

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

## Student government election results in

**Yeakley, Short win VP positions, Mattison, Hannah, Saultz elected class presidents**

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff writer

Results for student body and class officers, excluding the student body president, were announced Thursday night.

Lindale junior Nicole Yeakley took the office of external vice president.

"I'm really excited to have this opportunity," she said. "I'm ready to get to work on all of these things I've been talking about for the past two weeks."

Yeakley's plans include lobbying for lower textbook prices as well as working

to increase and stabilize relationships with these legislations on the state and federal level.

Dallas junior Parker Short ran unopposed for internal vice president and said he is ready to step into this position.

"I look forward to working for the student body and making Baylor a better place," he said.

Waco junior James Mattison won senior class president and Austin junior Steve Zimmerman won senior class vice president.

Cleburne sophomore Jordan Hannah was elected junior class president and Beaumont sophomore Liz Foreman was elected junior class vice president.

"I'm honored to represent the class of 2010 for another year and be a voice for them and to the administration," Han-

nah said.

One of Hannah's goals for the upcoming year is to increase Airbear connectivity around campus.

Amarillo freshman Emily Saultz was elected sophomore class president; Omaha, Neb., freshman Abby Byrd was elected sophomore class vice president; and Shelby, N.C., freshman Mary Leslie was elected sophomore class secretary/treasurer.

"I look forward to serving again next year and am excited about making lots of improvements, including improved communication between student government and our class," Saultz said.

Results from student body president have not been tabulated and will not be until the appeal of Bush Prairie, Wash., junior Chase McVicker is heard and fully concluded.

**Presidential candidates McVicker, Chen removed from ballot, McVicker awaiting court's appeal**

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff writer

The choices for student body president have been narrowed down from three potential candidates to just one in a very short amount of time.

When students logged on to the Student Government Web site Wednesday morning to cast their votes for student body president, there was a candidate missing from the ballot.

As a result of repeated infractions of the Electoral Code, junior Chase McVicker's name was not included on

the ballot. Included in the code is a clause that states that no unsolicited mass e-mails may be sent out on the behalf of any candidate as a means of campaigning or soliciting support. McVicker's campaign manager sent out such an e-mail to the Bear Pit, a student organization of which McVicker is the president.

Strike one.

"The clarification I understood was that we could feel free to use the e-mail list from groups we were already affiliated with and send them e-mails regarding the campaign," McVicker said. "And if they are against mass communication, we shouldn't be able to invite our entire list of friends on Facebook to be a member of our

Please see **PRESIDENT**, page 7

## Faculty questions will be answered

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

The Baylor Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the faculty senate will jointly hold the state-of-the-university forum at 3:30 p.m. Monday in Bennett Auditorium.

The meeting was previously scheduled for the Great Hall of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, but has been relocated to accommodate more attendees.

President John M. Lilley will attend the forum and answer the questions of faculty members.

All faculty members are welcome to attend.

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The location of the forum has changed to 3:30 p.m. Monday in **Bennett Auditorium** in Draper Academic Building.



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

## No pain, no gain

Students participate in the Tug of War tournament during Diadeloso Thursday in front of the Baylor Sciences Building.

## Alumni Web site to allow open dialogue

**BAA, university communication errors led to a Heritage Club banquet without Lilley or Cunningham in attendance**

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

The Baylor Alumni Association, now financially and operationally independent of the university, launched a new Web site complete with a message board dubbed, "The Baylor Line Forum."

The new site, bayloralumni.com, was constructed last week and features a blog along with the forum and the online version of The Baylor Line, the official publication of the BAA.

Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president of the association, and Todd Copeland, editor of The Baylor Line, said the forum will serve as a place where alumni can freely discuss workings of the university, whether they support university actions or not.

Kilgore said the previous Baylor Line Web site under the university's domain name did not have a message board, but if it had, university officials could have edited it or controlled the content at their discretion.

Bill Nesbitt, president of the alumni association's Board of Directors, wrote in his column in the Spring 2008 issue of the Baylor Line that the association requested in January to sit down with the university's Board of Regents. The association has not yet been able to meet with the board.

Harold Cunningham, president of the Board of Regents, was scheduled to speak at the alumni association's Heritage Club banquet on April 7.

The Heritage Club, a sub-group of the association for alumni that graduated 50 or more years ago, held their annual meeting the weekend of April 6, with the banquet as the main event.

Copeland described coming back to Baylor for the Heritage Club's annual meeting as the members' "grand, golden homecoming," and the association likes to "have the red carpet rolled out for them."

Please see **ALUM**, page 7

## Earth Day events to educate, entertain

By Charly Edsitty  
Reporter

Since 1970, people all over the world have observed Earth Day, and students will have a chance to celebrate this year with a two-day event. This will be the second annual Earth Day celebration at Baylor and was coordinated by several groups, including the Environmental Concern Organization, Baylor Democrats, The Magellan Society, Student Government and the Circle K service organization.

