

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

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### STUDENT SENATE

Student Senate met for the 57th legislative session on Thursday, Sept. 17th, 2009. Senate was introduced to, debated on and confirmed student body president, new cabinet members, senior senators, senior class secretary/treasurer, student court chief justice and communication director.

Senate passed SR 57-5, Waco City Officials' Support Resolution, which was a resolution thanking Waco City Council members for attending Welcome to Waco two weeks ago.

External Vice President Emily Saultz encouraged the senate to continue collecting box tops for education, which benefit J.H. Hines elementary.

Saultz also invited the Senate to take out two hours of their week for the next nine weeks to read with a fifth grader at Doris Miller Elementary. This program is part of an initiative begun last year at the Greater Waco Education Summit to have all Waco students reading on grade level by third grade.

LAF passed an allocation to fund Emory Quinn who was the performer at the traditions rally Thursday night. Freshman Class Council elections will be held on Monday, Sept. 21.

Voting is available on line from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. running for the position of Freshman Class president are, Joshua A. DeMoss, Jason Livingston, Barrett Tomek, Zach Carrier, Adithi Rajapuram, Isaac Lee, Andrew Figliuzzi, Megan Atchley, Frank Juarez, and Emily Adams.

# H1N1 claims 99 percent of Texas cases

By LENA WATERS  
REPORTER

While reports of flu-like illnesses in McLennan County jumped more than 650 percent to 1,494 cases last week, Baylor Health Services reported on Thursday that only 25 students have been treated for the illness since school began.

"Although we suspect that number may rise, it has not reached the level of seasonal flu

that we typically see in January and February of each year," said Dr. Sharon Stern, medical director of Student Health Services in an e-mail to students Thursday afternoon.

But with seasonal flu not expected to peak until January or February, according to Dr. Stern's e-mail, the Waco and Baylor communities must confront the reality that the H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, has arrived.

It has now been established that the predominate strain of flu in Texas is H1N1.

"For Texas, 99 percent of what has been confirmed through the Centers for Disease Control has been H1N1, so we can pretty much say, if the doctor says you have the flu, you can be 99 percent sure that you have H1N1," said Kelly Craine of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District.

In an e-mail to the Lariat

Wednesday, Dr. Stern said that while there have been a few cases of H1N1 on campus, there have not been as many cases of the flu in general as during regular flu season.

However, Craine said that the rapid rise in cases is "not typical for this time of year," a further indicator that the strain of flu being dealt with is not seasonal flu.

Midland freshmen Courtney Clay went to the Health Center

with flu symptoms on Sept 10.

"The doctor asked me what my symptoms were and then just to be on the safe side they did a flu test. She came back and handed me a mask to wear," Clay said. "She said I had the flu and she was pretty sure it was a strain of swine flu."

Clay was instructed not to attend class until she had been fever free for at least 24 hours.

see H1N1 pg. 10

## Obama junks Bush's European defense plan

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama abruptly canceled a long-planned missile shield for Eastern Europe on Thursday, replacing a Bush-era project that was bitterly opposed by Russia with a plan he contended would better defend against a growing threat of Iranian missiles.

The United States will no longer seek to erect a missile base and radar site in Poland and the Czech Republic, poised at Russia's hemline. That change is bound to please the Russians, who had never accepted U.S. arguments, made by both the Bush and Obama administrations, that the shield was intended strictly as a defense against Iran and other "rogue states."

Scrapping the planned

shield, however, means upending agreements with the host countries that had cost those allies political support among their own people. Obama called Polish and Czech leaders ahead of his announcement, and a team of senior diplomats and others flew to Europe to lay out the new plan.

"Our new missile defense architecture in Europe will provide stronger, smarter, and swifter defenses of American forces and America's allies," Obama said in announcing the shift.

The replacement system would link smaller radar systems with a network of sensors and missiles that could be deployed at sea or on land. Some of the weaponry and sensors are ready now, and the rest would be developed over the

see MISSILE, pg. 10



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

### Paws Up, It's Game Time

The freshman class share a sic'em in the Thursday in the SUB bowl at the annual traditions rally. The rally gathered students to kick off the start of Parents' Weekend.



COURTESY PHOTO

Graduate student Gaurav Gupta talks with a member of the Prison Entrepreneurship Program at Cleveland Correctional Facility near Houston.

## Business students give back

Program offers prisoners a chance to alter life, learn business

By RYAN PIERCE  
CONTRIBUTOR

Mark is a high school dropout from Texas — just out of prison, he's trying to make a new life for himself.

