



Daniel Abernathy Guest Writer

This summer I was offered one of the greatest opportunities in my life: the chance to work at the headquarters of a presidential campaign. The offer came somewhat out of the blue; I had submitted my resume in late April, past the last date for submission, and I did not hear back from the campaign before school ended.

At the end of June, after a month staffing Worth Ranch Boy Scout camp in Mineral Wells, I received an email from campaign staff member who asked if I was interested in an unpaid internship with the McCain campaign from July until the election. Naturally, I freaked out.

I knew that this was a decision that I needed to pray about, but my immediate feeling was that this was a part of God's plan. I felt that the opportunity came at the perfect time; had it come earlier, in the spring, I would have missed an incredible experience working at Scout camp.

Daniel in D.C.

After a couple of weeks of stress, prayer, and countless Craigslist searches, God provided a way for me to take the internship. Through a church connection, my mother found a couple willing to let me stay in their unoccupied apartment attached to their house. We could tell that God was working for me to head to Washington, DC.

I just finished my four months on the campaign, and as you know, we did not win the election. I do not regret the experience at all; win or lose, I was a part of something significant. I came away from the election with memorable friendships, unique experiences, and a better knowledge of the political process.

One of the most rewarding areas of working on the campaign was the presence at the office. For four months I was surrounded by some of the most important faces in this year's election and in national politics. On a daily basis, I saw campaign spokespersons, senior staffers, campaign managers, and even quite a few famous politicians working and moving around the office. I won't forget what that was like. The people are what make a campaign, of course, and they make the difference between a dreadful and a pleasant work environment. I was blessed to be surrounded by enjoyable, dedicated workers in my department.

The stereotypical political campaign is an organization which will do and say anything to win, but the people that I met and worked with were not interested in winning for winning's sake. They were in it to win for John McCain, for the nation, and for the many issues they care about. They were committed to principles and to getting out our message; not in duping the public or taking shortcuts.

What I would have anyone take away from my experience is that it never hurts to try for something. I had no previous political experience and very little previous work experience on my resume, but I was still asked to be a part of the campaign.

You should never hesitate to submit your resume or to take an opportunity; the worst that can happen is that you don't get the opportunity. The best that can happen, as I have learned, can be an unforgettable and rewarding experience.



Brooks! Are you in an organization that has an event coming up soon? Do you have announcements to make? Let your community know - send it in to brooks. torch@gmail.com and tell it to the world. Do it.



Need Prayer?

The Brooks Prayer Team meets weekly to pray for requests from the College and beyond. If you have a request, send an email to **Brooksprayer@gmail.com.** As brothers and sisters in faith, we desire to constantly lift each other up and be an encouragement to one another. So let us know how to pray! Also, if you are interested in joining, please do. The team is open to all. For more information, email us!

Service Opportunities

Check out things your Brooks brothers and sisters are doing!

Circle K: Mondays at 8:30 in the SUB, Houston Room. More info: Alyson_Erikson@baylor.edu

Habitat for Humanity: Wednesdays at 6:00 in Bennett Auditorium

Steppin' Out: November 22!!! More info: L_Hardy@baylor.edu or Emilie_Moore@baylor.edu

If you know of a service opportunity and want to put it here, let us know at Brooks.Torch@ gmail.com. Let's help to form a serving and giving community.

Handing out the Torch since Fall 2007

Anson Jablinski	Staff Writer
Chase Kanaly	Staff Writer
Justin Ross	Humorist
Brittany Hardy	Staff Writer
Andrew Hwang	Cartoonist
Alex Tworkowski	Staff Writer

We'd love for you to join the Torch team! If you have any interest in writing, photography, or other useful skills, please consider contributing. No former background is required. Please contact us at **Brooks.Torch@gmail.com**

Emilie Moore......Editor

Fine Arts Forecast

November 13 - November 30



Anson Jablinski Staff Writer

All events are ticket-free unless otherwise noted!

Baylor Theatre presents: Eurydice

Showing November 11th through 15th at 7:30 pm and November 16th at 2:00 pm in Mabee Theater (Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center). Directed by Amber Jackson. Tickets available online at www.baylor. edu/theatre or at the H-S FAC box office.

Symphonic Band

Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall.

Baylor Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, November 18th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall.

Early Music Ensemble

Thursday, November 20th at 5:30 pm in the McLean Foyer of Meditation in the Armstrong Browning Library.

Jazz Ensemble Thursday, November 20th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall.

Wind Ensemble Monday, November 24th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall.

