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Baylor in Thailand

Ten Baylor students spend two weeks in Southeast Asia exploring culture, earning class credit

MUSIC PAGE 5

Concert for V-Day

Three artists set to play concert on Sunday at Common Grounds

SPORTS PAGE 5

Bears beat Huskers

Men's basketball tops Nebraska in Lincoln in 55-53 game

Former Rep. Charlie Wilson dies at 76

By JAMIE STENGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Charlie Wilson, the former congressman from Texas whose funding of Afghanistan's resistance to the Soviet Union was chronicled in the movie and book "Charlie Wilson's War," died Wednesday. He was 76.

Wilson died at Memorial Medical Center-Lufkin after he started having difficulty breathing while attending a meeting in the East Texas town where he lived, said hospital spokeswoman Yana Ogletree. Wilson was pronounced dead on arrival, and the preliminary cause of death was cardiopulmonary

arrest, she said.

Wilson represented the 2nd District in East Texas in the U.S. House from 1973 to 1996 and was known in Washington as "Good Time Charlie" for his reputation as a hard-drinking womanizer. He once called former congresswoman Pat Schroeder "Baby-cakes" and tried to take a beauty queen with him on a government trip to Afghanistan.

Actor Tom Hanks portrayed Wilson in the 2007 movie about Wilson's efforts to arm Afghan mujahedeen during Afghanistan's war against the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Wilson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, helped secure money for weapons, plung-

ing the U.S. into a risky venture against the world's other superpower.

In an interview with The Associated Press after the book was published in 2003, he said he wasn't worried about details of his wild side being portrayed.

"I would remind you that I was not married at the time. I'm in a different place than I was in at the time and I don't apologize about that," Wilson said.

In 2007, Wilson had a heart transplant at a Houston hospital. Doctors had told Wilson, who suffered from cardiomyopathy, a disease that causes an enlarged and weakened heart, that he would likely die without a transplant.

Wilson, a Democrat, was considered a progressive but also a defense hawk. He had acknowledged some responsibility for Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for al-Qaida after the Soviets retreated and the U.S. withdrew its support.

"That caused an enormous amount of real bitterness in Afghanistan and it was probably the catalyst for Taliban movement," Wilson said in a 2001 interview.

The Soviets spent a decade battling the determined and generously financed mujahedeen before pulling the Red



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This July 1987 file photo shows Rep. Charlie Wilson, D-Texas, on a white horse while in Afghanistan. Wilson, 76, died of cardiopulmonary arrest Wednesday in Lufkin.

see WILSON, pg. 8

Helping a fellow Bear

School, departments develop device to assist disabled student

By STEPHANIE LEE
REPORTER

Getting to class in a wheelchair is something many do not consider, but for Coppell senior Tyler Dukes, his wheelchair is his lifeline. Dukes, a journalism major, encounters many struggles as a student. Recently, the journalism department, the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the studio art department made one aspect of Dukes' life a little easier: photography.

As a child, growing up was normal, Duke said, until something changed.

"I met all of the normal milestones growing up, crawling, walking and sitting up. At about 18 months, my mother started noticing that I had a strange gait when I walked. I bent over straight-legged," Dukes said.

After a muscle biopsy, Dukes was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy type 2.

"My nerves don't talk to my muscles correctly," Dukes said. "My muscles are degenerative."

The numbers of individuals diagnosed are astounding, Dukes said. One in every 100,000 people get it and it is the No. 1 genetic killer of infants.

After graduating high school, college was just part of Dukes' plan.

"It was just the next step," Dukes said.



MATT HELLMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arlington junior Breck Sandvall and Splendora senior Shane Wallace drill and smooth down metal brackets in the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building's Engineering Machine shop Wednesday afternoon to be used on a custom photography contraption for senior Tyler Dukes.

"I received so much help at Baylor during my four years here."

This semester, Dukes is taking a beginning photography taught by Curtis Callaway, a temporary full-time lecturer. Dukes said finding a way to make the class work was essential for him.

"It's all about finding different ways to do things," Dukes said.

Callaway said that Dukes' strong desire to take the class made him want to teach in a new way and learn from stu-

see PHOTO, pg. 8

Grad program attains national level of approval

School psychology track garners affirmation from national association

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

Baylor's school psychology graduate program has been awarded full approval by the National Association of School Psychologists. The program, a division within Baylor's psychology department, received conditional approval in 2008 and achieved full approval this January. The program has been approved through Dec. 31, 2014.

"Being NASP-approved as a graduate education program in school psychology is the highest approval level that a program can receive and automatically encourages graduates of the program to become nationally certified school psychologists in an expedient way," Susan Gorin, executive director of NASP, said. "The professors and school psychology students should take great pride in reaching this goal."

Dr. Eric L. Robinson, interim chair of the educational psychology department and graduate director of the school psychology program, said the conditional NASP approval brought several benefits to students, that will continue with the full approval of the program.

One benefit is that students have eligibility for obtaining

credentials or licensure in any state.

"From a student perspective, it makes them mobile in that if they leave the state, they can be accredited or licensed by other states as a school psychologist, which might not sound like much, but it's huge," Robinson said. "It also allows the student to be eligible to become a nationally certified school psychologist."

Dr. Julie Ivey, assistant professor in the school psychology program and director of the Baylor Autism Resource Center, said the school psychology program is a three-year program in which students earn an Educational Specialist degree.

"The graduate students are trained to serve several roles in the schools. They counsel, they do assessments, they consult with teachers and work with students that have special needs," Ivey said. "When they finish the program, they secure internships all across the United States in our public schools."

Robinson said the program trains graduates to work with children, teachers, parents and administrators. He said they learn to assess children who may have special needs, to provide intervention in the form of

see NASP, pg. 8

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst stresses involvement of youth

By KATY McDOWALL
REPORTER

Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst urged young people to engage in politics when he spoke Wednesday at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

"Be involved in politics," Dewhurst said. "Be involved in your organizations here at Baylor because we really need good people being involved."

Dewhurst spoke to an audience of Baylor students, members of Baylor College Republicans, Waco residents and Waco officials, including Texas Rep. Charles "Doc" Anderson.

"I thought it was great to hear his perspective," San Antonio junior Allison Winney, College Republicans president, said. "You hear about the governor's race, but not what's going on with the state's Legislature. The lieutenant governor has more to

do with what's going on in the state and the state's policies."

Dewhurst discussed the importance of state government, as well as health care and deficits.

"Austin and your state government touch your lives more than the federal government does," Dewhurst said. "In public education, the state is involved, and in higher education the state is involved."

