

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

BU had role in Dembski return

Administration says wrong procedure masked former professor's hire

As intelligent design debate continues, new documents shed light on story

By Brad Briggs and Grace Maalouf
Opinion editor and editor in chief

Baylor's history of controversy surrounding intelligent design has been well chronicled, especially when former professor Dr. William Dembski has been involved. But such was not the case in November of 2006 when Dembski arrived back on campus to work with Dr. Robert Marks, distinguished professor of computer and electrical engineering.

Baylor was involved in asking for the grant that brought Dembski back, but when his return was made known to the administration, Baylor returned the grant, effectively terminating his position.

The administration said it was initially unaware of Dembski's inclusion in the grant proposal because the proposal did not go through the proper academic channels. In documents obtained by The Baylor Lariat, Marks claimed otherwise but also called his collaboration with Dembski "stealth until others made it visible."

Marks became involved in another academic controversy this fall when his Web site containing research related to intelligent design was removed from Baylor's server.

The site chronicled his work in evolutionary informatics, a field which uses computer modeling of evolution and adds information to the understood process.

Adding information to the process is considered by some to imply that design must take place before evolution can begin.

But the issues with Marks' research began long before the Web site was removed, and documents obtained by the The Baylor Lariat show the history of this controversy.

LifeWorks Grant

The storm surrounding Marks' research dates back to a proposal that went through

Baylor and provided for Dembski's return to campus.

Through the approval of a grant submitted to the LifeWorks Foundation and signed by President Lilley on April 28, 2006, Dembski was hired as a post-doctoral researcher to assist Marks.

Dembski, a proponent of intelligent design, previously directed Baylor's controversial Michael Polanyi Center, which was devoted to the study of science and religion. The center caused divisions among Baylor faculty and was disbanded in 2000.

The LifeWorks Foundation is directed by Microsoft millionaire Brendan Dixon, who said in a phone interview from Seattle with the Lariat that the foundation has been "winding down for the last year and half" and is closing down this year for reasons unrelated to Marks.

Dixon and his wife, Kim, are the sole employees of LifeWorks, which Dixon called "a small, family-run foundation." "We provided funds to organizations that we felt were addressing inequities in life and trying to help move people forward," Dixon said.

The LifeWorks proposal approved by Lilley and accompanied by a letter he signed asked for \$15,000 from the foundation for Dembski's post-doctoral position, but Baylor ended up receiving \$30,000.

Dixon said he could not recall the specific numbers involved in the grant.

Dixon said the foundation received proposals all the time and has made varying grants,

both large and small, throughout the years.

According to tax returns, in 2006 the foundation donated \$700,000 to the Discovery Institute, a nonpartisan think tank that supports intelligent design. Dixon said he is not in any way affiliated with the institute, however, and donates to various organizations.

Dixon, a computer scientist like Marks, said he met Marks in a social setting and became aware of his research. He said Marks later sent him a write-up on the research, which he found interesting and decided to support with a grant.

But unlike other grants made from the foundation, Dixon said, this one Baylor would eventually return, something he called "bizarre beyond belief."

In a letter from Lilley to the foundation dated April 28, 2006, Baylor requested a \$15,000 grant "to support a post-doctoral researcher."

Dembski was not named by Lilley in the letter, although he was named in the personnel section of the accompanying proposal.

After the grant was processed, Lilley sent a letter on June 29, 2006, to Dixon and the foundation thanking him for a "check of \$30,000" and stating, "We hope this project will be the beginning of a dynamic relationship between Baylor and The LifeWorks Foundation."

Director of media relations Lori Fogleman confirmed that Lilley signed off on the grant but "later became aware" of Dembski's hiring.

Dembski was named and his

curriculum vitae included in the personnel section of the proposal, which was submitted April 28, 2006. The proposal, "Added Information in Evolutionary Search for Targeted Solutions," was for the investigation of "added information required to successfully perform evolutionary computing."

Dembski Back at Baylor

When it became apparent that Dembski was returning to Baylor, his arrival was not met with immediate resistance.

Dr. Ben Kelley, dean of the school of engineering, sent Marks an e-mail on Oct. 1, 2006, in which he said he had learned Marks requested office space for a new post-doctoral researcher.

"Since I haven't seen any requests for a new position I'd also like to chat with you about this," Kelley said in the e-mail.

Marks replied the same day, explaining his procurement of the grant and who it was funding. In an October 23, 2006, e-mail, Kelley's assistant requested a picture of Dembski for the school's Web site.

Dembski said he arrived at Baylor in November 2006 and was given an office in the Rogers Engineering Building.

"The dean knew about this. It was up-front," Dembski said. "It wasn't a big deal - I had friends there (in the engineering school)."

But by December, the situation had taken a different turn. A Dec. 1 e-mail from Kelley to Marks stated: "A serious situation is arising concerning your post-doc."

On Dec. 6 Marks wrote a letter to Lilley and Provost Randall O'Brien in response to what Marks called "rumblings about (Dembski's) return to my lab."

In the letter, Marks wrote that Kelley had communicated these concerns to him.

Marks explained to the president and provost that he had procured the LifeWorks grant for Dembski's hiring, adding that "Dr. Dembski has a small office in the Rogers Building and came in two or three times a week."

