

# THE TORCH

the brooks college newsletter



August 18, 2010  
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Published Since 2007

## Brooks College: A Place to *Live*



Emily  
Goeke  
*Staff  
Writer*

### Why Brooks College is Not a Dorm and Why That Should Matter to You:

The word "dorm" comes from the Latin verb dormire, which means "to sleep." So, essentially a dorm is a place to sleep. If we go by a strictly etymological definition, we could say that Brooks is a dorm, since we do all sleep here. But the connotation in our society is a bit different. In the mind of modern Americans, a dorm is just a place to sleep. A dorm is where you keep your stuff, sleep, bathe, and maybe do a little studying. You live your life elsewhere.

That is not Brooks. Yes, we sleep here, but Brooks is so much more than a place to sleep. It's a place to *live*. We all know that life is more than just the basic processes that keep our bodies functioning. One of the most important aspects of human life is community. We are social creatures by nature and we crave interaction with other people.

This is what  
Brooks is all

about: community. At Brooks, we are more than just people who live in the same building; we are a family. This is a special place where everyone is welcome and accepted for who they are. Here there are people who will celebrate with you in your triumphs and support you through your tragedies.

If you talk to someone who lives in a regular dorm, you won't find this. Many people in dorms don't know who lives next door to them. They very rarely come together to do things as a community. There's no expectation for their dorm to be anything but a place to sleep.

Part of living in a community is being expected to be involved in that community. Last year, many Brooks residents chose not to live up to this expectation.

Now,  
it's

not like we expect you to come to every event or that we're going to send the "community involvement police" after you. But there are people who would not come to any events. For most of the year, fewer than half of the residents showed up to Sunday Night Dinner. These people did not want to be involved in the community.

Though I can't say for certain, I suspect many of these people chose to live in Brooks because of the newer facilities. But that's not what Brooks is about. It's

not about having your own bathroom or living in a pretty building. Brooks isn't just a fancy dorm. Brooks is a community.

So, now you need to ask yourself a very important question: Why are you here? Why did you choose to live in Brooks College? ■



photo by katy mcdowall

## UPCOMING events

Move-in Day TODAY  
Welcome Week AUG. 19-22  
Brooks Sunday Night Dinner AUG. 22  
Fall Classes Begin AUG. 23  
Brooks Welcome Week AUG. 23-29  
Deadline for Torch submissions SEP. 1  
Football vs. Sam Houston State SEP. 4  
Labor Day SEP. 6  
New issue of The Torch SEP. 10  
Parents' Weekend SEP. 10-11

## TORCHnews

FRESHMEN: What's your story? Send it to  
BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

The Torch needs you!  
If you're interested in writing, photography or  
drawing send an email to  
BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM.

## EDITOR'S note



Katy  
McDowall  
*Editor*

Welcome to (or back to) Brooks! I can't believe another year is starting, but I'm so glad it is. I'm excited to see what this year will bring to The Torch, as well as Brooks Residential College.

If you're a freshman I think you have made the right choice in choosing this residence hall over the others. Brooks, you will find, is unique, and if you involve yourself in this community and utilize the opportunities you have here you will enjoy it immensely. And, for those of you returning for another year, it is so good to see you again.

I'm thrilled to be continuing work as editor of The Torch, but I cannot do it without you. Whether you have writing experience or not, this newsletter is a place for you to voice your thoughts as a Brooks resident, whether they have to do with Brooks, Baylor, faith, an experience you want to share, a film you wish to critique, a short story, a poem or something else entirely. Even if you like to take photos or you like to draw, The Torch needs you. Without community involvement these pages would be bare.

The Torch has been with us since Fall of 2007. It is published in volumes, with 10 issues a year. Publication dates are approximately every three weeks, usually on Fridays. Following the week of publication, there is a Torch meeting that anyone is allowed to attend to discuss ideas and deadlines for the upcoming issue.

I sincerely hope you consider taking part in this newsletter, as it is a perfect way to get involved in the Brooks community. And, if you wish, you can certainly venture over to the Brooks College Library to familiarize yourself with The Torch archives to get a better idea of what this is all about.

See you around!

