

## OPINION PAGE 2

*“While it may take the pressure off of over-worked professors, outsourced grading is the wrong solution. The money should be used to hire more T. A.’s or even more professors.”*

## NEWS PAGE 4

### Relay For Life

With Friday’s walk to fight cancer, a family shares their story of battling cancer

## A&E PAGE 5

### Calling all college actors

Baylor alum directs independent film, holds casting call Saturday for hundreds of paid extras, actors

# TABC subpoenas 32, investigates area bar

By **LIZ FOREMAN**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission began issuing subpoenas to 32 students Wednesday in connection with the March 20 Sigma Chi party at a area bar.

The commission began its

investigation after Navarro County College student Megan Helal, 19, died the morning after attending the unauthorized fraternity event.

“We’re trying to locate witnesses that might have possibly been at the party and subpoenaing them to come in and talk with us,” said Lt. Tom Dickson

of the TABC.

Dickson said the TABC is specifically investigating the events at Mynar’s, the bar in West where the party took place.

“We’re working with Waco Police and our case is investigating whether there were minors drinking on licensed premises,” Dickson said.

According to the TABC roster report, Mynar’s received a TABC violation for the sale, service or delivery of alcohol to a minor in 1995 under previous ownership.

However, Mynar’s has not been cited since the new ownership took over in 2004.

“One thing we do when we

look at a location like this, is we look at the history: police reports or calls for service out there,” Dickson said.

“This particular bar has not been the subject of any complaints to us.”

Dickson said that if found in violation, the bar could face such consequences as a warn-

ing, suspension or cancellation of its alcohol permit.

Waco Police are currently pursuing the investigation into Helal’s death, which hinges upon the toxicology report from the autopsy, Waco Police spokesman Steve Anderson said.

The results are not expected for several more weeks, he said.

# Dunn’s not done



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior guard LaceDarius Dunn announces to the public Thursday afternoon that he will remain at Baylor for the 2010-2011 season instead of opting for the NBA.

# Lace ‘em up: He’s here to stay

By **CHRIS DERRETT**  
SPORTS WRITER

LaceDarius Dunn stood at the lectern Thursday afternoon as his teammates and coaches watched with anticipation. To cheers and claps from his fellow Baylor Bears, Dunn announced that he will play his senior season instead of declaring himself eligible for the NBA draft.

“This is a great decision. I talked with my family members and coaches that I needed to in order to make this deci-

sion. It has been a long week and it has been tough,” Dunn said.

Neither choice was particularly grasping Dunn, he explained. He did say that the NBA mock draft board was not a factor in his decision, instead crediting God for giving him direction throughout the process.

“Every night I was just praying for God to give me the strength to make the right decision that would be best for me and my family,” Dunn said.

Among other sources, Dunn said he spoke frequently with junior forward Ekpe Udoh before Dunn made up his mind.

He also wants to continue his Baylor education and earn his degree in general studies.

It was such a difficult thought process, Dunn said, he could not actually pinpoint when he finally settled on Baylor.

The 6-foot-4 guard started all 36 games for the Bears last season. He averaged 19.6 points per season and was a 41

percent three-point shooter.

“This is a tremendous lift for our team. I know that several people have us picked in the top 10 (next season), but we don’t put much stock in predictions,” Drew said. “I do know that we have a better chance to reach our full potential with a guy like LaceDarius Dunn.”

Last year Dunn made a concerted effort to drive the ball more often and more effectively, as opposed to wait-

see **DUNN**, pg. **3**

# Candidates at student debate talk campaigns

By **CATY HIRST**  
STAFF WRITER

Student government held the Electoral Commission Candidate Debate, the first student debate for the candidates running for external vice president, internal vice president and student body president Thursday.

Bill Dunker, electoral commissioner, was in charge of setting up the debate.

“I think it was a big success,” Dunker said. “This is the only avenue students have to directly question the candidates about what they want to do.”

Dunker, acting as mediator, asked the candidates questions from audience members.

Houston sophomore Cristina Galvan, currently a senator, is running for external vice president. Galvan was unable to debate due to an illness, but was present for the event.

“I regret not being able to

participate. I lost my voice,” Galvan said. “I think it was a great chance for students to see what issues the candidates stood for.”

Thousand Oaks, Calif., junior Kate Williams, currently director of communications for student government, is running for external vice president. She gave a one-minute speech about why she should be elected, since the external vice president debate could not take place.

Williams, a write-in candidate, promised to work for issues previous external vice presidents have fought for, such as tax-free textbooks, as well as work on new issues.

“It is time to take it to the next level. Elect me as EVP and I promise I will never stop working for you,” Williams said in her speech.

The candidates for internal vice president are Fall City

see **DEBATE**, pg. **6**



MATT HELLMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Internal vice president candidates Louisburg, Kan., sophomore Paul Baumgardner, Falls City junior Michael Lyssy and Austin junior Ross Watson participate in a Q&A session Thursday in Cashion Academic Center during the first-ever Student Government election debate.

# Organ guru named professor of the year

By **LAURA REMSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Joyce Jones, the School of Music’s Joyce Oliver Bowden Professor of Music and Organist in Residence, received the Cornelia Marschall Smith Professor of the Year Award Wednesday.

“Of course I’m very thrilled and very humbled,” Jones said.

Jones has been on the music faculty at Baylor for more than 40 years.

“Just the sheer longevity of her term here is amazing in itself, but during those 40 years she’s probably been the most prolific performer in the School of Music’s history,” Dr. William May, dean of the School of Music said. “All of the 40 years, she’s been considered an organ virtuoso and been in great demand by audiences literally all over the world.”

May recognizes the importance of the award for his school.

“It’s a wonderful honor for anyone on this campus and we are particularly proud of Dr. Jones because she’s been

such an important member of this faculty for so many years,” May said.

May explained that the facilities the School of Music has are due largely to Jones’ work and dedication.

“She has been the sole professor of organ all those 40 years and in a time period when many universities, because of financial constraints, had considered organ too expensive a program to offer, Baylor’s organ program has thrived, in large part because Dr. Jones has also been such a wonderful fundraiser and person that has made possible many of the instruments we possess on Baylor’s campus,” May said.

