



THE TORCH

The Brooks College Newsletter

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Melissa in Maastricht



Melissa Philip
Guest Writer

Language. Culture. Food. Transportation. Peanut Butter. When all these and more are foreign to you, how do you survive being on unfamiliar terrain? Is it with hostility, a fake smile, enthusiasm, trial and error, without complaint, or all of the above? In all honesty, I have experienced all of these ups and downs during the last four weeks.

If anyone reading this does not know me, I was a freshman living at Brooks College last year and became addicted to the Brooks environment and community and people. But I knew that the opportunity to study abroad is something I have wrestled with ever since I heard past Maastricht students talk about their experiences. If you have a strong desire to learn all you can about different cultures and travel to more countries in Europe than I can list, do not say no to a study abroad program without exploring your options.

Homesickness is a dreaded feeling. I knew I would suffer, but did not expect it to be to such a degree. I did not understand the language (Dutch is a mix of French and German in my opinion). I could not talk to my mom and my friends back home easily. Everything in me just desired to be at home the first week.

I had to get out of my hostility stage to enjoy the beautiful weather, language and the pedestrian lifestyle. Traveling is definitely not as bad as it was in the Dark Ages. With the remarkable invention of Skype, you can chat with any number of your friends and family at no cost! I still miss home, but the pains are less accentuated.

Recently, I have realized that the desire for home is also a desire for stability. With the Maastricht program, we have class from Tuesday to Thursday (from 8AM – 9PM, with short breaks). Then we can travel the rest of the days. Our schedule has three-day weeks and four-day week-ends. Traveling every week is exciting and at the same time exhausting.

With our 16 hour load, the balance between school and fun is not easy to say the least. Since our program is for pre-med students, I doubt any semester will be as challenging as this. For instance, our midterms begin this week and we just returned from a weekend trip to Paris tonight (9pm approximately). I'll leave the state of our minds to your imagination.

However, studying abroad is definitely a situation where the benefits outweigh the costs. My traveling portfolio includes London, Brugge (city in Belgium) and Paris. I have been a faithful tourist and stopped at most of the major attractions on the map. But a few of my favorite memories include having dinner with a Dutch missionary family in Maastricht, playing in a park adjacent to the Notre Dame Cathedral and learning the game Petanque with two French guys

in what used to be a Roman amphitheater with gladiators and lions. I cannot wait for all the adventures to come after classes end in four weeks and the last month of individual travel begins!

My roommate, Lizette (another resident of Brooks), and I were thinking about this question lately: Is Brooks in any way similar to our life in Maastricht? The sense of community did not change. Here we get to know each other quickly because we all live on the same hall (albeit different floors) and it's co-ed as well. We have classrooms in our building and direct contact with teachers.

Another plus is that our cafeterias are also in the same building which makes Brooks residents perfect candidates for studying abroad in Maastricht! It also helps if you like pork and potatoes with almost every meal, enjoy riding your bike in your own specially marked lane next to cars on the road, and weather that's usually stagnant at 60 degrees or less.

I still miss home when I get on Skype, but I love Maastricht and Europe like I never did before. No doubt, November 24th will be a bit-tersweet day.



Melissa in the Netherlands (far left)

Top 10 Almost Rhetorical Tourguide Questions at Brooks



Justin Ross
Humorist

10. Do meal plans work here?
9. Do they get chapel attendance here?
8. Do Baylor credits transfer here?
7. Where do you get a Brooks library card?
6. Can science majors apply to live here?
5. Did you say the concierge is open 24/7?
4. Do you have to be a CL to live here?
3. Is maid service included in the price?
2. Can you go to a different church besides Robbins on the weekend?
1. Is that his real head?



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!

Sponsored Child

For the second year, Brooks College is sponsoring a child from Kenya. His name is Victor Omondi. Every month, he receives a sponsorship donation from us, and it is our responsibility to care for some of his needs. There is a jar in the Junior Commons Room for your donations, which would be much appreciated. Here's a thought: if everyone in Brooks gave only one dollar, Victor would be taken care of for almost a year! Your small part can really make a difference in a young life.



