



A Great Beginning: the brooks year takes off



Jennifer
Tran

*Staff
Writer*

This year has definitely got off on a great start with all that Brooks and Baylor have accomplished!

Move-In day was successful. Almost everyone was checked-in by noon. Governing Board members and CLs were scattered around the college as they helped their new neighbors check in and get settled. The day took a swift turn at around 4 pm when Brooks set up our own Dr. Pepper hour in the Great Hall. It was nicely packed and people mingled...the awkwardness of meeting new people was definitely in the air, but people were moving around and getting past it like nothing.

The first community dinner took place at 6 p.m. that night and turned out to be a very warm experience. The freshmen packed in the Great Hall with their halls and the few returning students that were there got to enjoy their first residential meal since moving back. It was legit.

Welcome Week this year seemed cool for all that I could witness. The events planned seemed reasonable and fun. The open downtime slots in the week allowed Brooks to plan some fun events to allow its members to mingle amongst themselves as a huge group as opposed to their small welcome week groups.

These small events were meant to lead up to Brooks Welcome Week, which was planned for the first week of school. Events such as the "Live or Let Dye," the "Sermin Mixer" and the "Brooks Brawl" attracted plenty of freshmen and returning students from their lazy/busy first day of classes.

And we're not done yet! Events such as Paranoia that are ongoing really allow people to jump in the game and play with everyone...unless they "die." Our goal for each event is to draw the community together, and so far it has been very successful!

With so many events to look forward to this semester, we hope that everyone is enjoying their first few weeks of school! Get Pumped for what's ahead! :D

photos by
ann garner,
justin oxford
and nick batts



UPCOMING events

- Parents' Weekend SEP. 10-11
- Football vs. Buffalo SEP. 11
- Torch Staff Meeting SEP. 16 @ 9:30 P.M. IN SEMINAR ROOM
- Freshman Retreat SEP. 17-18
- Inauguration of President Kenneth Starr SEP. 17
- Football @ TCU SEP. 18
- Torch Deadline SEP. 22 ★
- Fall Premiere SEP. 25
- 18th Annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival SEP. 25
- Football @ Rice SEP. 25
- HireABear Career Fair SEP. 29
- New issue of The Torch OCT. 1



TORCHnews

Want to learn more about The Torch?
Attend our next meeting!
Join us in the Seminar Room Thursday, Sept. 16 at
9:30 p.m.

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

I hope that you, like me, have adjusted to the new year. It has only been a few weeks, but already it feels as though we have been back at school forever. Routine has sunk in, faces that were once of strangers are now of friends and the first round of tests and papers has already passed or is rapidly closing in.

With classes, an internship and a variety of other responsibilities (and of course The Torch!), life is currently one big hectic mess, only made easier by scheduling practically every moment and cherishing every second of free time, an experience I'm sure many of you can relate to. Of course, the main thing that makes these chaotic days easier is procrastinating with, I mean, spending quality time with friends. Whether it's sitting in the Great Hall for a two to three hour dinner, spending Open Door Night watching "Jersey Shore" with Nosse Oviemhada, venturing to Starbucks with Nathan Fischer, tie-dying shirts with fellow Brooks residents or avoiding sock-wielding Paranoia players these are the events that get me through the week.

These are the types of events that get us all through the week, and these are the events you will see scattered throughout this issue in the many pictures and stories we have about the many start of school activities, including Brooks Welcome Week. The start of the year has been amazing, and there is only more to come.

TORCHSTAFF

| handing out the torch since fall 2007 |

- Matthew Carrington *staff writer*
- Nathan Fischer *staff writer*
- Emily Goeke *staff writer*
- Anson Jablinski *staff writer*
- Sally Ann Moyer *staff writer*
- Nosse Oviemhada *staff writer*
- Jennifer Tran *staff writer*
- Alex Tworkowski *staff writer*
- Katy McDowall *editor*

Top Notch Dining



Matthew
Carrington
*Staff
Writer*

Please don't tell me I'm the only one who's noticed that the food here at Brooks has been "kicked up another notch" – and in more ways than one.

Take the new drinking vessels, for example. I'm not sure exactly how big the new tumblers are, or how miniscule the goblets of yesteryear were, but suffice it to say the new glasses are awesome. Now I only have to get up once to refill my glass, as opposed to four or five times (although I do miss the exercise – okay, maybe not). Sure, the new vessels don't make me feel quite as regal, but they make up for it by making me feel like my thirst was actually quenched when I'm done drinking from them.

