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THE BAYLOR LARIAT

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008

Lilley fired; Garland takes office

O'Brien vacates provost position

By Anita Pere
Editor in Chief

Elizabeth Davis, former vice provost for financial and academic administration, was named interim provost July 31 by Harold Cunningham, the acting president at that time.

Former provost Randall O'Brien was announced as the 22nd president of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. on July 8.

Cunningham said the appointment of Davis gathered wide support.

O'Brien said he hopes Davis acts as provost for some time to come.

Davis said the uncertainty about the presidency and vice presidency of the university won't slow her down from tackling the tasks at hand.

And although she hasn't completely moved into her new office, Davis has quickly jumped into her new role as interim provost.

She is working with university constituents to update the tenure procedures and the policy for tenure and promotion based on the recommendations made at the academic summit this June.

Please see O'BRIEN, page 20



Former President John Lilley was voted out of office on July 24 by the Board of Regents only halfway through his term. The board is currently searching for a permanent president, which could take up to two years.

President search could take 2 years

By Anita Pere
Editor in Chief

Dr. David Garland, dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, was named Baylor's interim president Aug. 20.

The Board of Regents fired President John Lilley on July 24 at the board's summer retreat in Grapevine. Regent Harold Cunningham, former chairman of the board, acted as president until the board selected Garland.

Garland will take on the presidency in addition to serving as dean. He will serve as interim president until a permanent president is named and will not be a candidate for a permanent president.

Dr. Howard Batson, chairman of the board, said the board worked continuously to find an interim president since firing Lilley and that finding a permanent president could take anywhere from six months to two years.

According to a press release, members of the Faculty Senate, the executive council, alumni and deans were consulted about the appointment.

Batson supplemented his praises in a phone interview, calling Garland "the paradigm of what we're looking for in Baylor faculty," due to his dedication to teaching, research and Baylor 2012.

Garland doesn't intend to take on initiatives to majorly shift the direction of the university, but hopes to unite Baylor and "build confidence in the presidency," he said.

Garland has been at Baylor since 1997, when he joined the faculty as a professor of Christian Scriptures. He has been the dean of Truett Seminary since June 2007.

Before his career at Baylor,

Garland received graduate degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and taught there for 21 years. He earned the distinctions of Ernest and Mildred Hogan Professor of New Testament and chair of the Biblical Division.

Batson said the board terminated Lilley due to his inability to unite Baylor constituencies.

"We believe that Baylor must demonstrate its commitment to excellence in all areas, including communication and the building of relationships within the Baylor family," said Batson in a press release the day of the firing.

Batson didn't cite a singular example of Lilley's failure to unite the Baylor family but said, "There's no denying we had the tenure situation a while ago. And we had the branding situation not long ago."

Batson refers to the high number of candidates denied tenure and the debate over university branding efforts, which both stirred up emotions and debate this spring.

Twelve of 30 professors up for tenure were refused, with Lilley having the final word in who made the cut. Seven of the rejected candidates who appealed the decision received tenure in May.

The university branding effort that Lilley advocated also served as a point of contention. The controversial efforts

Please see FIRED, page 20



Garland

Regents approve budget. See page 5
Changes made to tenure. See page 5.

New facility hopes to improve athletics

By Brian Bateman
Sports Editor

Baylor's \$34 million Alwin O. and Dorothy Highers Athletics and Academic Complex has taken strong steps toward completion.

The facility will join other athletic facilities along the Brazos River across University Parks Drive from the university. "We're very excited to get us over there," junior free safety Jordan Lake said. "I think once we get closer to campus it'll really tie us into the student body."

Currently, the football team practices at Floyd Casey Stadium, four miles from campus.

"(It defines) being a student athlete," head coach Art Briles said of the move to campus. "Right now if (the players) don't have a car, they have to catch a ride."

The two-level facility holds all the offices for the coaching staff, media relations, broadcasting, academic rooms and multi-purpose rooms on the top floor, while keeping the training sections separate. A 50-thou-

sand square foot room dedicated to strength and conditioning highlights the bottom floor, surrounded by therapy rooms, locker rooms and lounges.

Further separating the floors are tensioned springs, keeping thuds and clangs from the weight room away from the offices above.

The large price tag will allow the Bears to claim one of the premier Big 12 facilities.

"This facility will make a dramatic impact in all 18 sports," said Director of Athletics Ian McCaw in a press release. "We're very excited about the project."

The University of Texas' strength and conditioning facility, which is considered one of the best in the nation, is 20-thousand square feet.

And for a team accustomed to an off-campus facility, it comes as a welcome surprise.

"I was just recently in the basketball training room seeing a trainer," Lake said. "I said, 'This is amazing.' Hopefully we can christen it right by coming in for bowl practices."

Originally approved in Janu-



The new Highters Athletics Complex and Simpson Athletics and Academic Center is scheduled to finish in November. The Complex includes classrooms, offices and lockers.

ary 2007, the plan calls for the inclusion of the Simpson Athletics and Academic Center inside the building, making it a one-stop location for the student-athlete.

"It'll be nice to get that extra 10 minutes of sleep or free time every day," offensive lineman Jason Smith said.

However, the largest advantage will be for recruiting. With Texas' prestige, Texas A&M University's history and the Univer-

sity of Oklahoma's appeal, Baylor's spot on the recruiting rankings has lagged. The new facility should change that.

As of Friday, 13 high school seniors have verbally committed to Baylor.

"It will allow Baylor to recruit to what traditionally hasn't been a strength," McCaw said.

The facility has a Sept. 17 deadline for a soft opening, but the entire complex is expected to be completed Oct. 5.

Baylor ranked low in Forbes report

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

On Aug. 13, Forbes.com released its first annual "America's Best Colleges" special report, ranking Baylor No. 352 out of 569 schools. This number is down from an original set of Forbes rankings published in May and compiled by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, where Baylor was ranked No. 34 out of 127 schools.

Jonathan Robe, research assistant at CCAP, said the new rankings represent a combined, expanded version of the originals, with double the amount of schools and two additional components. "We were throwing out the idea of a new kind of ranking system with the first set in May. We were doing a test run," Robe said. "After seeing the response, Forbes decided they wanted to come out with a full-fledged ranking for August because that's when most college rankings come out."

The original report divided

286 schools into three categories: liberal arts schools, national public universities and national universities, where Baylor claimed spot No. 34.

Michael Noer, executive director of special reports at Forbes.com, partnered with Dr. Richard Vedder, economist and researcher at CCAP, to do the study. Unlike the first set of rankings, Noer said they wanted to combine all types of schools in one list and decided not to subdivide the new, expanded rankings.

"Students choose only one school," Noer said. "They don't pick one private school and one public school. This is one way our rankings are different from others."

The rankings use non-traditional measures, such as student evaluations on Rate-my-professors.com and Who's Who in America listings, to rate colleges according to students' perspectives.

"At Forbes, we believe very

Please see REPORT, page 10

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BENCHMARK

Baylor-themed coffee line, energy drink coming this fall

Dache Johnson
Reporter

Baylor plans to begin marketing an energy drink, "Gold Rush," Sept. 1, shortly after revealing a line of Baylor-themed coffees Aug. 18.

