

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008

## Ramsower: I take full responsibility

VP says decision to cancel SAT incentives came in September

By Kate Williams  
Reporter

Baylor's vice president for finance and administration took responsibility Thursday night at Student Senate for the cash incentives given to freshmen who retook the SAT.

"I am fully responsible," Dr. Reagan Ramsower said.

But Ramsower said the Board of Regents "were not concerned" about the administration's SAT incentive program, which cost the university \$862,000 this year alone.

Baylor provided incoming freshmen who retook the SAT a \$300 bookstore credit, along with a \$1,000 annual scholarship if they increased their score by at least 50 points.

The program gathered negative national attention after the Lariat first reported the story on Oct. 10.

Faculty Senate passed a motion of disapproval of the SAT financial incentive program on Oct. 14.

Student Senate decided to hold back on passing a disapproving proposal regarding the SATs because they wanted to hear from Ramsower first.

"In an effort to hear both sides we decided to wait before passing a formal response from student government," Student Body President Bryan Fonville



Christina Kruse/Lariat staff

Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president of finance and administration, addresses members of Student Senate Thursday evening. Part of the senate's agenda for the evening was an appearance by Ramsower to answer questions on the recent SAT re-take controversy. "I take full responsibility," Ramsower said to the senate.

*"We made a mistake that caused negative press and I am sorry for that. I was humbled by my lack of perspective."*

Reagan Ramsower  
Vice President  
for Finance  
and Administration

to retest."

Overton senior Stef Schrader suggested to Ramsower that the decision to provide cash incentives seemed like it was done behind closed doors and "kinda shady."

Ramsower denied the allegation, saying that it was an open process.

"We made a mistake that caused negative press and I am sorry for that," he said. "I was humbled by my lack of perspective."

Coinciding with Ramsower's talk, the university released a statement admitting Baylor "mistakenly used financially incentives" to help deal with lower than normal SAT scores.

The university cited that the Feb. 15 deadline for merit-based scholarships unintentionally prevented students from later testing that could have pushed them into a higher bracket for scholarship funds.

Motivation to assist students

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said.

Ramsower said he spoke openly about the program to the enrollment management council on June 5, summer orientation faculty on June 6, and the Foster Success Center staff on

Aug. 18. No one voiced a concern, he said.

"I never heard any disdain or disagreement," Ramsower said. He did say that admission officials decided in mid-September to remove the cash incentive for

next year's students.

Jackie Diaz, assistant vice president for student financial services, told the Lariat on Oct. 9 she was unsure whether the financial incentives would be offered again, but felt strongly

that they would not be.

Lori Fogleman, director of media relations, told the Lariat on Oct. 17, "We have heard and understand the criticism of the action we took, and we won't again provide cash incentives

## Billboards prompt tourism worries from businesses



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Two new billboards in Bellmead, near the New Road exit on Interstate 35 were erected recently by the Waco Police Association.

By Jade Ortego  
Staff Writer

Travelers driving through town on Interstate 35 will get an interesting message: the Waco Police Association erected two billboards in Bellmead near the New Road exit, that read "The Murder Rate is Up! Waco is the 7<sup>th</sup> most violent city in Texas."

The figure comes from a \$25,000 study paid for by the Waco Police Association, which showed an increase in murder in Waco.

It is analogous to statistics published by the FBI that show an increase in violent crime in Waco and a violent crime rate higher than the national rate.

The billboards were erected in an effort to garner community support for an increased

funding for the Waco Police.

According to the Waco Police Association Web site, members of city council have denied Waco police an opportunity to present statistics and argue for more money.

"Our City Council has refused to put us on the agenda to share our information with them. From here on out we are going to communicate directly to the citizens and we are going to stay on message until these city leaders learn to listen or new city leaders emerge," said Anne Cyr, Waco Police Association president, on www.wacopa.org.

