the

Bears throttled Texas 23-2 Sunday.

"Our whole lineup scored in the top of the first," left-handed pitcher Nick Arredondo said.

With the victory, the No. 15 Bears will continue to the post-season, facing No. 2 Sam Houston State University in Houston next weekend.

"The first time we played them, it was everyone's first game," Arredondo said. "We almost beat them. It was (Ozols)' first game to pitch in a year."

Ozols was a transfer from Pepperdine University, where he lettered as a right-handed pitcher for two years before moving to Waco.

If the Bears win the series, it would mark Baylor's first trip to the NCBA World Series in Fort Myers, Fla.

"We've been on the top of the (NCBA pitching) leader-board until this weekend, Arredondo said. "We're well balanced. We haven't struggled. This is probably the closest knit group we've had here."



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Bradley may transfer

KWTX-TV is reporting on its Web site that sophomore forward Jessika Bradley will transfer from Baylor this off-season.

The loss, if confirmed, leaves Baylor with just three experienced forwards in junior Rachel Allison, sophomore Danielle Wilson and junior Jessica Morrow. Baylor has just six returning starters from a depleted 2007 roster.

According to the station's Web site, Bradley, who averaged 17.7 minutes per game and 4.8 points per game, has not announced her transfer school.

Phone calls to the Baylor sports information director were not returned by press deadline.

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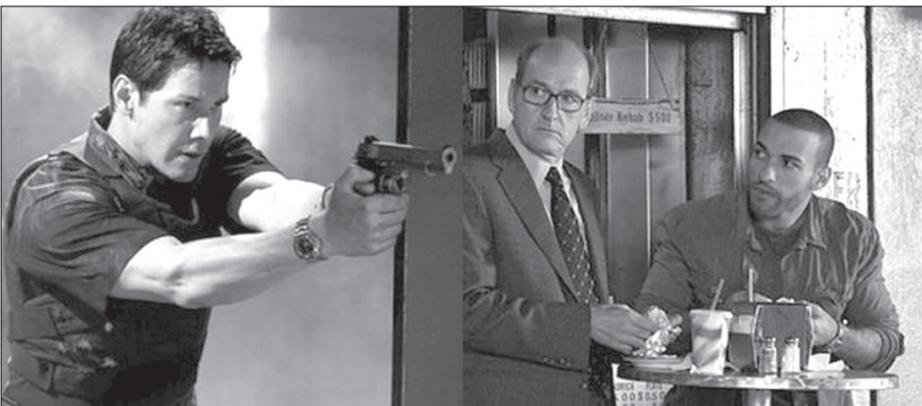
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Courtesy of Fox Searchlight

Reeves can't save 'Street'

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

The name alone should set off some kind of acerbic recoil: *Street Kings*. And as you'll quickly find, nothing about this movie lives up to its lofty title.

MOVIE REVIEW

The most troubling bit about *Street Kings* isn't that it falls short as a work of artistic merit. The most disappointing thing is that it doesn't even live up to its name as an entertaining action flick that allows viewers to simply shut off their brains for two hours and enjoy a good romp of a story. Sadly, the story is anything but good, and several so-so performances will doom this movie to the bargain racks for years to come.

The movie follows Tom Ludlow, a brash Los Angeles cop with a heart of gold, played by the much-maligned Keanu Reeves. It's not surprising to see Reeves cast as a troubled officer, but his uninspiring performance might catch fans of his role in *The Matrix* off-guard. Ludlow harbors a drinking problem, among other nefarious vices, and his off-center antics have him on the lamb from what he thinks is a conspiracy to have him kicked off the force and into a courtroom. But as the movie progresses, viewers are treated to a seemingly endless string of monotonous plot twists involving Reeves' boss, played by the terrific Forest Whitaker, and

Ludlow's own partners.

Ludlow gets caught up in all kinds of hijinks along the way, including a predictable tryst with a lovely brunette, lots of window smashing and some mindless action scenes. In one unintentionally comical scene — in what one can only assume is meant to show Reeves' complete disregard for the "rules" and his overriding desire to "get the bad guys" — he's shown streaking down an L.A. thoroughfare at breakneck speed in his loud muscle-car, narrowly missing an elderly woman on a motorized scooter and a few pedestrians.

