

THE TORCH

The Brooks College Newsletter

April 16, 2008

Vol. 1, Issue 8

Brooks Members take part in Relay for Life



Emilie Moore
Staff Writer



This weekend, yet another experience made its way into my life, in the form of Relay for Life. Relay is a celebratory event to raise money for the American Cancer Society and to create awareness of this ruthless disease.

It was an inspiring twelve hours of fun, smiles, and memories. Naturally, though, not everything was rosy all night; those who participated proved their dedication to this cause by persevering through fatigue, chill, and stiffness.

After all is said and done, however, this was an evening I would not trade for a night of sleep, because of what I learned and saw.

What I saw was a community of students and adults who sacrificed sleep and comfort to honor those who have already sacrificed their health and possibly their lives. The night started off with a joyful ceremony for the cancer survivors, and I began to realize then how real the struggle with cancer is.

One of our very own Brooks residents, Andrea Ross, took her place among those survivors with a smile and victorious energy. She was glad to meet other cancer survivors, and said

it is an invaluable connection to have, with those who have gone through the same experiences as her. She appreciates that all sorts of people can join together to fight a common adversary.

There were several other Brooks members present, either with the Brooks group or other campus organizations. Amber Como put together our team; she first started participating in Relay for Life because her grandmother had cancer years ago. She was encouraged by Baylor's spirit and heart for service. And she was pleased with the turnout at the beginning of the evening.

"This is a really good cause, and there are a lot of people affected by cancer. Judging by the crowd, we did very well."

In fact, Baylor did indeed do very well in the fundraising department. At the end of the event, the organizers informed the participants that the goal had been \$100,000 in funds raised for the ACS. By 6:30 a.m., Baylor had raised \$97,000 – certainly not a disappointing amount, considering that this was Baylor's first Relay.

But to literally top it off, Coach Kim Mulkey, who came to give a final word to everyone, announced that she would fill in the rest of the goal. At this point, the crowd erupted in applause. This

was just one instance of the generosity of those who involved themselves in Relay for Life.

One word that could sum up this event is touching. The dedication I saw, the camaraderie, the interest in giving something to others, all motivated me to give more of myself in the future. The Brooks Team epitomized that to me. Though few in numbers, they were strong of heart and resolution.

At all times, a member of our team walked the track instead of sleeping, to combat cancer, which also takes no time to rest. In fact, this metaphor is a key theme to Relay. The dusk turning to darkness at the beginning of the evening represents the start of the struggle for a cancer patient. The long, cold hours in the middle, where all of us experienced the emotion of defeat and misery, represent the exact same thing for those who struggle with cancer.

And finally, as sunrise approaches, the cancer patient finds healing and new life with the morning light. I left the field with a renewed sense of hope and purpose, taking with me a promise to help save a life in the fight against cancer. "There is no finish line until we find a cure!"



Fine Arts Forecast

Anson Jablinski
Staff Writer



Waco Symphony

Thursday, April 17th at 7:30 pm in Waco Hall. Student tickets are \$5 at the door. A guest pianist performs Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto.

Baylor University President's Concert

Featuring the Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Baylor Choral Union. Saturday, April 19th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall (McCrary Music Building). \$5 tickets available from 254-710-3571; tickets are likely to be sold out by the concert date.

Symphonic Band

Monday, April 21st at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, April 24th at 7:30 in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Wind Ensemble

Monday, April 28th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Campus Orchestra

Tuesday, April 29th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Baylor Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 1st at 7:30 in Jones Hall. Free admission. Concert will feature the winner of the Baylor Concerto Competition.