Martin Museum of Art

Current exhibitions – gallery I: Richard Ash III, printmaker; gallery II: Armin Mersmann, master draughtsman. On display through November 18th. Check online (www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum) for museum hours and more information.

Sammy Says...

You might think I'm too old, but you can befriend me on Facebook.

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 Nick Batts

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

...Acts 2:42

Putting the 2008 Election Results in Perspective...God's Perspective

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Chase Kanaly Staff Writer

Tuesday, November 04, 2008 at approximately 10:00 Central Standard Time, Senator Barack Obama (Illinois) was given the necessary electoral votes to surpass the required 270 for a President to achieve victory. Senator Obama becomes the 44th president of our nation, the very first African-American. President-Elect Obama took control of the election as he was able to hold off Senator John Mc-Cain (Arizona) in several key states such as Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The final electoral vote count was Mr. Obama 349 and Senator McCain 163 (1 electoral to be determined in Nebraska; both North Carolina and Missouri have not been called for either candidate), one of the largest margins of victory since the Reagan years.

The popular vote indicated that it was much closer overall. Congratulations to the Senator from Illinois for running a race that has now given him the White House. Including the dominant victory in the Presidency, the Democrats have also taken a 56-40 lead (2 states are still undecided and 2 positions in the Senate are filled by Independents) in the House of Representatives, 254-173 (8 are still undecided in the Senate, and now control 29 of 50 gubernatorial positions.

To Republicans, I challenge those of you angry or bitter about the election to think about our nation. Our nation voted the other party's candidate office; this is a reality. It will not be the end of the world; our country has stood for 232 years and it will not crumble at this junction. Stand up and appreciate that our democracy has given us the freedom to elect whomever we choose, though this time it did not work out in your favor.

Democrats, you have spoken, and through your votes and others, Mr. Obama will now be presiding over the White House for at least the next four years. I would hope that in the coming days that you will not gloat and rub into your Republican friends about Obama's victory. Just as Republicans should not be sore losers, the Democrats should not become sore winners in the process.

All of the information is just a recap of a historic night in our nation's history. Now I want each of those reading this article to take a look inside themselves. Whether you are overjoyed with excitement or dismayed in the results, remember an important fact: No matter who is in authority of our nation, God is in control. Isaiah 33:22 says "The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is He who will save us."

God has brought this nation through far tougher times than this election. God was still in control when we preferred slavery, God was still in control during wars. God has been, is, and will always be in control. My pastor, Jimmy Seibert, gave a sermon about America and the election this past Sunday, and it really encouraged me to write this article about our duty to this country and to our Lord. If we are in fact God's people -- required to be His hands and feet -- then it is our job, not the government's job, to seek out those who are oppressed.

Remember the days in elementary school, reciting the pledge and getting to the lines "... one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." We are still under God; the results of the election do not change that one bit.

Today, upon reading this article, I challenge you, members of Brooks College and whomever else reads this, to say a prayer for our nation. Pray that God will guide the hands of the new administration, given the wisdom to govern as you would like them to govern, and pray that God will continue to pour out His blessings on this amazing nation.

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, [b] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."





Martha Ayewah

Floor 4 K Junior, Biology Major, Asian Studies Minor

Home: Warri, Nigeria

Activities: AED (Alpha Epsilon Delta) Premed Honors Society, Leadership Fellow, BIC and Honors Program, NSCS and Golden Key International Honors Societies, Sing at Antioch Community Church, Life Group and Early Morning Prayer!

Likes: Singing, shopping, and hanging out with friends. I like to travel whenever I can, especially when I can go home to be with my family and loved ones. I LOVE HOUSE!! and Discovery Health.





Dislikes: Peas! Mathematics, Physics, Phone Bills, and being ignored...

Fun Facts: I'm learning Chinese at the moment, and next semester I get to do research that involves lab rats! (I'll name two of them Pinky and the Brain)

Purpose as a CL: To make a difference in the lives of young women by speaking God's purpose over them, being a friend and supporter to them, and helping them to appreciate the ups and the downs of their college experience.

Why did you choose Brooks? I had no idea what to expect when I heard about Brooks College, but I wanted to be a part of the legacy the S.P. Brooks left behind and to help create a unique sense of community among the members of the college.

Dreams and Ambitions: I would like to go to Harvard Medical School, become a doctor, get married and have children, and do medical missionary work in China and other countries around the world.