The Waco Police Association didn't return phone calls Thursday night. According to Waco Police spokesman Steve Anderson, the billboards are accurate for last year, but that figures have since changed.

"The figures used by the asso-

ciation were from 2006. Since the survey, figures have changed," Anderson said.

Local business owners thought the billboards could be bad for tourism.

"I think it should go down. It makes Waco look like a horrible place and it's not," said Lacy Hubbard, who works at the front desk at America's Best Inn on Valley Mills Drive.

Hubbard said that safety is the main concern for travelers.

"They always want to know if this is safe area and if they should keep going down the road for somewhere safer," she said.

She said that she thinks people will just keep driving through Waco once they see the billboard.

A receptionist at Comfort Inn and Suites, Brandy Lee, felt citizens should know, but agreed that tourists don't need that

information.

"That's good to know, but maybe it should be in the newspaper and on the news for the locals to hear. I don't think it should be advertised for just anyone driving through," she said.

"Tourists that are coming through (and see the billboards) are not going to stop here."

The perception that a city is dangerous can become self-filling, said Hugh Riley, a psychology and neuroscience lecturer at Baylor.

"As people perceive that our area is beset by crime ... it affects the entire community in profound, often unexpected ways. Businesses stop considering Waco for new plants and therefore new jobs are not created. Housing prices decline. Escape behaviors, like drug abuse, go up which then promotes even more crime," Riley said.

## Baylor, Waco discuss Brazos development

By Chad Shanks  
Reporter

Baylor students and faculty partnered with officials from the City of Waco and the National Park Service to lay the foundation for eventual development and improvement along the Brazos River.

Researchers presented results yesterday at the Waco Convention Center from a joint study on ecological and practical concerns regarding the Brazos and Bosque River Corridor, a 10-mile stretch of water from the dam near Baylor to McLennan Community College that was designated for economic development.

The study gathered informa-

tion to be used in the future development and implementation of a master plan for Corridor improvements. The plan will be further developed at an upcoming workshop in November.

"We're in the infancy planning stages right now," said Jonathan Cook, marketing coordinator for Waco Parks and Recreation. "We hope to get a better idea of what we should do from this meeting."

Baylor students enrolled in the Environmental Capstone class assisted in the study by providing valuable geographic information.

"For our semester project, we worked with Waco on the Brazos River Corridor by mapping



Courtesy of Jonathan Cook

The City of Waco and Baylor University both plan development along the Brazos River.

the banks from the low river dam until it dumps into Lake Waco," Houston senior Natalie Forbes said. "We wanted to see what areas need improvement and protection and what areas are suitable for wildlife habitat."

Susan Bratton, Chair of Environmental Studies at Baylor, presented on the ecology of the river and emphasized the impor-

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## Dutton collision injures two women

By Anita Pere  
Editor in Chief

A collision with possible injuries occurred at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Third Street and Dutton Avenue.

A female Baylor student driving a dark blue Ford Explorer SUV on Third Street failed to yield in attempt to turn onto Dutton Avenue.

The other driver, also a female Baylor student, was driving a light-blue Mustang north on Dutton Avenue when the other driver pulled out in front of her, according to Waco Police Officer Bill Rogerson, who compiled a report of the collision.

The Explorer was turned over on its right side.

The glass from the windows on the right side of the SUV lay scattered in the street amid a take-out box and other objects thrown from the cab.

Houston junior Darby Shofner and The Colony freshman Samantha Avila were taken to Hillcrest Hospital. Avila was released Thursday and Shofner is listed in stable condition.

Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said late Thursday afternoon that he was unaware of the status of the women's possible injuries, but said both drivers were lucky to have no critical injuries.

Doak also said the Baylor

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# Students need voice in BU presidential search

Is the Baylor family dysfunctional?

In the past few weeks, there has been a lot of talk concerning the “Baylor family.” The greatest problem is that we’ve forgotten what being a family really means. It means communicating with the other members, supporting their concerns and listening to their opinions. It means sitting down and working together, sharing the burdens and sharing the victories. But in the Baylor family, students don’t always have a seat at the table.