"As a member of ECO, we strive to help Baylor become more responsible," said Derek Rascon, an environmental studies graduate student from Waco who helped coordinate this year's event. "Earth

Day is a good opportunity to bring the message and at the same time celebrate and have fun."

This year's Earth Day events will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Harrington House with a banquet benefiting the World Hunger Farm and Keep Waco Beautiful.

The World Hunger Farm is a Christian organization committed to helping alleviate world hunger by training others in sustainable farming methods, educating others in ways of conserving and sharing resources and through participating in local and international sustainability efforts.

For Baylor's **RecycleMania** results, see story, page 5.

Keep Waco Beautiful is a program that started in 1979 through the City of Waco that is working to make Waco cleaner, healthier and safer.

The banquet will feature a four-course meal with a menu of organic and locally grown cuisine. Two guest speakers from each organization along with a student jazz band will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$35 and are available for purchase at the Bill Daniel Student Union ticket office. All proceeds will benefit The World Hunger Farm.

In addition, a silent auction featuring recycling-inspired local art will be held with all proceeds ben-

Please see **EARTH**, page 7

## Patti Orr brings bulk of recycling to Baylor

By Charly Edsitty  
Reporter

Dean Patti Orr wears many titles, from gourmet chef to recycling queen, but the one she wears best is that of a Texan.

"Everyone knew I was a Texan, because if you are from Texas or Harvard, we will tell you in less than five minutes," Orr said.

Orr, born in Dallas and raised in Duncanville, is happy to be back amid the bluebonnets after relocating to the Northeast for more than 16 years. She began her position as dean of libraries and vice president of information

technology on June 1 and has been instrumental in the recent strides to make Baylor a more environmentally sustainable campus.

Orr's accomplishments as dean of libraries range from increasing the 24-hour study space and extending the hours of operation at Java City in Moody Library, to implementing duplex printing with 30 percent recycled paper. In her work, Orr strives to fulfill a motto found in, of all places, Hard Rock Café restaurants.

"Love all, serve all. That is my goal," Orr said. "I want to make sure that we enable students to do what they

need to do to be top tier." Orr has provided a leadership role in issues of sustainability and also has helped to get programs such as Librarians on the Loose and the OsoFast delivery services off the ground. Her next step is to renovate and increase the group study spaces in the libraries.

"They were really ready to move forward," Orr said. "I feel I brought leadership and collaboration in a way to work with the great people here to move forward."

She graduated from Duncanville High School and completed her undergraduate degree in education at Abilene Christian University.

After starting a family, Orr earned her master's degree in education at Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass., and was working on a doctorate degree in education at the University of Massachusetts at Boston before accepting the position at Baylor.

Orr spent 15 years at Wellesley College, a women-only institution located 12 miles south of Boston. She started out teaching introductory information technology courses and later became director of user services. Former co-workers paint a

Please see **ORR**, page 7



Courtesy of Baylor photography

Bruiser and Patti Orr pose for a photo inside Moody Library. Orr is responsible for most of Baylor's success in becoming more eco-friendly on campus.

# Protest over Dutch film does more harm than good

For most Americans, it's yet another sound byte that barely registers in the frenzy of the 24/7 news cycle: protests in the Netherlands, Indonesia and Pakistan, with several nations calling for a boycott of Dutch products. At the center of the turmoil is a short film called *Fitna*, or "struggle," which was created by Dutch politician Geert Wilders.

The film juxtaposes verses from the Koran with images of terrorism, speeches inciting violence, executions and radical Islamic protestors.

Is Wilders' film heavy-handed? Absolutely. It's a 16-minute piece of political propaganda, not a balanced examination of the issues at hand. As such, it only cites Koranic verses that concern violence or destruction of Islam's enemies. Many have understandably been offended with Wilders' equation of Islam and violence, and his insinua-

tion that all Muslims condone this violent behavior.

However, by focusing on the offensive aspects of the film, commentators are missing an important point. And while it is wrong for Wilders to conflate these violent Muslims with all Muslims, it is also wrong for viewers to ignore or deny the existence of the angry - and violent - minority.

Except many aren't ignoring the violent minority, at least in actions. Watching *Fitna* can prove to be a difficult task, since it takes a while to find it. In the United States, Youtube has it flagged as content that may be inappropriate for some users, so viewing the film requires logging in and verifying that you are over 18. (Admittedly, this may be because the film contains some stomach-churning clips of violence.)

However, the entire Youtube Web site was banned in

## point of view

BY KATE BOSWELL

Indonesia because of the film. Though the Web site has been restored, the individual videos deemed illegal or offensive will be blocked from users in that country.

The original *Fitna* home page has also been taken down because of protests, though several mirror sites have now picked it up. The most reliable way to view the video is through the UK site Liveleak, which is where the video was initially released on March 27. This was not always the case. Liveleak took the video down on March 28, citing death threats to staff as the reason for removal. However, the film was restored to the

site on March 30. In a statement on the Web site, the staff said they would "not be pressured into censoring material which is legal and within our rules."