The university has partnered with Independence Coffee Co. to create the coffees, each of which boasts a Baylor-themed name, such as the 1845 Charter Blend, Oso Delicious, Bruin Brew, Sic 'Em Special, That Good Ol' Baylor Line, and a Homecoming special that will change every year.

The coffees will be sold at the University Bookstore. Plans are in place to market the products to H-E-B stores. Currently, the coffee is only sold in bean and ground form.

Independence Coffee Co. is based in Independence, Texas, the town Baylor called home before Waco.

The company sells coffee in H-E-B stores and Whole Foods Markets.

Ragan Bond, who owns and operates the coffee company with his wife, Christy, said 8.5 percent of the profits from the Baylor coffees will be donated to Baylor's historic preservation initiatives in Independence.

Tom Charlton, director of the Texas Collection, oversees the preservation efforts, which are administered under the university library system.

"The royalties from these products will help the Baylor

Baylor Coffee Flavors:

1845 Charter Blend
(South-American blend)

Oso Delicious
(chocolate-caramel)

Bruin Brew
(cinnamon-hazelnut)

Sic 'Em Special
(multi-origin dark roast)

That Good Ol' Baylor Line
(authentic Texas pecan)

Homecoming Special
(creme brule, changes from year to year)

Under Development:
Dia Del Oso Blend

Libraries fulfill our mission to preserve the history of Baylor at Independence," said Pattie Orr, dean of university libraries. "I am thankful for the partnership with Ragan and Christi Bond to develop a coffee which can proudly bear the Baylor name. The coffee is great and I think the product names are lots of fun."

A Baylor energy drink, Gold Rush, will be produced by Havoc Distribution Inc.

This "sparkling, vitamin-enriched, raspberry-flavored

drink" will have a Baylor-themed can and will profit both Havoc and Baylor University, said Brim Basom, director of business development at Havoc.

Baylor plans to market the drink in an athletic way, promoting Gold Rush at sporting events through the athletic department, said Doug McNamee in the Baylor ISP Sports Network.

Because of Baylor's agreement with Dr Pepper, Gold Rush will not be sold on campus.

It will be available at major retail outlets including H-E-B, off-campus bookstores and spirit shops.

Havoc is supplying Target stores in Texas with various regional products and plans for the product to be available at Target stores as well.

The drink will bring in revenue for the university and promote Baylor in a new market.

Success of energy drinks at Oklahoma State University, the University of Louisville, as well as high-profile corporations and NBA and NHL teams, prompted Havoc to contact Baylor with the idea of a university-themed energy drink.

The consumer demographic for energy drinks is between the ages of 18 and 35, and is continually expanding, Basom said.

With a \$5 billion energy drink market, Havoc is striving to become the prominent distribution company in collegiate-branded energy drinks.

Interestingly, Baylor nutritionist Dee Rollins commented



Sarah Morris/Lariat staff

Baylor-themed coffee is now sold at the University Bookstore. That Good Ol' Baylor Line, shown here, is Texas pecan-flavored and comes in regular and decaf, in beans or ground.

to Voice of America in June on the dangers of energy drinks. She talks about the high amount of caffeine that many energy drinks contain, but do not advertise, and the health risks involved.

Havoc, however, recommends their drink for anyone over the age of 12.

"We do not focus on having a high caffeine content like other products in the market place to

give you the extra energy you need. We focus on adding quality ingredients like vitamin B to give the consumer a steady energy drink that will not make them crash afterwards," Basom said.

The company also ensures low sodium content and no artificial colors or flavorings. A 16 oz. can contains 96mg of caffeine, while a 16 oz. cup of Starbucks coffee contains 330mg of

caffeine.

"The combination of the fan loyalty associated with Baylor University and the great tasting Havoc formula is going to create a truly unique product for the region and will be hard to beat in the ever expanding consumable marketplace. Get ready for the Gold Rush," Basom said.

Anita Pere contributed to this report.

Waco coffee shop closures reflect nationwide economic slowdown

By Yesenia Araiza and Jessica Belmares
Reporter and Copy Editor

Many coffee shops are suffering because of the economic slowdown, and this summer a few have even closed their doors.

The coffee giant Starbucks announced the closure of 600 stores across the country, including a Waco Starbucks located on the intersection of Valley Mills and Waco drives.

According to a message posted on Starbucks' Web site from

chief executive officer Howard Shultz, poor real estate decisions and a troubled economy convinced Starbucks to move forward with store closures.

"I used to go out of my way to get coffee," Arlington senior Kristin Dupriest said. "Because gas is so expensive, I will not go out of my way to another Starbucks for coffee like I used to."

There were a total of 61 Starbucks stores in Texas that were listed to be closed. Closures will be staggered over the next several months.

Another local coffee shop

that closed this summer was Beatnix, located on Lake Shore Drive and North 19th Street.

"We normally depended on sales from March through April to make it through the summer when students go home," former Beatnix owner Penney Simpson said. "We weren't able to do that this year."

Simpson said when gas prices rose last March, Beatnix immediately saw their sales drop.

"We're a luxury item," Simpson said. "It's between \$4 in your gas tank or \$4 in your coffee."

Beatnix officially closed

its doors in July and hopes to reopen again.

"We're in negotiations to possibly open up a place in Hewitt," Simpson said. "We're probably not going to have as much of the entertainment at first and we'll be scaling our hours back. At first we'll be more of a cafe."

Along with coffee, Beatnix was a place to hear local bands, open microphone and poetry night. Since the closing, poetry night has moved to Hemingway's Watering Hole on Bosque Boulevard.

Even with the closing of two

local coffee shops, not all shops seem to be affected by the economy.

Common Grounds, a coffee shop located on Eighth Street across from Baylor's campus, hasn't seen a decline in sales.

"We continue to grow despite the economy," Common Grounds owner Jill Mashburn said.

Mashburn said sales did not drop in the spring and she is not expecting any decreases in sales this fall. Since the shop has a special niche in the community, the economy has a minimal

effect she said.

The coffee shop attracts Baylor students, locals and Interstate 35 travelers, many of whom are loyal customers, Mashburn said.

Common Grounds customers can expect some price increases coming this fall, but Mashburn said she has tried to "keep it as minimal as possible."

The coffee shop does not anticipate closing its doors anytime soon.

"We have been here 13 years and don't plan on going anywhere," Mashburn said.

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New faculty center offers place for dining, fellowship

By Liz Foreman
Assistant City Editor

The McMullen-Connally Faculty Center, a place for faculty dining and conferences, will open its doors today.

The new \$4 million, 10,900-square-foot facility is located on South Fifth Street between the Speight Plaza Parking Garage and the Bobo Baptist Student Center.

The center will replace the Harrington House as a faculty dining facility with a full-service kitchen, a 120-person capacity dining room, three conference rooms and a library.

"From the perspective of campus services, the McMullen-Connally Faculty Center will provide our faculty with an excellent location for dining, holding meetings and entertaining prospective faculty," said Chris Krause, assistant vice president for campus services.

The facility will offer a restaurant-style dining experience for lunch and dinner with menu selections and a daily buffet.

The faculty center will also feature a great room for sitting and socializing, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The three conference rooms are equipped with projectors and accommodations for meetings and conferences and are

available for reservations by faculty members.