Jones’ renown has some future Baylor bears fighting to get into the program, May said.

“Unlike at some places, where the population of organists has dropped below full time so the organ teacher might not have a full-time job there, people have literally competed heavily to come to Baylor to study with Dr.

see **PROF**, pg. **6**



COURTESY PHOTO

The School of Music’s Joyce Oliver Bowden Professor of Music Dr. Joyce Jones is the recipient of the Cornelia Marschall Smith Professor of the Year Award Wednesday. Jones is a Baylor organist in residence.

# Honors program praises alumni’s exceptional theses

By **SARA TIRRITO**  
STAFF WRITER

In recognition of their work, three 2009 Baylor alumni were honored Thursday night at the Honors Program banquet as the inaugural recipients of the F. Ray Wilson II Award for Best Thesis.

“It proves to them and it shows to the public and especially to their discipline that they have done exemplary work that is worthy of being published,” Andrew Wisely, director of the Honors Program, said. “We like to think of the undergraduate theses they do of being master’s thesis quality.”

The three recipients were Kirsten Appleyard, who is attending graduate school at the University of Notre Dame; Lisa Funkhouser, who is attending

a graduate program at Vanderbilt University; and Carrie Wallis, who is participating in the Strickland Scholars graduate program at Baylor.

They were chosen from a pool of nine nominees.

In writing her thesis, “Civil Religion in Wartime: The religious Rhetoric of Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt,” Wallis said her conceptions about presidential faith were changed. She said she hopes history can similarly affect the lives of students she teaches in the future.

“In the same way, I hope to reveal the importance and applicability of history in my students’ lives,” Wallis said. “I believe that at the point when

see **THESES**, pg. **6**



# As a mother struggles, her child learns

## Point of View

By ERIN NIPPER



When I was growing up, two different women lived in my house.

One was my mother. She made spaghetti, helped make my bed and went to her teaching job. She was beautiful, intelligent and rational.

The other was the shell of someone familiar. She had glassy eyes, a pale face and tousled hair. She rarely made sense. My mother would have been ashamed to know her, I think.

My mother is bipolar. She was addicted to prescription medication, and when her addiction overtook her, the “other woman” moved in.

My mother was a theater teacher with an incredible gift for her job. She won teacher of the year, and her ability to have high school students perform flawless renditions of Off-Broadway musicals was recognized in a national publication.

When she was in college, she even wrote a play that is still performed at universities in the South.

I remember watching a star football player stand on the corner of the auditorium stage, spotlight shining on him, as a teary-eyed audience watched him belt out “You’ve Got to Be Taught” from South Pacific.

The students loved her and she loved them. It was something more than just a job to her. Although she only taught for four years, it was during that time that I learned the importance of loving not only your career, but also those around you. I watched her change students’ lives.

I remember the positive things better than I remember what she refers to as her “dark” period.

I can’t remember the first time she talked about ending her life, but I know it was during the final year that she was a teacher.

She became extremely depressed when she was unable to have children with my stepfather. Rounds of in vitro fertilization took them to Houston for tests as my mother became obsessed with having another baby. Her third miscarriage sent her over the edge.

She quit her job and began taking antidepressants.

On a family vacation to Europe, my grandfather convinced her to stop taking her antidepressants and replace them with St. John’s Wort, an herbal, over-the-counter medication that was supposed to replace Prozac or Zoloft.

When she stopped her antidepressants cold turkey, she stopped getting out of bed.

I learned how to iron my own clothes in the third grade. Although no one told me that I needed learn how to do laundry, I instinctively knew that if I didn’t iron my T-shirts no one would do it for me.

She was prescribed a mountain of medication — none of which my father or I understood their purposes — and would sometimes overdose.

I can remember thinking that her constant sleeping was the norm, and sometimes I lied as to why my mother was the only one not present on school field trips.

Her depression was accompanied with manic episodes. She would shop online and almost daily Federal Express rang our doorbell with a new package. She particularly liked Pottery Barn, and we had more pillows,

blankets and bookshelves than one person could know what to do with.

There were weeks when we could not afford groceries because of her spending habits combined with the cost of medication.

Sometimes, following a depression, she would decide that she needed to “clean” our house. This consisted of dragging out every dish, pot, pan and towel from its place and trying to “reorganize” at 2 a.m.

Usually, the task would overwhelm her, and she would fall asleep, leaving more mess to contend with. She once flooded the laundry room trying to handwash clothes. She forgot the sink was running and went to bed.

One night, after an embarrassing public overdose, my mother sat me down and explained to me that she didn’t want to live anymore. She told me how she wanted to end her life, and that it would be better for our family if she weren’t around. I was 15 years old.

I knew it was that “other woman” who was speaking to me and not my mother.

I decided that I should clean our kitchen, because maybe then she would want to live. Television talkshows often associated a messy house with a messy mind. I wanted to solve her problems.

I washed clothes, cleaned counters and organized cabinets.

She didn’t end her life. In fact, she became extremely angry with me for “moving everything in her kitchen.” I at least knew she would let herself live long enough to rearrange things so that she could find them.

Some people say that mental illness doesn’t exist, or that medications serve no purpose.

I disagree. Sometimes, I get sad, but it isn’t like everyone else’s version of sad. I have to talk myself out of being a quitter, out of running away from a problem but sticking it out so that I can accomplish something.

For me, sad is depressed. Happy is over the top.

I’m not bipolar, but because the woman who raised me was, I had to teach myself what is “normal” and what isn’t.

In the fifth grade, I wrote a paper describing everyday life for my family.

I said that my mom got up, cleaned our house, took care of the yard and picked me up from school.

