While living in the moment, we pause ... and see what’s made Baylor what it is today.

**Back in the day**
We share Baylor’s history with two pages of vintage photos

**NoZe Brotherhood**
The NoZe Brothers’ shenanigans never fail to garner attention

**Year of the Bear**
Championships and accolades keep Baylor fans loud and proud
It’s good to look back every now and then

How much smack have you talked lately? The last time you saw a friend from another Texas university, or any other university for that matter, did you strike the Heisman pose? Maybe you asked that friend to toss you something just so you could swat it back into his or her face and yell, “Griner!”

It hasn’t been hard to live in the moment at Baylor this year. Just look at the two billboards that greet drivers headed north on I-35 past campus — it’s nice to have the nation’s best football and women’s basketball players in the country.

For the record, a Heisman finalist and basketball national player of the year at Baylor have only happened two other times since 1961.

Athletics not your thing? No worries — Baylor’s never had a more academically accomplished freshman class than this year’s. If you didn’t know, there’s also an enormous research building in progress that will eventually give Baylor 175,000 square feet for graduate research and another 50,000 for joint research with business and industry firms.

We could go on and on about what the future holds — new dorms, renovations of current dorm, new athletics facilities...

But wait. What about the past?

It wasn’t too long ago that Baylor was fighting, along with the help of prominent Texas politicians to gain entry into the Big 12. Our campus, while always beautiful, hasn’t always been quite as grand as what we have today.

And fraternities and sororities, whose neon trucker hats, crush events and formals are taken for granted at Baylor, didn’t always exist...

This issue isn’t a History of Baylor 101. You’ve already heard that information either at Line Camp, an on-campus presentation or elsewhere, and if you haven’t, you can visit Baylor’s website and find it easily.

We wanted to look at the significant elements that have molded Baylor, as well as people embodying the same mission the university has promoted for the last 167 years.

We hope the resulting product tells stories and presents images you’ll remember. Read how Greek life came to Baylor, see photos we dug up with the help of the Texas Collection and learn about the (somewhat ambiguous) history of the Noze brotherhood. Read about a Baylor dining employee and a bowling instructor, two individuals who continue to shape Baylor students to this day. Relive a recent triumph with the Lady Bears’ championship.

As part of a generation fascinated by Instagram and Facebook uploads, we know a thing or two about capturing memories and enjoying them. No, you can’t tag friends in this issue or put retro filters on the photos, but in some cases, you don’t even need to use filters. Just enjoy the old-school film photos exactly as they are.

While you’re at it, enjoy the rest of the issue, too.
Baylor pleased with progress made on 10-year benchmarks

By Daniel C. Houston
Staff Writer

In the 10 years since the university adopted an ambitious new vision outlined in the “Baylor 2012” initiative, the university’s new capital investments in research and residential facilities have coincided with consistent annual increases in the cost of a Baylor education.

The university, upon adopting the strategic plan in 2002, sought to decrease overall class sizes, increase on-campus residential capacity, hire more Christian faculty with expertise in research, build new academic and research facilities, and raise more money for endowed student scholarships.

University spokesperson Lori Fogleman, director of media communications, told the Lariat moving toward these goals has contributed to a gradual increase in the number of high-school students applying to study at Baylor. That number — 7,431 in 2002 when Baylor 2012 went into effect — has already exceeded 40,000 for next year’s class as applications continue to come in, the admissions department reported last week.

“While we made a concentrated effort over the past 10 years to strengthen our faith commitment,” Fogleman said, “we also increased our research productivity by bringing in more outstanding scholar-teachers who value the classroom experience but also believe in involving undergraduate and graduate students in their research.”

Although Baylor fell short of meeting several of the specific benchmarks set 10 years ago, the university managed to move closer to its goals in many measurable areas, according to statistics provided in Baylor’s 2011 annual report on the strategic plan.

As part of Baylor 2012, administrators published specific metrics they hoped to reach by the end of the decade. These metric goals included lowering the number of students per faculty member from 18 to 13; raising the ratio of students living on campus from 29 to 50 percent; and more than tripling the endowment from $561.8 million to $2 billion.

By 2011, Baylor’s student-faculty ratio had dropped to 14.5-to-1, 38 percent of the student body lived on campus and the endowment reached slightly more than $1 billion.

Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, said Baylor’s endowment growth efforts experienced a major setback during the 2008 U.S. financial crisis, during which it was realized many of Baylor’s investments were overvalued.

“In the fall of 2008 ... we saw some of the [endowment] appreciation that we had been able to develop in the previous years evaporated,” Ramsower said. “We had had a lot of gains from 2000 forward, and some of those gains were unrealized gains and some of those gains were no longer there.”

Taken as a whole, however, Ramsower said Baylor’s investment strategy in the 2000s was much sounder than in the 1990s, during which time the independent organization, Baptist Foundation of Texas, managed the endowment. Ramsower said Baylor moved management of its endowment in-house in 2000 after assessing returns in the 1990s were lower than they could have been.

“The office of investments was created to rectify that situation, and allowed the endowment to be managed across a broader set of asset classes to take advantage of all the potential for maximizing return while minimizing risk,” Ramsower said. “In that respect, the office of investments has been extremely successful.”

Meanwhile, student costs in the past decade rose steeply, according to Baylor’s Office of Institutional Research and Testing. Between 2002 and 2011, undergraduate tuition increased by 82.9 percent, while housing costs rose by 72.9 percent and meal plan prices by 32.1 percent. By 2011, the combined cost of tuition, room and board had jumped from $21,414 in 2002 to $37,383 per year.

During that time, university administrators also oversaw construction of the North Village, Brooks College and Brooks Flats residential facilities, as well as three parking garages and planning for the East Village Residential Community. Construction on East Village began this year.

In line with Baylor 2012’s emphasis on research, the university also approved the construction of two major science facilities: the Baylor Sciences Building, dedicated in 2004, and the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative (BRIC) facility, which is currently under construction.

Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research, said the investment in research resulting from Baylor 2012 will increase recognition of Baylor’s faculty and students and encourage graduate schools to value a Baylor degree more.

“Baylor has been historically known as a university that produces extraordinary graduates,” Hyde said. “These days, it’s become more and more competitive to get into the best medical schools and graduate schools. In many fields, undergraduate scholarship or research is required for a student to be accepted into the best medical schools or graduate schools.”

University administrators appear poised to reaffirm the core direction of Baylor 2012 when Dr. Elizabeth Davis, executive vice president and provost, presents the new draft strategic plan to the board of regents for approval in May.