*Fitna* has not been removed just because it's offensive, but because many of the offended parties have threatened to kill or seriously harm anyone making the film available.

Regardless of the film's quality, it shouldn't be censored. This kind of public discourse makes us Americans uncomfortable, and rightfully so. By coming out against censorship, we run the risk of seeming like we side with Wilders or endorse what he says. But this is not the case. One can recognize that radical Muslims who respond to offenses (real or perceived) not with discourse but with threats of violent retaliation pose a threat not just to free speech in the West, but also to free speech and the peaceful practice of Islam among their

own. In Geneva Tuesday, several Muslim countries led by Iran and Pakistan called for the government of the Netherlands to prosecute Wilders for promoting violence against Muslims. That's exactly the wrong thing to do.

If Muslims disagree with Wilders, they should show him the error of his assumptions by publicly criticizing him, not by calling for him to be killed or put on trial.

And as for Wilders, by producing such a cliched and blatantly shocking film, he has gained political notoriety, but has lost any chance at opening a real discussion or at doing anything besides giving angry Muslims more fuel for the fire.

(He also needs to learn to respect copyright law, since the original video was yanked after some of the images he used were mislabeled or used without per-

mission.)

Wilders spoke his mind. However you may feel about what he said, the fact remains that he has a right to say it, just as you have a right to disagree with it.

To argue otherwise is to endanger many of the principles that led to this country's founding and to endanger the free practice of religion all over the globe.

Allowing threats of violence to subvert freedom of speech is tantamount to letting the violent minority win. When democracies begin to crumble, free speech is often the first thing to go.

Let's remember that, and celebrate Wilders' right to speak his views, as well as our right to agree, or disagree, with him.

Kate Boswell is a senior University Scholars major from Longview and the opinion editor for The Baylor Lariat.

## Editorial

# Faculty salaries should account for inflation

A study by the American Association of University Professors revealed this week that salaries for Baylor faculty members are sub-par compared to other schools, especially considering that faculty do not receive pay raises with inflation.

The study revealed that, for faculty at private schools, Baylor's average annual salaries for faculty fell far beneath the national average for full professors, associate professors and assistant professors.

The smallest disparity was for assistant professors, with Baylor coming about \$9,000 below the national average, while Baylor's average salary for full professors was more than \$47,000 below the average.

This situation is especially disappointing given the fundraising efforts Baylor has directed at building projects.

While buildings are important, the heart and soul of the university is its faculty. They directly affect students and the quality of education Baylor offers, so faculty well-being should be paramount.

Baylor does offer generous benefits, including retirement plans, dental and medical insurance and tuition remission, but these do not adequately compensate for the salary gap.

One of the main problems with the current system is that pay raises are based on merit, rather than inflation. While we recognize that merit is an important part of the academic process and encourages effective teaching, it is crucial to recognize that salaries are dramatically affect-

ed by inflation. The study reported that the average faculty pay increase for the 2007 to 2008 academic year was 3.8 percent, but with an inflation rate of 4.1 percent, faculty actually lost .3 percent.

Basing pay on merit is not a bad idea, provided that base salaries account for inflation. If they do not, then what should be a system of rewarding merit becomes a system that punishes all but a few.

Provost Randall O'Brien told *The Baylor Lariat*, "We don't only want to rely on salary to communicate with faculty how valuable they are at Baylor."

He mentioned other perks, such as reduction of teaching responsibilities for research and the increase of summer sabbaticals.

We appreciate those sentiments, but the fact is that if merit is requirement and an increased salary is the reward, at least one kind of communication is already taking place.

The merit-based system does encourage faculty members to do the best job possible, but salary should not be the main motivation for excellence in the classroom. Unfortunately, this plan lends itself to that notion.

To ensure that all faculty receive the appropriate compensation for their work and are not, in effect, punished because of the poor state of the economy, the current plan for pay raises should be reviewed.

Better salaries may also help in recruiting and keeping world-class faculty, one of the goals of Baylor



2012. As Matt Cordon, chairman of faculty senate, told *The Baylor Lariat*, "If you're going to have world-class faculty, you have to pay for world-class faculty. Our salaries lag behind schools we aspire to be."

With a system that accommodated rates of inflation, faculty payment would be more appropriate and fair, and would allow for a shift away from salary-based motivation.

After a system that accounted for inflation was in place, merit-based pay raises could be considered.

Robert Cloud, professor of education and chairman of a committee to address the issue of faculty pay, told *The Baylor Lariat* that the administration is making strides in the right direction.

"The current administration has made a good-faith effort to begin to improve faculty and staff compensa-

tion," Cloud said.

President John Lilley has also promised to "continue to press forward" with faculty and staff income.

We sincerely hope that the administration continues to actively consider this issue and that the problem can be addressed.

Perhaps the next time the American Association of University Professors releases a salary study, Baylor will be at the top, not the bottom.

## Letters to the editor

### Dance review in poor taste

I am writing in response to Emily Monti's April 16 review ("BU Dance disappoints at spring show").

