

# THE TORCH

The Brooks College Newsletter

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Alex Tworkowski  
Staff Writer

## It's Not Too Late in 2008

New Year, New Semester, New Strategy

*"Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).*

Ah yes, a new year and a new semester! A new season to set goals and to start afresh. Perhaps this year is another chance or opportunity for you to achieve a goal established long ago? Are there any bits of wisdom that you want to glean from this college experience? Have you laid hold of any of these goals yet? If not, it's not too late in 2008!

*"I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet."*

Most of us have goals that we have not laid hold of yet. We may have patiently pursued them with enthusiasm and hope, but eventually lost zeal because we did not notice any progress and could not bear to wait any longer. These negative feelings brought us near to giving up and throwing in the towel. *"But one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind...."*

As we worked toward obtaining our goals, we may have made mistakes along the way. We may have made wrong turns which led us away from our goals. Some of us may have hit seemingly insurmountable roadblocks which devastated our progress. The decision to associate with the wrong crowd in the wrong ways may have obstructed your goal of being an effective witness



Photo by Emilie Moore

for Christ.

Perhaps that one weekend spent with friends instead of studying hurt your effort to perform well on Monday's test. Maybe you did something for which you cannot forgive yourself and move on.

If Christ can forgive us of our shortcomings and sins, we need to ask the Lord for the strength to forgive ourselves. The inability to forgive oneself is a weapon of the enemy: *"The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10a).*

The thief comes to steal your zeal, kill your will, and destroy your joy. We must remember that Christ came in horses, but instead we *"boast in order that we 'may have life, the name of the LORD, our God' and have it more abundantly" (Psalm 20:7). "[We] can do all (John 10:10b). We must be able to forget 'what lies behind'."*

However, we must not entirely forget or ignore ourselves, but rather they come from our Lord and Savior Jesus should reflect upon them to Christ. see what God has shown us through our failures and that Paul claims that he could have discerned

and avoid future mistakes. Perhaps some of our failures were the result of seeking to accomplish a goal that was outside of God's will or timing. Maybe the Lord did not intend for you to be the chairperson of that club or committee.

That job you did not get may not have been in God's plan for you. If we consider our past failures, we can avoid repeating our follies (see Proverbs 26:11).

*"Reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on...."* As we learn from our past mistakes and God's instruction, we are to press on toward our goals while seeking His guidance.

*"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).*

As we seek the Lord's wisdom and counsel in these verses, let us look at their context. In the preceding verses, Paul reminds us that we *"worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh" (v.3).*

We do not boast or have confidence in the flesh or in man or chariots or horses, but instead we *"boast in the name of the LORD, our God" (Psalm 20:7). "[We] can do all things through Him who strengthens [us]" (Philippians 4:13).*

Our righteousness, salvation, and strength do not come from ourselves, but rather they come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Following his reminder, through our failures and that Paul claims that he could have discerned

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Photo by Emilie Moore

## Not Too Late in 2008

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fidence in himself and claim to be righteous and superior to others because of his impressive Jewish credentials.

However, he counts these things *"as loss for the sake of Christ"* (v. 7). He concludes that he would rather consider all things as rubbish and loss so that he *"may gain Christ, and be found in Him... through [the righteousness] which is through faith in Christ...that [he] may know Him and the power of His resurrection...in order that [he] may attain to the resurrection of the dead"* (vv. 8-11).

Paul presses on *"toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (v. 14).

Paul's goal in life was to know Christ and to live his life as blameless as possible before receiving the prize of God in Christ Jesus' call to heaven.

What is your main goal in life? Is it to know the Lord Jesus and to live a life pleasing to Him before His coming?

If we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, all our needs, goals, and desires will be attainable (see *Matthew 6:33*). *"...In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"* (Proverbs 3:6).

Make the knowledge of God and service to His kingdom the primary goal in your life and of your life, and everything else will fall into place.

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus/ Look full in His wonderful face/And the things of earth will grow strangely dim/In the light of His glory and grace."*

# I Need Thee Every Hour: A Reflection on Daily Prayer



Emily Rodgers  
Staff Writer

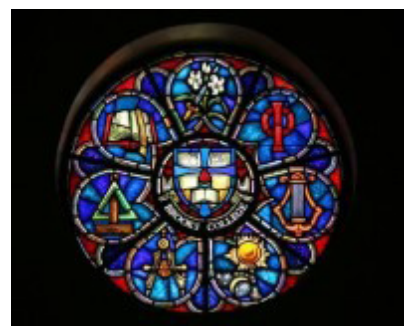


Photo from Brooks website

On weekday mornings, as the bells chime the hour nine times, a small group of teachers and students gather in an intimate chapel to offer up collective prayers.