And how about the optional grilled chicken in the burger line? Sometimes a burger just doesn't cut it. If you haven't tried the grilled fowl yet, you're in for a treat (I can't ever remember which one is politically correct, chicken or fowl?). When you do ask for chicken instead of a burger, be prepared to wait about eight minutes or so because it's placed on the griddle by request. Hopefully

the process will get a little smoother over time.

Not only is grilled chicken now available, but a wide assortment of foods are available every day at Brooks. Variety has drastically increased. Every time I eat at Brooks for lunch or dinner, I have to choose between a burger, a chicken sandwich, two different entrees, at least two vegetables, one or two other sides, a toasted sandwich, pizza, pasta, salad, and soup. If you were counting, that means that you could go quite a while before eating the same thing again. Oh, and don't forget that there are several vegetarian options available. Brooks may look a little less varied in cuisine than some of the other dining halls on campus, but first glances can be deceiving.

You may have also noticed that Brooks has been pretty crowded over the last week or two. Maybe that's just because the football team eats here all the time, but I think it might have more to do with the quality service and delicious food offered here. If you've had a bad experience eating at Brooks in the past, for whatever reason, don't let that inhibit you from giving it another shot. As the bearded man on the Men's Wearhouse commercial says (with slightly altered words), "you're gonna like the food you eat, I guarantee it".

Reader's Note

Hi Emily (Goeko),

I finally got around to reading *The Torch* a few minutes ago and wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your front-page article.* I think you articulated why Brooks College is a special place and so much more than a dormitory, as well as the responsibility of each Brooks member. As one who has read dozens of essays from Brooks freshmen wanting to break their contracts (to live at Brooks for 2 years), I felt so refreshed by hearing from a person who "gets it."

The entire issue was superb! Good work!

Ann Garner
Brooks College Administrative Assistant

*See Emily's article on page 1 of the Aug. 19 issue.

Want to write a letter to the editor or one of the writers? Send it to Brooks.Torch@gmail.com.



photos by ann garner

Operation: PARANOIA



Nosse
Oviemhada
*Staff
Writer*



photo by justin oxford

If you've seen someone hurling socks across the Brooks quad lately, wielding plastic spoons or shadily hiding behind columns you may have witnessed a new Brook's tradition: Paranoia!

The game has been popular on college campuses for the last few decades. MIT claims to have hosted the first one in 1983, and since then the game has thrived in small campus settings, companies and large cities. The game started at 8 a.m. Aug. 30 with 100 Prexians hunting one another with socks and spoons.

Paranoia concluded its second round last week with 45 players left in the game. Every player was given a card with his or her target's name and photo. After scoring elimination the target's target became the new goal for the successful assassin. This year is the first year that the Community and Traditions committee has put on the game. If it keeps going as smoothly as it is now we hope to put another one together next semester.

The first kill took place thirty seven minutes into the game. Since then many Prexians have gone down fighting including our very own Nick Batts who went down by the hands of a girl.

After his disgraceful defeat he shared his story with us:

"Fire was exchanged from both sides and eventually the battle brought us back to where we started, in front of the Great Hall entrance, and it was there that the fatal sock was thrown. Catherine, using a human shield, lobbed a sock over. All my weight had been planted on my right foot so I couldn't shift and the sock gently tapped me on the toe. I died a hero's death and fell on my back." (See picture above.)

Students seem to be having lots of fun with Paranoia. If you missed out on the game this time look out for Paranoia next semester. It's not only exciting but a great way to get to know other Brooks residents! Those who are playing this semester are getting what they'd signed up for... the daily paranoia, knowing that someone, somewhere, has a sock and spoon with your name on it, is quite a rush.

Four easy ways to take out your target:

1. Befriend and Betray
Ex. Hey friend, that I have accidently run into want to go grab some lunch?
2. Facebook Statuses
Ex. {Status UPDATE} "So Hungry about to go grab some food at Penland. J"
3. Get to know your targets friends
Ex. Hey Jerry, Do you know that guy George?? Do you want to introduce me?
4. Does this smell like chloroform to you???? J/K... DON'T DO IT.



photos by justin oxford

Brooks Mentor Program: A New Tradition



Sally Ann
Moyer

*Staff
Writer*

Brooks College has a new tradition aimed at building lasting community relationships. The Arts and Academics Committee co-chairs, Anson Jablinski and Emily Goeke, developed the idea of pairing up new students with returning students back in mid-June.

