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THE TORCH

the brooks college newsletter

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Volume 3 Issue 2

Published Since 2007

Reaching a fork in the road



Nathan
Fischer
*Staff
Writer*

The year has started and a crossroads has been reached.

I really do hope that all the newcomers to Brooks Residential College have enjoyed themselves so far and continue to do so. There are many events coming up throughout the year that I'm sure you

will enjoy!

For me, the year has started and I feel less sure of where I'm going in life than when I started as a freshman last year.

I feel as if I have come to a crossroads over majors and academic endeavors for the future. I also feel as though I might want to do something different with my life that I never planned on doing, and never even thought would cross my mind.

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photo by ashley davis, manipulation by katy mcdowall

CONFESSIONS OF A FIRST-YEAR



Matthew
Carrington
*Staff
Writer*

Who am I?

This is a very vague question, and one that we often defer pondering; maybe it just takes too much time, or too much effort. In reality, though,

this is one of the most important questions that we could possibly ask ourselves, especially we freshmen who find our lives transitioning before our very eyes in ways too many to count.

When we ask ourselves who we are, maybe we should consider answering according to who we are right now, at this moment, rather than trying

to put together the pieces of our amalgamative lives as a whole. I'm not saying that we should ignore our past experiences, but rather that to better answer the question "Who am I?" about ourselves, it will serve us much better to view our present situation as a culmination of those experiences.

Think of it this way: if a person were to ask us

how we were doing today, would we then tell them how we were doing, or would we instead explain to them all of the various factors that decided how we were doing? The same is true when asking ourselves who we are. Whether we consider our life experiences or not, the result is still the

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent's Weekend	9/18-9/19
After Dark	9/18 Waco Hall
Football v. Connecticut	9/19
Acoustic Cafe	9/24
Football v. Northwestern State	9/26
Battle of the Bands	10/2
Football v. Kent State	10/3
New issue of The Torch!	10/15

FORK

CONTINUED, PAGE 1

When I came to Baylor, I was set on a certain career path, and "that was that," as the saying goes. Now, though, I realize that I might want to explore different tracks in life. I'm definitely not giving up on the most basic principle that I came to Baylor for (my Bachelor's degree), but I'm not sure about certain things that I was sure about doing before.

During my talks with others about my change of mind, I have had some mixed responses. Some question why I would want to change my major, and usually respond with "stick with it." Since those responses, I have talked with advisors, professors, graduates and students, and have come to realize that a change in mind is

not something that should be seen as "giving up."

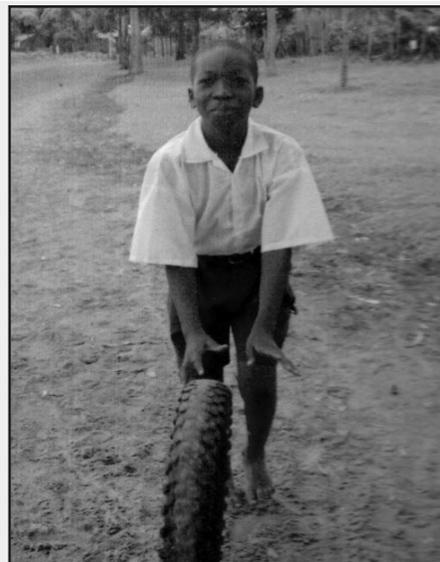
Exploration is a key part of living and experiencing everything the world has to offer, and that is what I hope I can express to you while you are reading this.

While some of you are probably not at these crossroads, I hope that you can take into consideration the fact that changing your mind should be embraced and even seen as God's gift to you.

For those of you that are in the same boat, don't be discouraged in the seemingly grueling process that you must endure, but embrace the change, explore your options and welcome God's voice into your life as he tries to lead you to where He sees that you best fit.

I hope everybody has fantastic weeks ahead!

Help support Victor!



For the third year in a row, Brooks is sponsoring Victor Omondi, a Kenyan child and honorary Brooks member.

Let's bless him and pray for him, as well as give to support him! Just

a dollar every few weeks will really make a difference... but only if EVERYONE does it!

If everyone donates, Victor will be taken care of for an entire year!

Another Welcome

Dr. Douglas Henry

Faculty Master

Welcome--and welcome back--to all of the members of Brooks College.

Having our collegiate society gathered together once more gladdens my soul and quickens my step--though little Zachary often has me moving quickly these days as he scurries to and fro around the college.