Concert Band

Sunday, May 4th at 4:00 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Monday, May 5th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

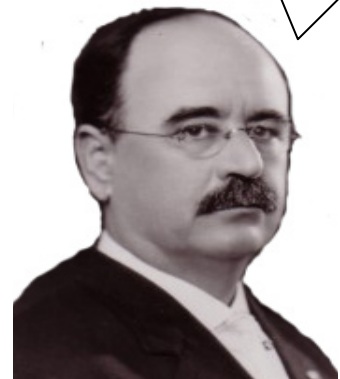
Baylor Theatre

Presenting "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" by Steve Martin. Directed by Beki Baker. Tuesday, April 22nd through Saturday, April 26th at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 pm in the Mabee Theatre.



Sammy Says...

Enough with the
Red Oaks.
Some of us have
allergies!



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'.

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

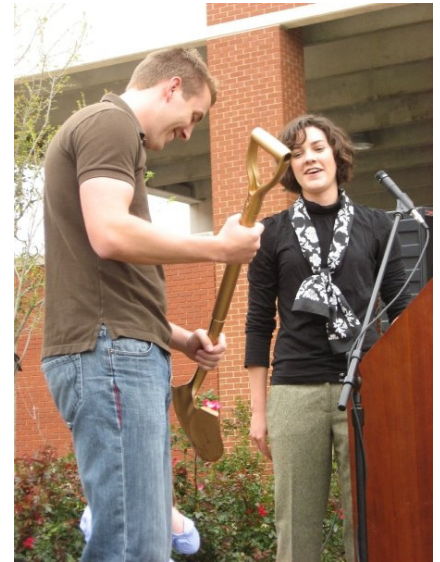
Congratulations to Emilie Moore-
The 2008-2009 Editor of the Torch!



Red Oaks and the Need for Roots

Senior Tree Planting Ceremony

Emily Rodgers
Staff Writer



Welcome to the Brooks Red Oak, the newest member of our growing community! Red was admitted on Saturday, March 29th and given special placement in Minglewood Bowl.

As Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" filled the air along with the prayers and insights of several Brooks members, Red's roots were gently covered with dirt from a golden spade and scattered memories recorded by the seniors.

As a graduating senior myself, I came away from the ceremony feeling slightly morose and nostalgic but mostly encouraged by the hope that there are so many wonderful students who will continue at Brooks even after I am gone.

The tree can be a symbol for many things, but on that particular day it reminded me that whenever we invest ourselves in a place we are planting roots that will serve as a source of growth and nourishment for the remainder of our lives.

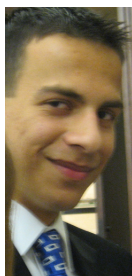
In her book entitled "Need for Roots," French philosopher and authoress Simone Weil describes the human longing for rootedness. She writes that just as trees grow roots to maintain stability and to retrieve sustenance

from the soil, humans "plant" themselves within social structures and communities to find protection and identity.

Additionally, in the same way that trees need the sun in order to thrive, the soul is nourished by the spiritual reality that permeates the struggle and strife characteristic of the human condition. She pushes this metaphor further into an elegant critique of modern society as being tragically uprooted, but unfortunately I lack time and space to elaborate this point. Nonetheless, attending the Tree-Planting Ceremony led me to reflect once again on her words.

Three main ideas came to mind in response to both the ceremony and Weil's book: (1) we are shaped by the communities in which we plant ourselves; (2) we cannot forget that struggle is both an inevitable and a vital part of the growing process; and (3) we must continue to turn towards the "sun" with eyes to see the spiritual reality that exists in our world.

The Red Oak stands not only as a testimony to the commitment that we make to one another as a community but also as a reminder that we are all in need of rootedness. Though the world is not the place in which this can ultimately be found, our daily experiences and the relationships we form within the context of life together bring us at least a little closer to discovering the soil in which we can truly "live, move, and have our being."



Alex Tworowski
Staff Writer



Photos by Emilie Moore

*editor's note: Alex is too modest to mention this, but he won second place at the Bearathon. Great job Alex!

A Word from the Battlefield- Brooks College Member reflects on Bearathon experience

Four hundred meters into the race, I realized the absurdity of my undertaking. What was I doing at eight o'clock on a Saturday morning sprinting for 13.1 miles?