Gaurav Gupta is a graduate student from India, and an MBA will further brighten the engineer's future.

The two men make for an unlikely pair, but an organization called Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) is bringing Baylor business students and the prisoners of Cleveland Correctional Facility, near Houston, together. The program is changing lives.

Gupta is one of over 50 students, alumni and faculty from

Baylor's MBA program and Baylor Business Women who now views prison as PEP does: "A storehouse of untapped potential." Gupta and the others aim to tap that potential.

Gupta's experience is typical for MBA volunteers. He was paired with Mark, encouraged to help the inmate of five years develop a plan to restart his life and reenter the workforce.

To be eligible for the program, Mark had to demonstrate that he is serious about transforming his life. Applicants must endure a rigorous application process. Those accepted are transferred to Cleveland Correctional Facility, where they attend three months of intensive business and life training, with

classes taught by PEP staff and professional volunteers, including CEOs.

Mark has experience working with concrete and hopes to eventually start a business of his own. So throughout the three months, Gupta exchanged weekly e-mails with Mark to help him craft a detailed business plan, from how to get a job in the short-term to establishing his own company in the long-term. (The prisoners do not have Internet, so the emails go through PEP staff).

Gupta helped Mark with everything from professional writing to financial planning. He even provided market research.

see PEP, pg. 10

## After bye week, Bears poised for home opener

By BILLY COLLINS  
CONTRIBUTOR

The past two weekends have once again sparked a series of triumphs, defeats and necessary upsets that inevitably mark each season of college football.

Yet, while some squads battled for rankings Saturday, the Bears approached their early-season bye week as a time to correct some first-game errors.

"We saw there were a lot of things that needed to be worked on," senior linebacker Joe Pawelek said.

"(The bye week) was a great chance for us to do that."

The Bears sit undefeated at 1-0 after defeating the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest 27-24 in their season opener two weeks ago.

"We went up there in a tough environment, played a good game and left with our first win," Pawelek said.

Last season, the Bears fell to Wake Forest 41-13 in their nationally televised home opener. But, with Coach Art Briles at the helm, Baylor football is showing off some obvious improvements.

Baylor will face off against the University of Connecticut Saturday. While this is only the teams' second meeting, UConn issued the Bears a hard loss last year before Big XII play began.

Saturday's game looks to be just as tough.

"They make you work for

what you get on the offensive side of the ball," Briles said of UConn's talented defense.

Last weekend the Huskies certainly made North Carolina work, but lost by two in a fourth-quarter Tar Heels comeback.

"(UConn) is a very hungry team," Briles said.

"They're coming off of a loss so we expect some changes to their game plan."

Briles said he doesn't lack confidence in his team as it heads into Saturday's home opener at Floyd Casey Stadium.

With the first-game jitters out of the way, the Bears are both calm and anxious to be back in Waco.

"It's exciting to be home and show our fans what we have on our own home turf," Briles said.

For sophomore quarterback Robert Griffin, the Wake Forest and UConn losses are two games from last year that he'd rather forget.

"You have to be able to erase it in that season," Griffin said.

"After that game you have to move on to the next game."

That mantra held true for Griffin as he completed 15 of 24 passes for 136 yards against Wake Forest in this year's victory.

Yet Griffin and his teammates remain humble — careful

see BEARS, pg. 10

## Garage elevators poorly represent Baylor facilities

### Point of View



BY LAURA REMSON

No one denies that Baylor's campus is beautiful. Often, it seems like each branch, leaf and flower are placed, by hand, in a specific place to make the overall effect just right.

Perhaps even the sun is placed at just the right angle in the sky to make campus look like an extraordinary wonderland of perfection.

Thinking about it, I can't name an eyesore on the campus. I can however, name a 'nose-sore.' I'm referring to the elevators in the Dutton Parking Garage.

One brave step into any of the three elevators is like playing some sick game of Russian Roulette. Each has its own unique, dare I say – flavor – that more than saturates its rider.

As clichéd as it sounds, trying to describe the smell is impossible. Even for reporting's sake, I couldn't bring myself to stand in there long enough to detect the minute differences between the three elevators. It would be like comparing an old sewage to a rotten hard-boiled egg milkshake to a fish head stuffed with meat factory leftovers. Sorry, Baylor students, I just couldn't bring myself to do it.

Last time I checked, no zombies were running around Baylor's campus, so I can't seem to make sense of the rotting flesh smell in these elevators.

On hot Waco summer days, it's my internal debate between the heat stroke risks of climbing four floors to the roof or risking my sunny disposition to take the elevator.

Most days, the elevators just aren't worth it. I would never consider taking it for anything but the top floor. I value my sanity too much.

