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Good use of social media. Students are learning the right way to utilize media from your accounts and your course requirements.

Latest:

Baylor University takes social media by storm; teaches students value of communication.

Home

BU’s social media sphere sets beneficial example for students

There’s no way to deny it — social media is everywhere. It is the way people stay in contact with friends, share the latest news stories and now, it’s a different way of learning in school.

Departments all over Baylor are incorporat- ing social media into their syllabi.

Students are required to partake in various types of social media, such as join Facebook groups to receive additional information about the course and comment on others’ responses, make Twitter accounts and tweet about content related to the course, and create blogs with reactions about topics discussed in the course.

This requirement is emerging in courses all around campus — from public relations to history.

Students are able to communicate with other students in the course through the social media outlets, making the course more interactive and keeping the students more interested.

Students are able to get to know each other more than they could from the usual classroom setting.

Using social media also allows for more interaction with the professor, who can have an ongoing conversation with the class outside of class time.

Baylor professors have done a good job of incorporating social media into the educational environment.

Social media is not going away, and students need to learn how to use it effectively before they are thrust into the “real world” without the necessary knowledge.

Future employers could search a student’s name and find their social networking sites to see if the student has adequate knowledge of social media. Furthermore, employers look at the content of the social media so students should be careful about what they write about.

By including social media as part of their class requirement, professors have added the enticement of a good grade to encourage students to learn about social media.

Though it is not necessary to incorporate all types of social media into one course, incorporating one or two different types of social media is helpful in teaching students about how to use social media effectively.

Furthermore, Baylor officials have done a good job of informing students and alumni of news about the university through the use of social media through their many social media sites.

Many departments have their own Facebook and Twitter ac- counts so that current and former students can keep up with the department.

The Baylor University’s Col- lege of Arts and Sciences Face- book page and Twitter page provides updates about the work of various professors and alumni, as well as in- formation about events that occur related to the college.

Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business Facebook and Twitter pages provide in- formation for business ma- jors and alumni, as well as in- formation about business topics in general.

The Baylor Athletics Facebook and Twitter pages discuss athletes, future and past games. Baylor sports, such as football and volleyball, have their own Twitter pages to

update readers about the outcome of games and others news about the team.

All of these pages are updated frequently and allow students and alumni to see the most updated information about a topic.

Often, Twitter and Facebook are the first places that people go to for information, and Baylor has done a good job of providing updat- ed information for its audience.

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# Religious freedom extends liberty to unshared opinions

As we approach the ninth anniversary of 9/11, the debate over Islam’s place in American society is reaching a boiling point.

This summer, with the proposed building of the Park 51 Islamic center within two blocks of New York’s Ground Zero, the question of Islamophobia has once again gripped the American public. The controversy has revealed a crucial distinction in our commitment to religious freedom: the difference between the right to exercise one’s faith, and the propriety of doing so.

The Cordoba Initiative and its supporters have put all the emphasis on their right to build the Islamic center, a right that most Americans certainly affirm.

But many question the propriety of building it on the proposed site. Does raising the question of propriety equal Islamophobia, as some of the center’s defenders allege? Absolutely not.

Freedom of religion does not

their state achieved in 1786 with the passage of Jefferson’s Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom.

But neither Jefferson nor Madison much liked the evangelicals’ intense faith, which Jefferson for one saw as religious fanaticism. Jefferson in particular knew that if the government persecuted evangelicals for their beliefs, it might persecute anyone (including skeptics like himself).

So religious liberty, for the Founding Fathers, granted freedom to worship but did not require cheery approval of every church’s views or actions.

The distinction between liberty and propriety certainly applies to the widely-discussed case of the “International Burn a Quran Day” at the formerly obscure Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Fla., scheduled for the 9/11 anniversary. Muslim and Christian leaders alike have condemned this deplorable event.

As with the building of the

Islamic center in New York, the Dove World Outreach Center has the right, under the First Amendment, to burn Qurans. But as Hillary Clinton and Gen. David Petraeus warned Tuesday, if they do burn Qurans, it will convey the worst kind of message to Muslim communities, among whom an unfortunate global backlash of protests has already begun.

The appropriate response to the Quran burnings (should they take place, which remains in some doubt) is for Christians, especially evangelicals, to speak univocally in denouncing the incident. Many Christians, including the Vatican and the National Association of Evangelicals, have already done so. Hopefully Muslims will understand that the Dove World Outreach Center’s aberrant type of Christianity is marginal indeed.

Building the Islamic center at Park 51 is not as flagrantly

provocative as the burning of Qurans, but the point remains that the location of the proposed center ignores the raw feelings that many Americans still hold about Ground Zero.

According to Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf’s Tuesday editorial for the New York Times, the Cordoba Initiative hopes that the center will foster “unification and healing” in America.

But if improving relations between Muslims and non-Muslims is its objective, then the Cordoba Initiative should defer to popular opinion — two-thirds of New Yorkers think it should be moved, according to a recent New York Times poll — and build the center further away from Ground Zero. A number of Muslim leaders have endorsed relocating the center. The current site only delays unification and healing.

Soothing misunderstandings between American Christians

and American Muslims begins with a renewed national commitment to the free exercise of religion. In no way should the government try to prevent the building of the Islamic center at Ground Zero.

With this safeguard in place, it should be easier to move the discussion to questions of propriety. With the anniversary of 9/11 upon us, America needs no more gratuitous statements or actions from either Christians or Muslims. Enough damage has been done already, by both Christians and Muslims.

Thankfully, there are very few things that, as Americans, we don’t have the right to do. But just because we can do (or build, or burn) something doesn’t make it a good idea.

*Thomas S. Kidd is Senior Fellow at Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion. This Op-Ed was previously published in USA Today on Thursday.*

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# Chalk promises fix students can deliver

By Wakeelah Crutison  
COPY EDITOR

Amid the various interest meetings and event messages written in chalk around campus, “I Fix iPhones” scrawled on the sidewalk stands out.