It is not simply students who feel the strain in the Baylor family. We’ve seen our school criti-

cized in the national media and we’ve seen turnover in the highest levels of our administration. The lack of unity and the perception of in-fighting have cost the university millions in potential donations.

Those millions of dollars could have been used to finance the imperatives of Baylor 2012, instead of raising the cost of tuition for all students. For some constituencies, the lack of unity is an abstract issue. For students, it is a very real concern.

We are quickly approaching one of the more important decisions in Baylor’s history. The next president of Baylor will have an

## point of view

BY BRYAN FONVILLE



enormous impact on both the direction and design of Baylor’s future. With the year 2012 rapidly approaching, and with it, the culmination of the Baylor 2012 plan, it is time to start thinking about what happens next. Students have both the ability and the responsibility to help shape the university’s future. That is, if the regents will let us.

If Baylor wants to be a top-tier university, than it needs to follow the example of top-tier universities in the matter of student involvement, as well as in academics, athletics and the like.

In their 2001 presidential search process, Princeton (No. 1 in 2007’s U.S. News & World Report College Rankings) had two students serve as full-time voting members on their search committee.

A year later, Columbia followed Princeton and gave its students the same level of involvement. Also, in 2003, the University of Pennsylvania requested that two students participate in their

search. Student involvement is a common denominator with the best schools in the nation, and if Baylor is to be among that elite company, we cannot do any less.

Both the Baylor Alumni Association and the Faculty Senate recently passed resolutions calling for the involvement of all Baylor constituencies in the presidential search process. Student Government recently did the same.

The task of unifying the Baylor family isn’t the sole responsibility of any one group, rather, it is a common effort built on open communication and participation.

Recognizing the importance of the decisions before us and the need for unity in this Baylor family, we can only hope that the unifying gestures made by each constituency will be reciprocated in the coming week.

Only with a committee composed of regents, faculty, staff, alumni and students can we be sure that the new president represents all of the Baylor family.

We’re ready to take our seat at the table. We’re just waiting for the invitation.

*Bryan Fonville is a senior economics and finance major from Garland and is the student body president.*

## Editorial

# Let city have say in expansion

Baylor University’s campus has grown rapidly over the past few years. The McLane Student Life Center, the Turner Riverfront Athletic Complex, the Baylor Sciences Building and the forthcoming Highers Athletic Complex are recent examples of campus expansion.

The most recent effort to expand campus was Baylor’s acquisition of land adjacent to Interstate 35. Several businesses have been leasing part of the land surrounding the university, and Baylor purchased the rest. Baylor intends to make the campus appear more attractive, with intramural fields near the highway.

Our university will likely continue to scoop up properties near campus to allow for future expansion. Even though Baylor needs to expand, the university should consult neighborhood groups or local community organizations before making a final decision on expansion.

Baylor owns a large amount of land surrounding the current boundaries of the university, but further expansion will likely move into current low-income housing zones. The university has already reclaimed The Arbors apartments for overflow freshmen, and the next veritable location for expansion is toward the southeast.

Baylor, as a private institution, doesn’t have the right to eminent domain, which allows government organizations the right to purchase private land without the owner’s consent. The practice requires the buying agency to propose a fair offer for the property.

Therefore, if Baylor made an offer to



buy property from a citizen, the property owner wouldn’t have to accept a deal from Baylor. But if everyone else is accepting, he or she might feel pressured to make a deal.

Even if Baylor decides to expand across the highway, the situation isn’t much better. Waco is one of the poorest cities in the state. Many citizens in the neighborhoods surrounding Baylor live in older houses that are still functional, but don’t have the aesthetic appeal to be resold. That, along with the poor housing market, will leave many residents unable to afford new housing they need for their families. Baylor should take this into account when it proposes an offer.