While lacking specific benchmarks characteristic of Baylor 2012, the draft strategic plan reaffirms Baylor’s commitment to “enter the top tier of American research universities while deepening our Christian commitment,” leaving specific plans of action unspecified for future deliberation.

Dr. Robert Sloan, president of Houston Baptist University and former Baylor president during the proposal and initial implementation of Baylor 2012, declined to comment to the Lariat for this story.
Is it easy to be a Baylor first lady? Not at all

BY DANIEL C. HOUSTON
STAFF WRITER

Being Baylor’s first lady can be a serious job, but at times it can also mean dealing with unexpected, and in retrospect, comical, events.

Last month, a group of women in the Baylor community brought together four wives of Baylor presidents, past and present, to give a candid take on their husbands’ administrations and the role of a first lady in university life.

The Baylor Round Table, which is composed of female faculty and administrators and wives of faculty and administrators, invited Alice Starr, Diana Garland, Sue Sloan and Mary McCall to speak March 21 at its spring luncheon titled “Through the Years with Baylor’s First Ladies.”

The speakers were the current first lady (wife of President Ken Starr) and the first ladies during the presidencies of interim president Dr. David Garland (2008 to 2010), Dr. Robert Sloan (1995 to 2005) and Abner McCall (1961 to 1981), respectively.

Although the speakers spent much of their time telling humorous anecdotes and sharing favorite moments, the discussion also put on display changes in university culture over time and shed light on the role of the first lady in university life.

“My primary role [as first lady] was to get up every morning and to say to myself, ‘Behave! and to do so all day long,'” Garland said, prompting laughter from the audience. “It was hard work, and it took a lot out of me.”

Starr said she sees her role as being supportive of various university organizations and activities. “I feel like the No. 1 cheerleader,” Starr said. “I love cheering Baylor sports, but also the music department, and the plays and the theater department, and they really tried to teach us. Oh, bless their hearts.”

Although she said they did not completely master the dancing part, Sue Sloan said everyone who attended the first dance at a campus-wide event on 5th Street seemed to have a great time.

“Through McCall was not able to attend the Baylor Round Table event because of health issues prior to the forum, she prepared statements to be read by event moderator and former regent Donell Teaff, wife of former head football coach Grant Teaff.

When asked about her favorite memory, Sloan said she was able to wave down a student passing behind the fence, and ask him or her to stop by the police department and alert them she needed the spare key. Afterward, she made sure to have a staircase installed leading down from the balcony.

Ultimately, security escorted the woman out of the president’s office. The woman also tried to crash a party the McCalls threw that same evening at the Albritton House before being escorted away by security once again, McCall wrote. They later learned she had been released that morning from a mental hospital by mistake, McCall wrote.

Sloan also had a humorous moment to share from her time as the president’s wife. “I enjoyed going out on the back balcony in the mornings, and sometimes those doors would lock,” Sloan said. “There was a day that I remember being out in my gown — thank goodness I had a robe on — and [the doors] locked, and there’s no way down that balcony. So you were just looking over the fence saying, ‘Hello! I’m up here!’”

Sloan said she was able to wave down a student passing behind the fence, and ask him or her to stop by the police department and alert them she needed the spare key. Afterward, she made sure to have a staircase installed leading down from the balcony.

McCall, who married Abner while he was the sitting Baylor president, summarized the pleasures and difficulties of being a Baylor first lady. “When Abner proposed to me,” McCall wrote, “he said, ‘Mary, I can’t promise you will be happy because people sometimes chew on me, but I can promise that you will never have a dull moment.’ These words sum up the life of a university president’s wife: not always happy, but never dull.”
For some, Baylor seems the natural choice

BY MALLORY HIZER
Reporter

Many school traditions start freshman year at Baylor, such as Line Camp, Welcome Week, learning the stories of the Immortal Ten and running the Baylor Line with a line jersey and slime cap. Some traditions, however, start long before students even think about applying to college. Some Baylor students are born into Baylor families.

Two Baylor students, Houston brothers Clark and Arden McCormack, are examples of just that. Their older brothers, Wes and Brandal, their parents, Gretchen Ryals McCormack and Sandy McCormack, and their maternal grandmother, Terry Terracino Ryals Newkirk, all attended Baylor.

The McCormack brothers’ aunt, Jennifer Ryals Ramsey, graduated from Baylor as well, and Jennifer’s daughters (their cousins), Mallory and Meredith are both juniors at Baylor.

To top it off, Clark and Arden’s paternal grandmother also attended Baylor. Clark is a junior and Arden is a freshman.

Their mother, Gretchen, remembers being raised in a Baylor household, even though it was only the alma mater of one parent.

“My dad didn’t even go to Baylor, but he is what you would call an ‘alumni-by-choice,’” Gretchen said. “He had no real allegiance to his school, so he took up Baylor as his own.”

Growing up, Gretchen’s family took her to homecoming and sporting events, and when it came time for her to decide on a school, they made their opinion clear.

“When I was in high school and thinking about college, my parents said, ‘If you want to go to Baylor, we’ll pay your way. If you go anywhere else, you’re on your own,’” she said. Whether or not her parents would have followed through with what they said, Gretchen said she was glad she came to Baylor all the same. She didn’t, however, use the same approach with her children’s choice.

“Obviously, we exposed them to Baylor, but they each were drawn to Baylor for different reasons,” Gretchen said. “They came on their own.”

Both of Gretchen’s youngest children echoed her sentiment.

Arden McCormack, the youngest in the family and the last of the third generation to attend Baylor, said although his parents brought him up around Baylor culture, attending all sorts of functions at the university, she did not feel pushed to attend Baylor.

“I did look at other schools,” Arden said. “But what drew me back to Baylor didn’t have anything to do with my family. It was just the Lord having a divine plan for my life. I just knew that Baylor could help me chart my own course and decide who I am and who the Lord wants me to be.”

Arden’s brother Clark said he has fond memories of his parents bringing him back to the school where they met.

“Whether the floats, football games, Pigskin — whatever — I knew that homeowner was always a fun time,” Clark said. “Just being a part of it and knowing that I was a part of the big Baylor family was awesome.”

Gretchen said it was an easy decision for her to support her children going to Baylor, because there was so much to love about it.

“For our family, the things that we appreciate about Baylor are the strong academics, Christian heritage, Christian environment and the integrity of the university,” Gretchen said. “We just feel like it has everything to offer in a personal environment.”

Through her years as a Bear, Gretchen has noticed some changes in the university, but said she thinks its religious heritage has remained strong.

“They [Baylor] allow a lot more things. They have had to adapt and change,” she said. “I think they’ve done a great job to align with the changes in society and yet maintain their Christian background.” Arden decided the atmosphere was right for her as well, after visiting Baylor in high school.

