



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

## Praying for a change

Jade Ortego  
Staff Writer

About 70 students met Wednesday in Miller Chapel to pray for healing and unity in the aftermath of on-campus racially charged events that occurred on Election Day. It was reported that confrontation broke out after President-elect Barack Obama was announced the winner, and racial slurs were exchanged and a rope in the shape of a noose was found in a tree.

The events of last week were not named but implied during the meeting. Dub Oliver, vice president for student life, began with a short introduction and a prayer.

"It is evident to all of us why we are gathered to pray," he said.

"People might say that we should do more, and that may be true, but we certainly should pray first," Oliver said.

The group sang together "Come By Here, Lord," and meditated silently.

University Chaplain Burt Burleson led the group in confession.

"If you've ever even thought something hateful, you're just as guilty (as those responsible for the events last week)," Burleson said.

He emphasized that racism or hatred is something in everyone that has to be tackled, and

said that some may have been hasty with their words or with angry e-mails.

There were three prayers for the Baylor community, the nation and the faith community, all ending in a plea that God would "hear now our silent prayers."

Christopher Mack, coordinator for off-campus ministries, led the prayer for our nation.

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred," Mack said, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Everyone gathered to shake their neighbor's hand and said "peace to you," at Burleson's request. He asked as everyone left to be aware of their actions.

"Don't take yourself too lightly," he said.

Burleson and Oliver said that community prayer meetings should be held outside of Chapel more often.

"I'm just thankful for the opportunity to gather together to pray," Oliver said. "We can't always get together as a community and we could do this more," he said.

Burleson said that the prayer meeting was held after the chaplains met to discuss the feeling of upset on campus.

"We were exposed to a lot

Please see PRAYER, page 6



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff Photos



Seventy people were in attendance Wednesday in Miller Chapel for a prayer meeting in response to racially charged incidents that occurred on campus after President-elect Barack Obama won the election.



## Staph research conducted on campus

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff Writer

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, a disease dating back nearly 50 years, is becoming a prevailing community concern in areas outside of hospitals. In a new study, Baylor researchers and undergraduate students have traced the behavior of MRSA, as well as staphylococcus aureus, in a healthy undergraduate student population.

This is believed to be the first time the disease has been doc-

umented in a healthy population, meaning there hasn't been an outbreak prior to beginning research.

"We just want to see the background of this disease, what the reservoir looks like, if healthy individuals are less likely to carry the disease," said Dr. Tamarah Adair, senior lecturer of biology and lead researcher.

Diane Hartman, microbiology lab coordinator for Baylor, got the idea to conduct this research after attending another conference and hearing from researchers who were attempting to study MRSA in prisons

and high schools.

"The set-up they were using to document this disease was not ideal," Hartman said. "The diagnoses they made were just based on whether something looked like an MRSA infection and weren't backed up with any lab data. My initial thought was that we could do better than that."

Student volunteers participating in the study swab their nostril with a sterile swab. The results are then assessed and fermenters are evaluated for the sensitivity to a variety of antibiotics.

Each student fills out a survey of questions including how often they use public facilities, health-associated factors, if they live on or off campus, and race.

The results are then compiled in statistical form.

"From there we look at the answers for students who are carriers and try to determine if there is anything statistically significant that stands out," said China Springs senior and biology student Amanda Hartman.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention esti-

mate that 30 percent of the population in the United States carries staph and nearly 1 percent carry MRSA.

Based on the preliminary results, the student carriage rate at Baylor has been almost synonymous with CDC estimates.

"We are basically trying to figure out where risk factors may lie for students and teach them healthy habits," Hartman said. "Like don't leave your stuff laying around in a communal restroom, don't share towels,

Please see RESEARCH, page 6



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

### Jazz hands

Clear Lake senior Aaron Le break dances Wednesday afternoon in front of the Baylor Sciences Building.

## Obama 2.0: Plans set in motion to rally network

By Beth Fouhy  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Transition officials call it Obama 2.0 - an ambitious effort to transform the president-elect's vast Web operation and database of supporters into a modern new tool to accomplish his goals in the White House.

If it works, the new president could have an unprecedented ability to appeal for help from millions of Americans who already favor his ideas, bypassing the news media to pressure Congress.

"He's built the largest network anyone has ever seen in politics, and congressional Republicans are clueless about the communications shift that has happened," Democratic strategist Joe Trippi proclaims. The results, he says, "will be amazing to watch."

Republicans say they'll be watching for White House Web

outreach that appears overly political.

"Hopefully, Obama will be a president for all Americans, not just the political supporters on his e-mail list," said Republican National Committee spokesman Alex Conant.

Obama's people know they'll have to extend their reach.

During his 21-month campaign, Obama built a list of 3.1 million contributors and over 10 million supporters who helped power his victories over Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican John McCain. In addition to helping raise a staggering \$660 million, the campaign's Web effort reinforced his message and themes, responded to political attacks and created volunteer social networks that served as the basis for his field operation.

Obama's team is determining how best to convert his army of online activists into a viral lobbying and communications

machine. Staffers are reluctant to discuss specifics, but Obama clearly is poised to become the first truly "wired" president of the digital age.

For legal and privacy reasons, Obama's campaign list must be kept separate from White House operations. Aides are figuring out if that list should be run through the Democratic National Committee or as a freestanding political entity that will eventually become his 2012 re-election committee.

But transition officials have already begun a new digital outreach effort, based on the campaign model, aimed at supporters and others interested in being connected to the activities of the Obama White House.

The transition operation has a new Web site, [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov), designed for anyone who wants to post a message of congratulations, offer suggestions

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## Staff council requests input in president search

By Ashley Corinne Killough  
Staff writer

After passing a resolution of inclusion Tuesday, Baylor's Staff Council became the university's fourth constituent group to openly request participation in the presidential search.

Since September, the Alumni Association, Faculty Senate and Student Government have each set forth statements suggesting that the groups have representatives on the search committee.

The last search process involved a search committee made up of regents and an advisory committee with members from various constituencies, including Baylor staff. While the advisory committee sat in on interviews and offered feedback and suggestions, the search committee had the right in recommending a candidate to the entire Board of Regents.

Unlike the other proposals, however, Staff Council did not specifically ask for representation with voting rights on the search committee, saying it would willingly "appoint members to serve on a University committee or other advisory board" involved in the presidential search process.

"By passing a resolution, we wanted to make it clear that we're not trying to make a demand," said Angela Funai, chair of Staff Council.

With 1,288 full-time staff members employed by Baylor, Funai emphasized the need for staff to have a voice at the same level as the Alumni Association, Faculty Senate and Student Government.