As a Christian institution, Baylor should pay attention to the needs of the

local community.

This plan worked at the University of Houston. Although a public university, and therefore partially eligible for eminent domain (because it’s not entirely run by the state, it doesn’t have all the rights of a government entity), the university made a point to emphasize community involvement and partnership in its strategic initiatives for expansion.

Similar to Baylor’s 2012 endeavor, the plan lists eight principles for advancement, ranging from external partnership to improving institutional excellence on the school’s Web site. The school is largely a commuter school, but still has nearly 11,000 students on campus – very close in population to Baylor. It expects to double its living space and

nearly double its learning space within the next few years.

Houston has a more difficult problem expanding than Baylor does. Texas Southern University borders it on the west, while residential and industrial sections border to the south and east.

Because of problems that could arise from expansion, Houston has encouraged community involvement as a means of expanding amicably. Currently, it has nearly 600 community-involvement programs for students and staff at the university.

If Baylor hopes to achieve all of its goals by 2012, it will have to build more living and learning spaces, but we should attempt to expand with the local community’s wishes in mind.

## Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer’s name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor’s discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat\_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

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

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# Letters to the editor

## Removing VP will show BU’s commitment to accountability

Someone has dropped the ball.

Who would approve of paying students to retake the SAT in order to raise Baylor’s average SAT score? That is a vile abuse of the standardized test and sends an erroneous message that the most important part of an incoming student’s application package is his or her SAT score. Baylor should reassert its commitment to the integrity of

the admissions process by taking clear action.

If the Vice President for Finance and Administration approved the scholarships-for-scores retesting decision, then he should be held accountable.

If a student cheats on an exam, he can be expelled from the school. Shouldn’t administrators be held to the same standard for cheating the admissions system?

I accept the administration’s denouncement of its retesting program, and its commitment to

ensure that it will never happen again.

However, to move on without taking action leaves the sour feeling that another grave blunder may be over the horizon.

Let’s be clear: the damage has already been done and no action could ever undo it. All we can do is hope it never happens again. However, Baylor can choose how to respond to such ignominious leadership.

This isn’t about lashing out for revenge. This isn’t about pointing fingers or playing the

blame game. This is about defining what Baylor stands for.

*James Nortey  
Alumnus, 2008*

## Children are a gift from God, any stage of abortion is not justified

It is great to see that Bears for Life (an pro-life organization on campus) has come “back to life” again.

It is very interesting that they are “speaking up” for the unborn by having a day of silence. Truly the unborn do need a voice since

they will never utter a word.

Our Declaration of Independence guarantees “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” But wait a minute! Whatever happened to their “right to life”?

The unborn infants are not the property of their mothers or the state but are gifts from God. Modern medical science has helped to confirm what the majority of Christians have believed for centuries – that life begins at conception.

I guess that if one believes that life begins at birth (as apparently

Ms. Morgan Black does) then killing the unborn at 6 weeks or at 9 months (let’s say one day before birth) is only disposing of a “blob of tissue.”

If life really begins at birth, then it is easy to justify abortion or partial-birth abortion at any stage of the unborn baby’s life.

Unfortunately, this attitude has led to the abuse and devaluation of human life at all ages – from one-day-old to senior citizens.

*Bill McBride  
Professor Emeritus*

## The Baylor Lariat

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## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

### ACROSS

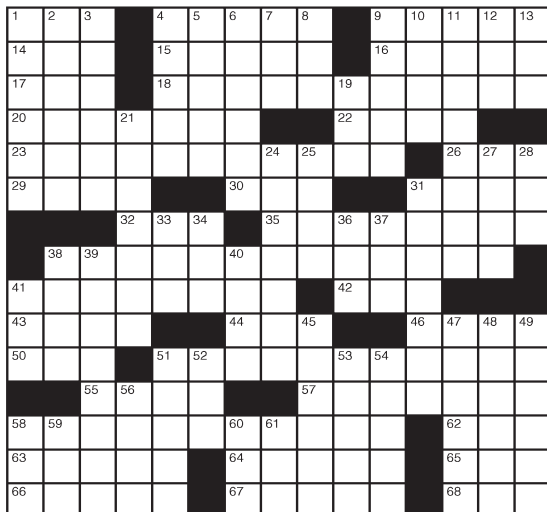
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- Opposite of SSE
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- Like some meds.
- Up to
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- Shea player
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- Private, as thoughts
- 12th graders