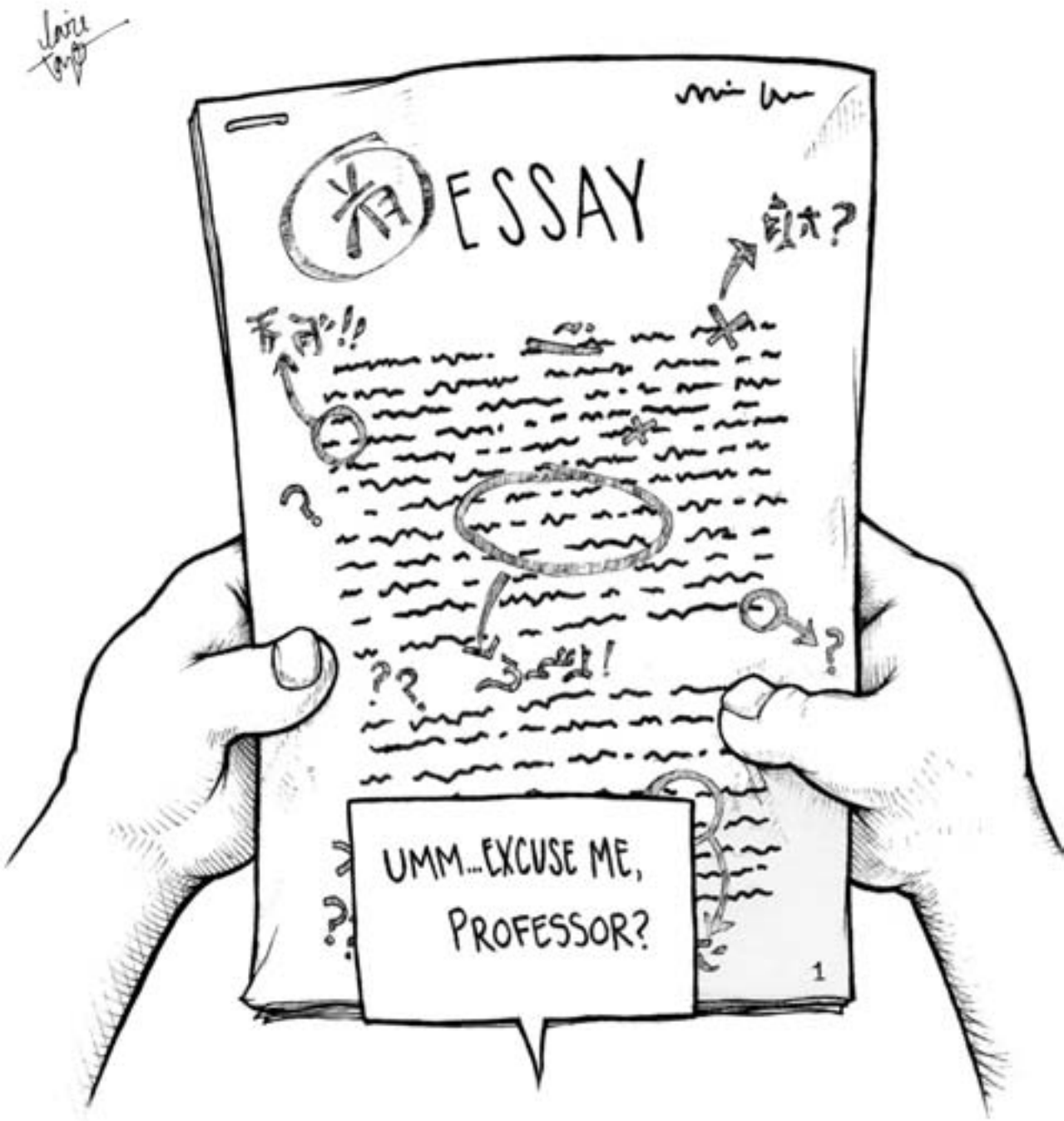
That was a lie. At the time, I pretended that we had a perfect life, because I was embarrassed of who my mother had become.

Looking back, I wouldn’t trade my childhood for anything. Mostly, because it is because of her that I am who I am.

My mother is teaching again. She finally was able to have children: twin sisters and a younger brother. She overcame her prescription drug problem with the help of a family doctor, and my siblings are able to have the mother I wanted so badly.

I don’t know where the “other woman” went, but I certainly hope she never resurfaces. I know that my mother is beautiful, capable and smart, but it is because of that “other woman” that I am who I am today. I can say with certainty, I am not ashamed to have known her.

*Erin Nipper is a Magnolia, Ark., junior majoring journalism. She is a reporter for the Baylor Lariat.*



# Outsourced grading leads to lack of stability, quality in classrooms

## Editorial

At this point in the semester, most students have an understanding of how their teachers grade, test and what their is looking for. Heading into the despised final season, most of us have some kind of idea of what to expect from each test, based on previous class work.

Now, imagine someone different graded your work each time it was turned in. Within a single class, imagine you might have several graders deciding the fate of your transcript (and future). It would be nearly impossible to know exactly what that person expects and how to best meet these expectations.

Lori Whisenant, a professor at the University of Houston, began outsourced grading papers for her business and law and ethics classes. The company she used, Virtual-TA, is made up of primarily Asian graders.

While generally well-educated and able to solely dedicate themselves to the grading process, these graders spend no time in the classroom of the students they’re assessing. They know nothing about the nature of their students’ work ethic, how they compare to other students or exactly what notes and information the teacher has given. These graders often know very little about what specific requirements the teachers have given and know nothing about the previous assignments of that particular teacher.

They can, however, communicate with professors via e-mail, but communication is limited solely to that outlet. Communication breakdowns may be difficult to catch and diagnose, a common symptom of reliance on technological communication.

The company has not revealed numbers concerning how many schools utilize this service, but we hope the

number remains limited. Outsourced grading is an unreliable method because the graders are so far removed from the classroom. There are too many factors to base a student’s grade on this system. A person from another country is doing the work that should be done by the professor and his or her T. A.’s, people who attend class each day and hear what information has been emphasized by the professor.

Marilyn Valentino, chair of the board of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, agrees based on this idea: “An outside grader has no insight into how classroom discussion may have played into what a student wrote in their paper.” Are they able to say, ‘Oh, I understand where that came from’ or ‘I understand why they thought that, because Mary said that in class?’”

Students need organization, consistency and stability to thrive. We spend the first few weeks of each semester learning about our professors and how to best prepare for their classes. If there is no stability in what is expected, many students will get severely discouraged.

Additionally, if there are questions about the grading, they cannot be directed to the teacher at the front of the classroom. Any questions would have to go through the student to the teacher, and then from the teacher’s e-mail to the grader’s e-mail, then back from the grader’s e-mail to the teacher’s e-mail and finally from the teacher to the student. Because little direct communication can take place, an environment of questions and open dialogue between student and teacher is essentially destroyed.

