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THE TORCH

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 you."

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

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affected by them. Or maybe it's like the clouds in the sky; the clouds travel, sometimes bearing rain, shade or a way for the sun to shine through, yet the sky endures through anything the clouds may bring.

Neither of these are perfect 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.

Now we come to the final point. We matter to each other. We can truly make a difference in one another's lives, if only

we'd see that we're needed. Each of us has a purpose here. The sky itself cannot change a cloud, but the cloud may be changed for being in that sky. Waves collide with other waves, and from that, a new sort of wave results. We have the opportunity to impact each other every day, and in so doing, to pass on to each other what we learn and know.

Each of you has been 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 community you leave behind. It will either be one that is sad to see you go, or 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 expected to do this, I would answer in this way: "Because it is worth it."

It is worth it to give yourself to a group of people who in turn are fully intent on giving themselves to you. It is worth it to invest yourself in something lasting. It is worth it to live in such a way that when you look back, you will have no

regrets. So that when you leave this place, you can look the future members of Brooks in the eyes and say, "Here, dear brothers and sisters. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. My time here is complete, and I would not trade it for the world. I now hand to you the work I myself have accepted and continued, so that you also may have a care for it. It will change your life."

I imagine that this is what Samuel Palmer Brooks meant. And he could not have conceived of Brooks Residential College, so fittingly named for a man who gave living 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 fulfillment. Maybe much later you will have the chance to return, and indeed you should do so. What will you see then? The community will have continued, and you will see the work of those 'seniors of the past, of the present, of the future.' And what I intend to say in that moment is, "My word. That was worth it."

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 impartiality.

- Kyndall Renfro
Chaplain

Passing on "The Torch"

Two years ago, several 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 community, newly begun as it was. It came to our attention that a popular catchphrase from S.P. Brooks might just lend us inspiration.

Thus, The Torch was born. Our first editor gave us the start we needed, involving students and

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 to you Katy McDowall, 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, we quite literally hand on the Torch. Cheers, Katy!

- Emilie Moore



Katy McDowall
Editor

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.

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, whether 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 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	8/19
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

Sammy says...



Today is not the end of the world...

Decide what Sammy says!

E-mail your idea to BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM and maybe you'll see it here next issue!

DISCLAIMER Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks did not, to our knowledge, actually say the above quote. We also have no record that he ever went by the nickname 'Sammy.'

Taking something from summer



Nathan
Fischer
Contributing
Writer

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, while others see it as a chance to explore another world outside of their own.

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 to 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 mostly depict the people of Nairobi as highly poverty stricken and living in an area 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 them.



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

People made due with

what little they had and always had an attitude of faith.

This made me rethink the way that information is presented to us here in the States.

I guess I was expecting the poor class in Nairobi to feel hatred for how they must live, but I soon discovered otherwise.

Now you're probably thinking, what in the world does this have to do with my summer?

Well, I wanted to share this story with you because I feel as though we at Brooks College provide something for each other that redefines college life.



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

If you get involved in your community, it will return

the favor by giving you friends that will sit and listen, or stay up with you all night long to study for a test.

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 Brooks!" and may God bless you and your loved ones for the year to come!

See more pictures from the Brooks Kenya trip at www.brookscollegeinkenya.shutterfly.com!

Summer among the dreaming spires



Jennifer
Atwood
Contributing
Writer

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 students and three profes-

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

highly encourage anyone going on a study abroad trip to do.

During the course of these travels, I got to meet up with fellow Brooks College members, who were also spending their summers overseas. Whether attending a West End performance of Les



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 Kenilworth Castle today, instead of sitting here listening to me lecture." This is one of the virtues of studying abroad in general, but the central location of Oxford as relative to all of Southern England made this an even more frequent occurrence.

Our weekends were also available for traveling, and many of us took full advantage of those opportunities, which is something that I would

Miserables with our president, or picnicking in front of the Eiffel Tower with my former ComTrad co-chair, it was so incredible to be able to hang out with my Prexian friends all over the world. I even got to meet up with the Henrys while they were in England, and babysit Zachary, Dr. Henry's three-year-old son, for an evening!

Even though getting the opportunity to travel was amazing, I think my favorite moments of the trip were probably when we were just living in Oxford. Christ Church is one of the largest and most famous colleges at Oxford,

being the one-time home of Albert Einstein (his old room is now the Graduate Common Room), the birthplace of Alice in Wonderland (Charles Dodgson, more commonly known as Lewis Carroll was a math tutor at Christ Church), and yes, also where they filmed several portions of the Harry Potter movies.

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.

Like Lord Peter Whimsy and Harriet Vane in Gaudy Night, I got to go punting down the River Isis. We even made friends with a few Oxford students, and it was so much fun to hang out with them and get to know what their college lives are like.

Oxford is so full of history and such a major force in literature that everywhere you turned, it seemed there was some new experience to have or something to be in awe of.

On the whole, I had an utterly wonderful experience, and I would go back in an instant. I would encourage all of you to take advantage of the study abroad programs that Baylor has (particularly Baylor in Oxford) - it'll be 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 excellent 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 everything 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!
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 community 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
Emilie Moore
Katy McDowall

Staff Writer
Staff Writer
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
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