Krause and Johnston both agree that this facility will serve a greater purpose than simply dining and conference accommodations.

"Of all the dining locations on campus, the faculty didn't really have a place of their own," Johnston said. "Maintaining that for the faculty in this facility is our outmost priority."

Johnston added that the center will offer a place where faculty can have coffee and talk, while crossing disciplines and encouraging interactions among faculty who don't typically have a chance to interact.

"I believe this facility will provide a venue where faculty can deepen and develop community," Krause said.

The facility was made possible by the donation of Dr. Faber McMullen and his wife, Roxanna Connally-McMullen, both alumni.

McMullen earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Baylor in 1953 and his doctor of medicine degree in 1956. Roxanna also attended Baylor from 1950 to 1952.

"The McMullens have been donors consistently since graduating from Baylor. They donated the faculty center to honor their parents as well as faculty who

influenced their lives," said Susie Johnston, director for conference and event management.

The key faculty that the McMullens wish to honor are Dr. Cornelia Smith; Dr. R.B. Alexander; Dr. Joseph Gast; Dr. James Haley and Dr. James Greene, all of whom are former Baylor teachers.

As a cardiologist, McMullen held positions at the Harris County Medical Society, the Houston Heart Association and the Texas Medical Association.

The McMullens also founded the Crea Charity Clinic and became involved with the Mayor's Coalition for the Homeless.

A unique aspect of this facility is the way it embodies the lives of the McMullens.

According to Krause, the exterior of the facility is modeled after the McMullens' home.

The facility also draws from the lives of the McMullens through the generous donation of art from their own art collection.

"The McMullens wanted to give the art collection and Baylor literally did not have a place for the vast amount of artwork," Johnston said. "They then asked if we could use a new faculty center that could serve to honor the great teaching at Baylor and also serve as a gallery for the artwork."



Sarah Morris/Lariat staff

The new McMullen-Connally Faculty Center sits between Speight and Bagby avenues on South Fifth Street. The dedication ceremony will be held Oct. 3.

The McMullen Family Collection includes nearly 300 pieces of art and artifacts.

The works are displayed on a rotating basis throughout the faculty center.

"This is a collection that Dr. and Mrs. McMullen collected together for decades," said Karin

Gilliam, director of the Martin Museum of Art. "It's a very special gift in that each painting represents a unique moment in their lives and has its own story to it. In a sense, they've not only given us a valuable art collection, but a part of their lives."

Of the almost 300 paintings,

55 are displayed at a time.

The bulk of the collection features art by artists from the California School of Watercolor and other Texas artists.

The dedication ceremony of the McMullen-Connally Faculty Center will take place Friday Oct. 3.

Board of Regents increases budget, votes for new degrees

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

Baylor's Board of Regents at its May meeting approved a \$366 million operating budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year, representing an increase of \$21.1 million or 6.1 percent over last year's budget.

"This is a fiscally responsible budget in which we are allocating resources in a manner that will allow the university to continue its progress achieving the bold vision embodied in Baylor 2012," Harold R. Cunningham, former chairman of Baylor's Board of Regents, said in a state-

ment.

In effect since June 1, the new budget includes \$8.9 million or 10.1 percent more funding for graduate assistantships and both merit and need-based scholarships.

The figure also provides for \$15.2 million or 7.4 percent more in personnel costs, due to the addition of approximately 10 full-time faculty positions, 44 replacement faculty and 31 staff positions.

Baylor closed the fiscal year May 31 with a modest operating budget surplus for the fourth consecutive year, according to a statement released by former

President John Lilley.

Other board developments included the approval of two new degree programs.

Baylor's School of Engineering and Computer Science will now offer a major that allows qualified students to design their own courses of study across disciplines, an approach similar to the Baylor Business Fellows and University Scholars programs.

Dr. Cindy Fry, assistant dean of undergraduate studies in the school of engineering and computer science, said the major serves as an alternative for students who want more flexibility

in their curriculum.

"We get several students every year who are not only gifted in computer science but also have a wide range of interests, such as history, literature or the classics," Fry said. "We hope this major gives some of our high-performing students another avenue to study."

Fry said the department has been working on implementing the major for two years.

Two students—one an incoming freshman, the other a sophomore—are already enrolled in the new program. The major requires students to maintain a 3.5 GPA and good standing with

the department.

Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing will also welcome a new graduate degree, a doctor of nursing practice with a nurse-midwife major. The program was designed in response to the growing need for certifying nurse-midwives able to provide care for women and their infants.

In other business, regents elected Dr. Howard K. Batson of Amarillo to serve a one-year term as chair. Batson succeeds Harold Cunningham, who served as acting president of the university until Dr. David Garland, dean of George W. Tru-

ett Theological Seminary, was named interim president.

The board also voted to increase the size of its membership to 24, up from 21. Originally, the board had considered reducing the number of regents to 16, but revised its plans during its annual summer retreat in Grapevine.

One-fourth of regents will continue to be elected by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, maintaining a special agreement made in 1991 that allows the university to elect 75 percent of its board of regents and permits the BGCT to elect the remaining 25 percent.

Tenure process revision imminent

By Anita Pere
Editor in Chief

After months of faculty unrest, seven of the 12 candidates who were denied tenure in March were granted it May 14. The provost's office also adopted two documents in June—one an update of the tenure and promotion policies, the other an update of tenure procedures.

The revisions are not in response to the tenure upset this spring but have been in the works for two years, James Bennighof, vice provost for academic affairs and policy, said.

The revisions were approved June 2, days before the university's Academic Summit.

Summit attendees included administrators, department chairs, deans and executive members

of the faculty senate and other faculty members. Participants met to address tenure, suggesting revisions to the procedures and possible changes to the policy as well, Bennighof said.

To tackle this, attendees worked in five groups, each examining a different area for improvement: annual evaluation process; evaluation of teaching; research/creative information; external reviews; and tenure pathway.

Interim Provost Elizabeth Davis, who attended the summit, said each group created a document outlining improvement for their respective areas. The documents are posted on Blackboard, where faculty and administrators may comment on the documents. Bennighof does not expect this round of alterations to take years, as did the changes approved in June.

Under the former tenure policy, 12 of the 30 tenure candidates were not granted tenure this spring.

Former President John Lilley released a statement from his

office May 14, noting improvements in the materials submitted for tenure reconsideration.

"There were significant differences between the documents (former Provost Randall O'Brien) and I reviewed initially and the documents we saw for reconsideration. Those differences permitted a larger number of favorable tenure decisions," said Lilley in the release.

Denied professors were allowed to boost their case for receiving tenure by submitting materials not included in their initial documentation for getting tenure.

Lori Baker, assistant professor of anthropology, was denied tenure, despite bringing national attention to the university by identifying the remains of illegal immigrants who died in the Sonora Desert while entering the United States. Baker received tenure by reconsideration.

"My appeal notebook was as long as my tenure notebook," Baker said. She estimated that the documentation she submitted for the reconsideration totaled about 600 pages. Baker said she didn't submit new information, but clarified and annotated materials she previously presented.

She boiled down the reconsideration to "a lot of mental anguish" and "a month of lost productivity" due to the time she dedicated to reshaping her tenure notebook.

"This summer has been catch-up time," she said.