The delivery of health care is also administered by the state, supported in some ways by the federal government, Dewhurst said.

"I really liked what he was talking about with the health care plan and how the other countries use the outcome procedure and you get paid based on the outcome instead of the number of procedures you do," Winney said.

Out of the 30 developed countries in the world, the

United States is the only one that pays doctors based on how many procedures they do, Dewhurst said.

"As a result, we spend two-and-a-half times more per capita than any other country in the world," Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst also discussed ways in which Texas is thriving. "In the last 10 years, there's only one state in the country that has had a net increase in private sector jobs. Several that have had public sector jobs, but one [in private sector]-- Texas," Dewhurst said.

Other states, like California, have had to cut enrollment in universities because of overspending by the legislature.

"We're not going to do that in Texas because we're very focused on you having more opportunity than we had growing up," Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst said one of his

goals is for students not to have government like a weight around them, slowing them down when they graduate.

"I'm more interested in ideas and solutions than politics," he said. "Most people in politics are the reverse."

Dewhurst got into politics in 1999, ran for lieutenant governor in 2002 and has served in that capacity ever since.

"I was really surprised by how down-to-earth he seemed," said Daniel Abernathy, Aledo junior College Republicans secretary. "That's not normal for most politicians."

As lieutenant governor, Dewhurst is the president of the Texas Senate, which is made up of 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats.

"I actually learned a lot," Abernathy said. "I didn't know

see YOUTH, pg. 8



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst speaks to students and other Waco residents Wednesday in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. In his speech, Dewhurst spoke of Texas' positive budget and the need to get young voters out to the polls.

More nominees spur loss in cinema magic

Point of View



By BETHANY MOORE

For most in the movie business, being nominated for an Academy Award is the highest film honor in the nation beside actually winning the award.

The hopeful faces of those nominated in the audience, while the envelope is ripped open on stage, are usually the faces of giants in Hollywood: Tom Hanks, Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep and numerous other seasoned Hollywood veterans who have worked ardently in their trade to be noticed by the Academy.

The other hopeful faces are usually the surprise talents who performed, directed or produced so well that they were pushed into the high rankings of the nomination. Either way, although we may not like the particular movie, we can say that those who are nominated have undeniable talent that deserves to be noticed and respected.

With only five spots to be filled, essentially the academy is saying that out of every movie in the business yours was important enough to be honored.

However, this year, in one category, all that changed. The coveted category saved for last because of its importance, the best picture, was extended to have 10 nominations.

When I heard they were expanding the nominations, I was worried that this would bruise the sacredness of the category and the honor of being nominated. I fear, in the future, more and more films will have the stamp on the box cover stating “Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture,” and if the stamp is covering all boxes at Blockbuster stores video stores, who cares who is nominated?

However, I held out hope and patiently awaited the nominations. When Anne Hathaway announced that “The Blind Side” would be nominated in the same category as “Hurt Locker,” or that “District 9” would be nominated in the same category as “Precious,” my worst fears were confirmed.

In response, the president of the Academy said that this change was so more great films could be appreciated. I understand that they want to recognize a good movie, but the category doesn’t say good movies of 2010, it says the best movie of 2010.

The Academy Awards should not be in the business of charity. Instead, the Academy should look deeply at the films and nominate only the five that deserve to be in the running for the award. Best acting, directing, cinematography, score, special effects, original story — all these factors should determine a nominee and a winner.

I’m not denying that “The Blind Side” is a better version of a Lifetime movie, but I can’t understand how the Academy can justify placing it in the same category as “Raging Bull,” nominated for best picture in 1980, or “Gone with the Wind,” winner best picture 1939 or last year’s winner, “Slumdog Millionaire.”

I went in search of the requirements to be nominated for this category, and found that there are none. There are a few technical requirements, such as the film must be more than 40 minutes long, but there are no artistic requirements for best picture.

The more than 6,000 members of the Academy vote using a simple voting system. Members include Will Smith, Sidney Poitier, Elton John and Quentin Tarantino.

There are some qualified members who deserve to have their vote counted. However, when I found out the director of “Doctor Doolittle” and “John Tucker Must Die” also votes to decided who wins an Oscar, the “coveted award” seemed a little less gold and a lot more brassy. Qualified or not, when it comes down to it, they are peers voting for peers.

Add in the politics of Hollywood, and the grandeur associated with the award show doesn’t seem as important as it used to.

It is no wonder the magic in movies has fizzled along with its box office sales. If the Academy wants to bring people back to the movies, the answer is not more nominations, it is better movies.

Bethany Moore is a Van senior majoring in journalism. She is a staff writer for the Baylor Lariat.

NASA needs clear future

Editorial

President Barack Obama’s recent budget proposal included plans to cancel the NASA program projected to return humans to the moon by 2020 and has been met with skepticism from many Americans.

Obama is proposing a shift from expansive exploration of the solar system to developing new space technologies, including new types of engines for spacecrafts, fuel spaces in orbit, and robotic factories that could convert soil on the moon into rocket fuel.

This kind of technological innovation is much needed and promising.

Obama should be applauded for daring to take NASA in this new direction — there are undoubtedly technological breakthroughs waiting to be discovered.

However, to compensate for the new technology development, Obama’s budget calls for an end to the Ares I rocket, a NASA development in the works for four years as a replacement to the space shuttles.

This was a poor decision on Obama’s part, considering all the billions of dollars that have already been poured into the development of the Ares rocket. Congress has already spent \$9 billion over the past four years on the Constellation project, which includes the Ares I rocket, and if further development on the rocket is canceled, canceling contracts with commercial companies will cost a few billion more.

The technological advances Obama seeks are worthy of exploration, but his plan for furthering human exploration of the solar system has been left murky, at best.

Though NASA would add \$6 billion to its budget over the next five years to increase total spending on the space agency to \$100 billion at a time when many federal agencies’ funds are being cut, plans for a new mission to travel beyond low Earth orbit will probably be put on hold without details being worked out for a few years.

If the focus of NASA is being directed away from the moon landing, for the time being, there should be a clearly spelled out, pre-determined timeline for it to be reinstated.

Obama’s plan would also outsource the launching of astronauts to commercial companies. Private companies would now be funded to provide transportation for astronauts with less expensive vehicles, a drastic change from the way NASA has operated before — designing and operating its own spacecraft.