"If it's going to include those three groups then we feel like that Staff Council needs to be in that conversation, as well," Funai said.

The 36-member council, which passed the document unanimously, represents technical, clerical, professional and executive staff from every division of the university.

"We are just asking for the same level of inclusion as the others are included," Funai said. "If they have a vote, then certainly we ought to also, but we're not pressing for it."

Dr. Georgia Green, chair of Faculty Senate, expressed support for Staff Council's resolution, calling it a positive step in moving toward the upcoming search.

"I'm pleased that the Staff Council has voiced their opinion and that it brings every constituent group of the Baylor family to the same table to work together in selecting the next president," Green said.

Funai also received positive feedback in an e-mail from Interim President David Garland, who remarked that the resolution "makes sense" and, as a veteran, he also appreciated a separate resolution passed by Staff Council Tuesday in support of Veteran's Day. Garland was out of town Wednesday and could not be reached for further comment.

Dr. Howard K. Batson, chair of the Board, also commented on the resolution through e-mail,

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Editorial

# Party majority may result in quicker legislation

The Nov. 4 election was undoubtedly a turning point in American history. Barack Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States, and his message of hope and change in America presumably won over many voters. But in addition to his election, the U.S. will soon have a Democrat-controlled legislative and executive branch. If the two components of government can work harmoniously, which they presumably will, given their membership to the same party, now is the time for the party to mobilize for the restoration of our country.

Perhaps the ideological differences in problem-solving between the two parties contributed to the record-low approval ratings of the current administration and Congress. As of the beginning of November, President George W. Bush's approval rating hovers in the mid-20th percentile range. A Rasmussen Report found that only 11 percent of Americans polled think Congress is doing a good or excellent job.

Part of the infrastructure of the American political foundation is a system of checks and

balances. If the legislative, executive or judicial branches of government flex their muscle too fiercely, another branch has the power to "check" them. But, if the legislative and executive areas are controlled by opposing parties and ideologies, it's difficult for either branch to accomplish anything.

For the first time in more than a decade, the executive and legislative branches will be able to work together to tackle our nation's problems without upsetting their own party base. But compared to Republicans, the party that dominated the legislative and executive branches until 2006, Democrats have been known to bring strong individual voices to the Senate and House.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, former running mate of Democratic presidential hopeful Al Gore, redefined himself as an independent in 2006. Although he still caucuses with the Democrats, he represents the variance of ideologies the Democratic party represents.

The next senate will be composed of 56 Democrats, 42 Republicans, and two liberal-

minded independents. While democrats have enough Representation to block or approve bills without the agreement of republicans, they didn't win enough seats to be filibuster-proof. Although used rarely, a filibuster is when a party holds up the Senate floor with endless debate on a bill with the goal of squelching the bill.

A failure to overlook party differences has been the dilemma since Democrats won the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate in 2006. The executive branch, dominated by staunch conservative views, and the legislative branch, on the other side of the spectrum with a strong liberal voice, have disagreed on several issues.

A bill providing for the limitation of the war effort in Iraq and a bill that would prohibit the CIA from using interrogation methods such as water boarding are among Congressional initiatives President Bush vetoed. The current Democrat-controlled Congress has attempted to act on certain divisive issues such as these, but several efforts have resulted



in a stalemate.

The Democratic House and Senate majority, paired with a Democratic president, can initiate progress in our economy, foreign policy and restore faith in government. With one party controlling both branches, they may actually have the momentum to get things done instead of proposing legislation in vain.

How did the resurgence of the Democratic Party happen? One popular view is that Republicans haven't been able to win over Hispanics, who, despite

John McCain's efforts to reform immigration policies, lean Democratic in their voting patterns, according to a February 2008 article in Politics magazine. Several political commentators have cited the shortcomings of the current administration as the reason more Americans voted democratic this year.

Historically, in turbulent times, Americans will favor the party that they feel didn't lead the country into angst, which usually translates into voting against the sitting party. Even

many Republicans have already acknowledged fault for the turmoil of the past few years. Newt Gingrich, a Republican and former Speaker of the House, called the last eight years a failure for Republican government.

Whether or not one agrees with liberal methods to solving our country's ills, at least, presumably, more bills will pass. With any luck, the party in power can take advantage of this opportunity to revitalize America without running into as many roadblocks.

## Letters to the editor

### Refusing to pretend to be something else

When I walk through Baylor campus, I do not find a university of acceptance. Yes, I am met with smiles and hellos. I have the same opportunities as my fellow peers. I am no more restricted in my academic endeavors than any other student. Then what accounts for a feeling of rejection? It is an attitude supported by our administration and restrictive Baptist heritage.

The issue of homosexuality is too debated. Too looked at. Too scrutinized. I am an openly gay male, and I have absolutely no intentions of changing my lifestyle. Yes, I have suffered defamation. I have been called "fag" several times by my peers, but can't I just get over it? Suck it up, right? Everyone has suffered persecution.

I am not respected, because my university refuses to support me. I come here to be educated, to learn and to experience all that college has to offer, and yet, I am encouraged to hide who I am. I won't. While I have all the same resources to exist, I am denied the ability to live. I and many others have grown weary of fighting over "rights" and "wrongs," but can we not agree to disagree? I refuse to pretend I am something else. I hope in time others will emerge from the shadows, and our university will love and appreciate all that we have to offer.

Hunter Chambers  
Studio Art, '10

### Christians don't regard homosexuals with hate or bigotry but as people struggling

Having seen the controversy surrounding state constitutional amendments which define marriage as between a man and a woman, I feel that there is a great deal of misconception regarding the Christian stance on homosexual marriage. I would like to lay forth what I believe to be the way in which Christians should view homosexuality.

To put it bluntly, the Bible regards homosexuality as a sin. I see no way around this. There are two means from which to derive this conclusion. One is the outright condemnation of the practice in many places. The other is the Bible's clear endorsement of marriage as

between one man and one woman.

That said, the Bible makes it evident that we are all sinful (Rom 3:23). Whether it be through homosexuality, greed, lust, envy, pride, etc. we all fail to meet God's standard of perfection. In this regard, the church views homosexuals, not as something strange, but as people who, like the rest of us, struggle with sin.

We do not condone homosexuality, but we also do not regard homosexuals with hate or bigotry. Quite the opposite, we are called to treat them with love, just as we are called upon to treat all people. This does not mean that we adopt the attitude of "do whatever you think is best for you." Instead, we treat homosexuality as we should any other sin, by recognizing it as such and seeking the grace of Christ to overcome it.

