Starr named 14th president

Pepperdine dean will take office June 1

By Carl House

Starr Werner

Judge Kenneth W. Starr, dean and professor of law at Pepperdine University, was unanimously elected as Baylor’s 14th president by the Baylor University Board of Regents Monday. Starr said: “I am very excited and honored to be here,” Starr said. “I am very happy to be a part of the Baylor campus, and I will do my very best to help Baylor move in the direction it is moving, which is upward.”

In an interview with the Lariat on Monday morning at the Baylor campus, Starr said he is honored and humbled that he was elected Baylor’s president. “It’s a great university with a proud tradition of 150 years, plus,” Starr said. “And almost every great brand has its own story, and I think happily situated in my native state.”

Starr was Solicitor General of the United States from 1986 to 2005 and was appointed famous for his investigation in the Monica Lewinsky scandal. He was the author of the Starr Report, which provided evidence to impeach former President Bill Clinton. He was appointed as a judge for the District of Columbia Circuit in 2006 and was named to the U.S. Supreme Court, until he was replaced by Justice Elena Kagan in 2010.

Starr’s connection to the former president dates back to 1989, when he acted as Solicitor General of the United States until 1993, arguing 25 cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during his tenure.

His legal achievements include being one of 11 Circuit Court Judges for the District of Columbia Circuit and is currently a non-denominational Christian. He has plans to join a Baptist congregation in Waco. He was married to Alice Starr, the mother of four grandchildren.

The road we took

Baylor began the arduous process of looking for a president 19 months ago

By Nick Dean and Shannon Beshmak

The position of president at a Big 12 university may seem daunting to most, but the process of getting the job done seems to have been the goal of Dean Starr’s job search.

That process began 19 months ago and ended Monday with the announcement of Baylor’s 14th president, Kenneth Starr.

But how did we get here?

The Start of the Search

The search began after the board of regents fired Baylor’s interim president, Dr. David Garland, dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, was named as acting president on Aug. 28, 2008. Baylor’s Board of Regents Chairman, Dr. Howard K. Batson, appointed two committees to aid the search and said it would be an open-ended process in March 2009. The all-male Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Allen S. Green, and the all-female Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Janet L. Wilson, were instructed to find a president who would have the interest of Baylor at heart.

Search Committee headed up the effort, and it also had voting power. The chairman was a continuing role of the committee and was named as the Baylor’s statutory president search chair. He was appointed as the Baylor presidential search committee chair in March 2009.

“I think everyone worked together really well. I was really very pleased with the participation, and especially pleased with the discussions,” he said. “We didn’t always agree, but we worked towards the same goal.”

Fifteen invitations were given, and one regret declined by 15 members of the presidential search committee. Green said that the search committee operated effectively and provided much-needed dialogue.

Starr’s resume includes his life

By Liz Finkham

Diligently pursuing the profession of U.S. President and teaching for 20 years of history, Ken Starr is one of the few to lead the university into a new era, and one of the best choices for Baylor.

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President-elect Kenneth Starr

Born July 21, 1946 in Vonien, Texas
B.A. from George Washington University 1969
M.A. from Brown University in 1976
J.D. from Duke University Law School in 1973

Dunne and Kathy Roberts Dean and President of Law at Pepperdine since 2014

Independent Counsel on the Whitewater case

Authorized the Starr Report, which led to former President Bill Clinton’s impeachment by alleging Clinton’s actions under oath about his extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Independent Counsel of the U.S. from 1986 to 1993, arguing 25 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia from 1993 to 1999

Law clerk to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger from 1973 to 1977

Authorised 25 invitations and hosted a book titled First Among Equals: The Supreme Court in American Life.

Son of a Church of Christ minister

Currently a non-denominational Christian

Plans to join a Baptist congregation in Waco

Married to Alice Starr, the mother of four grandchildren

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

RUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

150th Anniversary Issue

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David Wilson, chairman of the board of regents, said Starr is a “very comprehensive process.”

Starr said he left Oxford to join the law firm after a period in the military. He returned to the University of Texas at Austin to teach law for a year, then taught at the University of Michigan for two years. He has been a professor of law at Pepperdine since 2004.

Starr was born in Vernon, Texas and raised in San Antonio, though he currently lives in Malibu, Calif.

“I’m a fifth-generation Texan and fifth-generation Bush,” Starr said. “I am very excited and honored to be here,” Starr said. “I am very happy to be a part of the Baylor campus, and I will do my very best to help Baylor move in the direction it is moving, which is upward.”

