the brooks college newsletter

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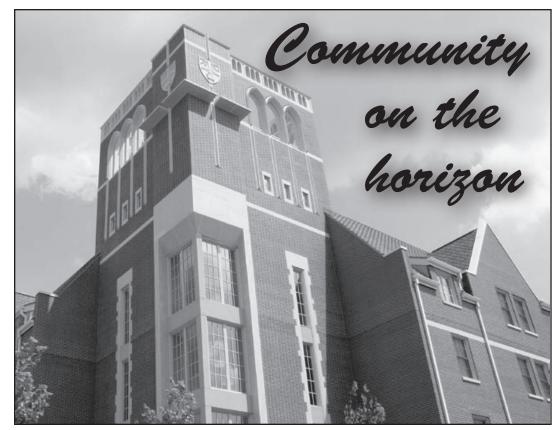


Emilie Moore *Staff Writer*

Welcome to Brooks! Brace yourself; you may have heard or read the following words a time or two before...

"Because of what Baylor has meant to you in the past, because of what she will mean to you in the future, oh, my students, have a care for her. Build upon the foundations here the great school of which I have dreamed, so that she may touch and mold the lives of future generations and help to fit them for life here and hereafter. To you seniors of the past, of the present, of the future I entrust the care of Baylor University. To you I hand the torch. My love be unto you and my blessing be upon vou."

This is the last paragraph of the last commencement address of Samuel Palmer Brooks, seventh president of Bay-



lor, and our beloved college's namesake. It strikes me as a bit odd to begin the year with an ending, but it is necessary; if we are to understand how to proceed, we must see what has preceded us, and we must have an objective to reach.

S.P. Brooks worked diligently to improve our university, and to impact his students' lives.

At the end of his life, he acknowledged that he had done what he could and was at that time giving the care of Baylor into the hands of the students of all ages. It is the duty and the delight of those who come after to pick up where the ones before left off. It is the delight – and duty – of those who came before to pass down what they have accomplished,

to the ones who succeed them.

Brooks Residential College is a community, and though its members come and go, that community remains. It's like waves in the ocean. The Waves disturb the water, but eventually pass on. The water is unmarred by the motion of the waves, but still

See Horizon, page 2

Horizon

CONTINUED, PAGE 1

affected by them. Or may- we'd see that we're need- regrets. So that when you be it's like the clouds in ed. Each of us has a purleave this place, you can the sky; the clouds travel, pose here. The sky itself look the future members sometimes bearing rain, cannot change a cloud, of Brooks in the eyes and shade or a way for the but the cloud may be sun to shine through, yet the sky endures through anything the clouds may other waves, and from bring.

fect metaphors, and cannot describe a community like ours. You must experience it for yourself. We can't know what it is like to be a cloud, or a wave. Unless you become a part of something, you cannot truly know what it is like to have that experience.

It may seem purposeless to be that cloud in the sky if you only think of it as something that passes away. But it is more than that. The cloud, makes the atmosphere and the ground below it different from how they would have been without it. Then it moved on.

For you who are new to our community, you are a cloud just appearing on the horizon. You are going to take your place in Brooks. And it is up to you whether you make a difference or not. The sky cannot change the cloud, and the ocean cannot convince the wave of anything; it must be your decision to call Brooks your community.

another's lives, if only back, you will have no was worth it."

changed for being in that and sisters. I have fought sky. Waves collide with the good fight, I have finthat, a new sort of wave the faith. My time here Neither of these are per- results. We have the op- is complete, and I would portunity to impact each not trade it for the world. other every day, and in so doing, to pass on to each other what we learn and cepted and continued, so know.

> chosen for this community, and one day you will leave it. There is little room to argue with that. But what you can determine is what sort of com-It will either be one that one that never knew you while you were here.

Those who have gone before us have moved on and given us their responsibilities, which are named in the Community Covenant. It is now our task, and our joy, to carry them out to the best of our ability. If I were ever asked why we are exanswer in this way: "Because it is worth it."

yourself to a group of fully intent on giving themselves to you. It is

say, "Here, dear brothers ished the face, I have kept I now hand to you the work I myself have acthat you also may have a Each of you has been care for it. It will change vour life."