Now that's a cop I'd like to have protecting and serving my city. Reeves' inhumanity and lack of polished acting skills make several scenes laughably robotic. As his running mate Paul Diskant, played by the solid but unremarkable Chris Evans, dies in his arms in one of the movie's final scenes, the camera thoughtfully closes in on Reeves' expressionless face. This is supposed to be a moment of weakness and pain for Reeves, and yet we're treated to an emotionless blob as the music explodes into its crescendo. It was a fitting microcosm for the rest of the movie's issues with blandness and general predictability.

The audience was sure to voice its silent disapproval as well. Upset, stupefied or just plain bored patrons trickled out of the theater by the handfuls throughout the screening.

The movie wasn't all bad. Whitaker was nothing short of

brilliant, and some entertaining action scenes provided a brief respite from the monotony. But even a soaring performance from Whitaker couldn't save this movie from the depths of mediocrity. Whitaker was cast perfectly as the cop with a murky disposition toward the rules, and he plays his part with tact and an understated brilliance.

The same, however, cannot be said for Reeves. During a predictable final scene where Reeves confronts the demons of the LAPD, the awkward exchange between he and Whitaker actually produced scattered laughter from an audience clearly unsure of what it was watching. The scene was dealing with unmitigated corruption in arguably the country's most mercurial police department. So the fact that an unassuming audience found it laugh-worthy is telling for all the wrong reasons. Hugh Laurie, famous for his role on Fox's *House*, also helped anchor an impressive cast that failed to save *Street Kings* from its own script.

Even if you don't have the ticket stub emblazoned with this movie's name, you've seen this film before. Only then it was titled *Training Day* or *The Departed* or any number of movies along those lines. Those films took real shots at police corruption, not veiled attempts that meagerly paw at a trite, overdone concept. And that's clearly what we have with *Street Kings*.

Grade: C-

'Smart People' shines on screen

By Kate Boswell
Opinion editor

There's a scene half-way through *Smart People* in which Lawrence Wetherhold's (Dennis Quaid) daughter Vanessa (Ellen Page) responds to his charge that she doesn't know how to be happy. "Well, you're not happy," she replies. "And you're my role model."

MOVIE REVIEW

Both poignant and funny, this scene perfectly sums up the tone of Noam Murro's new dramedy, which revolves around Wetherhold, a widowed English professor. He spends most of his time trying to find a publisher for his latest book (it's already been rejected by almost everyone), while jockeying for the position of department chair.

Wetherhold is so self-absorbed that he neglects his kids and alienates everyone around him. But his life changes after a humiliating fall when he attempts to rescue his car from the campus impound lot by scaling a fence. In the emergency room he meets Dr. Janet Hartigan (Sarah Jessica Parker), a former student who once

nursed a schoolgirl crush on him. This encounter is ultimately life-changing for Wetherhold, though the road to redemption is paved with mishaps and wince-worthy moments.

The other factor in Wetherhold's redemption is his adopted brother, Chuck (Thomas Haden Church), a ne'er-do-well who moves in because he has no money and nowhere else to turn. Since Wetherhold's head injury prevents him from driving for six months, he grudgingly lets Chuck stay on as his chauffeur. Unlike Wetherhold's family, Chuck isn't emotionally frozen and attempts to help all of them (especially Vanessa) learn that there is more to life than being one of the "smart people."

The movie's strength lies in its strong characterizations. You wince alongside Quaid as you watch his character struggle out of self-absorption and return to something resembling normalcy. Page is perfect as the smart-mouthed Vanessa. Though the role is similar to her character in *Juno*, she manages to make Vanessa funny and believable. Her acting abilities keep Vanessa from becoming a caricature and allow the audience to see the vulnerable girl behind

the angry words. Parker's role is especially surprising, since Janet Hartigan is a departure from the type of heroine Parker usually plays. Though Hartigan is no pushover, she is a far cry from the glib, wisecracking leading ladies she's played in *Sex in the City* and *Failure to Launch*. The scenes between Quaid and Parker are both hilarious and tender. Though you cringe when Quaid's character commits another unforgivable act of selfishness, you ultimately root for him as he attempts to become something more than the "pompous windbag" his students call him.