At the end of only its third year, Baylor Dance Company has progressed incrementally and is continuing to do so. With only one large performance per year, BDC exists purely to provide an avenue to build dancers' techniques, encourage each other and grow closer as a team. We come from a variety of backgrounds, from drill team to studio dance and fine arts schools.

As a second-year member and choreographer for the orga-

nization, I have enjoyed having the opportunity to dance with girls who have a passion for their art, not just for showing off their skills.

However, the article implied that our routines were easy and needed to be more complicated. Apparently we needed to add fouettes. Monti must not have been paying attention to the four large fouette sections in the opener, "Cell Block Tango," "Sway" and the closer that were cleaned and perfected once a week since February.

One very positive point that Monti failed to mention was that the show was sold out in the Jones Theater for the

first time since the organization's beginning. This is a great accomplishment for BDC, and I have heard nothing but positive feedback from other attendees. We worked very hard to achieve what we did, and we are very proud of our growth.

Finally, the students at Baylor are taught to encourage one another. For all the work campus leaders have done to make students aware of their organizations, there is no need for negative publicity, unless it is well-deserved. In the case of Baylor Dance Company, it is certainly not justifiable.

Tracey Broussard  
Professional Sales 2009

## Opinion policy

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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. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the

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## Corrections

The April 16 article "Faculty salaries lag behind average" incorrectly stated that as faculty pay increases, salary may decrease. The sentence should have read, "... as faculty pay increases, benefits may decrease."

The April 16 article "Fashion show to benefit rehab clinics" incorrectly identified Michelle Felkner as Michelle Selkner.

*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](mailto:Lariat_letters@baylor.edu) or by calling 254-710-4099.

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## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

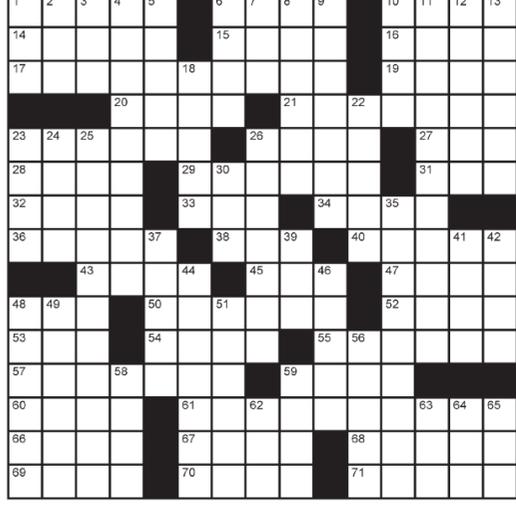
### ACROSS

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- 20 Wet thoroughly
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- 23 IRS payout
- 26 Dole's 1996 slate-mate
- 27 Tavern order
- 28 Courtroom declaration
- 29 Actor Estevez
- 31 "\_\_\_ Jude"
- 32 Anti-DUI org.
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- 36 Winter weather
- 38 Classic Jaguar
- 40 Actress Hedren
- 43 Vitamin-bottle data, briefly
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### DOWN

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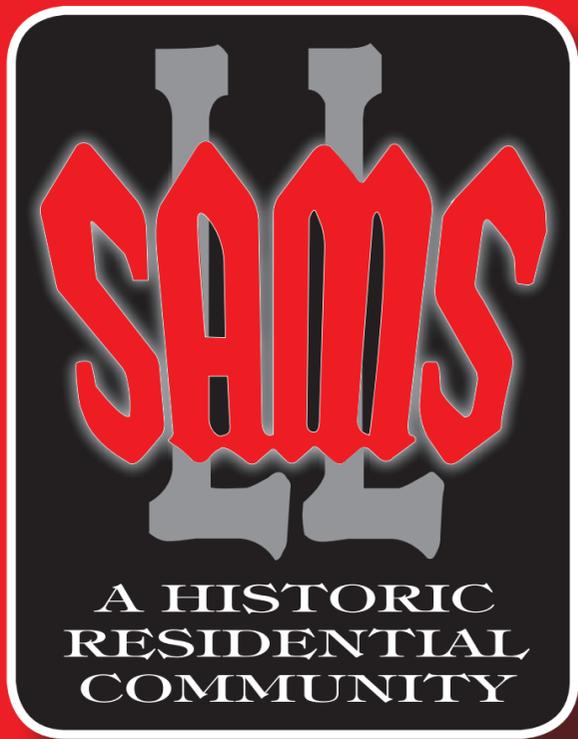
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- 12 Bobolink's cousin
- 13 J.C. follower
- 18 Heavily burdened
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- 23 Turning figs.
- 24 Israel's airline
- 25 Roe v. Wade, notably
- 26 Fight with feet
- 30 Shuffle
- 35 Wrongdoer
- 37 To-do list stuff
- 39 Corn serving
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- 42 Skinny, sort of
- 44 Five Nations tribe members
- 46 Convent attire
- 48 "Cocoon" star
- 49 Accountant's concern
- 51 Snacks
- 56 Oscar org.
- 58 Refs' kin
- 59 General \_\_\_ chicken
- 62 Direction suffix
- 63 Hughes' airline
- 64 Tooth topper
- 65 Monarch's letters



By Allan E. Parrish, Mentor, OH

4/18/08

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# Dallas veterans' center sends 15 patients to Waco

By Victoria Mgbemena  
Staff Writer

After the suicides of four patients at the Dallas Veteran Affairs Medical Center, the center has moved 15 patients to the Waco Veteran Affairs Medical Center.