We realize that it is only through the grace of Christ that any of us are able to gain victory over our sins, and thus, we are not arrogant in assuming that those who struggle with homosexuality are somehow different from those of us who do not. We know that we are all broken people and we all have problems. It is only through the grace of Christ that we press on to overcome them every day.

Matthew Moore  
Business Fellows, '11

### Racism: Don't jump to conclusions

Enough is enough. I'm sick of reading about how Baylor is supposedly a racist school.

Some idiot put a noose in a tree, but no one seems brave enough to ask: what makes us think a noose-like rope on a tree branch is a racial threat? As far as we know, that rope could have been used to hold up a piñata. And what happened to the news story that the Obama signs that were supposedly-burned were actually old computer cases? The only certain instance of racism happened during an argument between black and white students when one white student yelled one racial epithet in front of one dormitory.

I see no "racist culture" at Baylor. I find no "atmosphere of hate." If there's racism afoot, we should take it seriously, but we shouldn't jump to conclusions.

Brian Fuller  
Philosophy, '09

## point of view

# Driving etiquette lacking in today's car-filled cities

Traffic laws do not apply to everyone. During the six or so years in which I have been the operator, not just passenger, of a vehicle, I have come to the conclusion that only a select number of us drivers are required to follow the rules of the road. The rest of the population in possession of a driver's license apparently follows only one rule, the rule of, "it's your job to not hit me no matter what I may do."

If it were not for my habit of driving defensively, I would have been in many accidents due to the careless and reckless driving of others – that portion of the population who was not required to take driver's education and to whom stop signs and lane division are nonexistent.

I have narrowly avoided being rear-ended, side-swiped, T-boned, and even completely run off the road.

In addition to this irresponsible way of driving, another trend seems to be prominent on our streets – that of rude and distasteful driving etiquette. Perhaps, in addition to driver's education being required for the entire population to obtain a driver's license, the Department of Motor Vehicles should require everyone to attend, and pass, Driver's Charm School as well.

Some of the lessons could include why it's impolite and dangerous to

cut people off, move into an already occupied lane, ride the bumper of the car in front of you too closely or scream profanities out the window while giving the finger to other rude drivers.

I have been a passenger in a vehicle when its operator decided to accelerate until she caught up to the car that cut her off so that she could stick her middle finger up at its driver. When did this type of behavior become commonplace and acceptable? It should be deemed contemptible in the minds of all and not be occurring so frequently.

I admit to being infuriated by the dangerous actions of others on the road and consequently remarking to myself, within the confines of my car, about the "idiot-factor" on the road or how unqualified some are to be operating anything larger than a child's tricycle. However, I don't think that anything more than honking your horn at a rude or reckless driver is ever warranted.

Policing the streets with one's middle finger is never going to make it more safe for those of us who do not wish to wreck our cars either on a cross-country trek or a quick trip to the grocery store.

Unfortunately, whatever is done to improve the safety and conduct on the roads, there will always be those to think the rules don't apply to them. All we can do is engage our defensive skills and do our best to not contribute to bad driving behavior.

Arielle Cayia is a senior studio art major from Manitowoc, Wyo.



BY ARIELLE CAYIA

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephap Group

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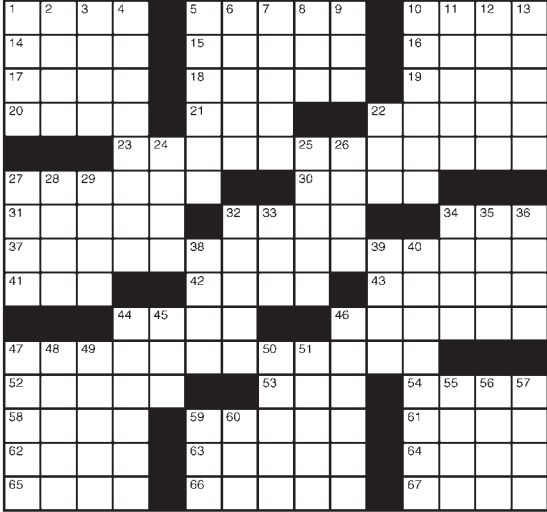
## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

### ACROSS

- 1 Lead balloons
- 5 Actress Bernhardt
- 10 Shoppers' milieu
- 14 Living space
- 15 Bring out
- 16 Opera song
- 17 Wrinkly citrus fruit
- 18 Rot-resistant wood
- 19 Muffin pans
- 20 \_\_\_ there, done that
- 21 Invent facts
- 22 City on the Rhone delta
- 23 Start of a quip
- 27 President after Polk
- 30 Cameo stone
- 31 More sad
- 32 Ste. Jeanne \_\_\_
- 34 Darjeeling or pekoe
- 37 Part 2 of quip
- 41 Poker winnings
- 42 Samoa's capital
- 43 Program choices
- 44 Flight school culmination
- 46 Double dealing
- 47 End of quip
- 52 Become subject to
- 53 Skirt edge
- 54 Cuts short
- 58 Organic compound
- 59 Pres. James \_\_\_ Garfield
- 61 Inspiration
- 62 Hide in the shadows
- 63 Verify
- 64 Intrusive
- 65 Rackets
- 66 Tall structure
- 67 God of love
- DOWN
- 1 Glob of paint
- 2 Exhort
- 3 Write off?
- 4 University near Tampa
- 5 Undercoat material
- 6 Off-the-cuff remark
- 7 More discourteous
- 8 Top marksman
- 9 One of the girls
- 10 Numerical array
- 11 Seed covers
- 12 Flax thread
- 13 Rodeo rope
- 22 Random selection

- 24 Plenty, for one?
- 25 Main vessel
- 26 Ruler segment
- 27 Recipe meas.
- 28 Choir part
- 29 Mongol's tent
- 32 Station
- 33 "Exodus" hero
- 34 Fork part
- 35 Needle case
- 36 Off. underling
- 38 Guys' partners
- 39 Prayer ender
- 40 V formation, often
- 44 Moves about stealthily
- 45 Above, to a poet
- 46 Rheostat
- 47 Brandish
- 48 Boredom
- 49 Item in a squirrel's cache
- 50 Toss
- 51 Toss with effort
- 55 Olfactory offense
- 56 Money in Monterrey
- 57 Announces
- 59 On the mark
- 60 Sister's sib



By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA

11/13/08

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit [www.baylor.edu/Lariat](http://www.baylor.edu/Lariat)

## Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

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

Letters should be e-mailed to [Lariat\\_Letters@baylor.edu](mailto:Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu) or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

## Corrections policy

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

## Corrections

Tuesday's article "Students take action against racial incidents," states that Student Senate has joined a coalition of diversity. However, Student Senate has not joined any coalition but have met with the heads of several multicultural organizations and will continue to do so.



