

The Baylor Bears huddle before warming up for their Elite Eight match-up against the No. 1-seed Duke Blue Devils during the NCAA tournament at Reliant Stadium in Houston.



Dallas sophomore Courtney Janick and Houston sophomore Tristan Hammer (not pictured) start an impromptu snow fight on Feb. 11, the first snow day of the year, outside Moody Memorial Library.



STEPHEN GREEN I ROUND UP PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Baylor football team gear up for a game on their home turf at Floyd Casey Stadium while members of the Baylor Line cheer them on. The Bears will play their first game of the 2010-2011 season on Sept. 4 in Waco.

A Year in Review



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

 $Baylor\ alum\ Jay\ Battles\ holds\ his\ son,\ Burnie,\ during\ the\ 2009\ homecoming\ parade.\ Jay\ was\ a\ Baylor$ chemical spill occurred in a second-floor chemistry lab. No injuries occurred. Yell Leader as was his dad, Burnie Battles Sr., a Baylor professor for 46 years before his death in

The Baylor Sciences Building was evacuated for more than two hours on Oct. 13 after a hazardous

On the hunt: Students weigh textbook options

By Brent Salter

Life is full of choices, especially at the beginning of a semester when students have to decide where to live, which classes to take, which professors are best and how to structure their sched-

One such decision is choosing among places to purchase textbooks, such as the Baylor Bookstore, the UBS bookstores, rental programs or Internet sites.

While these options may provide the same product, the wellinformed student knows there are pros and cons to each.

Though it could be mistaken as a Baylor affiliate, store director William "Billy" Nors is quick to point out that the Baylor Bookstore at 1201 S. Fifth St. is an independent business.

"The store was established in 1986 by Follett Higher Education Group, a company that has 135 years of experience in the bookselling industry and over 900 locations, making it the largest bookstore provider to universities in the Û.S.," Nors said.

The bookstore not only strives to serve students by helping them find the right textbooks, but the business also donates a percentage of its sales to benefit the university and has a \$2,000 annual need-based scholarship awarded through Baylor's financial aid of-

Many students said they were upset by the long lines that fill the store at either end of the semester. Nors said this is not exclusive

"I've been in this industry for over a decade, and the first days of class are always bad," Nors said. "I came from a university with 35,000 students. Sometimes there would be 500 kids waiting outside in the summer heat to get into the campus bookstore."

Nors said the lines in his store are similar to those found at Baylor's Cashier's Office, the financial aid and parking services at the beginnings and ends of se-

"The first day of class is pretty much like going shopping on the day after Thanksgiving or making returns on the day after Christmas," Nors said. "There

are going to be long lines."

The average wait during times of heavy business is 10 to 15 minutes, but Nors said students can avoid lengthy lines by coming early in the morning or late in the afternoon and by taking advantage of extended business hours during the first weeks of the semester.

Two alternatives to the Baylor Bookstore are the UBS bookstore at 500 Bagby Ave. and the UBS Bookstore and Spirit Shop at 1205 S. Eighth St.

Matt Marquez, a sales representative at the Babgy Avenue location, said UBS differs from its competitors because of the stores' dedication to the customer.

"Our prices are better and our staff is very friendly," Marquez said. "We will even match the prices of the campus bookstore." The store adds a touch of ex-

citement to the shopping experience at the beginning of semesters by having a prize wheel that customers can spin after making a purchase of \$150 or more.

'We give away prizes like candy, \$10 and \$50 iTunes gift cards and Snuggies," Marquez said.

"We even gave away five iPhones over the course of five days last semester."

These three bookstores are convenient for students, but some students said they are more concerned about price than they are about convenience when shopping for textbooks.

"Price was definitely most important to me," said Emily Tichenor, a freshman from De-Land, Fla. "Saving even \$5 on each book adds up when you need 10 or more books."

Bulverde sophomore Jessica Silva said she chose an alternative source for her textbooks this

"I bought most of my books on Chegg.com," Silva said. "You rent them and send them back at the end of the semester. Some books are just ridiculous to buy and then sell back for not even half their price."

According to their website, Chegg is the No. 1 provider of rental textbooks, having saved students more than \$175.6 million off list prices of new textbooks since the company's launch in

"Parents have the unique opportunity to chat with their students' professors at an early morning coffee where we serve coffee, juice and breakfast pastries," said Dr. Betsy Willis, a faculty sponsor for Chamber. Students will also be able to eat a barbecue lunch with their family on Baylor's campus during Dinner on the Grounds. "The entire Baylor family comes together and eats a meal under the Texas sky in

The final event of the week-

Camden, Ark., freshman Aundrea Payne also used Chegg for her textbooks.

"If I would have purchased my books from the bookstore they would have been \$996, but I rented them for \$195," Payne said. Renting textbooks online is still a new idea to some students, but students can also rent their books through programs at the UBS bookstores and, beginning this fall, at the Baylor Bookstore.

Another service for students who would like to buy textbooks for low prices while supporting fellow Baylor students is BU-Books.com.

The website allows students to list their textbooks online without any fee and gives them the ability to sell directly to other students while eliminating the often costly

An additional resource for students who are looking for the best price when textbook shopping is isbns.net, a website that searches 60,000 booksellers including Amazon.com, Half.com, Abebooks.com, Chegg.com and Alibris.com. After the search, a list of the best prices for the de-

"There are special events

planned that you won't be able to experience any other time dur-

ing the school year," Todd said.