## TORCHSTAFF

| handing out the torch since fall 2007 |

Caroline Barta *staff writer*  
Matthew Carrington *staff writer*  
Nathan Fischer *staff writer*  
Emily Goeke *staff writer*  
Anson Jablinski *staff writer*  
Sally Ann Moyer *staff writer*  
Lindsay Putnam *staff writer*  
Alex Tworowski *staff writer*  
Katy McDowall *editor*

# WELCOME HOME

the brooks chaplain offers greetings and answers



Kyndall  
Renfro  
*Chaplain*

Whether you are returning to Brooks or whether you are arriving for the first time, welcome home! This place either has been or soon will be your home away from home. Of course, it may take awhile before Brooks feels like home to you, but I hope its warmth engulfs you as quickly as possible. You can certainly help the process by stepping into life here wholeheartedly, accepting invitations to participate and bravely joining in even before you know everyone.

If I do not already know you from last year, hopefully I meet you today. There will also be plenty more opportunities for us to get to know one another, and I hope you will come to the first "Meet-Your-Chaplain" Event (coming up soon!).

The event name explains it pretty well: I am your chaplain, and I would like to meet you!

If you are wondering what the chaplain is, let me clear up a few things. I thought it would be best to address the most commonly asked questions.

**Q (#1 most common question): Are you a freshman?**

**A:** No, looks are deceiving. Actually I am 25 years old and completing my fourth and final year of graduate school at Truett Seminary. Don't let the sound of my voice throw you off either. I am also older than I sound. (However, if you forget and accidentally ask me the freshman question, don't be embarrassed. I am used to it, and I won't hold it against you.)

**Q: Do you live here?**

**A:** Yes, I live on the third floor, girls' side (room 362). Feel free to visit! I'll invite you over for cookies soon.

**Q: What does a chaplain do?**

**A:** My job varies, but I am primarily here for pastoral care and spiritual formation. This means I will check up on you if you go to the hospital or

suffer the loss of a loved one. I plan various spiritual formation events and programs like Bible studies, worship services, etc. I am also available for hanging out and talking about life, God, faith, Scripture, etc.

**Q: We're allowed to paint our rooms?! (asked when someone enters my apartment and sees my red walls)**

**A:** No, you are not allowed to paint! (So sorry, but I did not make the rules.) Please don't go out and buy a can of paint after visiting my apartment.

**Q: So you're married to Caleb? (In all fairness, I have only been asked this once.)**

**A:** Nope. Caleb is the hall director. I am the chaplain. These are not positions linked by marriage. He is married to Ryn. I am married to Nate. Please keep this straight. Furthermore, please refrain from telling my husband that he needs an escort or from being alarmed when you see a guy by himself on the girls' third floor. Nate is allowed to be on the girls' side, seeing as how he lives there.

**Q: So what if I need to talk to someone about something serious?**

**A:** Just email me if you feel nervous approaching me in person! [Kyndall\\_Rothaus@baylor.edu](mailto:Kyndall_Rothaus@baylor.edu) (Note that my last name in email is different from my married last name!) Also, while I am the chaplain for both the male and female side of Brooks, I can easily connect you with other chaplains on campus if you would like. Also, my husband would be glad to talk with you, even though he's not an "official" chaplain, ([nate.renfro@gmail.com](mailto:nate.renfro@gmail.com)) and Alex Tworowski, the CL, is serving as an assistant to the chaplain this year.

# a welcome from the RESIDENT TUTOR



Zachary  
Beck  
*Resident  
Tutor*

My name is Zachary Beck. I am the Resident Tutor of Arts & Letters here at Brooks. I am a third-year PhD student in the English department. I have taught several semesters of freshman composition (at Baylor, that is ENG 1302 and 1304) both here and at the University of Florida. My wife Amanda is a lecturer in the Modern Foreign Languages Department. We are thrilled to be living at Brooks College for another year. We live in 262 on the women's side of the residence hall.

As your tutor, and as the resident graduate student in the college, I have three distinct roles:

First, I am here to help you with writing for your classes: I can help you brainstorm topics for papers, narrow down topics into specific arguments, give you guidance in research methods and library use, and assist you in the revising process. Basically, I'm available to help you at any step in the process of writing a paper. Secondly, I am the staff liaison to the student-led Arts & Aca-

demic Committee. I am here to assist in activities and events that promote the academic and cultural life of Brooks College. Third, as a fellow resident here at Brooks, I am here to engage in our community. Drawing from my experience as a college student, as well as looking forward to my life as a scholar, I seek to offer you my perspective on life in the university and the academic vocation. But more importantly, I hope to enter into friendship with you, to share not only academic challenges, but the joys and struggles of life and faith in Christ.

