

Lifelong Learning at the Mayborn Museum Fall 2023 Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

NANCY M. MOORE

Hello, and welcome to a new year of Lifelong Learning at Mayborn. It is a real honor and pleasure to serve as your President. I look forward to all the exciting events and classes that we have in store. I also welcome getting to know more of you personally, but please help me with your names. I have never been very good at that.

The brochure you received in July covers all our planned classes, coffees, day trip and luncheon for the Fall. Read more information about some of these activities in this Newsletter.

In addition, here are some of my goals for this year of service:

- Keep members who do not use computers better informed.
- Engage new volunteers from our general membership.
- Consider new Shared Interest Groups.
- Continue developing new programming possibilities.

By way of introduction, I grew up in East Texas, “behind the pine curtain,” thus the heavy southern drawl. I attended Southern Methodist University, majoring in Personnel, now called Human Resources. I have lived in Waco since 1965, except for a six-year stay in Maryland for my late husband’s work. We were married for 56 years until his passing due to cancer in 2020. I have two sons and a daughter, plus five wonderful grandchildren.

In the next Newsletter, I will share some of my interests and hobbies, but for now, I would like to thank each of you for participating in our Lifelong Learning program and encourage you to invite family and friends.

Nancy M. Moore

LLL in the Wild

Grayson, First LLL Coffee Speaker, Cooks Up Success in Café & Classroom

By Mary Taylor



Who's in the kitchen with Nancy? (*Photo by Rod Aydelotte, Waco News-Tribune*)

Ask Nancy Grayson for a recipe, and she'll write a book.

At least, that's what happened when Grayson, better known as the founder of Lula Jane's, kept being asked about favorite dishes created at her namesake East Waco bakery-café now closed on Elm Street.

Grayson is the featured speaker at Lifelong Learners' first coffee of the fall semester on Aug. 18 at the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum at 2801 W. Waco Dr. She will talk about the eatery's popularity and how it aligned with her dream of building up East Waco

"We love East Waco and know how wonderful the folks are in this historic neighborhood," she said. "So, the goal was to provide a space for gathering all people in the greater community to get to this wonderful part of town. We wanted everyone to feel welcome in the restaurant and to stay and visit."

Since the restaurant's most popular dishes were made from scratch, people kept asking how she came up with favorites like baked oatmeal, veggie lasagna, breakfast pie and potato-corn chowder.

The clamor for her southern comfort food resulted in the recent publication of “Buttermilk Pie,” a cookbook that promises to share “Secrets of Lula Jane.” Nancy’s cookery tome is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Nobel and Walmart.

“When we opened in 2012, we aimed to attract people who loved great food freshly made each day with affordable prices,” Grayson said. “We were looking for a neighborhood that could celebrate and maintain this cultural and historic nature.

“There was no one particular type of diner,” she recalled. “We had folks coming from miles around to spend time, to feel welcome and visit.”

Just before her café venture, Grayson had retired from a 13-year career as the superintendent of Rapoport Academy. As an educator with a PhD in psychology, she was concerned about the neighborhood’s consistently poor test scores at the state level.

Her solution was to establish the public charter school at 1020 Elm, on the former campus of Paul Quinn College. She worked without salary to boost the development of East Waco and to encourage children to seek school success. What she started in 1998 with 16 students, is now a nationally recognized school serving about 800 students.

“I believe in giving students, regardless of background, increased opportunities to succeed in school and life,” she said. “We must focus on students and not on what the administration needs.

“Students need to understand that there are no excuses for failure, that they can rise above the ‘speed bumps’ of life. They can apply themselves by reaching for excellence, striving to meet the core values of Rapoport Academy: respect, responsibility, integrity, hard work and creativity.”

Grayson and her husband Bob, a retired physician, became official residents this year when they moved from historic Castle Heights to a newly built home just behind the Lula Jane’s location.

Volunteers for Life

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER, MAKE ME A MATCH “A. LOVE” AFFAIR WITH LEARNING”

By Pam Denney



Are you seeking the perfect match? Where you get to learn in a fascinating, ever-changing environment and, as a bonus, get to help others, young and old, further their love of learning? Then meet your “matchmaker”: **April Love**, manager of Broader Impacts & Volunteer Engagement at the Mayborn Museum Complex.