But every once in a while, the elevators win. Thinking about my choice as I approach, I tell myself, 'don't worry about it, Laura. It won't be bad today. And really, the trip is less than a minute.'

The record for holding one's breath is held by David Blaine. In 2007, he held his breath underwater for 17 minutes and 4.4 seconds. The time it would take to reach the fourth floor is nothing compared to Blaine's feat. The ride would last less than a minute and most adults can hold their breath for that long. I could do that. I swam in high school.

I try not to think about it as I wait for Charon and his boat to Hades. At this point, it's too late; I'm going for it, taking the plunge into the airtight box. Perhaps this is where the problem lies. The elevators are completely sealed. I've checked and there are a few small vents, but no true escape for riders.

The Tic Tac-sized holes that are present I can only guess re-circulate the ripe air back into the elevator. That's probably how the smell has time to ferment and worsen over time.

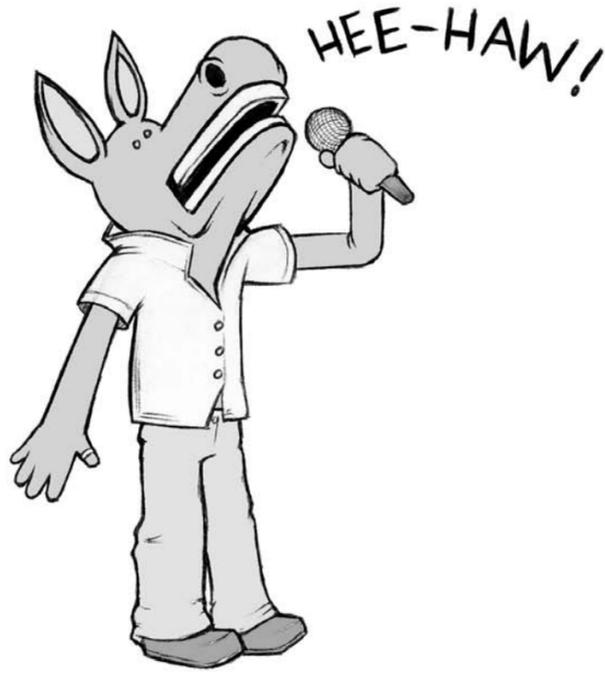
The garage was finished before I came to Baylor in 2006, so I have no way of knowing whether this problem crept up in recent years, or had its bitter beginnings the day the elevators were installed.

Riding in these elevators makes me wish I had a fear of them. I mean really – who decided that climbing in a box, suspended high off the ground by a wire was a good idea? Not me.

Thankfully, there is one small victory in all of this. My biggest fear of these elevators is not the smell, but the chance that the smell could latch itself to my clothes or my skin and stay with me for the rest of the day. As soon as I am released from the prison of the elevator, and after gasping for air, I check myself to make sure I'm safe. The worst thing I could do is climb into my car and contaminate its interior.

There are just some things that can't and shouldn't be explained. And after giving this much thought, I've come to terms with the elevators.

*Laura Remson is a senior journalism major from Frisco and a staff writer for the Lariat.*



..I REST MY CASE.



Jarvis

# Public figures must show civility, hold themselves to higher standards

## Editorial

This past week was ridden with outbursts and remarks from prominent individuals throughout the nation.

The outbursts began on Sept. 8, with South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson and his outburst of 'You lie!' that echoed through the halls of Congress during President Obama's address to a joint meeting of the Senate and House.

This was followed by U.S. tennis champion Serena Williams' painfully clear threat to take her tennis ball and 'shove it down' the throat of a U.S. Open line judge after being penalized for a foot fault at a crucial moment in the match.

The night after Williams' rampage, another tennis great, Roger Federer initiated an argument with the chair umpire during his U.S. Open match. The conversation which escalated quickly, contained multiple expletives and portrayed Federer's disdain in an anything but a classy manner.

The same night as Federer's altercation, popular rapper Kanye West interrupted pop country singer Taylor Swift's Video Music Award's acceptance speech by proclaiming Beyonce Knowles, had 'the best video of the year.'

The outbursts ended with President Barack Obama calling West a 'jackass' for interrupting Swift and have left the Lariat asking one question – what has happened to public civility?

A lack of respect has become widespread

nationwide. The political, athletic and entertainment realms are the main epicenters and origins of role models in America and yet they have become sources of crude behavior.