A simple but promising message, just three words and a phone number, elicits calls from Apple users throughout campus.

Colleyville freshman Nicholas Shirley is the face behind the words. He fixes iPhones and decided to utilize his talent to earn a little spending money.

“When I came for orientation, I saw groups writing on the sidewalk and thought it was a good way to advertise,” Shirley said.

With more than 1.4 million iPhone 4G sales within the first week of release, Shirley said there are bound to be people on the Baylor campus who need help fixing them.

“The iPhone’s screen is glass and people tend to drop them, so that’s the most common thing they need fixed when they call,” Shirley said.

Shirley’s father owns a cell phone franchise and fixing iPhones is one of the main services offered.

“My dad taught me how to do it,” Shirley said. “It only takes 15 to 20 minutes to fix the screen.”

Shirley said he uses the venture as a side job to earn spending money while he’s still in school.

“[Fixing iPhones] is a good example of a business that gives good experience and a good way to experiment with being a business owner,” said Dr. Steve Bradley, professor of entrepreneurship and economic development.

Bradley said he’s glad to see students taking initiative by starting their own businesses.

“This is the perfect type of business to start with: flexibility to do on his own time, low initial investment and there’s a market for it,”

Bradley said. “It’s the kind of business students get involved with [so they’re] not obligated to work all the time.”

Bradley said students start with a limited, but expanding knowledge set, so it’s harder for them to see market opportunities.

“It’s creative, there’s a perceived need and it’s a relatively competition-free niche area,” Bradley said.

“The challenge is getting into the excitement of all the activity of having a business, but it’s hard to get away from it.”

Bradley said he likes the start-up process of finding a good idea and expanding on it in ways that will make it work.

“That’s how I started my washer/dryer rental business in college,” Bradley said. “I put an ad in the school paper at [Texas] A&M. I got tons of calls from people who saw it.”

Bradley recommends that students look into already established franchise businesses.

“They have built-in credibility, a built-in testing model, and built-in expertise that students don’t have when they graduate,” Bradley said. “Most ideas come from working with people and big businesses. Students might see an opportunity to branch off from a larger company. But I’m glad to see Baylor students getting a jump on things and starting their own projects.”

Baylor students Britt Swann and Lincoln Downs did just that.

Swann said his parents wanted him to get a job, but he didn’t want to deal with the stress of working for someone else. Being an entrepreneurship major, he decided to work for himself.

“I knew a lot of people who needed phones fixed and thought it would be a good business to get into,” Swann said. “People don’t want to pay what Apple charges to fix it.”

Swann, a senior from Waco, said he learned to fix iPhones from his partner Downs, a junior also

from Waco.

It was touch-and-go in the beginning stages as they went through a trial and error phase, but now feel like pros.

“I spent almost over \$1,000 trying to get it right, but now it’s like clockwork,” Swann said. “Combined, Lincoln and I have fixed over 1,000 phones. It’s safe to say we’ve gotten pretty good at it.”

With the most common issue being broken screens, Downs said he keeps the screens of the busted phones he repairs in order to keep track of them.

“We just get the word out by word of mouth and business cards,” Downs said, “And we get four to five calls a week.”

Waco junior Brennan Bailey dropped his iPhone studying one night for an exam and called Downs.

“I was studying with my roommates late one night and I knocked my phone off the table and the screen cracked,” Bailey said.

“I was expecting it at some point and it finally happened at 1 in the morning. I called Lincoln and he told me to come on over. It only took about 40 minutes for him to fix.”

Downs fell into the phone repair business when a friend broke his phone and didn’t want to buy a new phone.

“I told him I’d try to fix it,” Downs said. “When I finished it worked fine and I figured I could fix other people’s phones too.”

Downs and Swann are currently searching for a storefront to open in Waco and plan to make their business official some time this year.

“I definitely want the chance to enjoy life more than average person. I realize that if I work with someone else, I won’t have the freedom to do what I like,” Swann said. “Starting a business now doesn’t hurt. It gives you business experience and real-world experience plus you get spending money.”

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# Parents experience college during Parents Weekend

*By Kevin Tamer*  
REPORTER

When parents set foot on Baylor's campus for Parents Weekend today and Saturday, they will participate in events tailored specifically for their understanding of student life.

The Baylor Chamber of Commerce will play host to the 50-year-old tradition. Chamber has implemented changes in order to give parents the opportunity to see firsthand what students devote their time to outside the classroom.

Chamber is introducing a new event called the Student Activities Fair. This event will take place in the Bill Daniel Student Center

today and will allow parents the opportunity to meet sponsors, presidents and members of various organizations within Baylor Student Life.

Cypress junior Daniel Haddad, chairman of the Parents Weekend Committee, believes the changes will allow parents to see what students are involved with on campus.

"Traditionally Parents Weekend has kind of catered to and attracted a lot of new students' parents," Haddad said. "However, we wanted to see it turn into a more inclusive event where parents can come and see what their student does and devote[s] their time to."

More than 200 student organizations have been invited to participate in the event and parents are

*"Parents Weekend is a great opportunity for moms and dads to get to know Baylor on a more personal level."*

Daniel Haddad | Chairman of the Parents Weekend Committee

encouraged to attend, regardless of whether their child is involved with an organization.

Haddad believes this event will help clear up some negative preconceived notions parents hold concerning various student organizations.

"Parents can come see a Greek

organization and see that it's not your stereotypical Greek organization that you might see at another university, but Baylor is different and its values are different," Haddad said.

Senior Grant Corley, president of Chamber, believes the Student Activities Fair will shine a positive light on the many student organizations offered at Baylor.

"It helps parents see what their kids have the opportunity to be a part of while at Baylor," Corley said.

"It's a great opportunity to bring everyone together and parents can see the diversity of student organizations on campus."

In addition to the Student Activities Fair today, traditional Par-

ents Weekend events will be offered, including Baylor Then and Now, history and campus tours, the After Dark all-university variety show and dessert party.