“When I came to premiere when I was a junior, I realized that this was the place that I needed to be, and the place that was going to foster my growth and development,” Arden said. “Baylor was a place where I could build relationships for the rest of my life.”

Recently, the McCormacks made a big move to build their bond with Baylor. When Arden graduated from high school, the family sold their home in Houston and moved to Waco.

“For a number of years, we just had this draw to come back to Waco,” Gretchen said.

Gretchen and Sandy lived in Waco for the first four years of their marriage but moved to Houston before the birth of their son Wes in order to be close to Gretchen’s parents. When the last of their children graduated high school, Gretchen said they both decided it was time to return.

“We just thought, well, in future years, when we want to get together and see our kids and future grandkids, we will always have Waco,” she said.

Although some students might be apprehensive about their parents following them to school, Clark has a positive view and said he plans on continuing the Baylor legacy with his own family someday. “Now that my parents live here, it is going to be easier to bring my kids and family back,” he said, “like my parents did.”

*Both of the McCormack brothers’ grandmothers also attended Baylor

Runs in the family

| Gretchen Ryals McCormack ('82) | Sandy McCormack ('82) | Jennifer Ryals Ramsey ('85) |
| Wes McCormack ('08) | Mallory Ramsey ('13) | Meredith Ramsey ('13) |
| Brandal McCormack ('11) | | |
| Clark McCormack ('13) | Arden McCormack ('13) | |
| | | |
| | | |

From left to right, my sister Jennifer Ryals Ramsey; her twin daughters Mallory and Meredith Ramsey; our mom Terry Terracino Ryals Newkirk; my daughter Arden McCormack and myself, Gretchen Ryals McCormack.
Pamela Davis-Silmon stands at the front of her domain – the Collins Cafeteria. Davis-Silmon has been serving up hot food and a warm smile in the dining hall for nine years.

By Alyssa Maxwell
Reporter

Her booming voice can be heard all the way across Collins’ dining hall. She always wears her hair in a ponytail and greets students she knows with a friendly hug and a kiss on the cheek. Unafraid to speak her mind, students count on this woman for her honest opinion. She influences students’ choices inside the cafeteria and out.

Dining at Collins Café becomes a different experience with Supervisor Pamela Davis-Silmon. Students who know her well call her “Mama Pam.”

Davis-Silmon has been working for Aramark at Collins for nine years. She started out in the dish room and worked her way up to her current position as supervisor of the front of the house.

“There really hasn’t been much change at Baylor, but I think that’s what’s good for them,” Davis-Silmon said. “Decor changes, but the friendly service stays the same.”

She has a close and special relationship with both the people she works with and the students who eat at Collins on a regular basis.

“I love Mama Pam,” said San Antonio junior Xavier Colbert, “and she is always there with wisdom and a kind word.”

Davis-Silmon said she has a special appreciation for the students she works with because she knows they can be relied on to do the work that needs to be done.

“Whenever I go to Collins, I search for Mrs. Pam before I do anything.”

Mark Williams | Houston Senior

“I appreciate worker students a little bit more because they do the impossible, and I ask the impossible,” Davis-Silmon said.

A native Wacoan who lived in Waco her entire life, Davis-Silmon was born exactly where the Whataburger is now located across I-35. She was the oldest of eight children. She has three biological children and three step-children, but also considers her closest students her “babies.”

“Whenever I go to Collins, I search for Mrs. Pam before I do anything,” said Houston senior Mark Williams. “I make sure to say ‘hello’ to her before she starts accusing me of ignoring her.”

Davis-Silmon often interacts with the diners at Collins and is willing to talk with students about anything. She’s never afraid to give advice and is known for telling things as they are.

Students tell her about their lives and even introduce her to their parents. Other students have Davis-Silmon meet their girlfriends or boyfriends and offer them advice.

“I’ll always introduce her to girls I’m talking to,” Fort Worth junior Jonathan Jeffrey said. “She’s like my mom away from home — sweet, nice and won’t sugar-coat anything for you.”

She is known for going above and beyond to serve the students she loves.

“One parent was a judge and she called me from the bench and asked me to get her daughter a birthday cake,” Davis-Silmon said.

In the cafeteria, Davis-Silmon sometimes assists with the Tex-Mex line. Although she is experienced in making flying saucers, flying saucers aren’t her favorite food in the cafeteria.

“I’m from Texas, so I love chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy and green beans,” Davis-Silmon said.

She even has an impact on students’ eating habits in the cafeteria.

“She will make you eat,” Colbert said. “She doesn’t like the ‘skin hanging on bone’ look.”

Through the years, Davis-Silmon has become a fixture at Collins, as well as a friend to many students on campus.

“Meeting Mama Pam was the best thing that happened to me at Baylor,” Jeffrey said.

Collins Cafeteria
Monday–Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Missionary family flings green and gold afar

By Meghan Hendrickson
Reporter

The day after her graduation from Baylor in May 1971, Annie Singer* walked out of Miller Chapel hand-in-hand with her new groom to the tune of “Now Thank We All Our God.”

Annie and her husband, George*, first met in the Baylor University Golden Wave Band before fall classes commenced in the late summer of 1967. George was a sophomore music theory major from Kentucky who played the trombone, and Annie was an incoming freshman music education major from Louisiana who played the flute.

“One evening after band practice, Annie wanted a tour of the campus,” George said. “After that, we met a lot of evenings just to talk.”

George said he was short on cash in college and did not own a car, so he and Annie took advantage of free concerts and sporting events during their time together at Baylor.

“The long band trips were really good for us,” George said, speaking of how his relationship with Annie developed.

Four years later, the couple found themselves committing their lives to one another before God in a green and gold Baylor-themed wedding.

After the two wed, George went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth and later became an associate pastor and minister of music at a church in Nevada, while Annie worked as an elementary school music teacher.

George said he felt God calling him to be a career missionary when he was taking a class about music in missions at SWBTS.

He had been raised in a Southern Baptist church, where he grew up learning about the International Mission Board (IMB), a missionary sending agency supported by Southern Baptist Churches in the United States.

George said in 1974 the IMB was looking for someone to be a music missionary in the Ivory Coast in West Africa. After he and Annie prayed about it for nearly three years, they felt the Lord leading them to move their family to the Ivory Coast with the IMB, he said.

Annie described her and George’s call to missions as “progressive.”

“I had prayed about what God wanted to do with my life as a teenager, not really committed to do it, but curious, and at one point God put in my heart the words music, missions and teaching,” Annie said. “I didn’t understand it, didn’t know if it was a call and never told anyone about it until Jerry came home from seminary library one night later and told me he thought the Lord was calling him to missions.”

