



Q & A WITH JOHN PARKER, BROOKS COLLEGE PRESIDENT



John
Parker

Contributor

How can I get involved? What is the College Council? What the heck is a Quadrahumpdacorn? And other frequently asked questions, answered.

Greetings and salutations, everybody! I hope you have all had a pleasant time at Brooks thus far. It has come to my attention that many of you still have questions about Brooks a month after moving in, so I decided to dedicate this article to answering some of those nagging, unanswered questions. Let's begin.

Q: I want to be involved more in Brooks, but I don't know how. Help?

A: Brooks College has three committees whose very purpose is fostering involvement in a number of ways, each with a unique focus related to collegiate life together. The first committee I might recommend is ComTrad (short for Community Traditions.) So far, ComTrad and its chair Ribesh have been responsible for events like Picnic on the Quad, Color Wars, and Paranoia. Second, we have Acatack (Arts and Academics.) Acatack and its chair Garner are currently planning ongoing events like Adventures on Vinyl hosted by Caleb Farmer, the Reel Talks cinema series (which just exhibited Casablanca), Movie on the Quad (the last of which was Forrest Gump), and a book discussion group is in the works. Last, but certainly not least, we have SerMin (Service and Ministry.) SerMin is concerned with spiritual life in the college and the greater community. Thomas, Patricia, and the rest of this committee are responsible for planning engaging worship services, assisting in various events related to the church calendar, running King's Club, a regular event that ministers to needy children in Waco, as well as sponsoring a child named

Negashu. All of the committees are in need of more active members (i.e. those of you reading) and are open to (and would love to hear) new ideas for events. You can also get involved by talking to Nick Norris about intramurals or Ellen Klitgaard about the Torch, attending any or all of our great events, and serving the college in other capacities that come to mind along the way.

Q: You're like the President, right? What do you and the rest of the Council do?

A: The College Council is made up of the three regular committee chairs, the chair of the Points System (more info to come on that later, I promise!) the Secretary/Treasurer Chase Van Gorp, the vice-President Nathan Hall, and the President (me). The Council is in charge of overseeing committee progress, helping plan events, and generally assisting in creating community at the Brooks-wide level. My job in particular is to manage the rest of the Council, foster participation, and to function as liaison between students and staff. I hold office hours most Mondays and Tuesdays in the JCR to communicate with residents about their experiences and to mold a greater vision for the future of the college. Come see me and chat my ear off anytime.

Q: Umm, what is a Quadrahumpdacorn and why do I see it all over the place?

A: The Quadrahumpdacorn is a special animal of myth and legend known for having four humps and a single horn on its head. It also happens to be my favorite animal, so

learn to love it. You'll be seeing it quite a lot.

Q: Anything else I need to know? Reminders or tips?

A: Sure. A great place to meet new people, get better acquainted with those you already know, and to just have fun is the JCR (Junior Common Room.) If you haven't taken time to hangout in there, I highly recommend it. TV, Ping Pong, and social interaction can all be found there most hours of the day or night. The men's 1st floor study room (The Foundation) has a pool table for college-wide use and the men's 3rd floor study room (The Fellowship) has a foosball table anyone can use. 1st floor ladies' (The Lovelies) study area has a piano open open to your use as well. The other study areas actually function as study rooms. Take advantage of them, along with the Brooks library and the Great Hall to accomplish some studying. Also take time to utilize our new tutor, pray in Robbins Chapel, eat in the Great Hall, socialize on your halls, leave your doors open on Thursday nights (or more often if you'd like), contribute to this newsletter, visit me in the Council Office, bake cookies in the JCR kitchen, and pester a CL on desk duty.

There are all manner of things for you to do while you are at Brooks, so make the most of it. And if I can help you do that in any way, let me know. I see a great year ahead.

- John W. Parker,
President of Brooks College

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| handing out the torch since fall 2007 |

could this be you!

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Editor's note



Ellen
Klitgaard
Editor

Hey, Brooks College! I'm so excited to serve you this year as Editor of the Torch. I apologize for the delay of this issue, but thanks to staff writer volunteers, we were able to pull an edition together. On that

note, we're looking for writers, photographers, graphic designers, and an assistant editor to help with this publication! Putting together a newsletter requires a dedicated group of helpers, because the process is pretty crazy from start to finish. If you're interested in joining, shoot me an email at ellen_klitgaard@baylor.edu!