The suicides, the last of which occurred April 4, were the first in-patient suicides that the hospital had seen in 30 years. Two of the patients were discharged from the medical center at the time of their suicides, which occurred in January, and two were patients in residence.

The patients in residence, whose deaths were two months apart, both hung themselves using furniture in the hospital.

The medical center has collaborated with other VA medical facilities statewide to transfer new inpatients and is continuing treatment services for current inpatients. Officials have allocated \$250,000 for improvements and are working to evaluate current operations and assess safety issues.

"We are looking at the environment of care from a safety standpoint," said Susan Poff, public relations officer at the Dallas Veteran Affairs Medical Center. "When someone has it in their mind that they want to carry out a suicide, they think of creative ways to do so. We are looking at possible materials patients may use to harm themselves. We've

looked at breakaway curtains, ceiling tiles, and are thinking about changing out doorknobs. Things that seem like ordinary objects — metal trash cans, pictures on the wall and sprinklers — may be potential hazards."

Poff said that officials had been aggressively looking into conditions at the medical center since accounts of poor sanitation and patient neglect surfaced a year ago from patients at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, one of the nation's largest centers for war veteran care.

Poff said that the effect of the suicides on staff has been distressing.

"The suicides have been especially devastating for our staff in light of the assessments we've been performing to continue serving our patients with quality care," she said. "We have been paying attention to not only the families of the patients but also our workers. They are understandably hurt, and we've got resources where we can bring in social workers and chaplains."

The Waco Veteran Affairs Medical Center was the first choice of officials at the Dallas VA hospital.

It has been indicated as one of the best veteran affairs medical centers in the nation. The Waco medical center's acceptance of patients comes on the heels of the hospital's announcement to continue expanding its Center of Excellence research facilities,

primarily geared at serving the psychological needs of veterans and their families.

"We have prepared for the incoming patients from the Dallas (medical center) the same way we prepare for any patients," said Melia Schrum, Chief of Public Affairs. "The patients would be going into our normal mental health services. We have 66 beds in our facility and are prepared to take more patients if need be. It is not unusual for us to work with our sister VAs."

Deputy associate chief of staff Juan Carmona said that patients in veteran affairs centers suffer from a range of psychiatric conditions, including psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and substance abuse.

"We are trained to look at different stages of life and become aware of different types of challenges from each patient's specific point of view," Carmona said. "There are a variety of diagnoses. We anticipate therapeutic effects by providing regular care and counseling services so they can eventually support themselves independently."

Carmona, also a physician, said that each generation had different needs and therefore required different levels of care. They must deal with emotions as a result of returning to a society that is not the same.

"Veterans who range in age from 18 to the late 30s have



Alex Song /Lariat staff

The Waco Veteran Affairs Medical Center received 15 patients from the Dallas Veteran Affairs Medical Center in the past two weeks after several patients from the Dallas center committed suicide.

families and desire to be productive parts of society after having served," Carmona said. "They are faced with difficult situations in the economy and expectations from their family. Some come back from Iraq or Afghanistan and find that their jobs are no longer there, but their financial responsibilities still remain. This adds more emotional wounds on top of the wounds they get from war."

The ages of the inpatients transferred from the VA range

from the 40s to late 50s. The ages of the patients who committed the suicides ranged from 50 to 58. Carmona said this generation includes those who served in the Vietnam War, for example.

Carmona said that the divorce rate for veterans was also at a high proportion given the broken ties with family members and decreased coping mechanisms.

"Some of the middle-aged patients are interested in work-

ing and some are not, but want to integrate back into society," Carmona said. "Different events may trigger emotions. These veterans have to deal with memories of friends being killed and killing others. We try to restore by helping them with coping skills so they may be able to engage in healthy relationships."

In 2007 there were a reported five suicides of patients from the Dallas center. For every 100,000 residents in the state, 10 suicides were reported.

# Autism walk to raise awareness and showcase new center

By Alex Abdallah and Elizabeth Herring  
Reporters

Children and their parents will be walking and playing at Fountain Mall tomorrow morning. Walk for Autism will be held to raise awareness for autism and showcase the new Family Resource Center at Baylor as part of Waco's Weekend for Autism.

Every day, 67 children are diagnosed with autism, and a new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes, according to

the 2006 Waco Regional Advisory Committee for the Texas State Plan on Autism.

And according to the Autism Society of America, this year more children will be diagnosed with autism than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.

The Walk for Autism is open to the community.

Many parents of autistic children will walk together around Fountain Mall as their children enjoy face painting, bubbles, snow cones, popcorn and a magic show.