"It will be really nice to return

back to campus." Parents Week-

end also offers students and their

guests a different view of campus.

This is a weekend for [students]

and their families to see Baylor in

a different way and a new way,"

all over the country and world. If

you come on another weekend,

although still great, that experi-

benefit of meeting fellow parents,

professors and administrators

Parents Weekend offers the

"We invite the entire family,

'You're here with people from

Haddad said.

ence is not there."

Willis said.

Faben Cruz, a sophomore from the Philippines, used isbns. com for the first time this semester to find a better price for a sci-

ence textbook he needed. "At first, I decided to just get a used [Organic Chemistry] textbook from UBS which cost \$178.61," Cruz said. "I was advised to check out ISBNS.net and found that the same textbook was about \$17. I was quite sur-

Though the lower priced book was an international version of the textbook Cruz saw at the UBS Bookstore, he said it worked well for his needs.

The website will even show the shipping costs to students' location beforehand, so they can make an informed decision on which book would be the best

As many students have found, sometimes choosing the right place to buy a book is as difficult as trying to find the book in the store itself, but with some guiding help from people who have experience, textbook searching is made easier.

BEARS from pg.1

Big 12 by the coaches. But with the blessing of transfer Ekpe Udoh and the astute leadership of players like Tweety Carter and LaceDarius Dunn, the Bears glided through the Big 12, the highest-rated RPI conference.

"The coaches didn't even think this team would make the Elite Eight in the Big 12," athletic director Ian McCaw said of the Bears, who finished tied for second in the conference standings. "(The team) used this as motivation and as always, took it with a positive attitude, and I just want to congratulate Coach Drew on the great coaching job they've done this year."

Two seniors, Carter and Josh Lomers, said their final farewells to the team after playing for four years for Drew. The two constituted the most winning class in Baylor history and both have been looking to play professionally since graduation in May.

However, their impact on the program will never be forgotten. Baylor only won four games during the duo's freshman year, and the two used determined attitudes to reverse Baylor's basketball fortunes. "When I first got here, we only won four conference games, and I kind of wondered what I had gotten myself into," Carter said. "Through all those years, we continued to push ourselves and got better."

As well as losing Lomers, the Bears' frontcourt will suffer from the departure of Udoh. Udoh, the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, declared for the NBA Draft and has been projected as a lottery pick in the first round. Udoh set the Big 12 record for shots blocked in a season with 133 and helped transition the Bears to a defensiveoriented team.

While Baylor loses three of its starters, LaceDarius Dunn will return for his senior year. Dunn is also likely to break the Baylor and Big 12 scoring record next season and could wind up as a preseason All-American after a successful NCAA tournament performance. The sharpshooter contributed 19.6 points per game and will be relied on even more heavily for the Bears this season.

However, Dunn doesn't feel like he will have to shoulder all of the responsibility with the continued development of players like sophomore Quincy Acy and freshmen A.J. Walton and Nolan Dennis. Furthermore, the Bears will welcome the highest-ranked recruit in school history when Perry Jones comes on campus this summer. The 6-foot-11 forward was ranked No. 7 on ESPN's top 100 recruit list.

"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.

PARENTS from pg.1 Saturday morning will include a

special parent-faculty event.

front of Pat Neff," Haddad said.

end will be a football game at Floyd Casey Stadium. The Bears will be playing the University at Buffalo's Bulls this year. Chamber members encourage parents and family members to visit during Parents Weekend because of activities Baylor specifically caters to families.

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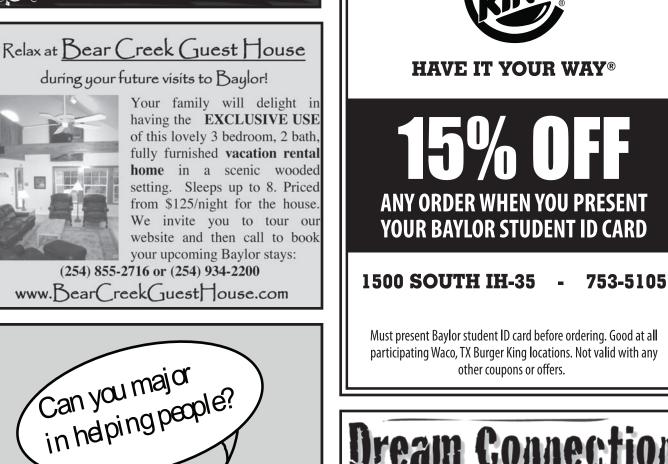
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Callaway talks first-year teaching experiences

REPORTER

This spring the familiar sense of the school year coming to a close is in the air, but first-year faculty member Curtis Callaway reflects upon his experience teaching photography in the journalism department.

After a career in photography that produced photos and video from everything from underwater photos with French explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau to photos of a live Nine Inch Nails concert, Callaway tested the teaching waters at McLennan Community College.

He then heeded his wife's encouragement to teach on the university level and began the process to join the Baylor family for the 2009-2010 academic year.

"They called me on Wednesday, interviewed me on Friday and asked if I could start on Monday," Callaway said. "I wanted to work at Baylor. I really did. It was a goal, but I had no idea it would come that fast."

Callaway wasted no time. He jumped right into teaching the

curriculum he had developed for the continuing education courses in basic digital photography that he previously instructed at MCC.

He found his teaching niche in educating his students about photography beyond the classroom and encouraging them to explore the world around them.