"Anson got the idea from the big brother/big sister programs that they have in sororities and fraternities where an older member will sort of like be like a big brother/big sister to a younger member to help them get acquainted with the traditions of the group and you know help them get to know people and things like that," Goeke said.

This year, students were matched by gender, but otherwise randomly.

"We're hoping that we could eventually maybe even match students by discipline perhaps," President Emilie Moore said.

All students living in Brooks for their first year have mentors, regardless of classification. Mentors are at least one year older than their mentees.

"I think it gives the older students also a responsibility to impart what they know and also to invest in the new students which I think is really important, and just gives a really obvious opportunity, like an avenue, to do that."

Much like Brooks itself, the program's main goal is

to build community.

"It's kind of like a more intentional approach to community and so we'll see how it works and this year we get to evaluate and maybe rework some things if we need to, but so far so good," Moore said.

The mentoring program exists not only to help new students find an automatic friend, but to create ties across generations of Brooks members.

"Part of it is that we hope it creates an avenue for the vision of Brooks to be passed on, so that when older members leave they've communicated well the vision of Brooks and why we're here and that we love each other," Moore said.

Moore also encourages mentees to be mentors next year. "We're hoping that the program kind of just perpetuates itself really," she said.

Besides building relationships between different years of current students, the program also has the goal of building relationships between current students and alumni.

"I think that'd be awesome and then having the current students meet the alumni, I just think that'd be a neat thing," Moore said.

The current hope for the program is for mentors and mentees to form relationships of their own desire.

"We really don't want to make it some sort of like enforced, strict program where we tell that they have to do specific things or anything like that," Goeke said.

Moore is aware of the need for striking a balance between not creating forced relationships, but also encouraging mentors and

mentees to get to know each other.

"We don't want to, you know, require anyone to do anything specific so it'll be interesting to see how that works out, how us trying to find a balance works out, and maybe making adjustments as we go," she said.

Returning students agreed to serve as mentors for new students during the summer, but new students did not receive any official word on the program until this past week, according to Moore.

"I got an e-mail saying a little bit about it. I don't know too much about it, all I know is the e-mail," freshman Jarrod Tunnell said.

Moore hoped that mentors would make the first line of contact with their mentees.

"I gave the mentors a chance to initiate that and then some of them haven't heard from their mentors, some of them have, so I just got to kind of explain the program in an e-mail to them saying that this person is here for you, they're not your parent or anything like that, they're not trying to be your parent, they just want to be here for you so that was the first they probably officially heard about it if they hadn't heard from their mentor," she said.

While Tunnell has not yet heard from his mentor, other mentors have made attempts to contact their students.

"I Facebooked him and sent him a Facebook message but he didn't respond," sophomore David Tucker said.

He recognizes the need to make sure the relationship is

not forced.

"I guess if he wants to contact me, he'll contact me, because I already contacted him so I don't want to barrage him with pressure to hang out with me or whatever."

While Goeke hasn't received much response, she did attempt contacting her students as well.

"I don't think that mentors should be trying to force themselves into the lives of their students, but at the same time, I do think that mentors need to at least make some attempt to contact them and just let them know that they're there to talk or anything if they need it," Goeke said.

Moore has heard few positive stories of mentor-mentee interactions.

"I've heard of a couple people who've just gone to have coffee together, or there's two girls on my hall one of them is a mentor one of them is a mentee...and when they met each other it was like really exciting," she said. "It was really cool to see the mentee excited that she already had a friend and it's not like the mentor is some superior or anything it's just that they've lived here and so they can help and offer some different assistance and help people get involved and answer questions and just have that much more experience even if it's just a year more, it makes a difference."

Moore has also spent some time getting to know one of her students.

"It was good to just let her know she has somebody else to talk to here if she needs anything, and it was really fun."

MORNING & EVENING PRAYER:

awkward moments... and how to avoid them



Kyndall Renfro
Chaplain

Morning and Evening Prayer is an important part of life at Brooks, and our hope is that it will become a meaningful practice for many of you.

But let's be honest—attending morning or evening prayer for the first time can be . . . well, awkward . . .

Awkward: I just opened the chapel door and everyone is speaking in unison! What is going on?

Avoid: Chances are you arrived a minute late. Prayers have begun, and participants are following along in their prayer guide. Just pick up a green prayer book and join in.

Awkward: Today is September 7th, and I opened the prayer book to September 7th, but the words on my page are not matching what everyone else is saying! How does every-

one else know what to say?