I will be holding office hours Monday through Thursday from 9:30-12:00 in the Brooks Library. Come by and see me! You do not need an appointment, but if you would like to contact me in advance, my e-mail address is [z\\_beck@baylor.edu](mailto:z_beck@baylor.edu). Additionally, feel free to come up and talk with Amanda and me when you see us in the dining hall, in the JCR, or anywhere around campus. We are so excited to share life together with you this year!



# Meet the Brooks College Governing Board

## OFFICERS



**President**  
**Emilie Moore**  
Senior  
Helena, MT



**Vice President**  
**Jennifer Tran**  
Sophomore  
Arlington, TX



**Treasurer**  
**Chase Kanaly**  
Senior  
Houston, TX

The governing board is the group of student leaders and voting members of the Brooks College Council. The offices of president, vice president and treasurer work closely together along with a group of committees and the community leaders to uphold the traditions of Brooks while continuing to make the residential college experience new and exciting. The council meetings are open for anyone to attend. Brooks residents can also join and attend the meetings of any of the committees.

## ARTS and ACADEMICS



**Co-Chair Anson Jablinski**  
Super-Senior  
Houston, TX



**Co-Chair Emily Goeke**  
Junior  
Cedar Park, TX

“

The Arts and Academics Committee, also known as “Acatak,” protects the balance of academia and self-expression at Brooks. Get your homework done, and have some righteous fun. Meetings are **every other Sunday at 4:30 in the Brooks College Library**. First meeting is Aug. 29.

## SERVICE and MINISTRY



**Co-Chair Seth Oldman**  
Sophomore  
Belton, TX



**Co-Chair Lindsay Putnam**  
Sophomore  
Rowlett, TX

“

We plan events such as Christmas and Easter services in Robbins Chapel, Tuesday night worship, prayer team, Re:Fresh events, and outreach into the Waco community. We are so excited to see the ways God will work this year in Brooks and we look forward to meeting YOU! Meetings are **Monday at 7 p.m.** First meeting is Aug. 30.

## COMMUNITY and TRADITIONS



**Co-Chair Nosse Ovienmhada**  
Sophomore  
Rowlett, TX



**Co-Chair Vanessa Wyns**  
Sophomore  
Fort Collins, CO

“ComTrad plans dances, movie nights and athletic events designed to bring Brooks residents together in fun community activities. If you enjoy having fun, and also making an impact on the community, please consider joining ComTrad.

## INTRAMURALS



**Brooke Bormann**  
Junior  
Fort Worth, TX

“For Intramurals, the first sports are Dodgeball, Indoor Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee and they all begin the first week of class.

# a message from the front desk



Nathan  
Fischer

*Staff  
Writer*

Firstly, I want to welcome back the previous members of Brooks College. It will be great to see some familiar faces as I travel through the archway and reminisce about our summers, good or bad. I would also like to give a great big, "WELCOME!" to the new members of Brooks College. I hope that many of you get involved in what Brooks College has to offer. Please feel free to ask questions; we were all new at one point.

Secondly, I would like to mention a little about the front desk here at Brooks College. Our hours are easy, we are open 24/7, excluding most major holidays of course. The desk has numerous things you can check out as well: laptops, board



photo by emilie moore

games, pool/ping pong supplies, vacuums, and suite door keys (it's not fun to be locked out). We also issue door unlock codes if you forget your ID, and take maintenance requests. We are here to help all the time.

I hope that you feel more than welcome when you enter Brooks College, as a freshman or as an upper-classman. If I may say so myself, "Welcome to Brooks College, and welcome home."

## i know what you did THIS SUMMER



Jenni Biddison in Kenya with some kids in the Pokot market.



Brooke Bormann in London, England during the Baylor in Oxford Program.

Nosse Oviemhada in Nice, France enjoying the view.



Emilie Moore playing football with some kids in Rwanda.

# Avoiding Horror Stories



Matthew  
Carrington  
*Staff  
Writer*

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm thoroughly excited about getting back in the groove. I'm not quite so sure whether I'm ready for the grind that inevitably accompanies the back-to-school groove, but sooner than later reality will sink in, the semester will be half over and another great year will have begun.