"It's real-world experience," Callaway said. "I can sit here and lecture you all day and teach you things, but you need to get out there and do it."

It's this passion for his students to experience the excitement of capturing a story in their photographs that has them singing Callaway's praises.

"He's a wonderful professor with a big heart," said Nincy Mathew, a junior journalism major from Garland. "It's obvious his passion is photography, and there's so much to learn from

Callaway's curriculum and teaching style catered to all of his students, whether they were seasoned photographers or inexperienced shutterbugs who had never adjusted an aperture, let alone heard of one.



Curtis Callaway has joined the journalism department, bringing a vast range of photography and film skills, including underwater photography with Jean-Michel Cousteau.

"He makes everyone, journalist or not, capable of capturing a great shot," Mathew said.

Teaching has been a learning experience for Callaway, and he admits that he has actually learned several things from the students that fill his classroom

One of Callaway's greatest lessons came from teaching a physically restricted student this semester, after the young man had approached him in the fall inquiring about his desire to take photographs despite his limita-

Callaway was moved by the

student's drive and agreed to help find the appropriate accommodations that would make the request possible, quickly recruiting help from other departments around campus to develop a unique device to compensate for the student's physical restric-

The outpouring of assistance, along with the student's success in the course, have taught Cal-

laway more than he expected to learn during his first year at the university. "It amazed me about Baylor," he said. "How quick everyone is to jump in and help. It is not whether or not it can be done, but

how to get it done. There are no

limits here at Baylor." Callaway hopes to continue to utilize the resources the university has to offer and expand the photography program to include a new video curriculum, echoing his belief that photojournalism can benefit additional areas of study, like the environmental

With his first year of teaching at the university level under his belt, Callaway is pleased with his experience and the role of teacher that he has come to embrace.

sciences

"I enjoy teaching," Callaway said. "I enjoy the entire process, from teaching students how the camera works to their first pictures and putting it all together. I love the excitement that we all get when it all comes together."

pecially the [Robbins Chapel in

Brooks College], to reflect on how

I felt the last time I was there and

also to remember the prayers I

be beneficial not only from these

two students' standards, but from

other students as well. BIC San

Marcos freshman Kelsey Henry

said that she liked the stained

think about the imagery, and

when I really did I was surprised

by how beautiful it was," Henry

said. "Even thinking about those

"The assignment told us to

glass in Memorial Chapel.

The BIC assignment proved to

When trying to focus, many find solitude in campus' quiet places

By RACHEL ROACH

First you try to study in your room, but realize that watching "Dancing With the Stars" and chatting on Facebook aren't helping. You go to the library to study with your friends, and that turns out to be a complete social hour, resulting in a failure to study.

Everywhere you go there are people, noise and distractions. How can you escape?

A division of Student Life put together a reference guide to raise awareness about the spaces on campus available for meditation and reflection, according to Christopher Mack, coordinator for off-campus ministries.

Mack said that the tour, titled "Sacred Spaces Quiet Places," was compiled roughly three years ago by the previous Spiri-

tual formation work team.

Mack had a role in the recent revision of the brochure as the facilitator for the work team.

He said the goal of project was "to make sure people know we have spaces, where are they, and highlight them."

The revision included an addition of two new locations, as well as modification to the quotations in the brochure to better reflect Baylor's diverse Christian "Sacred Spaces Quiet Places"

is more than just a list of mappedout locations on Baylor's cam-Mack said it is a facilitator for

meditation and reflection and 'was not intended to be a timed tour, but was meant to be en-

It is a strategically compiled list intended to benefit the participant.

There are 12 places suggested on Baylor's campus that range from a library to outdoor gar-

The brochure features Truett Seminary, Hulme Family Prayer Garden and Whitley Fountain, Milton T. Gregory Memorial Garden, Erica Cummings Memorial Prayer Garden, Robbins Chapel, Student Memorial Fountain, Wilson-Jones Memorial Garden, Bobo Spiritual Life Center Chapel, Miller Chapel, Mary McCall Chapel, Memorial Chapel and the Armstrong Browning Library.

While this activity requires time away from homework or other required activities, organizations on campus have actually taken advantage of its design.

Last semester, the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core's examined life professors required their students to complete a number of different activities for a spiritual dimension project.

One of the choices, as assigned by BIC coordinator Dr. Melanie Nogalski, was to take part in the "Sacred Spaces Quiet Places" ac-According to Dr. Nogalski, the

focus of the assignment was to help students not only find God in their own way but to begin formulating spiritual practices through raising awareness of the spaces on campus. Nogalski made this an option

to "attempt to help students take the time to enjoy the silence and use it for reflection, a break from studying, or as a spiritually energizing experience."

When Houston freshman and BIC student Tony Morrow chose to do the cross-campus pilgrimage for his spiritual dimension project and found the serenity of places to be "very calming and allowed for contemplation without interruption." In one of the featured places,

the Armstrong Browning Library,

there is the option to read about the poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and the inspirational verses along the windows. Lake Charles, La., freshman BIC student, Joe Guillory said

he and his friend "went around to all that stations and read the thought-provoking Bible quotations, then reflected through discussion." "It was a great opportunity to appreciate the reflective places

that Baylor's campus has to of-

fer," Guillory said. "The best

part of my little pilgrimage was

that I felt that it was just me and

God in our special spot in time. I

often visit some of the spots, es-

images put me in a mood of wor-For more information about 'Sacred Spaces Quiet Places," go to the Student Life Office in the SLC to pick up a brochure, or visit the Bobo Spiritual Life Center for additional resources.