Avoid: It sounds like you are at evening prayer, but you opened your prayer book to the morning prayer guide! Evening prayer guides are found in the back of the book. Morning prayer guides are dated (Sep. 7, Sep. 8, etc), but the evening prayer guides are listed by weekday without dates (Monday, Tuesday, etc.).

Awkward: Dr. Henry gave the benediction and sat down, but everyone is still sitting quietly. Is it over? What happens next?

Avoid: When the final benediction has been given, you are free to leave when you choose. We all remain quiet out of respect for those who may be praying privately. Some participants like to remain in the chapel after prayers for additional silence, but others will leave right away.

Awkward: I thought I was going to a prayer meeting where we would share prayer requests and pray for one another. How is this genuine prayer when it seems like we are just reading

a script?

Avoid: Depending on how you were raised, some of you have literally never experienced this type of liturgical prayer before. Of course, others of you are quite familiar with it, and you feel right at home.

If these prayers feel foreign to you, let me assure you that the church has been practicing this type of praying for centuries (although some congregations have lost the practice somewhere along the way), and most of the prayers in the guides are quotations straight from Scripture. An effective prayer life needs BOTH creative expression and humble surrender. That is to say, prayer at times should be spontaneous—a free expression of whatever you are thinking and feeling. At other times, prayer should be an act of surrender on your part. Instead of praying what you feel, you pray what Scripture instructs you to pray, what the church leads you to pray. If you ONLY pray spontaneously, you run the risk of developing a prayer life that is domi-

nated by your own whims.

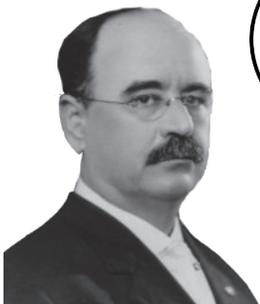
When we gather for communal, guided prayer like the kind we share in Robbins Chapel, we remind ourselves that praying is not a privatized act meant only to satisfy me, help me, and fit my schedule. We remind ourselves that we belong to a community, that prayer is ultimately about God, and that true worship requires surrender of self.

If the Brooks version of morning and evening prayer is still awkward to you, I encourage you to go anyway! Jesus never promised his disciples they would be comfortable! Challenge the status quo of your current prayer life and stretch yourself to new heights. You won't notice a change in yourself right away—most disciplines don't work that way. But similar to consistent exercise, over time you will begin to see and feel the difference.*

*Grace and Peace,
Kyndall*

*Join us weekdays at 9 a.m. or 10 p.m.

Sammy says...



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.'

Don't forget the Mayborn



Nathan
Fischer
*Staff
Writer*

It's FREE, to students that is. The Mayborn Museum, located just across University Parks next to the Baylor Law School and the athletic complex, is a great place to explore and have fun.

The first floor is dedicated to more of the traditional

museum structure, while the second floor is dedicated to kids.

I had personally never been to this museum until my Survey of Human Development class required it as an assignment. I would recommend it to anyone looking for an exploration. One of the exhibits is Waco at the Crossroads of Texas which is an in depth look at the history of the land that now comprises Waco.

Another exhibit that Baylor and the Mayborn Mu-

seum sponsor is the Columbian Mammoth site just five miles from campus. The museum says, "This remarkable paleontological site is believed to be the world's largest concentration of Columbian Mammoths dying from a single event." (Editor's Note: It's only \$7 and really awesome.)

There is much more of course, but you'll just have to see for yourself. So, if you are ever finding yourself bored and without something to do, or if you just

want an escape, visit the Mayborn Museum and find something out of the ordinary.

The Mayborn Museum is at 1300 S. University Parks Drive and the Waco Mammoth site is located at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Road.

**Credit for the quote and the information comes from www.baylor.edu/mayborn.

Brooks Library a haven for worms...bookworms that is



Emily
Goeke
*Staff
Writer*

Hidden in a little corner in Brooks College is a library. The Brooks College library is a gem that often gets overlooked. While it will never be a substitute for the wonderful research libraries we have here at Baylor, it is still an excellent resource for the members of Brooks College.

Our library has a small but growing collection of books. Many of these books belong to the Great Texts Program, which has faculty offices behind the front desk. The other books were either donated to or otherwise procured by Brooks College. Each of our books are marked with a Brooks College bookplate inside the cover so that Brooks members can feel more invested in their library.