After the walk, the Autism

Family Resource Center will have an open house. Non-profit organizations will be present with information on autism and different therapies available.

"The Baylor Center, along with The Arc of McLennan County's Summer Camp, benefit from the proceeds of the walk," said Tom Pearson, executive director of the Arc of McLennan County.

Pearson said the ARC camp is a summer day camp for about 50 campers with intellectual disabilities such as autism or mental retardation.

The campers have field trips

and activities such as swimming but also work on objectives from their education plans so they do not regress in their schoolwork over the summer break.

"Autism is a neurological condition," said Dr. Julie Ivey, assistant professor of educational psychology.

Children are usually diagnosed around the age of 2 or 3. There are three main areas that are indicators for autism.

Ivey said autistic children suffer from impaired language or communication difficulties, have repetitive behaviors that

preserve sameness and routine and have problems with social interaction, causing many of them to prefer to be alone.

Ivey was awarded a grant from the Baylor/Waco Foundation to create a resource center for autism. The Autism Family Resource Center has been funded since January.

"It has over 100 workbooks for parents, educators, speech pathologists or anyone in the community to check out," Ivey said.

Along with being a lending library, the center also holds

"social circles" for children with autism. These groups help the children develop social skills.

They work on different social skills like eye contact, taking turns and initiating conversations, Ivey said.

The center is currently working on an online resource handbook for Waco. This handbook will have listings of different businesses that work well with autistic children.

Different professionals like dentists or barbers who work well with autistic children will be listed in the handbook.

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# RecycleMania results in: Baylor No. 3 among Big 12

By Charly Edsitty  
Reporter

Baylor students have gained five pounds, and it's a good thing. The official results of the 10-week RecycleMania competition are in, and Baylor increased recycling totals from last year by 4.63 pounds and exceeded its 10-pound-per-person goal.

"I am just incredibly happy to see these results because it is a huge step to accomplish this," said Pattie Orr, dean of libraries and vice president of information technology. "We set the goal

of 10 pounds arbitrarily, and I am so proud we achieved it."

Baylor ended the competition with 192,259 pounds recycled, compared to last year's total of 86,860, and cinched third place in the Big 12.

According to the RecycleMania Web site, "the total amount of recyclables and organic materials recovered during the 2008 competition added up to 58.6 million pounds, which in turn prevented the release of 25,342 metric tons of carbon equivalent.

In real world terms, this

reduction in green house gases is equivalent to eliminating the impact caused in a year by 15,439 passenger cars; the electricity use of 11,165 homes; or the burning of 440 railcars' worth of coal."

The competition between 400 schools was divided into two participation categories, either as a whole or partial campus, with Baylor participating as a whole campus.

Baylor competed in two competitions, the gorilla prize and per capita classic, and increased numbers in all areas.

In the gorilla prize competition, which measures the highest gross tonnage of materials, Baylor moved up to No. 65 from last year's rank of No. 93.

In the per capita classic competition, figures are calculated by dividing the total weight of recyclables by the entire population of the school.

Baylor moved up to No. 114 with a total of 11.40 pounds per person compared to last year's rank of No. 137 with 6.77 pounds per person.

"This shows that being more conscious of our environment

makes a huge difference," said Carl Flynn, information technology specialist. "We have nowhere to go but up, and we will ultimately have less of an environmental footprint."

Flynn will be launching a "thank you" campaign for all the students who participated in the competition.

He said although the competition has ended, the recycling is only beginning.

"RecycleMania was a great encouragement to measure our progress, but the reason to recycle is to be good stewards

of what God has given us," Orr said. "It's really about stewardship, not just because it's a contest."

Orr explained that an order for 125 new recycling bins has been placed in an effort to extend recycling into public areas like the libraries, the Bill Daniel Student Center and the McLane Student Life Center.

The bins are expected to be in place by the summer.

"We have a solid foundation," said Orr. "We are building to make a sustainable sustainability plan."

## Engineers build lift to help therapy patients

By Lee Ann Marcel  
Reporter

When she was on top of the horse, she was on top of the world. Any other time Janelle, a cerebral palsy patient, struggled with her balance and walking. But for the hour-long session, she felt as though she were walking on her own. The one obstacle standing in her way was getting on the horse.

With the help of the Baylor Senior Engineering Design class, this might not be a problem any more for people with disabilities.

Students will present and test their design for a lift system at 1 p.m. today at the Heart of Texas Therapeutic Riding Center.

"We were conducting other research projects with the Riding Center when it was mentioned that one of their needs was one of these patient lift systems," said Dr. Brian Garner, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Baylor.

Thirty-one graduating engineering and computer science seniors moved into crunch time Wednesday constructing their project that they have spent the past few months designing so that it can be put to use for the Riding Center.

The final project will be tested for the first time using a human.

In previous years, senior students have installed solar panels for the Mayborn Museum and designed wristwatches, but this year the students will get to see the direct effects of their hard work for the community.