What is one of the best parts of the CL experience? I love watching people live through and learn from the various problems that typically face college students. It is so rewarding to be able to help people through those difficult times, which is one of the reasons why I want to become a doctor. It is a joy to live with my lovely ladies, and I definitely wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

⁶ ⁶ Martha is personable and very helpful, funny and happy-go-lucky. I can depend on her. We could knock on her door at 5 a.m. and she would do anything for us.??

--- Katie Kerr, 4th Floor Resident





Chase Kanaly Staff Writer

In two weeks, the Baylor Bears and the loyal fans have seen Baylor grow by leaps and bounds over these last two weeks. Much to the dismay of both, however, this growth has come at a price: two hard fought games, and two difficult losses to swallow.

Standing both a game under .500 in both the Big 12 Conference and Overall, Baylor took on the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Nebraska jumped out in front 7-0 on their second drive of the game. Baylor, aided by personal foul on a Nebraska defender, scored on a 43 yard run by Jay Finely, evening the score at seven. Baylor scored on the next drive as Robert Griffin led the Bears out of the shadow of their own end zone with two rushes over forty yards.

The latter was a 47 yard run that put Baylor in front 14-7. Nebraska would go on to score 10 unanswered, Baylor would answer seconds before the end of the first half. Baylor led 20-17, following the missed extra point. Both sides would exchange stalled drives to open the second half.

The Bears seemed poised to pull off the upset when they blocked a 52-yard field goal attempt and proceeded to drive down to the Nebraska 1 yard line. Baylor was incapable of delivering the knockout blow, and things got far worse after the short field goal attempt was unsuccessful.

Nebraska seized the momentum, and would go on to add two touchdowns and a safety, as the Cornhuskers took the game 32-20. Many of those watching in the JCR could not believe the turn of

Bear Recap

events that ensued following the missed field goal. Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin was believed to have hurt his ankle, thus stalling the Baylor offense in the second half, and were unable to march a charge near the end.

Homecoming Week against the #14 ranked Missouri Tigers. Most people, including myself, felt that this game was going to be an ugly game. Missouri came out early and scored two touchdowns, and many thought that the onslaught was on.

Robert Griffin and the Bears responded with an 80 yard drive after Baylor Linebacker Joe Pawelek came up with a huge interception. Griffin scored on a 4 yard keeper up the middle that cut the score in half. The Bears forced another turnover, but were unable to capitalize. At the end of the half, the Tigers scored another touchdown, as they seemed to have taken control of the game, leading 21-7 at the half.

The Bears came out fighting, and, aided by the Homecoming crowd, scored on a 13-play drive that included consecutive fourth down conversions, capped on a Ray Sims run from the 2 yard line that put Baylor back in the game.

The defense responded with a quick three and out, forcing Missouri to punt. 12 plays later the Bears had Missouri on the ropes, as Robert Griffin found Brad Taylor for a 16 yard completion in the end zone, knotting the score at 21 a piece, sending the crowd into a fury as the Floyd Casey faithful seemed poised for an upset.

Fans were going crazy as the final seconds ticked off the third quarter with the game still tied. Missouri went ahead on the first play on the quarter. Griffin and the Bears refused to bow out. As they went another great drive capped off on a 36-yard catch and run by Jay Finley that tied the game with 9:54 to go.

Jordan Lake picked off the Missouri quarterback pass, giving the Bears an opportunity to go ahead. 4 plays later, Missouri had the ball back. Much to the dismay of the team, the Tigers proceded to go 75 yards down the field to kick the go-ahead field goal with 2:35 remaining. Griffin, who had been nearly flawless all year, finally threw his first interception of the season on a forced third down pass.

Missouri ran out the clock, handing the Bears a crushing defeat. The fans were saddened by the outcome of the game, yet remained positive considering how close the Bears came to pulling off one of the biggest victories ever.

Baylor heads to Austin, where they face the #5 Texas Longhorns, who are coming off their own heartbreak as they lost to the Texas Tech Red Raiders, whom the Bears happen to be playing November 29.

In other sporting news, Baylor Men's and Women's Basketball kicks off in the next couple of weeks. The men face off against Tarleton State this Saturday, while the women's team battle Florida Atlantic on November 14. Both games will be at the Ferell Center.

The Lady Bears have found themselves ranked the #19 team by the Associated Press, while the men will start the season just outside the top 25, as both teams look to make noise both within the conference and around the nation.



Be Thankful

Author Unknown

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to? Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow. Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement. Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks. Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.