Being back at Brooks for my sophomore year has been such a blessing. Though a good portion of my friends have moved off campus, it feels great to come home to Brooks at the end of the day. It's so comforting to see smiles from both strangers and familiar faces alike. Rather than two or three housemates, I have suitemates,

hallmates, and an entire COLLEGE to welcome me home! That support is critical.

Though I personally have found my primary community in the BIC and Honors programs, I find the Brooks family to be such a valuable part of my Baylor experience thus far. I'd encourage all of you to seek out your Baylor niche, in addition to life at Brooks. Get involved in campus-wide clubs, service, greek life, academic programs, or any one of the many options available at Baylor. However, as you seek out your Baylor home, leave room for Brooks in your heart. Never again will you have an opportunity to live in a community like Brooks. Take advantage of it.

MEET YOUR CHAPLAIN

Hello, Brooks! I am so excited to be starting another year here with all of you! In case we haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, my name is Chelsea Krahulik, and I live and work here in Brooks as the Resident Chaplain. I could go on and talk about life in community and how great Brooks is (and it is!), but instead, I'll tell you a little about more about me because I would also love to get to know more about you.

1. I was born in Anchorage, Alaska.

2. In high school, I played the Fox in Sox in "Seussical the Musical."

3. My university mascot was the Golden Hurricane (at the University of Tulsa)!

4. In college, I studied sociology and international relations.

5. I'm a full-time graduate student at Truett, Baylor's seminary, and I'm working toward my Master of Divinity.

6. My family lives in Dubai, so when I "go home," I have to take a fifteen hour plane trip to the United Arab Emirates!

7. I speak Spanish and Italian.

8. I've spent many major holidays in an airport/airplane, including Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year's, and my birthday.

9. I have one brother, and he's a senior in college at my alma mater.

10. I'd like to learn to play guitar this year!



Chelsea
Krahulik
Contributor



CL SPOTLIGHT

On Lauren Vacendak, CL of the women's 4th floor right side

1. WHAT IS YOUR DEGREE/MAJOR/MINOR?

I am a senior psychology Major on a Pre-Occupational Therapy track (Occupational Therapy is like Physical Therapy if you didn't know!).

2. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I am from Richardson, TX, a suburb of Dallas.

3. WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?

I am mostly involved at Brooks College: volleyball intramurals and really anything fun at Brooks! Outside of Brooks, I'm involved in my church and my Lifegroup.

4. WHAT ARE YOUR LIKES?

When the weather is not particularly scorching, you can find me spending most of my time outdoors. Soaking in the little moments and remembering my blessings are things I aim to focus on throughout my day. Playing the piano and volleyball are two things I would call passions. And I love people! And laughing! You'll find

me laughing a lot. I enjoy a good pun. I appreciate museums and art. Crafting is also a release for me... If you don't believe me, go look at my hallway! Puppies, peach flavored things, and candles also speak to my heart in a special way.

5. WHAT ARE YOUR DISLIKES?

I dislike the current Baylor fad of fidgety crickets lurking in the archway and study rooms! I also don't particularly enjoy flying bugs--wasps and such (the kind I have no control over). I also don't like the Brooks Parking garage elevators... Let's be honest.

6. WHAT ARE SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT YOU?

Fun fact about me: I own and play the Djembe (pronounced "JIM-bay"), which is an African drum. I'm a PK (pastor's kid), and a large part of my life growing up revolved around this; I loved it. I say my name is Crystal at Starbucks (sometimes), because I can't say my own name very clearly. If I could have any dream side-job it would be to sing harmony in the background of a chill acoustic band. I daydream A LOT. I make weird faces (if you haven't noticed). My sister and I look like twins (so they say) but we're really 4 ½ years apart, Nicole being the older one.

7. WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE AS A CL?

Just to pour into others' lives. I hope that at the end of the day, I will have made their day better in some way. Giving advice and seeing others develop and grow is definitely a passion of mine!

8. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BROOKS?

It's more like Brooks chose me. Seriously, it was totally a God thing that I am in Brooks now, and I love it and couldn't imagine my Baylor experience without it! I truly believe that a community like Brooks is hard to find, and we are blessed to be able to spend a portion of our lives here!

9. WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS AND AMBITIONS?

Hmm. That's a big question! First, some advice is for you to throw your "timeline" out the window. I thought coming into college that I had my whole life planned out. I do to an extent, but I realized the best and most freeing place you can be in life is in the freedom, peace, and joy of the Lord. I know I want to be an Occupational Therapist at hopefully a sports clinic or outpatient clinic in a hospital. I could definitely see myself with a family and a big dog someday. Also, in the near future, I would also like to own my own avocado tree.

10. WHAT IS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF THE CL EXPERIENCE?

Purely the people! Without the people, Brooks is just a building. Our CL staff is SO fun. And I love having fun with the girls on our hall! They are so fun and bring so much joy to my life. I also really respect the gentlemen of Brooks; Thank you guys for always holding doors open and caring for the girls here in a sisterly way. Keep it up men!



Advice For Freshmen

1. Your friends will change a lot over the next 4 years. Let them.
2. Get an iPod to soundtrack your walk to class.
3. Take advantage of down time--and by advantage, I mean take a nap.
4. Unfortunately, procrastination will happen. Plan for it so you don't overwhelm yourself last minute.
5. Use the freedom that comes with not having grades first semester to experiment and see what works best for you.
6. The people you hang around can make or break you.
7. As you probably already know by now, people are not enthused by random sic'ems.
8. Make connections with professors, you'll need them for recommendations after graduation.
9. Shower!
10. If you can handle it, get a job...or a legal college hustle.
11. Use your summers for more than beach vacations and cruises --get an internship.

12. Your first priority is academics, not getting a boo.

13. Find a good church, as well as a good bible study group. You need both.

14. Get a best friend. Don't be a loner.

15. Chances are you will run out of meals by Friday. Become friends with somebody who has the unlimited or 16-meal plan.

16. Study hard and often, but have fun sometimes.

17. If you want to justify your procrastination, just remember: If you wait until last minute, then you only have to work for a minute.



Matthew Reid

Staff Writer

18. Wikipedia is not evil.

19. Try and have an hour or so a day of alone time. Slow your day down.

20. All-nighters are overrated.

21. You can think about the future, but be present in the now.

22. Each class you are in is about \$75 a class. Don't skip!

23. There are 1,000 things going on at once; don't waste your time and money watching TV. If you MUST watch TV, at least do it with some friends and gain a "valuable social experience".

24. Ask for help often.

25. The Freshman 15 is a lie! It happens to upperclassmen too.

26. Work your body then reward it with nutrition. Simple as that.

27. txtn 7ik3 d15 4int k001 4nym0r3. (textin like this ain't cool anymore)

28. Check you email frequently.

29. Get to know your CL. They are sort of cool people.

30. C's get degrees, but an A will pay.

31. Do your own laundry. If you don't know how, make Youtube your friend.

32. This is the only time in your lives when your only real responsibility is to learn. Try to remember how lucky you are every day.

Follow Matthew on Twitter at @reidThat.

“Are You Okay?”

Many years ago, I was not well. I didn't know what was wrong and felt guilty about being lazy and unproductive. I couldn't sleep, concentrate or eat. (Can you imagine? Me, not eat?) I hurt all over. I was exhausted and wanted to give up.

So, what was wrong with me? In a word, depression. My depression was a long time coming; I didn't just wake up one morning feeling sad. I had become so accustomed to

the way I felt that I didn't recognize my thoughts and feelings as being symptoms of a treatable illness.

I was sinking and couldn't save myself. But, one day, someone asked me if I was okay. She didn't know me very well, but she expressed concern and was ready to listen. She risked rejection. I was embarrassed by her questions but I didn't ignore her. I went for help. That's why I survived depression—someone else's willingness to act.

To this day, I don't know exactly what caused my depression. Family history maybe, and a variety of circumstances. Life is full of stress and no one is immune.

Depression doesn't care whether you're a Christian or have a seemingly perfect life. You can be young or elderly, poor or wealthy.

Are you okay? Maybe you're just a little “down,” but don't be afraid to tell someone! Don't know whom to tell? What about your community leader, your residence hall staff, your pastor, or your family? If you feel hopeless, tell someone today!