Still, she was skeptical. She doubted whether she could be a missionary.

“About three years later, at a music conference in New Mexico, it finally came together for both of us, and we knew the time to apply was then, if we were to be obedient,” Annie said.

In November of 1977, George and Annie were appointed as career missionaries with the IMB while Annie was pregnant with their first child.

In July of 1978, Annie gave birth to a son. Within a matter of months, the family of three moved to France for a year of language study with the IMB.

In 1979, they packed up and moved to the Ivory Coast to serve as missionaries to people who have never heard the gospel message of Jesus Christ — those whom Christian missionaries consider “unreached,” George said.

Today, 33 years later, the Singers still serve as missionaries to the people of the Ivory Coast.

The couple shares Bible stories with men and women in the villages, through a practice referred to by missionaries as “Chronological Bible Storying.”

Annie and George said their favorite part about what they do is telling Bible stories to people who are hearing them for the first time.

“Can you imagine telling these stories to people who have never heard them before?” Annie said. “There’s nothing like it.”

George and Annie passed down their passions for Jesus, music, missions, Africa and Baylor to their children.

Their son graduated from Baylor in 2000 and is currently in the process of moving to West Africa to be a missionary with a missionary sending agency.

Their daughter, Bethany*, was born in the Ivory Coast in 1980, and said she grew up seeing her parents share the love of Jesus with others through music and Bible stories.

She graduated from Baylor’s five-year music education program in 2003.

Following in her mother’s footsteps, Bethany was an elementary music teacher in Killeen for one year before she decided to study at George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 2004. Bethany earned her Master of Divinity from Truett in 2007.

During her time at Truett, Bethany was required to do a summer mentoring internship and the International Mission Board placed her in the Northern Africa and Middle East region as an English teacher.

“Some of my students were from a particular unreached [community],” Bethany said. “After meeting them, I felt the Lord drawing me toward those people to work with them, but I didn’t know how or why.”

Bethany said that summer she met with IMB personnel in the region and discovered they needed someone with her music skill sets to serve as a career missionary to the community she “felt a certain draw toward.”

She applied to be a career missionary with the IMB in the Northern Africa and Middle East region, was appointed and moved overseas to serve in 2009.

Bethany said there are physical, emotional, mental and spiritual challenges that come with being a missionary in the area where she lives. She travels and camps in desolate places, operates in bits and pieces of four different languages and must “live in faith instead of results,” she said.

But there is also deep joy in her work, she said.

“I most enjoy the face time with nomadic people who have never heard them before,” Bethany said. “I can see them start to learn how to pray for them with insight; and stretching my faith to believe that Christ can and will fill them with life,” Bethany said.

Though they are stationed overseas, Annie, George and Bethany said they all continue to follow Baylor sports and are proud of their Baylor Bears — especially the football team.

George said he bleeds green and gold and looks forward to coming back to Baylor for homecoming each year once he and Annie retire from being missionaries in the Ivory Coast.

“I am greatly indebted to Baylor for challenging me to find out who I am in Christ, and for providing an atmosphere of faith in which to discover some guiding answers,” George said.

*Name changed for security purposes
Join the party: Greeks thrive at BU

In 1976, many groups made move to national affiliation

By Linda Wilkins
Staff Writer

Baylor Greek Life has changed substantially since its early days, with national affiliations providing opportunities for networking and growth.

Becoming part of a national Greek organization was a big decision for many local organizations on campus in the 1976-1977 school year, when national Greek organizations came to Baylor and made presentations about their groups.

The local organizations voted on whether to join a national organization. If they wanted to be affiliated with one, they petitioned for a charter from the national organization and Baylor, Tommey Lou Davis, vice president for constituent engagement at Baylor, said. This shift toward national affiliations was a theme in universities and colleges across the nation, she said.

For many groups, networking was a big factor in their choice to affiliate with a national group, Davis said, because being national provides a connection to other universities across America.

Davis was also a member of a local organization when she was a student at Baylor. After she graduated, many of the local organizations went national and offered to initiate the alumni of the local organizations into the national groups. Hundreds of alumni returned to be initiated, Davis said, and she was one of those who returned.

Kathy Hillman, faculty advisor to Delta Delta Delta and the director and associate professor of the Special Collections for Central Baylor University Libraries, has also seen Greek Life grow and change at Baylor.

When she was a student here, Hillman participated in and was an officer of a local organization called Kappa Theta, which later became affiliated with Delta Delta Delta. She was a faculty member at Baylor when the local organizations affiliated with national Greek organizations.

Initially, many local organizations were not excited about transferring to a national organization, but they understood how networking was possible through being part of a national group, Hillman said.

Local organizations in the 1970s also had their drawbacks, she said. They didn't have enough accountability and there was not much oversight of their calendars — the groups did not know where to go or what to do, she said.

"Being national provides that [accountability]," Hillman said.

The Greek organizations now encompass 25 percent of the student population, Hillman said.

Kappa Alpha Theta was the first national Greek women’s group to have a charter on campus, Dr. Martha Lou Scott, associate vice president for Student Life, said. Sigma Omega Sigma (a local organization on campus) was the first national men’s group to form as a Greek organization in 1975, becoming Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Some local organizations chose to remain local, however, such as Baylor’s oldest men’s social club of the time, Esquire, and The Chi’s Women’s Service Club.

The university was involved in the process of organizations going national in order to ensure the newly formed organizations begun on campus could enhance Baylor instead of being detrimental, Scott said.

"Baylor was very intentional about who they brought to campus," Scott said. "They had to keep with the overall mission statement of the university."

Since transitioning to national organizations, the Greek groups have become more focused on helping their members and volunteering for others, Scott said.

"All the organizations have been fortunate," she said. "They’ve had tremendous support on-campus and off-campus."

Not all the Greek organizations that were chartered at Baylor are still in existence today; however, Davis said. Because of poor numbers or financial reasons, some groups have had to disaffiliate with the campus, she said. Davis said Sigma Kappa is one example of a group that is no longer on campus because there were not enough people involved with the group to keep the group’s charter.

Campus charter violations can also cause organizations to lose their charters. After various violations, Baylor’s chapter of Sigma Chi lost its charter in 2010.

Most of the problems that arise from Greek life stem from someone breaking a rule, Scott said.

“We create those [problems] ourselves,” Scott said. “We, as people, don’t follow the rules.”

Through the years at Baylor, Scott said, the Greek organizations have evolved from being literary societies and clubs to groups that provide students with skills they can use in the future.

Today, Greek life offers students opportunities to participate in leadership, Bible studies, sports, volunteering and philanthropy, and opportunities to receive academic support, Scott said.