Unfortunately, *Smart People's* main weakness is the ending. It's so abrupt that it's jarring — and though Quaid and Parker's characters get some closure, audiences are left wondering what will happen to the supporting cast. Since so much of the movie's charm is in the quirky and well-defined personalities of Vanessa and Chuck, the movie's ending feels especially unsatisfying.

However, ending aside, *Smart People* is an excellent, witty movie about what really matters in life. Sometimes, smart isn't everything.
Grade: A-

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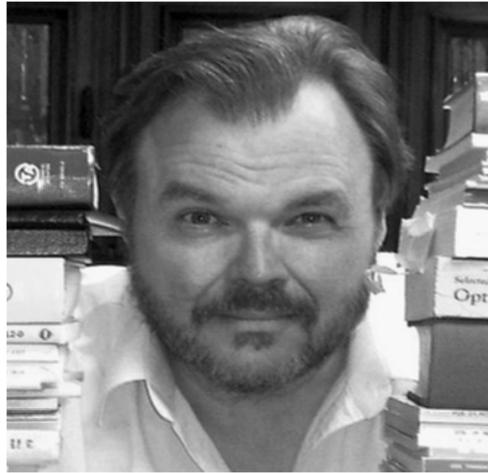
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Less than 5 percent of Americans tithe, study shows

By LeeAnn Marcel
Reporter

A recent study conducted by the Barna Group made a connection between the recent decrease in tithing.

"With millions of people shifting their allegiance to different forms of church experience, and a more participatory society altering how people interact and serve others, many Christians are now giving their money to different types of organizations instead of a church," said George Barna, founder of The Barna Group, a market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans.

Less than 5 percent of Americans tithe based on research conducted by The Barna Group.

The origin of tithing is Jewish. Tithe, which means one-tenth, originated as a tax that Israelites

paid to support the religious elite and to help the poor. However, in Jesus' ministry he encouraged rather than taxed followers to offer at least one-tenth of what they have to help the poor.

The Barna Group's study also showed that people under the age of 25 are more unlikely to tithe to the church.

"Many students did not grow up tithing, or their parents didn't tithe," Spring sophomore and religion major Tyler Bryan said, "They don't learn to tithe until they hear a powerful sermon or see their friends participate in it."

Many recent graduates in the career world are struggling to just make a living.

"Maybe they haven't found their niche yet," religion professor Dr. Jeter Basden said. "So they see themselves as trying to just to make it. They don't have enough income so everything they make they need in order to

help themselves."

George W. Truett Theological Seminary student Taylor Mobley agreed.

"What money they do have may have been given to them by another source such as their parents. They may not yet know how to manage their money well enough. Plus, they may not be committed to any specific church," Mobley said.

In 2007, 84 percent of all adults donated money to churches or non-profit organizations, which has remained constant in the past three years. The Christian community also donated an average of \$1,971, which is the highest level reached this decade. Yet, something else caught the eye of churches.

The amount of adults who gave money to churches dropped to its lowest level this decade, 76 percent.

Basden suggests that the younger generation sees the

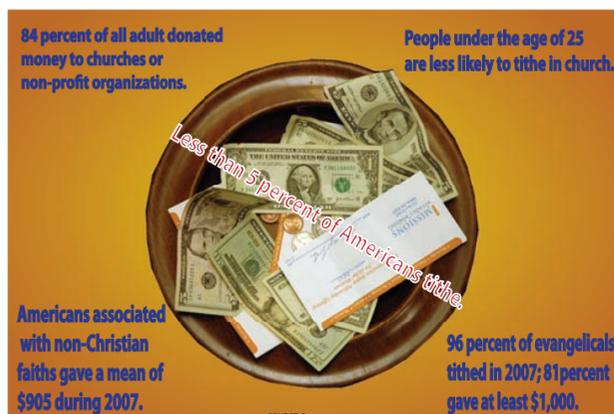
church as using tithing as a source to help maintain the institution itself rather than for the immediate needs of the poor.