Marks stated, "I know you believe it is my right as a Baylor professor to pursue research in Intelligent Design. I also hope you believe, as I do, foundational academic freedom of intellectual pursuit trumps any protests concerning the hiring of Dr. Dembski in my research group."

"Before the LifeWorks gift is expended, I plan to attract additional funds for Dr. Dembski's support. Ultimately I would like to raise sufficient soft money for a perpetually endowed position so that Dr. Dembski could, if he so chose, join my group full time. He has not agreed to do so."

Dembski's Firing

Dembski's position at Baylor did not last long.

On Dec. 8 Kelley wrote an e-mail to Dembski to notify him that his position was discontinued.

On the same day, Marks wrote an e-mail to O'Brien and others saying: "Our collaboration (Marks and Dembski's) was stealth until others made it visible."

Marks referred all questions to his attorney, John Gilmore, who did not return calls to his cell phone Wednesday and Thursday.

Dembski said he thought the comment could be "taken in various ways."

"I know for myself I wasn't

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How it all went down

April 28, 2006

Marks submits proposal to LifeWorks Foundation through Baylor. President Lilley signs off on the proposal, which specifically mentions Dembski in the personnel section.

June 29, 2006

Lilley writes a letter to the director of LifeWorks, thanking him for the grant, hoping it will be "the beginning of a dynamic relationship between Baylor" and the foundation.

November 2006

Dembski arrives at Baylor and moves into office at Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building.

December 1, 2006

Dean Kelley sends an e-mail to Marks saying that a "serious situation is arising concerning (his) post-doc (Dembski)."

December 6, 2006

Dean Kelley sends an e-mail to Marks informing him of Kelley's decision to refund the money from the LifeWorks grant. He writes that O'Brien concurs with the decision.

Marks, citing "rumblings" about Dembski's return to Baylor, writes a letter to President Lilley and Provost O'Brien. The letter informs the two of Marks' research and Dembski's return through grant money from the LifeWorks Foundation. He also communicates his desire to raise enough money to create a "perpetually endowed" position for Dembski at the lab full-time.

December 8, 2006

Marks writes in an e-mail that his collaboration with Dembski was "stealth until others made it visible." Kelley writes to Dembski, informing him of the discontinuance of his position.

July 10, 2007

Kelley states in an e-mail to Marks that he needs to spend the majority of his efforts and activities "directed toward traditional ECE research" for which he was hired.

July 11, 2007

O'Brien states that "The Dean is representing institutional concerns and policy, which must be supported by Pat Neff Hall."

July 20, 2007

Marks has a short podcast interview with Casey Luskin at the Discovery Institute and discusses his Evolutionary Informatics Lab at Baylor.

July 29, 2007

Marks receives an e-mail from Kelley asking him to "disconnect this web site immediately..." Marks retains legal counsel, John Gilmore.

August 9, 2007

Kelley, O'Brien and Marks meet with legal counsel. Kelley agrees Marks can continue his research with a disclaimer that the work does not represent Baylor's position.

August 21, 2007

Baylor general counsel Charles Beckenhauer contacts Gilmore to extend further alterations needed from Marks before his site can be reposted.

October 2, 2007

In a meeting the *Lariat* editorial board, John Barry addresses the Marks situation saying allegations that Lilley was somehow involved in shutting down the Web site are "categorically false."

Bush proposes holiday air traffic 'express lane'

By Hayley Frank
Reporter

President Bush made plans Thursday to generate a "Thanksgiving express lane" for commercial airliners to help reduce air travel issues this holiday season.

At the same time, Baylor students are gearing up to battle the stresses of their own Thanksgiving journeys home.

In an effort to decrease such problems as air traffic congestion and long delays, the Pentagon will open unused military airspace from Florida to Maine.

The "express lane" will be open next week for five days to accommodate the busiest days of travel.

With the Thanksgiving break starting next week, many Baylor students are preparing for the flight back home.

With Dallas in close proximity to Waco, a lot of students make use of the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport,

sometimes resulting in a frustrating experience.

"Last year, my plane was delayed," said Castle Rock, Col., junior Dan Lewis. "And when it finally came in, there was a malfunction. I was supposed to leave at 4 p.m. but didn't end up leaving the airport until around 8 p.m."

As if being stranded at the airport wasn't frustrating enough, Lewis had to endure the aggravation of skyrocketing ticket prices.

"I had to change my flight last minute because of a test I had," he said.

Lewis said he had a reasonably priced ticket for around \$180 to \$200, until he realized he would have to buy a new one.

"I ended up paying about \$600 for a new ticket," he said. "Thanksgiving flights are in high demand. If you wait any longer than a month in advance to get one, it's really expensive."

Anna Rehnholm, a fifth-year



The Associated Press

President Bush, left, followed by Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, and acting Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Robert Sturgell, arrives to make a statement on aviation congestion Thursday at the White House in Washington.

senior from Karlskrona, Sweden, is trying to plan ahead in order to avoid travel problems.

"I'm flying out today and coming back next Friday," Rehnholm said. "I always try to not fly on the busy days."

And flying on international flights poses even more difficulties when making travel plans.