When comparing today’s national chapters on campus to when they first formed, the organizations have matured and become more focused on leadership and positive programming, Hillman said.

The sororities help prepare women for their careers by emphasizing characteristics such as social development, Hillman said.

The Greek groups are also more attuned to philanthropy for a specific organization or cause, such as St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or Susan G. Komen for the Cure, than they were in the past, Hillman said.

Today, Greek life encompasses five different types of organizations.

One group is the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) which encompasses seven of the historically African American fraternities and sororities chartered at Baylor.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) encompasses the 12 nationally affiliated fraternities on Baylor campus.

Eight social sororities are members of the Panhellenic Council at Baylor, which focuses on spiritual, social and intellectual development.

There are some local organizations on campus, including Kappa Chi Alpha, Kappa Omega Tau and Phi Kappa Chi. These local organizations are not connected to a national group.

There are four independent national organizations on campus. Beta Kappa Gamma, Beta Upsilon Chi, Delta Kappa Delta and Sigma Phi Lambda do not hold membership in any of the four Baylor Greek organizations.

The Multicultural Greek Council was created to encourage community service, academics and diversity. Two fraternities and six sororities are in the MGC.

37 Years since the first men’s and women’s national Greek group charters arrived on campus

40 Total fraternities and sororities with Baylor chapters

33 National fraternities and sororities with chapters at Baylor

3 Two fraternities and one sorority elected to remain local and have never affiliated with a national organization
Willpower founded Pan-Hellenic groups

By Emily Guerra
Contributor

Finding a Greek council to sponsor their organization was an obstacle for the five original women of the Nu Iota chapter of Zeta Phi Beta.

“After being turned down membership into [the Panhellenic Council], they decided to turn this negative experience into something positive and become the leaders they knew they were,” Connie Green, Zeta Phi Beta president, said.

On Nov. 2, 1979, the women received the charter for their group, which became the first of seven National Pan-Hellenic Council groups chartered at Baylor. The council represents nine historically African American fraternities and sororities.

“A major goal for the Zeta women was to build relationships not only with NPHC members, but with members in all councils,” she said.

Green said she takes pride in striving for that unity today.

Each semester, Zeta Phi Beta hosts a week called “Zeta Week,” where they partner with other Greek organizations to connect the Greek community and build relationships for the future. In the fall of 2011, Zeta Phi Beta had a movie night with Panhellenic sorority Zeta Tau Alpha and a Zumba class with Multicultural Greek Council sorority Gamma Alpha Omega.

“Zeta Phi Beta is an organization that upholds organizational values and strives to do better for themselves,” Astrid Beltran, coordinator for Greek Life and Chapter Development, said. “They really do want to make an impact on Baylor community, and make those connections through events they put on.”

Green said she believes one Zeta event has broken more barriers in the Greek community than any other Greek event: StompFest.

Since 2001, StompFest has grown from one night to two nights, and from only a few participants from various organizations to more than a dozen groups with many more participants.

“Stepping helps other Greek and student organizations find common ground with us,” Green said.

Zeta also tries to connect with the Greek community by coaching the StompFest participants.

“We work with so many people of different backgrounds, and we keep those relationships after Stomp,” Green said.

San Antonio senior Erica Barreto, the cultural chair for Alpha Chi Omega, participated in StompFest with members of her sorority.

The group’s StompFest coach was Jasmine Nkrumah, Zeta vice president, who Barreto said was “a blessing” and “ideal to work with.”

“Beyond that, she is a power-house both in and out of her involvement in her sorority,” Barreto wrote in an email.

In further efforts to bring unity to the Greek community, the chapter began hosting a forum called “Both Sides of the Tracks” this semester.

Its purpose is to break barriers of class, status and race in councils, Green said, adding that we are all “more alike than we think.”

“We all go to Baylor, we are all here for the same purpose and should get to know each other better,” she said.
Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor was one of three co-founders of Baylor University. Baylor moved to Texas from Kentucky in 1839, and helped found the university six years later.

A student in an earlier version of a Baylor Line jersey leads a sic ‘em during a football game.

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Taken from Baylor University’s own Texas Collection, a special archival collection housed in Carroll Library, these photographs provide a glimpse into Baylor’s past.
President Ken Starr dons his new nose and glasses, presented to him by the NoZe Brothers on Feb. 16, 2010, in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Here to stay

The history of NoZe is fuzzy at best, but it doesn’t matter. Today’s brothers have a decades-old tradition to maintain, and that they do.

Robert Griffin III poses with the NoZe brothers on Jan. 14 after being declared an honorary NoZe brother. Baylor celebrated its winning football season with a pep rally at the Ferrell Center.

The Noze brothers struck again on Sept. 6, outside the Marrs McLean Gymnasium. This time, they made their own adjustments to Student Foundation’s sign.

A NoZe brother points to the crowd while riding down 5th street in a boat on Nov. 5, 2011 during the Homecoming parade.

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Robert Griffin III poses with the NoZe brothers on Jan. 14 after being declared an honorary NoZe brother. Baylor celebrated its winning football season with a pep rally at the Ferrell Center.

The Noze brothers struck again on Sept. 6, outside the Marrs McLean Gymnasium. This time, they made their own adjustments to Student Foundation’s sign.
Insert ‘NoZe’ pun here, then read:

By Rob Bradfield
Staff Writer

The rattle of a ball bearing in a steel spray paint can, a sharp hiss and laughter — then you see them, NoZe brothers fresh from some new act of “campus beautification.”

Their faces obscured by fake glasses and beards, or maybe just a mustache and long hair — but always wearing their iconic noses — the Noble NoZe Brotherhood has been a fixture on Baylor campus for nearly a century.

Lately, however, the NoZe Brothers haven’t been in the media spotlight as much. When honorarily inducting head women’s basketball coach Kim Mulkey and the Lady Bears into the NoZe Brotherhood at the official celebration of their national championship win, someone had to explain to the confused athletes who the NoZe Brothers were.

Recently, the Lariat had an opportunity to find out more about the secretive group. Three of the NoZe Brothers — Bro. Burlington NoZe Factory, Bro. Edgar Allen NoZe and Bro. Bear NoZecessities — agreed to answer questions about the brotherhood, its history and the recent absence of large-scale mischief.

The brother’s answers, laced with half-serious threats of bodily harm and interrupted by inane conversations with passersby, were initially a retelling of what’s written on their Wikipedia page — which the brothers endorsed as mostly accurate.

The organization is led by the Lorde Mayor, who is elected and impeached every year. This year, the title fell to Bro. Burlington NoZe Factory, who admitted to being unclear as to what his responsibilities as Lorde Mayor were. The Lorde Mayor is advised by the Bored of Graft, which is made up of former Lorde Mayors.