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Starr is an unconventional, but positive addition

On Sept. 11, 2001 and corresponding days after that, we all witnessed footage of the Twin Towers falling in a mass of devasting rubble. All we called loved ones and all we could name for names we had never cared before — while some cried for names they had heard and cherished.

There was a nationwide breaking as the smoke billowed from these two pillars of strength and prestige; we all felt weak and small. Our freedom became mortally. Americans were disillusioned, but intermixed by compassion. The footage made us feel. The footage connected us.

As the towers collapsed, so did our sense of security. So many of us had previously felt shielded under the protection of the nation’s illusion of invincibility. Nearly nine years later, incomparable photos have surfaced, taken by men in a New York Police helicopter. Many of us, separated by time and geography, believed we knew the enormity and entirety of the tragedy.

That footage connected us.

"Starr's background in service and justice yields itself to active participation in the local community as he makes Waco his home."

On the dawn of the extensive search, Baylor invited members of its family to participate in the conversation. In an April 24, 2009 article, the Baylor Lariat quoted Student Body President Jordan Harrison as saying, "I would like to see a president who is visible in the Waco community and in the community."

Starr’s background in service and justice yields itself to active participation in the local community as he makes Waco his home. ‘Starr’s background in service and justice yields itself to active participation in the local community as he makes Waco his home.’

ABC shows journalistic initiative by gaining release of distinctly heart-wrenching 9/11 photos

ABC has achieved public controversy involving Bill Clinton and his administration.

With the announcement showing a major in new categories, such as CNN, Fox, and ABC, Bailey has already accomplished public acknowledgement. As a result, its station will be heavily elevated. Potential employers will take notice of this previously little-publicized lawyer.

Starr has a notable academic background. He attended Stanford University and George Washington University as an undergraduate.

Starr served as Counselor to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith, Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals, and is often recognized for his role in the Whitewater investigation, a political controversy involving Bill Clinton and his administration.

comforted about and kind to every individual he encounters. From the students for whom he is importantly available, to the death row inmates whose legal appeals he has handled on a pro bono basis, he is unbelievably generous with his time, expertise and wisdom." former president of the American Civil Liberties Union Nadine Strossen said. The most important aspect of this decision is very as to whether in a president with a heart. This is what we find most honorable. He has also written about morality in law and his ties might be controversial, he often acts as a moral crusader.

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"Starr's background in service and justice yields itself to active participation in the local community as he makes Waco his home."
and just casually asked him about where he was in his faith and spiritual journey and learned that he was at an independent Bible church that had baptistic leanings,” Phillips said. 

Starr said he plans to join in Baylor’s Thanksgiving service and sing in the choir.

Starr said he has been involved in a non-denominational church in Waco for about three years. He is also a member of his home church, McLane Bible Church, and operates under a Baptist theology.

Starr said McLane Bible Church is considered consistent with Baptist theology.

“Ken Starr’s home church McLane Bible Church as you might find it, it just does not have a Baptist in its name,” Stone said.

“Many are on our board are familiar with this church and had a great, very controversial connection,” Starr said about his baptismal beliefs.

Starr said members of the advisory committee were pleased with Starr’s alignment of his beliefs and said they aligned well with Baylor’s.

“A lot of people outside of Texas don’t have the opportunity for Baptist beliefs that we bless with in Waco, obviously specifically here in Waco,” Stone said. “And so I suspect that if Ken Starr had been in Waco, he would have been a Baptist at Central.”

Starr agreed with Stone.

“It will be a wonderful experience because I am very comfortable with the great Baptist heritage. I have been going to be right at home, though, as a non-Baptist.”

Phillips said Starr’s experience at Pepperdine and Pepperdine’s similarities with Baylor’s faculty, student body and even its physical plant, will prove a perfect fit for the job.

“(Pepperdine) has a strong re- ligious emphasis and a desire to emphasize and a desire to improve the campus facilities. He was the first native Texan and fought for the Confederacy before Independence, he was the presi- dent for 24 men and women. As a small frame schoolhouse in 1846-1851, he was the president of Baylor, he was an evangelist, a lawyer and a farmer.”

Starr talked about Imperative 12 and 12, with its goal of achieving a $1.1 billion endowment by 2012.

“Perhaps even add a new av- enue for engagement with the students, sort of just a sense of connection between a partic- ular student leader and the entire student body,” Starr said.