Nascent sunlight streams through the stained glass windows, creating a refuge of color, beauty and worship. A man leads the assembly through the daily office reverently and effectively, and then sends them on their way with blessings.

Who among us would refuse the opportunity to share in such a scene? You may or may not be surprised when I tell you this is not an occurrence of "once upon a time, in a land far away," but an event that takes place every day within the walls of our own home.

The bells are those that chime in the tower of Pat Neff, the individuals are members of our own university, the site is our own Robbins Chapel, and the man standing at the altar is our Faculty Master, Dr. Henry.

One of my resolutions for the New Year is to attend morning prayer at least four times every week this semester. Thus far, I have been surprised at the sparse attendance, and attribute it at least somewhat to a lack of understanding about the true meaning and importance of daily prayer.

Dr. Henry, when asked about the value of prayer, responded that it is one of the most vital of all Christian spiritual exercises.

"I struggle to follow God's will in all kinds of ways, and beginning and ending my day with prayer brings me back to the very most important beliefs and convictions that order my life. I do not think I could be

a 'Christian' in any important sense of the term without praying regularly."

Dr. Henry also has an insightful word about the implications of this practice for our living community.

"Sharing in the college's practice of morning and evening prayer adds the dimension of togetherness in community," he says. "On those occasions when I am not in the mood to pray, or when it is difficult to know what to pray, it is a great relief and a powerful encouragement to hear the voices of my brothers and sisters in the faith quietly and faithfully praying with, for, and beyond me."

The hymn evoked in the title of this piece, written by Annie Hawks during the 19th century, expresses these sentiments very well. It is precisely because we need Christ every hour – every moment – that it is constantly necessary to turn to him in prayer.

We, as members of Brooks College, have the privilege to participate in the daily office not only on a regular basis, but also in two unique ways: through morning prayer, the office in which we celebrate the opening of the day and commit ourselves once more into God's care, or through evening prayer, during which we examine the day and place our trust in God's protection for the night.

If you have not already attended one of these services, I highly encourage you to do so. They have served as a source of great encouragement and inspiration for me, and I desire for each of you to experience these things as well.

In closing, I offer you the final words of the office of morning prayer:

"So may you attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God himself."



# Fine Arts Forecast

Anson Jablinski  
*Staff Writer*



## **Campus Orchestra**

Thursday, February 7th at 6:00 pm in  
Jones Hall. Free admission.

## **Symphonic Band**

Friday, February 8th at 7:30 pm in  
Jones Hall. Free admission.

## **Martin Museum of Art**

Current exhibitions: Gallery I – Marc  
Burckhardt and Mike Benny, con-  
temporary illustration and painting; Gal-  
lery II – Amy Holmes George, con-  
temporary photography.

On display through March 1st. Free  
admission. Check online ([www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum](http://www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum)) for museum hours  
and more information.

## **Theatre Department**

Bye Bye Birdie

February 21-23; 28-March 1st @ 7:30  
p.m.

February 24 and March 2nd @ 2 p.m.

# Bored? Make it a Game Night!

**Brooks College Front Desk**  
**[open 24 hours]**

## **Games Available for resident use:**

Guesstures; Monopoly; Trivial Pursuit  
(genus 5); Scattergories; Cribbage Set;  
Tom Clancy's Politika; Cranium; Opera-  
tion; Risk- Transformers; Clue; Rummikub;  
Sorry! ; Backgammon; Checkers; Chess;  
Axis & Allies; Tumbling Tower; Phrase 10  
(card game) and more!

# Brooks College Community Covenant

We, the members of Brooks College, seek to  
live meaningful lives by learning to know and  
love our Creator, ourselves, and our community.

We unite ourselves in the pursuit of intellectual, moral, and  
spiritual excellence, and we pledge to honor the foundational  
Christian faith of this institution.

We cherish life as a gift and sacred stewardship, and we accept  
the duty to nurture self-understanding, personal integrity, and  
authenticity in all that we do.

We commit ourselves to the ideal of charity, embracing  
the responsibilities of life together, offering service without  
expectation of return, remaining loyal amidst difficulty, and  
upholding the traditions of our college and university.