Bro. Edgar Allen NoZe is the Cunning Lin-guist, who is in charge of putting together the Rope — a satirical publication that pokes fun at Baylor and the administration. The Rope was first published “definitely some time in the twentieth century,” according to the brothers.

Bro. Bear NoZecessities was the former Shekel Keeper for the organization, meaning he was in charge of the brotherhood’s finances and the publication costs for the Rope, much like a treasurer.

The NoZe Brotherhood, as the oldest student social group on campus, is steeped in tradition. Among their most flaunted is the tradition of the UnRush, the way “infidels” (the Brotherhood’s name for non-members) can join the brotherhood. The brothers are tight-lipped on what actually happens during the UnRush process, but disclosed that it is a mix of traditional rites and personalized trials.

“We can’t tell you the specifics, but what we can tell you is that all of it is immoral, illegal and unethical,” Bro. Bear NoZecessities said.

How and when the brotherhood began is subject to some debate. Even “The Nose Brotherhood Knows: a Collection of Nothings and Non-Happenings,” the definitive work on the group’s early days, fails to name a specific date and founder. Several NoZe creation stories agree that the brotherhood was founded some time in the mid-twentieth by the friends and acquaintances of Robert Leonard Shoa, a freshman whose nose was “of such great length and breadth of nostril” that it inspired his friends to start a club based on it.

The brothers back then wore no wigs or noses. They let people know their real names, had a page in the Round Up, and spelled their name with an “s” instead of a “Z.”

They remained an on-campus organization until a prank involving the bridge over Waco Creek.

The current brothers don’t put any date on the incident other than confirming that it definitely happened at some point in the past. The story they tell is that after several attempts at permanently changing the color of the bridge to pink and having their work undone by the university, the brothers resorted to drastic measures. Bro. Edgar Allen NoZe said one of the brothers at the time said, “If the bridge cannot be pink, the bridge cannot be,” and the brothers proceeded to burn down the wooden bridge.

The university constructed the current concrete bridge and decided that the NoZe Brothers could not be on campus anymore.

That incident began a tradition of elaborate pranks and acts of vandalism, as well as the tradition of being kicked off campus, let back on briefly and then being kicked off again.

“One of the first acts that the new president will do is to bring the NoZe Brothers back on campus to make him seem hip,” Bro. Edgar Allen NoZe said.

The other two brothers sitting with him were quick to say they’ve had a good, if tenuous, relationship with President Ken Starr. The brothers said Starr’s presidency, Baylor’s sudden national prominence because of its sports successes and the heightened level of tension and security on college campuses after events like the Virginia Tech shooting, have quieted the brotherhood’s activities in recent years.

But the perception that the NoZe Brothers aren’t pulling their comedic weight is nothing new, Bro. Bear NoZecessities said.

“The sensitivity level has definitely gone up,” Bro. Bear NoZecessities said, “but people say that the NoZe was funnier when their parents were here, and we have people come back that were here 40 years ago and say that it was a lot funnier before them.”

When pressed, the Lorde Mayor gave a very different reason for the brotherhood’s absence. He said internal conflict and some problems with alcohol abuse kept the group bogged down in its own troubles for several years. Questions about the brotherhood’s activities during those years get answered only with more mumbled threats, and references to an event that the brothers refuse to talk about directly. But Bro. Burlington NoZe Factory said the brotherhood has resurfaced.

“Now I think we have a legitimate camaraderie in the group,” Bro. Burlington NoZe Factory said.

Part of that camaraderie means a bigger NoZe presence on campus. The brothers hinted at “big plans” in the works. They declined to confirm or deny what those plans might entail, but did say something is coming soon.

“I think you will see a rise in activity on campus,” Bro. Burlington NoZe Factory said.

In spite of everything that’s ever been written about them, the brotherhood has kept their most guarded secrets under wraps. Everything the NoZe Brothers are comes back to secrecy, which suits their reputation as being “immoral, illegal and unethical.” Their weird and savage reputation, even if undeserved, is what makes them the Noble NoZe Brotherhood, Bro. Bear NoZecessities said.

“Doesn’t that add something to the mystique?” he asked.
Bears succeed in top athletic league after earning spot in ’95

By Trevor Allison
Reporter

The past two years have been full of success for Baylor’s athletic programs, but there has also been uncertainty regarding Baylor’s conference affiliation.

Ian McCaw, Baylor director of athletics, said conference affiliation is important not only for athletics but for many aspects of the university, including donor relations and future student applications.

“Baylor being in the Big 12 is one of the university’s greatest assets,” McCaw said. “It brings significant national exposure and a platform for competition in national sports.”

Despite its national profile, the Big 12 has faced some uncertainty the last two years.

It began in June 2010 when the University of Colorado left the Big 12 to join the Pac-10 Conference and the University of Nebraska left to join the Big Ten. There were reports that the University of Texas and other Big 12 schools, possibly including Baylor, received offers to join the Pac-10, but the University of Texas decided to stay in the Big 12, with the other schools following suit.

Then, in August 2011, the University of Missouri and Texas A&M University decided to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference. This led to another period of uncertainty for the Big 12, with other member schools deciding whether to pursue a new conference affiliation for themselves. At this point, it was very uncertain where Baylor might land in the case of a Big 12 collapse. The unrest was settled when the Big 12 announced it would replace the outgoing schools with West Virginia University from the Big East Conference and Texas Christian University from the Mountain West Conference.

McCaw said even though several teams have departed from the Big 12 in last two years, it has been preserved through the actions of many, including Baylor President Ken Starr, and has a “bright and stable future as a result.”

But there was also another time when Baylor was almost left without a conference home, much less one with the national scope of the Big 12.

Dr. Dick Ellis, Baylor director of athletics from 1993-1996, said the recent departures of the University of Nebraska, the University of Colorado and Texas A&M University from the Big 12 and the University of Texas’ threat of leaving are similar to what happened with the Southwest Conference. Baylor was a part of this conference from 1915-1996. Ellis said Texas looked into joining the Pac-10 or the Big Ten, back in the 1990s as well as last year, and, like in the earlier event, decided to stay in their current conference.

Ellis said the Southwest Conference (SWC) began to have less of a national impact in 1991.

“Adding UT and A&M would have worked for the Big 8, but the political powers in Austin pressured the dealmakers to ensure that Tech and Baylor would make it four schools,” Ellis said.

Once the deal was made to expand the Big 8 to the Big 12, Ellis said he and the other athletic directors and presidents went through the extensive process of planning the new conference.