On Saturday, parents can meet with professors at the Parent-Faculty Coffee, eat lunch beneath the Texas sky during Dinner on the Grounds and cheer on Baylor football as they take on Buffalo inside Floyd Casey Stadium.

Amarillo senior Patrick Bell encourages parents and students to take advantage of the opportunities presented by this Baylor tradition.

"Parents Weekend is a great opportunity for moms and dads to get to know Baylor on a more personal level," Bell said. "Whether it's

meeting their students' professors at parent-faculty coffee, witnessing many talented students perform during the two live performances of After Dark, or enjoying a piece of pie and good music at Dessert Party, Parents Weekend showcases many of the great things that Baylor has to offer."

Haddad said Parents Weekend will create an environment in which families can come together as one and celebrate Baylor's rich traditions.

"We are all different; we come from different backgrounds, nationalities and different places all over the world," Haddad said.

"But what unites us all is that we are connected to Baylor University, and this weekend celebrates that."

# College adjustment isn't just for incoming freshmen

*By Meghan Hendrickson*  
STAFF WRITER

The transition between the home that a student has known for 18 years to a new home in college can be extremely difficult – for both students and parents.

Dr. Roderick Hetzel, staff psychologist for Baylor counseling services, thinks the change to college is shockingly hard on the student and the parents.

"It depends on the student and the parents," Hetzel said. "I find it really hard to say who has it worse because parents and students each have their own unique struggles and challenges they're going to have to confront. The more they can be open in communication with one another, the better they will be able to enter into this new chapter."

Hetzel described some of the struggles that new college students are likely to face as they start school. One struggle is just adjusting to the new lifestyle as a whole. Being in college means students are on their own for the first time in their life. With that new lifestyle, comes a whole new set of consid-

erations: what do with their time, when to wake up and go to bed, whether they should eat a quick snack or grab lunch at the cafeteria.

There are, however, greater challenges that new students must face as well.

"Psychologically what freshmen are needing to do is to individuate from their families of origin," Hetzel said.

"Becoming an adult and discovering who you are as a person and an adult can be a painful and difficult process. Part of what students need to do is look at their lives and say goodbye to some parts that don't fit so well, and say hello to new parts," Hetzel said.

"One thing we see in students here at Baylor is their religious faith. Many students are raised in religious families, but part of the college experience is making their faith their own. Learning who you are as a Christian in faith can be difficult because you realize that you've left home and you're on a journey, but you're not quite sure where the journey's going to take you yet – and that can be stressful and scary for students," he added.

Though freshmen are facing their fair share of struggles, parents are simultaneously encountering a whole list of challenges that may take them by surprise.

"I think that it is probably harder on the parents at first because kids are so excited to get out and start something new, and they don't realize it's the end of their home life and the beginning of life on their own," McKinney freshman Catie Groves said.

"I didn't realize until a few weeks into school that that part of my life is over and I'm on my own now."

A major struggle for parents is simply adjusting to not having their student in the house anymore, which affects their daily lives just as college affects the daily lives of new students.

"Also, parents may struggle with understanding what their student needs at this point in their life," Hetzel said.

"Our child is on their own journey; what do they need from us as their parents to help them on that journey? How can we equip them with the tools and practices they need to be successful? It's

hard for parents. 'Do we provide all their needs or do they need an increasing amount of independence?'"

"Increased independence means more opportunities to succeed and discover who you are, but it also means more opportunities to fail and run into difficult situations. There are some lessons that have to be learned the hard way and that's hard for parents to experience," Hetzel said.

Hetzel points out that anytime there is a big change in life, we have to grieve what has been lost – that we cannot move forward until that is done. Therefore, it is important that both students and parents grieve the loss they face as the student leaves for college.

In order to cope with these challenges, Hetzel is offering some tips for both students and parents:

1. Students and parents need to talk to each other about the process they are going through and practice deep listening – listening for the purposes of trying to understand what the other is experiencing, instead of boasting one's own arguments.
2. Students and parents need to

*"I find it really hard to say who has it worse because parents and students each have their own unique struggles and challenges they're going to have to confront."*

Dr. Roderick Hetzel | Staff Psychologist

reach out to their own support groups. There is something healing about sharing with people who have been through or are going through the same things.

3. Students should seek to find guidance at their college campus. Students are not just thrust into college on their own. There are people here at Baylor to help guide them and prepare them for the new journey ahead.
4. Parents need to cut the cord. Parents need to resist the temptation to call their student 10 times a day. Don't sever all ties, but give your child the freedom they need to realize what this new journey

means to them.

5. Students need to get involved in the activities that surround them. Students need to resist the temptation to go home each weekend. It is okay to go home, but make an effort to get involved in your new community.
6. Both students and parents need to be thoughtful of one another's time. One way to do this is for students to e-mail their parents an idea of what their average week will look like for the semester. That way, parents can know what days are better days to touch base with their child and what days to avoid. Students can also be mindful of the work schedule and activities that their parents are involved in and the time they would like to be in bed, so as not to interfere with their responsibilities either.

"Everyone loves trying to predict who it's going to be harder for," Hetzel said.

"But I think the bottom line is that it's going to be surprisingly difficult for both students and parents. Be prepared for the journey ahead and seek help to get through it."

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# Kenyan pastor came to Baylor to aid others

By Meghan Hendrickson  
STAFF WRITER

Unreached people groups, dissertation, Kenya, beauty school, poverty, Hankamer School of Business, church, microfinance — these words often seem fairly unrelated, but a graduate student from Nairobi, Kenya, is the glue that binds them together.

Pastor Edward Simiyu of City Harvest Ministries in Nairobi is studying at Baylor the fall semester to work on research for his dissertation.

He is studying to receive his doctorate from Jomokenyatta University of Architecture and Technology in Kenya. While at Baylor, Simiyu is working with Dr. Steve Bradley, assistant professor of management and supervisor for entrepreneurship.

Simiyu and Bradley are enjoying working together on their research this semester.

“I probably have the research skills and he has the heart skills, and we’re trying to exchange that,” Bradley said.