I imagine that this is what Samuel Palmer Brooks meant. And he could not have conceived of Brooks Residential Colmunity you leave behind. lege, so fittingly named for a man who gave living is sad to see you go, or his very best, and then gave the glory to God. Soon, you will be presented many opportunities. Don't let them pass you by. May this be our prayer every day: that we would proceed with every effort to carry the torch as far as we can, in order to hand it off one day, without shame or anxiety, but with gladness and fulfillpected to do this, I would ment. Maybe much later you will have the chance to return, and indeed you It is worth it to give should do so. What will you see then? The compeople who in turn are munity will have continued, and you will see the work of those 'seniors of Now we come to the worth it to invest yourself the past, of the present, final point. We matter to in something lasting. It is of the future.' And what I each other. We can truly worth it to live in such a intend to say in that momake a difference in one way that when you look ment is, "My word. That



I am excited to be joining Brooks College. My hope is that we can continue to glorify Christ through our community's pursuit of excellence in all facets of our lives.

> Caleb Farmer Hall Director

My prayer for you as you enter Brooks is that you might experience spiritual growth and spiritual depth. That your faith might be stretched by challenging questions and fresh insights. That your trust might be

renewed by age-old wisdom and daily disciplines. My prayer for you is that you might experience the transforming power of community.

That the tender care of those around you might heal your broken places. And that your love for others might mature in sincerity and impartial-

> - Kyndall Renfro Chaplain

Passing on "The Torch"

Brooks members sat in a room and brainstormed a name for a potential Brooks College newsletter. Something that wasn't cheesy or weird, but truly epitomized our to you Katy McDowall, community, newly begun as it was. It came to our attention that a popular catchphrase from S.P. Brooks might just lend us inspiration.

born. Our first editor gave the Torch. Cheers, Katy! us the start we needed, involving students and



Katy McDowall

It's an incredible honor to be becoming the editor of The Torch. I can only hope to live up to Emilie's genius.

This time last year I was a freshman embarking on my Baylor journey. I found myself at Brooks, an opportunity I do not feel I took proper advantage of.

My involvement was minimal. I sporadically attended Sunday dinners and was seldom at any other events. Looking back, I realize what a mistake that was.

I missed out on so much by not becoming more involved in the Brooks community.

Two years ago, several creating something the community could have in common. Last year, I very much enjoyed the opportunity to follow in her footsteps. And now it is my pleasure to introduce our adept new Editor.

I have every confidence (as should you) that she will carry on the work quite terrifically. And so, to continue the tradition, Thus, The Torch was we quite literally hand on

- Emilie Moore

This year, my goal was to make that change and I feel that I'm starting to make that happen. Last May, Amber Como, our president, mentioned that Emilie was looking for a replacement and I finally took initiative to find a role for myself here at Brooks.

My hope for this year, is that I will make some sort of impact and will hopefully inspire others to do the same.

The Torch needs you, Brooks members, to function. Your involvement in contributing in any way, whather it be writing, taking pictures, drawing cartoons or even submitting ideas would be much appreciated.

I hope that we can continue to prosper as a community and fully utilize The Torch as a means to do so.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Move-in Day

8/19

4-5 p.m. Come & Go Reception For Students: Great Hall For Parents: Master's Residence

6-7 p.m. College-Wide Dinner: Great Hall 7-8 p.m. Hall Meetings

Welcome Week 8/20-8/23

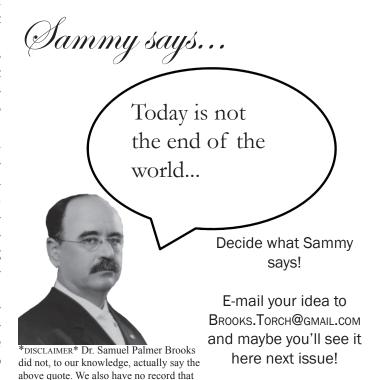
College-Wide Dinner 8/23 6 p.m. Great Hall

Spiritual Life Welcome Dinner 8/24 5p.m. Fountain Mall

Mosaic Mixer 8/26 6:30 p.m. Barfield Drawing Room

Out of State Mixer 8/27 6 p.m. Barfield Drawing Room

Late Night at the SLC 8/28 9 p.m. McLane Student Life Center



he ever went by the nickname 'Sammy.'