“We went through a process of creating new conference rules and by-laws, setting up marketing and promotions, signing new television contracts and creating new schedules and conference championship events,” Ellis said. “Almost over night, the Big 12 became one of the premiere conferences in the country.”
One Baylor professor and bowling instructor will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 1. Dr. Ted Powers, professor emeritus of health, human performance and recreation (HHPR), has been teaching at Baylor for more than half a century.

“I think my first paycheck was for February of 1954,” he said.

Today, Powers teaches a class about principles and philosophy of HHPR and instructs bowling classes.

He said his secret to staying healthy and physically fit is “just keep on living.”

“I’ve always been a disciple of exercise and fitness,” he said. “I ride a stationary bike and walk my treadmill every day now, but I used to do a lot more than that.”

Vision problems keep him from bowling now, but he said he still enjoys teaching it.

“I demonstrate,” he said. “My biggest problem now is I can’t see the pins.”

Powers was the chair of the HHPR department from 1968-1988, and he hired many of the current faculty members.

Dr. Margaret Wooddy, HHPR professor and director of human performance, was a student in Powers’ class decades ago. She is now a good friend and colleague of his, and gives him a ride to school every morning.

“He really has been an example of how you can integrate your faith into learning at Baylor,” she said. “He loves his students, and that piece of him comes through in his teaching. The unconditional love that God has for us is the love that he expresses.”

Powers plans to keep teaching “until they run me off, but that’ll probably be about another two weeks,” he joked. “I would teach as long as I could teach because this is my life.”

Throughout the 58 years Powers has been at Baylor, he has not noticed many changes aside from campus growth.

“Baylor is a combination of excellent educational thrust and a Christian atmosphere...the students here are an excellent group of young people, and they always have been,” he said.

When he started working in Marrs McLean Gym, it was only a basketball court with classrooms underneath the bleachers where the tall students could not stand up, he said. And on the other side of Waco Creek, where a lot of today’s campus is, there was a run-down housing area.

Since then, Powers has taught classes; chaired the HHPR department; worked closely with the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and several other organizations; served as president of TAHPERD (Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance); started the first ever Special Olympics event in Texas; overseen the planning of the Baylor Marina and much more.

During his years at Baylor, Powers has touched many lives, Dr. Deborah Johnston, associate professor of HHPR and one of Powers’ former students, said.

“He shaped our profession and our department and the type of education we provide for students,” she said. “There are people who would say they’d do anything for Ted Powers. When you’re a special person, you have a special impact on everybody.”

Powers said he is not planning a 90th birthday party, but will probably do something with one of his three daughters who lives nearby.

“I’m not big on celebrations,” he said, “If I wake up that morning and I’m still alive, that will be great.”
In their own words

To revisit Baylor’s women’s basketball championship, we’ve assembled the best quotes from different parts of the Lady Bears’ historical journey.

Nov. 13: Coach Mulkey’s 300th Win 91-31 vs. Chattanooga

“It was just a lot more intense and more energy, and it just spread to the whole team. It was fun to coach them today.”
— Coach Kim Mulkey

“We have a goal board in our locker room. If you have 10 rebounds a game, you get your name on the board. Rebounding is a big big part of what we’re trying to emphasize to our team.”
— Mulkey

Nov. 20: Defeat No. 2 Notre Dame in Pre-Season WNIT 94-81

“We’re not just a one man team. You look down the lineup, and we’re pretty darn good.”
— Mulkey

Nov. 27: Defeat No. 6 Tennessee on the road 76-67

“Baylor is a great team, and I don’t think we’ll see one any better.”
— Tennessee coach Pat Summitt

“Brittney [Griner] is a shot blocker. We all know that. We’ve all seen her block shots, and we’ve experienced it.”
— Tennessee senior Glory Johnson

Dec. 18: Defeat No. 2 UConn 66-61

“We’re 11-0, ranked No. 1 in the country and probably will be next week. It’s great recognition for our university. In some ways, it’s a great reward for our fans.”
— Mulkey

“The key to the game that we said going in to this was that Odyssey Sims is going to decide this game, and she did. Brittney’s going to get what Brittney’s going to get every night. I think it was some of Odyssey Sims’s plays at the end of the game that made a difference.”
— Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma

Jan. 28: Griner takes No. 2 on NCAA Division I career Top-10 list in blocks in a 74-46 win over Kansas

“I love defense. Blocking shots is definitely my favorite thing to do. I just took a leap. I decided that if I miss it, oh well. I connected and turned into Quincy Acy for a minute.”
— Junior center Brittney Griner

Feb. 4: Griner becomes first NCAA Division I women’s basketball player to get 2,000 points and 500 blocks for her career with a win against Kansas State 70-41

“She is 6-8 so it is definitely a huge thing to do. She can be five feet off and you still cannot get an open shot off. It is tough.”
— Kansas St. junior Brittany Chambers

Feb. 11: Nike Elites, Trace Adkins and see ya later Aggies! Baylor beats No. 15 Texas A&M 71-48

“Lock Griner in the bathroom and don’t let her out. That’s the key. I tried like heck, I sweet-talked her, but she just comes up. That kid is special; she is just such a good kid. She deserves all the accolades that she’s getting.”
— Texas A&M coach Gary Blair

March 4: Baylor completes perfect Big 12 season with 77-53 win.

“That is straight talent. [Griner] worked with what the defense gave her.”
— Williams

March 9: Griner scores 45 points in an 86-65 win over Kansas State

“I’m happy I got it. It would have been sweeter if it was 45 blocks.”
— Griner

“She [Griner] catches the ball, she turns, she looks to see the options she has.”
— Mulkey

March 10: Lady Bears win Big 12 Tournament Championship with 73-50 win over Texas A&M

“It’s not Brittney Griner and Baylor. This is Baylor. We are a team. Everybody pulls together and contributes. I mean, I love games like this, watching my teammates score, and if I catch it, get double-teamed, kick it to them. And I love it. This is a special team and I love my team.”
— Griner

March 18: Senior Lindsay Palmer hits from downtown in 81-50 win.