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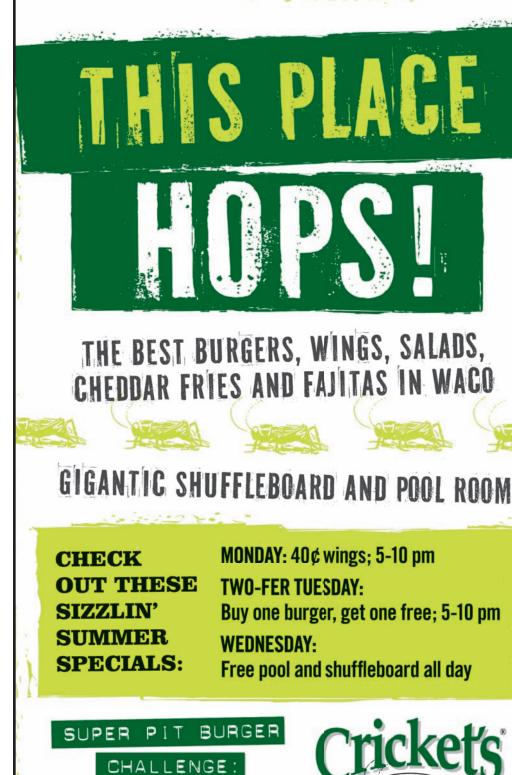
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Associated Press

Baylor's Brittney Griner celebrates after a win in the NCAA Tournament that sent the women's team to the Final Four in San Antonio this past year.

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Women's basketball reflects on season ending at Final Four

By Chris Derrett Sports Writer

Coach Kim Mulkey and the Lady Bears officially wrapped their 2009-2010 season, reminiscing over good times and bad at the team's annual appreciation banquet on April 15.

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

"[Mulkey] has a gift of making everyone she meets on and off the court better."

> Leon Barmore Assistant Coach

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.

what Morghan Medlock has been through, because nobody in this room has had to go through that," Mulkey said. Last season Medlock played

"I'm not sure I can explain

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

Later Medlock courageous-

ly 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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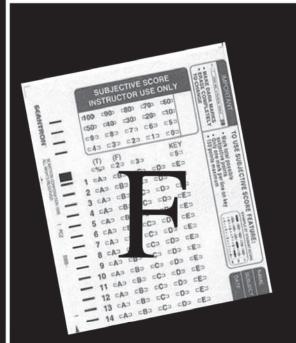
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Academic Integrity Matters

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Club hockey: students' skills don't freeze over

Bears leave season with 9-5 record, look for more players

By Joe Byrnes

For Sugar Land freshman Kevin Engelking, hockey has been a way of life since he was 4 years old and a game he wanted to continue in college. Engelking plays center on the Baylor Club Hockey team and helped propel it to an overall winning season, with the Bears skating off the ice with a 9-5 record.

While it is probably not the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about club sports at Baylor, it is the club of choice for players like Engelking who share a love for the ice.

"Just the thrill of scoring...every time it's the same adrenaline rush; it never gets old," Engelk-

"It's so fast-passed when you're out and it's just so different," said Kerrville junior Brian Rolater, the club president. "It's more of a challenge and I enjoy

The team competes in the Western Region at the Division II level of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The association governs all non-varsity competitive college ice hockey programs in the U.S., playing under NCAA rules.

Baylor plays against other teams in Texas, such as Texas A&M, University of Texas, University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University.

"We haven't won everything... but we are winning more than losing, so we finished with a winning season," said Jimmy Summers, the team's head coach and faculty adviser.

Much of that winning season is thanks to Engelking, a mechanical engineering major. Even as a freshman, he is the team's lead scorer, making about half of its goals this season.

Engelking started playing roller hockey when he was 4 years old, living in Phoenix and

continued playing hockey when his family moved to Houston when he was 5.

"There was an ice rink right next to my house and there was no roller rink around so I just learned ice hockey instead. Ever since then I just loved playing it," said Engelking.

When he was 7, Engelking started playing in a competitive league and eventually played on elite-level club teams that traveled around the country for tournaments as well as on his high school team.

When he was 16 he played with team Canada in a world cup tournament in Europe against other international teams. He was also captain of his club team since seventh grade and captained his high school team starting sopho-

Engelking is a prime example of what the Baylor Club Hockey team has to offer.

"[The players] want to continue playing hockey at a high level in college. They want to play for the school and represent the school at the same time as getting a good education," Summers said. "We try to give them the highest collegiate level that we can manage."

Summers is one of the main reasons that Baylor even has a club program.

Initially becoming involved with the team back in 1997, he was the program's first head coach in 1998, the team's inaugural year. After leaving Baylor for a couple of years, he returned back in 2008 to again be the faculty adviser and head coach of the club hockey team.

"He's more dedicated to the team probably than anybody who I know and he's actually looking for us to do a lot of stuff and it's awesome," said Engelking.

The team faces several challenges that do not plague their competitors. Notably is the lack of a ice rink in or around Waco. The team is forced to travel about two hours to College Station, Dallas or Austin in order to get

On practice days, players have

to dedicate about 7 to 8 hours to travel and time on the ice. On game days they have to set aside around 10 or more hours.