This is a risky venture and even NASA has not yet developed a plan



for ensuring that commercial rockets would be safe for transporting astronauts. If this plan flops, NASA will have no backup because of the cancellation of the Ares I. Obama should ensure that the considerable amount of faith he is placing in the private sector is backed with concrete evidence that it can deliver, and not leave a gaping hole for us to fill.

However, NASA officials have gone on record saying that the proposed changes will speed the progress of space exploration because costs will be reduced and new technologies will be discovered.

Obama is making the right move by increasing the momentum for research, but he should make it clear to Americans that he is not abandoning the mission to the moon. NASA has served this country well for the past 51 years, and Obama should confirm his faith and our national commitment to NASA’s mission by reaffirming the mission to the moon.

Media is playing into hands of politicians

Lariat Letter

I woke up to yet another CNN report on Wednesday with a purpose I couldn’t understand any more than I could understand why the station fact-checked a Saturday Night Live skit about President Obama’s progress in office. Now, my picture of television news is becoming ever more skewed as I read Neil Postman’s “Amusing Ourselves to Death” (1985).

The story I’m referring to is that of Press Secretary Robert Gibbs’ mocking of Sarah Palin Tuesday. Of course Gibbs played it correctly, watching his professional back by waiting until Obama left the press room before he began his rant about the grocery list scribbled on the palm of his left hand.

Of course you may know about Palin’s use of her hand after “bashing” Obama’s use of the teleprompter. For the politicians involved, these back-and-forth media stunts have been genius attempts to garner extra support from either Republicans or Democrats because they know their actions will be reported. Granted, Palin had it coming. She started the feud and backed up her claims with some “hope-y, change-y” stuff.

It’s not because news outlets have nothing else to report. Just look at the “New York Times” homepage sometime and count the headlines (you’ll also notice the Gibbs’ story did not make front-page news on Wednesday). Nor does it have anything to do with which news network you’re watching. FOX News is reporting

the same issue just as often (about every 22 minutes).

Rather, what’s happened here is the media is showing just how whipped they are by major politicians.

CNN would like to wonder, “what happened to bipartisanship,” but the real reason bipartisanship does not exist is because partisanship has always and will always exist in America.

Rather than “for the people, by the people,” we have a government that works for the Party, by the Party.

There’s not a competition in America that could give us better television.

Psychologists say that if you ignore problematic children who act out, they’re likely to act out less because their deviant actions are often a call for attention. We have plenty of infants in Washington who enjoy nothing more than having their faces on television and prompting a few laughs from people they already know will laugh.

During the next major presidential press conference, what if the media just didn’t show up?

You could argue that without the media, the American people wouldn’t be able to get their news. But, studies show the population is increasingly uninterested. I’m certain only a handful of individuals will read this simply because they know it’s about politics and not Valentine’s Day. If the media’s worried about forsaking the “fourth-estate role,” it hasn’t been played by the mainstream media in quite a while.

I’m not sure if there’s a cure for the political stalemate we’re in, but no one, except maybe Obama, is making any attempt to relieve it. We’ve got to start somewhere.

*Billy Collins
journalism graduate student*

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Please Recycle This Issue

Baylor in Thailand: Mixing adventure, work

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

To many students, the idea of getting six hours of course credit in two weeks sounds like a great idea.

This is made even sweeter by the fact that these six hours can be earned in Southeast Asia.

While this trip sounds like a dream, it was a reality for 10 Baylor students.

Over Christmas break, the Baylor in Thailand program traveled to Hong Kong, Thailand and Cambodia.

Last year, this trip was rerouted to Vietnam, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Singapore because of political unrest in the country.

During this year's trip, students had the opportunity to visit the Royal Palace and grounds, the Temple of the Royal Buddha and the Floating Markets of Bangkok.

The group supervisor, Kathryn M. Mueller, senior lecturer

in sociology, has been working in Thailand for more than 20 years and has many connections there.

Through these connections, she has set up opportunities unavailable to the general public.

Students got to see a special section of the palace that is not open to the public.

Waco senior Ross Natividad, a Spanish and international studies major, remembered a group of Japanese tourists tried to follow the students in but were denied access.

"The general told me, 'Don't worry about them... If they had done for Thailand what you've done, maybe they could have gotten in, but they haven't,'" Mueller said.

Natividad had nothing but praise for Mueller.

"She knows everyone pretty much, both commoner and royalty," Natividad said of Mueller. "It was awesome for all the students; we really loved the trip."

Mueller did not know that the group would be paying homage to the king until just a few hours before.

Through out the tour, the group had been rushed from place to place by the palace guides.

She asked their guides why the rush, only to find out that the group was going to meet the king.

Flowers had been bought and the students would be presenting them in a traditional ceremony for the king.

"We knew we were going to the school, so we knew we had to have appropriate attire and be well dressed," Natividad said. "Other than that, meeting the king and paying homage – nothing. We did not expect that."

Mueller remembers being coached by four of the palace attendants.

"I had to curtsy and I'm not good at doing a curtsy and I thought I was going to fall on my face," Mueller joked.

Part of the experience is practicing the specific moves and appropriate actions for the ceremony.

"For the students ... we just didn't want to offend anyone," Natividad said. "We were very careful with our actions. For instance, the Thai people consider showing their heels to anyone a severe offense, so all of our movements we tried to make everything as perfect as possible," he said.

According to Natividad, there is a certain bow for royalty in which a person must bring their hands to their forehead as they make a low bow.

"It's a more intense, deeper bow. So we had to make sure we got the bows right. Heels had to be to the floor, of course. So we were watching our every move," he said.

While Natividad is grateful for the experience, at the time, it was nerve-wracking.

"Although it was an amazing experience to pay our respects to



COURTESY PHOTO

New Braunfels sophomore Nydia Romero performs in the elephant show at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center in Lampong, Thailand.

the king, it was kind of frightening because this is royalty and we were representing Baylor so we didn't want to do anything offensive to be in the media the next day. 'Baylor slanders the king,' you know," Natividad said.

Mueller said that Baylor was mentioned on national television on four different channels because of the group's visit to the palace.

In addition, they were featured in some of the newspapers.

This had a major impact throughout the rest of their trip in the country.

Mueller and Natividad remember being recognized a number of times when they were out of the capital.

In addition to time in Bangkok, the students traveled outside of the capital to Lampong, Chaing Mai and Chaing Rai.

Another new opportunity this year was that the students visited an elephant camp.

Mueller found out that the daughter of the director of all elephant hospitals and training attended the palace school.

After speaking with the father,

she arranged to have students get involved.

"He set up everything for us this year," Mueller said. "Not only did our students see the hospital, not only did they get to see an elephant give birth, they were also featured in the elephant show."