"Flying to Europe, it's hard to get good tickets. You have to order them way in advance and get to the airport early," Rehnholm said.

Another issue with student travel is the expense and stress of getting to the airport.

"My biggest concern is

Please see TRAVEL, page 3

College presidential salaries increasing

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Specialized doctor, distinguished attorney, college president—there are several routes to earning a six-figure salary.

The Chronicle of Higher Education released this week the findings of their survey "Presidential pay is increasing fastest at the largest institutions," which showed a \$528,105 median salary of private, research university presidents for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This figure represents a 37 percent increase of these presidents' average incomes over the last five years, more than twice the rate of inflation.

The most extravagant presidential pay packages considered in the survey, each more than \$1 million annually, were given to William R. Brody of John Hopkins University, James W. Wagner of Emory University and Shirley Ann Jackson of

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Eighty-one presidents of private universities around the country were paid \$500,000 or more, the survey shows.

But Baylor doesn't shell out presidential pay.

According to the survey, Baylor's Interim President William D. Underwood made \$321,485 from his date of hire in May 2005 until his replacement the next January. President John Lilley, who took over in January 2006, earned \$179,726 between his start and the end of May 2006, the end of that fiscal year.

Former president Robert B. Sloan Jr. earned \$384,649 during the 2004-2005 year. Sloan's pay is the most recent available data tracking a Baylor president's full-year salary.

"Presidential salary increases at Baylor during the past five years are beneath national

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Grateful attitude good for health, happiness

By Christopher Stone
Reporter

In the midst of end-of-the-semester madness and with finals just around the corner, many can already taste the turkey and hotly anticipate Thanksgiving break next week.

But aside from near-toxic levels of tryptophan and football frenzy, there might be a few more reasons to be thankful this holiday season.

Dr. Jo-Ann Tsang, assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience, has done extensive research on gratitude and found grateful people are more forgiving, positive, have higher life satisfaction, and exhibit lower levels of anxiety, depression and envy.

"A number of experiments have shown that after writing about gratitude, individuals feel more mentally healthy," she said. "Individuals who engaged in a gratitude exercise showed significant increases in their experiences of positive emotion."

That effect was strongest, she said, in individuals who were instructed to think about another individual for whom they were grateful. Tsang also said research suggests writing down things which one is grateful for increases psychological and possibly even physical health.

People who experience gratitude more often tend to pray, read Scripture and attend religious activities more often than those who do not.

They also report having a closer relationship to God, Tsang said, but gratitude is not confined to any specific culture, religion or denomination.

"Every human being, regardless of their faith, can feel gratitude and thanks for what they have, no matter who they're giving thanks to," Dallas

senior Hoda Said said.

Said is a Muslim, but she said her family always celebrates Thanksgiving the traditional way.

In fact, she said her family's celebration is probably closer to an original Thanksgiving because there's always a mix of American and Arabic foods like the meal the pilgrims shared with the Native Americans.

"(My family) never gets to spend quality time together, so Thanksgiving is really important to us," she said.

On the other hand, Said explained that for Muslims, gratitude is something to be expressed daily, a part of the five daily prayers known as Al-Fatiha.

The beginning words to this prayer mean "all thanks be to God."

"Everything we have is a gift from God. Thanking God (daily) is a part of worshipping," she said.

Krupali Patel didn't grow up celebrating Thanksgiving. She's from Ndola, Zambia, and she is Hindu. She said in her religion, Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, is the closest thing to Thanksgiving.

Diwali, she said, is a celebration of the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and also marks the new year.

"In modern terms, it's more of lighting the lamp within yourself, and thanking God for destroying the evil within us," Patel said.

Since coming to Baylor to study, Patel said she has celebrated Thanksgiving in different ways with friends, but mostly it is a time for her to rest and catch up with school work.

"The international students are getting together, and even though I don't celebrate it, it's nice to come together," she said.

Said said she thinks the cross-cultural appeal of Thanksgiving comes from the fact that America has so many different groups represented within the population.

"I feel like it's so easily adaptable in every culture," Said said.

Although now usually celebrated with people's family, originally Thanksgiving was a community celebration.

From the earliest examples, Thanksgiving was time when people came together from different backgrounds to celebrate and give thanks for one another and for God's blessings.

"It's a beautiful thing when you can forget about differences and come together as a community," Said said.

Columbus junior Erin Schneider said her family usually travels to Louisiana to visit family during the holiday, but this year they plan to stay home.

"(We're having) a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, just appreciating each other's sense of humor and growing and being healthy throughout the year," she said.

Schneider, a Christian, said Thanksgiving is also a reminder of the great things she has in her life.

"So many times I just get caught up in life and school, and I forget that I have these great things in my life," she said. "God plays such a huge role in the families that we are born into and the things we have to be thankful for."

And Schneider said she agreed Thanksgiving can be a time for people to find common ground.

"We should be thankful for the support we have in the community, and that we are able to have these celebrations so freely," she said.



Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

DeSoto freshman Raisha Allen, San Antonio freshman Jennifer Leal and Houston freshman Paula Haynes eat a free Thanksgiving dinner Thursday at Fountain Mall. The event was held by Dining Services in place of normal operation and was open to all Baylor students.