“That’s when you live and write, shot clock was winding down, two, one, and she got her a good look at it, and you’re just happy for her. The team is happy for her. I think, you know, that’s probably going to make SportsCenter, huh?”
— Mulkey

April 1: Lady Bears defeat Stanford 59-47 in Final Four game

“[Terran] has been hitting big shots all season. She’s been key to us winning big games all season. She stepped up like a senior should and hit big shots for us.”
— Sims

April 3: Lady Bears complete 40-0 season, win national championship

“We finally did it. The unfinished business is over.”
— Griner

“Now you can say we did something.”
— Sims

“There is no significance in 40-0 right now. Because the only words coming out of our mouths today are ‘national champions.”
— Mulkey

March 20: Griner dunks as Baylor wins 76-57 over Florida

“I think my team got fired up a little bit more than me. I got a little bit more fired up, I think, on one of the blocks I had. But it definitely felt good throwing it down.”
— Griner

“That was a monster dunk. I think Brittney is so conscious of people writing good or bad about the dunk that she’s scared to get excited sometimes and celebrate a dunk ... I said, ‘Honey, if I could dunk it, I’d do back-flips down the floor.’” — Mulkey

March 26: Sims scores 27 in Elite Eight win over Tennessee

“We’re happy to win this game and go to the Final Four. But it’s not over. We have two more games. We are happy about this, and we are going to move on.”
— Hayden

“We’ve been putting in that kind of effort all year.”
— Mulkey

March 9: Griner scores 45 points in an 86-65 win over Kansas State

“Now you can say we did something.”
— Sims

March 10: Lady Bears win Big 12 Tournament Championship with 73-50 win over Texas A&M

“Now you can say we did something.”
— Sims

April 3: Lady Bears complete 40-0 season, win national championship

“It’s not Brittney Griner and Baylor. This is Baylor. We are a team. Everybody pulls together and contributes. I mean, I love games like this, watching my teammates score, and if I catch it, get double-teamed, kick it to them. And I love it. This is a special team and I love my team.”
— Griner


No. 10 forward Destiny Williams goes up for the shot during the Final Four on April 1 in Denver, Colo. Baylor beat Stanford 59-47 to advance to the National Championship.

No. 0 sophomore Odyssey Sims drives to the basket against Notre Dame on Nov. 20, 2011.

No. 10 forward Destiny Williams goes up for the shot during the Final Four on April 1 in Denver, Colo. Baylor beat Stanford 59-47 to advance to the National Championship.
A Heisman for Robert, a Heisman for Baylor

“It’s like a dream come true. These things just don’t happen. It’s Robert’s victory, but it’s also a victory for the area, our school, and Baylor.” - Jack Welch, Copperas Cove head football coach on Griffin’s Heisman win.

Memorable Quotes by Griffin

“No pressure, no diamonds. We compete, we win. We are Baylor.”

“This moment right here is unbelievably believable.”

No. 10 Robert Griffin III tries to shake a Texas player as he clutches the football on Dec. 3, 2011.

No. 10 quarterback Robert Griffin III attempts to make a short pass over the middle against Rice at Floyd Casey Stadium on Sept. 24, 2011. The Bears beat the Owls 56-31.

No. 10 Robert Griffin III leads Baylor football out of the tunnel against Iowa State on Oct. 18, 2011.

No. 10 quarterback Robert Griffin III tries to shake a Texas player as he clutches the football on Dec. 3, 2011, at Floyd Casey Stadium. Baylor defeated Texas 48-24.

“Il’m a forever kind of moment.”

It’s like a dream come true. These things just don’t happen. It’s Robert’s victory, but it’s also a victory for the area, our school, and Baylor.” - Jack Welch, Copperas Cove head football coach on Griffin’s Heisman win.

Editor's note: The following story is the alumni reaction story which originally ran in Dec. 12, 2011, in the Lariat's Heisman Issue.

By Tyler Alley
Sports Editor

It was the worst of times, it was the worst of times.
But that was then.
Students and fans can celebrate the best of times with junior quarterback Robert Griffin III’s Heisman victory and the overall success of Baylor football. Alumni, moreover, can look back at how Baylor football performed during their years and be even more thankful.

“This is just unbelievable,” said Russell Trippet, class of 1977. “This is the proudest I’ve ever been of Baylor. Can’t imagine it getting better than this. It’s worth all the down times.”

Trippet said he grew up in Waco and started going to Baylor games when he was 5 years old, more than 50 years ago. His father was a team doctor, and Trippet would sit on the sidelines. He was in New York when the Heisman winner was announced.

“I just went crazy,” he said. “We were at the Baylor network dinner. Everybody went nuts. There were 100 alumni in the room.”

Trippet was not the only Bear outside Texas with a celebration story. Whitney Wilson, a political science major from the class of 2000, lives in Denver, Colo., and said she was at a neighborhood grill when the announcement was made.

In an email to the Lariat, Wilson said every one in the place was rooting for Griffin. Many people teared up during his acceptance speech, which she said was “touching, humble, thoughtful, well spoken and sincere.”

Jon Rolph, a member of the class of 2001 with a degree in telecommunications, now resides in Wichita, Kan.

“Like the rest of Baylor nation, I was ecstatic for him and for the university and everybody associated with Baylor,” Rolph said.

Rolph came in as a freshman during Baylor’s second year in the Big 12 and said there was a lot of excitement with a new coach coming in.

“Then we were awful,” he said. “We had six wins total in my four years here. Everybody at school loved the team, poured into it, but it was never good.”

Rachel Goodlad, a journalism major from the class of 2006, also has plenty of bad Baylor football memories. She said Baylor fans from her era were used to having their hopes dashed and did not know 100 percent Griffin would win.

“I didn’t think that Baylor fans were expecting it, but people were still holding their breath,” Goodlad said. “People in my class were used to the team winning two games, used to hoping for something good to happen then having it slip through our fingers. We wanted to wait until it was official.”

Goodlad also said much of the credit for Griffin’s victory should go to Baylor’s sports information department, which she worked for as a student.

“It’s worth all the down times.”

Russell Trippet | Class of 1977

“They deserve a lot of credit for this season,” Goodlad said. “Keeping voters up to speed with Robert, making sure he was out there doing interviews, getting his name out there. Making sure hype was out there.”

Rolph said he gives much of the credit to Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw.

“College football now is about great coaching,” Rolph said. “McCaw has brought in great coaching and great talent, but it’s also talent with integrity and leadership.”

Earl Shanks, a member of the 1979 class, comes from a family with multiple generations of Baylor grads.

His father went to Baylor, and his father-in-law played in the 1952 Orange Bowl for Baylor. Shanks said his father-in-law “yelled like a kid” when he saw that Griffin had won.

Allen Thompson, from the class of 2002, also said he had a very personal connection with Griffin’s victory. He said he takes two things from Baylor’s success this season, the first being his ability to enjoy it with the friends he made at school.

“And secondly it reminds me of my father who passed away from cancer in 2008,” Thompson said in an email to the Lariat. “He would always call me after any Baylor win regardless of the sport. I know he would have been so proud of not only RG3 but also the entire past two seasons. I couldn’t be prouder to be a Baylor Bear.”