San Antonio senior Kelsey Swierc, who also went on the trip, said the elephant camp was her favorite part of the trip.

"We got to the elephant reservation camp and we walked up and there were a lot of kids there from the local school," Swierc said. "We met one elephant and I got to bathe one in the river. They told me that I would get wet, so I just rolled up my jeans, thinking that would be enough, but it wasn't."

After watching one of the shows, the Baylor group was invited to participate in the following show.

"We had about 10 minutes to learn the commands," Swierc said, which included ones for walking forward and backward and one for bowing. "They are ridiculously smart."

For some of the students on the study abroad trip who are considering applying to teach English in Thailand, the trip is like an audition or interview, Mueller explained.

Students visit the schools they could possibly teach at, meet the people involved and see the country firsthand.

Mueller, who conducts the interviews for the teaching program, explained that graduates teaching in Thailand can sign up to spend their month off training to become a mahout, a certified elephant trainer.

Natividad, who will be working in the palace school next year, plans to participate in this training.

Any major can apply to the program.

Enrollment is limited and the teaching language is English.

This is the only winter mini-semester program at Baylor, but Mueller hopes that there will be more like it in the future.

For more information, visit the Web site: <http://www.baylor.edu/ciel/>



COURTESY PHOTO

San Antonio senior Kelsey Swierc bathes an elephant in the river at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center in Lampong, Thailand.

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BU Missions prepares for Kenya trip in May

By Brittney Herman
Reporter

BU Missions is in the process of putting together teams from different fields to go to Kenya in late May for the program's sixth mission trip.

Unlike other trips offered, the Kenya trip comprises five different teams of people: medical and public health, general ministries, women's ministries, sports ministries and social work.

Many people in charge of this trip already have connections with ministries and churches in Kenya because of their involvement in the past.

Athletics chaplain Wes Yeary is one of the leaders in charge of the sports ministry team. Going on his second mission trip to Kenya, Yeary said he looks forward to once again spending two weeks with the sports teams, immersed in missions and seeing the effect it has on their lives.

"When I came here our goal was to provide spiritual growth for the athletes. I was thrilled about that," Yeary said. "My first year we joined with the medical team. We let the athletes know about these opportunities. They got involved with kids in villages."

Every year, the number of people participating in mission trips grows.

"Last May we partnered with the BU missions program, a team of 16, with football, soccer and basketball," Yeary said. "We used sports, the international language. It's a connection. Through sports and clinics we were given the privilege to share our faith."

There are currently 30 athletes signed up for the mission trip. More can sign up by contacting Yeary.

"Football, men's and women's basketball and volleyball athletes have a desire to serve, and also to share in a unique experience with



COURTESY PHOTO

Kelly Baker and Mandy Stalcup play with Kenyan children at a Compassion International program.

each other," Yeary said.

Volleyball was an addition to the trip last year and a great asset, according to Yeary. It is now the second most popular sport in Kenya, which allows for a basis of better communication and common ground between the two cultures.

Another fun yet unfamiliar means of communication for the Kenyans is football.

"They are all so fascinated by American football, but none of them have played it," Yeary said. "It's a neat way to interact to show them how to play and the size of our guys surprises them as well."

Ashley Mangrum, head of the women's ministry team and a George W. Truett Theological Seminary student, has been to Kenya in the past and is now pre-

paring for her first year as team leader. Mangrum said she has a strong desire to minister to these people.

"I [first] traveled to Kenya in 2001, and this will be my fifth time. My parents live there now," Magrum said. "I've done medi-

cal clinics, clean water initiatives and drilled water wells in addition to visiting children's hospitals in Nairobi where there is humanitarian needs. Baylor has a longstanding partnership with other countries since they started going a number of years ago."

Career Fair shows promise in job market

By John D. Elizondo
Reporter

Baylor graduates do not have to fear being unable to get a job after college because right now, businesses are hiring.

At Wednesday's HireABear Career and Intern Fair, more than 50 companies were seeking future full-time employees. Dan Imken, Hewlett-Packard business planner, said the need for employees is coming at a good time.

"We are employing interns and full time, and in this economy it is an encouraging sign," Imken said.

"We have signed a lot of people up for interviews and we really have a need right now because we are a growing company and we are looking for people to help us out as we grow." Ryan Wyllie, USSA recruiter, said that Baylor students should take advantage now of what is available for students when it comes to applying for jobs.

USSA is a company that provides services to military families.

"In today's tight job market, students at Baylor should utilize the career services. They should make sure they register with career services, have them look at their resume and do mock interviews with them too," Wyllie said.

Recent Baylor graduates were fortunate enough to get a job after college.

Matthew R. Schreiner, a 2009 alumnus, said that while he worked for the Baylor geology department during his graduate studies, some of his former professors convinced him to apply for a job with ExxonMobil.

Schreiner said that when he gave a recruiter his resume, Ex-

onMobil was not looking for his type of major.

But as his resume was passed along to other recruiters, he was finally able to receive an interview. He has been working for ExxonMobil since June 2009.

He credits his relationship with professors and networking as his key to getting a job.

"Just keep networking so you can know people that will help you get your foot in the door. Use your connections to your advantage," Schreiner said.

Some of the recruiters said that in today's business world, a

graduate's major sometimes does not matter, but the intangibles of the applicant that can boost their image to a future employer.

"Really work as best as you can to represent yourself, really try to make your resume look professional and your interview

skills are top-notch. That is really the number one thing," Wyllie said. "We look for someone with a great attitude, leadership skills and someone who can adapt to a new environment."

One recruiter said internships show how much drive an applicant has.

"An internship shows that you have developed the business sense, and in a resume it shows that you had that drive in the past that really set you apart from the crowd when you apply," Imken said. "I can't stress that enough, how much it will help you when applying."

2009 Alumna Brittany Balsaver, said her internship helped her become the Global Sourcing Coordinator at Academy Sports and Outdoors.

"As an intern at Academy, I learned so much in what to expect when I decided to apply for a job. It helped me meet new people and network," Balsaver said.

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Three artists to heat up Common Grounds

By JAMES BYERS
REPORTER

Singer-songwriter Tim Halperin found a practical way to incorporate his business education into his music. He has successfully identified his target market: girls.

"Being the business student that I am, it's pretty evident that girls like music when it's a guy playing love songs on a piano," said Halperin, a 22-year-old senior at Texas Christian University.