I hope that those returning to Brooks this year are just as geared up as I am about getting started again; similarly, I hope that those coming to Brooks for the first time, whether freshmen or transfers from another residence hall or college, can't wait to see what life at Brooks can be like.

Last year, as an incoming freshman, I had high expectations for what Brooks College, and even Baylor, would offer. I was excited about my classes, ready for a challenge. Having researched life at Brooks, I knew it would be the perfect fit for me—and I was right. Some of you are in the exact same place that I was last year. You've conceived designs in your head about how your classes will be, how the professors will teach and what life at Brooks will be like; just like me, you've probably given a fair amount of thought concerning your roommate/suitemates as well.

The reality is that out of all of your preconceived plans, the only aspect that you can't really control is who you'll be living with (at least until next semester). And it's a little disconcerting, isn't it?

By now you've probably corresponded with your roommate/suitemates at least once or twice. Beyond a few emails, you may have even gotten to know them via Facebook or other social networking sites. Over the past several weeks, you've been hoping and praying that, come the day when you meet them, they will be reasonable, un-

derstanding, fun people to be around and do things with. That day is here!

For most of you, your roommates will be perfectly agreeable, if not really cool, as was the case for me (and hopefully my roommate/suitemates too). Today you'll start off your college career on a high note, getting to know the people you'll be living with all semester, and hopefully all year. But for some of you the road may be slightly more treacherous.

We've all heard horror stories from our friends and family about their first roommates in college. The good news is they're all still here to tell us about their experiences; maybe, just maybe, you can make it through. But I'd challenge you not just to make it by the skin of your teeth, but to really put forth the effort, maybe even going out of your way, to be a friend to your roommate. I'm not saying that if your roommate is pushy you should just let them run over you, or that if your roommate is shy you should just let them be, but rather that you should talk with them—communicate!

Think about any roommate horror story that you've heard, and I can guarantee that some part of the problem involved, or was even derived from, a lack of communication. Turn your roommate horror story into a positive experience. If nothing else, being respectful of and communicative with your roommate will prepare you for daily life.

Not everyone is perfect (if you are, I'd really like to know your secret!), and I'm betting you aren't either. Cut your roommate some slack. Personally, I'm often as hard-willed as they come. Take it from me—a high and mighty attitude will get you nowhere! Don't compromise your values, but certainly take the time to discuss them with your roommate; more importantly, listen to

their take on things.

Like I said earlier, my experience with my roommate/suitemates turned out to be an awesome one last year—so awesome that we're rooming together again this year. Because of my positive experience you're probably thinking that I have no place to give advice on how to live with someone who is like oil to your water, who says black when you say white, who would complain if they were hung with a new rope—and you're probably right. But one thing I do know: I've lived with three other people for a year. No matter how amiable we generally were to each other, we did have our quarrels (quite often thanks to me, I'm sure). I've also talked with many people who weren't happy with their rooming situation. Even more important than listening to anything I have to say, however, is how you choose to live.

Pray for reciprocal actions to your own from your roommate. If your roommate reciprocates intolerance and spite, examine your actions first. If you find that your actions didn't deserve such negative reciprocation, continue to act respectfully anyway.

In the end (to be cliché), the only thing that you have complete control of is yourself. Better yourself by striving to better others (I guess that was a little cliché too—but it worked, didn't it?).

In summary, I sincerely hope that your stay here at Brooks College is fruitful, your roommates are awesome and your school year is successful. Welcome, welcome back and God bless!



# FINE ARTS forecast



Anson  
Jablinski  
*Staff  
Writer*

In case you haven't discovered this yet, I'm about to let you in on one of the greatest things about living on campus. Borrow your roommate's Ethernet cable, plug your laptop into the wall and open iTunes. On the left will appear an amazing list of all the shared music libraries on the network. See that one called "Anson's HAWT Music !!!!!"? Yep, that's me! Though I do have a little bit of everything, my specialties are classical music, movie soundtracks and video game soundtracks. Elisha Alvarado—my biggest fan—says that I have a lot of great study/homework music, too, so I hope you check it out and find something to enjoy. (There's also a Facebook group for it!) I'm an old geezer, so I tend to go to bed early, but if I see that someone's using my iTunes, I'll leave my computer on.