"Our players know that pretty much that for that night or for that day, it is for hockey and you're not going to be able to do much anything else," said Rolater.

Rolater cites the distance and time it takes to get to practices and games as one of the reasons the team is relatively small. The team is often forced to play with a shortened bench, with only some nine to 11 guys showing up to play games, compared to other schools that field about 20 play-

"We've done more with less than the other teams we compete against," said Rolater.

The distance also makes it hard to get fans to come out to games and reduces the program's overall exposure.

However, the program was not obscure enough to keep longtime players like Engelking from learning about it.

Playing at such an elite level through high school with the definite potential to get a Division I NCAA hockey scholarship, Engelking opted not to pursue that route.

He says part of the process to being considered for an NCAA scholarship is playing in a special junior league for one year in and out of high school.

Having to make a decision his junior year what he was going to do, he decided not to risk possibly either not getting a scholarship and being out of high school a year or getting a scholarship to a less academically challenging

"[The decision] was pretty tough too; it was tough to make it that early because you're like 'I want to do it and then I don't know.' I ended up just wanting to go to college, have fun and have more of a college life than worrying about a NCAA sport," Engel-

Looking for schools with an engineering program, as well as a hockey program, he decided Baylor was the place for him, with a



Daniel Kim, with Jonathan Von Spreecken in the background, are two of the players on the Baylor Club Hockey team. The team ended their season with a 9-5 record.

smaller campus and a more oneon-one atmosphere with profes-

"When I came up here for my campus visit, that's when I was like 'I'm going to Baylor.' I just loved it; campus is awesome," Engelking said.

"He's a phenomenal player. If we can get more guys like Kevin, we're going to be an awesome team," Rolater said.

"He's a great skater. He's definitely our top offensive man, definitely got talent. You can always count on him to get you a couple goals," said Sachsy sophomore Jordan Graham, one of team's goaltenders.

This past season was also Graham's first with the Bears. He started playing hockey in the fourth grade, following the Dallas Star's Stanley Cup win. He played on travel teams and with his school in the years following.

The team has a variety of skill ranges. Some players, like Engelking and Rolater, have been playing since they were 4 or 5. Others have just have started in the last couple of years.

"We have some really good players. Very high skilled and very capable," Summers said.

Rolater started playing for Baylor his freshman year, entering with the intention of joining. He had played hockey when he was younger and played in high school when he lived in Colo-

"He's an awesome guy. ... He's easily one of our biggest hitters sends kids flying half the game," said Engelking.

Next season is looking good for the Bears. Though the team will see the departure of a couple of seniors, they already have interest from several incoming freshmen, some of whom played competitively with Engelking.

"I'm really looking forward to next season. We've got a pretty good schedule coming up for us,"

(Baylor ID required for all specials)

said Engelking, who was elected the team vice president. "We're only going to get better."

While they could not make it to the playoffs this season, a bigger schedule next season will put Baylor in a better position to get

Young players like Engelking and Graham represent the future of the team and maintain promise of a vibrant program for the next Rolater says that playing

experience and that the team is a close group. "Everyone knows everyone. ... We've just known each other so well," said Rolater, "our team is more so family than anything

hockey for Baylor is a unique

The team is always looking for players and anyone interested is encouraged to contact head coach Jimmy Summers or go to the Hockey team's website: www.baylorhockey.com.

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'Blind Side' director talks Oscar nominations

By James Byers Reporter

John Lee Hancock, Baylor alumnus, writer and director of "The Blind Side," was so excited about the Oscar nominations that he slept through them.

One can hardly blame him for missing the Feb. 2 announcement, considering it was at 5:30 a.m. As expected, star Sandra Bullock was nominated for Best Actress. Perhaps more surprisingly, "The Blind Side" was one of 10 Best Picture nominees.

"Even though I was fully expecting Sandra to be nominated, I wasn't expecting the film to be nominated for Best Picture," Hancock said. "I figured that if it happened, somebody would call me. Sure enough, the phone rang and I was awakened from a deep sloop."

"The Blind Side" was the first film Hancock directed since "The Alamo" in 2004. Based on Michael Lewis' 2006 bestselling book, the movie tells the true story of Michael Oher, a football prodigy who was adopted off the streets by a Memphis family and now plays for the Baltimore Ravens. "The Blind Side" was the surprise hit of the holiday season, grossing more than \$240 million since its Nov. 20 release.

Hancock, who also directed "The Rookie" in 2002, was initially skeptical about directing another sports film.

"I swore that I wouldn't do another sports movie, but when the book came across my desk and I read it, I thought that it was less a sports movie and more an unconventional mother-son story," he said.

Bullock was cast as Leigh Anne Tuohy, the strong-willed adoptive mother of Oher.

Her powerful portrayal of Tuohy surprised critics and earned her the first Oscar nomination and win of her career. Hancock said he could sense during filming that Bullock's performance was special.

"I thought she was knocking it out of the park," he said. "I was hopeful that people would understand what a high-wire act the performance was. It wasn't something that she'd done before."

If "The Blind Side" is Bullock's best performance of her career, it's also Hancock's most successful film to date.

Hancock comes from a talented football family, perhaps preparing him for "The Blind Side." His father, John, and younger brother Kevin both played football for Baylor. As a student, Hancock's writing was published in

"The Phoenix," Baylor's studentrun magazine. He graduated in 1979 with an English degree and earned a law degree from Baylor three years later.