This open dialogue with superiors also helps to prepare students for relationship building in their future careers.

Many criticize the idea of full online education because they believe it will remove opportunity for personal relationships in the classroom. Outsourced grading has a similar problem. It does not completely remove, but it does bring difficulty to the relationship between student and teacher.

Moreover, as education costs continue to rise and many people experience income difficulty, the money put toward outsourced grading could be easily funneled to a more efficient outlet: scholarships, improved study areas, better-equipped professors, parking, etc.

Even in a classroom full of students and T.A.’s, education is often most effective in a personal experience. One-on-one instruction, questions after class, extra practice with a T. A. — these experiences are invaluable to the overall education of students, especially depending on various learning styles.

If teachers are already feeling enough stress to turn to outsourced grading, the solution is to hire more T. A.’s. Professors under this kind of stress may feel temptation to pass the papers straight from the foreign graders to the anxious students, further separating the students from the personal quality of professors who desire to know their students.

While it may take the pressure off of overworked professors, outsourced grading is the wrong solution. The money should be used to hire more T. A.’s or even more professors to split classes if the weight is too large. Stability is vital to quality education, as are, personal relationships between professors and students. As much as possible, these qualities must be strived for in the classroom. Outsourced grading yanks them away and replaces them with an unsatisfactory distance.

### Corrections

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

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### Opinion

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Please Recycle This Issue



# Q&A: Making a difference, loving what you do

By NEELY GUTHRIE  
REPORTER

Emily Callahan goes to sleep every night knowing she's truly made a difference in someone's life. Callahan graduated from Baylor in 2000 and is the senior vice president for Global Marketing and Networks at Susan G. Komen For the Cure. She spoke with a PR class Thursday afternoon about what her job consists of and what a nonprofit's mission is.

**Q:** Describe to me what your job entails.

**A:** I run Komen's marketing function globally, so communications, brand marketing, interactive and events, and then I also

oversee our 125 affiliates and global partners around the world – other NGO organizations we partner with.

**Q:** What is it you most enjoy about the job?

**A:** It's really basic and straightforward. I love that I have a professional career that allows me to make the difference in the lives of so many people around the world. I did the agency thing for so long and I loved it, and I learned a lot. I do everything and then more [at Komen] and just to see that difference is huge.

**Q:** I read in your bio that you worked for Edelman, which is the largest independent PR firm – did you always have a pas-

sion for nonprofit or was it just a switch from a corporate job?

**A:** For me I was just burned out and tired, and I've always felt like I had a higher purpose so I even thought about totally switching gears and going to seminary. But I feel like my skills that I've been given are in the area of marketing and so I didn't want to leave that. I struggled, and finding this blend in nonprofit and PR where I can make a difference was huge. It was a fluke, but I was looking for something to do to make a difference.

**Q:** I also read in your bio that you were named to the Dallas Business Journal's Top 40 under 40 list in 2009, so out of college you've become very successful

very quickly. If you could describe your key to success in one word, what would it be?

**A:** It's leverage I think. I never have wasted any opportunity to learn, network, work hard, and give back. Maxey [Parrish, lecturer in journalism] gave me a shot as a freshman. I had no idea about design and I designed a media guide. I just made the most of every opportunity and every relationship I had and I didn't squander it. I worked hard to earn it and every day I wanted them to say, 'I'm glad she's here,' because they didn't usually hire freshmen. Edelman didn't hire juniors; they didn't have an intern in the marketing side of Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo. The newspaper where I worked didn't al-

low students; I mean I just kept making the most of every opportunity. So, leverage.

**Q:** What advice would you give seniors who are graduating and entering the work world for the first time?

**A:** That same thing, you know, maximize every opportunity. There's no task too small or too big, so do each task with excellence even if it stinks and it's mundane, because one day you'll appreciate it when you supervise someone with that task. The other thing is don't feel like you have to have the world all figured out. I've met with several students now who are trying to find that perfect job out of school and there isn't a perfect job. You

might walk into something that is your passion, but everything is a chance to learn and explore open your eyes to something larger. And don't undersell your skills. And then be a sponge. Ask and learn to do more. There's a lot of criticism to you guys about being the entitled generation and you just think you're supposed to get easy work hours and all these things are supposed to be handed to you, and I think that's a misnomer. I find plenty of people who are willing to work and get it and are grateful. So that's my last one, just be grateful for opportunities and experiences and maximize them. Baylor is a great school and there are lots of Baylor graduates out there who want to do well for other Baylor graduates, so take

# Keeping the faith, fighting cancer

By TORI LIGGETT  
REPORTER

The doctor had found a tumor that could be malignant. To find out if it was cancerous, it would have to be removed and tested.

"Sitting in the waiting room over Christmas Break, I found out my mom had breast cancer," Lindsey Blanchette, a senior from Sugar Land, recalls her seventh grade year when she was struck with the news.

Lindsey and her dad sat in the waiting room at the hospital while her mom, Gerry, underwent surgery.

After a few hours, the doctor approached them and handed them a handful of papers. The papers contained all the details of the surgery and the looming results of the tumor.

"I turned to my dad and asked him what positive meant," said Blanchette, "I didn't start to cry immediately, but I just felt really hot and my heart skipped a beat. It was something I never thought could happen to me."

While in surgery, the doctor also took out 25 lymph nodes

from under Gerry Blanchette's arm. From the lymph nodes taken, 18 of those contained cancer. Gerry was told that she was in stage three of a four-stage scale.

Gerry started chemotherapy treatments in late January, which continued for six months. Each chemotherapy treatment made her sick for several days. But Lindsey's mom, being a fighter, insisted on returning to work and maintaining a normal life.

She said keeping busy helped her keep her mind off of the disease.

"Staying strong and having a positive attitude is so important, not dwelling on the situation is vital for recovery," Gerry said.

"I think that I have always believed in the power of prayer, the power of a good attitude, and keeping the faith. It was the only way I could physically and mentally get through it. It helps by talking about it and staying open about it. No one's cancer is alike, and it affects everyone in different ways. You have to remain strong."