As a potential helper, you may assume that you have nothing to offer a hurting person. But are you willing to speak up and say “I care?” Don't underestimate the importance of what you can be for someone else. You can make a difference.



Ann Garner

Contributor



Erin
Ellis

Staff Writer

The New Kids at Brooks

We've finished our time of living with our parents and going to our "drab" high schools, all to be welcomed into one of the best communities at Baylor University. Pretty great accomplishment, don't you say? So yes, upperclassmen residents of Brooks College, when you see us strange new faces in your presence, compliments on our accomplishment are welcome! (As if!)

Being a freshman is a unique and memorable experience. Well, so I've heard; my experience has just begun—along with 177 other freshman and transfer students who are new to the Brooks Community.

I decided, what better way to explain what being a freshman or new member to the community is like than to ask those people themselves. Before I tell you what I learned from them, I will tell you what I learned personally with my experience so far.

Move-in day was a total breeze for my family and I, thanks to the move-in crew. That was great, because the easier that was, the sooner I could be all settled in my new home. One of the first things I noticed was how friendly the members of Brooks College are and how easy they made it to become part of the community. Let's face it: as freshman or new students, we are already in an unfamiliar situation. However, at Brooks, I did not feel out of place or lost at all.

Welcome Week activities were a great addition to getting situated in the Brooks community, as well as the Baylor community itself. After my first week of staying on my own here, I knew that I was in the right place for me, and I am truly blessed to be a part of the Brooks family.

Now that I've rambled on about how great I find Brooks College and Baylor University, here is what some of my fellow freshmen have to say about it, as well:

Marisa Pinson, a 3rd floor resident said,

"My favorite thing about move-in day was that I didn't have to bring anything up the stairs. I got to be lazy!"

Brooks Goodwin, a 4th floor resident said,

"College has been a fun and exciting experience so far! Coming here to Baylor, and more specifically Brooks College, was kind of nerve-wracking not knowing too many people, as well as not knowing the people I would be living with," said Goodwin. "But, that has been really a non-issue since everyone is so friendly and open to making new friends."

"The Brooks College Retreat was definitely a great way to get to know and bond with the people on my floor. Even with how short it was, I definitely learned a lot about the people on my floor and just got to have a good, fun experience, as well as feel at place within my floor and at Brooks College as a whole."



Top 10 Things I Wish I Knew as a Freshman

10. No one cares about who you were in high school, only about who you are, here and now in college. (Sorry, but that letterman is just not cool anymore!)

9. Not everyone wants to be your friend, but the people who become your friends will be your rocks on the hardest days of college.

8. The major you picked when you applied for college does NOT have to be the major you graduate with. (I'm on my 3rd major!)

7. Grades DO matter...

6....But if you want the whole college experience, you really should get out once in a while. Go out with roommates and friends, skype, join a club, get a job, go work-out...just do something that gets you away from that desk every once in a while!

5. Do not, under any circumstances, base your worth on whether you have a boyfriend/girlfriend!

4. YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES! That's okay...learn to realize the mistake, apologize, accept the consequences, and move on. Your worth is not based on your mistakes.



Patricia Lund

Staff Writer

3. When someone offers to help you with something, take them up on the offer. It's more grown up to ask for help than to waste time trying to figure something out on your own!

2. Going to tutoring/SI/office hours does NOT mean you are stupid. It means you are mature enough to know when you need a little extra help!

1. NEVER room with your best friend! It's a recipe for disaster, trust me.

Patricia is a senior religion major and a hall mentor for the Brooks College First Floor Lovelies.

Brooks Small Group!

***When:** Thursdays at 7:30pm

***Where:** Chelsea the Chaplain's Apartment—Room 362

***What:** This semester, we're studying the book of Ecclesiastes and exploring the deep questions we often face about the meaning and purpose of our lives. We hope you join us!

***Email** chelsea_krahulik@baylor.edu or more information!



Email ideas or submissions
brooks.torch@gmail.com



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Sammy says...



RG3 is my homeboy.

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

football games

the Brooks piano

joining organizations and volunteering

being a Redskins (a.k.a. RG3) fan

sweating

"I Know Where I'm Going" shirts

biker/walker collisions

single-sided printers

&

Out