# BC Committee Meetings:

## **Community and Traditions:**

- Tuesdays (biweekly) at 9:00pm
- Brooks Seminar Rooms
- Next meeting is this Tuesday, February 5th

## **Ministry and Service:**

- Sundays (biweekly) at 7:30pm
- Brooks Seminar Room
- Next meeting is this Sunday, February 3rd

## **Global Society:**

- Wednesdays (biweekly) at 8:00pm
- Brooks Seminar Room
- Next meeting is Wednesday, February 13th

## **Campus Life:**

- Thursdays (biweekly) at 5:30pm
- Brooks Seminar Room
- Next meeting is Thursday, February 14th

## **Academics:**

- Sundays (biweekly) at 4:00pm
- Brooks Seminar Room
- Next meeting is Sunday, February 10th



# FACEBOOK-

## The Epitome of Social Efficiency

Emilie Moore

Staff Writer

Welcome to the Information Age. Today's college students have incredible access to information at their fingertips, figuratively. That's right, we're not talking about libraries, where the access at one's fingertips is a very literal and physical reality; we're talking about one of the world's greatest resources- Facebook. Dating back to the Dark Ages, this tool has only recently gained widespread attention.

When I first came across Facebook I realized what a wonderful source of global news it is. First of all, any person ever born has his or her own personal database, which includes an annotated biography and even what the author is doing at this very minute! These databases contain loads of photos, for those of you wondering what Joe Bob's senior picture with his cat looks like in color, grayscale, sepia, negative, positive, neutral, and juice. The users of Facebook must lead very privileged lives, as each has his or her own entourage, drinks, and pet dragon. However, I do think that some have fairly severe identity issues, such as those who are becoming vampires and heffalumps while simultaneously confessing that they're having a horrible day. Then again, how would you be doing if your closest friends poked you all day long?

In addition, news from all over

the world comes in by the second! Each member has private access to a public news feed, explaining exactly which foreign dignitaries have formed alliances with other heads of state, or said head of state's crony. On top of all that, it's exciting to see who invites me to their state ball and checkers matches. Each dignitary supports his or her chosen and selected causes, and each page has several versions of the Wailing Wall, where people can offer their supplications to the beneficent owner, as expressed by the following: "Dave, you loser!" "Dave, wassup?" "dave wtvr u r rele nuts".

Personally, I believe Facebook has changed my life. Or invaded it. Whatever. How else would I know when one of my best friends started dating? How else would I even make friends? Facebook is the only place in the world where I can say I'm engaged and I'm from Borneo, and people will believe me. It's the only place where I can train to become a Jedi; where I can learn about movies and play fun games when I forget to go to class. It's the only place where I can scroll down for ten minutes before finding a way to communicate using my own original words. It's the only place where I can upgrade from a poke to a superpoke, a wall to a super wall or funwall or advanced wall, and the only place where I can tell the truth and no one will be angry because

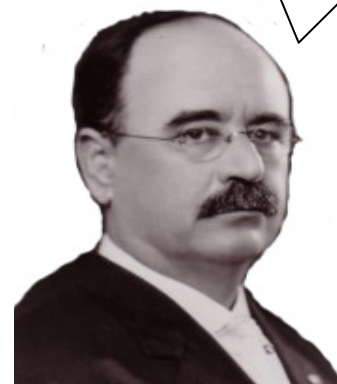
they can take it. I can be in groups, circles, lists, clubs, causes, campaigns, and comparisons. It's definitely the only place where I can find out how hot I am, and have dubious beverages just sitting out there in the open. I can write sticky notes and send messages or smack talk and ask questions without having to think of anything to say!

I think Facebook has a promising future. I am in the process of convincing the founders to turn it into a dating service. Soon, its matchmaking abilities will take the world by storm making those in charge even wealthier! Facebook will one day also be used for international poker Olympics; heck, it's already got a trading post. Soon all commerce will take place there, and all wars will be fought there. Whew, that makes things easy!

But seriously now, Facebook has its benefits. I have been able to stay in touch with old friends, and even to remember the new ones I've made. For example, this is a phrase I heard often during Welcome Week: "Hi, I'm Joe Bob, I'll Facebook you later." Which just goes to show that Facebook is also a verb. Now, if only they had spell check...

### Sammy Says...

Life is not defined by one's number of Facebook friends.



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



Photo by Emilie Moore



# VALENTINE'S DAY ADVICE

'Cause Everyone (secretly) wants a Valentine



Courtney Jewett  
Editor

On February 14th, 2008 every inch of the Brooks College Front Desk will be covered with oversized teddy bears, tacky red and white balloons and heart-shaped boxes of Nestles chocolates.

Young gentleman suitors will wait patiently by the quad as the ladies of Brooks hasten to curl their hair for an evening out on the town. Couples will sit together, hand-in-hand on the Brooks benches, and enjoy a playful game of pool in the JC.