Why do I find myself so delighted to be together with you again?

Here's one way of describing matters.

Both within and beyond the walls of our college we constitute a community full of potential for lasting and meaningful friendships; for the alternately quiet

and boisterous occasions of joy-filled, mutual presence to and for each other; for open-ended, soul-searching conversations about God's call and the Lord's will, as well as clear and confident testimony regarding divinely ordered truth, beauty, and goodness; for ready help in bearing burdens too heavy to be borne alone; for developing the self-understanding in community that is requisite for wisdom; and for enjoying alongside worthy companions the essential collegiate experiences of feasting, learning, praying, celebrating, living, hoping, and being together.

For such reasons as these, let me say it again--welcome into Brooks College!

*FIRST**CONTINUED, PAGE 1*

same, and the question is much more answerable when viewed in this way.

That being said, my name is Matthew Carington. I'm a freshman here at Baylor University and a member of Brooks College. I'm taking many of the same classes that you are. I'm generally a quick thinker (as long as there aren't numbers involved), but I often refrain from saying what I think immediately, though I'm not sure why. I guess this is a little passive aggressive of me, but it usually serves me well.

My major is English, and I love to write (although the planets have to be aligned and the moon full and the temperature just right before my fleeting mind is bestowed with enough patience and inspiration to actually turn an idea into written word).

I'd like to think of myself as outgoing and I never pass up hearing a good joke, although I'm rather introverted a lot of the time. I love to read classic science fiction novels (or any science fiction for that matter) by great authors such as Isaac Asimov, H.G. Wells, Ray Bradbury, and Robert Heinlein. I'm not sure what else....

Oh yeah. My relationship with Christ is the most important part of my life. I am just as much a sinner as the next per-



photo by ashley davis

son, but I strive to be Christ-like in every area of my life just as he commands so that I can encourage others and even become the means by which Christ will save some of the lost. I think that sums up who I am at the moment at least near-adequately.

Alas, I must admit that I'm a Yankee by birth; if it's any consolation to you native Texans, I've lived here for nearly eight years, and before that I was raised on brisket that was fixed by my native-Texan mother.

Anyway, I moved to Longview, Texas about eight years ago. I had lived in a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio called Westchester for eleven years. My dad worked at General Electric there in the

aircraft engines manufacturing section of the plant as a structural engineer.

When 9/11 hit, productivity in the plant was all but stalled, and G.E. was forced to lay off a couple thousand employees. After twenty two years at G.E., my dad was laid off. He searched for a job locally for a while, but after minimal success he decided that he'd look into openings near Fort Worth, where my mother's parents lived. Sure enough, he found a job in Longview, Texas, a place we had never heard of.

It was only after he flew down for the interview that he discovered that it was three hours away from Fort Worth; nonetheless, everything worked out, and the rest of the family flew down

shortly. Ever since then I've worked on becoming a true Texan as best I could. I'm so thankful that God brought my family to Texas (and not just because of Chuck Norris and brisket).

Assuredly, I wasn't very happy about the transition to begin with, but just as God promises, he works all things for the good of those who love Him, and that's exactly what He did. He brought my family to a God-fearing, Christ-centered church where my younger brother and I could learn and grow, and where my parents could find support and wisdom. And now He's brought me here, to Baylor, where I expect the same kind of learning and growing to take place.

Life as music



Kyndall Renfro
Chaplain

Did you ever take piano lessons, or have you ever listened to a child who is learning to play? I personally never made it past the beginner's stage... but I have noticed there is a certain "choppy" quality to a beginner's piece compared to the lovely flowing rhythm of an experienced musician.

The way to move past the choppy delivery of notes to the beautiful art of playing music is not to toss your "Mary Had a Little Lamb" sheet music and start banging away at the keys in whatever order and speed you choose. The answer is to keep diligently practicing the basic rhythms until your muscle memory develops and is able to carry you past the elementary into something truly grand.

The ancient church fathers knew a little something about muscle memory. They talk of spiritual

practices—practices that form a basic rhythm for life—and if we will hold onto the basic rhythm, eventually the rhythm takes hold of us... and our very lives become music.

It is popular to talk about spiritual growth as the work of grace—which it most certainly is. But it seems to be common sense that you and I are more likely to be moved and transformed by grace when we are, for example, reciting the Lord's Prayer than when we're playing Halo. Thus the church suggests that we engage in regular practices by which we make ourselves available to grace—yearly rhythms such as celebrating Easter, weekly rhythms such as observing Sabbath and daily rhythms such as prayer. These are only a few of the necessary notes of the Christian song.