By asking unique questions, the team has discovered data to support the notion that poverty is a product of opportunity and ideas — money is important, but it should come second to ideas.

“So much money is being poured into Africa,” Simiyu said. “How do we utilize that money in a more profitable way? How do people come up with ideas instead of just giving money?”

Both Simiyu and Bradley hope to bring a degree of change to the world and its view of poverty through their research.

“If I can see the world as a place where people have opportunity and the people are really able to have choices rather than being forced by the environment or the institutions that exist — I think that would be a perfect place to be,” Simiyu said. “A land of opportunity is what I desire; partly because I work with poor people who really don’t have choices — they look to fate.”

Simiyu got connected with Bradley when he came to speak in Bradley’s class at University Baptist Church last fall. Bradley asked Simiyu if he had a dissertation yet and if he would like to collect microfinance data. Simiyu spent two weeks collecting a great deal of data — leaving a lasting impression on Bradley.

“I told him, if you can collect some more data this summer, then come here for your sabbatical and we can work on it some more,” Bradley said. “This is really great for both of us. He needs a disser-

tation project and we don’t have access to data. We want to write something for journals that is interesting to academics and microfinance; a lot of things we’re finding are unknown to microfinance individuals. Our research is trying to show some flaws in microfinance right now and maybe make some policy implications.”

Simiyu always believed that business can give people opportunity, but he didn’t know how. Now he is working to make a difference in the world through both business and faith.

“Pastor Edward is changing the world through his church,” Melanie Smith, international student relations coordinator, said.

Simiyu started City Harvest Ministries in Nairobi eight years ago.

“When I felt God calling me to ministry I was saying, ‘If I’m going to do church, I don’t see why. There are so many churches. God, if I’m doing church it has to be sort of a different church. I need to work with the poor and empower them to come out of their situations,’” Simiyu said. “Our congregation is really made up of poor people. We basically use tools of socioeconomic development as our tools for discipleship.”

City Harvest Ministries currently uses a microfinance program to teach church members how to manage their finances and better save their resources.

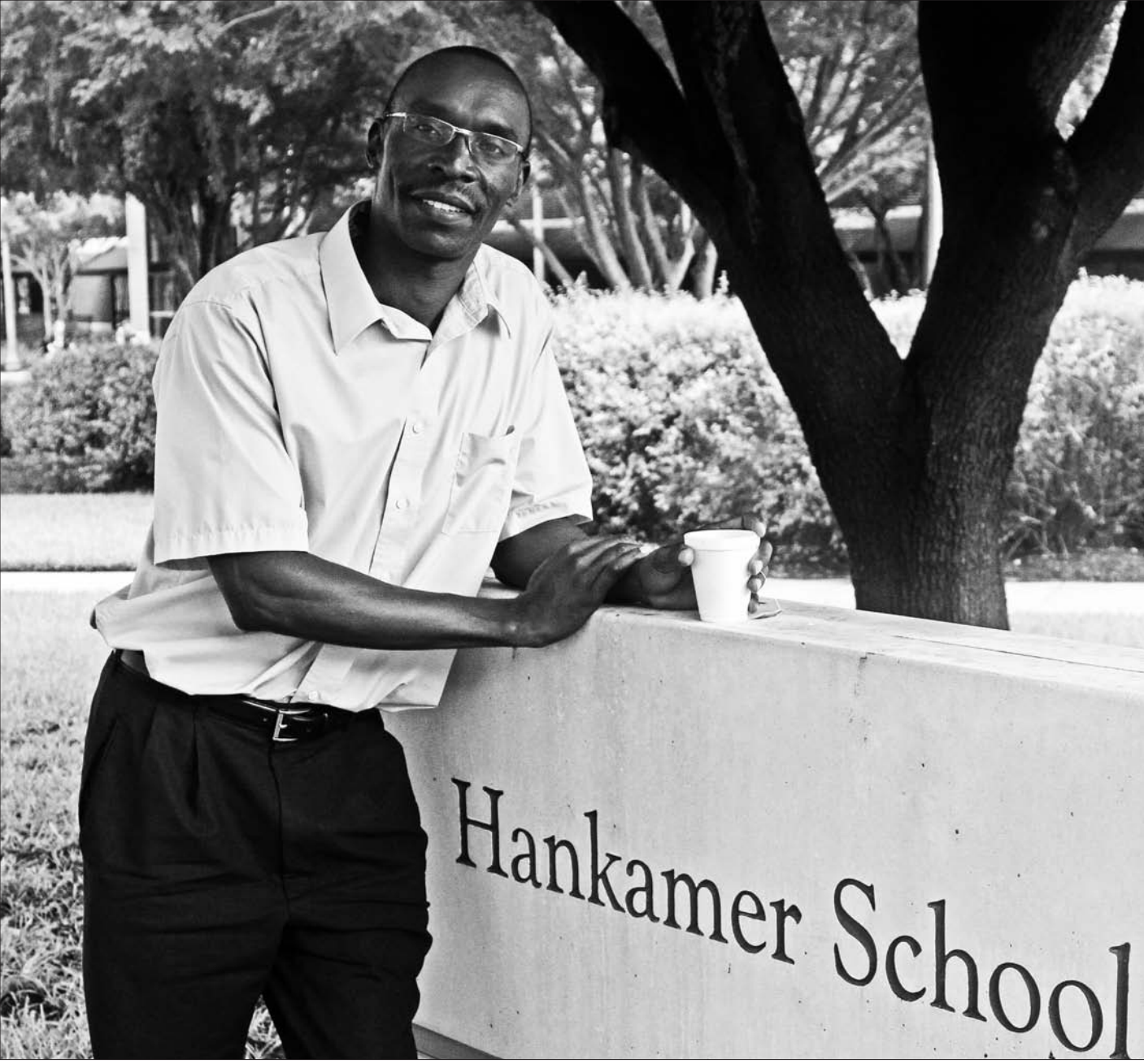
The church also provides basic education to children in the slums of Kibera.