The outbursts of this past week are constant reminders of an easily forgotten truth—everyone is human. A public figure's humanity is superseded by their position. Leaders are to be held to a higher standard. Despite their mistakes, sincere apologies and regrets from the public figures warranted grace, but celebrities and public officials should not underestimate their actions' influence. Those in the public eye need to set the kind of examples youth can look up to.

Though Williams and Federer may have been pushed to the edge thanks to a combination of passion and stress that comes from the nature of the game, they are still held to a higher standard as athletic role models. Sportsmanship, not anger, should be the center of their public personas.

Hollywood's scuffles during the past week are important because of the sheer number of viewers, specifically younger viewers, that celebrities attract.

Tensions are high as divisive issues are being sifted through in Congress. Health care reform alone sparked vicious outbursts from many Americans at various town hall meet-

ings. Personal beliefs and passions of individual constituents should be addressed in an effective and civilized manner.

America is in a volatile transition. A current uneasiness is draped across the country as Americans fret over the near future and what is in store for the economy. People are looking for steadfast, commendable pillars of strength in leadership and public positions.

Not all of the outbursts were handled in the same fashion. Serena Williams was fined \$10,000 for her outburst. Wilson's exclamation was formally rebuked by his congressional peers in a vote of 240-179, Federer was fined \$1,500 and West has apologized to Swift. And the White House, as of Wednesday, has yet to comment on Obama's comment. Even with the variety of outcomes, there is still one universal loser: the American people.

All aspects of the public eye should see the past week's outbursts as warning signs. The rudimentary nature that many public figures have slipped back into must be abandoned. A progressive, tolerant and mutual push toward stability and strength of character is necessary. Those leading the efforts must show that public civility has not been tossed by the wayside. They must ensure that as one America, political, social and cultural dilemmas can be faced with decorum and grace.

# Working daily with the weight of words

I want to write because I believe the written word is the world's most powerful medium.

It is important for people to contemplate the importance of the mediums for which they give the most time. This is what I am doing. Has it been worth long hours and late nights in hopes of becoming influential through words?

Though I have not had this job long and certainly have much to learn, my favorite part about being an opinion editor is that I have the incredible opportunity to see passion—for better or for worse. I get to watch the parents of staff members call in crying because of the pride they feel in watching their son or daughter use words to beautifully express the feelings they're still working through in these changing college years. I get to watch my friends' faces change into excited smiles and snickers when they see how awesome Claire's cartoon looks each day. I get to read letters about how we will never receive advertising money from hairdresser in Waco now after running a certain column on Waco hairstylists. If I hadn't known it to be true before this job, I certainly know now; words have the power to create change.

My whole life I have heard people say that words have more power than bombs. I think that is supposed to be an empowering thought, but, to me, it is terrifying. I don't want to mess this up. However, I also do not want to play it safe. In contemplating whether this medium is worth the time it has demanded, I realize that I can't play it

## Point of View

BY BRITTANY HARDY



as from "Beauty and the Beast," while playfully teasing me when I ran into walls and doors, attempting to consecutively read and walk. I am used to having at least one book with me at all times. If I forget it, I feel as normal people feel when they leave their wallet or phone at home on the kitchen table or under the sink.

Whenever I went through tough times, throughout my entire life, literature was (and will probably always be) my means of escape. Those words certainly changed me. So what if those authors had chosen not to write? What if they had decided they might never change the world, so what was the point?

Fitzgerald and Woolf and Dickinson all contributed to my wanting to be a writer. Though, my writing currently falls way short, as I practice and dream about becoming better, my hope has always been that a critic would someday compare my writing to theirs'.

Bigger than that dream, however, is that someday, somewhere, my love for writing and reading will spur members of the next generation to also love to write and read. I believe it to also be their most powerful medium. The dream is that something I say or do or live spurs them to find power in their own voice and sparks a desire to string together their own words in order to change hearts and minds.

*Brittany Hardy is a Argyle junior, majoring in journalism. She is the opinion editor for the Baylor 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.

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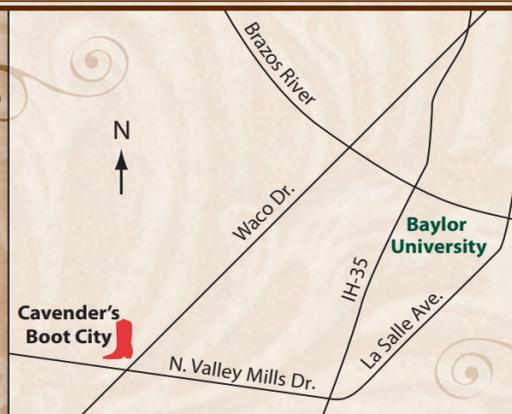


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# Former astronaut to talk of NASA experience

By BETHANY MOORE  
REPORTER

Former astronaut Dr. Story Musgrave, the only astronaut to fly six space shuttle missions, will speak at 3 p.m. Fri. at B110 Baylor Sciences Building.