# Student Activities promotes Alcohol Awareness Week

By Courtney Webb  
Reporter

Student Activities is handing out information about Alcohol Awareness Week, setting up mock practical alcoholic experiences with four activities taking place today through Friday.

Some of the activities include The Memorial Wall, Lolla-No-Booza and H2O & Know.

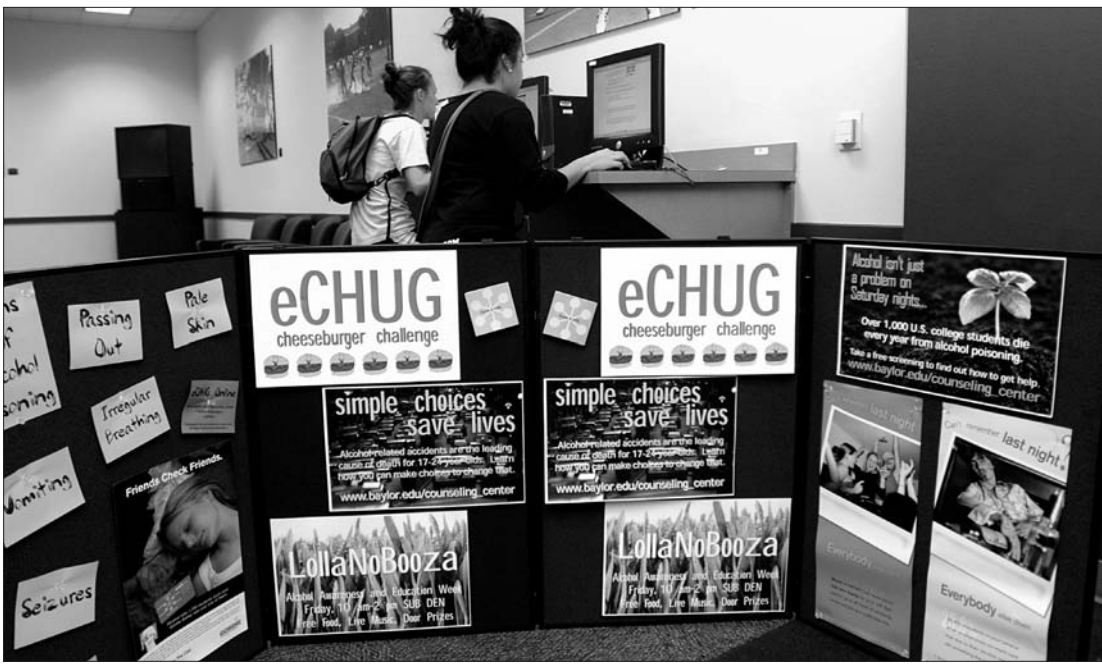
There are two Memorial Walls located on Baylor's campus. One wall is located in front of the McLane Student Life Center and the other is located inside the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The Memorial Wall is a blank 3-D board used to remember those lost in an alcohol related accident. Students can commemorate their lost loved one by writing their name on the Memorial Wall.

"At the end of every year we take all the names listed on the board and type them up so that we can mount them on the back of the new blank board for the following year," said Meredith Conrey, alcohol awareness organizer. "This shows how many times a certain person has been mentioned year after year."

This is the third year for the Memorial Wall to be displayed on Baylor's campus.

The idea came from a community member in Waco, who told the Student Activities committee about McLennan Com-



File Photo

In this file photo from last year's Alcohol Awareness Week, students take an online eChug survey at the McLane Student Life Center. Alcohol Awareness Week events end Friday.

munity Colleges' Memorial Wall, and it's now a new Alcohol Awareness tradition, Conrey said.

The Memorial Wall will stand till Friday.

H2O & Know is a primary level of intervention held in Traditions Square from noon until 1 p.m. today.

"We are handing out Alcohol Awareness labeled water bottles for free to help inform

and engage the students in this week's important theme," Conrey said.

The water bottles are labeled with facts about alcohol and lists Web sites that students can look up on the Web for alcohol information if they cannot stay and talk with one of the many advisers available at today's event.

The second-annual Lolla-No-Booza is the biggest event during Alcohol Awareness that will

be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the den of the Bill Daniel Student Center. There will be free food, music and a variety of Alcohol Awareness games.

During Lolla-No-Booza, volunteers will be handing out Gordie cards, which provide facts on how to navigate the dangers of alcohol and prevent alcohol poisoning, binge drinking and hazing.

Among the volunteers will be

some of Baylor's Police Department staff.

A Baylor police officer will be doing the photo vision goggles test, said Jennifer Norman, student activities assistant. Each student will get to try on a pair of goggles that represents a different blood alcohol level and will conduct different sobriety tests while wearing the goggles.

"This will give students an idea of what it's like to be under the influence and pulled over by a police officer," Norman said.

Free food offered during Lolla-No-Booza will include chicken strips, and chips and dip, catered by Aramark.

There are many assessments available online to students through Baylor's counseling center's Web site, such as E-Chug. E-Chug is an online alcohol intervention and personalized feedback tool developed by counselors and psychologists to calculate the number of calories a student consumes into a number of cheeseburgers, according to the counseling center's Web site.

"It's a startling way to give students an idea of how many calories they are actually consuming while binge drinking or even simply sipping on an alcoholic

beverage," Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said.

Hillcrest Health System will be helping to raise knowledge about the risk factors of drinking and the personal affects it can have on your life and those around you. They will be available for questions along with handing out pamphlets and helping with the mock sobriety tests.

"Hillcrest representatives partnered with us last year for Alcohol Awareness week," Norman said. "They are a great representation of a group spreading the knowledge risks of alcohol amongst students because that is their full time job."

On-campus Baylor students have residential hall fliers hanging on each door knob with facts about alcohol awareness and information on where to get help.

"We used this passive method of hanging theses door fliers up in residential halls so that students can receive information within their own community," Conrey Said.

Student Activities is holding Alcohol Awareness Week events near and inside the student center so that "students going to buy their A&M versus Baylor football tickets will see it and possibly think twice before drinking this weekend," Conrey said. "Plus it draws in such a large crowd."

For more information, visit [http://www.baylor.edu/counseling\\_center](http://www.baylor.edu/counseling_center).

# International students celebrate American holiday

By Janna Quinn  
Reporter

International students can give thanks and celebrate an American holiday at the International Thanksgiving Dinner at 6 p.m. tonight.

This long-standing annual tradition, sponsored by Baylor Round Table, will take place in the banquet room on the fifth floor of Cashion Academic Center.