Time will cease to exist, as Brooks College residents Bob and Betsie share a blanket on the quad and star-gaze into the beautiful, romantic midnight-blue sky.

Meanwhile the rest of us will be doing our homework. Valentine's Day is on a Thursday, and nothing says "I love you" like preparing to ace Friday's Calculus quiz or re-reading Beowulf. Right? Stop fooling yourself.

## Top 5 Valentine's Day Pickup Lines

5. "Someone pass the tartar sauce, 'cause you're quite the catch."
4. "Hey, I just realized...you look a lot like my next girlfriend."
3. "Is your last name Gillete? 'Cause you're the best a man can get."
2. Are you a parking ticket?  
'Cause you have 'FINE' written all over you."
1. "Let's make like a fabric softener and Snuggle."

## How to get a Valentine in 8 days or less

### Step 1: "What is Love?"

Before you can find love, you must understand love. Go to Blockbuster and rent Moulin Rouge, the old version of Romeo & Juliet, Pretty Woman, When Harry Met Sally, and High School Musical. Watch these movies one after another. Do not stop until you see red and pink hearts when you close your eyes.

### Step 2: "You're the One That I Want"

When your eyes are finally burning with images of love, you are now ready to enter the outside world and seek your future Valentine. Stoke out the Great Hall, Junior Commons, and even the Study Rooms. Remember, he or she could be anywhere. You'll know you've found 'the one' when cartoonish hearts surround their face, and a soft melody is heard in the distance.

### Step 3: "Stop! In the Name of Love.."

Once you've spotted your love, you must capture his or her attention. Be creative and courageous. Return in a giant Heart costume with your face painted red, and serenade your future Valentine in his or her present location. Chances are you won't actually need the red face paint.

### Step 4: "All you need is Love"

Inevitably, the lucky guy or gal will be won over by your romantic display of affection. While they remain speechless, proceed to ask them the one question that encompasses everything that you are thinking:

**"Oh baby you're so fine... Wanna be my Valentine?"**

### Step 4: "Happy Together"

Whether he or she says 'yes' out of genuine interest...or simply out of pity, you've got yourself a Valentine!

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate one of life's blessings- love. Years from now, we won't care whether we received flowers and gifts, or had a date that evening. It is the people we love that will impact our lives and always remain embedded in our hearts. Let's make this day a celebration of our family, friends, and community, all of whom we love more and more each day.

## Passing on the Torch since Fall 2007

Courtney Jewett.....Editor  
Anson Jablinski.....Staff Writer  
Emilie Moore.....Staff Writer  
Emily Rodgers.....Staff Writer  
Alex Tworkowski.....Staff Writer  
Justin Ross.....Artist

**The Torch welcomes your contributions!**

Contact [Courtney\\_Jewett@baylor.edu](mailto:Courtney_Jewett@baylor.edu)  
for more info



# A Review of Resolutions and Motivations

*As reported by the Brooksmeister*

If you go to Baylor, like I do, then you already know that the spring semester is, at the risk of sounding cliché, off to a running start. Hopefully, though, you haven't run off and left your New Years' resolutions behind already, because I have done just that.

Alas, a few days ago, at breakfast in the Great Hall, I gave in and did the crossword puzzle in the Lariat before my homework was finished. I wish I hadn't, because I had nothing to do later that day after I had finished all my vector calculus and the essay on Kierkegaard's architectural tastes.

Having just explicated my failure, I would now like to offer some personal advice on how to motivate yourself. My problem was straightforward enough – too much love for Brooks College, not enough for homework.

With my window being six times the size of my computer monitor, it is much easier to focus on a view of the Quad than to focus on whatever task is at hand. I procrastinated, as is our shared human tendency, but managed to make it through several semesters until at last, I decided that a change was in order.

What is something that you like to do, but rarely ever do anymore because of school? Personally, I possess a unique enjoyment of video games. In junior high and high school, I brought my GameBoy on the bus every day, often linking up and playing Mario Kart with a handful of fellow competitors.

As time went on, my friends ditched the bus for their own cars, but I rode on and gamed on, continuing to exemplify my dedication to video games and the public transportation system.

This semester, I have experienced a revival. Nestled in the drawer of my mahogany Brooks College nightstand, the GameBoy comes out after the textbooks are put away.

I suggest to you all, my dear readers, that you find such an activity that you have missed and allow yourself to indulge every day after your more pressing tasks are completed.

Sometimes I meet people who seem to operate on a system of constant self-denial. These people apparently think that if they deny themselves of something, they will eventually stop wanting it. I say, give yourself what you want every now and then as motivation. You'll sleep much better, I'm sure. And your roommate will be thankful that you're not snoring anymore.