Throughout the process, Lindsey remembers several nights sit-

ting on the couch, in the dark, crying and praying with her mom.

"My family became a lot closer; it made our family realize how much support we had through church, work and family friends," Lindsey said.

When Lindsey's mom decided to shave her head, her dad did too.

"My dad is one of those stoic people about personal issues, but he showed his support for my mom by shaving his head and doing something out of his comfort zone," Lindsey said.

Even though it was hard, Lindsey and her mom knew that everything would be okay.

"We never questioned why us, because we, as a family, believed that God would never give us something that we could not handle," Lindsey said. "We always thrived on the fact that we saw it as a test of faith."

It has been 10 years and Gerry Blanchette has been completely cancer free. She goes for different check-ups bi-annually. The Blanchette family every year enjoys participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

"After this experience, it definitely makes me appreciate the presence of people in my life and makes me realize the need to express to them how much I appreciate them while they are here," Lindsey said.

"My mom has become my role model. Seeing how strong she could be in a horrible situation makes me respect her so much more."

Today Fountain Mall will be lit up all night to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Baylor's third annual Relay for Life hosted by ZTA, BU Meds and APO hopes to raise additional funds to add to the \$170,000 already raised in the last two years.

According to the Thomara Latimer Cancer Foundation, this year about 564,800 Americans are expected to die of cancer — more than 1,500 people a day.

Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease. One of every four deaths in the U.S. is from cancer. Since 1990, there have been approximately 5 million cancer deaths.

DUNN from pg. 1

waiting for passes near the three-point line in 2009. Still, Dunn's perimeter shooting helped create an inside-outside attack between him and Udoh.

Udoh announced Tuesday that he plans to forgo his senior season in favor of declaring for the NBA draft.

With Tweety Carter and Josh Lomers also lost to graduation, Dunn's presence is even more highly valued to Drew's program. Knowing his capabilities at the shooting guard position, Dunn likes his team's chances at another deep tournament run in 2011.

"With the newcomers, I feel great about them, and also the players we have coming back. I don't think we'll have any (dropoff)," Dunn said.

Players headlining Baylor's incoming class are 6-foot-11 power forward Perry Jones, ranked No. 7 on ESPN's Top 100 list of recruits, and point guard Stargell

Love. Love, another ESPN Top 100 player, signed a letter of national intent on Wednesday to play for the Bears. Bakari Turner, a 6-foot-2 Plano West shooting guard carrying an 89 out of 100 ranking by ESPN scouts, signed with Baylor as well.

Baylor ranks No. 17 by ESPN for its recruiting class. Dunn has one more year to break Terry Teagle's all time scoring record of 2,189; Dunn currently has 1,739. His 33 games with at least 20 points are also tied for fifth among all Baylor Bears.

Playing another year gives Dunn a chance to improve his draft stock if he chooses to pursue a professional career.

"I've got a lot of time to get in the gym and work on the things I need to work on, of course ball-handling, defense, the little things. I'm going to commit myself to getting in the gym," Dunn said.

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Divine Summer Time Chicken Sandwich

Ingredients

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 teaspoons dried dill weed, divided
- 4 tablespoons minced garlic, divided
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 small tomato, diced
- 1 leaf lettuce
- 4 thick slices French bread

Directions

In a medium bowl, mix together the cream cheese, 2 teaspoons of dill, and 2 tablespoons of garlic. Set aside.

Melt about half of the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Season chicken breast halves with remaining garlic and dill. Cook for about 8 minutes per side, or until the meat is firm and juices run clear. Remove from the pan, and set aside.

Spread the remaining butter onto one side of the slices of bread, and toast in the skillet until golden. Spread the cream cheese onto the other sides of the bread, and make sandwiches with the chicken breasts, lettuce, and tomato.

COURTESY: ALLRECIPES.COM

‘Death’ lacks some depth

By COLIN COVERT  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

A well-made farce is like a catapult. It has to gather up a payload of respectable characters and fling them headlong into bedlam.

“Death at a Funeral” has a handful of uproarious bits, but overall it functions like the Acme Corp. catapult employed by Wile E. Coyote, dropping a boulder on top of the cast. This is the first comedy from Neil LaBute, an acclaimed director of drama, and he doesn’t seem to have the hang of it.

“Death,” adapted from the 2007 English comedy of the same name, features Chris Rock as Aaron, the son handling all the arrangements for his father’s funeral. He’s resentful that his brother Ryan (Martin Lawrence), a successful novelist, won’t split the expenses, even though he flew first class from New York for the occasion. Mom flagrantly favors Ryan, while casting a cold eye on Aaron’s wife Michelle, whose

failure to produce grandchildren she sees as sheer obstinacy.

Among the mourners are cousin Elaine and her boyfriend Oscar (Zoe Saldana and James Marsden). He’s not eager for another encounter with her cantankerous dad, so she slips him a Valium. The pill is actually a designer hallucinogen cooked up by her pharmacologist brother Jeff (Columbus Short), and Oscar is soon cackling like a gooney bird.

Also arriving are Elaine’s annoying old flame Derek (Luke Wilson), who is sure he can argue her back into loving him. With his buddy Norman (Tracy Morgan) he’s been assigned to transport ornery Uncle Russell (Danny Glover) from the rest home. Norman’s germ phobia and the wheelchair-bound retiree’s incontinence set the pair on a scatological collision course. Add to the mix dear departed Dad’s very close friend Frank (Peter Dinklage, reprising his role from the original film) who has a stash of scandalous photos he’s willing

to sell for \$30,000.

The story plods, then drifts a bit, then plods some more. The problem is that the characters suffer from an unfortunate lack of personality.

Rock’s Aaron is envious and has a beard. Saldana’s Elaine is pretty and has gumption. Morgan’s Norman is a hypochondriac and a jabber-jaw. That’s all. Some funny things happen to them, but the film would be stronger if the players had distinctive traits that drove them toward absurd situations.

The actor who fares best, surprisingly, is Marsden, who is distancing himself nicely from the superhero/pretty-boy roles that casting directors want to box him into. He’s shown impressive comic chops in “Sex Drive” and “Enchanted,” and he’s wonderfully off-kilter as the drug-addled Oscar. He acts as if he’s receiving radio transmissions nobody else can hear.