"Earth as Art, A Space Story: A Message of Inspiration and Wonder," is the second and last part of a lecture series about physics, mathematics and engineering in space, which is free and open to the public.

Musgrave said, in an e-mail to the Lariat that some of the rewarding aspects of sharing his experiences are the inspiration, optimism and engagement of the students.

Richardson junior Blake Lewis said he is anticipating Musgrave's lecture.

"It's exciting and inspirational to have someone come speak who has turned their degrees and education into such a success. It really shows us what we can do," Lewis said.

Musgrave's multiple accomplishments within NASA include not only being the first to fly a record-breaking six shuttle mis-

sions, two of which were satellite launching missions, but he also led the space walking team that repaired the Hubble Space Telescope in 1993.

Before John Glenn's return to space in 1998, Musgrave, 62, held the position of oldest person in space during his last flight in 1996.

Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research, is excited about the educational experience the lecture will offer the students. Hyde is also the director for the center for astrophysics, space physics and engineering research (CASPER) at Baylor.

"At Baylor, we always want to continually put in front of our undergraduate and graduate students folks who have been wildly successful and that can broaden their horizons," Hyde said. "And any time you have the chance to interact with an astronaut is a good thing."

Additionally, Hyde wanted Musgrave to lecture because of his highly educated and diverse accomplishments, which include a doctorate of medicine, two bachelor degrees and three master degrees ranging from mathe-

matics to business administration to literature.

"He is a really interesting character, being extremely well educated with degrees in a multiple array of areas," Hyde said.

"The people who get selected have to do everything well, which makes him a very interesting speaker. He's the type who will excite everyone in the audience, not just the science types."

This lecture is a part of the series, "NASA week in Waco," hosted by the CASPER, a center formed by a partnership between Baylor and Texas State Technical College.

The series also featured astronaut Dr. Sandra Magnus on Monday.

After returning from five and a half months at the NASA station, Musgrave gave her lecture on physics, mathematics and engineering in space.

At the lecture, Magnus showed home videos recording the process from the launch of the shuttle to its return.

Reporter Lena Waters contributed to this story.



WILLIAM POMERANTZ | X PRIZE FOUNDATION

## Journey to space

The X Prize Foundation shows a rocket built by Armadillo Aerospace fueling up in the Northrop Grumman Lunar Lander Challenge at Caddo Mills, Saturday.

# Network connects alumni through global services

By CATY HIRST  
REPORTER

Making sure green and gold get flung globally is the work of Baylor students and alumni. However, making sure all of these people stay connected is the job of the Baylor Global Network.

"The Baylor Global Network has been developed and is now maturing into a somewhat literal global network of students, graduates, parents, businesses and others who are seeking the most efficient and effective ways to connect on a global basis," said Brent Edwards, director for the Baylor Global Network, in an e-mail to the Lariat.

The Global Network has contacts in 39 countries and six continents, and it is continually expanding as alumni are identified and added to the list.

Alumna Cynthia Herm Britt resides in Dudeldorf, Germany, and has attended many of these events. She said she is happy to be a part of the network.

"I think the global network is definitely important to this generation of students," Britt said in an e-mail to the Lariat. "More than ever, Baylor students are living, traveling and working around the world."

The global network provides opportunities for alumni overseas to meet each other and form relationships with a familiar community.

For example, the network hosts a Diadeloso for abroad alumni. Diadelosos and other

social gatherings have been held in four different German cities, London, Cambridge, Beijing, Tokyo and other cities around the world.

In addition, the network provides a host of connections for alumni, international students and students who do mission work abroad.

Britt said the network connection expands beyond its social aspects.

"It provides job connections and opportunities for advancement knowing who is located in the various countries and how they can help is a real plus for these students," Britt said. "The Baylor Global Network is truly an asset for our university."

Though the specific purpose of the Global Network is not to provide job connections, it is an inherent possibility when students and members of the Global Network remain connected.

"Career assistance is not a specific function of this Global Network," Edwards said. "The global Baylor family has and will continue to be a conduit for rapidly increasing knowledge about the many connections available through the network itself."

Emily Rogers, the program director for the Global Community Living-Learning Center, said that as technological advances and economic influences shape the world, it becomes even more vital for Baylor to stay aware of international issues in different cultures. The Global Network is

one way to keep learning about these different cultures and to prepare students for the diversity the world as to offer.