He spent four years in Houston practicing law before giving it up to pursue his dream of writing and directing movies.

"I decided that I was going to give Hollywood a shot, so I packed up and moved west," he said. "I loved movies and plays, and I thought I should just go ahead and do it." In 1993 he wrote the script for

the Clint Eastwood-directed "A Perfect World" and would later work with Eastwood again for "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." Hancock said he was hon-

ored that both the public and the Academy have responded to the "The Blind Side."

"I always thought the movie would be well-received generally, but you never know what

the box office will be," he said.

"It's made a lot more money than

I ever thought it could."

Chris Hansen, director of film and digital media, a division of the communication studies department, said he enjoyed 'The Blind Side," which shocked people who wouldn't expect the

film to cater to the tastes of a film

rofessor

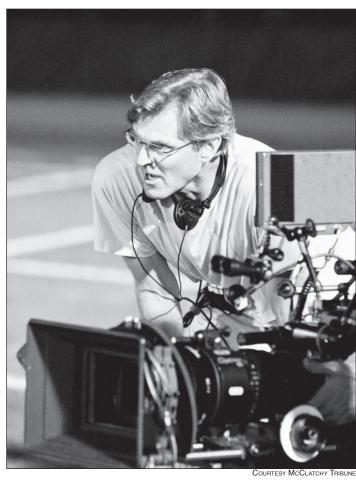
"One of the reasons it works is that it's very sincere," Hansen said. "Knowing Mr. Hancock's background, I can say with relative certainty that he's approaching the material as someone who actually believes what he's putting on the screen."

Brian Elliott, senior lecturer of film and digital media, said the success of an alumnus such as Hancock reflects well on the department. At Winter Premiere, Elliott showed prospective students a New York Times article about Hancock and the film.

"It absolutely raises our profile," said Elliott. "People who have come out of Baylor are doing some good things."

As for the Best Picture nod, Hancock admits that "The Blind Side" benefitted from the Academy's decision to expand the field from five movies to 10, but that doesn't mean he isn't savoring the experience.

"There are movies that probably wouldn't have made it into the top five, such as 'District 9' and 'The Blind Side,' that are a part of it now," he said. "But I think it's a really good snapshot of last year's films. It's not as if 'Transformers 2' made it in."



Baylor alumnus and director John Lee Hancock's movie, "The Blind Side," was nominated for Best Picture in the 2010 Oscars. Hancock graduated from Baylor in 1979 and from Baylor Law School in 1982.

Sing's big acts are heading to Homecoming Pigskin 2010

By Jessica Chia Reporter

Sequins, lights and high-energy dancing go hand in hand with the football, fans and school spirit when it comes to Baylor homecoming festivities.

Each year, the top eight acts from the spring production of All-University Sing perform on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights of Homecoming weekend in Pigskin Revue.

Groups began preparing this year's Sing acts as much as a full year in advance, and all of that hard work paid off for this year's Pigskin acts.

Pigskin Revue 2010 will feature first-place Sing winner Kappa Omega Tau, performing "The Toys are Back in Town," which features members dressed as green plastic soldiers, Raggedy Andy dolls and cowboys complete with pull-strings coming to life (think Broadway meets "Toy

Bille Bruley, Sing chair of the second-place act, Phi Kappa Chi's "Good 'ol Rocky Top" as a day in the life of a mountain man, discovering that even though we don't have much, we still are blessed.

Sing Alliance's act, "A News Sensation," which earned third

place this February, features a newspaper, complete with dancing, singing comic strip charactors

Also performing in 2010 Pigskin Revue will be Alpha Tau Omega's swashbuckling adventure "A Pirate's Life for Me," Chi Omega in the ultimate bath time fun act "Splish Splash," Delta Delta Delta's undersea extravaganza "C'mon and Swim," Kappa Alpha Theta's lesson in love "Ring by Spring" act and Kappa Kappa Gamma's jewelry-themed act "Hey Big Spender."

Some of these groups have a history of qualifying for Pigskin, like Alpha Tau Omega, whose sing chair Arturo Rodriguez said,
"We were chartered six years ago
and have made pigskin every

However, other groups may go years without participating in Pigskin

"Yes, Kappa typically makes Pigskin, but it's not something we take for granted," Kappa Kappa Gamma sing chair Rachel Badders said. "I know there was a time about 10 years ago when we didn't make it for a few years."

Kappa Alpha Theta sing chair Emily Stone said the sorority had not qualified since 2005

not qualified since 2005. "Prior to 2005 our group had a strong history of qualifying for Pigskin, which is a tradition we hope to have started up again," Stone said.

Whether they are Pigskin regulars or not, the Sing chairs said they have much to do in preparation for the revue this fall, from filling in spots left by graduating seniors to polishing the act and keeping morale high.

"We will definitely have a hard time keeping everyone excited and motivated about an act that they have already practiced every night for two months," said Chi Omega sing chair Kelsey

However, since Pigskin Revue, unlike All-University Sing,

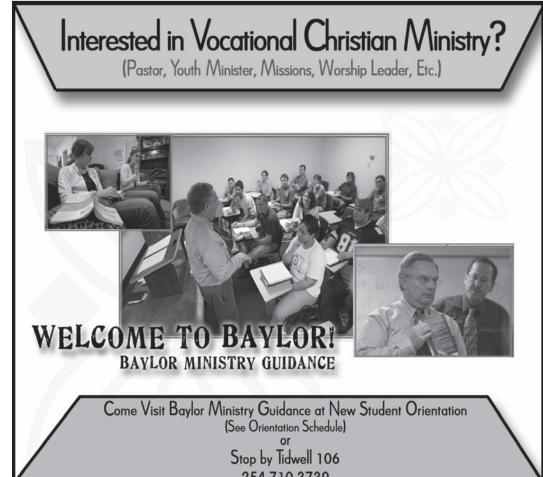
is not judged, the chairs said that practices are not as long or as intense as they were in the spring and the performances are less

"Pigskin is much more relaxed. It doesn't involve all the jittery nerves, anxiety and overall emotional rollercoaster that Sing brings," Badders said.