On March 29th, over 500 runners gathered at Fountain Mall to run either the Bearathon or the 5-K fun run. The weather was perfect for fast times and personal bests: cool and overcast. The starting line was lined with enthusiastic fans and supporters while green and white balloons arched overhead.

As the start of the race drew near, excitement and anxiety mounted in the crowd and the racers. A Student Foundation member led a Sic 'Em Bears to build up hype. Only the focused runners in the six minute per mile section ignored the cheer.

Among the noise of the crowd, a megaphone siren was faintly heard. Following the sound, the race staff informed us that the siren was our cue to start. After the siren had sounded a second time, a few bitter runners at the front took off and complained about the ambiguous start. Distracted by the chaos, I forgot to start my watch. Frustrated, I continued to run while realizing that I would not know how fast I ran my first mile.

As we traveled down University Parks Drive in downtown, the railroad track barriers went down. I saw two runners manage to cross the tracks before the barriers completely lowered. I thought, If a train comes, they better wait for it to pass by. Fortunately, a track maintenance truck with train wheels drove by, leaving the race uninterrupted. However, I still had to duck under the gates because they did not rise promptly.

Running down the streets and trails of Waco, we passed by aid stations at every mile marker staffed by various volunteers. Most of the stations were

manned by fraternities and sororities, some of which were dressed in outlandish garb.

Although I was focused on maintaining a fast pace and not losing ground with the competition, I enjoyed the experience.

The scenery along the Brazos and the flat course helped me find some degree of peace despite my encroaching fatigue.

I had heard stories about the hills in Cameron Park and had even viewed an elevation profile of the course. In reality, I didn't know what would greet me on the other side of Herring Avenue.

I had never run a race with hills as challenging and pain-inducing as the ones in Cameron Park. Most of them were at least a quarter mile long with ridiculous inclines. The park was death incarnate.

After emerging out of three miles of strength and sanity-testing terrain, we retraced our route along the Brazos. The majority of the course traveled along the same route from which it had started.

Running down University Parks, we turned down Clay Avenue. As I ran down Clay toward Fifth Street, I developed a nasty stitch in my right side. I tried in vain to rub it out of my ribs while avoiding any loss in speed. With less than a mile to go and a painful cramp, my pace inevitably slowed down.

I finally turned into campus and saw Fountain Mall in the distance. My stitch lightening up on me, I was able to pick up my speed and sprint toward the finish. Fatigued and blistered, I rejoiced in finishing the race.

I greatly enjoyed the Bearathon regardless of any pain I might have experienced. It was an experience that tested my physical and mental strength. I believe that running races has taught me valuable lessons about persevering through difficult places in life that I would not have otherwise learned. Running far and fast on a Saturday morning had a worthwhile purpose.

CL Spotlight

Name: James Matthew Bondy

Classification: Senior (Victory Lap 1 of 2)

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Major/Minor: Major: Mechanical Engineering & Minor: Mathematics

What Brooks Floor: 4th aka 'The Best'

Organizations: AFROTC, American Society of Engineers

Why CL this year: I had the great privilege of being part of the inaugural class of the North Village, I wanted to have the same opportunity by coming to Brooks and fostering a community and tradition keeping with one of Baylor's greatest presidents; Samuel Palmer Brooks.

CL Style: I'm the CL that I always wanted.

Free time: Golfing at Bear Ridge golf course, Frisbee golf at Cameron Park, working out at the SLC, surfing YouTube, and going for walks along the Bear Trail.

Favorite Sports Team: THE CHICAGO CUBS!!!!

What do I love most about Brooks: The chapel at sunset.

Favorite Brooks memory: Opening up my door at 5:30am to go to ROTC only to find the way was blocked by fifty layers of plastic wrap and news paper, affectionately placed there by some of my more outgoing residents. Thanks guys.