Victor Omondi

The Torch would like to announce the following...



For the Freshmen: In the next issue of Brooks College's newsletter, we would love to print your story. What is the Freshman Experience? What have been your challenges so far? Who or what has helped you along the way? We want to know who you are, where you've come from, and what are your dreams. If you have something to say, send an email straightaway to **Brooks.Torch@gmail.com** and let us know!



For All: Do you think you have what it takes to show Baylor spirit? Send us your most spirited photograph, involving you or at least something that exudes Baylor-ness. We'll publish the ones that really make us catch the Baylor fever. Send your photos to **Brooks.Torch@gmail.com** by Wednesday, October 15 for a chance at Brooks College fame!





Anson Jablinski
Staff Writer

Baylor Symphony Orchestra

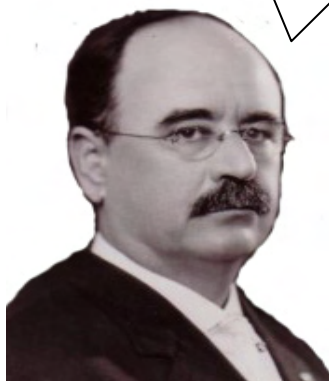
Tuesday, September 30th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Baylor Theatre: “Urinetown” the Musical

Performances from Wednesday, October 1st through Sunday, October 12th in Jones Theatre in the Hooper-Schaffer Fine Arts Center. Tickets and times available online or at the H-S FAC box office.

Sammy Says...

*It's never too early
to start Christmas
Shopping.*



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’.

Fine Arts Forecast

September 25 – October 23

Symphonic Band

Monday, October 6th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Baylor Percussion Group

Wednesday, October 8th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission to a concert that could surely beat any other.

Campus Orchestra

Thursday, October 9th at 6:00 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Parents’ Weekend Choral Concert

Friday, October 10th at 5:00 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission and lots of parents in attendance.

Euphotuba Ensemble

Sunday, October 12th at 3:00 pm in Roxy Grove Hall (to the right, inside Waco Hall). Free admission, an inordinately awesome amount of low brass.

Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, October 14th at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.

Women’s Choir and Men’s Choir

Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission.



Wind Ensemble

Thursday, October 23rd at 7:30 pm in Jones Hall. Free admission – featuring Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Martin Museum of Art

Current exhibitions: Gallery I – Al Souza, works on paper; Gallery II – Blair Meerfeld and John Tilton, ceramics. On display through October 11th. Free admission. New exhibits coming October 21st; check online (www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum) for museum hours and more information.





Friendship

Henry David Thoreau

Guest Poet

I think awhile of Love, and while I think,
Love is to me a world,
Sole meat and sweetest drink,
And close connecting link
Tween heaven and earth.

I only know it is, not how or why,
My greatest happiness;
However hard I try,
Not if I were to die,
Can I explain.

I fain would ask my friend how it can be,
But when the time arrives,
Then Love is more lovely
Than anything to me,
And so I'm dumb.

For if the truth were known, Love cannot speak,
But only thinks and does;
Though surely out 'twill leak
Without the help of Greek,
Or any tongue.

A man may love the truth and practise it,
Beauty he may admire,
And goodness not omit,
As much as may befit
To reverence.

But only when these three together meet,
As they always incline,
And make one soul the seat,
And favorite retreat,
Of loveliness;

When under kindred shape, like loves and hates
And a kindred nature,
Proclaim us to be mates,
Exposed to equal fates
Eternally;

And each may other help, and service do,
Drawing Love's bands more tight,
Service he ne'er shall rue
While one and one make two,
And two are one;

In such case only doth man fully prove
Fully as man can do,
What power there is in Love
His inmost soul to move
Resistlessly.