To increase his female fan base, Halperin, a marketing major and finance minor, recently toured sorority chapters at colleges across Texas in support of his new "Make or Break" EP. He will join Jillian Edwards and Robert Kelly for a Valentine's Day concert at 8 p.m. on Sunday at Common Grounds.

Students who are familiar with Richardson junior Edwards, a member of Baylor's Uproar Records, are less familiar with Halperin and Kelly.

Halperin grew up in Omaha, Neb., and began to take piano lessons at age 6. After playing with several bands in high school, he entered college at TCU and decided to pursue a career as a singer-songwriter.

"It's almost like starting your own business," he said.

Halperin said he's influenced by other piano-based acts such as Ben Folds, the Fray, and Jack's Mannequin, but he's found ways to distinguish his music.

"I think the difference is that I've always had a hint of jazz in my music," he said. "I have a range of slow, Coldplay-like ballads, but I also have some up-tempo, funky stuff."

In October, Halperin released "Make or Break," which was produced by Bryan Kieta of Fort Worth, who has worked with artists such as Green River Ordinance. "Make or Break" is composed of three songs, which Halperin said are three of the best songs he's ever written.

"I think any artist will tell you that it always takes a long time to really find your voice," he said. "With the new EP, I've finally been able to connect the song-writing with my style."

Halperin's EP is available for free online, although fans have the option to pay what they want. Halperin also ordered 5,000 physical copies, which he's been handing out on the Tim Halperin Sorority Tour. The tour came to Baylor in January, and Halperin, with his backing band, blitzed through the Stacy Riddle Forum,

playing songs for several sorority chapters. Halperin even pledged a free concert for the sorority that brings the most girls to the Valentine's Day concert.

"We drive around to college campuses and play songs for hundreds of sorority girls," said Halperin. "We joke about it; we're living the dream!"

Coppell senior DaNae Couch, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, received a copy of Halperin's EP.

"I really like it," she said. "I always love hearing music from local people who aren't so mainstream."

Kelly, a 22-year-old Belmont University graduate, will join Halperin and Edwards on Sunday. This isn't Kelly's first gig in Waco. The Allen native played at Common Grounds in October of 2008 and also performed with Matt Wertz and Jon McLaughlin at Waco Hall.

Kelly has been writing new material, which he plans to release this summer.

"I'm learning how to weave my life into the music that I write, instead of just writing catchy love songs that don't mean that much to me," said Kelly.

Kelly said his music is inspired by his globe-trotting travels to places such as Kenya, Syria, Jordan and Israel. For example,



COURTESY: TIM HALPERIN

Tim Halperin (above), along with Jillian Edwards and Robert Kelly, will perform at a Valentine's Day concert at Common Grounds on Sunday night.

once while backpacking alone in the Middle East, Kelly began to feel awkward as women and children gaped at him from around the corners of buildings. But he began to play guitar, and suddenly everyone rushed in toward

him, singing and trying to teach him songs in Arabic.

"It was so great to see the global language of music," Kelly said. "The intimacy that it brings out in people is just amazing. That's what I'm searching for with my

music. I want to make a connection with people."

Tickets to the concert are \$5 individually and \$8 for couples. Halperin will play at 8 p.m., followed by Kelly at 9 p.m. and Edwards at 10 p.m.

Ellen makes funny Idol debut

By MAUREEN RYAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ellen DeGeneres has an easy-going vibe about her, so it made sense that her first appearance as a judge on "American Idol" was relatively low key.

DeGeneres' debut as a judge took place Tuesday, during the first Hollywood episode of this season's "Idol." When the annual talent contest moves to the Hollywood round, the culling of contestants truly begins in earnest.

And for the first time, former judge Paula Abdul was not there to offer her trademark affirmations and encouragement to the nervous singers. Abdul left the show last year after a salary dispute, and it remains to be seen whether DeGeneres, Simon Cowell, Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson will have the kind of judging chemistry that will keep "Idol" No. 1 in the ratings.

On Tuesday, DeGeneres had no substantial run-ins with Simon Cowell, the show's famously acerbic judge, even though DeGeneres has promised to offer a kinder, gentler counterpoint to Cowell's pointed critiques.

"You scared me," DeGeneres told one stage-prowling contestant. "Don't frighten your audience," she told another singer.

"Don't get so intense. Sexy and scary - it's a fine line."

To other singers, she offered either mild criticism or gentle praise, often using the word



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"American Idol" judges, from left, Simon Cowell, Ellen DeGeneres, Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson judging contestants on the Fox series.

"amazing." Generally speaking, however, she allowed other judges to take the lead and wisely stayed in the background her first time out.

DeGeneres did provide a little humor when she was informing one group of nervous contestants whether it had made it through to the next round. Earlier, she had been instructing hopefuls to "step forward" or "step back,"

and those who were either in the front or back of the stage were told they'd made the cut. DeGeneres told one group to move back and forth, then from side to side - then told all of them they'd made it through.

All the judges were kind to Crystal Bowersox, a single mother who tried out at the Chicago auditions, and Charity Vance, another Chicago auditioner.

As for John Park, of Northbrook, Ill.; Angela Martin, of Chicago; and Jermaine Sellers, from Joliet, Ill., a Fox representative would not say if they advanced, though Park was seen celebrating at the end of the episode.

Regarding the men, the Fox representative did say "neither was cut" on Tuesday and that viewers should tune in later this month to see if Martin made it.

No-Skill Fruit Tart

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup shortening
1/2 cup cold water
3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 cups sliced fresh peaches
1 cup fresh blackberries

Directions

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

In a medium bowl, stir together the flour and salt. Cut in shortening by rubbing between your fingers until the mixture resembles oatmeal. Gradually stir in water until dough is just wet enough to hold together. Knead briefly, just so the dough holds together without crumbling. Place in the refrigerator while preparing the fruit.

In a medium bowl, stir together the sugar and cornstarch. Add the peaches and blackberries, and toss gently to coat.

Set aside.

Roll out the crust dough into a rough circle about the size of a dinner plate, and place on a flat baking sheet. Pile the fruit into a level mound in the center of the dough, leaving 1 to 2 inches of exposed dough around the edge. Throw out any juices that may have accumulated in the fruit bowl. Fold the dough up over the fruit - the edges should cover some of the fruit and berries, but not reach the center of the tart.