Top Ten Signs You've Eaten Too Much

- 10. Hundreds of volunteers have started to stack sandbags around you.
- 9. Doctor tells you your weight would be perfect for a man 17 feet tall.
- 8. You are responsible for a slight but measurable shift in the earth's axis.
- 7. Right this minute you're laughing up pie on the carpet.
- 6. You decide to take a little nap and wake up in mid-July.
- 5. World's fattest man sends you a telegram, warning you to "back off!"
- 4. CBS tells you to lose weight or else.
- 3. Getting off your couch requires help from the fire department.
- 2. Every escalator you step on immediately grinds to a halt.
- 1. You're sweatin' gravy.

1993 David Letterman



Be a grateful and careful eater this Thanksgiving!



Treat Night

Brittany Hardy Staff Writer

As most of you know, Treat Night is a Baylor tradition, in which excited students decorate their hallways so the children (12 and under) of University faculty and staff members may receive candy, door-to-door style.

This year was no exception to the brilliant, time-honored tradition. Many children, as princesses, super heros, disney characters, and more, enjoyed the beautifully and extensively decorated hallways as well as the festive confectionery. The event was first-rate. The University students and the faculty seemed to enjoy the evening as much as the sugar-filled children.

This tradition is an outstanding one, for all participants. Baylor students have the opportunity to flex their creative muscles in decorating the halls and to relive childhood memories in dressing up, handing out candy, and visiting with the adrenalized children. The faculty experience a safe and easy take on the run-of-the-mill "trick-or-treat" experience, as well as the opportunity to fraternize with their students and fellow staff. Finally, for the children, its is a sugar-enhanced trip to Baylor. Win-win-win.



Become an Academy Fellow

The Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement is seeking motivated and civic-minded students for our Fellow Program. The Fellow Program is designed for Baylor students of any background or academic major interested in the concept of leadership. Students have an opportunity to assess their leadership capabilities and cultivate critical skills necessary to be change agents in a global society. Components of the program include leadership courses, speaker series, challenge and confidence experimental course, leadership profile assessment, and a civic engagement opportunity. The next interest meeting will be held on November 19 in Kayser Auditorium at 8:45 p.m. Please apply online at www.baylor.edu/ leadership by November 21 or contact Melissa Shehane@baylor.edu if you have any questions.



pply today at www.baylor.edu/leadership/fellow



Alex Tworkowski Staff Writer

Recently I read Understanding God's Will: How to Hack the Equation without Formulas, by Kyle Lake. In this book, Lake deals with the common notions of finding God's will and the Christian's effort to obey it. Many Christians seek after the will of God because they (a) want to please God and/or (b) they want a clearly defined life free of failure and wrong decisions.

Those Christians who want to please God do not want to exhibit independence from Him; they avoid considering decisions without seeking and receiving God's expressed approval. They are afraid that if they make a choice without God's voiced consent, they might be acting against His will.

The other Christians who want their lives laid out before them on a blueprint desire security in their decisions; they want to choose the "right" path, the one that is free of failure. Only the best opportunities and safest choices (the "right" major, the "right" job, the "right" spouse, etc.) will suffice for them; therefore, they look to omniscient God for specific guidance.

Why must we know the will of God? First, Jesus says that "whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). Second, knowing God's will for our lives prevents us from living our lives in ignorance of God and in bondage: "The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:17).

This book's explanation of finding God's will has taught me one more element to being free in Christ (2 Corin-

The Will of God?

thians 3:17). Every time I turn to the Lord, a veil is taken away. Christ has set us free from slavery to sin and from the Law: "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

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He has also made us free to follow Him unhindered by sin and not oppressed by demanding expectations. He is not expecting us to make the decision to seek His decision on every detail of our lives. Rather, He gives us the liberty to make choices that will make us happy and will glorify Him.

God is our Father; he wants to see us grow and be happy. God gives us abilities and likes which we are free to exercise and pursue. He has also given us a mind for making decisions and empowering us to act accordingly. We are not robots who take orders and follow them; we have minds to love God through decisions that honor and please Him.

God shows us, through His Word, the way we should take. He has not left us as orphans (John 14:18); He trains us in the way we should go (Proverbs 22:6). Therefore, as imitators of God and beloved children (Ephesians 5:1), we can freely walk because we are trained in the way we should go; by His grace, we will not depart from it. (Do not misunderstand me; liberty in Christ does not equal license. "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:2). I am also not refuting the fact that God gives us specific direction throughout our lives.)