While relying on grace does mean we can let go of legalism, it does not mean we can let go of rhythm. You and I cannot simply pound away on the keys of life without thought to what order or speed

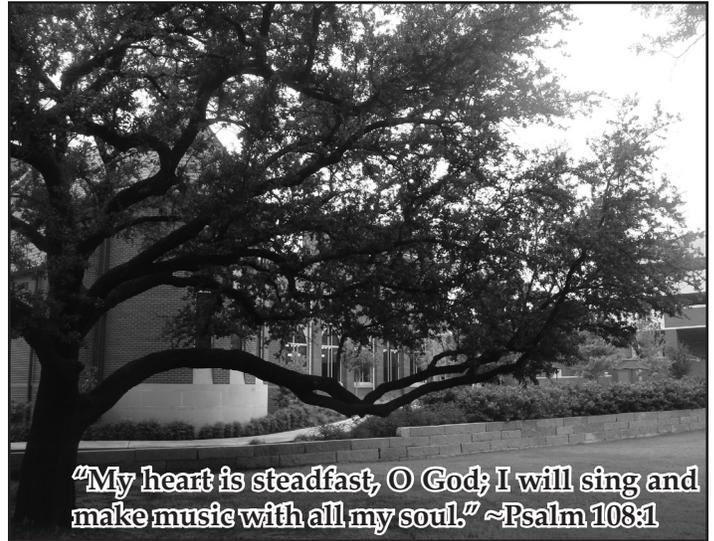


photo by ashley davis

we use or which notes we hit. Without a certain rhythm, our spiritual work resembles clanging and cacophony. We cover our own ears, cowering in a corner, cringing at the sound of our shortcomings. We expect character to befall us without the content of discipline, and we are drastically disappointed time and again. God's grace does not mean, "play however you want." The right notes in the right order with the right timing are still important.

When we do make attempts at spiritual disciplines, sometimes it feels wooden and artificial at first, much like our first endeavors at play-

ing "Mary Had a Little Lamb." The solution is the same as it was back on that piano bench: Keep diligently practicing the basic rhythms until your muscle memory develops and is able to carry you past the elementary into something truly grand.

And that is the function of morning and evening prayer at Brooks. The church has observed fixed-hour prayer throughout history—in part because the rhythmic worship of set-hour prayer is a musical offering to the ear of God and in part because the rhythm in which we engage in turn shapes us. It creates music in us and out of us and around us.

HANDING OUT THE TORCH SINCE FALL 2007

- Matthew Carrington
- Nathan Fischer
- Anson Jablinski
- Emilie Moore
- Ashley Davis
- Andrew Hwang
- Daniel Abernathy
- Katy McDowall

- Staff Writer
- Staff Writer
- Staff Writer
- Staff Writer
- Photographer
- Cartoonist
- Copy Editor
- 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.

Join The Torch group on Facebook!

Search for "The Torch: The Brooks College Newsletter"

Get to know your Community Leaders!

CL Spotlight: Elisha Alvarado

FLOOR: 3K
YEAR: JUNIOR



HOME: San Antonio, TX (Say-town: Home of the Alamo- Remember it!)

MAJOR: Communication Science Disorders, Speech Pathology concentration; History Minor.

ACTIVITIES:

I am a BICer and act as the Social/Service chair for NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association). Also, I pretty much dedicate most of my time to this one organization- it is called Brooks College.

LIKES: I like to laugh uncontrollably.

DISLIKES: I dislike sleep deprivation.

FUN FACTS:

Two different people have created Facebook videos of me laughing- yes, that is all I am doing during the videos. Apparently my laugh amuses people. I have an eleven year old brother- he is a ninja. My older sister met her fiancé because I invited her to the Brooks May Ball. I get really invested into movies, so watching a video with me could be interesting. I've been to Spain, Italy, France, and Ecuador (I like to travel and hope to travel more). I am taking ASL (American Sign Language), and I can phonetically transcribe your name if you wish.



PURPOSE AS A CL:

My purpose as a CL is to serve. I am given the opportunity to serve everyday and the choice to wake up each day and venture to be a better servant of God. I want my residents to know that I am here to listen to and support them.