Baker said she's currently working on a "really high-profile, kind of controversial" research project, which she doesn't wish to reveal yet.

Randall Jean, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, also received tenure by reconsideration. He, too, complained of the time spent on bolstering his case for reconsideration.

"A lot of the long-range planning and preparation didn't get done," Jean said of the time crunch the tenure denials put on his department this spring. "It basically shut down our research program for two months, at our most productive time."

Jean said spring is the most productive time for research

because graduate students have gained experience in research methods during the academic year.

Despite taking only a short vacation and no summer sabbatical, "you can never really make up for lost time," Jean said.

His research on developing a sensor to calculate blood sugar content, another highly publicized research project underway at the university, has been on hold this summer, he said.

Jean said the disruption of not receiving tenure "was horrible and painful to have to go through, but I wouldn't have traded the experience for anything," in light of the support and camaraderie shown to him by his peers.

The faculty senate, which has avidly dissented the tenure denials of this spring, adopted a resolution of failed governance May 6, after a motion approved in April to gain more insight into the tenure proceedings did not garner a response from Lilley. The resolution accused Lilley and former Provost Randall O'Brien of denying tenure to the 12 candidates, saying "at least some of the decisions of the President and Provost apparently conflicted with recommendations from the University Tenure Committee..."

The resolution continued to cite a deeply wounded faculty morale as a byproduct of the tenure denials.

The resolution called for a restoration of shared governance through re-establishing trust among the president, deans and departments, and by a revision of the university tenure policy and departmental tenure guidelines.

Georgia Green, faculty senate chairwoman, said the summit held some promise.

"I think that the Academic Summit on Tenure that was held this summer was a good start on resolving the issues that were problematic in last year's tenure process," Green said. "How this year's tenure process unfolds will ultimately be the indicator of real progress, but I am very optimistic at this point that we are well on our way to solving the problems that we faced last year."



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Expanded occupancy spaces assuage housing crunch

Liz Foreman
Assistant City Editor

Residential hall residents will lose study space and community leaders will gain roommates due to an unanticipated influx of freshmen this fall.

More upperclassmen living on campus than in two decades—1,700—combined with a larger-than-expected freshman class, has caused a housing shortage.

"This semester, Baylor will house the most students in the university's history," said Frank Shushok, dean for student learning and engagement. "We'll open at 105 percent occupancy this fall."

The traditional occupancy of on-campus housing is 4,600 students. Campus Living and Learning increased the maximum occupancy to 4,800 students by implementing expanded occupancy living spaces.

Expanded occupancy living spaces are defined as any space in a residence hall not traditionally used as a living space that has been transformed into a

place to live for extra residents.

There are two types of expanded occupancy residences.

First, lounges and study areas have been converted into rooms by adding doors with locks and furniture, which will accommodate three to four residents.

The second approach places a resident in a room with a CL, who would, under normal circumstances, receive his or her own room.

Director of Penland Residence Hall Peter Smart said that CLs should not have a problem sharing their room with a resident.

"Community leaders are in that position because they love others, and now they will just have someone in their own room to form a closer bond with," Smart said.

In Kokernot Residence Hall, where no community spaces have been converted, five students will share rooms with CLs.

Orange, Texas junior Megan Baldree, a CL at Kokernot Residence Hall, has a new room-



Shanna Taylor/Lariat staff

Denver, Colo., freshman Catie Rensink moves into a three-person room in South Russell Residence Hall on Thursday morning. Many incoming freshman will be faced with more roommates than in previous years due to expanded occupancy measures taken to house extra students living on campus.

mate, which she recognizes will call for some adjustments.

"There are special circumstances that will have to be worked out," Baldree said. "For example, the nights when I'm on call until 2 a.m., or when a

resident comes to my room to talk, that doesn't mean kicking my roommate out; the resident and I will just have to find another place to talk."

Providing the on-campus housing experience for students

outweighs the inconveniences that may arise, Shushok said.

"The biggest downsides are that we're giving up community space, and it's not ideal for a community leader to have a roommate," Shushok said. "However, we're willing to make decisions that allow the most number of students to have the Baylor experience and live on campus."

Dave Kennedy, assistant director of administrative services, echoed Shushok's sentiments.

"We're happy to have space on campus and we're happy to provide space on campus for students to live," Kennedy said.

According to Kennedy, this increase in demand for on-campus student housing is not just a Baylor phenomenon.

"It's happening across the nation. Many universities are seeing this type of demand for housing," he said. "Larger numbers of high school students than ever are graduating and going to college."

In addition to an increase of freshmen admitted this fall,

more upperclassmen chose to live on campus.

More juniors and seniors are living on campus than in the past two decades.

Shushok said that while it has always been Baylor's goal to get upperclassmen to live on campus, this will have to be monitored more closely in the future, considering the greater number of freshmen each year.

Ensuring an adequate amount of housing may also mean new residential hall construction projects.

"We'll have to keep exploring ways to increase housing inventory," Shushok said. "The Baylor 2012 plan indicates that it's Baylor's aspiration to build another residential project before 2012."

For now, CLs and residential hall staff commit to making students comfortable regardless of circumstances.

"I know that community leaders and staff are committed to working incredibly hard to make sure all freshmen get the total Baylor experience and that they're plugged in with other freshmen," Baldree said.

New bell tones aim to synchronize university time, classes

Janna Quinn
Contributor

Starting this fall, students will no longer need to rely on clocks to signal the end of class thanks to the new tones that will sound at the beginning and end of classes in buildings around campus.

Baylor has added electronically generated tones in several buildings to indicate beginning and ending class times. This addition was considered after the class schedule was changed. Students now have 15 minutes between classes.

"After the schedule was

approved, we began to explore possibilities for establishing a standard uniform time all over campus," senior vice provost Naymond Keathley said.

The tone system was adapted because it utilizes equipment already being installed for the emergency notification system.

The tones are operable in Hankamer School of Business, Cashion Academic Center, the Baylor Sciences Building, Sid Richardson Science Building and Carroll Science Building. Other buildings will be phased in as equipment is received and installed.

"Our goal is to have the sys-

tem operable in all academic buildings for the second semester this year," Keathley said.

The tones are synchronized and will sound Monday through Friday. There will be three staccato tones at the start of classes and one three-second tone signaling the end.

Baytown senior Erica Mooney was part of the task force that helped decide possible schedule changes.

She said the topic of having bells came up several times during their meetings.

"One reservation that many of us on the committee had was that the bells would make

classes seem too much like high school," she said.

"After discussing several other options, having bells to signal the start and end of classes seemed to be the most practical solution."

Students have mixed reactions about tones dictating when they need to be in class.

Monument, Colo., junior Dan Cline thinks the tones will prevent students from being responsible.

"College people should know how to manage their time," he said. "It's part of the growing-up process."

Some students believe that

the tones signaling the end of class will help teachers keep track of class time.

"I think it's kind of good because some teachers let you out of class late," Spring senior Michelle Weilmuenster said. "You can just be like, 'Oops! Time to go.'"

"It's also good because sometimes you don't know when you're late," she said.

Austin senior Adriel "A.J." Meditz also thinks that the tones may affect tardiness.

"If you're always late, the tones will magnify your tardiness. If you're on time, it won't matter," Meditz said.