One Thing Most People Don't Know About Me: Some things Man just wasn't meant to know.....



Name: Hannah Noelle Mason

Classification: Sophomore

Hometown: Hood River, Oregon

Major/minor(s): Communications Specialist/Public Relations

What Brooks Floor: 1st Floor

Organizations: Baylor Gold(the hostess club for the football team) and Sing Alliance

Why CL this year: I wanted to be a CL because I had a great CL last year in North Russell and I wanted to help other girls have as good an experience in Brooks College as I had there.

CL Style: I would have to say my CL style is pretty chill and laid back. I just concentrate on being friendly and being a reliable presence for my ladies. I'm here for them whenever they need me and I try to not be intrusive when I feel led to seek someone out. They can come to me with absolutely anything at any time and I'm pretty sure they all know that.

Free Time: I pretty much spend all my free time with my friends hanging out, working out, or doing whatever random fun thing we stumble upon. I like to do so many things. I love to walk the Bear Trail, go to concerts, drink coffee, read a great book, go shopping, you know just pretty much whatever comes up! Oh and jump off waterfalls. I cracked my tailbone jumping off a 40 ft. one a few summers back but it was totally worth it!

Favorite Sports Team: Growing up in Oregon I never really followed any sports teams because all our pro-teams were horrible. So now being at Baylor I guess I'd have to say the Baylor Bears Football team because I just love football.

What do I love most about Brooks: I love Brooks College because it's just a completely different experience than any other residence hall experience you can have at Baylor and that makes it special. I love how this year was the beginning of so many new traditions for Brooks and I love that all of us were able to be a part of making this piece of Baylor history.

Favorite Brooks Memory: My favorite Brooks memory so far would have to be the week that my hall got ready for Treat Street. So many of the girls were involved and it was just such a blast! We all stayed up way too late and had tons of fun and the hall ended up being fabulous.

One Thing Most People Don't Know About Me: I've been a dancer my entire life. I started taking Ballet when I was 3 and then added Tap at 7, Jazz and Modern at 10, and Hip-Hop at 14. I was a part of the Company Dancers at my dance academy for 5 years and I really miss it. I love to dance and pretty much try to take a class or just go dance whenever I get the chance.



Horton Hears a Who

Emilie Moore
Staff Writer

A Movie Review

The film industry's fairly recent obsession with animated features has certainly paid off. Last month's release of Horton Hears a

Who is no exception. Yet another Dr. Seuss story has now been translated to the silver screen – what could be better than that?



Comic by Justin Ross

Here's the story. Horton is a friendly elephant who takes on great responsibility after coming across a tiny speck, upon which he believes there are people. He decides to look after it and then to take it somewhere safe. Horton makes contact with the mayor of Whoville, the town on the speck.

The storyline takes a twofold approach: the first storyline focuses on Horton as he makes the trek to safety for the speck through numerous odds and doubts, and the second concerns the mayor and his struggles in public office and family life. Each story shares the common theme of misunderstood characters and evolving relationships.

This insight is perhaps deeper than one might expect from an animated film, but nonetheless a very welcome attribute.

Apart from addressing life's issues, Horton Hears a Who caters to the young and old alike. Every frame was filled with vibrant, mood-setting



colors and contained nonstop action. Each character had an obvious disposition, but also showed several sides to their personalities. In addition, the screenwriters seem to have departed from the original tale a bit to include some allusions and cultural references, which only made the film that much more enjoyable.

There may, in fact, be little more to mention, other than my reaction. To be honest, I left the theatre with a very sore stomach from either the incessant laughter, induced by the hilarity of a scene, or from the tension I felt while awaiting the outcome of a certain scene. Even now as I think of it, I smile; this may indeed be one of my favorite films, and I attribute most of that to the script. I encourage you to make the effort to watch and take in this movie; my hope is that the effect of it will last as long with you as it has with me.