"It is very important for the Baylor community to be connected on an international level," Britt said. "Our world has grown smaller and graduates of today very often take jobs all over the globe."

As the reasons for traveling around the globe expand, the benefits of a global network become evident to many.

The vision emphasizes that graduates must be aware of the global society.

"Our desire in the Global Network is to become Baylor's open arms waiting for the inevitable surge of alumni who choose to live and work internationally," Edwards said. "The Global Network will provide benefit to the university over time in terms of the influence of the Baylor family around the world. It will clearly be a benefit to this and succeeding generations of students in terms of finding a place of optimum service to humanity, wherever that might be."

Some of the goals for this imperative are to:

Strengthen existing international programs and develop stronger university relationships outside of the United States

Expand opportunities for graduate student and faculty experience

Develop international student and alumni networks throughout Baylor's curricula.

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Look for the Worship Weekly Section Every Friday in the Lariat!

# Instructor recognized for child obesity research

ADEOLA ARO  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Brennan Davis, a new addition to the Hankamer School of Business, was recently given an award by the Robert Wood Foundation for his research on child obesity.

The foundation described Davis's research as the most influential child obesity research in the past year.

Davis, associate professor of marketing, conducted a study titled, "Proximity of Fast-food Restaurants to Schools and Adolescent Obesity."

Davis selected this topic because it related to marketing and would impact people in a mean-

ingful way.

"The marketing of food to children is increasingly in the national spotlight as rates of childhood obesity rise higher in the United States," Davis said. "It is plausible that the placement of fast-food restaurants near schools has important connections to youth obesity."

Davis said he hopes that policymakers, school leaders and parents will encourage kids to get involved in social activities that are not associated with unhealthy consumption."

Davis, along with Dr. Christopher Carpenter from the University of California, Irvine, compiled and examined data from more than 500,000 middle and

high school students who participated in the California Healthy Kids Survey from 2002 to 2005.

"I used existing datasets and connected them to make new discoveries," Davis said. "The result was a database with each student's body weight status, school location and whether fast food was near the school. I used statistical models with a hierarchical component since individuals at the same school are not independent observations."

Davis' research demonstrates that children attending schools that have fast food within a half-mile are more likely to be overweight.

"Exposure to poor-quality food environments has impor-

tant effects on adolescent eating patterns," he said.

Davis is also investigating other obesity issues by looking at other unhealthy risks within schools.

Dr. Janelle Walter, professor of nutrition sciences, said the research is important to the university because it is a major societal issue.

She also believes that, in addition to this research, America should examine the real cause as to why people don't cook as often.

"We're looking at the physical and emotional barriers," Walter said. "Why is it that people don't cook at home?"

Davis incorporates research

into his principles of marketing course, where he also reminds students of social responsibility.

"We talk about ways marketers must be responsible to society, which has obvious connections to research about fast food companies," Davis said.

"In marketing research, I invite the students to walk through current stages of my research and ask them to offer insights into the best ways to explore issues using regression, experiments and qualitative approaches," Davis said.

Kamella Ervin, a senior management information systems and management major from Austin, congratulated Davis on his award and elaborated on his

teaching abilities.

"He makes the class interactive and applies different teaching methods to ensure all of his students learn and retain the material," Ervin said.

Scott Neuman, a junior accounting major from Boerne, also commented on Davis's knack for bringing the marketing industry to life in the classroom.

"His marketing experience in both industry and academia are the perfect fusion for practical teaching," Neuman said. "Class is most enjoyable because we get insight into the minds of real marketers who have been in industry. The perspective that we see in class is remarkable."

# House votes to deny all federal funds for ACORN

By JIM ABRAMS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The House voted Thursday to deny all federal funds for ACORN in a GOP-led strike against the scandal-tainted community organizing group that comes just three days after the Senate took similar action.

"ACORN has violated serious federal laws, and today the House voted to ensure that taxpayer dollars would no longer be used to fund this corrupt organization," said second-ranked House Republican Eric Cantor of Virginia.

The vote, on a provision attached to a student aid bill, was 345-75, with Democrats supplying all the "no" votes.

On Monday the Senate voted 83-7 to deny housing and community grant funding to ACORN, which stands for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

Republicans accelerated their attacks on the liberal-leaning group a year ago when ACORN, in conducting a massive voter registration drive, was accused of submitting some false registration forms.

On a hidden-camera video released on Monday, two ACORN employees are seen apparently advising a couple that was posing as a prostitute and her pimp to lie about her profession and launder her earnings.