DREAMS AND AMBITIONS:

Well, life after Baylor involves Graduate school.... I hope it's Vanderbilt....

WHAT IS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF THE CL EXPERIENCE?:

The growth I receive from both the challenges and joyful experiences that result from this position.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BROOKS?:

I did not choose Brooks, Brooks chose me. I am thoroughly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this community. My Baylor experience would not have been as amazing without my involvement in Brooks College. I choose to continue living here because I believe in the power of the idea that Brooks stands for - a group of people dedicated to charity, embracing the responsibilities of life together, offering service without expectation of return, and remaining loyal amidst difficulty. The relationships that are created within these walls are most dear to me - I love my Brooks family very much.



photos courtesy of elisha alvarado

FineARTS FORECAST



Anson
Jablinski
*Staff
Writer*

Hi, Brooksters, I'm Anson Jablinski, a first-year senior (victory lap ahead!) majoring in Music Education. I'll be writing this column all year to let you know about all the cool concerts and shows featuring Baylor students that you can attend.

The School of Music has at least 15 major performing ensembles, and then there's Baylor Theater, the Martin Museum of Art and more!

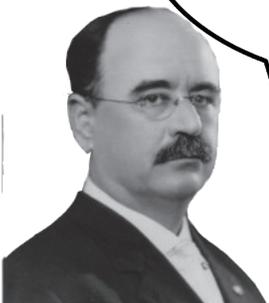
If you want an event to be in the Forecast, you can always e-mail me and let me know about it. If it's a performance or exhibit featuring a Baylor student, I'll include it—no matter who, what or where!!

If you're in an ensemble (whether it's one of Baylor's or not), let me know, and whenever I write about one of your events, I'll include your name so we can all support our fellow Brooks men and women!

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at **7:30 pm in Jones Concert Hall** (in the McCrary Music Building) and totally free of charge.

<p>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 5 PM Parents' Weekend Choral Concert</p>	<p>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 Baylor Symphony Orchestra</p>
<p>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 Symphonic Band</p>	<p>THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 Campus Orchestra</p>
<p>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 7:30 PM, WACO HALL Waco Symphony Orchestra Featuring guest pianist Nikolaas Kende. \$5 student tickets at the door with Baylor ID.</p>	<p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 3 PM Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble (combined concert)</p>
<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 3 PM Concert Jazz Ensemble</p>	<p>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 Jazz Ensemble</p>
<p>OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 11 Baylor Theatre: "The Drowsy Chaperone" See [www.baylor.edu/theatre] for time and ticket information.</p>	<p>Now - OCTOBER 8 Martin Museum of Art Current exhibitions: Rudy Pozzati (printmaker), Lee Edwards (collages), Willie Ray Parish (sculptor). See [www.baylor.edu/martin-museum] for museum hours and other information.</p>

Sammy says...



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.'

IN

Miso

Mr. Snow &

Sunday Night Dinner

Committee Meetings

The Torch

OUT

Crickets

Procrastinating

The Parking Situation

Monday mornings

Humidity

What's in and what's out?
E-mail your ideas to BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

THE MONTH IN PICTURES



SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS!

Send your photos to BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM and see them here next month!
Photos this month were submitted by Emilie Moore and Katy McDowall.

BROOKS CLASSIFIEDS

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 - Tuesdays - 9:30 PM - Seminar Room
- ARTS AND ACADEMICS - Every other Sunday - 4:30 PM - Library
- CAMPUS LIFE - Every other Monday - 9 PM - Seminar Room
- SERVICE AND MINISTRY - Mondays - 7 PM - Seminar Room

Need prayer?

The Brooks Prayer Team meets daily to pray for requests from the College and beyond. If you have a request, send an e-mail 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. For more information, e-mail us!

M.A.P.S.

THE MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

All pre-health students are welcome to attend any of our meetings to learn more about this exciting organization!

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at BAYLORMAPS@YAHOO.COM.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

September 21,
October 5,
& October 19
in BSB E 125 at 5:30 pm.

Write short stories or poetry?

The Torch would love to print your work!

Share your creativity with your fellow Brooks residents. *Don't be shy; send an e-mail to Brooks.Torch@gmail.com and get your work in the next issue!*

BROOKS!

Are you in an organization that has an event coming up soon?

Do you have announcements to make?

Let your community know - send it to BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

Torchoons

Andrew Hwang
Cartoonist



Simple math...

565 parking spots

+ ( × 600)

 × 35 =