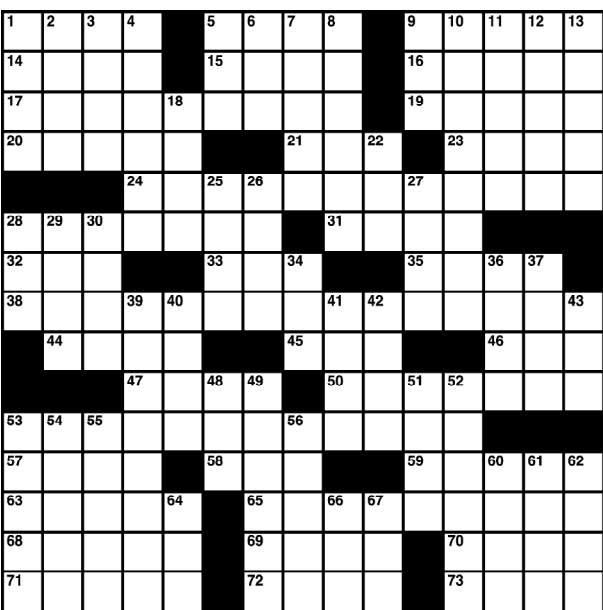
Bake for 25 to 30 minutes in the preheated oven, until the fruit is bubbly and the crust is golden brown. Let cool completely before cutting into wedges and serving.

Amount Per Serving Calories: 509 | Total Fat: 34.7g
Cholesterol: 0mg

FUN TIMES

Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com

McClatchy-Tribune



Across

1 Holy pilgrimage
5 Kids' getaway
9 "Gimme a break!"
14 Nobelist Wiesel
15 "This looks like trouble"
16 Leonard Marx, familiarly
17 "Get going!"
19 Peyotes, e.g.
20 She played Donna in the film "Mamma Mia!"
21 Sinus specialist, briefly
23 Baseball Hall of Famer Speaker
24 *1986 Pulitzer-winning Western novel
28 Feel the heat
31 Food critic Sheraton
32 "Bingo!"
33 X-Games bike, briefly
35 Run at a red light?

38 1968 Troggs Top 10 hit, and a hint to the hidden puzzle theme in the answers to starred clues
44 Jeans joint
45 Yield to gravity
46 Sportage maker
47 Fresh response
50 Serious-and-funny show
53 *Gunpowder, e.g.
57 They're not returned
58 Bosox great
59 Comforting comment
63 Parts partner
65 *Duffer's thrill
68 Native Alaskan
69 Treater's words
70 Persian Gulf land
71 ___ and all
72 Prime minister before Rabin
73 Ancient British Isles settler

Down

1 Bridge position
2 Burn balm
3 Fashionable Christian
4 Stevenson physician
5 ___-de-sac
6 Yellowfin tuna
7 Changes places
8 Rising star
9 N.C. State's conference
10 "Who, me?"
11 Tiny
12 When Brutus sees Caesar's ghost
13 Hullabaloo
18 Big-time
22 "I didn't need to know that," informally
25 Birds' bills
26 Humorist Bombeck
27 Islamic leader
28 ___ soda
29 Grinch victims
30 Place for Christmas

lights
34 Tee choices
36 Gospel writer
37 Camelot lady
39 Removes gently
40 Eye-opening theater
41 Fellows
42 Rural prefix
43 Beatles' "A ___ in the Life"
48 Security threat
49 Course for weavers?
51 Fired up
52 Like some weights
53 Bochco series
54 City NW of Orlando
55 Brand on a patio, maybe
56 Hole site
60 Foal's parent
61 Rink, often
62 Canterbury's county
64 Some NFL linemen
66 Feature of a two-ltr. monogram
67 Neighbor of Aus.

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	8		4	1	2			
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	9	4		3		1		
			2	8	4			9

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Baylor players Quincy Acy, left, and Anthony Jones (41) celebrate their 55-53 win Wed. in Lincoln, Neb. Baylor defeated Nebraska 55-53.

Men’s basketball evades Lincoln with 55-53 victory

By Justin Baer
Sports Editor

In a low-scoring battle, it was only fitting that a defensive fury in the game’s expiring moments would clinch a 55-53 victory for No. 24-ranked Baylor.

Quincy Acy hounded Lance Jeter in the final seconds, and eventually blocked what could have been a game-winning 3-pointer, as the Bears (18-5, 5-4) avoided an upset against the University of Nebraska Wednesday night at the Devaney Center in Lincoln, Neb.

On the previous possession, Nebraska guard Brandon Richardson heaved a 3-pointer from the wing, but the shot clanked off the rim. Acy ascended into the air to pull down the rebound then was immediately fouled and sent to the free-throw line. He made 1-of-2 free throws to give Baylor a 55-53 lead with nine seconds remaining in the game.

The Cornhuskers sprinted down the floor with a chance to win the game or send it into over-

time. They accomplished neither.

Acy punched the ball out of Jeter’s hands, but Jeter recovered it and tossed up a shot. Acy swatted the ball as time expired, snapping a four-game road losing streak to Big 12 North opponents.

Richardson’s 3-pointer with 1:54 gave the Cornhuskers a 53-50 lead. But coming out of a 30-second timeout, Ekpe Udoh was fouled and converted both free throws to dice into the lead.

After a series of missed shots from the Cornhuskers, Udoh dropped in a turnaround jumper five feet away from the basket to give the Bears a 54-53 lead with 25 seconds remaining. From there, the late-game tension ensued.

LaceDarius Dunn was the only Bear to reach double-figure scoring with 19 points, as Baylor’s 55 points was the lowest scoring output since Jan. 20, 2007, when the Bears were slaughtered in a 91-51

The Huskers held Baylor to its lowest first-half scoring production of the season (23 points),

however the Bears were only behind four points heading into the half. Dunn had 11 first-half points, including a putback that snapped a 7 minute, 30 second streak without a Baylor field goal to bring the Bears within one point at 22-21.

In the second half, a pair of consecutive 3-pointers from Dunn and Tweety Carter gave the Bears their biggest lead of the half. The Huskers resisted a Baylor run and streaked back into the game.

Richardson tied the game at 50 on a free throw with 3:58 remaining in the game. A minute-and-a-half later, he drained his first 3-pointer of the game to give Nebraska the late lead, but the Bears concluded the game with a 5-0 run.

Baylor plays host to the University of Missouri Saturday at 12:45 p.m. at the Ferrell Center. The Athletics Department is offering a ‘four for \$40’ promotion.

More information can be found at baylorbears.com

Lady Bears fall to Oklahoma in OT, 62-60

By Chris Derrett
Sports Writer

Despite a second half surge and a triple double from Brittney Griner, Baylor fell to Oklahoma 62-60 in overtime Wednesday night in Norman, Okla.