The video was the latest in a series that has already led to the firing of four ACORN employees in Baltimore and Washington.

It was created by James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles and posted on BigGovernment.com, where O'Keefe identifies himself as an activist filmmaker.

ACORN spokesman Scott Levenson blasted the video shot at the organization's Brooklyn office, saying the group believes the voices of the couple were dubbed over to alter the conversation and make the interaction appear more objectionable than it may have been.

ACORN said Wednesday that it is ordering its own independent investigation of the incidents, while stressing that they were isolated cases.

The Census Bureau, meanwhile, also has severed its ties with the group for the 2010 national census.

Republicans have urged federal officials to go further

by launching a comprehensive investigation of how ACORN spends and manages federal money.

"As long as taxpayers are subsidizing ACORN and its affiliates, we need to use every measure possible to ensure that those dollars are being spent and managed appropriately," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., sponsor of the measure that passed the House.

The Senate and House initiatives to cut funding for ACORN won't take effect until the bills to which they are attached clear Congress and are signed by President Barack Obama. The Senate measure is attached to a fiscal 2010 spending bill.

"President Obama needs to indicate whether he'll sign this bill and join us in ending all taxpayer funds for this corrupt organization," House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said after the vote.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs on Wednesday said the conduct seen on the tapes "is completely unacceptable."

He said the Obama administration "takes accountability extremely seriously" and noted that the Census Bureau had de-



Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., accompanied by House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga., and Rep. Parick McHenry, R-N.C., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thurs., Sept. 17, 2009, to discuss the House bill that passed which would ban federal funding for ACORN.

termined that ACORN could not meet its goal for conducting a fair and accurate count next year.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a conference call with report-

ers, called the latest allegations against ACORN "horrible."

However, she pointed out that ACORN has many honest employees and was conducting an

internal investigation, and that it was up to House-Senate negotiators to determine whether the provision to cut funding would be in the final version of the bill.

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# Autism center aims to provide resources, help

MELISSA PERRY  
REPORTER

One in every 150 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism, a complex developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others.

According to Autism Speaks, a national advocacy group, it affects more children than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. Thus, with the rate of autism rising, Baylor's recently founded Autism Resource Center is working to provide innovative research and community resources for the growing number of individuals affected by the disorder.

The Baylor Autism Resource Center was opened in 2008, with a grant from the Waco Foundation, in an effort to meet the di-

verse needs of the autistic community in Waco and Central Texas. Services offered by the center include social circles for people with autism, an information library providing educational materials to community members and on-going research initiatives.

The center is also hoping to receive grant funds to start an autism teaching institute, said Dr. Julie Ivey, the center's director. This institute would feature monthly guest speakers and seminars to benefit Waco's autistic community, as well as fund several other projects.

Ivey said long-term goals for the center include creating a learning lab for nursing and school psychology students, offering workshops to non-profit organizations, teachers, and medical professionals, and pro-

viding childcare to the parents of autistic children.

Social circles allow children and teens the chance to meet weekly and improve their social skills by increasing confidence and building relationships, Ivey said.

Discussion time is also an important part of social circles. By talking about interesting subjects in a small group setting, children are encouraged to interact with others and develop communication skills.

While social circles are a core part of the center's work, they bring new challenges every semester.

"We had children that would try to flee and run away and we spent a lot of time trying to keep them from running away," said Ann Holt, a school psychology graduate student. "We saw kids

that were very shy, did not interact and were very hesitant to be involved. Over the course of the semester, we saw them initiate conversation, which is a big deal for children with autism."

Circles are grouped by age and include members from ages four to 22. This semester there are 30 children divided into six groups.

The center also held a day camp this summer, which was similar to social circles. At the camp, children were able to participate in a wide range of activities including art, basketball, water play and ping pong, all of which encouraged social skills.

In addition to providing a fun and engaging atmosphere for the children, Ivey and her graduate students were able to conduct research during the camp.

During the research project, a

specific group of children were taught relaxation techniques to use when they became frustrated. A second group of children served as the control group and were not taught the relaxation methods.

Ivey and her team found that those who employed the techniques were able to cope with frustration and anxiety better than those who were not instructed to use the techniques.

The center is also committed to supporting the diverse needs of the families they serve.

"We, at the center, don't take a stance on the best treatment for your child," Ivey said. "It is my belief that there is no best treatment philosophy for everyone."

Because every child and their family bring their own set of challenges, researchers in the

resource center study an array of issues, including how parents of autistic children cope with stress, autism diagnostic practices and quality of interaction in classrooms serving those with autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

On-going research is vital to the autistic community both in Waco and around the world, Ivey said. While scientists have determined that autism stems from a biological and genetic base, it could be triggered from any number of environmental factors.