In addition to interfacing with the Baylor Lifelong Learning program, Love manages and oversees the volunteers/docents program at the Mayborn. If you’ve ever felt the spark of excitement when your words unlock the learning process in another person, this program may be for you.

Love, a Plano, TX native, offered these basic details about the Mayborn’s volunteer program. There are basically two volunteer type positions: **Greeter** or **Interpreter**. Greeters introduce guests to the museum as they enter, offer wayfinding resources, general exhibit information and respond to any other questions.

Interpreters answer visitor questions in the exhibit galleries, help facilitate discussion and encourage exploration throughout a specific exhibit, says the 2018 Baylor grad who majored in history and minored in museum studies.

April, who interned at the Mayborn while a student, worked as Volunteer Coordinator at Friends for Life after graduating, joining the Museum in her current position in September 2022. Her sons, Jack and Andrew, are in the Air Force and a student at McLennan Community College, respectively.

Volunteers Are Not “free labor”

April stated emphatically that she does not view volunteers as “free labor,” but rather, as essential donors to the museum -- donors of their time and experience, donors of their love of learning. The pandemic curtailed volunteer ranks and rebuilding has become a major priority.

She views herself as a “matchmaker.” Every potential volunteer has a specific history, interests, talents and skills. “My highest and best use . . . is to be a matchmaker... to match their talents and skills and their interests to a wide range of potential volunteer duties.”

First and foremost, her job is not to “work the volunteer,” but instead to unlock and find the perfect match for that volunteer’s interests. Is your interest art, history, geology, literature, science or working with children?

“My job is to find that perfect match for you, and to let you donate your own museum of personal resources in a manner that is joyful and rewarding for you,” Love noted.

Her greatest personal reward is witnessing a volunteer “grow into a position and make it their own.” For example, while each volunteer receives a prepared set of materials and responses on an exhibit he or she may be working, some volunteers enlarge upon that information with their own personal experiences. They often learn more about the exhibit from the visitors, and in researching answers to their questions.

April professes a love for working with LLL program members. “They are a great group of folks!” The other aspect of her responsibilities, the Museum’s Broader Impacts program, helps professors and researchers at Baylor present their research to the public.

For example, Michael Scullin, a PhD Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, is studying the impact of sleep habits on a student’s ability to learn complex STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) material. April helped him present “Mystery Mondays at the Museum” where he read mystery stories and tied into his fascinating sleep research.

Asked about feedback from volunteers, she said responses are wide-ranging, but two consistently come up: “Volunteers loved the questions from visitors, especially children, and they loved being a

part of the family of museum employees.” There’s even a break room for volunteers and staff, an informal place for getting to know one another, she added.



Baylor student and Mayborn intern Kayla Bush joins Love in the breakroom.

April’s Q&A for Interested Volunteers.

Q. *What are the requirements for being a volunteer?*

A. Each volunteer must undergo a standard background check, fill out a volunteer release form, and attend about one hour of engagement training. Then it’s on to April to find you a match. No museum or teaching background is needed; only an interest in the Museum and the love of learning and interacting with guests of all ages.

Q. *Are there minimum hour requirements for being a volunteer?*

A. There are no minimum hours one must meet or promise to work, but April hopes she can find an area in which you will want to volunteer regularly.

Q. *Are there any perks to being a volunteer?*

A. Volunteers receive a 25% discount at the Museum store, are treated to an annual Volunteer Appreciation Day and have special access to tickets at the museum all year. That’s beside the obvious joy of being a part of the Museum community, sharing your love of learning with visitors, and presenting new learning opportunities to the public any day of the week.

Q. *What should I do if I am interested in being a volunteer?*

A. Reach out to April at A_Love@baylor.edu, call **254-710-1217** or link to <https://mayborn.web.baylor.edu/membership-support/volunteer> for more information!

When you inquire, do not expect April Love to break into her best impersonation of matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi (“Hello Dolly!”) or into song. Do expect to be welcomed with open arms.

Author’s Note: *I am so taken with this opportunity, I’ll probably be in training when you read this feature.* - P.D.