Griner finished with 17 points, 12 rebounds and 11 blocks, but the Lady Bears’ performance in the first half doomed them.

“The game was lost at the end of the first half with Griner on the bench,” coach Kim Mulkey said. “I am so proud that they fought, but there comes a point in time when you have to step up and make shots.”

Mulkey’s squad stumbled to 6 of 32 first half shooting for 15 points, Baylor’s lowest ever first half scoring output in Big 12 play. Griner committed her second foul late in the half, and Mulkey pulled her out with 3:13 remaining. From that point Oklahoma finished the half on a 10-0 run, attacking Baylor in the painted area with the Lady Bears’ post presence on the bench.

“It went from a two-point game to a 12-point game because of things that Baylor did to Baylor, not what (Oklahoma) did to Baylor,” assistant coach Bill Brock said.

Throughout the first 20 min-

utes the Sooners applied heavy inside pressure, conceding open-jump shots that Baylor struggled

“I am so proud that they fought, but there comes a point in time when you have to step up and make shots.”

Kim Mulkey
Lady Bears coach

to knock down. Baylor entered the locker room down 27-15 and

was outscored in the paint 20-0. Oklahoma also led the rebounding game, 30-16, including nine offensive rebounds to the Lady Bears’ four.

After the halftime break Baylor heated up. Morghan Medlock’s layup cut the Oklahoma lead to 34-29, and a Griner block appeared to give her team a chance to narrow the margin further. But Morghan Medlock threw the ball away on the Lady Bears’ next possession, allowing the Sooners to score the first of two consecutive baskets and pull ahead 38-29.

Baylor finally took the lead, the first since being ahead 2-0,

when a Griner jumper gave her team a 45-44 advantage. Griner’s performance, Mulkey said, kept the Lady Bears in the game.

“I’ve never seen a kid that age that gets that much attention defensively and still has the ability to take her basketball team into an overtime,” she said.

The teams traded the lead seven more times in regulation.

The Lady Bears held a 60-58 lead with three and a half minutes left in overtime after Jordan Madden netted her second 3-pointer of the game. Oklahoma, aided by three consecutive Baylor turnovers, scored the winning basketball on Nyeshia Robinson’s

bucket with 15 seconds left.

Oklahoma’s Abi Olajuwon and Amanda Thompson finished with 19 points each, and Thompson also collected 19 rebounds.

The Sooners held a 58-41 lead in rebounds at the final buzzer.

Although Baylor played yet another game without junior guard Melissa Jones, Mulkey felt her team had plenty of opportunity to earn a victory.

“It’s time for these kids to grow up,” Mulkey said. “I hope for each of them, on their way home, it aches at their heart that they didn’t make plays to win this basketball game. This was a winnable basketball game.”

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Vonn isn't shying away from lofty expectations

By Bill PwNnington
New York Times News Service

Lindsey Vonn, the defending World Cup ski champion and multiple Olympic medal favorite, tried other sports as a child. Figure skating was a struggle, and she was not very accomplished at gymnastics, either. "The worst was soccer," Vonn said with a laugh in an interview late last year. "My mom finally made me quit because I kept kicking the ball in my own team's goal. Ask anybody who knows me, I'm kind of a klutz off my skis."

Vonn was walking from a coffee shop in Vail, Colo., as she spoke. "I'm dead serious," she said. "Just doing something like this – stepping off a curb – my coaches worry that some day I'm going to trip and break something."

Truth be told, she was not all that good on skis at first. Her youth coach in Minnesota, the Austrian-born Erich Sailer, said of Vonn's earliest races, "You could walk faster than she skied."

But that changed quickly. Like many a prodigy, Vonn soon exhibited an indefinable gift, a oneness with the snow.

She easily won race after race, and when she advanced to steeper courses, she maintained a cool, graceful style and won by bigger margins. She was confident soaring in the air, usually a daunting experience for a child. As the challenges and the mountains got bigger, when other junior skiers would instinctually hesitate, Vonn would charge.

Not much had changed by the time she joined the U.S. ski team as a teenager.

"I remember in her first year with the team, I was standing with Bode Miller next to a course at Mammoth Mountain, and she came flying by and I said, 'Who is that?'" Daron Rahlves, a former American downhill great said, recalling a training camp in California in 2001. "And Bode said, 'I don't know, but she's the only girl trying to take the same line down the mountain that we are.'"

Rahlves laughed. "I watch her now and I see the same thing," he said. "She skis like a guy. Always attacking."

According to the coaches who have tutored her throughout her career, Vonn's inherent talent was always accompanied by a herculean work ethic.

"Up and down the mountain, day after day – nights, weekends, holidays – Lindsey was always there and she never complained," Sailer said. "She would go until we turned off the lights at night."

When Vonn was 11, she began training at Ski Club Vail, an elite snow sports academy. One of her coaches there, John Cole, said that at first, he would sometimes lose track of her.

"We would be inside with the other kids because it was cold, raining or it was lunchtime, and somebody would say, 'Where's Lindsey?'" Cole said. "And you know what? We learned to look back up the hill because she had stayed out there and was taking more runs through the race course."

Though she is now 25 and one of the signature American athletes heading into the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, she still pushes just as hard – perhaps too hard sometimes.

Vonn revealed Wednesday that she had sustained a leg injury last week during training.

"If you want to know why Lindsey is so good, go to the gym 90 minutes before the rest of the team is scheduled to start working out," said Jim Tracy, a coach for the United States team. "Lindsey will already be there."

Vonn has a limited number of serious pursuits, but she tends to approach each with similar determination. She spent at least half the year racing in Europe, and it frustrated her that she could not communicate more adeptly. So she learned German, and not just a little bit. When Vail Resorts was negotiating to become a major sponsor of Vonn's,

the corporation's chief executive, Rob Katz, happened upon a YouTube clip of Vonn on a German television talk show.

"It was a David Letterman-type show, and there was Lindsey cracking jokes and making repartee with the host in German," Katz said. "I was blown away that she had taught herself that well. She's focused, genuine and does things in a way that people admire. When you're going to link yourself to an athlete, you are looking for Derek Jeter. We got ski racing's Derek Jeter."

"It's definitely weird to have your face everywhere, but I am as prepared for it as I can be."

Lindsey Vonn
Defending World Cup ski champion

Vonn, if healthy, is the favorite in the Olympic downhill, super-G and super-combined, which is one run of slalom combined with one run of downhill.

She will be a more distant medal contender in her other events, slalom and giant slalom.