It’s a shame the rest of the cast couldn’t get on the same crazy wavelength.

Waco hosts casting call

By RACQUEL JOSEPH  
REPORTER

Dreams of stardom may be in reach for Baylor students this weekend. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, a casting call for “Sironia,” an independent film, will be held at 400 Schroeder Drive.

Producers of the film are looking for students who want a shot at their 15 minutes of fame.

Jamie Kim, assistant to the producer, is a Baylor alumna that started working in the film industry while a student at Baylor.

She interned at Swank Motion Pictures in St. Louis and Sony Pictures through another Baylor program, and also worked on an independent short film shot in Waco last summer.

“We definitely need a ton of students, at least 200,” Kim said. The students cast will become paid actors, or paid extras.

The film, directed by another Baylor alum, Brian Dickerson, is based around the music of its lead actor, Wes Cunningham, also a Baylor graduate. Cunningham

will portray Thomas, a musician frustrated after producing music in Los Angeles who relocates to Texas to raise his family with wife, Molly. The plot evolves along the lines of Thomas’ dead dreams and his ultimate realization of his love for music.

For Kim, working on this particular film and shooting in her old college town is a series of Hollywood-like circumstances.

Kim made contacts last spring while she was working for the Rachael Ray show as part of the Baylor in New York program.

“After I worked on TV, I got a lot of interaction with the talent and that got me more interested in feature films,” she said.

Kim then met a director who introduced her to the producer of “Sironia” and her current boss, Laura Smith.

Houston sophomore Jim West is a marketing major enrolled in the acting for non-majors class. He plans to attend the casting call and, hopefully, make a debut.

“I did theater in high school and I also did it in my church,”

West said. “I would absolutely love to test the water out. I’ve never really had an opportunity to do that, especially with movies. It sounds like an exciting gig.”

Kim also finds it helpful to be on home turf for her first feature film job.

“I get to use resources from Baylor film department like [Professor] Brian Elliott and lots of interns from the department,” she said.

The casting provides plenty of opportunity for film majors as well as aspiring actors.

“Obviously Waco is not a hotbed of film production,” said Elliott, professor of communication studies.

As a result, film students do not usually have the chance to work on a larger film set. Elliott believes “Sironia” will allow students to learn, be mentored and decide if film production is really what they want to do.

“It’s kind of a sweet turnaround to find financing to a movie here,” Elliott said.

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Across

- 1 Fire starter?
- 4 Squabble
- 8 Exorbitant
- 13 Mo. in 1781 in which Cornwallis surrendered
- 14 “\_\_\_ Really Going Out With Him?”: Joe Jackson hit
- 16 Volcanic flowers?
- 17 Princeton jazzman?
- 19 Retirement legislation acronym
- 20 One way to run
- 21 “Egg-laying for Dummies,” etc.?
- 23 Disappear
- 25 Par \_\_\_
- 26 Subj. including grammar
- 27 What a New York baseball owner would do to ensure player fitness?
- 32 It’s hard to cut through
- 33 Company with toy trucks
- 34 Young hooter
- 37 LAX datum
- 38 Its youngest British member, Elise Tan Roberts, was admitted at age 2
- 39 Pres. Jefferson
- 40 Like Wiener schnitzel
- 42 Sign outside a boarded-up JFK?
- 44 Joker
- 47 Figure of speech
- 48 Hard to endure
- 50 Little Londoner?
- 54 Rte. through Houston
- 55 Litmus reddeners
- 56 Carpet-cleaning android?
- 58 Indian royal
- 59 Parts of some support systems?
- 60 100%
- 61 Imitators
- 62 Latin infinitive
- 63 Hope unit

Down

- 1 Desert known for Joshua trees
- 2 Nickname for a player who performs under pressure
- 3 Like espresso
- 4 Bonn pronoun
- 5 Fired (up)
- 6 Author Sholem
- 7 Pad \_\_\_: Asian noodle dish
- 8 Record holder
- 9 Sullied
- 10 Not a good sign
- 11 Facility
- 12 Jr.’s exam
- 15 Abbr. often following a comma
- 18 Brew follower?
- 22 Classic Welles role
- 24 “Let it stand”
- 28 Genesis

- 29 Shipping container weights
- 30 Day star?
- 31 Airport safety gp.
- 32 Squad car cop, often
- 34 Taxonomic suffix
- 35 Choppy seas feature
- 36 Nancy’s region
- 38 Dole
- 40 Author Harte
- 41 Quarrels
- 43 Works
- 44 Bachelor pad amenity
- 45 Colored circle around the pupil
- 46 One way to break the news
- 49 Get-up-and-go
- 50 Legal hire
- 51 Underwear initials
- 52 Sprint
- 53 “ER” areas
- 57 “What’s the \_\_\_?”

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# Track hosts final home meet Saturday

By DANIEL CERNERO  
REPORTER

The men's track and field team hosts the Michael Johnson Classic Saturday at the Hart-Patterson Track and Field Complex.

For the seniors, this is their last opportunity to run at home, in front of a Baylor crowd.

"It's a time to reflect on your career and the things you've accomplished, and you just let your fans say thank you for what they've done," head coach Todd Harbour said. "It's definitely one of the best group of seniors we've had in a while, so I'm looking forward to recognizing them Saturday."

Senior sprinter Trey Harts, who broke the track record in the 200-meter distance last year at this event, looks to bring another solid performance this weekend.

"Last year, I was doing a lot different workouts," Harts said. "I knew I was going to be ready to run extremely fast ... This year,

the workouts are definitely different, but I still feel fast and strong enough (to win). I feel like I have a better combination of speed and strength."

With the time for seniors to make their mark on the program quickly coming to an end, Harts said he would be satisfied as long as he knows he didn't hold anything back.

"I think of (my lasting impression) all the time," Harts said. "I always think back and just wonder, 'Have I done enough?' I think I've done pretty well, but in 10 or 15 years am I going to look back and just think, 'I could have done better?'"

"I don't want to leave anything left on the table. With every race I'm going to give it a 100 percent effort, so that I know without a shadow of a doubt that I gave it all I had."

While Baylor maintains its reputation as "Quatermile U" for its past performances in the 4x400-meter relay, there's been a

different relay squad grabbing attention this year.