An initial idea to synchronize time was installing atomic clocks in all classrooms. Atomic clocks automatically set themselves, and faculty believed a standard time could easily be established.

Though the faculty liked the idea, it was not a feasible solution.

Atomic clocks receive an external generated signal to set the time, but some campus buildings have structural features that prevent them from receiving a good or consistent signal in numerous classrooms. A uniform time would not be accessible for all classes.

Loudspeakers added as emergency measure

Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

Baylor installed loudspeaker arrays in nine locations on and off campus this summer as part of its emergency notification system. The speakers would immediately alert students, faculty and staff in dangerous situations.

"This could involve something more frequent like a tornado, or something more unusual, such as a shooter on campus," said Warren Ricks, assistant vice president and chief of risk management.

While Baylor was already considering the need for an outdoor public address system, Ricks said the violence at Virginia Tech last year acted as a catalyst for its implementation.

Consisting of four to six speakers each, the arrays are mounted on rooftops and can't be seen from the ground, with the exception of one that sits atop a 50-foot pole. The speakers are capable of projecting sound of about 80 decibels and can be heard from 3,000 feet away. Floyd Casey Stadium will also have an array.

At an estimated cost of \$350,000, Ricks said the system is vital for Baylor's campus.

"The No. 1 reason for doing

this is to save lives. It will not only make people aware of what the emergency is, but it will inform them of the necessary steps to take," Ricks said.

In an emergency, the loudspeakers would broadcast a loud tone, followed by a voice message. To ensure the sound projection would reach all parts of campus, Baylor hired a consulting firm to determine strategic array locations.

"We did some testing this summer. There were a couple of spots where the distribution was a little weak, so we are working on installing speakers at two additional locations," Ricks said.

While they hope to finish the new installations before students move in, Ricks said there's a chance they may need to do some more testing during the school year, in which case students will be notified beforehand.

An indoor voice evacuation system already exists in residence halls and several buildings. The risk management department is working to install the same system in the remaining buildings on campus.

"With these inside and outside systems tied together, everyone on campus will immediately

be alerted of an emergency," Ricks said.

The new speaker system follows precautions taken by

"The No. 1 reason for doing this is to save lives. It will not only make people aware of what the emergency is, but will inform them of the necessary steps to take."

Warren Ricks
Assistant vice president and chief of risk management

Baylor since 2006 through its Connect-ED emergency notification service. The system allows designated personnel to schedule, send and track personalized voice messages to up to six phone numbers per person. For immediate notification, the system can send voice, text and e-mail messages.

Since its inauguration, the Connect-ED service has issued

warning messages on three different occasions, all involving dangerous weather.

Wanesboro, Miss. Senior Scott Strickland remembered receiving his first text message during a storm last year.

"At first I thought it was kind of strange. I didn't know who it was," Strickland said. "But then I realized it was Baylor and decided to go ahead and activate the alert service, because I figured it would be worth it in case something else happened. You just never know."

Strickland feels text messages are more effective than voice messages.

"Most students can access their texts immediately. They may be in situations where they can't answer the phones, but they can almost always see their texts," he said.

Bartlesville, Okla. junior Lauren LeMaster said she comes from tornado country, where sirens go off close to ten times a year.

"Tornadoes can do serious damage, so I think it's good that we have this system—not only for us, but for the people around Baylor, too."

Jhoanna Pacheco contributed to this report.

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Christina Kruse/Lariat staff

Freshman Feast

Freshman dine on Burlison Quadrangle for the presidential dinner held Thursday.

BEAR BRIEFS

Student Foundation will be holding interest meetings at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the Ed Crenshaw Student Foundation Center. For more information, contact Chandra_Ford@baylor.edu.

Multicultural student associations, fraternities and sororities will hold a Mosaic Mixer from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in Barfield Drawing Room at the Bill Daniel Student Center with representatives from each organization. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/multicultural_activities.

The Baylor Traditions Rally will take place from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday at Fountain Mall and Union Bowl. Freshmen are asked to wear their slime caps and Baylor Line jerseys. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/

Student Activities will present Late Night at the SLC from 8 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. Friday in the McLane Student Life Center. The event feature tables from various student organizations. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/student_activities/campus_programs.

Mayborn Museum Complex is holding a Worldwide Extravaganza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. There will be performances from groups representing cultures around the world. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/mayborn.

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House demolition stuns former tenants

Old property allowed to become decrepit, razed despite report about minor repairs

Jade Ortego
 Staff Writer

The Dunn House, a low-cost home for select international students was demolished earlier this month.

The house was located at 1615 S. Fifth St., on the property of Seventh and James Baptist Church.

The home was purchased by Lucy Dunn, a member of Seventh and James, in the 1950s to be used as a boarding home.

It became an important ministry to the church, whose members elected to keep the program going when Dunn fell ill in the early 1980s, and created a Dunn House Committee.

"The administrative council of the church and the Dunn House Committee saw to the needs of the house and oversight of the situation," Dr. Raymond Bailey, pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church, said.

The students applied for the program and were chosen by the church, Bailey said. They paid a monthly fee to help cover utilities.

Euridice Alvarez, a student from Honduras, who earned her master's degree in musical performance at Baylor, lived in the Dunn House from 2003 to 2006.

She paid \$120 a month, which, she said, "is nothing."

"That was one of the main reasons I went to Baylor actually, I was going to go to UT, but I couldn't afford rent," Alvarez said.

Bailey said that the home had fallen into disrepair in recent years.

"It was a very old house, and it was a lot of constant upkeep. We had concerns, about the safety of the house, about whether or not it was the kind of house we wanted to provide for students," he said.

Church members wanted to tear the house down and

rebuild, but they weren't able to get grants for that, Bailey said.

Mauricio Alvarez, of Costa Rica, no relation to Euridice Alvarez, lived in the Dunn House from 2004 to 2007 while earning a master's in environmental studies at Baylor.

E-mails between Alvarez and Randall Childers, a city inspector, show that Childers reviewed a report done on the Dunn House and the required repairs listed are all "minor/maintenance type," Alvarez said.

"We wrote the building up under our 60-day report, which is for minor repairs. Demolition was not our recommendation," Childers said.

Mauricio Alvarez said that this information is inconsistent with what he was told by the Dunn House Committee, who said that repairing the home would be cost-prohibitive.

The information in the report is more in line with his own experience, he said. The issues with the house amounted to, he said, a leaky bathroom ceiling and peeling paint.

It was only after a decision had been made to demolish the house and it was no longer kept up that his former home became "a dump," he said.

Nevertheless, an agreement with Baylor was made: the university would pay the expense of tearing the house down and adapting the property and they would provide housing for 10 international students of the church's choosing for the next 10 years.

In exchange, the school gets "right of first refusal," Bailey said, which means if the church sells the property, the university gets the first opportunity to buy it.

The area where the Dunn House stood will become another parking lot or green space.

This fall's chosen international students have been provided with housing, Bailey said.

They will live in student apartments, he said, each with his or her own private bedroom.

"Their housing situation has greatly improved," Bailey said.

The church will continue

to choose which students get houses and they will continue to be housed together, he said.

Baylor spokesperson Lori Scott Fogleman would not say where the students would be housed for privacy reasons, but that "Baylor is going to continue to honor the spirit of what the Seventh and James international student ministry has done for years," she said.