Aside from providing jammin' tunes, you can count on me to let you know about what's going on in the music, art and theatre scenes at Baylor through the Fine Arts Forecast. The Forecast presents a list of upcoming events, selected from calendars around the Baylor website, with a special focus on events featuring Baylor students. If you have a concert, a show or even a Common Grounds jam session coming up that you want to have listed, just email me—I'd love to include your event in the Forecast! (Remember that The Torch comes out about once a month, so be sure to let me know as soon as possible!)

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

## Martin Museum of Art

On display *September 7 through October 9*: Jerry Dodd (sculptor of contemporary metal art) and John Belew Collection & New Acquisitions (works representing BU Dept. of Art studio faculty). See [[www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum](http://www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum)] for museum hours and other information.

## ★ Faith and Music Concert

*Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 pm* in Powell Chapel (Truett Seminary). School of Music faculty present an evening of musical and prayerful reflections.

**Highly recommended, always fantastic!!**

## Parents' Weekend Choral Concert

*Friday, September 10, at 5:00 pm.*

## Jazz Ensemble Swing Concert

*Friday, September 10.* Get your \$5 tickets in the lobby of the McCrary Music Building, or get in free if you're 65 or older.

## Sammy says...



Welcome back, my  
friends.

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

# IN

summer

hot weather

Brooks Welcome  
Week

unpacking

classes

**&** leaving The Torch  
unread

meeting new people

reading The Torch

SADKEANU

writing for The  
Torch

# OUT

# A TREATISE on PATIENCE



Caroline  
Barta  
*Staff  
Writer*

**"The mystics—those rare spirits who are simultaneously aware of time and eternity...are never vague, woolly-headed people to whom time means nothing; on the contrary, they insist more than anybody upon the validity of time and the actuality of human experience" ("Strong Meat," Dorothy L. Sayers)**

It all started with the double-wide caravan causing a particularly rare flare of road rage in my typically placid drive to school. The first wreck was a mere annoyance; the double-wide monstrosity slowing traffic to 15 mph bred anger in my heart. In an attempt to distract myself, I decided to reflect upon the word patience. The minor I now possess in Latin told me it was a derivative of the verb *pator* (meaning suffer; allow; undergo, endure; permit); a deponent verb. You see, for those of you fortunate enough to have escaped spending hours of your life trying to learn this "dead" language, deponent verbs look passive in form, but they are active in meaning. Professors rattle five of these verbs off constantly — *fruo*, *fungor*, *utor*, *pator*, *vescor* — but I'd never really thought about them all that much, except as exceptions that take the ablative. At the time, it didn't help much, as I realized I wasn't passively detesting the caravan, but actively doing so...

However, having since continued my thought begun about patience, I've been quite convicted about my struggles with patience in my own life. As someone looking at Ph.D programs after graduation, the line between planning for the future and living in the present is difficult to walk. I struggle to be content in the present, even though a person could scarcely hope to ask for a better one. I have an unbelievably supportive family (keep in mind I'm double majoring in Great Texts and Classics), amazing friends, incredible opportunities, and I'm doing precisely what I love—all, I believe, for the glory of God. The future does indeed look bright, but as a Christian, it seems clear that I am called to live in the now, not the past or the not yet. Two passages of Scripture have been speaking strongly to me recently:

## 1 John 3:1-3 (ESV)

*1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

I love John's reminder. This is the wonderful love of God, that he has called us children of God! And, while that is a "now" reality, the fullness of that reality is a "not yet." That is our hope, and our joy in our active waiting. For patience is just that, a process of actively enduring and waiting upon God. The certain promise of purification--theosis, sanctification-- through this process, holds me strong upon my resolution.

## 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 (KJV)

*11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

Verse twelve has been ringing through my mind and heart for months now. Not only is it the perfect picture of the Christian life in general, but also it reflects beautifully my own difficulties with trust. As someone who wears glasses, this metaphor seems particularly apt. Whenever I walk into a darkened building with my sunglasses still on (or better yet, the humidity of Texas fogs my glasses!), and my vision is completely impaired, I can only see a fraction of the true reality around me. The wonder and joy that someday I will see the triune God face to face is incredible. Now I truly know only in part, but then I shall know even as I am known.