"We don't know the cause; therefore, there is no cure," Ivey said.

While there may be no cure, Ivey and her team are able to bring hope to Waco's autistic community through the center's innovative research and educational resources.

# Sierra Club to host Waco event supporting EPA

BY LAURA REMSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Sierra Club will kick off the Texas Statewide Roll Beyond Coal event Monday in Waco to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to continue their review of current Texas air permit policy.

The Public Citizen has partnered with the Sierra Club to host this postcard writing and informational event series which will begin in Waco and travel throughout Texas.

The event follows the EPA's Sept. 8 vote to reject three air pollution permit proposals brought forward by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, because the permit proposals did not comply with the Federal Clean Air Act. These air permits determine the amount of pollution that can be released into the air by a Texas business.

Each state is required to adhere to the Clean Air Act, which sets limits for pollution and public health. Based on this act, each

state creates a plan for how to administer its policies. For Texas, the overseeing body is the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ. These organizations work directly with in-state energy companies to ensure that all parts of the Clean Air Act are being followed.

The proposals that the EPA denied, submitted as key parts of the TCEQ's air permitting plan, are now open to public commentary.

On the heels of this announcement, the Roll Beyond Coal events series is aimed at community involvement.

"The main purpose of [the events] is for the media to hear from these speakers and see there is grassroots support for the EPA ruling," said Eva Hernandez, the new coal organizer for the Sierra Club. "We are going to talk about the EPA ruling and how this is an opportunity we haven't seen before."

The Sierra Club is an environmental organization which calls for renewable energy sources,

clean green jobs and transportation and ending the use of coal as an energy source.

"There are more proposed coal power plants in Texas than anywhere else in the country," Hernandez said.

Much of the concern surrounding the current permit programs is based on the close relationship of coal energy companies and the TCEQ.

"In the past the TCEQ has been operating more on behalf of the coal companies, the polluting companies across the state, than for people," Hernandez said. "The TCEQ is operating illegally."

The tour will start in Waco but will also visit larger Texas cities, including Dallas, Abilene, College Station, Corpus Christi, Bay City and Houston.

Monday's event will be held at 10 a.m. at Heritage Square in downtown Waco. Participants will be writing postcards to send messages of support to the EPA for its past and future actions.

According to a Sierra Club/

Public Citizen press release, the two groups are calling on the EPA to set a moratorium on all coal plant construction and issuing of new air permits until the TCEQ follows federal environmental air quality standards.

"Now that the EPA has placed its cards on the table and we finally know what specific objections they have with our programs, we look forward to working with them to resolve outstanding issues," said Mark Vickery, TCEQ Executive Director, in a public statement. "We hope the EPA will consider the actual emission reductions achieved through our state programs and will continue to build on those successes. Our environment is too important to be a casualty of the bureaucratic process."

The issue of coal plants is not unfamiliar to Waco and many current Baylor students. In spring of 2007, there were protests against eleven possible TXU Energy coal plants, one of which was to be built very close to Baylor. Plans for eight of the 11 plants were

canceled after TXU was bought out by an investor group made up by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., Texas Pacific Group and Goldman Sachs, among others.

"I am really glad that the EPA is taking a strong stance against the air quality problems that Texas is having; something really needs to change," said Katie Barney, junior and president of Baylor's Environmental Concern Organization, in an e-mail to the Lariat. "Coming from Colorado, I have noticed the difference in the quality [of the air]. Additionally, last year construction began on a coal power plant about 10 miles outside of Waco because of pollution problems that both Dallas and Houston are experiencing. That spells trouble for all those living in Waco because coal pollution is some of the dirtiest and worst for human health."

Hernandez and Public Citizen's Ryan Rittenhouse will be participating in each of the events, which will also feature a giant inflatable coal plant, a decorated clean energy trailer, signs

and posters.

One group speaking at the event is a family that owns land near a coal plant that is currently under construction. They will be speaking about how the construction has affected both their family and business. They will also talk about the process of dealing with the TCEQ and the issues they've encountered, Hernandez said.

"If folks want to come out and get involved, it's a great opportunity. We have the opportunity right now for Texas to be a leader."

Hernandez also explained that these new initiatives can lead to green jobs in an economy where young people are concerned about finding jobs.

"The environment is something that all people should be concerned about as it affects every facet of life, ranging from health studies to business practices," Barney said. "Overall, I believe everyone has a vested interest in the topic whether they actively search for environmental news or not."

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