In addition to basic education, the church trains young people to acquire dress-making skills.

They also started a sports program for children to hopefully develop them into professional soccer players. This program was motivated by the fact that a lot of people at the age of 16 have either never been in school or have dropped out.

The church also started a hairdressing school with the intention of targeting young girls, particularly in the slums, who are vulnerable to prostitution, crime and unemployment.

“Girls in the slums are the most marginalized people — especially those who are uneducated,” Simiyu said. “The girls will either be housemaids or prostitutes. Boys have three options: they can walk long distances to industrial areas and find a job that pays maybe two dollars a day, or crime. Some get into the public transportation system, but it is a very manual-oriented and strength-requiring job. Most boys get involved in crime.



Pastor Edward Simiyu of City Harvest Ministries in Nairobi, Kenya, is working on his dissertation at Baylor. Simiyu hopes to change how the world views poverty through his research.

We thought if we can start a hairdressing school we can at least provide a third option for girls.”

The church’s hairdressing school has been extremely successful in Nairobi and was featured this summer in a program put on by a television station in Kenya.

“Hair and beauty industry in Kenya is very interesting,” Simiyu said. “This industry never suffers despite the economy. The girls are trained at our hairdressing school and they leave and either start their own businesses or they get employment at a salon in town.”

Simiyu is also working with an unreached people group known as the Pokotas in northwest Kenya. This community of 12,000 families lives in a dry, arid environment that lacks infrastructure. Because the community doesn’t have enough water, when drought

strikes, the tribe moves around searching for water.

This leads to attacks and conflict with people across the border in Uganda.

Simiyu established a relationship with this community years ago when he did work for a church in Uganda.

They realized that the Pokota faced four different issues: peace, government, HIV/AIDS and evangelism.

Uncertain of how to tackle these issues, they established an interchurch committee and requested Simiyu’s assistance and leadership.

“I came back to Kenya and started praying for these Pokotas — who really are our brothers,” Simiyu said. “I asked God, ‘How do we help? How do we enter the community?’ Many people who did

missionary work with the Pokotas actually were killed. We needed to find out how we could enter and not get killed.”

The committee finally decided to invite 18 warriors from the Pokota tribe to join them in a meeting in Nairobi. Warriors in the Pokota tribe are respected because they have killed so many people.

The Pokotas had never been out of their community, so they were startled by the city of Nairobi.

The Pokotas often asked questions such as: “Are these buildings built by God or man?” or “Why are there so many people in the streets?” to which committee members had to respond, “We don’t kill each other.”

By being introduced to a new form of society, Pokotas were compelled to question their own

attitudes and behavior.

“Pastor if you can please help us — if you can come and help us get water and get schools, then we will trust the Lord to help us,” the Pokota warriors said, according to Simiyu.

Simiyu responded with two requirements: “One: we need to work with you to make sure you live in peace with your neighbors. Second: you definitely need water as a resource.”

Because the church members reached outside their comfort zone, the Pokota are working to become less violent.

“Right now we are in the church planting phase,” Simiyu said. “We are thinking about how to do a church in that area. We are trying to develop people to lead the church from within the community as well.”

## Blogging makes leap to class

By Dorian Davis  
REPORTER

While Baylor professors have been using blogs for over five years as part of their curriculum, many are now recognizing it as a method to maintain a record of research and work accomplished by students and faculty.

Dr. Gardner Campbell, director of Academy for Teaching and Learning, estimates that over 800 students will be participating in a blog or some other form of social media this semester for class.

Dr. Lydia Bean, an assistant sociology professor, requires students to blog about current events for her social theory course.

“I want to hear about current events through their eyes,” she said.

With few restrictions, students engage by commenting on classmates’ posts.

“They are required to keep a civil and professional tone,” Bean said.

Her students’ blogs are assigned as homework on a website called the “Oso Social Theory.”

Recently, with the revision of Blackboard, Baylor’s portal website, blogs have become an integrated feature available to teachers for students to use. However, Bean has elected to use a third-party website instead.

“I find Blackboard’s blogging tool to be kind of clunky. I think WordPress is better because I know it better,” Bean said.

WordPress, a free blogging website, claims to host blogs for over 25

million people.

A negative aspect of Blackboard’s blogging tool is the information is viewable only by the classroom. Bean believes making the blogs available to the Internet forces students to put more thought into their writings, and prepares them for the post-college world.

“They are writing for the world, for everyone to read,” Bean said. “This gives them an opportunity to present themselves. I want to show off what my students can do.”

Aledo junior Caleb Lyons is required to write 13 blogs over the semester for his biblical heritage text course.

“We write about anything in our lives we’re experiencing at the time that relates to biblical issues,” Lyons said.

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# Fire in wetlands good for ecosystem, research

By Sara Tirrito  
STAFF WRITER

The Lake Waco Wetlands prescribed burn, conducted at the end of August, benefited not only the ecosystems in the wetlands, but also researchers at Baylor.

The burn took place Aug. 27 in cells one and two of the wetlands. It was intended to cut down on cattails and some species of woody plants such as water willow and Chinese tallow that were growing too heavily.

“The purpose of the burn was primarily to promote diversity of wetland plants,” said Dr. Joseph White, associate professor of biology. “There are some woody plants that are beginning to sprout up and take over in the wetlands and the burning helps set them back. The idea is that the Waco Wetlands should be a marsh system—it should have fewer woody plants and more herbaceous plants.”

Nora Schell, program coordinator for the Lake Waco Wetlands,

said that although the burn was mostly successful, it was not as hot as she’d hoped because of rains that came through around the time of the burn.

“I wish it had burned hotter to get rid of a lot more of the cattails and willow trees,” Schell said. “The cattails are still busting open; they’re still blooming even though they got scorched.”

Plants like bulrush, pickerel weed, duck potato and water lilies should have a better chance to grow and provide a broader food source for the animals in the wetlands, Schell said.