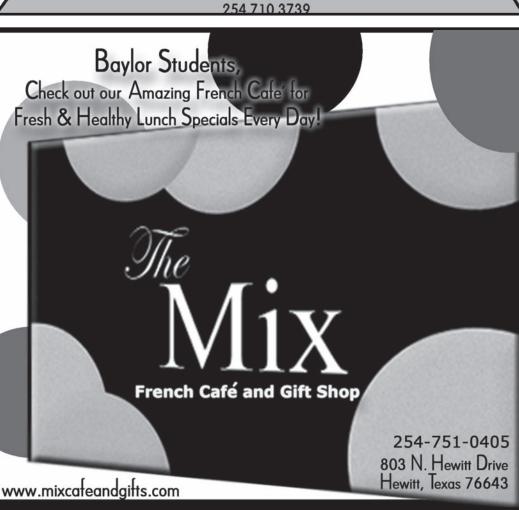
"We put in a lot of work to put on a good show, but it is not as intensive as the spring because most everyone just needs a refresher," Parsons said.

Pigskin 2010 will be in Waco Hall, and tickets will be available for purchase in the fall.









${f STARR}$ from pg. 1 -

academic careers and they also looked at nontraditional candidates who were in strictly nonacademic fields, such as business and politics.

"Judge Starr actually bridged both of those," Stone said. "Here is someone who had a terrific high profile, highly credentialed private sector career as an attorney and public servant, who also had a more recent, very successful career in the academy."

Tom Phillips, a member of the adviser committee for the presidential search and a retired Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, said he had heard of Starr for more than 30 years.

He said Starr started as a clerk for the Supreme Court before working for the Justice Department and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C., Court, the second most important court in the nation.

Phillips said he has known Starr for approximately 20 years and said his career in academics was as impressive as his career in the private sector.

"I thought he has done a marvelous job as dean of Pepperdine and very much raised that school's profile," Phillips said. Stone said Phillips was the

energy behind Starr's election, as he was the first person to encourage Starr to inquire about the position.

Phillips said he approached Starr because he thought he would fit in well with Baylor's

"I thought his intellect, his personality and his experience would make him an ideal decision maker for the Baylor campus, an ideal leader for a better way to say it," Phillips said.

Baptist doctrine part of Starr's foundation

Stone said a Baptist affiliation was an important consideration in the hiring process.

"It is important because of the Baptist identity of Baylor; it is who we are," Stone said.

Phillips said he thought Starr would be a good applicant when the presidential office first opened, but said he did not think of Starr as a possible candidate because he did not think Starr

> Topped With Cheese, Spices And

"But I saw him some months after the search started at a speech he was making in Washington casually asked him about where he was in his faith and professional journey and learned that he was at an independent Bible church that had Baptistic leanings," Phil-

Starr said he has been involved in a nondenominational Christianity for decades and his home church, McLean Bible Church, operates under a Baptist

Stone said McLean Bible Church is considered consistent with Baptist theology.

"Ken Starr's home church, McLean Bible, is Baptist as you will find, it just does not have Baptist in its name," Stone said. "The pastors on our board are familiar with this church and had a great, terrific conversation with [Starr] about his doctrinal beliefs."

Stone said members of the advisory committee were pleased with Starr's articulation of his beliefs and said they align with Baptist beliefs.

"A lot of people outside of Texas don't have the same opportunity for Baptist churches that we are blessed with here in Texas, specifically here in Waco," Stone said. "And so I suspect that Judge Starr, had he been in Waco, would have been a Baptist at a Baptist church."

Starr agreed with Stone.

"It will be a wonderful experience because I am very comfortable with the great Baptist distinctives," Stone said. "I am going to be right at home, theologically and otherwise."

Phillips said Starr's experience at Pepperdine and Pepperdine's similarities with Baylor make Starr a perfect fit for the president.

"[Pepperdine] has a strong religious affiliation and yet most of its faculty and most of its student body is of another faith tradition ... and so I thought he would understand our approach," Phillips said. "And [he] understands how to integrate a faith-based educational institution with the highest standards of educational quality. I just thought he was a natural

Phillips said Starr's thorough understanding of Baptist doctrine will enable him to lead Baylor through disputes.

"[Starr is a] leader who could bring all the various factions together," Phillips said. "And bring them together enthusiastically."

Starr's Vision for Baylor 2012

Although Starr he was excited to take over his duties as president and that he needs to adjust to the Baylor rhythm.

"I plan to listen and learn before I start suggesting directions," Starr said. "We are of course in the latter phase of 2012, a very ambitious and bold plan. I applaud that plan. It is now time for us to be thinking, prayerfully and strategically, about what the next step is."

Starr said he plans to follow through with Baylor's Baptist mission and Baylor 2012.