One very special way in

which books are added to our collection is the Senior Book Tradition. At the end of every semester, graduating seniors who live or have lived in Brooks College are asked to inscribe and donate a book that was meaningful to them. Also, seniors who write an Honors thesis may add copy of their thesis to the collection. These books, along with books written by special visitors to Brooks, can be found in the glass case on the left hand side of the library.

Taking care of the library is the responsibility of the Arts and Academics Committee. We sort new donations, do book plating for the books owned by Brooks College, and make sure the library is neat and organized. We are also in the process of creating an online catalog, which you can find at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/brookscollege>. If you are interested in the Arts and Academics Committee, contact me (Emily_Goeke@baylor.edu) or Anson Jablinski (Anson_Jablinski@baylor.edu), or



photo by kathy mcdowall

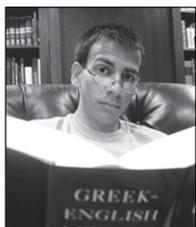
come to our meetings every other Sunday at 4:00 pm in the library.

The library does have a few rules, most of which are just library common sense. When in the library, you should refrain from being loud or disruptive. The books, which are the public property of Brooks College, should be treated with respect. The door to the college master's residence is a private entrance and should not be opened. However, contrary to most library

rules, food and drinks are allowed as long as you are responsible with the books and furniture and clean up after yourself.

Finally, did you know you can check out books from the Brooks College library? To do so, record your name and the book in the ledger, in the drawer of the bookstand by the entrance. You can check out the books for two weeks and renew your check out once.

Cookies



Alex Iworkowski
Staff Writer



Cookies. No, I am not referring to the things that websites use to track your computer, but the good-old-fashioned edible treats which can excite anybody's olfactory sensory neurons (i.e. cookies smell good). Whether you savor snickerdoodles or are a chocolate chip connoisseur, you probably identify with this sentiment.

In this article, I want to address certain issues within this realm of the confection world. Three concerns have been brought to my attention; I shall attempt to tackle these tough issues.

The first issue concerns white chocolate chip macadamia nut (hereafter referred to as WCMN) cookies. Have you noticed that the macadamia nuts always accompany the white chocolate chips? Why are white chocolate chip-only cookies rarely, if ever, produced? While I do appreciate the blend of smooth crunch and gooey sweetness that a WCMN affords, I would also treasure such a cookie sans macadamia nuts. While white chocolate is not real chocolate, its sole presence within a cookie does delight many a person's taste buds—mine included. A particular incentive to stimulate the production and consumption of white chocolate chip cookies is the fact that macadamia nuts have a very high saturated fat content. In my cookie consumption experience, I realize that I am eating an item with a high fat content; I do not need a few nuts contributing additional arterial plaque-building

lipids to my dessert.

The second issue is similar in nature to the first: why oatmeal raisin cookies and not oatmeal-only cookies? Many people appreciate this attempt to produce a "healthier" cookie which is (relatively) rich in fiber and other nutrients. Nutritional value might be a big selling point, but it is not the only one. People such as myself enjoy the gustatory richness of an oatmeal raisin cookie. However, some people love oatmeal, yet possess a dislike or intolerance of raisins. These people are stranded without options in their quest for palatal pleasure. I believe this is a legitimate concern which needs to be remedied. I raise my voice on behalf of my rejected raisin-rejecting friends.

The third issue might be a bit touchy, but I must lay it upon the table of discussion and inquiry. Why does the Memorial dining hall serve an abundance of sugar-free cookies? What has happened to the cookie? While I sympathize with my diabetic friends, the sugar-free cookie should not be an excuse for the "dieter" (not referring to all dieters) to engage in gustatory indulgence while leaving their gastrointestinal tract unscathed by additional calories. If you happen to be one of these so-called dieters (you know who you are), I admonish you: You are cheating the cookie, and you are cheating yourself. You cannot remove the natural goodness of sugar from a cookie and replace it with a chemically synthesized substance; you alter the taste and unnaturally manipulate your level of satiety. In addition, dieting should be a discipline carried out with some encouragement. This encouragement, however, should not come in the form of a sucrose-deprived decorated cracker.

I hope I have shed some light on these very important issues. May our dialogue on these matters continue, and may it lead to culinary change and justice for all taste buds.

Today in History, September 10



Nathan Fischer
Staff Writer

In 1981, Spanish artist Pablo Picasso's monumental anti-war mural Guernica, one of Picasso's most important works, is received by Spain after four decades of refugee existence.

In 1608, English adventurer John Smith is elected council president of Jamestown, Virginia--the first permanent English settlement in North America.