### DOWN

- Be a busybody
- Optimistic
- Capital of Lesotho
- Massachusetts medical clinic
- Inundated
- Coen film, “\_ Fink”
- Boston’s Bobby
- Actor Alejandro
- Medicinal plants
- Camp beds
- Until now
- Lode load
- Done, to Donne
- Opposite of post-

- Preceding
- Tool for evening
- DLII times II
- “Fargo” director
- Saturn’s wife
- Waterfall
- Cycle starter?
- Equivalent wd.
- Again, in music
- Cellular letters
- Swiss capital
- Be ruled by
- Regan’s father
- Family member
- Born in Damascus, say
- PC inserts
- More blistering
- Forces from
- With merriment
- Miller or Jillian
- Bullwinkle, e.g.
- Doubled day of baseball
- “True \_”
- Chicago pro
- Year in Acapulco
- Clay, nowadays
- Half a score



By Edgar Fontaine  
Dighton, MA

10/24/08

For today’s crossword and sudoku answers, visit [www.baylor.edu/Lariat](http://www.baylor.edu/Lariat)



# Baylor basketball prepares for season

By Joe Holloway  
Sports Writer

Baylor basketball head coach Scott Drew said his team is ready to take the next step, and Lady Bears head coach Kim Mulkey talked about her new and returning players when both coaches spoke at the Big 12 Media Days Wednesday and Thursday in Oklahoma City.

Mulkey said she did not have a timetable for when all those players would be on the same page.

"Every day is a challenge because you can't move forward until they're on the same page that particular day or that particular play or that particular offense," Mulkey said. "I don't know when it will be. I know that when it does happen, they could be a very special team."

Drew said that his main concerns heading into the season are keeping his team healthy and helping new players mesh with the old.

"You never really know how those are going to pan out until the season is over," he said. "But if we can stay injury-free and the chemistry can be good, then definitely we feel it can be a very special year for us."

After making great strides in 2008, including the program's fourth 20-win season in 102 years, the second NCAA Tournament appearance in 58 years and the first top 25 ranking in back-to-back weeks, Drew said the Bears have different goals heading into this season.

"Goals changed after we went to the NCAA Tournament," he said. "Once we left there, the players realized that we had a great year. But now our goal isn't to make the NCAA Tournament, but it's to have an opportunity to get back there and win some games."

This year, there are a number of teams that could win at any given time, Drew said. "I think definitely fans are going to really enjoy this season."



Alex Song/Lariat Staff

Baylor Law professor Jeff Manske (left) plays the role of "Lesgate/Swann" Thursday during the play of "Dial 'M' for Murder" at the Waco Civic Theatre. Lesgate kills Margot Wendice, played by Kelita Alberts (right).

# BU closely tied to 'Murder'

By Courtney Webb  
Reporter

The Waco Civic Theatre will perform Alfred Hitchcock's thriller "Dial 'M' for Murder" with a Baylor cast in tow.

A Baylor freshman and a Baylor Law School professor will act in the production, which originally starred a famous cast of Grace Kelly, Ray Milland and Robert Cummings.

The Waco Civic Theatre's production will follow the script while enhancing it with some of its own flair, said Joel Taylor, director of "Dial 'M' for Murder."

"I've made it into a non-stereotypically driven show," he said.

Patti Swank will play the role of Inspector Hubbard, a character typically played by a male, Taylor said.