The burn also benefited researchers such as Dr. Bill Hockaday, assistant professor of geology. Hockaday plans to use data from ground temperature probes set out by White’s team and soil samples he gathered after the burn to study the relationship between the structure of charcoal and temperature. Studying this relationship will help Hockaday address hypotheses about how grasslands were able



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURTIS CALLAWAY

A controlled fire in the Lake Waco Wetlands was conducted at the end of August in hopes of eliminating woody plants. The plants disrupt the natural ecosystem of the wetland and are harmful to indigenous species.

to replace forests in some areas, because he will be able to examine ancient charcoal samples and

“I hope that what I see is a really nice correlation between the charcoal chemistry and the temperature from those sensors, and if I do see that, it means that we can use the charcoal that’s preserved in ancient sediments to reconstruct fire temperatures,” Hockaday said. “There are lots of hypotheses out there in the geology field in particular about why grasslands evolved in locations where there used to be forests, and one of the hypotheses is there were these intense wildfires... [that] made it possible for grasses to become abundant, so if we can collect charcoal from that time period...we can tell if fires were hot enough to kill trees or not.”

Though he has studied the relationship between charcoal structure and temperature, this is the first time he will be able to use data from an actual fire to validate his conclusions, Hockaday said.

“I’m really excited to see if it works,” Hockaday said. “I think it will, but there’s some pretty big dif-

ferences between making charcoal in the lab under controlled settings [and] then a real fire that happens in nature.”

Curtis Callaway, lecturer in the department of journalism and media, said the project with the wetlands also helped bring different departments together in collaboration.

“[The scientists] need someone who can document their work and put it in laymen’s terms, so the public can understand it”

Journalism and media students are getting real-world experience in working with scientists, writing stories, photographing and filming for the science departments.

Hockaday said his research will not be complete until at least next summer because, as a new employee, he does not yet have a lab or the equipment needed to finish the work.

The research is a continuation of a project he began with Dr. Carrie Masiello, assistant professor of earth science at Rice University.

# Extreme heat warrants extra protection, water when outdoors

By Rachel Stobaugh  
REPORTER

Many students come back to college with the intention of losing weight or getting into shape, but need to be aware of certain safety precautions when exercising.

According to Dr. Sharon Stern, medical director at the Baylor Health Center, plenty of water should keep students going. Electrolytes are only necessary when students go beyond their limits. Stern also recommends a workout buddy, so students are accountable for one another in the heat.

Rusty Garrett, chief weather anchor of KWTX Channel 10 News, said this summer is in the top five hottest summers Central Texas has seen.

“This summer nearly rivaled the summer of 1980, which is the hottest summer on record,” Garrett said.

In addition to the high temperatures Central Texas has seen in the past few months, the humidity brought about by the rain in the past week will affect outdoor exercisers as well.

“We have had 30 or more days this summer with a temperature at or above 100,” Garrett said.

After the rain, Waco will see temperatures in the mid-90s, but with the amount of moisture absorbed into the ground, “the sun will quite literally cook that moisture back into the atmosphere,” Garrett said.

These conditions will be harder to tolerate than the dry heat with higher temperatures.

Such extreme heat means students need to take precautions when exercising and going about their day.

Richard Gochis, physical therapist in the McLane Student Life Center, runs in the heat quite of-

ten. After running each afternoon while in the military, Gochis is tolerant of the heat.

“It’s not that I necessarily like the heat; I’m just used to it,” Gochis said. “It’s the only time I am available to run.”

With Gochis’ experience in running during the hottest hours of the day, he has plenty of advice to give. He recommends that if people are going to run in high heat, they should drink throughout the day to prepare for their workout.

Dehydration is not something to be taken lightly, he said.

“Weighing before and after your run is one way to find out how much fluid replacement is needed,” Gochis said. “If you stop sweating or become thirsty, you are already dehydrated.”

Gochis advises those attempting to lose weight by working out in the heat start slow to find their

limits.

“Stop immediately if you are light-headed or dizzy,” Gochis said.

Planning is key to losing weight in a safe way while still eating right. Exercisers should work out several days a week, indoors if possible, and drink plenty of water during and after exercising.

Replenishing the body with nutrients that will supply energy needs to be implemented into a healthy schedule.

If the heat is overwhelming, play it safe in these weather conditions by choosing a workout that can be accompanied by air conditioning. Because of the higher temperatures, students are using the SLC, rather than running the Bear Trail.

“There were so many people, I wasn’t even able to lift weights,” Baylor senior Victoria Sanchez said at the SLC on Thursday afternoon.



NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT STAFF

San Antonio senior Patrick Ancira runs the bear trail in the heat of the afternoon on Thursday.

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# Waco fights to decrease student dropout rates

By CARMEN GALVAN  
STAFF WRITER

Waco High School and the Waco Independent School District are appealing their 2009-2010 academically unacceptable accountability ratings given by the Texas Education Agency.

The accountability ratings are determined from both performance and completion measures. The performance measures are based on the mandatory state TAKS test, and the completion measures are based on the middle school dropout rates and high school completion, or graduation, rates.

Both Waco High School and Waco ISD met the performance measures, but was prevented from

an academically acceptable rating due to the dropout and completion rates, Jennifer Womack, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said.

“There are a total of 35 [performance] indicators, and all 35 were acceptable or above,” Womack said. “But, when we got to the [middle school] dropout rate, there were seven students in the category that were considered dropouts.”

Students are classified as dropouts if they were enrolled during the previous academic year but are not enrolled for the current academic year. Because this number affects the accountability rating, schools are given a “window of opportunity” until Aug. 30 to contact and enroll the missing students.

Waco ISD contacted five of the seven students during this time

frame and learned that the students transferred to different schools.

The district asked for transcript request forms from the new schools, but did not receive the transcripts in time to properly code the students before the school was rated. The school was unable to find and contact the other two students, and they remained listed as dropout students.

If the TEA accepts the district’s appeal, the five students will be properly coded and Waco ISD will meet its completion measure, raising its accountability report to academically acceptable.

Waco High School has also placed an appeal for a similar reason.