Some former students are not pleased with the situation,

"I'm very, very upset and sad about it. I cried."

Euridice Alvarez
 alumna

however. Euridice Alvarez, who calls her experience at the Dunn House the best years of her life, wrote letters protesting its planned demolition.

"But it didn't work," she said. "I'm very, very upset and sad about it. I cried."

Mauricio Alvarez, called the demolition a "hurried, unthoughtful approach to a pressing situation from various fronts."

By early 2008, he said, rumors that Baylor was uncomfortable with the house's appearance and "its sharp contrast with the 'vision 2012' architectural plan," were not new.

"Some of us hoped that the fact that it was on Seventh and James' property, and not Baylor's, would make a difference," he said.

Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration at Baylor, affirmed that there are plans to extend Baylor campus to La Salle Avenue.

He said that the demolition was not related to those plans, however.

"There are no immediate plans for the (former Dunn House property). It's just an agreement between us and Seventh and James. Grass will probably just be put there to make it look nice," he said.

Neither Mauricio nor Euridice is pleased with the plan to

house students in apartments. They stressed the bonding that came with sharing close quarters and short amenities.

"The fact that it was an old house, lacking some of the amenities that some take for granted, was part of the adventure and the charm of living there," Mauricio Alvarez said.

Euridice Alvarez agrees that apartment living is not the same.

"(Apartments are) not the same kind of home environment ... that's lost now forever until they build another house similar to what they had. It was really like a jewel there for international students and it was not appreciated," she said.

She said the Dunn House was her "second home," and the people she shared it with were "her family."

"There were other Spanish-speaking people in the house so I didn't feel isolated. Also there were, like, four other music majors there, so we used to have the Dunn House band and we used to play," she said.

Mauricio Alvarez said he enjoyed living with and learning from different people.

"(It was) a life-changing experience. It was to live in an oasis of diversity within a very homogeneous environment, where we would literally have some of the most interesting members of the student body and even professors meet with us in our kitchen for a cup of coffee and great conversation, almost daily," he said. "It was like having a great multinational family to learn from each other and to grow with."

Euridice and Mauricio hope that the church will rebuild a home to recreate their experience for future students.

"I find it hard to believe that the housing of international students in apartments will continue to perpetuity, but I definitely think that providing a new space with the same mission and mystique would be the best," Mauricio Alvarez said.

"The ministry that Seventh and James had cannot be compared with anything else, think, anywhere else at Baylor," Euridice Alvarez said.

Waco Hall sound, stage renovated

By Christina Kruse
 Lariat Staff

Students may notice clearer sound in Waco Hall.

That clearer sound is due to the new, state-of-the-art sound system, installed in July.

The new speakers are noticeably different to anyone who is familiar with Waco Hall, said Joshua Roberts, technical director and audio engineer.

There was a need for a newer system due to the advances in technology.

"Just with technology advancing in our field, we needed to keep up," Roberts said.

The sound system, designed specifically for the hall, is also beneficial to the fifteen-plus students that are working there.

"This is a learning environment," Waco Hall manager Joshua Gilliam said.

Student workers will be able to practice on a digital sound console instead of last year's analog system.

The latest sound technology

is something students are more likely to see in the real world, Roberts said.

For the previous ten years, any new part for the sound system had been replaced individually.

In order to ensure optimum sound quality, a sound worker sat in every seat in the house to adjust the sound quality for one particular seat.

So far, there have been no complaints about the sound system, Gilliam said.

Furthermore, as the most booked facility on campus, Waco Hall's stage floor bears heavy foot traffic.

"There are lots of Baylor events and community events that happen here," Roberts said.

During Sing, over 1,200 performers are practicing in the Hall every night for six weeks. Since the floor is frequently used, it had been giving in some places, Gilliam said.

Even though the floor was not a safety hazard, the floor is

still old—it was installed in the 1920s.

Installation for the sound system took three weeks, while the floor took closer to a month to complete. The plans for replacing these items, however, were submitted to Baylor officials over a year ago.

"Everyone submits project to the board of regents and executive council," Gilliam said. Once the plans are approved, the planners receive money from university funds to finance the project.

In addition to the Waco Hall renovations, the Bobo Baptist Student Center and Kokernot Residence Hall have received renovations.

"We moved some wall and created some offices," facilities utilization planner Louis Ferguson said.

The Baptist student center also received new floors, lights, and a coffee bar-styled counter was in the existing kitchen.

"It was due for some change," Ferguson said.

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Crime Blotter

The following incidences occurred on or around the Baylor campus.

- 12 instances of theft of a bicycle.
- 10 instances of burglary of a motor vehicle.
- 5 instances of theft of more than \$1,500.
- 2 instances of theft of more than \$500 less than \$1,500.
- 15 instances of theft more than \$50 less than \$500.
- 15 instances of criminal mischief.
- 4 instances of public intoxication.
- 3 instances of a minor consuming.
- 2 instances of driving while intoxicated.
- 9 instances of an accident with failure to stop and identify.
- 2 instances of credit card abuse.
- 8 instances of criminal trespassing.
- 1 instance of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle reportedly occurred at 722 Baylor Ave., the Dawson Hall area.
- 1 instance of arson reportedly occurred at Collins Hall.
- 1 instance of suspicious activity reportedly occurred at the Arbors apartments.
- 1 instance of disorderly conduct reportedly occurred at Moody Library.
- 1 instance of a weapons violation reportedly occurred at the Arbors apartments.
- 1 instance of harassment reportedly occurred at the Arbors apartments.
- 1 instance of phone harassment reportedly occurred at South Russell Hall.

For the full report of the crime log visit www.baylor.edu/

Program seeks fusion of faith, doctoral studies

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase the pool of future leaders at Baptist universities, Baylor's Graduate School proposed a partnership with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and other Texas Baptist Universities to create the Texas Baptist Universities Scholars program.

The proposed program's goal is to encourage Baptist-educated doctoral students to stay in Texas and possibly become faculty members at Baptist universities.

The BGCT will vote in favor of this proposal in September.

If approved, the program will give undergraduate and graduate students from other Texas Baptist universities the opportunity to earn a doctorate from the Baylor Graduate School.

"We are always concerned about professors for the future who have a good understanding of the integration of faith and learning," said Keith Bruce, director of institutional relations for the BGCT.

"When Baylor came to us with this very generous offer, we couldn't have been more willing to make it happen," Bruce said.

Participating Texas Baptist universities will identify capable students in different areas of study for this program.

These potential TBU scholars will travel to Baylor with a faculty mentor to participate in a university activity.

After going through the regular Baylor application process, accepted participants will receive a Texas Baptist Universities Scholars Fellowship.

Then, they will be able to earn a doctorate in any field of study offered at the Baylor Graduate School.

"The large goal is to produce more Ph.D.s from faith-based institutions," said Dr. Larry Lyon, vice provost for institutional effectiveness and dean of the Baylor Graduate School. "Most universities that are complex enough to have a doctorate program are secular."

Scholars will have the opportunity to travel to the annual BGCT meeting in the fall, which will help scholars to meet and form relationships with Baylor Graduate School faculty.

"In addition to the regular training in their particular discipline, TBU scholars will meet with professors in their field and have training on the integration of faith and learning," Lyon said.