"I thought it was a perfect project for our graduating seniors and a way to give back to our community. It will also allow more patients to take advantage of therapeutic riding who couldn't before," Dr. Garner said in a press release.

The lift is custom-made for the riding center's existing ramp. The lift system is made of



Alex Song /Lariat staff

Sugarland, Md., senior Hunter Smith works on the lift for Riding Center therapy patients. The lift is designed to allow patients an easier way to mount a horse. Horses are used as a method of physical therapy.

a harness attached to a hoisting system that can move vertically and horizontally.

The system is electromechanical and remote controllable.

The project is a grand culmination of all four years of learning in previous classes, Stamford, Conn., senior Yasaman Shirazi-Fard said.

The intensive course is designed for the seniors to be put in a professional engineering environment.

Students are required to organize themselves into a structure of command and communicate with each other about the project.

Therapeutic riding uses the movement of the horse as a therapeutic tool to mimic the movements of walking in patients that suffer from illnesses such as Down syndrome or spina bifida.

The warmth of the horse also

helps to promote circulation.

It helps with motor skills, such as sitting, as well as fine motor skills like writing and eating. The program also furthers communication skills.

"Most kids identify with a certain horse, so they will ride that horse during their sessions," riding center director Shirley Wills said.

The riding center also offers a variety of horses for the assorted age range of their patients, including miniature horses for patients who are three to five years old.

"They are just easier to learn how to mount and dismount," Wills said.

With the help of the new lift and the students, Wills said the riding center will be more effective in helping the disabled make the most out of life.

"We really appreciate all that the Baylor students have done for us," Wills said.

## Classics professor receives offer to research at Oxford

By Shannon Daily  
Staff writer

Dr. Antony Augoustakis, an assistant professor in the classics department, was recently elected to spend the fall semester as a visiting scholar at Oxford University.

"This is just a tremendous honor for him. It's not everybody that gets invited to be a visiting scholar at Oxford. This is an important thing for him and an important thing for the university as well," said Dr. John Thorburn, an associate professor and interim chair of the classics department.

From September to December, Augoustakis will work on his research at Corpus Christi College, a part of Oxford university.

His research is centered on book eight of the twelve books of Statius' *Thebaid*.

The translation of this section hasn't been done since 1604, Augoustakis said.

The project that Augoustakis is undertaking will last about five years and result in a commentary on the book.

He will finish around 2012, he said, and hopes to have the book published by Oxford

University Press.

"For me, as someone who has already written a commentary on a book of Latin poetry and is starting another one now, it will be especially beneficial to have him with us as we can discuss our work and approaches as he seeks to do the same," said Dr. Stephen Harrison, a fellow and tutor in classics at Oxford.

Harrison was the professor who originally nominated Augoustakis for the position at Oxford.

"He's working on similar poems in Latin literature, so it will be nice to be close to him," Augoustakis said of Harrison.

Augoustakis will also have access to the Senior Common Room, a place in which the university professors meet to eat dinner and discuss their research, he said.

Another benefit of doing this research at Oxford is the prox-



Augoustakis

imity to the Sackler Library and the Bodleian Library.

These two libraries house many of the manuscripts he will need to work with, Augoustakis said.

These resources will help Augoustakis because he's one of a few professors across the world working in the area of Silver Latin poetry, Thorburn said.

This is Latin poetry from the first and second century A.D.

Having this relationship with Oxford will help with Baylor's goal of becoming a top tier university, Thorburn said.

"It brings prestige to the university itself," Thorburn said. It brings greater visibility to everybody who's involved.

He said one of the goals of Vision 2012 is to increase the research visibility of the university, and said that Augoustakis' invitation helps with making Baylor more visible.

This experience will also enhance what Augoustakis does in the classroom, Thorburn said.

"Primarily Antony teaches Latin poetry for us, and so this is going to further deepen his familiarity with what he does in the classroom," Thorburn said.

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# No clear cause for violent YouTube videos, professor says

By Christina Kruse  
Staff writer

YouTube, a popular Web site that allows internet users to post videos, has recently hosted a number of clips showcasing teenagers assaulting their peers.

One current case is in Florida, where 6 girls from ages 15 to 17 assaulted a fellow classmate and are currently facing criminal charges. These types of video clips have also appeared locally, one at Texas State Technical College campus and another at Parkside apartments.

Several factors contribute to

violent behavior in general, but it is unclear why people are compelled to post fights on the internet, said Gary Brooks, professor of psychology and neuroscience. This trend may be attributed to society's acceptance of violence, and the individual's need for attention and display of antisocial behavior.

Brooks said violence has become more prevalent in film, television and video games. In general, an overexposure to violence results in desensitization.

"Violence is simultaneously scorned but celebrated," Brooks said. Society is aware of the fact

that violence is wrong, he said, yet *Saw*, a movie that depicts torture, garnered more than \$55 million in box office earnings.

"We live in such an instant-gratification, media-dominated culture," Brooks said. "People will do almost anything to get into the public spotlight."