Now that you're nice and motivated, the time is right to do what you've always dreamed of doing. Valentine's Day is just days away, and I know you want to ask out your crush. Commons Grounds is a stone's throw away, and the wonderful

Brooks men and women are even closer.

There is much one can learn (and should learn at some point, I believe) about oneself and about being a man by seeing somebody. I don't know what there is to learn about being a woman, though, as I've never been in that situation.

So, there you are, sitting and digesting your perfectly personalized pasta, and the opportune moment that you wish was yours is walking out the door. If you're the least bit sane, you will have already prepared something to say, so as you get up and powerwalk in pursuit, the only thing you'll be wondering is why you asked for extra garlic and onions in your pasta.

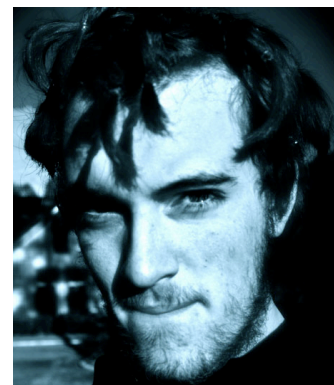
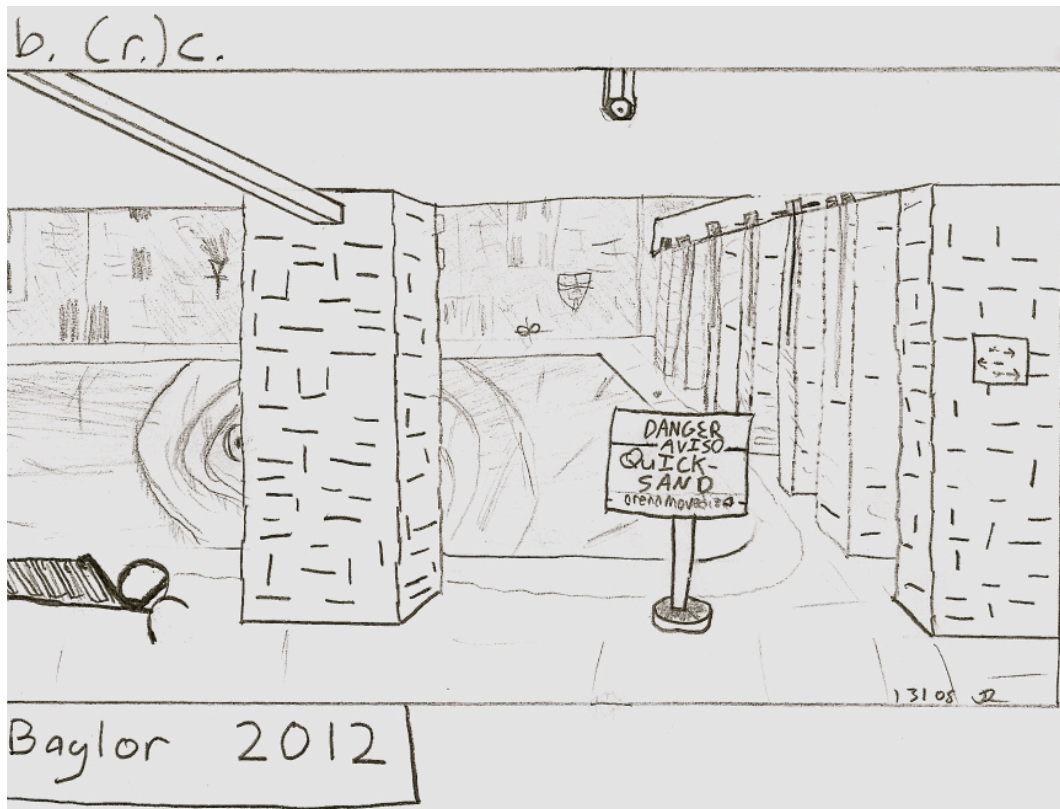
Once you get to the moment, though, your mind will start to go blank, so be sure to spit out your pre-prepared lines as fast as possible before you forget them.

Assuming you manage to speak coherently in a language she / he understands, then your mission is complete. If she / he accepts, then congratulations! If not, then congratulations anyway for being brave. Go get yourself some more pasta – no need to skimp on the garlic and onions this time.

I wish you all the best of luck, many happy trips to Commons Grounds, and a fabulous spring semester.

Yours,  
—The BM

Dr.Brooksmeister@gmail.com



Comic by Justin Ross