BU organizations to grant two ill children's wishes

By Garrett Turner
Reporter

Through The Make-A-Wish Foundation, Chi-Omega and the Baylor equestrian team have funded two wishes for children with life-threatening diseases.

The two children's fight with cancer is pretty powerful to witness, Fredericksburg senior Alan Kramer said.

Taylor Darling was diagnosed with Wilms, a rare form of childhood cancer that forms in the kidneys. Taylor's mom, Alicia Darling, describes Taylor as "(her) little hero."

For Alicia, having a seven-year-old daughter fighting a disease through extensive chemotherapy and radiation shows her how heroic a child can be. Unfortunately, this disease affects more than just the "hero."

"It has almost been a year since Taylor was diagnosed and I can't believe we have made it this far," Alicia said. "This has been the worst thing in our lives."

The other child, Darrius Evans, was diagnosed with leukemia, another form of cancer caused by malignant cells in the bone marrow and blood.

Evans and Taylor have more in common than just cancer; they both have made a wish.

Evans wished to go to Walt Dis-

ney World and Taylor wished for her own pony. Through Make-A-Wish Foundation, Chi-Omega and the Baylor Equestrian team have raised enough money to sponsor the wishes of Evans and Darling.

Chi-Omega raised \$6,700 for Evans and his six family members to fly to Florida, stay for a week with all expenses paid, and go to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.

Fredericksburg senior Kayleigh Northern said Chi-Omega raised the money through their chili cook-off and calls to businesses and family members for donations to help make Evans wish come true.

"You don't know how much Darrius means to us, even though the chapter hasn't met him," Northern said. "It's kind of like a blind love. We love him even though we don't know him."

A departure party for Evans and his family will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday in the Chi Omega room at the Stacy Riddle Forum. This party is to keep the excitement going for Evans and his family Northern said.

"The spirit and the hope they have are miraculous. They are excited so many people care about them."

Carmen Jimenez
Irving senior

"I am glowing from inside knowing Darrius gets to go to Disney World," Northern said. "With all the stress school causes, knowing Darrius will have the time of his life keeps me going."

Evans isn't the only one receiving this "blind love." With the help of the Baylor Equestrian team and Equestrian coach Ellen White, Taylor will be receiving her own horse Sunday.

This surprise will occur during the intermission of Baylor's competition at 2 p.m. She will also receive veterinary care and horse feed for a year and will be named an "Honorary Member" of the Baylor equestrian team.

Without the help of Make-A-Wish wish grantors Alan Kramer and Irving senior Carmen Jimenez, Evans and Taylor wouldn't have had their wishes granted.

As wish grantors, their job is to find out what qualifying Waco children wish for, but going to the houses for interviews with the family, however, can sometimes be difficult for the families.

"It's not our jobs to probe into their lives; we're just there to make their lives better," Kramer said.

Jimenez said the effects of the life-threatening illness could be seen throughout the entire family.

"These kids are pretty isolated going through their treatment by themselves," Jimenez said. "They really feel alone."

Once they find what the child wishes for, they let organizations such as Chi-Omega and the Baylor equestrian team raise money for the specific wish and then they get to see the child's wish granted.

"The spirit and the hope they have are miraculous," Jimenez said. "They are excited so many people care about them. It's pretty powerful."

The wish does more than just provide an exciting trip or horse for the child, Kramer said.

The Baylor community has stretched their arms out to embrace Evans and Darling, Kramer and Jimenez said.

"People should care because this is real life," Kramer said. "I think a lot of times we get stuck in thinking we have a test and that's the worst thing in the world. But in reality the test doesn't mean that much. There are a lot of people out there dealing with a lot of bigger problems."

TRAVEL from page 1

always getting to and from the airport," Rehnholm said. "It's a major stress factor."

Rehnholm said if you can't find a friend to drop-off and pick-up, your trip can get costly.

"Parking can get pretty pricey," Rehnholm said. "And carpooling is hard because everyone has different flights and different times they have to be somewhere."

Students also must factor in traffic delays on the road that hinder their drive times.

"Last year there was a big accident on I-35 around Thanksgiving," said Hilary Townsend, a sophomore from Grove, Okla.

"It closed off most of the highway, and I was in traffic for hours," she said. "Some of my friends were stuck for as long as six hours."

However, some students suggest the use of airport shuttles, such as the Waco Streak.

"If I can't find a ride, I just take the Waco Streak," Rehnholm said. "It gets me there on time, and I don't have to worry about parking."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Student Senate OKs support resolution for 15-minute parking

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

Student Senate passed support resolution to create 15-minute parking zones for residents of Brooks Village and North Village in its meeting Thursday.

The resolution proposed the conversion of regular spots and possibly handicapped spots to short-term parking.

Some members of the Senate were concerned about the legality of converting fire lanes and handicapped parking spaces to short-term parking.

Sponsors of the resolution had not spoken with parking officials concerning the plan as of the meeting, but were confident the university could find a way to make this a feasible option.

"This 15-minute parking is very important for people who live on campus, especially since the university is trying to get more people to live on campus," Houston sophomore Christopher Paxton said. "As for the concerns about handicapped parking and fire lanes, I believe the university would be able to find means to convert some of this space near the ROTC building."