Brooks referenced people's behavior on the *CBS Morning Show*. Audience members perform attention-getting acts, such as jumping around or holding up signs behind the host.

Antisocial behavior has also contributed to violent videos on YouTube, said Matthew Stanford,

professor of psychology and neuroscience.

"This is not so much an aggression issue as it has been a loss in social boundaries," Stanford said. He pointed out that a number of Facebook and MySpace users are willing to post revealing photographs, such as the user in an intoxicated state and believe that they will not be confronted.

"The internet is the barrier," Stanford said.

Therefore, those who post videos of their assault crimes believe that they may safely show their videos without being caught.

"It's almost non-punishable,"

said Stanford.

In the early 1990s, there was a wave of amateur wrestling videos, Stanford said. In these videos, individuals copied pro wrestling antics in their backyards, such as jumping off one location onto another person.

However, there has been a shift from "backyard fights" to an ambush-style attack, such as the case in Florida.

"You have to up the ante," Stanford said.

Stanford said the type of video-recorded violence will evolve. Participants may use weapons or seriously injure the victim.

"Ultimately, someone is going to get killed," Stanford said.

However, Stanford predicted that this type of act is going to be hard to control. For legal action to come from a YouTube video fight, someone must prove that the fight was real and the person being assaulted wants to press charges.

Baylor police have received calls about the videos. However, Baylor police chief Jim Doak said he believes that officers may use their time more efficiently if they do not respond to these calls.

"We will try to deflect crime on campus," Doak said.



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

## Piano man

Jake Lester plays piano for the band Sleeperstar at Diadeloso Thursday.

# Researchers study harmful golden algae

By Shannon Daily  
Staff writer

The abundance of golden algae in the lakes and rivers of Central Texas has been known to kill off millions of fish — sometimes in the span of only a few weeks.

A team of researchers from Baylor, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Arlington is working to find a way to prevent this type of mass death.

Dr. Bryan Brooks, an associate professor in the environmental science department, is one of those researchers.

A golden alga is an organism that can swim, produce its own toxins and feed on other organisms. However, it only becomes harmful once it blooms and produces the toxins.

"As far as its introduction into inland waters, it's received much more attention in Texas over the past two decades," Brooks said. "It was first identified in the mid-80s in Texas reservoirs, but it's been detected in inland waters spanning all the way from North Carolina to Arizona."

Lake Whitney, northwest of Waco; Possum Kingdom, northwest of Fort Worth; and Lake Granbury, near Dallas are the three reservoirs on the Brazos River that have been hit particularly hard by the algae, Brooks said. Waco is located in the Brazos River basin.

The researchers recently were awarded a grant of \$498,000 from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a comparative study of Lake Waco and Lake Granbury.

"It's a two-year grant that will involve a number of laboratory and field studies. It's a great opportunity for Baylor students to really get involved in some cutting edge research that really matters to Central Texans," Brooks said.

The final goal of the group's research to provide some useful management recommendations to the state on how to manage the problem, he said.

"We believe there may be specific locations and specific times and conditions that if we now understand how those times and locations and conditions may influence the ability of the organism to produce and grow, then those may be the opportunistic periods to, quite frankly, nip the bloom in the bud," Brooks said.

The algae management could

preclude the blooms from causing millions of fish to die in a week or two, like has been observed in places like Lake Whitney in Central Texas, he said.

Dr. James Grover, director of the program in environmental and earth sciences for UTA, is one of the researchers who have been collaborating with Brooks.

"We began about four years ago with all of this, and one of the things we've done in the lab is we've done a lot of experiments to see how factors like light and temperatures ... affect the growth and the toxicity of the algae," Grover said.

Brooks said that knowing whether or not light affects the stability of the toxin in water is very important because it tells how long the toxins stick around after they've been produced.

# Tower evacuated due to wire fire Thursday

By Victoria Mgbemena  
Staff Writer

The Clifton Robinson Tower was briefly evacuated at 8:30 a.m. Thursday because of a small wire fire on the fifth floor.

There was no structural damage to the fifth floor, which is currently undergoing renovations. The fire ignited in a wire as an electrician was working on it Thursday morning. The fire was

contained within the wire but burned through insulation, generating smoke and triggering the fire alarms in the building. The evacuation lasted 15 minutes.

Director of media relations Lori Fogleman said that the evacuation went smoothly.

"People were responsive and orderly; granted it was 8:30 in the morning," she said. "You can see how that may be an inconvenience. It is vitally important that

we pay attention to fire emergencies because you don't always get a second chance to respond."

Fogleman said that the most important thing was that no one was harmed in the incident.

"I'm glad no one was injured and that there was no structural damage done to the building," Fogleman said. "The safety of the faculty, staff and students is foremost in any situation."

Fogleman said the notice was

sent to faculty and staff since the evacuation mostly affected staff members. In the event of a grand scale emergency, the university has a system that includes text messages and e-mails to all faculty, staff and students.

The Risk Management Department presented a burn trailer during Diadeloso festivities at the Baylor Sciences Building to demonstrate the university's fire suppression system.

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