

Baylor Student Follows Dream

By: Sam Landess

Life after graduation can be extremely challenging. For those without jobs, it can be one of the hardest times in life. Even people with job security and a true plan for the future can have a tough time getting adjusted to the real world and life after college.

Craig Hatch is one of thousands of college students that will graduate this spring and like most others he needs a job. Hatch was born and raised in Boerne, Texas. Growing up a Spurs fan, he dreamed of playing for Coach Greg Popovich and the San Antonio Spurs. When he realized in high school that playing for the Spurs was not going to come true, he looked to what he could do next.

This led to his decision to attend Baylor University, following in the footsteps of his older brother. "Going into Baylor my freshman year I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to major in or what my career would be after I graduate," Hatch said.

Hatch ended up choosing sociology for his major, but did not know what he could do with that major. He also figured out he loved woodworking.

He first got into woodworking his sophomore year while working on his fraternities float. He was helping the float chair in charge of the woodworking aspect of the float. He knew next to nothing but was able to



Craig Hatch works on a new cedar wood table at the E2 Creative shop. (Photo by Sam Landess)

learn quite a bit during those months working on the float. He loved knowing that he could create something from starting with basically nothing. Hatch loves to be active all the time and being able to work with wood was the perfect hobby for him.

Over the next year Hatch mainly did work on the side for friends and family doing small projects like a nightstand or unique shelves to hang. He hoped to join a company that would allow him to follow his passion for woodworking sometime soon.

At the beginning of his junior year, Hatch started working for a woodworking shop in Waco called E2 Creative. E2 Creative is a custom craft shop providing handmade, quality, custom pieces to customers. They make anything from wooden ornaments to wooden lamp stands to more unique pieces such as a family hardwood dinner table. They also specialize in making outdoor picnic



*Craig Hatch and other employees at E2 Creative work together to remodel a coffee shop.
(Photo by Sam Landess)*

tables for toddlers.

Hatch is still currently working at E2 Creative as the project manager and vice president and plans to continue this role after graduation.

“Craig is one of the hardest workers I have ever had the privilege of working with,” Hunter Gorman said, Founder and CEO of E2 Creative. “It was a no brainer when making the decision to hire him. It was an even easier decision to promote him to project manager and vice president.”

It seemed like Hatch had turned his hobby into a job, but there was one problem, he wanted something more than just physical labor as a job. He wanted to challenge himself more mentally and more specifically, spiritually.

Hatch became interested in seminary. “I grew up a Christian and knew I loved Jesus, but I never thought that I wanted to go to school for it,” Hatch said. He had many friends while in

college decide to go to seminary, which peaked his interest. He began looking into it and felt he knew this is what he was supposed to do.

During the fall semester, he started applying to seminary schools in Texas. After hearing back from multiple schools he decided to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Forth Worth, Texas.

Hatch had a problem though. He had to decide on his future plans after graduation choosing between seminary school or a secure job that he loves. “I had a big decision to make, Hatch said. “I had to decide between my two favorite passions in my life. But luckily I found a way to do both.”

By luck he meant a blessing. After speaking with people from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and his bosses at E2 Creative, he found an alternative situation that would make both his passions work.

Starting in May, Hatch will stay in Waco and continue his job at E2 Creative while taking classes online through Southwestern Seminary. “It will be challenging to do both seminary and my job at E2 Creative, but I know I can do it with hard work and dedication,” Hatch said.

In a way Craig believes that both of his passions will go together very easily. They are the two things he loves to do, which will make life easier for him. It will be a challenging time in his life but when someone loves doing what they do, it makes life and work that much more fun.