In 1897 the first drunk driving arrest was made in London after a taxi driver George Smith drove his cab into a building.

In 1991 the band Nirvana releases their single, "Smells Like Teen Spirit".

<p>I N</p> <p>socks</p> <p>leaving the tower open</p> <p>moonlight dinner on the tower</p> <p>leather coasters</p> <p>bubble umbrellas</p>	<p>&</p>	<p>golf umbrellas</p> <p>fire drills</p> <p>flooding</p> <p>sprinklers on in the rain</p> <p>Minglewood Marsh</p> <p>crickets</p> <p>pigeons</p>
<p>O U T</p>		

Can I have your number?

The Life and Times of Jennifer Tran



Jennifer
Tran

*Staff
Writer*

Each year, Baylor holds a tradition during welcome week that everybody enjoys. THE SERENADE. Last year, this tradition was a total experience! Excluding the fact that we (girls) had to sit on the side of a curb for 40 minutes waiting for the guys, the guys' performance was well-worth the wait!

This year, I took in a breath of air and sat back and watched everyone from the side with my other sophomore friends. Of course, the guys mainly danced and talked to the girls that sat in the front. I figured that would suck for everyone else that sat in the back, but I assure you, that was not the case when Penland and Martin came around.

This is where it took a humorous turn. So my friends and I (like any typical girl) figured, "Let's also mingle because we would also love flowers too!" For the first few people we met, we introduced ourselves as sophomores...in which case, for some reason, freshmen guys don't like that. Their response was awkward and weird and our only conclusion for that was to lie. "Let's say we're freshmen!" - sweet.

Okay, so Martin rolls around and the guys are swimming through the girls

trying to find whoever they want to talk to or flirt with. I'm not sure if they were "trained" to ask for our numbers but several of them did. This guy from Martin, let's call him "Antonio Banderas" (idk...)

Anyways, so Antonio walks up to me and starts small talk. "What's your name/major/age/location etc. etc." Easy stuff! Okay...I'm never going to see this kid at the rate that he's swimming through all the woman and I'm walking through the men, let me just lie. I told him I was a freshman. MISTAKE #1! Okay, that was one lie, but he really did form up more of an interest after that (for some reason). The Martin guys start heading back to the street to move to the next dorm when he asks, "Can I have your number?" ...Mind goes blank. I don't know you, kid. I totally just lied to you. I should give you Nosse's number instead of my own. Excuses, excuses. Fun stuff was running through my mind but I could really care less, so I really DID give him my number.

"Hah, he'll never call me." MISCONCEPTION! MISTAKE #2.

This kid texts me a week after asking if I want to get lunch with him - okay awesome! He was cool, I would enjoy lunch! Unfortunately, I was legitimately busy all week - so I canceled on him. He kept asking and I kept refusing because of all the work. This lasted until I felt bad that I was neglecting Banderas over here so I texted him to get Dinner.

Then a realization befell me. I forgot what he looked like. FAIL #1.

My memory is not the best, but I know for a fact that not everyone can remember everyone that they talked to that night (what I tell myself so I don't feel guilty). This will be easy, just facebook him! Evidentially, there are millions of "Antonio Banderas" in the world and not one in the Baylor Network. FAIL #3. I don't really know how to get out of this one at this point. He texted me that he had arrived for dinner and that he brought a friend so I dragged Nosse to come with me to help me find a possible "Banderas" in the sea of people eating in the Great Hall. Scanning and awkwardly smiling at random people hoping to catch a reaction from the possibly mysterious Banderas, I gave up and sat down. "Let's just text him to find us," said Nosse. Clever. That worked out well... he walked in with his friend and found us. He greeted everyone INCLUDING ME. "Hello, I'm Antonio Banderas," lol. Oh, irony.

Things worked out after that. I had my first LITERAL Blind Date. He was cool and friendly. We parted ways after dinner and ended it at that. Moral of the story is: Don't assume. Don't lie (I told him I was a sophomore 5 minutes into dinner, no big.) and Don't forget someone's face and assume the problem will be resolved by Facebook Stalking them. J

Council Corner

The Council Corner is where the topics discussed at each Brooks College Council meeting are recorded.

Council meetings are held by the Brooks College Governing Board, which includes the officers and committee chairs. **Remember: council meetings are open for anyone to attend!**

7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9

The Council Corner is where the topics discussed at each council meeting are recorded.

Remember: council meetings are open for anyone to attend!