"I applaud [Baylor 2012]. It is very bold," Starr said. "I believe it to be a noble vision of Baylor remaining true to caring deeply about undergraduate education and yet moving to a level of maturity as a research university, and to be a leading research university with a goal of excellence in all things, including athletics."

Starr said once he has a solid understanding of where Baylor stands in the completion of the Baylor 2012, there might be additional work.

Starr talked about Imperative 12, with its goal of achieving a \$2 billion endowment, as an example of perhaps needing more

The progress summary for Imperative 12 says the endowment is behind the projection line. It stands at \$1.06 billion, according to the latest figure reported on Baylor's 2012 website.

He said Baylor needs to move forward to bring this goal and others to their fullest completion.

"The membership in the Big 12 Conference is just an extraordinary achievement and that is again part of this bold vision," Starr said. "We want to achieve excellence in all aspects of uni-

Starr said striving for excellence will not end when Baylor

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2012 is complete.

"But then what is the next chapter in Baylor's unfolding story? And that is a conversation," Starr said. "It is a university-wide conversation."

Starr's desire to fulfill the Baylor 2012 vision aligns with his desire to be involved in the lives of students and faculty and staff.

Engaging with students, faculty and staff

Starr said one of his favorite aspects of academia is teaching, mentoring and being involved with students. He does not plan for this to change as president.

"I have an open door policy," Starr said. "That is, I see any student who wants to see me. I ask them to make an appointment... to sit down with them and to hear about their aspirations and dreams. And to perhaps share a little bit of insight, hopefully, drawn from decades of experience. ... That is a very gratifying part of being in higher educa-

Starr said he plans to learn and take part in the current traditions to get to know students, such as Dr Pepper Hour and freshmen

"I think it is great when the president of the university and other servant leaders help when the freshmen are moving," Starr said. "I have got a bad back, but I should do the best I can. Put on a T-shirt and get out and help a

He also mentioned creating new traditions.

"Perhaps even add a new avenue for engagement with the students, sort of just a sense of connectedness between a particular servant leader and the entire student body," Starr said.

Starr said the president's house should not be viewed just as a residence, but also as a resource for the faculty, staff and students. He said the president's house will be open and welcoming to the Baylor community.

Dr. Dennis Myers, chair of Faculty Senate, said the faculty needs the opportunity to learn more about his call and commit-

"I was pleased that the Faculty Senate representatives had a voice in the decision to select Judge Starr for the presidency," Myers said. "I was pleased by the fact that he has a call to the academy inspite of numerous other vocational options available to

In addition, Starr plans to be open to the Baylor alumni and Waco community.

Starr's plan to reach out to alumni and the Waco community

Starr said he plans to work on what the university can do to build and reconnect with Baylor graduates.

"I think the challenge for any university, including Baylor, is to build a sense of community and to restore that sense of community that the alumni had when they were on campus," Starr said. "That's a challenge and that is one of the areas that I plan to make a very high priority."

To do this, he said he will focus on ensuring the various alumni chapters are energetic and active.

"The president should, to the fullest extent that energy and time permit, be present, help build the alumni chapters wherever they may be, and that means globally," Starr said.

Starr said he was especially excited about the Baylor Global Network. "I love the idea of the Baylor Network and the idea of connecting people who may be living, as the Baylor Magazine recently featured, all over Germany but coming together through the Baylor Network to go across generation lines, brought together by their love of Baylor and their experience at Baylor," Starr said.

Starr also plans to be involved in the Waco community because of Baylor's interdependence with the Waco community and the Central Texas area. "I want to be very engaged with civic and business leaders, and obviously church leaders in the community," Starr said. "And I have always been engaged in the community and want to continue that and deepen that in Waco."

He said being involved in the community is a very important role that, as the president of Baylor, he will be very involved in.

 $PARADE \ \mathrm{from} \ \mathrm{pg.1}$ of Baylor's Chamber of Com-

merce for two years.

One special aspect of this year's homecoming: it will be President-elect Ken Starr's first homecoming.

"We are excited about planning what will be Judge Starr's first homecoming experience and look forward to acquainting him with one of Baylor's oldest traditions," Carrell said.

Homecoming brings people together. Some meet for the first time in years; others – like Starr – meet for the first time ever. Established in 1909 by three

professors who invited their past students to return to campus to "renew former associations and friendships, and catch the Baylor spirit again," homecoming has always been a time for people to reconnect with their old friends and to revisit memories of years past. Barbara Elliott, an elemen-

tary music instructor in New Braunfels, especially appreciates this aspect of homecoming. "As I started college at Bay-

lor, the [homecoming parade] began to be a gathering place for friends, and current boyfriends, to watch the parade," Elliott said. "Now that I have been out of Baylor for a while, the parade and our breakfast seem like a family reunion and class reunion in one."

With 150 entries in 2009, includin floats, special entries, bands and dignitaries, Baylor's parade is the nation's largest collegiate homecoming parade and one of the most popular events of homecoming weekend. The parade takes place in the

early morning and travels along Waco's downtown streets lined with spectators before arriving at its home on campus where countless students watch from various places. "The perfect place to sit is on

the steps of the SUB. You can see the entire parade and you don't have to worry about people standing up in front of you," freshman Kasi Kirksey said. "But be sure to bring blankets because it's cold."

Baylor's 2010 Homecoming is Oct. 21 to 23. More information can be found at www.baylor.edu/homecoming.





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