Connecting With Our Members

ANN JOHNSTON, STANDING STRONG, GOING LONG

By Preston F. Kirk

If you want to keep up with first-year LLL member Ann Johnston, you had better take a deep breath, slip on your garden gloves or your hunting camouflage or that funky fishing hat with the tied flies. Might want to bring your birding binoculars, and don't forget your Baptist hymnal and your intellect!

Ann, who celebrated her 78th birthday on July 22, is a Rio Grande Valley native with enough energy – and resolve – to power her Golden Court neighborhood, which sits squarely between Woodway and McGregor. Hard to believe she lost her high-school sweetheart-husband of 55 years only 17 months ago.

"I'm determined to stand strong," Ann intoned. "My sister-in-law died shortly afterwards. I was foggy. I told myself, 'Don't do anything drastic.' My life had changed, but I was not going to let it change me."

When the fog began to lift, she sold her house, bought another in Waco where her daughter lives and hours closer to her son in Rockwall. She also jumped into Lifelong Learning thanks to the LLL billboard her daughter saw in Hewitt. Ann signed up for two seminars in the fall and five in the spring.

"Too many! I couldn't choose. I learned the hard way," she admitted while singing the praises of courses on stargazing, Waco architecture, Texas' big ranches and national parks trip planning. She's a regular at coffees, field trips, lunches and is already on the Curriculum Team, "planning topics and speakers two years out. And I may be the coordinator for Eager Eaters next year."

Ann concedes that she "spent a lot of time attending things," since her late husband owned several Century 21 offices in the Valley and was active in the city, county and region for real estate groups and city government. But she had her own long-running career.

"I taught school for 41 years, kindergarten through sixth grade, mostly gifted and talented children and also served as the testing coordinator," she recounted. "Second graders still like school, think

their teacher is pretty and are eager to learn. My daughter Carrie is an instructional learning coach, helping teachers better utilize technology in the classroom at Midway Middle School. My granddaughter Katie teaches math at the high school.”

In case you lost count, Katie marks the seventh generation of educators in the family. Something else that runs in the family, a love of the outdoors.

“My husband and grandfather were both hunters and fishermen,” Ann said. “This is the first year I’ve ever missed buying a fishing license. We did a lot of saltwater fishing off South Padre Island and caught white bass on Lake Amistad. My son, Brent, has a boat and fishes on Lake Ray Hubbard and will require me to be licensed.”



Ann is a Texas Master Gardener but is re-certifying here through a ten-week course requiring one eight-hour day a week.

“The Valley is semi-tropical and arid. I had half an acre. Here you have a lot of rock and plants are different,” she noted. “My house here had one tree and five crepe myrtles. So, I took over. . . determined to make this place pretty. I now have trees, flowers, a few vegetables, a bird bath and bird feeders.”

Since the Rio Grande Valley is a “bottleneck” for the three major migratory flyways in North America, Ann learned birding firsthand. She joined area citizens “to put a lot of stuff out or rush to the beach” when bad weather causes a “fall out” that forces the exhausted, hungry birds down. She would like to see the formation of an LLL Share Interest Group (SIG): McLennan County Birding.

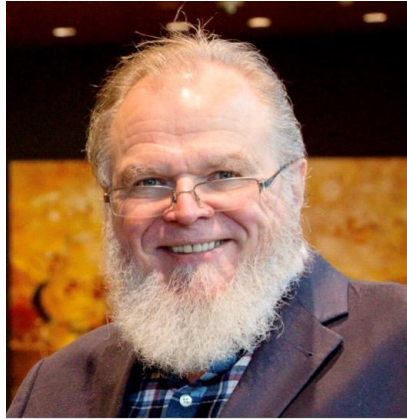
The “newcomer” credits two groups for getting her back in the swing of life: “Just Moved” Bible Study for women at First Woodway Baptist Church, where local lunches followed study. “I made some true friends . . . found out about everything I needed on Hewitt Drive,” she said with a laugh.

“In October, I spent the day with a full bus of LLL members. Got to know them. More good friends and more inclusivity, movies, theatres and concerts. Now they’re including me in a group to go to plays, ‘Clue’ at Whitney, ‘Steel Magnolias’ in Granbury and ‘Oliver’ in Waco.”

Lifelong Learning meeting on the Baylor campus may be the cherry on Ann’s sundae.