"Most of the students are far from home and won't be going home over the Thanksgiving break," said Jane Gunn, associate director of conference and event management. "The dinner is a way for Baylor and Baylor families to reach out to international students staying here."

Over 150 international students are attending and are allowed to bring a guest or spouse. Zeta Tau Alpha will provide childcare for international graduate students with children.

Aramark is providing the Thanksgiving buffet.

"There will be roasted turkey, green beans, stuffing ... everything you expect to find on your mom's table," Gunn said. "There will also be four different pies for dessert."

To give the international students the holiday feel, the room will be decorated with cornucopias and fruit, acorns and fall colors, Gunn said.

In addition to a free meal, students will enjoy music by their peers: cellist David Escobar from Columbia and pianist Alfredo Ovaes from Venezuela.

Copies of the Thanksgiving story will be available to the students.

"We want them to gain an understanding of the holiday and what it means to people here," said Beth Walker, international student relations coordinator. "There are so many people who are thankful for (the international students) and consider them one of our blessings."

Walker has attended almost every Thanksgiving dinner for the past 15 years.

"I've been away from my extended family for Thanksgiving for four years," Walker said. "I know how the international students feel, and I think this is a special way to celebrate both the holiday and them."

The dinner will give students a chance to experience an American tradition and hospitality, as well as mingle with each other, Kennedale senior

Lindsay Power said.

"Hopefully it will give them better insight into what Baylor is all about," Power said. "Just compassion and desire for community and fellowship."

International students have expressed their excitement and anticipation through e-mail, Gunn said.

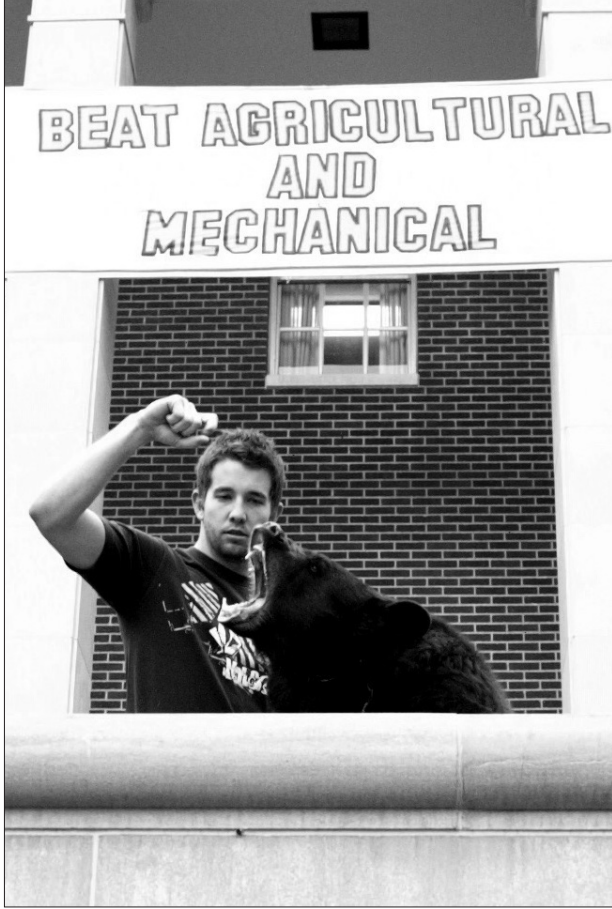
"Some have mentioned that they have heard of the Thanksgiving tradition, but have never participated in one," Gunn said. "They probably would not experience Thanksgiving if Baylor Round Table hadn't offered this."

It is important for every individual to experience and learn about other cultures in order to better their relations, Gunn said.

"There are different holidays that are important in other countries," she said. "This is one that is important to the American people."

Walker said she is thankful for getting to spend time with the international students.

"Last year, I ran into a lot of students I don't get to see often. It is a good time to express thanks for them being at Baylor," she said. "The occasion is festive, and we can celebrate being with them."



Alex Song/Lariat Staff

Say, "Ahhhhh."

A Baylor bear takes a break from its habitat Wednesday to enjoy the weather outside in front of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

## BEAR BRIEFS

The Honors College will sponsor a lecture by Dana Gioia at 3 p.m. today in the Foyer of Meditation in Armstrong Browning Library as part of the CAMPI lecture series. Gioia, writer of the influential book, "Can Poetry Matter," is a poet and critic. For more information, visit [www.baylor.edu/campi](http://www.baylor.edu/campi).

Student Activities is holding Santa's Workshop Toy Drive from 8 a.m. until midnight today across campus. Donate toys worth \$10 or less for needy, local children, ages 3 to 5. Approximately 900 children participate in Santa's Workshop. For more information, contact Student Activities.

Baylor Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Jones Concert Music Hall. This event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, contact the School of Music.

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# Model Organization of American States group nabs top awards

By Jennifer Sutton  
Reporter

Baylor University's Model Organization of American States student group won four out of the 16 awards that were given at the 12th Annual Model Organization of American States, including the team Distinguished Delegation award.

The conference was held at St. Mary's University in San Antonio from Thursday through Friday. Baylor's MOAS placed second out of the 18 schools in attendance from Texas, New Mexico and Mexico.

The University of North Texas placed first with the Outstanding Delegation award.

"We received a quarter of all

the available awards," said Joshua Hyles, a Mabank graduate student in history.

Hyles also acted as the president at the conference in San Antonio.

"The president's basic job is to be the chair person of the general assembly," Hyles said. "They basically act like the president of the Senate."

The MOAS participants dedicated a lot of time and energy to this conference, according to an e-mail from Joan E. Supplee, the Ralph L. and Bessie Mae Lynn Professor of History and faculty advisor to MOAS.

"Students gave a lot of time to this competition," Supplee said. "There were two weekly meetings totaling four hours

plus research work outside of the meeting times. They worked very hard producing a position paper for their country, plus resolutions, plus keeping up with the current events in Latin America, plus learning parliamentary procedure."

According to the Baylor MOAS Web site, the MOAS program provides an opportunity for students to participate in a simulation of the Organization of American States by serving as a country's representative to one of several critical MOAS committees or commissions.

These committees include a Hemispheric Security committee, a budget committee and an Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, as well as

others.

Cassville, Mo., senior Seth Reed and Pasadena, Calif., sophomore Torie Rhodes won Outstanding Delegate awards in the Special Committee on Migration, according to a Baylor MOAS press release.

Brownsville senior Renee Sanchez and Tomball junior Hunter Klein won Distinguished Delegate awards in the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

Troy, Ohio senior Megan McNerney was selected as the outstanding chair of the conference.