“Waco High had a similar situation in that the performance indicators were acceptable or above,

but the completion rate had a few too many under the rate,” Womack said.

Waco High School’s completion measure is based on the number of graduates from the school.

The student must graduate with his or her class, or complete high school during the “window of opportunity,” or else will be considered a dropout.

Nine students at the high school were classified as dropouts, but the school is not to blame, Clarence Simmons, principal of Waco High School, said.

Simmons said the state of Texas passed House Bill 3, a bill mandating that incarcerated students be recorded under a new code. This code was not given to schools in time for the accountability ratings, which left six of the nine

high school students classified as dropouts. Of the remaining three, one belonged to a different school, one had changed his name and the third was an exchange student from Germany who did not belong to the class of 2009.

Both the high school and the district filed their appeals to the TEA in August.

If the TEA decides in favor of Waco High School and Waco ISD, the accountability ratings will rise to academically acceptable for the first time since 2007. Womack is “optimistically hopeful” for a favorable decision.

The TEA could not comment on the details of the case, but spokeswoman Suzanne Marchman offered a statement on the school and district’s possibility of winning the appeals.

“It is possible that they can win their appeal, but we stress that [the appeal] is not a data correction,” Marchman said. “And so the appeals process is not time for them to correct data that they got wrong.”

Simmons is looking forward to hearing the decision in October and hopes the decision will bring a positive image back to Waco schools.

“First of all you get rid of the label,” Simmons said. “It had nothing to do with academics. We are academically well known. Obviously it implies that it does tie in to academics, because kids aren’t completing the school necessary to graduate, but if anything, it lessens the amount of oversight from the TEA and school improvement measures that you have to participate in.”

# Student groups break fast together

By NYDIA PEREZ  
REPORTER

“Seeking Understanding: Understanding through Education” was held by student organizations and faculty members in an attempt to combat anti-Islamic attitudes sprouting up across the United States.

Boerne senior Cristina Riley, a member of Baylor Students for Social Justice, said the event was put on by the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, Center for Jewish Studies, Middle East Studies, Student Life Unit (Office of Spiritual Life), Bay-

lor Democrats, Coalition for Diversity and Baylor Students for Social Justice.

University Chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson said the events Thursday had a good response from students and faculty at Baylor.

For the first event, the Baylor Spiritual Life Center provided students with doughnuts and orange juice in a pre-dawn breakfast to prepare for a day-long fast.

The fast was in support of Muslim students fasting for Ramadan. The breakfast, held at 5:30 a.m., had a turnout of 34 students and faculty.

Burleson commented that the breakfast had a genuinely happy feeling.

Burleson also commented that he was pleased with the turnout considering that the events were planned very quickly and most students were informed of the events only a few days prior.

The second part of the event, a prayer service to encourage hope, peace and healing for those affected was held in Miller Chapel at 12:30 p.m.

“Seeking Understanding through Liturgy” offered times for silent prayer, group prayer and

worship music.

Members of the audience read the Psalms in unison. Burleson said the Psalms were chosen to read from because they are accepted as scripture by Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Riley was especially impressed with the audience at the “Understanding Through Knowledge” forum that took place at Kayser Auditorium.

“It was a very good turnout and good dialogue,” Riley said. “The forum was very honest, yet respectful and enlightening.”



NYDIA PEREZ | LARIAT REPORTER

Baylor students gather at the Bobo Spiritual Life Center for an early morning breakfast during fasting for Ramadan Thursday. During Ramadan, many individuals participate in the tradition of fasting from sun-up to sun-down.

# Acting out: students rehearse on campus



MAKENZIE MASON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Plano freshman Patrick Herndon, Austin junior Emily Smith, and Burnet senior Jeff Wittekiend rehearse for director Andrew Saenz, a Round Rock senior, who is taking an advanced directing class Thursday



MAKENZIE MASON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Burnet senior Jeff Wittekiend, Lewisville sophomore Nellsyn Hill, and Colorado Springs, Colo. freshman Kevin Wilson rehearse for director Andrew Saenz, a Round Rock senior, who is taking an advanced directing class Thursday

# Hermine death toll rises

By PAUL J. WEBER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The death toll from flooding caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine climbed Thursday after Texas authorities recovered the body of a missing swimmer and an Oklahoma driver drowned trying to cross a swollen creek.

At least four people have died in Hermine-fueled flooding, and three other people were still missing.

Authorities near San Antonio recovered the body of Derek Joel-Nelson Clemens, 23, who along with a friend was swept away while swimming in the Guadalupe River. Crews were searching for his friend Thursday but held dim hopes of finding his friend alive.

Both went missing Wednesday as flash floods fueled by the storm hit parts of Texas before the rain moved into Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri.

The flooding has killed at least two motorists in Texas and others are still missing.

In eastern Oklahoma, a 19-year-old man drowned after his vehicle was swept off the road early Thursday. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said it’s unclear whether

Jackie Warford was thrown from his vehicle or crawled out to try to swim to safety, but he became tangled in brush.

Hermine packed a relatively light punch when it made landfall Monday night, and many Texas residents said they felt unprepared for Wednesday’s sudden flooding. It forced more than 100 high-water rescues, though not all were successful.

More than a dozen rescuers tried to save a 49-year-old man Wednesday who apparently drove his pickup truck into a flooded crossing near Alvarado.

His body was found hours later. Another person died in a vehicle submerged by water from a swollen creek near Austin, the National Weather Service said.

Jason Dunn, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Texas, said even when tropical storms lose their power over open water, they can still carry tremendous amounts of rain across land.

“A good majority” of fatalities from tropical systems come from inland flooding, Dunn said.

Hermine was the third tropical system this year to hit the Rio Grande Valley, a flood-prone area that encompasses northeastern Mexico and southeastern Texas.

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INCREASE from Page 1

generation students attracted to Baylor’s “premier academic programs” and minority students whose siblings followed them to Baylor.

“Many of our minority students attend because a family member has come before them and had positive experiences,” Palacios wrote. “It is great to see sisters and brothers come through Baylor.”