"Christians, at least in America, aren't focused on the institution of the church. Rather they are trying to meet needs of today. So they see the solution is to give directly to the need rather than the church itself," Basden said. "They find different ways of helping such as supporting different ministries. They don't just channel to the church, they give to missionaries."

Though not technically tithing, giving to organizations is seen as an offering to the advancement to the kingdom of God.

"The Lord said give me 10 percent, not give the church 10 percent," Bryan said.

Mobley said he believes that the community's gaze has moved from the church to the organizations for other reasons.



"Maybe the churches are not taking up the same sort of causes that inspire people to give as frequently as other organizations do," Mobley said.

Barna also said to expect change if the tithing trend continues.

"If this transition in the per-

ceptions and giving behavior of born again adults continues to accelerate, the service functions of conventional churches will be redefined within the next eight to ten years, and conventional churches will have to adopt new ways of assisting people in need," Barna said.

BSM from page 1

more like the one we follow," Burleson said.

Now, the director for formation and Baptist Student Ministries will be in charge of spiritual formation, while missions will fall under the job of the director for missions, Burleson said.

The position of associate chaplain and director for formation and the BSM has not yet been filled for next year. The current associate chaplain and director for missions is Rebecca Kennedy.

Despite this change, the director for formation and the BSM will still work with the other two directors, Kennedy and Richardson, in coordinating events.

There's a team concept the officials within Spiritual Life are working towards, Burleson said.

"There's a clear structure, but we're purposely setting it up so we work together more," Richardson said. "What sense does it make for the BSM director to train the youth ministry team leaders when that's my expertise? So I'll train them because I work with the BSM director and we work together closely."

The geographical move from the Harris House to what's now known as the Bobo Baptist Student Center will help to reinforce this teamwork, Burleson said.

With University Ministries staff and BSM staff in two different buildings, "it was just a very unproductive way of working together even though we would get together once a week for meetings. So the physical move and the restructuring really went well together," Burleson said.

After the move, the student center will be known as the Spiritual Life Center and the Harris House will be torn down for green space.

AWARD from page 1

very perceptive and understanding."

Reflecting on Choucair's experiences as a professor, Vitanza said she understands why Choucair won the award.

"She's very concerned with her students, very approachable, and has a very engaging personality," Vitanza said. "Students really respond to her, and she knows her subject matter so she's a very good teacher."

Part of Choucair's success may come from the way she tries to get student to enjoy the subject.

"I try to bring a lot of laughter to the classroom. I try to make it applicable to their lives. I try to encourage them to enjoy literature from different genders and races, and try to explain that American literature is a reflection of many different types of peoples and cultures," Choucair said. "I try to give them a multicultural perspective on American culture."

Choucair said she feels that literature is something that everyone can relate to through different lenses, even with different backgrounds and experiences.

"Literature mimics our lives, and so when we read something, we have a connection to the texts," she said. "In lieu of straight lec-

tures, I do a lot of class discussion and analyzing the texts to find parallels to our lives, and see how does that try to connect literature to their lives."

Choucair has been at Baylor for the past 10 years receiving her doctorate in American literature, with an emphasis on contemporary women writers, and stayed here to teach. She previously taught at a high school and said she feels that she is able to bring that same sense of community to the university level.

"I would imagine that all professors give their heart and soul to their profession, because we truly enjoy what we do," Choucair said.

Randy Wood, professor of edu-

cation, is teaching an education class with Choucair this semester.

"Dr. Choucair has a tremendous amount of energy, a tremendous amount of concern for each student and their ability to learn and do the best they can," Wood said. "The students realize that they have to work hard and study hard, but it's because she loves them and wants them to succeed."

Choucair said she hopes students take a love of literature from her class.

"I want my students to enjoy literature. I want them to leave my class having enjoyed reading again, and that I can connect with them in some way when I see them again," she said.

Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



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