Taking something from summer



Fischer Contributing

Summer can be defined in many ways.

Most see summer as a break between the stressful semesters of school, some see it as a chance to catch up on classes and study for future ones, poverty while others see it as a chance to explore another world outside of their in an area

What you do with your summer is your choice and I am not here to say one choice is better than the other, but this summer I decided to take a

mission trip Nairobi, Kenya.

With myself, the team included five Brooks College students and our former Brooks College Director, Larry, and

his wife Christy.

In Nairobi things are much different than they are here. There is a very defined divide between the poor and the rich, but

one thing that struck me was the faith of the people.

The photos we see here in the United States mostdepict the people of Nairobi as highly stricken and living torn apart by violence.

Although there is a lot of poverty and violence, most people that I encountered had a strong faith in God providing for the States. them.



ably ing, what in the world does this have to do with my

Although this was surprising, even more so was the contentment that most of the people had for at Brooks College provide the way they lived.



what little they had and

the way that information is presented to us here in a test.

I guess I was expect-

ing the poor class in Nairobi to feel hatred they how must but I soon discovered otherwise.

summer?

Well, I wanted to share this story with you because I feel as though we something for each other People made due with that redefines college life.

We are only not going to be in the same residential college for the next but year, we are going to live together for the next year.

If you get involved in vour community, it will return

always had an attitude of the favor by giving you friends that will sit and This made me rethink listen, or stay up with you all night long to study for

> Going to Kenya not only gave me a new perspective on a world that is mostly only seen in photos, but gave me a sense of connection with Brooks College by representing one of the College's strongest attributes - giving back to the community.

I would like to say, "Welcome to Brooks!" or "Welcome back to think- Brooks!" and may God bless you and your loved ones for the year to come!

> See more pictures from the Brooks Kenva trip at www.brookscollegeinkenva.shutterfly.com!

Summer among the dreaming spires



ennifer Atwood Contributing

Around campus, if people don't know anything else about Brooks College, they are sure to know us as "the Harry Potter dorm."

Indeed, many of you probably found the Great Hall to be one of the highlights of your own tour of Brooks, if you came and visited the college before applying. Our Great Hall is modeled after the Great Hall at Christ Church College at Oxford, but the similarities between that institution and our own do not end with dining facilities. Our entire residential college concept is based on similar college systems at universities like Oxford and Cambridge.

This summer, I studied at Christ Church with the Baylor in Oxford program, an incredible five weeks that allowed me to experience that kind of collegiate life firsthand.

If you aren't familiar with all the different types of study abroad programs, the "Baylor in programs allow you to travel with a group of fellow Baylor students to take classes from Baylor professors at foreign universities.

Our group had eleven opportunities, which is of the largest and most fastudents and three profes-

small at first, but ended up being a perfect size. We got to do a lot of traveling while we were in these travels, I got to England, some that was organized for the whole group and also a lot on our own. A group that small made it so much

train and go.

One day, for example,

my professor walked into

class and said, "Ok, guys.

Pack up all your books

and grab your rail passes.

We are going to visit Ke-

nilworth Castle today, in-

stead of sitting here listen-

ing to me lecture." This

is one of the virtues of

studying abroad in gen-

eral, but the central loca-

tion of Oxford as relative

to all of Southern England

made this an even more

also available for travel-

ling, and many of us took

full advantage of those

frequent occurrence.

sors, which seemed rather highly encourage anyone being the one-time home going on a study abroad of Albert Einstein (his old trip to do.

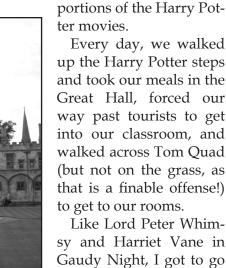
During the course of meet up with fellow in Wonderland (Charles Brooks College members, who were also spending their summers overseas. Whether attending a West Church), and yes, also easier to simply hop on a End performance of Les

Miserables with our pres-

co-chair, it was so incred-

with my Prexian friends

evening!