COMMUNITY LEADER

spotlight

Lauren Vacendak

FLOOR: 4D
YEAR: SOPHOMORE



1. What is your degree/major/minor?

I'm a sophomore majoring in Pre-Occupational Therapy.

2. What is your hometown?

Born in the Sunshine State (FL), but home sweet home has been Richardson, TX, for the past 12 years.

3. What activities are you involved in?

Community Leader what what!!! Youth Ministry Teams, indoor/sand volleyball intramurals, playing bass/guitar & piano, aaand tea/coffee-drinking. Definitely.

4. Why did you choose Baylor?

I chose BU for their solid spiritual emphasis, prestigious academics, and their commitment to community and each student's personal development--just a great balance of everything. My older sister, Nicole, is in grad school here for Speech Path and it's great to have a best friend so close. :) Plus, the campus is beautiful and their squirrels are so cute!

5. What is your favorite movie and why?

What is "Finding Neverland" for \$400, Alex!!! It roams the land of fantasy and reality while conveying a deep truth about growing up. And the music score? Simply amazing. I actually wrote my research paper about this film in ENG 1304 last year. I enjoyed writing it, the prof loved it, and it got an A. Bingo!

6. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Working at a therapy center helping people in the Occupational Therapeutic Field, possibly married, working and serving actively in a church on fire for the King!

7. Why are you a CL?

I am happily a CL because I want to be a friend and mentor to other girls and help others share my love for Baylor and become more connected in Brooks/Baylor's amazing community!

8. What is your favorite childhood memory?

My sister and I still laugh about Vacendak Vacation of 1999. Our grandpa's seaside condo lended incredible forgetfulness due to it's proximity to the beach. If we forgot the sunblock, just quickly run back up and grab it, right? WRONG. Passing items is not my family's forte. Dad and I especially would rather "toss" an item to each other than walk five steps and hand it off old-school-relay-

style. Soooo, many things were simply tossed off the balcony. This technique had worked beautifully with the sunblock, water bottles, towels, and any other forgotten beach essential.

One day, Nicole and I forgot the much-needed ROOM KEY. Yikes. We pulled out our walkie-talkies (days before cell phones!) and Dad rogered our need. The beach was so bright and crowded, we could hardly see Dad on the balcony. He assumed his regular optimal "drop" position. Then it happened. The infamous toss! Grandpa's one-and-only key glimmered in the air for a moment and then landed somewhere below in the white abyss of sand. We failed to catch it and started our frantic search! We looked everywhere and friendly strangers even tried to help!

So, what does my dad do? In utter DESPERATION, Dad hastily approaches a nearby beach bum who is currently scanning the shoreline for gold with a blurping metal-detector. Dad quickly asks, "Can we use this?!" and before the man could nod, that metal detector was in Dad's hands as he sprinted towards us. Stunned, the tanned man shouted, "Did ya find GOLD?!!" and ran after Dad. Perhaps the biggest thrill that man had experienced in a while! We will never forget that sight. Our sun-burned dad running with an old, whirring metal detector and the bum close on his heels, excited. Before the man could suggest a 50/50 split, we explained the reason for Dad's haste. After much digging and strange looks from passer-bys, we found that small little key and thanked the tanned man, now a friend, for his lend. We don't really toss that much anymore.

9. What is the best class you have taken at Baylor and why?

Dr. Moseman's Christian Scriptures class. I love gaining more spiritual insight to begin with, and Dr. Moseman's charisma and passion for teaching God's Word was inspiring! The new perspectives and intriguing questions he delved into in class were challenging but definitely contributed to every student's spiritual growth.

10. What is your favorite thing about Brooks?

Brooks College just feels like one big family to me. Everyone is so friendly and truly cares about the well-being of others. The JCR serves as our Family Room, the Great Hall is our kitchen/dining area, Robbins Chapel is our quiet place, and the Brooks Library is our study space. No, Brooks doesn't consist of just rooms and living areas, but the relationships and conversations that are made in the community of Brooks certainly contributes to the feeling of family.

FINE ARTS forecast



Anson
Jablinski
*Staff
Writer*

Oh, September. You're not quite summer, but you're sure not fall. I'm just waiting for sweater season again, when my glasses won't fog up every time I walk outside. Anyone with me?

To pass the time until October, attend the events listed here. Or, play a game or two of "**Treadmillasaurus Rex**" (<http://tinyurl.com/T-RexGame>). If you can beat my high score of 24,706, email me a screenshot, and I'll include your name in my next article! ROWWRRRRR!!