“I wanted to go to Baylor, but graduated from UT-Austin. As the oldest child, Daddy said he would pay, but it had to be a public school. His (parents) had sent five boys to college, all to the University of Texas and their children were all sent to UT. My husband’s family were all educated at Baylor as were all our children.”

If you visit Ann’s home, that will explain the “hybrid flag” she flies: Half Baylor . . . half Texas.



Connecting With Our Instructors

DR. “BOB” MARKS EXPLORES THE AI PHENOMENON AND FAITH

By Judy Staples

Distinguished Professor Dr. Robert J. Marks II (his friends call him “Bob”) will place *artificial intelligence* front and center during his Lifelong Learning course that begins Oct. 26th at the Mayborn Theater.

Under the title, “**Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and God,**” he will dig into the significant spiritual influences in today’s world with rapidly changing science and technology. His work includes fascinating research and studies on scientists and their faith and the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI).

Bob earned his Ph.D. in his 20s and has been involved in the development of several forms of artificial intelligence for more than three decades. Currently, he and fellow researcher Baylor Prof. Charles Baylis are co-investigators on projects funded by the Army, Navy, National Science Foundation and Keysight Technologies.

Bob was Editor-in-Chief of “IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks,” one of the top journals in AI. His most recent book, “Non-Computable You: What You Do That Artificial Intelligence Never Will,” reached No. 1 on Amazon in its AI & Sentience area rankings.

He has been interviewed by C-Span, Fox News, “Fortune” magazine, “The Epoch Times,” Coast-to-Coast AM, the Dove TV Network, and popular radio and TV hosts Laura Ingraham, Kim Komando and Michael Medved. Bob is a regular columnist for Newsmax and hosts a weekly podcast “Mind Matters News” at MindMatters.ai.

One of his lectures is based on Baylor Distinguished Engineering Professor Emeritus Walter Bradley who arguably had a greater impact on Christianity in the 20th century than any other full-time professor. Bob describes Walter as “... a hero. He taught me how to live out-loud as a Christian in academia.”

Prof. Marks is both Director and Senior Fellow of the Walter Bradley Center for Natural and Artificial Intelligence. The talk is based on Bob’s book, coauthored with William Dembski with a forward by J.P. Moreland, entitled “For a Greater Purpose: The Life and Legacy of Walter Bradley.”

Bob also will address whether the human mind is more than the human brain. That lecture is based on the book “Minding the Brain,” which he is co-editing. It is scheduled for release later this year.

To register for this lecture series, go to <https://mayborn.web.baylor.edu/lifelong-learning-mayborn-museum/lifelong-learning-courses>, where you will find all the courses and registration. Register early. “Bob Marks” your calendar to be there. This is one you won’t want to miss!



Lights Around Waco

SCENIC BRAZOS RIVERWALK, A HUB OF ACTIVITIES . . . AND GROWING

By Sam Wilson

Baylor Lifelong Learning members who attended Baylor (or at least visited Waco) in the 1960s, '70s or '80s can see many significant improvements between the Waco then and the Waco now. One of the most striking is the **Brazos Riverwalk** trail system development – seven miles of paved, lighted pathways suitable for walking, jogging and biking.

The Riverwalk, also wheelchair- and stroller-accessible, provides connections from the Baylor campus to Cameron Park as well as to the east and west banks of the Brazos via four bridges: Herring Avenue, Washington Avenue, Waco Suspension and the pedestrian bridge linking the BU campus to McLane Stadium. On the east bank, walkways extend from the Clyde Hart Track & Field Stadium to the Brazos Park East boat ramp.

The southernmost point of the system lies on the west bank near the Baylor Ballpark. From there, one can travel five miles north and west along the west bank, ending near the Redwood Shelter, where Cameron Park’s unpaved River Trail begins and continues for another two miles. Also find parking, restrooms and picnic tables.



Brief History: The Riverwalk was begun in the 1980's following the creation of Indian Springs Park, when the section from the Suspension Bridge to Fort Fisher was built. Trails around the Bledsoe-Miller Community Center and the extension to Cameron Park were completed by the turn of the century. In the 2000s, the extension to the Baylor campus and more east side sections were added.

Jonathan B. Cook, Director of Waco Parks & Recreation, says about "\$20 million is being allocated" to restoring the inaccessible trail section near the new Foster Pavilion now heading to completion.