Two sturdy oaks I mean, which side by side,
Withstand the winter's storm,
And spite of wind and tide,
Grow up the meadow's pride,
For both are strong

Above they barely touch, but undermined
Down to their deepest source,
Admiring you shall find
Their roots are intertwined
Inseparably.



CL Spotlight

Alyson Erikson

Learn about your Community Leaders!

Floor: 1D

Senior, Film and Digital Media major

Home: San Antonio, TX



Activities: Member of SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers), Vice President of Circle K International service organization, Co-Director of the Alive Campaign Organization

Likes: Running, playing guitar, spending time with family, getting to know people, coffee (I love Common Grounds!), reading, biking, art, having fun (not taking life for granted)



The Alive Campaign
in Anchorage

Dislikes: Bugs (anything that crawls scares me), boredom, people that are cruel or gossip

Fun Facts: I have a twin sister that also attends Baylor; she's a Journalism PR major.

Purpose as a CL: To spark conversations with residents about life, spirituality, and relationships. To facilitate community amongst my wing and Brooks College as a whole. To be a mentor or a guide to my residents.

Why Brooks? When I was a freshman in Kokernot, I met people in Brooks who called themselves "brothers". I met Larry, who was so passionate about Brooks Hall, that he called it "home". And when I saw the building come together during my sophomore year, I knew this place was going to be remarkable. I had high expectations for the people who would be walking in and out of the archway, who would be playing or studying in the JCR, lounging on the grass in the Quad. The community is unlike anything I've ever seen before.

Ambitions: It might seem like a cliché, but I dream of doing something that makes a difference. Not to be famous or anything, but to know that I've made an impact on peoples' lives. Whether that be in the film industry or not. I've never been happier than when I help others.



Alyson and her sister after
performing at
Common Grounds



What is one of the best parts of the CL experience? Getting to be immersed in campus life. Not only do I get to live with people, and be part of the Brooks community, I get to be informed of all the Baylor events as well. I feel like I'm truly a part of the university in this way.

“Alyson is always really genuine and I can always count on her.”

-- Larry Correll-Hughes



Chase Kanaly
Staff Writer

Bear Recap



On Friday September 12 the game versus the Cougars of Washington State was moved a day because of Hurricane Ike. Robert Griffin proved that his first start against Northwestern State was no fluke. After letting Washington State score on the first drive of the game, Baylor marched down the field and evened up the score at 7 on a Robert Griffin 1-yard run.

During the next 5 minutes, Baylor fans would be subjected to the worst play ever and the best play ever. The Cougar quarterback snapped the ball only to see it ricochet off his helmet, and the Baylor defense recovered.

Following an incomplection, Robert Griffin III wowed Floyd Casey Stadium yet again. After running to one side of the field, he reversed and throwing off his back he threw a 27-yard completion to Ernest Smith, who made a diving catch in the corner of the end zone (#2 Play on SportsCenter that night).

After both the Cougars and the Bears exchanged touchdowns halfway through the second quarter, Baylor held the slim 21-14 advantage. Jay Finley took off on a 48-yard run, giving the Bears a 28-14 halftime lead. Robert Griffin unleashed one of his three rushes of over 50 yards (setting a Big 12 record), scoring on a 58-yard run putting Baylor up 35-14.

Baylor put up another 10 points, while Washington State could only muster a field goal, as the Bears dominated their opponents 45-17. Robert Griffin's performance of 11 rushes for 225 yards and 2 scores; 7 completions for 129 yards and another score wrapped up the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week.

Going into the nationally televised game against Connecticut, the Bears are on a 2-game win streak with plenty of momentum. ESPN 2 televised the Friday night matchup as Baylor travelled on the road to face the University of Connecticut. No doubt, a good performance would really bring loads of attention to the university.

"What a football game this turned out to be." This quote was attributed to the former announcer of Monday Night Football, the late Howard Cosell. UCONN marched right down the field, inside the Baylor ten yard line. On a third down and the goal line to go, Joe Pawelek intercepted the pass.