Taylor has thrown in some surprises, including casting choices that no one has thought of, he said.

The cast of eight also includes long-time performer of the Waco Civic Theatre, James Johnson, as the lead character Tony Wen-

dice; actor Dave Verdery, who came out of retirement just to do this show; and Baylor Law professor and Waco judge Jeff Manske, playing Lesgate/Swann.

Taylor said he hopes his intimate production will help to enhance the emotional experience the characters go through in the film and not simply focus on the murder mystery theme.

"The show is about flawed character, greed and love," Taylor said. "It deals with certain situations in life and what choices we make because of them."

Houston junior Gary Brown said he enjoyed the movie and is skeptical about the changes that will appear in the production.

"It will be interesting to see how a female will work out as Inspector Hubbard," Brown said.

Another of Baylor's own, Cooper freshman Michell Hubbard, will play a reporter on stage and a police operator off stage.

"This is my first time performing for the Waco Civic Theatre, but I love the strong connections you make with the people involved," Hudson said. "I did a lot of community theater back

home, and I needed a hobby to fill my time. This was perfect."

The show is geared toward a middle-aged crowd, who would likely be more familiar with the title, Taylor said.

"Hopefully a newer crowd will come to the show as well, from teens through 20-year-olds. Once they see the younger actors, they will like what they see," Taylor said.

Each of the scenes is full of suspense, Hudson said.

"It's like a 1940s who-dun-it," Hudson said. "It keeps you on the edge of your seat the whole time."

Taylor said he was unable to pick a favorite scene. "There are several scenes that are delicious," he said. "Just seeing the emotions come out of the deceitful manipulations is enough to keep me wanting to watch."

"Dial 'M' for Murder" opens at 7:30 p.m. today and runs through Oct. 31 at The Waco Civic Theatre. There is matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Adult tickets are \$10 and student/senior tickets are \$8. For more information, visit [www.wacocivictheatre.org](http://www.wacocivictheatre.org).

# Nursing school launches accelerated 12-month program

By Sommer Ingram  
Staff Writer

To help address the shortage of nurses in the field, Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing will use a grant from the Deerbrook Charitable Trust to launch an accelerated nursing program.

The nursing program, called the Fast Bacc, is for students who already have bachelor's degrees in another field. The grant totals almost \$1.2 million over a three-year period.

"We have noticed a lot of students who really aren't sure what they want their life's work to be," said Dr. Judy Lott, dean of the nursing school. "So they go and get a degree that doesn't really prepare them for what they end

up wanting to do. The receipt of this grant will help us to educate more students, and we see this as really being a part of Baylor's overall mission."

The program will begin in the summer of 2009 at the nursing school.

These enrolled "second-degree" students will finish the nursing program in 12 months, while it takes regular students two years to complete.

"I'm excited," said Nan Batten, coordinator for the Fast Bacc program. "This program gives us the opportunity to meet the needs of our community and to attract a group of students that we might not necessarily get otherwise, and with the major shortage of nurses, this helps us to get more nurses into practice

in a shorter time."

Because the program is geared toward students who will already have a degree, they should be able to handle the accelerated pace, Lott said.

"These students have already been successful in getting one degree," Lott said. "They know what it takes to succeed and are very motivated to do what it takes."

Batten said she looks forward to the assortment of students the program will attract.

"This gives us opportunities to develop new teaching methodologies," Batten said. "One of the things we'll be looking at is hybrid classes, and we have a beautiful new simulation lab to help with this. This population of students will really benefit

from different teaching strategies. They truly are going to be adult learners."

The nursing school is placing an increased emphasis on meeting the needs of the aging patient population, an area called geriatric nursing, Batten said. The focus of the grant is, in part, to enhance the geriatric curriculum through new technology and additional resources.

"We have a geriatric course right now, but we want to emphasize pieces of that course throughout all rotations of their studies," Batten said. "We are seeing a whole change in our health care needs. We need to be keeping people healthier for longer, and not just practicing disease management, but combating the causes."