The 4x100-meter relay – junior Marcus Boyd, sophomore Whitney Prevost, senior Courtney Thomas and senior Trey Harts – is off to a great start in the outdoor season, taking home a win at the Texas Relays two weeks ago.

"The 4x4 is always going to have that kind of reputation," Harts said.

"It's going to take the 4x1 a lot longer to get on that kind of level. But I think we're paving the way and taking those first few steps with this group. Wherever it goes from here on out, it lies on the shoulders of future Baylor Bears."

In the 4x400-meter relay, the Bears look to be challenged by the Texas A&M Aggies, a squad that won the NCAA Indoor title earlier in the spring.

"They're a stacked squad," Harts said. "But this is the kind of competition we thrive against. This is what we want to run



DANIEL CERNERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior sprinter Marcus Boyd practices Thursday in preparation for the Michael Johnson Classic at the Hart-Patterson Track and Field Complex.

against as much as we can. We're going to go out there, we're going to battle with them, and we're going to put forth the effort and everything we can to get that victory."

"I think (this is the time),"

Boyd said when asked if the Bears could overtake Texas A&M this weekend.

"(The Aggies) are saying they're banged up, but I don't pay attention to their excuses. I think we're peaking around the

right time and it should be a pretty good race."

The meet starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with the field events. After the preliminary events, Baylor will recognize its seniors during a break in the action.

# Lady Bears celebrate successful season at banquet

By CHRIS DERRETT  
SPORTS WRITER

Coach Kim Mulkey and the Lady Bears officially wrapped their 2009-2010 season on Thursday night at the Ferrell Center, reminiscing over good times and bad at the team's annual appreciation banquet.

The Lady Bears overcame a crippling injury and youthful inexperience to reach the program's second Final Four in six years. There they lost to arguably the greatest women's basketball team of all time in the 78 consecutive game-winning Connecticut Huskies. Mulkey used her time at the lectern to describe how her team began with several goals in mind and fought for each win of its 27-10 campaign.

All team members received

a notebook at the beginning of the season titled "Excuses or Expectations?" There was a picture of Texas and a line connecting Waco to San Antonio, site of the Women's Final Four. Despite the fact that realistically, a NCAA regional championship was not one of Mulkey's expectations, she felt that hinting at such an accomplishment would not hurt her players.

"You know subliminal messaging? I just wanted (the players) to know how close and convenient it would be for you all to get there," Mulkey said to the crowd that filled tables spread across the entire Ferrell Center floor.

Five freshmen made Mulkey's job particularly difficult, and an injury to junior guard Melissa Jones forced the team to need

even more from its youth for a chance to make the tournament.

"Never underestimate," Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw said as part of three lessons he learned from the season. "Think back to the middle of February, when we were 4-6 in the Big 12, and making the tournament was a question." At No. 10 on the team rule list created by Mulkey before the season, the words patience, positive and opportunity indicated how much work the team needed to begin turning its raw physical ability into more victories. Players like 6-foot-8 freshman phenom Brittney Griner had to allow themselves to be coached for the first time in their careers, which led to the team peaking at the right time.

After Mulkey described the incredible feeling of making a

Final Four, comparing it to other great life moments such as getting married and having children, she shifted the focus to the Lady Bears' senior class.

Each year the banquet makes a concentrated effort to focus on graduating players, and this year Morghan Medlock was the team's lone senior.

"I'm not sure I can explain what Morghan Medlock has been through, because nobody in this room has had to go through that," Mulkey said.

Last season Medlock played a game at Oregon one day after her mother was found dead at an Arkansas home.

Later Medlock courageously walked through the not yet cleaned crime scene, talking to police and reading the suicide note from the man who killed

Medlock's mother then himself. And driving back to the airport with Mulkey afterward, Medlock told her head coach they had to go back to the scene to collect her mother's belongings.

At that moment, Mulkey realized, "(Morghan) can handle it. (Baylor) is where she was meant to be."

This season Medlock struggled at the beginning of conference play, going 8 of 35 from the field in her first six conference games. She asked Mulkey for help and received three tips: let the game come to her, increase her rebounding effort, and know that the slump would pass. Medlock recorded four more double-digit rebounding games, which led to two consecutive double-doubles against Georgetown and Tennessee in the tournament.

"You got me to respond when the world couldn't, and you loved me when I thought the world didn't. You figured out how to pull out the best in girls and turn them into women," a choked-up Medlock said during the banquet.

The coaching staff also handed out awards. Melissa Jones got the Lady Bear award for outstanding character.

"She has a gift of making everyone she meets on and off the court better," assistant coach Leon Barmore said.

Griner won both the rebound award and the team Most Valuable Player honor. Griner, named the most valuable player of the Memphis Regional, averaged 18.4 points per game and set an NCAA single season record with 223 blocks.

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PROF from pg.1

Jones,” May said.

James Bennighof, vice provost for academic affairs policy and a professor in the School of Music, is the head of the committee that selects the winning professor each year. “There is a committee that consists of myself and four other faculty members and we receive all the nominations and from those we select a winner,” Bennighof said. “Basically in the life of university faculty people, there are traditionally three different areas that people look at, which are teaching, research or creative work and service.”

The award, which is presented annually to an outstanding Baylor professor, comes with a \$20,000 cash prize. Jones has decided not to keep the money. She is giving half of the award to the endowment for the organ concert and the other half to organ scholarships.

Bennighof also touted the many accolades and awards Jones has won before the Cornelia Marschall Smith award. “She has taught many, many people and there are a number of fine organists all over the country who were her students,” Bennighof said. “So that’s in addition to her own performing and creative work that she’s done. She’s also really had a tremendous legacy

DEBATE from pg.1

sophomore and current senator Michael Lyssy; Louisburg, Kan. sophomore and current senator Paul Baumgardner; and Austin junior and current senator Ross Watson. Watson removed his name from the official ballot though he is still running as a write-in. The first question posed to IVP candidates was what steps candidates would take to communicate with the student body.

Ross, a write-in candidate, said he plans to build a better rapport with students, especially with Greek organizations.