Starr said his home church’s student body should not be viewed just as a residence, but also as a re- source for the faculty, staff and students. He said the president’s house will be open to com- ing to the Baylor community.

“Instead of rounding the corner of a building, a student opens the door and enters the president’s office,” Gordon said.

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However, in 1921, he took over as president after Crane’s death.

A leader who could bring all the various factions to- gether,” Phillips said. “And bring them together enthusiastically.”

Starr’s Vision for Baylor

Although Starr is excited to take over for former president Baine’s, he also said he needs to adjust to the Baylor rhythm.

“I plan to learn and learn before I start suggesting direc- tion,” Starr said. “We are of course in the latter phase of 2012.”

Starr talked about his transition and how he plans to implement that plan. It is now time for him to begin thinking and strategically about what the institution will need.

He also mentioned creating new traditions.

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The Christian music artist[5] is the largest Baptist university in the United States, and you would expect figure[6] every campus, but not U2, nor at Waco, which is a shame.

Waco's proximity to the biggest cities could be wasted on me leaving on the weekends. I choose to stay in Waco. Blessing on Waco. How can I choose to live in the "live music capital of the world" and not even look at the list of local acts that are playing here every week?

So, in essence, if you're a music lover but you feel like you're missing out on the good acts because you're living in Waco, you might feel like you're leaving something on the table.

The film also develops an interesting character dynamic. Barnette's character, played by Woody Harrelson, is a music agent who is initially dismissive of Bad's talent but eventually becomes convinced by the power of music to bring people together.

The film's final line is a powerful one: "The music is the medicine."

For the audience of "Valentine's Day," the lesser-known film, the music is the medicine.

The movie's success is a testament to the power of music to bring people together, even in the face of clichés and sentimentalism.

In conclusion, "Crazy Heart" is an enjoyable film that delivers on its promise of providing a fresh take on the classic Western genre. Its focus on music and its exploration of the different ways in which music can be used to heal and connect people make it a film that is worth seeing for anyone who appreciates good music and compelling storytelling.
By Daniel Cernero

Baylor senior John McClain, a sports writer for the Houston Chronicle, talked about the ways he has survived the ever-changing world of the newspaper industry Monday at the Society of Professional Journalists meeting. McClain emphasized the importance of being able to adapt to technology and the growing world of social media.

“I don’t want to be an old dog who can’t learn new tricks,” McClain said. “You have to adapt. You have to be flexible.”

Many of his friends didn’t adapt to the Internet. Instead, they ignored it and lost all as a result.

Before graduating from Baylor, McClain had already been working at the Waco Tribune-Herald for three years. Upon graduation, McClain began working for the Houston Chronicle, where he still works today.

“[I was hired at Houston Chronicle] in the sportswriter department [longer than any of our other writers and] am told that I’m the second-highest paid,” McClain said. “Well, huge misconception, it’s a lot of hard work.”

McClain said, “When you look back at any achievement, [pressure], and I think our guys are more mature.”

Drew, Baylor basketball coach, has preached that cake-over-three game-winning shots and two game-winning baskets off missed shots with 1.2 seconds remaining in the game to send the Bears on a 46-2 victory.

“I know that Ekpe is one of these guys that doesn’t mind having a lot of pressure on him,” said Drew, who earned his 99th career victory with Saturday’s win. “He performs well under pressure, and I think our guys look to him.”

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Starr, from p. 1...

...tion, which cites the validity of his position as dean at Pepperdine, in addition to his position as dean at Baylor. "From early December to today, I would say there was kind of an awareness that that investigation, and you are able to slot him in and get him re-confirmed," said Armes. "I think his candi- date rather quickly."

"Starr was asked to be a deacon of a law school in Texas, so he had been approached, but he said it wasn't a university. Armes said. "A state school didn't feel right so [Starr] said the fact that Baylor was in Texas and a Christian university was kind of a draw to him," Armes said. Starr contacted and had a meeting with him in early December in Washington, D.C.

"I came back and said to some of my colleagues, this is a great candidate — we really need to pursue this," said Armes. At this point, the committee was able to incorporate Starr's application quickly because of the advanced stage it was already in.

In early December, the process was moving along pretty well as it got the attention from that standpoint," said Armes. "It caused a backlash of alumni sentiment, claim- ing that Starr's Proposition 8 position undermined the univer- sity's academic mission, as revealed by the Malibu Times on Malibu Times.

Jerry Derril, Pepperdine University director of public re- lations and news, defended Starr's position from pg.1...