The Senate allocated funds to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity for their 15th annual Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant.

Despite attempts from some

members of Senate to rescind the vote on the grounds the bill was ambiguous and that senators didn't sufficiently explore all the options, the bill passed 44-0 with 5 abstentions.

"This pageant benefits women on campus because they get a chance to showcase their abilities and accomplishments," said Port Arthur junior Aaron Jean, event coordinator. "Women are sometimes viewed on a lower status job-wise and professionally than men, so this pageant gives them the opportunity to showcase their great potential they do have to the whole campus."

The fraternity has been hosting events all week, including mixers, Grab the Mic and a forum on marriage.

The pageant will be a continuation of the fraternity's attempt to spread diversity throughout the campus. It will be Sunday in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The Senate also passed a support resolution in regard to Kate Bronstein, a sophomore who died Wednesday from injuries sustained in a car accident near College Station. The resolution called for students and faculty to come together and extend their prayers, thoughts, and sympathies to her family during their time of need. The resolution will be sent to her family on behalf of the student body.

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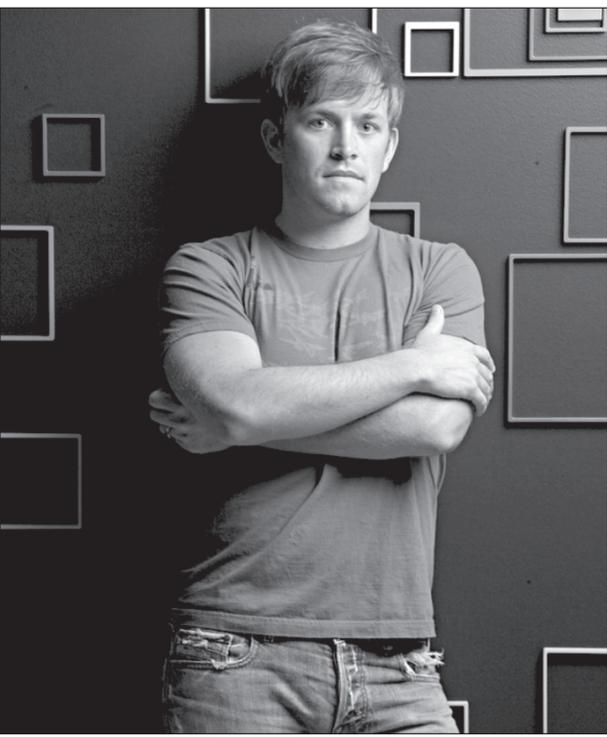
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Dave Barnes concert comes to aid choir's cause today



Singer-songwriter Dave Barnes will be in Waco Hall today at 7 p.m. with proceeds benefitting the Baylor Religious Hour choir.

By Kelli Boesel
Reporter

Dave Barnes will rock the Waco Hall stage at 7 p.m. today to raise money for the annual Baylor Religious Hour choir's mission trip. Barnes is no stranger to Waco, though. He played at an Omega Kids benefit concert at the Hippodrome last year.

"All you ask for as a performer is people keep wanting you to come back," Barnes said. "And each time you do there are more and more people there."

Barnes said he thinks in many ways Baylor students are the demographic he targets.

"I think it's college people that are thinking about the same things I am and experiencing a lot of things I'm writing about," he said.

Barnes writes his songs from personal experiences and also experiences of people around him.

"Some are absolutely written about me," Barnes said. But apart from writing songs for his own records, Barnes also writes for other artists, both Christian and mainstream.

"It's always nice to take a

break and deal with someone else's point of view of the world," he said.

Writing for other artists is not as confining as writing for his records because he is not bound by the limitations he sets on his music, Barnes said.

As far as style, Barnes jumps all over the map, playing anything from folk-inspired songs to love ballads.

"When I am listening to music, I am sort of taking mental notes about what I like," he said.

Barnes has two full-length records, *Brother, Bring the Sun* and *Chasing Mississippi*, and he said he recently finished a new record, scheduled to be released in February 2008. The new record continues in the same musical style as the previous ones but deals lyrically with new topics, Barnes said.

"A lot of it came from my time in Africa, things I have taken away from that," he said.

At the concert Barnes said he will play some stuff from the new record, but the majority of the songs will come from the first two records.

Barnes said he has seen

growing success with his work and more people are beginning to know his name and work.

"I never cease to be amazed by the people listening to my music," Barnes said.

Although he said the spotlight can be uncomfortable at times, and he said he doesn't think God made people with the capacity to be worshipped. When he does have fans who are really excited to meet him, he said he really isn't different from everyone else.

"Come hangout with me for like a day and a half," Barnes said. "Maybe the first couple hours would be really cool, but then I really think you'd start calling friends to meet you somewhere and pick you up."

Barnes said he enjoys music because people experience it the same way.

"It's really important to me that people know I'm a lot like them," Barnes said. "That's the power of music because it makes us all feel the same."

Maxey Parrish, lecturer in journalism and the BRH choir sponsor said the choir wanted to do something different as a fundraiser this year.

"We want people to go, take a break from school and enjoy themselves," Parrish said.