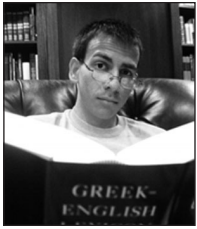
Over this summer, I've had a lot of time to process the whirlwind that was last semester—the exciting opportunities, decisions brokered, crossroads reached, friendships made and marred.

Practically, I find I am often still thrilled and sometimes obsessed by opportunities to glance into my "not yet." While I now look at that and am sympathetic to my excitement, I am challenging myself to make sure I am taking full advantage of my "now" — truly embracing my time in college.

I'm no mystic, as some of my friends familiar with that tradition would readily agree. However, re-reading the quote with which I began (besides the fact I went a little St. Catherine with the title), I suspect that much of my struggle with patience is due to my often lacking awareness of time and eternity—both of which matter so much. My challenge for today, tomorrow, and the next day—is to wait patiently (actively!) upon God for a true awareness of time and eternity. Wait with me, won't you?



# Learn!



Alex  
Tworowski  
*Staff  
Writer*

You have finally set foot on campus to begin your four-year (give or take a few semesters) adventure. First, I say to you: Welcome to Baylor University! Welcome to Brooks College! (For a good number of you, I say: Welcome back!) Next I ask you: Why are you here? Who told you to go to Baylor, let alone go to college? What made you consent to follow their advice (or command)?

For some of you, you wanted to come because you have an ambition to pursue some sort of career which you believe will make a positive change in the world or will provide you with a financially stable future. Some of you are here simply because you believe college is “the right thing to do.” I am sure that there are a few of you who do not even know why you have decided to come. Whatever your motives may be, you know that college is a place where you can learn new things and meet new people.

Have you read or listened with awe to a person who breathed out wisdom? Every bit of his or her words and person emanated a wisdom which carried an authority that grabbed your eyes, ears, and attention. You felt something inside your soul latch on to the message this person delivered. Their words were deep; they testified to life experiences which you could only attempt to imagine. You soaked up every word.

Many of these people began with a pursuit which would last for eternity. Something kindled this pursuit within these men and women. They pursued God. They pursued wisdom. God likes to show Himself to people who vehemently seek Him out. In the midst of their pursuit, these people caught a few glimpses of glory. They saw the Lord

high and lifted up on His throne, radiating His tangible glory throughout His temple. In the thick atmosphere of His holiness, they trembled as they felt the weight of their sinfulness and humanity bearing down on them. They tasted His love and kindness as a glowing, refining coal of His mercy touched their lips and burned away their sin. Their ears were opened; they heard a call proceed from the heart of triune God: “Who will go for Us?”

They beheld the One “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3). In the midst of this glorious Fount, they saw joy and light. But they also saw tears and sorrow. They saw anger and grief. Not only did they see all of these things, they began to feel these things take hold of their hearts. These feelings were intensified as they turned their gaze away from Him and looked upon the world from which they came. Nations warring against each other; men wallowing in sins of commission and omission; women enslaved to evil working upon the hearts of their oppressors; children attempting to survive without the love of a father or mother and without the sustenance of food and clean water. If only they knew the light of God! A conflict welled up within the hearts of these who stood before the throne.

“Who will go for Us?”

The cry sounded within their hearts. “How will we go?” they responded. “We don’t know what to do or how to help!” But as they gazed upon Him, their hearts raged within them until they shouted, “Here we are; send us!”

“I looked, and I received instruction” (Prov. 24:32).

God answered and gave them the message, the means, and the might of His Spirit to accomplish the task. He trained them. He led some to take classes on urban poverty and human trafficking; He led some to study economics and politics to learn about the blight of nations which trust in selfish gain instead of giving away life and help; He led others into schools which developed their ability to communicate His salvation to humanity; still others He brought directly into the places of pain where they could see His grace and power overcome. As God led them in the ways of wisdom, these

souls discovered His greatness, beauty, wisdom, and mercy through the study of nature, art, life, and humanity. They further fell in love with this God who could create a galaxy which, while spinning at 490,000 miles per hour, takes about two million years to make one revolution. This same God also created a human ear which can distinguish the slightest of sounds via a mysterious working of sound waves hitting a thin membrane, moving hair cells waving in a fluid, and then relaying the patterns to the human brain. They stood with awe as they looked at photons from a nuclear fusion process 93 million miles away beautifully collide with water molecules suspended in a mixture of gases which also sustained life. On top of all of this, they more clearly saw the oddity and beauty of this great and vast God becoming a Man who demonstrated His love for humanity and creation by dying for it in order to set it free from bondage to evil and itself.