As always, feel free to write me if you have an upcoming event you want to see listed in the Forecast!

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.

Parents' Weekend Choral Concert

Friday, September 10 at 5:00 pm.

Jazz Ensemble Swing Concert

Friday, September 10. Swing back in time to the 1940s! Get your \$5 tickets in the lobby of the McCrary Music Building, or get in free if you're 65 or older.

Wind Ensemble

Tuesday, September 14.

Inauguration of Baylor President Ken Starr

Sure to be a big party, the official inauguration ceremony will be at 2:00 pm on Friday, September 17 at the Ferrell Center. I'm not sure who's invited to attend, but I at least know that the Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble are playing a few tunes, and it looks like some choir folks are singing, too. Hopefully, it'll be on local TV or something, so check it out if you get a chance!

Symphonic Band

Tuesday, September 21.

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, September 23.

Waco Symphony

Presenting an international competition-winning solo pianist playing a Rachmaninoff concerto. Tuesday, September 28 at 7:30 pm in Waco Hall. Student tickets are \$5 at the door with a Baylor ID. Man up and take a date, yeh lazy bum!!

Baylor Theatre Presents "Gypsy"

Opens on Wednesday, September 29 at 7:30 in Jones Theatre (Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center). Runs through early October. See [www.baylor.edu/theatre] for more showtimes and ticket information.

Martin Museum of Art

On display 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] for museum hours and other information.

On the Big Screen: films to watch this month



Katy
McDowall
Editor

Inspired by Anson's **Fine Arts Forecast**, I thought it would be cool to write an article on movies that would be worth seeing when they come out this semester. But then I realized how many movies will be coming out this semester and revised my idea. So, instead, here is a list of movies you should consider seeing this month.

Sept. 10 (Today!)

Resident Evil: Afterlife: I won't lie. I don't think this movie is going to be amazing. I think it will be entertaining

(it's in 3D and there are zombies) so you should go and see it.

I'm Still Here: We've all been wondering what happened to Joaquin Phoenix and his so-called transition from actor to rapper. This is our chance to find out.

Sept. 17

Easy A: This is basically considered a modern day version of *The Scarlet Letter*. Will it be amazing? Probably not. Will it be funny? Yes.

The Town: Starring Ben Affleck. Directed by Ben Affleck. This should actually be good (and you know it if you saw his "Gone Baby Gone").

Devil: There are two things about this movie that bother me. One, it's written by M. Night Shyamalan, who I lost all faith in a while ago after "The Last Airbender"... no maybe before



that... "The Happening"... no definitely some time before that. Two, didn't this film used to be called *Elevator*? What happened there? Yet, I'm still curious.

Sept. 24

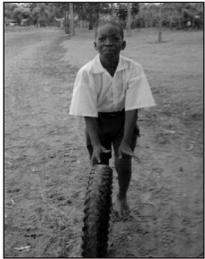
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps: It's a sequel... 1009303 years later. But Michael Douglas is back and is now partnered with Shia LaBeouf. It could be worth seeing.

TORCHtoon

From the minds of Nosse Oviemhada and Katy McDowall.



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.



CONTACT the torch



Brooks.Torch@gmail.com



Join the Facebook group!
Search for "The Torch"

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

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 - 9:00 p.m. - Great Hall -
(contact: Nosse_Oviemhada@baylor.edu, Vanessa_Wyns@baylor.edu)

ARTS AND ACADEMICS

- Every other Sunday - 4:30 p.m. - Brooks Library -
(contact: Anson_Jablinski@baylor.edu, Emily_Goeke@baylor.edu)

SERVICE AND MINISTRY

- Mondays - 7 p.m. - Seminar Room
(contact: Lindsay_Putnam@baylor.edu, Seth_Oldham@baylor.edu)

Spiritual Formation in Brooks Community

Morning & Evening Prayers

Mornings: 9-9:15 a.m. Evenings 10-10:15 p.m.
EVERYDAY in Robbins Chapel

Practicing Prayer Weekly Worship

Mondays at 4:30pm Tuesday Nights 10:30 pm
Robbins Chapel Robbins Chapel
Begins October 4th
Six Weeks long Worship Together!

Ladies and Gents Small Group Studies

Mens Small group Monday nights @ 7:45
First Floor Mens Study Room
Ladies Bible Study: Tuesday Nights at 7:30
in Chaplains Apt Rm 362

For More Information Contact: Kyndall_Rothaus@baylor.edu or
Follow us at www.baylor.edu/spirituallife

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