MOAS participates in two different conferences throughout the school year. They attend the model in San Antonio during

the fall semester that is for Texas and surrounding area schools. The MOAS members also attend a model in Washington, D.C. in early April which is for schools all over the US as well as others located internationally.

"We try to be ready for that by doing well here in San Antonio," Hyles said. "It wouldn't be far-fetched to say that every student spends about eight to 10 hours a week on this."

San Antonio senior Manny Muñoz was elected president for next year's conference in San Antonio. The officers' positions are always elected at the conferences by all of the attending schools.

The last three elected presidents were from Baylor, includ-

ing Muñoz, in the models that MOAS participates in.

"The president is also responsible for developing a crisis scenario," Hyles said. "The committee on the last day has to solve some sort of emergency within the hemisphere and the president has to come up with that crisis. Basically, something falls in their lap that no one is expecting, and they have to work together to solve that — similar to what the UN would do if something similar were to happen."

Muñoz said that he was very proud of the awards that Baylor MOAS won at the San Antonio model.

"I felt elated and very proud of the whole team," he said.



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Exploring central Texas on less cash

Editor's note: This is the fifth installment of a column series where The Lariat explores living inexpensively.

By Christina Kruse and Melanie Crowson  
Reporters

With gasoline prices dropping and the end of the fall semester in sight, this is a great time to put rubber to pavement and take a weekend road trip to find the "best kept secrets" in the central Texas area. The great way to find these places is to enlist a few good friends and explore what central Texas has to offer.

With a gallon of gasoline averaging \$1.85, about \$25 fills a 13.5 gallon gasoline tank.

Most compact cars, like a Hundai Elantra, get 33 miles to the gallon when traveling on the highway. So, it's possible to travel up to 445.5 miles round trip.

Other than gas, two things to keep in mind when on a road trip are food and entertainment. In order to cut costs, plan on a day trip or travel to a town where it's possible to stay with a friend or relative for the night.

Or, if you're looking for a quick trip with one purpose, there are always the small jewels known to most central Texas locals.

"If I could do a road trip on \$25, I would buy gas, go to West and for my love of their kolaches, I would use the remaining money to buy as many kolaches as possible," said Fort Worth junior Emily Quant.

But for a trip to a big city, look for theaters, shops and restaurants that have a local flavor and accomplish more than their mainstream counterparts. Also, try looking for farmer's markets and flea markets, which are undiscovered territory for most college students. Most farmer's markets are open either year round or close after the first frost. Some markets in central Texas are located in Seguin, Austin, Bryan, San Marcos and San Antonio.

One city that offers plenty of local food, offbeat entertainment and is a little over 100

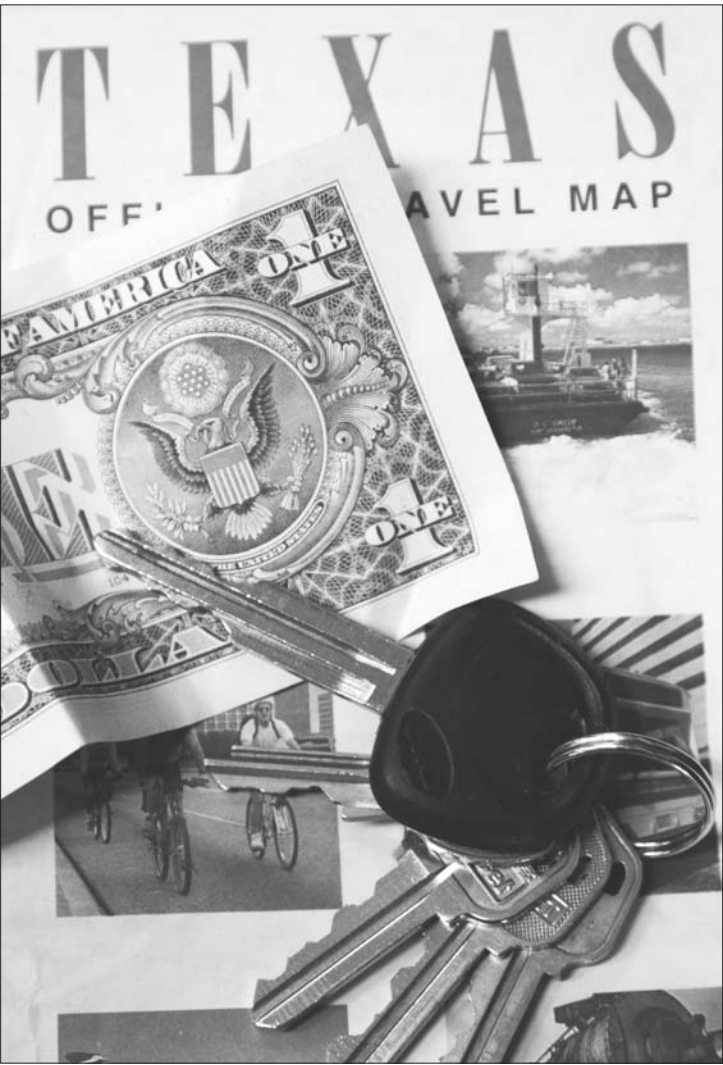


Photo illustration by Christina Kruse/Lariat staff

miles away is Austin.

"I would probably go to Austin because there are a lot of places to eat cheap," said Abilene junior Caroline McCurdy. "There is always some sort of musical entertainment going on and a lot of free concerts."

The city offers several restaurants that are fairly inexpensive and are unique to the town, for example; Kerbey Lane Cafe and Freebirds. The Kerbey Lane Cafe serves Texas home-style food and most items on the menu are under \$10. There are four locations in Austin and each are open 24 hours a day.

One Kerbey Lane Cafe is located 2700 South Lamar Blvd.. If you're in the mood for dinner and a movie the Alamo Draft-house Cinema is also located on Lamar. The Drafthouse is a movie theater that plays an array

of current box office movies, cult classics or obscure indie flicks. Currently playing at these Austin locations (to name a few) are "Quantum of Solace," (opening Friday) "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," "Burn After Reading" "Repo! The Genetic Opera" and "Religulous." The Drafthouse also serves food and has several locations in the Austin area, as well as San Antonio, Katy and Houston.

Dallas is another metro area that has a lot of entertainment to offer. The Angelika, 5321 East Mockingbird Lane, is a theater that shows mainly indie movies and also has a cafe located inside. Currently playing at the Angelika Dallas are "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas," "Synecdoche, NY," "Trouble the Water" and "RocknRolla" – to name a few. There are Angelika theaters

located in Plano and Houston as well. A great restaurant in Dallas is Campisi's, located on 5610 E Mockingbird Lane. Most of the items in this Italian restaurant are under \$10. If you seek a road trip experience that does not lay within the bright lights of a city or busy restaurants, you can always go the nature route.