Lyssy said he is concerned

as a teacher.” One such honor is one that Jones received last week. The American Guild of Organists, a 20,000-member group and the national professional association of the organ and choral music fields honored Jones in Fort Worth, where she performed for an audience which flew in from all over the United States. “I had the opportunity to go to another of her concert’s last week where [Jones] was being honored by the American Guild of Organists for much the same thing that she got the Cornelia Smith Award,” May said. “She played a concert for that group, Broadway Baptist Church and it was splendid.” Jones noted that this award was particularly special to her because as a friend of Smith herself, Jones recognizes the prestige of this award. “For her birthday she asked me to play a concert in her honor to celebrate her birthday,” Jones explained. “I’m really thrilled and honored because she was such a special person.” Jones also said that this award in some ways had a double meaning because she knew the woman it was named after.

“I told someone, I could retire, but I’m still having fun because I still love the students and they’re very motivated and it’s a joy to teach them,” Jones said.

THESES from pg.1

knowledge becomes personal and real is when it is truly effective and lasting.”

Wallis said the thesis-writing process taught her life lessons and helped her to develop her persistence and determination.

“I learned that by taking such a task one step at a time while still remaining focused on the larger goal, completing a project even as daunting as a thesis is absolutely possible,” Wallis said. “As a teacher, I have continued to find the importance in this lesson and hope to instill it in my students as well.”

Dr. Barry Hankins, professor of history, nominated Wallis’ work for the award.

“Carrie wrote a truly outstanding thesis,” Hankins wrote in Wallis’ nomination. “The thesis was better than some M.A. theses I have directed.”

For her thesis, “Roles of LBK1 and AMPK in the Maintenance of Cell Polarity in Drosophila Photoreceptor Cells under Energetic Stress Conditions,” Funkhouser conducted genetic research dealing with eye development. The work helped her realize that accepted data and answers aren’t always definite.

“My honors thesis helped me

make the transition from accepting what is written in textbooks to formulating my own hypotheses for the how the world works,” Funkhouser said, “an absolutely essential transition to make for anyone planning on entering graduate school.”

Funkhouser’s work even changed the mind of the professor who nominated her for the award. Dr. Sang-Chul Nam, assistant professor of biology, said her work taught him that undergraduate students can make important discoveries in science.

“I didn’t expect this much at all from an undergraduate student,” Nam said. “After Lisa Funkhouser, I changed my mind.”

Dr. David Jeffrey, distinguished professor of the Honors Program, nominated Appleyard’s thesis, “‘Moi je vis un peu avec les anges’: The Search for Transcendence in the Contemporary Art of Arcabas.” “Kirstin’s thesis is a hallmark exhibition of our Honors College educational mission,” Jeffrey wrote in his nomination of Appleyard. “Insights and perspectives enabled by the education she received in this program have complemented her art historical (formalist) training in such a way as to produce in

her thesis a study with depth and illuminating understanding. Her work exhibits maturity and originality such as would remain beyond the reach of anyone without a comparable preparation.”

Appleyard said her work on in the Honors College and specifically on her thesis prepared her well for graduate school.

“The research and analytical skills I learned in the thesis writing process have proved invaluable to me as a graduate student,” Appleyard said. “After the experience of organizing and executing an extensive long-term project, believe it or not, term papers come a lot easier now.”

The Wilson award was created last year to recognize both the late biology professor and Master Teacher Dr. Ray Wilson, and the 50th anniversary of the Honors Program. Wilson directed more than 37 science theses in his 30 years at Baylor.

Earl and Elizabeth Hull Roberts endowed the award fund.

Wisely said the award honors Wilson’s life of service and legacy as a teacher, along with recognizing students’ work in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. The award is designed so that each year one student can

be recognized in each of the three areas.

“It was a way to honor Ray Wilson the man, the teacher and the mentor, and to recognize the kind of work he would be proud of,” Wisely said. “He wasn’t just an outstanding teacher, he lived an exemplary life of service too. He’s kind of the perfect symbol for the excellence we’re trying to recognize.”

To be eligible to receive a nomination for the award, students must write and then defend their thesis to a panel consisting of a director and two readers. Students earning an “Outstanding” designation for their defense can be nominated for the Wilson Award by the director.

The directors who work with students in the Honors Program were recognized at the banquet as well.

“The fact that usually the students are so deeply grateful for the mentoring they received — that’s definitely worthy of us recognizing the director for previous contributions and ongoing contributions to the Honors Program,” Wisely said. “It’s so important that the director can help shape the academic path that the student takes.”

with the amount of time spent in executive session and believes that some of the issues talked about during executive session should be talked about with students and communication with the Lariat should be improved.

Baumgardner also said there should be a running Lariat dialogue to show issues that are affecting students and he thinks the allocation bills should be shown to the student body.

When asked why the office of internal vice president matters, the candidates had varying responses.

Lyssy gave a description of the office.

“Ideally senate would run itself, but you need a moderator,” Lyssy said. “So the IVP is there to make sure the senate functions efficiently.”

Houston junior Michael Wright, currently internal vice president, is running for student body president.

Houston sophomore Ben Aguinaga, currently a senator, is also running for student body president.

Wright said his experience as internal vice president working

alongside current student body president Jordan Hannah will help him be an effective leader.

“I am currently serving as your internal vice president where I have gotten to work closely with this year’s student body president and see first hand what it takes to serve in that capacity and serve the needs of our students here at Baylor,” Wright said.

Some of the issues he would like to focus on is continuing to build relationships he said he has already established with the Board of Regents and current ad-

ministrators.

He said he would also like to continue the Issue of the Week surveys to better understand student concerns. Aguinaga stressed his previous involvement in student senate and said that experience will help him lead students.

“One of the things I have learned this past year is that we lack the tenacity to take student government back to the students,” Aguinaga said about student government.

Aguinaga said he plans to bring student government back to a personal level to students.

Tyler sophomore Sara Peymon attended the debate to learn more about the candidates and be an informed voter.

“I would say they were better prepared than I was expecting,” Peymon said of the candidates.

“They seem better prepared for our questions and I get the feeling that they are taking this seriously, as seriously as they should. Regardless of the fact that this wasn’t a huge room full of students acting super interested, they take what they do and what they are trying to do very seriously.”

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Check in begins at 6:00 p.m  
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