The programs seeks to attract students who are comfortable with their faith.

"Students with a clear commitment to Christianity are

exactly the type of students we want in this program," Lyon said.

Faculty members in the graduate school seek to strengthen the bond of faith and learning, and view this program as the perfect opportunity to encourage students to take their Christian-based education to the next level.

"It's a difficult and a delicate balance – faith and education," Lyon said. "This program is an example of how you can achieve that balance."

The program will encourage worship throughout the week.

"We want to allow students to explore the implications of their faith on their discipline and see that it's not just something they do on Sunday," Lyon said. "It doesn't have to be separate. In fact, it's very integrated."

The program also helps the relationship between Baylor and other Baptist universities.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of the proposal is all the collaboration that will take place," said Dr. T. Laine Scales, associate dean of graduate studies and professional development.

"We have to be intentional about working together to provide higher education for Texas Baptists, and Baptist schools are in a time where they want to work together," Scales said.

"It's a difficult and a delicate balance – faith and education."

Dr. Larry Lyon
Graduate school dean

"I was really amazed by their enthusiasm about this proposal."

The cost of the program is shared between the BGCT, that will provide \$1,000 per scholar, the sponsoring college, that also will pay \$1,000, and Baylor's Graduate School, that will provide the full cost of tuition.

Scholars also will receive a stipend from the department that admits them.

"Baylor will become a place that produces not only academically qualified graduates, but those who have been mentored in the discipline of integrating faith and learning," Bruce said. "We want to continue to provide a core faculty and quality training academically, so as to help students have a wonderful understanding of higher Christian education, value teaching and relationships in classrooms, and value the relationship between faith and learning."



Christina Kruse/Lariat staff

Major departments moved out of Pat Neff hall and into several other university owned buildings. The Photography department moved into the third floor of Clifton Robinson Tower.

Office rearrangement brings new faces into Pat Neff Hall

By Christina Kruse
Lariat Staff

Pat Neff Hall, once known as the administrative hub of campus, now has a different purpose.

Several offices were moved out of Pat Neff Hall and into other campus buildings over the summer.

"As the university expands, Baylor is ensuring the best use of facility space," said Lori Fogleman, director of marketing and communications. "Sometimes that means allocating and re-allocating space."

As staff grew, so did the need for office space.

The Department of Risk Management, the Office of Marketing and Communications, and the Office of Sponsored Programs are a few of the offices that were relocated from Pat Neff Hall.

"We were all stuffed in there. We were kind of cramped," said Russell Brewer, director of the office of sponsored programs.

Previously, attic space and closets in Pat Neff Hall had been converted to offices.

"Our new space is a lot more professional," he said.

In addition to being cramped, several offices in Pat Neff Hall were spread out over various locations for several years.

"(This move) has allowed us for the first time to be under one roof," said Warren Ricks, assistant vice president and chief risk management officer. "Being relocated into one building has helped us in productivity."

The Office of Risk Management was split between Pat Neff Hall and Clifton Robinson Tower.

The office is now located on the second floor of Sid Richardson Science Building.

Previously, the Office of Marketing and Communications was stretched between multiple locations. Now it has been moved to the third and seventh floors of the Clifton Robinson Tower.

"This move will allow us to bring our offices together in a professional atmosphere and allow us to work in a more cohesive and creative manner," Fogleman said.

In addition to the consoli-

dation and relocation changes, the purpose of Pat Neff Hall has shifted from administrative to academic.

Key administration, graduate school and research centers will operate in Pat Neff Hall.

"As one of Baylor's signature buildings on campus, Pat Neff Hall will become a hub for the academic enterprise," Fogleman said.

Currently, the graduate school is located in Morrison Constitution Hall, and will be moved to Pat Neff Hall.

"We are looking forward to the move," said Dr. Larry Lyon, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Dean of the Graduate School.

There was little downtime for these offices during the physical move.

"We were out of operation for maybe seven hours total," Brewer said about The Center for Community Research and Development's move to the Leuschner Building at Seventh and James Baptist Church.

The office of the university's president, as well as the provost, will be staying in Pat Neff Hall.

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Four seniors bike to Alaska to aid in suicide prevention



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: Alison Erikson, Justin Brown, Andi Nakasone, Nathan Lloyd biked 4,500 miles over the span of 73 days on their trip to Anchorage, Alaska.

Dache Johnson
Reporter

An idea, prompted by the suicide attempt of a close friend, and meant to inspire hope and purpose, quickly evolved from a Facebook-group proposition into the cross-country Alive Campaign.

Four Baylor students completed a bike trek from Waco, Texas, to Anchorage, Alaska, on July 27, to raise awareness about suicide and suicide prevention.

The four students involved in the creation of the campaign — El Paso senior Justin Brown, Itasca senior Nathan Lloyd, senior Andi Nakasone, from Okinawa, Japan, and Schertz senior Kyle Ferguson — said they decided a bike trip to Alaska would be a life experience that would bring

perspective and hope to their friend.

They launched the Facebook group “Four Guys, One Destination, One Mission: Suicide Prevention” Nov. 4, 2007, with a goal of attracting 250,000 members.

It only took 13 days for the group to reach 300,000 members, and they began planning for the 73-day, 4,500-mile trip that they said would change many lives, including their own.

“This trek, this adventure to Alaska, is to prove that humans don’t have limits. You can do anything you set your mind to,” Brown wrote on the group’s board. “He was telling us that he had nothing to live for, so we gave him something to live for.”

The cross-country feat

spawned the Alive Campaign, a group with a mission “to pro-

“This trek, this adventure to Alaska, is to prove that humans don’t have limits. You can do anything you set your mind to.”

Justin Brown
Senior

mote awareness for suicide prevention and depression through progressive ideas and actions,” according to their Web site, www.alivecampaign.org.

The passion of the four students initially involved attracted

San Antonio senior Alyson Erikson to join the cause.

“I saw how passionate the guys were about the campaign and it was contagious. I knew that this was how God planned for me to spend my summer,” Erikson said.

The group left May 15, embarking from the Baylor campus on the trip that would take them to churches, schools and colleges across the country to share their story and mission.

The riders averaged approximately 80 miles per day battling rain, heat and exhaustion.

They had very little training before they began the trip — only one team member even had a bike when they began planning.

One of the riders, Kyle Ferguson, was unable to complete the ride because of an injury, and on

June 27 returned to Texas from Portland, Oregon.

The team completed their trip on schedule, despite emotional and physical highs and lows.

They said they hope to continue the journey through a documentary they filmed about their experience and the experiences of those they encountered along the way.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among college-aged young adults. It claims more than 32,000 lives each year, according to the organization’s Web site.

Nearly 1.5 million people attempt suicide each year in the United States.

The team members said they were surprised at how willing people were to share about their own experiences.

“It was amazing how much people opened up to us. Sometimes we were only at a place for 10 minutes, and there were people crying, telling us a story about themselves or their loved ones. People are so brave,” Erikson said.

The team used their speaking engagements to talk about QPR, which stands for question, persuade, refer. Confronting the situation with a person contemplating suicide reduces the risk of a suicide attempt.

Anyone struggling with issues should talk to a friend, family member, pastor or counselor.