"I would go camping at Lake Travis," said Albuquerque senior Rachael Riehl. "It's beautiful and it's nice because it's far enough away from Waco, but not so far away that you waste a lot of time driving."

Lake Travis has an array of cabins for rent, RV sites and if you're feeling really adventurous and rustic, sites for tent set-ups.

So, whether you are in the city watching a movie and dining at a hole-in-the-wall restaurant, or enjoying the great outdoors, you can get there for \$25.

Here's a list of some cities close to Waco:

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- Round Rock:**  
83.53 miles
- College Station:**  
91.81 miles
- Dallas:**  
96.17 miles
- Arlington:**  
98.64 miles
- Austin:**  
101.62 miles
- Plano:**  
113.96 miles
- Seguin:**  
152.68 miles
- Tyler:**  
154.37 miles
- San Antonio:**  
179.98 miles
- Wichita Falls:**  
202.98 miles



Courtesy Photo

Pop-country artist Taylor Swift debuted her sophomore album "Fearless" Tuesday. The 18-year-old recently received country song of the year for "Teardrops on my Guitar" at the 56th Annual BMI Country Awards Tuesday night.

Swift shows musical growth in sophomore record 'Fearless'

By April Leman  
Contributor

Taylor Swift's "Fearless" is romantically nostalgic, yet more sophisticated than her debut album.

ALBUM REVIEW

Swift earned recognition in 2006 for her authentic lyrics and catchy country-pop sound. "Fearless," released Tuesday does not disappoint – showing the truly personal nature of Swift's music.

Songs like "Fifteen" and "Love Story" represent her idealistic view of romance, while "You're Not Sorry" shows the more complicated side of young love.

"Change," a single released in August, has already broken the Top 40 on Billboard charts.

Although her sound remains very mainstream, underlying tones of raw emotion come through to distinguish her from the many young pop-stars we hear on the radio.

Swift wrote or co-wrote every one of her songs.

Her crisp, angelic voice has an edgy quality that keeps her from sounding too safe. Still, Swift's lyrical content remains mild and tame.

This album appeals to teenagers and would be a great Christmas gift for younger siblings as well as other college students.

Swift's music is very well produced and each song has a concise structure, but I was disappointed by way of musician-ship.

Yes, she is a great songwriter

but there is nothing extraordinary or fantastic about her songs musically. They begin to blend together after awhile, and no one song really jumped out at me.

Swift is only 18 years old, leaving plenty of room for growth, and I am sure she will experience great success with her new album.

Swift acts as a great inspiration for younger musicians, proving you can be creative and successful without conforming to the plastic and repetitiveness of popular music. Her songs are fun and very sentimental.

Overall I was impressed by her obvious growth as a musician since her last album.

Grade: B+

Other 2008 BMI Country Award winners:

Songwriters:

Hank Williams, Jr.  
Casey Beathard  
Brett Beavers  
Shane Minor  
Rodney Clawson  
Marv Green  
Ed Hill  
David Lee

Recording artists/ songwriters:

Luke Bryan  
Kristian Bush  
Carrie Underwood  
Keith Urban

For full list of winners visit: BMI.com.

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The Afters  
8 p.m. Saturday @ Art Ambush

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The Eagles  
8 p.m. Saturday @ American Airlines Center

AUSTIN

Metro Station  
7 p.m. Today @ La Zona Rosa

Rockapella  
8 p.m. Today @ Paramount Theatre

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# Commits use early signing to ink spot on BU rosters

## 6-foot-8 Griner a Lady Bear

By Joe Holloway  
Sports Writer

Wednesday was National Letter of Intent Signing Day, and this year the Lady Bears head coach Kim Mulkey announced Brittney Griner, a 6-foot-8 Houston senior, as the standout of the class.

All five of the signees rank in top 60 nationally and compose what many consider to be the front-runner for the top recruiting class in the nation.

"All of these young ladies just bring Baylor to a new level," Mulkey said. "It'll probably be the highest-ranked recruiting class we've ever signed."

Included in the class is the nation's No. 1 recruit Griner. As a senior at Nimitz High School in Houston, the 6-foot-8 Griner is already something of a celebrity. One video that showcases Griner's dunking ability has over 2.5 million views on YouTube.

Mulkey says Griner, who registered 25 blocked shots in the first game of her senior season Tuesday night, is much more than a big player who can dunk.

"There's a lot more to Brittney Griner than dunking the basketball," she said. "She can fly. She can run the floor like a deer; she's an athlete; she's a basketball player; she's a sight to just watch."

It takes more than one No. 1 player to make a No. 1 recruiting class. In addition to Griner, Mulkey announced an all-star list line up that included 6-foot-2 forward Mariah Chandler from Atlanta, 5-foot-11 guard Kimetria "NaeNae" Hayden from Lincoln High School in Dallas, 6-foot guard Jordan Madden from Lepanto, Ark., and 6-foot-1 guard Shanay Washington from Del Valle High School in Austin.

Mulkey said that she was glad to finally be able to talk about the recruits, many of whom had long given Baylor verbal commitment.

"When a young lady wants to commit to Baylor, it's not taken lightly. I'm certain they got calls from other colleges," she said. "The fact that four of these five signees committed to our program long ago speaks volumes about these student-athletes and their families."

While she said that she expects the class to come in and make an immediate impact



Karen Warren/ Houston Chronicle

Houston-Nimitz's Brittney Griner (42) controls the ball against two Aldine-Eisenhower defenders. Griner, who is 6-foot-8, signed with the Lady Bears Wednesday.

on the program, Mulkey added that all of them lack collegiate level experience and have a lot to learn about the program and basketball in general.

"They have not won one basketball game at this level," she said. "They're going to be good, but they haven't won a game yet."

Mulkey also spoke to the class' size and the effect that will have on the team.

"I don't know if we've ever signed this many players that are that big," she said. "It's going to make for some serious competition on the floor."

But in any competition between the new class and play-

ers already on the team Mulkey said that the edge goes to the returning players.

"The kids that are here are going to have an advantage because they know the system," she said. "It is a big transition from high school. It'll give me lots of options, certainly a lot of depth."

## Drew brings in 3

By Kyle McKanna  
Reporter

When Baylor hired Scott Drew as men's basketball coach six years ago, they knew he had a gift for recruiting. What they didn't know was how special that gift was. Drew proved again he is one of the top recruiters in college basketball when he announced the early signees of his most recent recruiting class Wednesday.