He said Barnes' name came up several times while brainstorming the idea and it worked out to bring him to Baylor.

"He's got a good variety and great voice," Parrish said.

The BRH choir's primary purpose is to be a ministry and they have a mission trip every year, Parrish said. In the past two years they have gone to Australia and Belize.

Dallas junior Shay Dixon is the fundraising chair for the BRH choir and decided to have the concert as the fall fundraiser.

"I knew that Dave Barnes had come before and I really liked him," she said. "It's a pretty laid back kind of sound and it's mostly acoustic and every once and awhile it gets a little louder," Dixon said.

Ben Rector will open for Barnes. Rector has an acoustic style that compliments Barnes, Parrish said.

The concert is 7 p.m. today in Waco Hall. Tickets are \$12 and available in Bill Daniel's Student Union Building or at the door.

Mario invades the Milky Way

Nintendo brings back the big 'M' in style, with good gameplay

By Bryant Clark
Reporter

The face of Nintendo is back in a big way. Tuesday's release of *Super Mario Galaxy* marks the debut of Mario on the Wii.

The game begins with Mario enjoying the night in the Mushroom Kingdom. All is well at the great festival until Mario's archenemy Bowser appears above in the twilight sky.

GAME REVIEW

Bowser attacks the townspeople and rips Peach and her castle out of the ground. He then flees with the princess into outer space.

Mario, unable to rescue the princess in time, now must travel through different galaxies to retrieve Peach.

The storyline might sound gimmicky, but the gameplay isn't. For diehard Mario fans, this game resembles Mario 64 more than *Sunshine*.

In actuality, it's Mario 64 in space, except the camera problems are fixed.

The idea of running around orb-like worlds might be difficult to imagine at first, but the spherical environments add something to Mario games that we haven't seen before.

I will admit it takes a little getting used to. It's hard to accept the fact that gravity will pull you back when you jump off the edge of a planet, but the physics make sense.

The goal of the game is to obtain power stars.

These stars give energy to different observatories that allow Mario to travel to different clusters of galaxies, which become obtainable through progress in the game.



Courtesy photo

I wondered whether galaxies would become redundant or too similar in nature overtime.

Fortunately, Nintendo eased my worries. Each galaxy is different enough to keep gamers interested for a long time.

For example, the Loop-de-loop Galaxy takes users to a water planet to surf with Mario on a manta ray.

And the Honeyhive Galaxy allows Mario to turn into a bee and fly around an Earth-like planet.

The controls for Mario are easier for a novice gamer to learn than, say, *Halo 3* or *Call of Duty*.

My 14-year-old sister could play this game.

I'm not sure I can say the same for *Assassin's Creed* or *Half-Life 2*, ratings aside.

What Nintendo did well was incorporating the Wiimote and Nunchuck without going over the top.

The basic movements of Mario are button based, which is good for old-timers.

As good as I've made the game sound so far, there are some flaws.

Nintendo tried to incorporate a two-player mode, but it hurts more than it helps.

Instead of allowing the sec-

ond player to accompany Mario with Luigi or Yoshi, the only thing one can do is point at the screen.

Second players can shoot star bits, but that pretty much means wasting valuable points.

And they can help Mario jump at inopportune times, sending him tumbling down a black hole.

Then there is storybook mode. For those of you who have to know the blood type of every character in the Mushroom Kingdom, have at it.

I tend to like playing the game more than reading text.

Just be careful, if you enter into the library, you'll find the most frightening foe of all, Rosalina.

Here, the Peach look-a-like will read to you from the storybook.

It wouldn't be that bad if you could exit the narrative at will, but Nintendo wasn't having any of that.

Go make some popcorn or do some homework.

Why not go to the moon and back?

The game will force Mario to listen to chapter after chapter until Rosalina gets tired. It's not worth it. Nintendo should have published a book instead.

Those who argue graphics are the most important component of video games are missing out.

Although *Galaxy* might not be as visually breathtaking as titles on the 360 or Playstation 3, the colorful images are nothing to ignore.

Super Mario Galaxy is by far the best-looking game for the Wii. Moreover, you may recall, Mario is a cartoon, so it doesn't take as much graphical power to make it look smooth.

Overall, the game is indeed smooth with a few minor rough edges.

Grade: A-

MOVIE MINUTE

NEW RELEASES FOR FRIDAY

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium



Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman

Molly is the manager of the Wonder Emporium, the strangest, most fantastic toy store in the world. But when Mr. Magorium bequeaths the store to her, a dark and ominous change begins.

Beowulf



Cast: Anthony Hopkins, John Malkovich, Angelina Jolie, Robin Wright Penn, Crispin Glover

The warrior Beowulf must fight and defeat the monster Grendel who is terrorizing towns, and later, Grendel's mother, who begins killing out of revenge.

Love in the Time of Cholera



Cast: Javier Bardem, Benjamin Bratt, Giovanna Mezzogiorno

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ID from page 1

trying to keep anything stealth," he said. "I was just trying to get good work done."

But he found out his position was discontinued when his card would not swipe at the Penland cafeteria, he said.

On Dec. 11, 2006, Kelley told Dembski in an e-mail that his research appointment "was

predicated on a gift from the LifeWorks Foundation. Funding from this gift is no longer available."