As medicine continues to change, nursing schools work to keep up.

"Medicare is not going to be the only answer to health care problems as health care costs continue to rise," Batten said. "We need to educate our nurses more, educate our families more."

After the grant period runs out, the nursing school plans to keep the program in operation, Lott said.

"We've got a lot of great things happening here," Lott said. "It will allow us to improve the curriculum not only in the Fast Bacc program but also in our traditional baccalaureate program to help meet the needs of the community and the university."

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WALL-E (G) 12:30 2:40 5:00 7:10 9:25  
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KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 1:00 5:25  
QUARANTINE (R) 1:20 5:45 7:50 10:10  
NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST (PG-13) 3:30  
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG-13) 12:20 2:45 5:20 7:50 10:15  
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SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING MAN: PART 2 (PG-13) 12:45 4:15 7:00 9:35  
THE LONG SHOTS (PG) 12:50 2:55 5:05 7:15 9:30  
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:55 3:10 5:30 7:45 10:00  
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COLLEGE HOUR 11:30AM  
# 254-772-9496 101 RITCHIE RD. WACO, TX 76712  
Ritchie Rd. Hwy-6 FBC Woodway



University Statement

The student recruitment process is complex and complicated. Because it is based on predictive modeling, most universities monitor their applicant pools on a daily basis.

As patterns emerge in the composition of the class, we adjust our assumptions and our programs to accommodate the things we observe. We do this to ensure that we reach our enrollment goals in areas such as the size of the incoming class, student quality and diversity.

Sometimes we make mistakes.

This past summer, Baylor mistakenly used financial incentives to help us address a problem we had identified in our scholarship process.

In response to requests from students and their families, we have moved up considerably a number of deadlines in our admissions and scholarship process. The goal of this effort was to provide students earlier decisions regarding their applications and financial aid packages.

This past May, we noticed that our discount rate — which reflects the amount of financial aid we had awarded — was lower than we had expected at that point in the recruitment process. At the same time, we observed that the average SAT score of incoming students was running lower than we had predicted.

While evaluating the problem, we discovered that many incoming freshmen had not taken the SAT test in more than a year.

The conclusion we reached was that in pushing our deadlines so far ahead, we had inadvertently created an obstacle that prevented students from later testing which would have permitted them to provide us with the very best examples of their academic

accomplishments and potential.

As an artifact of this scheduling we thought it possible that we had this year unintentionally boxed students out of merit aid they may have otherwise earned. We began an initiative inviting students to retake the SAT if they wished another opportunity to qualify for merit-based aid. Our motivation was to help students and their families qualify for merit aid that they might not otherwise get.

But we were concerned that introducing the program so late, few students would take advantage of this opportunity. It was here that we made the mistake of offering financial incentives to admitted students who would retake the test.

We provided a \$300 book scholarship to those who took the test and a \$1,000 tuition benefit to those who scored gains of 50 or more points in their average SAT. In hindsight, we regret having provided the financial incentives to students to retake the SAT this summer. We have heard and understand the criticism.

We have been and will continue to be responsive and forthcoming about this initiative.

We disagree with some of the comments that have been made by the media, including that we were doing this in an effort to increase our ranking in US News and World Report.

That is simply not true. We are sorry that this decision has brought negative attention to Baylor. We have decided to remove the financial incentives in the future as well as the testing deadline for scholarship consideration.

October 20, 2008

Ramsower distributed this letter Thursday to Student Senate.

Ramsower from page 1

and their families to qualify for merit-based aid prompted the cash incentives for higher scores on retakes, Ramsower said.

“It was here that we made the mistake of offering financial incentives to admitted students who would retake the test,” he said.

Allegations that Baylor had violated a National Association for College Admission Counseling ethics code prompted last week’s talk of a possible investigation.