Cory Jefferson, a power forward from Killeen, 6-foot-6 strong forward Givon Crump from Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, N.H., and Little Rock, Ark., point guard A.J. Walton each signed their national letters of intent for the 2009-10 academic year.

Jefferson joins Baylor from nearby Killeen High School. The 6-foot-9 Jefferson looks to give the Bears a solid presence down low. He was listed as the No. 29 ranked power forward on ESPN-NU's national Top 100 list.

"Our staff has waited a long time to sign a great local player like Cory," Drew said. "He has tremendous potential and is someone our fans are going to enjoy watching for the next four years."

Crump comes to the Bears from the heralded Brewster

Academy, which had nine players sign Division I scholarships a year ago. During his junior year at Brewster, he came off the bench and averaged nine points and 4.5 rebounds per contest. Crump is best known for his 3-point shooting.

"He has NBA range and great height, which makes him tough to defend," Drew said.

Baylor signed A.J. Walton, 6-foot-1 point guard, out of Hall High School in Little Rock, Ark. Walton earned Mr. Basketball honors in the state of Arkansas his junior year, and his achievements have him ranked as the No. 18 point guard in the nation and No. 77 overall.

"Anytime you get a Mr. Basketball like A.J. from Arkansas, you know you're getting a player," Drew said. "He's a leader, loves to compete and, most importantly, seems to always find a way to win."

Drew seems pleased with the team's early recruiting success.

"All three are great individuals and come from tremendous families and they will represent Baylor University in an outstanding manner," he said.

Baylor is waiting to see if they will sign Rivals.com's No. 1 recruit John Wall. He is considering Baylor, Kansas, Memphis and Oregon.

## No. 1 Texas prospect bound for BU softball

By Kyle McKanna  
Reporter

Baylor softball coach Glenn Moore announced the signing of five student-athletes on Wednesday.

The class includes four high school athletes and one community college transfer. The players are: Holly Holl, a catcher from Katy, Texas; Dani Leal, a community college transfer from Pratt Community College in Kansas; Kelsi Kettler, a utility player from Alvin; Courtney Repka, a right-handed pitcher from East Bernard; and Kathy Shelton, a multi-purpose player from McKinney.

For the first time, Baylor was able to use its 2007 success as a tool in recruiting.

"This is the first class in which our 2007 Big 12 championship and Women's College World Series appearance had influence," Moore said. "This class is a great example of the positive effect of that kind of success. My staff did a tremendous job of utilizing those accomplishments for maximum results and I believe this class will compete for Big 12 championships every year."

Holl is a two-time, first-team all-district selection at Katy High School. She plays catcher, which is a rare for a left-handed player, but succeeds by being a strong competitor with an accurate arm.

Leal joins the Bears from out of state. As a sophomore, Pratt earned second-team All-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference honors and first-team All-Region. She also played

short stop for the Mexican national team for two seasons.

Kettler, who was described by Moore as a "natural hitter," joins Baylor after a successful career at Alvin High School that included winning the 2008 5A state championship.

"Maybe she's no Nolan Ryan (also from Alvin)," Moore said. "But she wouldn't be afraid to hit against him."

The signing of Courtney Repka marks the second straight year Baylor has gotten one of the state's top pitching prospects. Repka played her high school ball at East Bernard High School in East Bernard, Texas, and helped the Brahmas win the 2008 2A state championship. She has recorded 69 wins and 1,023 strikeouts in her career, including 24 no-hitters and 15

*"Maybe (Kettler) no Nolan Ryan, but she wouldn't be afraid to hit against him."*

Glenn Moore  
Baylor softball coach

perfect games.

Shelton comes to Baylor from McKinney. She was last year's Ms. McKinney softball. Shelton brings versatility and experience to an already deep, but struggling, Lady Bears team.

"She's a right-handed thrower and a left-handed hitter," Shelton's coach and father Kevin Shelton said. "She's a slapper with a speed and she's got a lot of experience at a high level."

## Smith's Bears sign 8

By Brian Bateman  
Sports Editor

Head baseball coach Steve Smith announced eight players to the Bears' roster next year.

Four infielders highlight the list, with three left-handed pitchers and an outfielder.

Tyler Collins, a native of Trophy Club, is that outfielder. At 5-foot-11 and 195 pounds, Collins has earned all-district awards his sophomore and junior years.

"He's a coach's dream," former Justin-Northwest High School coach Ché Hendrix said. "His biggest contribution was at the plate. He hit in the three-hole for us. He always came up with clutch hits."

Zackry Dodson of LaCoste,

Taylor Eikenberry of Rock Falls, Ill. and Josh Turley of Texarkana-Texas are the three pitchers.

"(Turley) can contribute as a freshman," Texas High School coach Glen Welch said. "Put him on any Blg 12 field and he can get outs."

Lawton Langford of Uvalde, Jake Miller of Houston-Stratford, Max Muncy of Keller and Logan Vick of Kerrville-Tivy round out the infield.

Langford is undersized at 5-foot-10 and 155 pounds, but Uvalde coach doesn't think it will be a factor.

"When I came (to Uvalde High School), I thought the same thing," he said. "His size is deceiving. Once he gets to Baylor and gets put on a weight program, he'll do well."

## Baylor signees

### Men's Basketball

Givon Crump SF  
Cory Jefferson PF  
A.J. Walton G

### Softball

Holly Holl C  
Dani Leal IF  
Kelsi Kettler UTL  
Courtney Repka RHP  
Kathy Shelton OF

### Baseball

Tyler Collins OF  
Zackry Dodson LHP  
Taylor Eikenberry LHP  
Lawton Langford IF  
Jake Miller IF  
Max Muncy IF  
Josh Turley LHP  
Logan Vick IF

### Women's Basketball

Mariah Chandler F  
Brittney Griner P  
Kimetria Hayden G  
Jordan Madden G  
Shanay Washington G

### Volleyball

To be announced later this week

### Men's Golf

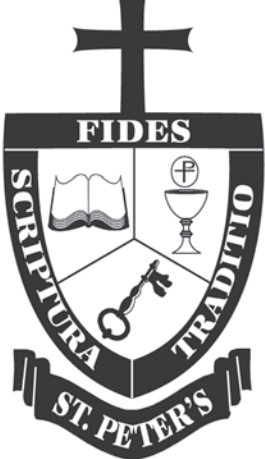
Ryan O'Rear  
To be announced later this week

National signing day for football, soccer, track and field and cross country is Feb. 4, 2009. Other sports' final signing day is April 8.

The deadline for basketball is April 15. Midyear junior college transfers can sign for football Dec. 17, 2008.

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