Kelley confirmed to the Lariat that it was his decision to return the money to the foundation.

Dembski said when his position was terminated, Kelley was "the only person (he) dealt with really."

"I met with him when he indicated that there might be some problems with my position, and I met with him and Marks at 7 a.m. on a Monday morning about five or six days before I was terminated," Dembski said.

"(Kelley) indicated that he thought my mathematics was good, but he didn't really follow it all. He basically said, 'I have to do what's best for engineering. This could affect funding,' but he kind of left it hanging as if I was a liability to the engineering school."

Fogleman said the grant "was a research proposal that did not go through the proper academic channels."

"This grant was actually a gift to the university that went through university development," Fogleman said. "It did not go through the academic side of the house and follow that standard procedure of external funding evaluation - department chair, Office of Sponsored Programs, dean and provost."

According to documents obtained by the Lariat, Marks submitted the grant proposal to the Office of Sponsored Programs, which then directed it to Baylor's Development Office.

In an e-mail to the Office of Sponsored Programs, Marks wrote, "Who submits the grant, your office or development, is your call."

The development office then took over the grant submission process, according to the e-mails.

Fogleman said the university could not confirm clarify the grant's approval process as of press time.

Dembski said for Baylor to return the grant, thereby eliminating his position, was "unprecedented."

"For Baylor to stop me in this way was hindering Bob's research," Dembski said. "I was skeptical at first about returning to Baylor, but I mean, this was coming under a grant that Bob had, and I was basically employed by him."

Dembski said he at least had a safety net of another full-time job. Dembski is a research professor of philosophy at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

A Different 'Vetting'

Despite comments made by Marks that his collaboration with Dembski was "stealth,"

Dembski said his association at Baylor wasn't hidden.

"I have ... a file of a letter that Lilley signed off on basically thanking the foundation and all of the paperwork that went through," Dembski said, adding, "If he didn't look it over it closely enough, well, OK, whose fault is that?"

Fogleman said the president receives large amounts of paperwork to sign, and "once anything reaches the president's desk, he is trusting that the processes in place have been properly vetted at that point."

But the LifeWorks grant, which she said "circumvented the standard funding evaluation programs," could have "been vetted completely differently if it had gone through the academic side."

Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf, former provost and current director of the Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership, said, "It's not unusual to not read (grants) all the way through."

"There's a system in place," he said. "You rely on others like deans and chairs to check these things. I rarely read through every page of a proposal I was sent (when I was provost), and I signed off on a lot of grants ... If you get a proposal on a particularly busy day, you could sign off on something you weren't aware of."

Schmeltekopf said considering the history Baylor has with Dembski, if he had written proposal with Dembski in it, he "would've made sure that the administration knew that he was involved."

"Seems to be that folks didn't know what they signed," Schmeltekopf said. "You just don't do that to your school, your administration."

STARS Proposal

After the return of the LifeWorks money, Marks continued to submit proposals for his research.

In May of 2007, Marks submitted a research proposal to STARS, a grant-awarding program funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

The John Templeton Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that issues grants in the fields of science and philosophy and funds what its mission statement calls "discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions."

Kelley set up a meeting with department chairs and deans to discuss the proposal's funding source and scientific merit.

"Some could conclude that this project has ID implications, and certainly the outcomes could potentially be used in that that (sic) emotion-packed debate," Kelley wrote in a May

8 e-mail.

The next day Marks wrote to Kelley and O'Brien, "Let me remove any doubt ... this proposal DEFINITELY has ID implications."

Marks declined to attend the meeting but had lunch with Kelley on May 11. In an e-mail that day to Kelley, he wrote, "The bottom line, as I understand it, is that the decision to pull the STARS proposal was President Lilley's decision communicated to you by (physics professor and vice provost for research) Truell Hyde. The reason stated for pulling was not the content of the proposal, but was the technicality that the proposal was not properly submitted."

Fogleman said, "When the STARS proposal was first submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs, it was already up against the deadline, yet the proposal had never been through the standard academic approval process - dean, vice provost for research, provost - which is required of all faculty research proposals."

"Because the process was not followed from the beginning, OSP had to start from scratch," Fogleman said. "The proposal did proceed through the standard procedure and was eventually approved."

Representing Pat Neff

Despite the proposals Marks submitted, the controversy surrounding his research continued to be a subject of debate within Baylor.

On June 11, Marks sent Lilley and O'Brien a copy of Darwin's Black Box, a book by biochemist Michael Behe presenting a case for intelligent design and a scientific argument for the existence of God.

He sent with the book a letter explaining that he and "some others at Baylor are doing work in how God is revealed in science, mathematics and engineering [Romans 1:20]. One oft misunderstood (sic) component of this area is sometimes called Intelligent Design. The phrase is now used largely in an inappropriate pejorative (sic) sense because of its depiction as mindless uninformed creationism. Proper study of the interface of God and Science is anything but."

He added that he would "welcome the opportunity to talk" about his field and answer any questions Lilley or others might have.

Fogleman said "the president and provost receive a steady flow of books on a daily basis from people inside and outside the university, faculty-recommended books, faculty-written books and such. The president's office did receive a copy of the book."