"Connectivity along the riverfront is crucial," Cook emphasized. "The new enhancements will create a safe, park-like atmosphere throughout that stretch and also include a variety of art and historical elements." Future plans for the Waco Trail System can be studied here:

<https://tinyurl.com/9njbsh66>.

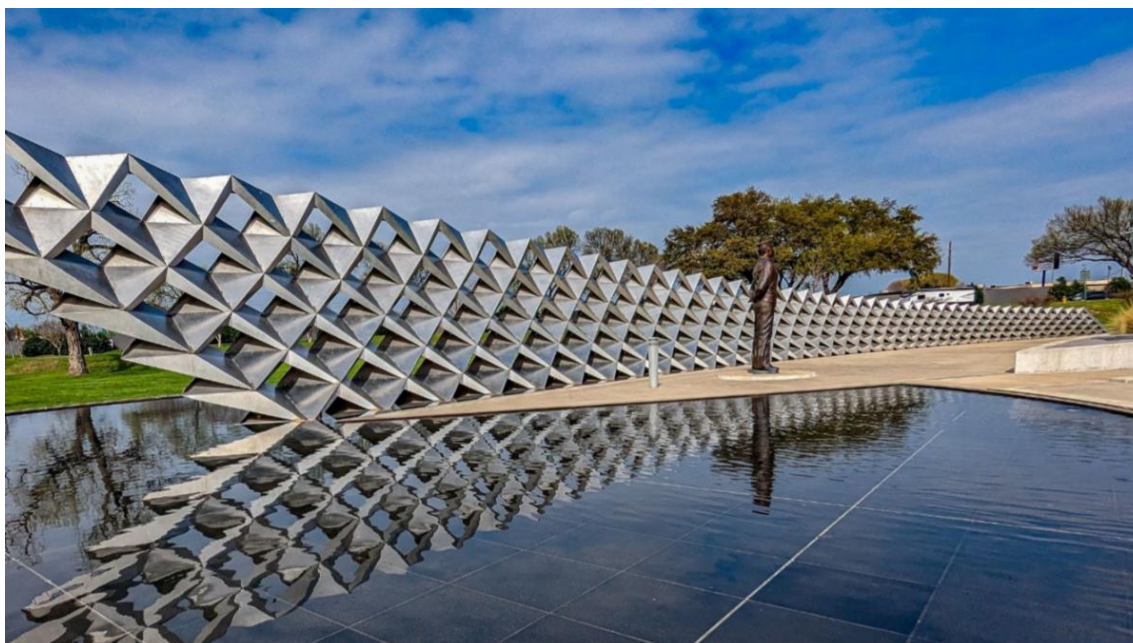
Points of interest along the Brazos Riverwalk are too long to list completely here. Among them are several restaurants, tourist attractions such as the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, and Waco historical sites such as the East Terrace Museum.

Additionally, between the suspension bridge and the Park there are 28 sculptures of animals either found in the Cameron Park Zoo or native to central Texas. Indian Springs Park contains the "Branding the Brazos" sculptures, where larger-than-life bronze longhorn cattle and cowboys can be admired.

Other sculptures commemorate Waco native and Navy hero Doris Miller (east bank near the Washington Avenue bridge); Col. John R. Kane and 1st Lt. Jack Lummus, medal of honor winners who attended Baylor University (near McLane Stadium).

Events hosted on or adjacent to the Riverwalk include the Brazos Nights Concert Series in Indian Springs Park; the Fourth on the Brazos celebration; tailgating and sail-gating for Baylor football games, and farmers' markets on the Bridge Street Plaza and Heritage Square. Additional Riverwalk activities include fishing, kayaking, disc golf and rowing. For children there are playgrounds on either side of the river and a splashpad in Pecan Bottoms Park.

Observation: One the most important aspects of the Riverwalk is not found on maps or websites. It is the engaging intersections with diverse members of the Waco community. Folks willing to try opening conversations with strangers will usually not be rebuffed and may even make a new friend. Too shy? Engage in people-watching to learn more about the range of citizens who share our cityscape.



World War II hero Doris Miller of Waco is commemorated in bronze along the Riverwalk.