“You’re not alone, there is help, people do care. Life is much bigger than what you see; there is so much more,” Brown said.



Sarah Morris/Staff Photographer

B-A-Y-L-O-R

Members of the Baylor Spirit Squad took the floor first at the Spirit and Tradition Rally on Thursday night at the Farrell Center. Freshmen were given their line jerseys, slime caps and introduced to Baylor’s athletic teams and school traditions.



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Students 'charge' into new semester

By Tony Pugh
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — As the fall semester beckons and financial aid from parents and the government runs dry, more college students are turning to credit cards to pay not only for their textbooks, meals and transportation but also for tuition.

A recent survey by U.S. Public Interest Research Groups found that two-thirds of college students have at least one card, 70 percent pay their own monthly bills, and 24 percent have used their cards to help pay tuition.

That helps explain why the average survey respondent will graduate with more than \$2,600 in credit card debt, and those with student loans will owe nearly \$3,000.

Andrew Kunka charged \$4,000 to his credit card several years ago to help pay tuition at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Now a first-year law student at Rutgers University's Newark, N.J., campus, Kunka struggles to make the minimum payment on the card, which is nearly maxed out.

"I feel like credit card compa-

nies target us because we really have no financial awareness," said Kunka, who's 22.

"We're barely out of our homes, barely having experiences as adults, and they throw these things at us and they don't make you aware of what you're signing into."

In recent congressional testimony, a card industry representative said stories such as Kunka's were aberrations and that two out of three students paid their card balances in full each month.

However, concern about college students' credit card debt has led regulators, lawmakers and consumer advocates to question whether schools are making it too easy for card companies to market their plastic to students.

Of particular concern are exclusive agreements in which card companies and banks pay millions of dollars to schools or alumni associations for preferential treatment with their card-marketing efforts. The perks can include prime marketing space in high-traffic areas on campus or the use of a school's name and logo on their cards.

Three hundred of the nation's largest universities collectively

pocket more than \$1 billion a year on these marketing deals, said Robert D. Manning, the director of the Center for Consumer Financial Services at the Rochester Institute of Technology, in Rochester, N.Y.

The New York Attorney General's Office is investigating the practice nationally, but Benjamin Lawskey, a deputy counsel or with that office, provided few details of the probe in recent congressional testimony.

"I think when those provisions in these agreements become public, sometime relatively soon, I think it will shock many people, the kinds of relationships that some of these credit card companies have with the schools," Lawskey testified.

The agreements are usually confidential and often require the school to provide students' personal contact information, such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and home addresses.

This can lead to a deluge of card offers. While most issuers frown on applicants with shallow earnings and sparse credit histories, college students with similar attributes are coveted as potential long-term customers whose earnings will increase

with time.

So students face aggressive card promotions on campus, where they're vulnerable to a host of marketing tactics.

One company offered free rides in a bicycle taxi if students watched a video pitch for its credit cards.

Others set up tables around campus and offer free T-shirts, movie rentals, music downloads, Frisbees and even food if students fill out card applications.

Experts say these temptations can make an already-difficult decision even harder for young adults with little financial know-how.

"It's practically impossible to be a decent consumer and have a normal thought process when you're staring at a steaming hot piece of pizza," said Christine Lindstrom, the higher education program director with U.S. Public Interest Research Groups.

John Velasco never had such conflicts. Velasco, 22, was a sophomore at West Virginia University when ads drew him to a promotion offering pizza to students who took part in a five-minute survey. "The (ads) never said a word about credit cards," Velasco recalled.



Christina Kruse/Staff Photographer

And the beat goes on

(Left) Rockwall freshman Tanner Tottman and Houston freshman Adrien Lavergne (Right) practice outside the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. They are apart of the Golden Wave Band, which is performing Thursday for the football game against Wake Forrest.

REPORT from page 1

strongly in competition. The college ranking game has been monopolized by U.S. News & World Report for a long time," Noer said. "We want people to get as much information and be as informed as they can before they make these decisions, and we hope these rankings provide an alternative point of view to those by U.S. News."

Noer said the Forbes rankings highlighted schools not typically well-known, such as liberal arts schools Wabash College (No. 12) and Centre College (No. 13), while hinting that some of the more prominent schools may be "living a bit off their reputation," such as University of Pennsylvania (No. 61), Georgetown University (No. 76) and Dartmouth College (No. 127).

According to the report, small liberal arts schools fared better than large state schools. The University of Texas at Austin came in at No. 215 and the University of Minnesota at No. 524.

While he's received both positive and negative feedback on the report, Noer said the important thing to remember is that the 569 schools in the report represent the top 15 percent of schools in the nation.

"All the schools are good schools," he said.

As for the methodology, student evaluations on RateMyProfessors.com make up 25 percent of a school's score.

"Research shows that RateMyProfessor evaluations highly correlate with student evaluations at schools," Robe said. "We used this because the Web site acts as an independent, third party source for evaluations, with little influence or chance of bias from the schools themselves."

Robe said they didn't look at comments left by students on the Web site, and they didn't confirm whether or not professors still worked at the schools where they were listed.

Listings of alumni in the 2008 Who's Who in America also make up 25 percent of a school's score. The data set included around 20,900 people, all of whom were born after 1952. Robe expressed slight concern over the reliability of this element and hopes to see an additional component to measure occupational success for next year's report.

"It's not perfect, but there also isn't any other comprehensive source that measures alumni success. There are cases where people have fabricated their own biographical information, but I would argue those cases aren't statistically significant,"

Robe said.

Four-year graduation rates, the percentage of students and faculty receiving nationally competitive awards, and the average accumulated student debt all contributed 16 and two-thirds percent to a school's score.

The original rankings didn't include the faculty awards or the debt components. While he couldn't confirm this, Noer believes the debt factor may be the reason for Baylor's drop in the expanded rankings.

Robe said that only 66 percent of the schools had students with competitive awards, such as Fulbright and Rhodes scholarships, and fewer than half had faculty awards.

"This caused us some difficulty in standardizing the numbers," Robe said. "If schools didn't have awards, it didn't necessarily hurt their score, but it didn't improve it either."

Michael Lowrey, associate editor of the Carolina Journal, agrees that the CCAP rankings are more reliable than those published by U.S. News, but he believes any rankings are "largely beside point" for prospective students.

"There is no such thing as the 'best' college or university in a general sense," Lowrey said. "But there is a 'best' college or university for each individual student."

Lowrey was the co-author of a Pope Center for Higher Education Policy publication titled, "Do College Rankings Matter?" Other factors, such as location, campus culture, department strength and school size, should carry more weight in college decisions because they vary for each individual student, Lowrey said.

Greenville, N.C. freshman Andrea Woelk looked at the rankings in U.S. News & World Report before deciding on Baylor.

"The rankings were important to me because I want to have a credible university on my resume when I apply for jobs," Woelk said. "But, I believe that it was probably more important for my parents when deciding on where to send me."

Woelk also had other factors in mind, though, when making her decision. She said she appreciated Baylor for its size, Christian focus and friendly environment.

"College rankings are important, but they're not the only major thing. Just because a college has a good ranking, doesn't mean that it will be the right fit for someone," Woelk said.

The CCAP rankings are online at Forbes.com and will appear in the Sept. 1 issue of Forbes magazine.

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