These men and women, seeking Wisdom above silver and rubies, saw the Almighty in the beauty of holiness, fell in love with Him, and carried a fire from His altar to the world. Perhaps you were singed by it—and you want more. Do you want to love God more? Seek Him out! Study His creation so that you can declare the majesty of His name (Ps. 8) and learn more about His greatness (Ps. 19). Does your heart hurt for the things that hurt God’s heart? Follow His Spirit into the classroom and learn about what He wants to do to resolve it. “Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!” (Prov. 4:5). If your heart doesn’t ache for the things of God, nor does it long for God, know that God longs for you to know Him and to work with Him in rescuing others. “The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, while the heart of the fools is in the house of pleasure” (Eccl. 7:4). Do not let your heart wander to the five-bedroom, three-car-garage house of self-seeking pleasure; run to the tin-roof shack of mourning and pain. Learn about the hurting, groaning world around you. Run to Jesus and bring His light and wisdom into the festering wounds of the world!

Why are you here? To learn, of course!

## Meet Your Community Leaders

Check the CL Spotlight in the next issue to learn more about one of them!



LAUREN VACENDAK



BO ROSE



CAROLINE BARTA



EMILY POOL



EMILY PHILLIPS



EMANUEL GAWRIEH



ALEX TWORKOWSKI



ELISHA ALVARADO



CHRISTIAN LATHAM



MAKENZIE HODGE



DUSTIN WILLIAMS

# How Crocs Ruined Ice Skating



Emily Goeke

*Staff Writer*

Crocs have ruined ice skating. I'm sure you're asking yourself many questions now. How have Crocs ruined ice skating? Why does it matter? Why is this in the Brooks College newsletter? I shall explain.

One of the most important things in ice skating, whether you're a figure skater, a hockey player, or a member of the general public who just wants to have fun, is that the skates fit correctly. A properly fitting pair of skates should be very snug. You should not be able to move your foot in the skate at all. They should be laced very tightly all the way up. Skates fit this way in order to support your ankles, which will make it easier to balance on the ice. A properly fitting pair of skates will be a little uncomfortable, but they shouldn't hurt.

Now here's where the Crocs come in. I suppose it's a little unfair of me to put all the blame on Crocs. They're not the only culprit, but they are the perfect example of what has gone wrong. Crocs are famous for being very comfortable. They are very wide and tend to fit pretty loosely. Many people wear their tennis shoes like this too. They are usually half a size too big and are tied loosely, if at all. People want their shoe to be comfortable like a pair of slippers.

The problem is people expect ice skates to fit like Crocs. I work at an ice rink, and I regularly hand out rental skates to customers. We ask them their shoe size, and get them a pair of skates that should fit them correctly. About five minutes later, most people come back asking for a larger size. It's not that the skates are too small; it's just that the snugger fit is less comfortable than that of Crocs. Then they try to tie the skates. The most common problem here is that they tie them too loosely. Quite a few people don't tie them all the way up. I have even seen one guy not tie his skates at all.

These people, whose skates are too big and tied too loosely, then step on to the ice. Inevitably, they have trouble balancing, they fall a lot, and they usually end up getting blisters. In some cases, they end up injur-

ing their ankles. And all because their skates didn't fit properly.

Properly fitting skates may be a little uncomfortable, but it's better than falling and getting hurt or breaking your ankle. Now, what does all this have to do with Brooks?

The moral of the story is that sometimes the correct and best way to do things can be uncomfortable. This is certainly the case when living in a community. In the past two years I've lived at Brooks, I've found that most people are comfortable engaging in fun, positive community events. But community activities that call on us to be vulnerable and step out of our comfort zones are not well attended. People come in masses for Brooks Blaze or May Ball, but hardly anyone shows up for Morning or Evening Prayer. The result of this is that in some respects we have become a fair-weather community.

If we desire to be a true community, then we have to be willing to be engaged in the aspects that make us uncomfortable, as well as those that are fun. A healthy community comes together in good times and in bad. It must fit together tightly to support us.