With these large enrollment numbers, Baylor can influence more lives, Jackson said.

“I think the great news is we’ve got more Baylor bears,” Jackson said.

“I’m high on this university. I think Baylor’s a great institution, and I think within reason the more students we can impact the lives of through our mission and vision, the more opportunity we have to make a difference in this world. What we need to do now is look at the number of students we have coming to Baylor and make sure we’re able to continue to offer an excellent educational environment for them.”

ISLAM from Page 1

Islam. Dr. Mark Long, director of Middle East studies and associate professor of the Honors College, cites many Americans’ inability to distinguish the various complexities of the Islamic community.

“There are some Americans who looked at 9/11 and said, ‘This was done by Islam.’ They haven’t really differentiated the extremists from the great majority of Muslims who are peace-loving people,” Long said.

Organizers of the project are Imam Rauf, his wife Daisy Khan and Sharif el-Gamal, a real estate investor from New York. Rauf is currently the imam of Masjid al-Farah mosque in lower Manhattan and practices Sufism, which is a mystical form of Islam condemned by extremists. He is an advocate for improving relations between Islam and the West.

Park51 and its organizers have a stated mission to promote an understanding of Islam. Its leaders also plan to create interfaith dialogue between Islam and other religions, such as Christianity and Judaism, while advancing religious and cultural tolerance.

Long said Americans need to know their support of Park51 means supporting something al-Qaida and the terrorists responsible for Sept. 11 would most certainly oppose.

“You can anticipate that one of the most vocal opponents of Park51 would be Osama Bin Laden because, as I have looked at extremist messages over the last several years, the leadership of al-Qaida has routinely spoken out against any attempts to have interfaith dialogue and to promote an understating of a peaceful and tolerant Islam,” Long said.

Al Siddiq, president of the Islamic Center of Waco, said he doubts Islamophobia is prevalent in Waco.

“The majority is very understandable and open to understand,” Siddiq said.

Saddiq said Baylor as a university can do its part in fighting anti-Islamic sentiment in its student body by planning events on campus that promote interfaith dialogue.

Sugar Land freshman Arusha Manasia said she is comfortable in her faith as a Muslim at Baylor and is open to learning about other religions, such as Christianity, which she believes helps her grow stronger in her own faith.

Manasia said Baylor could take steps to educate its students on other faiths.

“If there was a speaker in Chapel that was Muslim, I think that would be interesting,” Manasia said. “You know what you believe in and at the same time you are aware of what other people believe. If you’re more knowledgeable, you’re stronger in your own beliefs.”

Dr. Marc Ellis, director of the Center for Jewish Studies, cites the policy Baylor has against hiring professors that are not of Christian or Jewish faith as a hindrance to fighting any possible anti-Islamic sentiments that may be present on campus.

“One of the ways to mutual understanding at Baylor would be to work towards changing that rule, and to get Muslims on campus who can speak from their own traditions,” Ellis.

“We can discuss differences as well, but we can have an intelligent discussion informed by the humanity of the other.”

BEARS from Page 1

age in front of people is important,” Jackson said. “Video will be used not to replace the bears but instead incorporate the image of our live mascots into sporting events.”

Federal Code of Regulations 2.131(c)(1) describes the handling of animals: “During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of the animals and the public.”

Chamber is still dedicated to caring for the health and safety of the bears, while sticking to their mission of educating the greater Waco community about North American Black Bears.

“We look forward to continued interaction with Baylor’s mascots for many years to come,” Fitzgerald said.

QURAN from Page 1

rorists” who would use it to recruit future radicals.

After Jones accused him of lying, Musri said the pastor “stretched my words” at the press conference.

“I think there was no confusion to begin with. When we stepped out of the church, we had an agreement to meet in New York,” Musri said. He added that Jones “said his main reason for stopping the event was that it would endanger the troops overseas, Americans traveling abroad and others around the world.”

Musri said he told the pastor “that I personally believe the mosque should not be there, and I will do everything in my power to make sure it is moved,” Musri said. “But there is not any offer from there (New York) that it will be moved. All we have agreed to is

a meeting, and I think we would all like to see a peaceful resolution.”

Musri said Thursday night that he still plans to go ahead with the meeting Saturday.

In New York, the leader of the Islamic center project, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, issued a statement saying he was glad Jones had decided not to burn the Quran but that he had spoken to neither the pastor nor Musri.

“We are not going to toy with our religion or any other. Nor are we going to barter,” Rauf said. “We are here to extend our hands to build peace and harmony.”

Jones’ decision to call off the Quran burning was made after a firestorm of criticism from leaders around the world. The pope and several other Christian leaders were among those urging him to reconsider his plans, which gener-

ated a wave of anger among Muslims. In Afghanistan, hundreds of Afghans burned an American flag and chanted “Death to the Christians” to protest the planned Quran burning.

Obama told ABC’s “Good Morning America” in an interview aired Thursday that Jones’ plan “is completely contrary to our values as Americans.”

“And as a very practical matter, I just want him to understand that this stunt that he is talking about pulling could greatly endanger our young men and women who are in uniform,” Obama said.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell confirmed that Gates called Jones about 4 p.m. EST Thursday — shortly before the pastor’s announcement. During the “very brief” call, Gates expressed “his grave concern that going for-

ward with this Quran burning would put the lives of our forces at risk, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Morrell said.

Morrell said earlier that the decision to issue a personal appeal was not easy because it could provoke other extremists “who, all they want, is a call from so-and-so.” After Gates’ call to Jones, Morrell said the secretary’s “fundamental baseline attitude about this is that if that phone call could save the life of one man or woman in uniform it was a call worth placing.”

Husain Haqqani, Pakistan’s ambassador to the U.S., thanked Obama, Gates and other administration officials for their efforts. “This is definitely a positive moment in showing America’s tolerance and pluralism and should not go unappreciated in the Muslim world,” Haqqani said.



*Suzanne McHenry is no feather in the wind.  
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