Kelley and Marks met July 9, and in an e-mail exchange that followed the meeting, Kelley wrote to Marks that his impression was "that the books you sent weren't well received, perhaps particularly by President Lilley. However, I do not wish to put words in their mouths."

All questions for President Lilley were directed to Lori Fogleman, director of media communications.

In comments about the intelligent design debate, Kelley stated, "It is not your or my perusal to dictate whether or how Baylor collectively decides to/for open/reopen a dialog (sic)."

"Many have concluded that there is no debate to be had, and others conclude the debate has already occurred. Most mainstream scientists and engineers, including a good share at Baylor, have dismissed ID."

"There are elements of or individuals at Baylor who stand to loose (sic) or be hurt by the perception the university is pursuing or advocating 'bogus' science. That is a huge factor, and much larger than your or my opinions."

Kelley suggested that Marks focus the "mainstream and vast majority" of his research toward "traditional ECE (Electrical and Computer Engineering) research."

Kelley also mentioned in the e-mail that Marks had expressed a preference to focus on "science and God at Baylor" research.

"That is not why you were hired (as we have discussed), and not what I expect from you as a Distinguished Professor (as we have discussed)," Kelley wrote.

Kelley relayed to Marks that some people may view him "as out to promote Bob Marks' agenda first or at the expense of the ECS (school of Engineering and Computer Science) agenda." He encouraged him to pursue research that could "promote and benefit Baylor ECE."

To communicate his support of Kelley, O'Brien sent a follow-up e-mail to Marks on July 11 thanking him for the book. He assured Marks that Kelly was "representing institutional concerns and policy, which must be supported by Pat Neff Hall."

Web site disconnected

The conflict took a different turn when Marks did a July 20 podcast interview with Casey Luskin, program officer in public policy and legal affairs for the Discovery Institute.

The interview was posted on the institute's Web site and

Relevant terms

Intelligent design — The assertion or belief that physical and biological systems observed in the universe result from purposeful design by an intelligent being rather than from chance or undirected natural processes.

Evolutionary informatics — merges theories of evolution and information, seeks to emulate the process of evolution through computational processes by adding information.

Source: *The American Heritage Dictionary*

discussed the nature of Marks' research on his Web site, www.evolutionaryinformatics.org, which is now hosted on a third-party server.

Later on July 27 Kelly sent Marks another e-mail saying, "I have received several concerned messages this week about an interview and web site dealing with evolutionary computing associated ID (sic). Please disconnect this web site immediately..."

The Web site was shut down in August and Marks and his attorney, John Gilmore, met with Kelley, Baylor General Counsel Charles Beckenhauer and Provost Randall O'Brien. The Web site contained some of Marks' work as well as material by Dembski.

Despite Baylor's approval of the LifeWorks, STARS and National Science Foundation proposals for Marks' research, Fogleman said the Web site is a separate issue.

Baylor officials maintain that the Web site was removed on a procedural technicality and that the university did not approve the research.

"Our professors are expected to research and teach in areas that they are hired to produce," Fogleman said.

"We're talking about any kind of outside research — outside of their particular field of expertise in which they are hired to produce at the university. If they fulfill all of their contractual obligations to the university regarding time and productivity, then that professor is perfectly free to research in an outside area," Fogleman said.

"Right now, this continues to be an ongoing legal discussion that we hope will be resolved satisfactorily."

City editor Claire St. Amant contributed to this story.

DEMBSKI'S DETAILS

Dr. William A. Dembski's involvement at Baylor traces back to fall 1999 when he was brought to campus by President Robert B. Sloan Jr. Although the majority of campus was unaware, Dembski and Dr. Bruce Gordon established the Michael Polanyi Center to study intelligent design in October under Sloan's instruction.

On April 12, 2000, the center hosted its first conference on campus, titled "The Nature of Nature." This brought attention to the center and raised questions about its purpose and the conflict of science and religion. A week after the conference, the Faculty Senate called for the administration to close the center, stating that its study of intelligent design has "creationist" undertones. Faculty members in science, philosophy and theology were particularly troubled by the research and expressed concerns that it could cause their department's degrees to be questioned.

A few days later, despite the outcry from the faculty, Sloan publicly rejected the senate's recommendation to dissolve the center. He cited faculty consultations prior to the center's establishment and said there was a legitimate place for this research at Baylor. The administration and faculty reached a compromise and an external peer review committee was formed to investigate the legitimacy and validity of the center's research.

In September 2000, the committee drafted a report enumerating their thoughts and recommendations on the center's mission and affiliation with Baylor. One month later, the committee's report was released with four major recommendations:

- The center's mission is best supported under the structure of the Institute for Faith and Learning.
- The center should not only continue to pursue the intelligent design theory, but should also expand a broader focus to include broader areas of its mandate as well.
- An advisory committee, composed of Baylor faculty members, should be created to assist in planning and reviewing the science and religion component of the center
- The center should no longer bear the name Michael Polanyi.

Two days later, following a controversial e-mail to the administration, Dembski was released from his duties as director and reassigned to associate research professor in conceptual foundations of science, a position he maintained until May 2005.

Compiled by Claire St. Amant from *Lariat* archives.



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