Ramsower said the administration has “looked from top to bottom” and does not see a violation. “There is no indication of any further matter,” he said.

While the council presently has a rule about financial incentives for merit based scholarships, it does not go into effect until Fall 2009 Ramsower said.

One student in the room told the Lariat that while Ramsower did not avoid any of the

senators’ questions, there were a few he appeared uncomfortable answering.

Fonville expressed appre-

“We are grateful that Dr. Ramsower took the time to address Student Senate about the recent concern.”

Brian Fonville  
Student Body President



Fonville

ciation for Ramsower’s visit to student government despite all the controversy. “We are grateful that Dr. Ramsower took the time to address Student Senate about the recent concern,” he said.

External Vice President Nicole Yeakley said students were pleased to hear that administrators have seen their mistakes in use of the SAT.

In other business, Student Government also unanimously approved a proposal calling for a united campus during the presidential search. The bill proposed that students, faculty, alumni and staff serve as members of the presidential search committee.

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Brazos from page 1

tance of habitat conservation, maintaining aquatic diversity and maintaining the natural environment.

“Any vision (for improvements) should incorporate human, historical and ecological values,” Bratton said.

In 2007, Waco was awarded a National Park Service planning assistance grant for the Brazos and Bosque River Corridor. Officials from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program have worked with City of Waco officials and Baylor for the last 13 months on researching the area, said Kathryn Nichols, community planner for National Parks Service.

“We’ve received a lot of help from Baylor,” Nichols said. “They’ve helped with ecological and historical research and interpretive support.”

Baylor part-time environmental studies faculty member and City of Waco planning director, Bill Falco, said its important to provide access to the river, and he proposed linkages to connect the river with downtown.

“We want people to be able to reach our downtown shops and restaurants from the river

and connect residential areas to the river walk so we can create more pedestrians and cyclists,” Falco said. “In order to do that, we need to provide access.”

Construction is already under way on a previously funded project connecting the downtown river-walk trail to Baylor campus. It is scheduled for completion in the next 18 months.

Presenters emphasized Waco’s growth potential and possibility to become a cultural center around the corridor.

“Sometimes we need to look through the eyes of an outsider,” McLennan Community College anthropology professor Linda Pelon said. “People living in a city can take things for granted. Waco has extraordinary natural resources.”

National Park Service community planners opened a survey Sept. 25th to gather community input and ideas regarding improvements along the river. After approximately 650 responses, results show the community is most concerned about cleaning up trash and pollution in the river and improving overall beauty and civic pride of Waco.

“I’d like to see the river cleaned up and more promoted for recreational use to the Baylor community,” Forbes said.

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Bearcycle Instructor

Bears for Life

Bear Pit

Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Beta Beta

Beta Gamma Sigma

Campus Crusade for Christ

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Club Tennis Team

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Deans’ List

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Episcopal Student Center

Eta Sigma Phi Honor Society

Fashion Group

FCA

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German Club

Global Community Living Learning

Golden Key International Honor Society

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Highland Baptist Church

-Community Group Leader

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- Secretary General

Movie Club

Mu Phi Epsilon

Music Educator Association

National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Neuroscience Society

NSNA

- Historian

NSSLHA

Nutrition Club

Operation Christmas Child Coordinator

Order of Omega

Paw Pals

Psi Chi

Psychology Club

Psychological Researcher

Public Relations Student Worker

PRSSA

Reformed University Fellowship

Round Up Yearbook Staff

Santa’s Workshop Co-Director

Supplemental Instructor (SI)

Silver Wings Society

St. Peter’s Catholic Church

St. Peter’s Prison Ministry Coordinator

Student Foundation

Student Global Aids Campaign

Student Senate Activity Planning Council

Student Telecounselor Admissions Rep.

Swing Dance Society

Tri Club

Tau Alpha Kappa

University Baptist Church

Waco Humane Society

Welcome Week Leader

Wesley Foundation Member

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