To enjoy more of G. Samuel Wilson Jr.'s copyrighted Riverwalk photographs, please visit:
<https://www.encounteredmoments.com/Places/Waco-Highlights>

Coming Up

SPECIAL EVENTS FALL 2023

The coffee events are free and open to the public. Invite your friends to learn more about Lifelong Learning. Trips and luncheons require an active LLL membership or accompanying as a guest of an LLL member. Register online at baylor.edu/lifelonglearning or in person at the Mayborn Museum front desk.

Friday, Aug. 18, COFFEE at the Lee Lockwood Library, 2801 W Waco Dr.

9:30 a.m. Refreshments; 10 a.m. Program

Speaker: Nancy Grayson, "Yes ... It Really Is About Overalls." She is the founder of the exemplary Rapoport Academy and of the delicious Lula Jane's bakery, builder of tiny houses in East Waco, recently published recipe book and much more!

Friday, Sept. 22, COFFEE at the Mayborn Museum

9:30 a.m. Refreshments; 10 a.m. Program

Speaker: Jeremy Counsellor, Baylor School of Law Faculty Member, on "Don't Learn Your Law from the Movies." Through a series of clips from movies and television shows, he will illustrate what Hollywood gets wrong (and sometimes right) about the law.

Friday, Oct. 27, COFFEE at the Mayborn Theater

9:30 a.m. Refreshments; 10 a.m. Program

Speaker: Janet Roller. Curious about ghosts and haunted places? If so, come join this paranormal investigator, for a discussion on all things spooky! Wear a costume and join the fun!

Friday, Nov. 10 (All Day)

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - "Deep in the Art of Texas!"

Bus trip to Clifton TX to see The Rock Church, Bosque Museum, the downtown art district, Cliftex Theater, Classic Chassis (classic cars) and Railroad Museum. Plan now to spend the day enjoying the sights!

Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, LLL Annual Christmas Luncheon

11:00 a.m., Doors open; Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. -

Fifth Floor of Cashion Academic Center on campus

A wonderful holiday gathering of food, fellowship and festivities. Watch your email or check the Lifelong Learning website for further details prior to this event, including the program and how to register. Don't miss it!

These activities are subject to change. Please note that all classes comply with Baylor University's protocols. Registrants will be informed of any changes via email.

Adjacent Activities

Baylor students bring the campus back-to-life in mid-August and September kicks off the 2023 college sports season with the first volleyball match vs. Rice on **Sept. 1** and the first of eight home football games beginning with Texas State on **Sept. 2**. Then there are women's soccer, tennis matches, cross country meets and equestrian events. Lifelong Learning classes begin on **Sept. 5**.

For a calendar index of ALL Baylor events by categories, go to:

<https://www.baylor.edu/calendar/index.php?id=968793>.



“Bright Bright Light II” by Nigerian artist Marcellina Akpojotor

The groundbreaking **“NARRATIVE AS REALITY ... Constructing an Identity”** exhibit concludes at the Martin Museum of Art across the street from the Mayborn on **Nov. 6**

A few events to highlight your autumn adventures:

- The Mark & Paula Hurd Welcome Center, “a new front door to the Baylor Campus,” will officially open on **Friday, Sept. 8.**
- The Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, “Called Together in an Age of Discord,” will be held in the Bill Daniel Student Center at Baylor **Oct. 25-27.** For more information, call 254-710-4805 or e-mail at IFL@baylor.edu.
- Baylor Homecoming Festivities include the eclectic performances during the Pigskin Review at Waco Hall **Oct. 26-28,** and the Homecoming Parade downtown and 5th Street, and the football game vs. Iowa State on **Saturday, Oct. 28.**
- Tickets for the famous Baylor Christmas Concert go on sale on **Nov. 1.**

-- Liz Arend

[Learn More](#)

[About Lifelong Learning](#)

[Lifelong Learning Courses](#)

[Lifelong Learning Events](#)

[Lifelong Learning Volunteers](#)

[Lifelong Learning Brochure](#)

LIFELONG
Learning
active mind, active life
at THE MAYBORN MUSEUM

Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex | 1300 S. University Parks Dr., One Bear Place
#97154, Waco, TX 76706

[Unsubscribe kyle_gray@baylor.edu](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by rebecca_tucker@baylor.edu