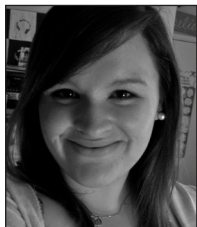
Right now our community stands at a fork in the road. Down one path we will become a loose pair of skates. We won't have the support we need, and eventually we will fall. If we become a fair-weather community, a loose pair of skates, we will end up getting hurt.

I hope we choose the other path. It may be uncomfortable at times, but in the end the rewards will be far greater. It's time to lace up our skates.





# A Simple Truth



Lindsay  
Putnam  
*Staff  
Writer*

If I told you that a keychain changed my outlook on life, would you think I was a little ambitious for thinking so?

About a month into summer vacation, I was helping my grandmother clean out her purse when I saw something that caught my eye— a Brookscresc. My heart was instantly filled with joy and

pride; my Mema's spare keys were on a Brooks College keychain.

If you know my family— full of generations of Aggies, you know this is a huge deal! This act of support got me thinking: I have the ability to affect people. I mean, if one Bear can make a difference in a family of Aggies, then surely one person can make an even bigger difference in the world. As Christians, we are called to be examples in "speech, life, love, faith, and purity." I am really convicted to believe that the little things matter. So maybe next time I am faced



photo by lindsay putnam

with the opportunity, I'll remember. And I'll hold that door open. Give that encouragement. Carry those boxes. Smile that smile. Because in

the end, it really does matter. People remember. And even something as small as a Brooks College keychain can make a big difference.

## Where seldom is heard a discouraging word



Sally Ann  
Moyer  
*Staff  
Writer*

I finally saw the buffalo during a bicycle ride.

The buffalo is a rather average sized bull that lives in the fenced in yard of some unknown farmer on the east edge of town, about halfway between the suburbs and endless farmlands. After riding along the road where the buffalo lives several times, I'm so glad I got him before my heading back to Waco; I was beginning to fear that he had already become dinner.

I think seeing the buffalo almost made up for my flat tire. The buffalo in itself is not terribly exotic; obviously, it's more fantastic than the goats I see all the time, but the buffalo is no unicorn. I think my constant

disappointment of the buffalo always hiding out of view coupled with my exhilaration of this being my last ride of the summer was what made seeing the buffalo so exciting. He nodded in greeting when I passed.

I spent a lot of time this summer riding my bicycle. My rides varied immensely from practical to scenic. Most weekdays, I would cycle downtown in lieu of driving because it's cheaper, more environmentally friendly and healthier. However, I also went on some longer (20-30 miles) rides with my dad around the Willamette Valley (the geographical name for the area where I live in Oregon).

On one ride, I felt a little bit like I was in le Tour de France: I rode along the rolling Waldo Hills and saw the outlines of hills and mountains on my left and expansive farm country on my right; it's no wonder Oregon is often compared to France.



photo courtesy of sally ann moyer

The beauty overtook me and I still can't get the image out of my head—and I hope I never do.

The most exciting ride I went on this summer, though, was when my dad and I climbed McKenzie Pass in Central Oregon. When we reached the top, I stood amongst a 360-degree view of snow-capped mountains. The air was already thin but the views were

breathtaking.

Moments like that— pictures of beauty from back home—are worth saving up for moments when the work will pile up and I go back to studying more than I ever thought possible. And while I might live "where the buffalo roam" in the summertime, I thankfully get to live "where the skies are not cloudy all day" during the school year.



# TORCHtoon

From the minds of Nosse Ovienmhada and Katy McDowall.

## announcements

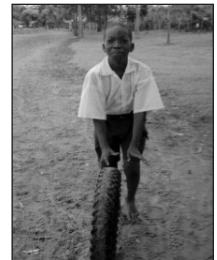


**BROOKS  
WELCOME  
WEEK**

**AUGUST 23 - 29**

### Help support Victor!

For the fourth 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 support to him! Just a dollar every few weeks will really make a difference, but only if everyone does it! Visit the front desk for more information.



*Got an announcement to make? Send it to The Torch and see it here next issue.*

**CONTACT**  
**the torch**



**Brooks.Torch@gmail.com**



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Got a question, comment, idea or article or picture to contribute? Contact us!