Every day, we walked up the Harry Potter steps and took our meals in the Great Hall, forced our way past tourists to get into our classroom, and walked across Tom Quad (but not on the grass, as that is a finable offense!) to get to our rooms.

room is now the Gradu-

ate Common Room),

the birthplace of Alice

Dodgson, more common-

ly known as Lewis Carroll

was a math tutor at Christ

where they filmed several

Like Lord Peter Whimsv and Harriet Vane in Gaudy Night, I got to go punting down the River Isis. We even made friends with a few Oxident, or picnicking in ford students, and it was front of the Eiffel Tower so much fun to hang out with my former ComTrad with them and get to know what their college ible to be able to hang out lives are like.

Oxford is so full of hisall over the world. I even tory and such a major got to meet up with the force in literature that ev-Henrys while they were erywhere you turned, it in England, and baby- seemed there was some sit Zachary, Dr. Henry's new experience to have or three-year-old son, for an something to be in awe of.

On the whole, I had an Even though getting utterly wonderful experithe opportunity to travel ence, and I would go back was amazing, I think my in an instant. I would en-Our weekends were favorite moments of the courage all of you to take trip were probably when advantage of the study we were just living in Ox- abroad programs that ford. Christ Church is one Baylor has (particularly Baylor in Oxford) - it'll be something that I would mous colleges at Oxford, the time of your life!

Dear freshmen,



Ashley Davis Staff Writer

After a long and tiring day of moving in, a shower and sleep probably sound like a good idea.

However, two people may have visited you while you were knee deep in cardboard boxes and told you that they would be your Welcome Week leaders, whatever that means.

You might have been so busy unpacking that you didn't really make much of it. But you should have.

Welcome Week is a tradition at Baylor that

makes the transition from high school to college life a little easier and is a meaningful experience for everyone that goes through it.

When you look at the schedule your leaders gave you and realize that you're supposed to come and meet them at 8 o'clock after a busy day, you might be tempted to ignore it and take a nap.

You might not think it's important, and it's not like it'll go on your transcript or anything. It won't hurt your chances at making all A's, running for freshman class president or getting into a Greek organization.

It will, however, be a missed opportunity. You

miss out on making important and lasting connections with both your leaders and your group members.

Many students on campus will tell you that they made many of their best friends from people they met in and through their welcome week groups.

Aside from being an ex¬cellent way to make new friends and meet new people, Welcome Week challenges you to think about the obstacles you will face and how you can overcome them.

The things you'll talk about with your group, your leaders and others you might meet will make you think hard about everything you've been through and every¬thing you've yet to do.

In other words, Welcome Week could change your life.

It's a "week" that consists of four incredibly intense days that will surprise you, make you laugh, cry and feel like you belong at Brooks and Baylor.

Your Baylor experience starts with Welcome Week and no matter what else you do here, the one thing you'll have in common with every student is your Welcome Week experience.

So instead of sitting in your room wondering what to do on Thursday night, be a part of Welcome Week.

Brooks Classifieds

CALLING FRESHMEN!

The Torch wants to hear what you have to say!
What is the Freshman Experience? What
challenges have you faced thus far? Who are you? Where are
you from?
Send us your story!

Send us your story!
BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM

NEED PRAYER?

The Brooks Prayer Team meets daily to pray for requests from the College and beyond. If you have a request, send an email to

BROOKSPRAYER@GMAIL.COM

Let us know how to pray! Also, if you are interested in joining, please do. The team is open to all.

THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

If you're interested in meeting other great people, contributing to the commnuty that supports you and making Brooks even better, why not stop by a committee meeting this week? You can join any time, so visit and find the one that fits you!

COMMUNITY AND TRADITIONS - ACADEMICS- CAMPUS LIFE- MINISTRY AND SERVICE

HANDING OUT

THE TORCH

SINCE FALL 2007

Ashley Davis Staff Writer
Emilie Moore Staff Writer
Katy McDowall Editor

Join the Torch team! If you have any interest in writing, photography or other useful skills, please consider contributing. No former background is required. Please contact us at

Brooks.Torch@gmail.com