Lake presents an excellent case for the will of God in contrast to popular notions, refuting ideas of a specific blueprint for every Christian that must be followed without deviation. However, Lake does not thoroughly address the will of God as literally presented in the Bible.

He neglects the 23 verses (in the

NASB) in which the phrase "will of God" is mentioned. What, then, is the will of God? Let us explore these verses, along with others, aided by His Spirit, with the expectation to know God more intimately and thereby gain a better grasp of His will for us.

In exploring these verses, we may deduce that they share a common theme: God's will for us is that we may love Him with our entire being, love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:29-31), and that we would live abundant and holy lives as His ambassadors in the world. Jesus proclaims that the will of His Father is that everyone who beholds Him and believes in Him will have eternal life (John 6:40).

In Romans, Paul commands us to "be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind[s], so that [we] may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (12:2, emphasis added).

In Ephesians, slaves are to do the will of God from the heart (6:6). In 1 Thessalonians, the will of God is our sanctification; that we abstain from sexual immorality (4:3). First Peter urges us to live according to the will of God (2:15; 4:2, 6, 19; 5:2).

Lake concludes that God wants to see us grow through our "adventure" with Him and become more like Jesus. However, to expound on Lake's conclusion, I will add my own. God is after our hearts. He wants us to live for Him and to love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Our relationship with God is not centered on discovering a clear-cut plan for our lives that appeals to our desires for objectivity and security; instead, it is an exciting, fulfilling union between us and our Beloved. Following God is not about finding His will; rather, following God's will is about finding Him.



Brooks Alumus [As reported by Alyson Erikson]

James Nortey, Baylor 2008, Brooks resident and Community Leader, shares about his current circumstances.

Name: James Alphonse Nortey Age: 22 Graduation Date from Baylor: May 17th 2008 Major at Baylor: Philosophy Minor at Baylor: Criminal Justice

When/how long did you live in Brooks?

I lived in Brooks Hall room 306 my freshman year way back in 2004. I was a Community Leader in Brooks Hall my sophomore year and a Senior Community Leader at Brooks College during my senior year.



Describe your experience.

With half of Brooks Hall lacking internet and cable, life was centered in the famous Brooks Hall Lobby. Even though the building was falling apart, I will always cherish the board games, pranks, and dodge ball games. Brooks College was another experience altogether with stronger student leadership, beautiful architecture, and a host of new traditions.



What did you learn that prepared you for your life now?

People matter. The kingdom of God is built on the bricks of solid relationships. I think all too often it's easy to get self-centered in college. My life, my major, my resume, etc. While all of that is important, I've found that emptying oneself and filling yourself up with other people's pain, pride, and potential is key to helping our neighbors, which in turn, is the best way to help yourself. God can put amazing people in our lives sometimes. It's complicated I know, but letting go of your control on life will give you a better grip.

How do you feel about being a Baylor graduate?

A little disconnected. It's great to be at Harvard, but I feel a larger commitment to Baylor. I have a feeling I'll be back sooner than you think.

What are you doing now that you've graduated? What kind of things are you involved in?

I'm studying over at Harvard Law School. I'm involved in the Black Law Students Association, Federalist Society, and Christian Fellowship. I'm gearing my law courses to prepare me for a career in government and social change.

Where do you hope to be a few years from now?

After law school I hope to clerk for a federal judge and then begin working with the U.S. Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor in the Civil Rights or Public Corruption Division.

If you could give any advice to the current members of Brooks College, what would it be?

Invest a lot of time in getting to know people, both students, faculty, and administrators. At the end of the day, you won't remember very many of your classes anyway, so don't be that guy that spends all of your time in the library. Life is happening. You better go live it now because no one is going to do it for you. Go to Sunday Dinner, take a friend to the Faculty Master's tea, catch up with someone at Dr. Pepper Hour, take a posse to ALL of the Baylor athletic games, play Rock Band in the Lobby (um, I mean JCR), and stay up until 2:00 a.m. talking about religion/spirituality/philosophy/technology/the future/ relationships/God/politics (just don't stay past visitation hours).

JorchJoons

A lesson in literary terms...



1. Alliteration a repitition of initial sounds of several words in a group.

2. Hyperbole- an overstatement or exaggeration.

3 Asyndeton- a stylistic scheme in which conjunctions are deliberately omitted from a series of related clauses. 4. Irony (situational) - a discrepancy between the expected results and the actual results.

Homecoming... at a glance ... in the form of a timeline ... with pictures



Andrew Hwang Cartoonist