Counseled by her husband, the former Olympic skier Thomas Vonn, who also acts as an adviser and coach, Lindsey has tried to normalize the situation she faces in Vancouver.

"It's definitely weird to have your face everywhere, but I'm as prepared for it as I can be," she said. "I have worked very hard, and I've always wanted an Olympic medal. Everyone should know that I will try my best."

And then, when the Olym-

pics are over, Vonn could achieve the second biggest goal in her life: appearing in an episode of television's "Law & Order."

"I am obsessed with the show," she said. "I'll play a stiff on a mortuary slab, I don't care. Or I could be a bystander on the street, someone who points and says, 'They went that way.' I could do that. I don't know if they want me running somewhere or doing anything athletic, but I could stand still and do something. I'd be good at that. I really would."



Lindsey Vonn

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PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

WILSON from pg.1

Army from Afghanistan in 1989. Mike Vickers, who as a CIA agent in 1984 played a key role in the clandestine effort to arm the Afghan rebels, said Wilson played a part in the Soviet Union's collapse, which happened just two years after its withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Vickers, now assistant secretary of defense for special operations, praised Wilson as a "great American patriot who played a pivotal role in a world-changing event — the defeat of the Red Army in Afghanistan, which led to the collapse of Communism and the Soviet Empire."

After leaving Congress, Wilson lobbied for a number of years before returning to Texas.

"Charlie was perfect as a congressman, perfect as a state representative, perfect as a state senator. He was a perfect reflection of the people he represented. If there was anything wrong with Charlie, I never did know what it was," said Charles Schnabel Jr., who served for seven years as Wilson's chief of staff in Washington and worked with Wilson when he served in the Texas Senate.

Schnabel said he had just been with Wilson a few weeks ago for the dedication of the Charlie Wilson chair for Pakistan studies at the University of Texas, Austin, a \$1 million endowment. He said Wilson had been doing "very good."

"He had the heart transplant in September 2007 and he recovered and he said quote, 'he was a poster boy for heart transplants.' He was doing very well. He was taking a whole lot of medicine," Schnabel said.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas called Wilson "a lifetime public servant with a fiery passion for the people of east Texas, our men and women in uniform, our veterans and our freedoms."

"I have had the great privilege to work alongside him on several issues of importance to our veterans in Texas, and I will miss his leadership and dedication," he said. Ogletree said Wilson is survived by his wife, Barbara, and a sister.

NASP from pg.1

counseling and to use prevention methods to keep children's minor problems from progressing.

"In essence, our graduates are trained to work in schools to kind of be the mental health resource in the public schools," Robinson said. "They work with the school's system to help support and advocate for children."

Robinson said the approval will also help attract a broader applicant pool, which has been evident since the program achieved conditional approval in 2008.

"It expands your national prominence as a program, which in turn tends to bring student interest in the form of applications from across the U.S.," Robinson said, "and we're seeing those benefits already."

Ann Holt, a graduate student in the school psychology program, said the approval would help not only the university and the school psychology program, but also individual students.

"It's really good for Baylor and our program and for individual students that we got accredited," Holt said. "It helps individual students because if you come from an accredited program, it says a lot about the program and your training, and if you want to get your doctorate, it helps in that process as well. I just think it speaks highly of our professors and the amount of time and work they put in, and of the quality of education we receive in this program."

YOUTH from pg.1

what the lieutenant governor job was. I'm glad he explained that."

Dewhurst is currently unopposed in the 2010 lieutenant governor campaign and says he if he's re-elected he will work harder at communicating with senators. "It's amazing how many problems can be solved between you and whoever you're working with if you just communicate," he said.

PHOTO from pg.1

dents with special needs.

"Tyler came up to me and asked if I thought he could take this course," Callaway said. "I am not one to say no, so I told him if he was up for the challenge, I was up for it too."

Callaway said the key was finding objects that would help Tyler be a successful photographer.

"The journalism department purchased a trigger cable. However, we then realized that Tyler was unable to push the button to take a picture, so I contacted the studio art department and the School of Engineering and Computer Science, along with two of his students said the project was enjoyable.

Callaway said that with a little effort, it all worked.

"What we came up with is a strap that will attach to his leg. There's a bracket on his chair that we can attach the camera to, and it's about chest high. The bracket has the capability of having Tyler press one finger to focus and another to take a picture," Callaway said. Brian Garner, a professor in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, along with two of his students said the project was enjoyable.

"We consider that doing this for Tyler is a blessing. By the end of this week, we should be finished," Garner said.

Callaway admires the Baylor community's dedication and talent.

"The fact that we could get this accomplished right here on our campus is amazing. It is so rewarding, and I can't thank everyone enough," Callaway said.

Chuck Jobe is a lab technician in the studio art department.

"I really enjoyed having the opportunity to work with Tyler," Jobe said. "I have a great amount of respect for him and what he routinely accomplishes."

Ben Hernandez III, one of Tyler's three personal assistants, helps him with household chores and with anything he needs for class.

"I was a chef at Brook's College Dining Hall, and he liked my cooking skills," Hernandez said. "We instantly became friends. I enjoy helping him. Whatever he needs, I'm there."

Attending Baylor has not always been easy for Tyler, but he said his determination and courage have defined him, instead of his physical disability.

"I get note-takers from OALA (office of access and learning accommodation), and I type with software called Dragon NaturallySpeaking. I talk into a microphone and say what I want to put in a document. I have to say every little detail, including punctuation. It's all about finding a way to make things work," Dukes said.

Cece Lively, his OALA disability adviser, said Dukes has been a true inspiration to students, faculty and staff.

"Tyler had a lot of dedication. Tyler just wants to graduate college before his illness progresses any further," Lively said. Lively said every obstacle he surmounts is just one step further to his dream.

"He has had bumps in the road, but he has made the most of it and keeps pushing on. He set his sights on a goal and never let anything stop him. He graduates in May and will 'roll' across the stage," Lively said.

"There's no limit to what our students can do. Tyler has overcome insurmountable odds," Lively said.

Dukes said the rewards outweigh giving up.

"It's a sense of accomplishment. I've done something few people with a physical disability accomplish. We all have our good days and bad days, but it's no more of a struggle than anyone else," Dukes said.

Hernandez said Dukes is getting the education he deserves.

"He's getting something he's always wanted. He deserves it. He's a fighter. Despite what we're made of, we're all fighting. I'm fighting standing up, and Tyler's fighting standing down. Tyler has made me appreciate this fight," Hernandez said. After graduation, Dukes plans to pursue a career in public relations.

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