The Bears made the Huskies pay dearly for this mistake, as they took a 7-0 lead on a 16 yard completion from Robert Griffin to Justin Akers.

UCONN answered the bell, knotting the score at 7. Baylor scored on another Robert Griffin to Justin Akers pass, this time a 14-yarder.

The Huskies seemed to always have an answer, as they managed to tie the game at 14 before the half. Griffin scored on a 2 yard rush, following a UCONN field goal putting the Bears up 21-17. The resilient Huskies refused to give up as they responded this time taking 24-21 lead over Baylor.

Griffin calmly orchestrated a fourth quarter drive, as he passed for his third touchdown (fourth overall), a 19-yard strike to Kendall Wright. Watching the game at Buffalo Wild Wings, Baylor fans clung to their seats, as the upset seemed more and more likely.

Connecticut took the lead with six minutes to go. Griffin seemed to be on his way to his first career fourth quarter comeback, but when a fourth and eleven pass fell incomplete, Baylor was on the wrong side of a 31-28 defeat. Baylor played nearly flawlessly, but was just beaten out by the persistent Huskies. Every time the Bears went ahead, UCONN came right back.

This experience, and the down-to-the-wire game, will no doubt be vital as the team continues to mature; a perfect segue to the beginning of Big Twelve play. Unfortunately for the Bears, it kicks off against the #2 ranked Oklahoma Sooners in two weeks at Baylor. Stay tuned to *The Torch* for the continuing coverage of Baylor athletics.



Photo by Chase Kanaly



And Many Happy Returns

As offered by the Brooksmeister



Johann Brooksmeister
Staff Writer

Greetings to the men and women of Brooks College! I extend my warmest salutations to you and our community with the sincere assurance that I have nothing but love for our archway-graced residence and all those who reside in it. I am the Brooksmeister, an anonymous writer for the Torch and self-appointed guardian of the spirit of the College.

Those who read the Torch last year are familiar with my writings, which I penned as attempts at humor. As Abe Lincoln said, "you cannot make all of the people laugh all of the time," but I generally try to do my best anyway. Note that I resolve to make my articles more relevant this year than they were last... though a small drop of pertinence will more than compensate for last year's drivelt.

The students of the nation have returned to school. Those who were seniors in high school have returned to the bottom of the totem pole. (I promise you that enrolling in the classes that you actually want becomes much easier as you accumulate hours and years.) Some of our seasoned Brooks men and women have returned home for another year. Some of our Baylor seniors have returned for a victory lap. Some courageous men and women have returned to take up leadership positions as CLs across campus.

The frustrated business majors have returned to street racing in the Speight Parking Garage. The cafeteria trays have returned to the void from whence they came. And, happily, the Torch has returned to periodic circulation. But most importantly, the laughter, conversation, and camaraderie have returned to fill the Great Hall at every mealtime.

There are those in this world who will return to places they have been only to continue to lambaste inconveniences and hunt for discord. As we begin (rather, as we try to catch up with the seemingly long-gone beginning of) a new academic year, I encourage

you to absolutely disregard such barren expanses of negativity. Rose-colored glasses are a fool's confidence, but to know happiness is to cherish your blessings. Reach out to your friends so that you may share with them whatever joy you all may find in the world around.

Have you ever seen a Waco sunrise, or searched for constellations in our boundless night sky? This town, which some will verbally scorn, is the humble home to a vast beauty. Do not neglect the intangible. For those who invest in it, Waco will grow on you beyond measure.



By the way, that butterbeer at the John Granger lecture was delicious. Someone should ask for the recipe. If you do, please email me.

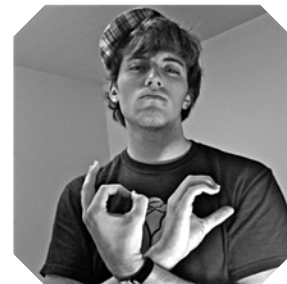
I am always accessible by email and would really love to hear from you. Your shoutouts are always appreciated. Last year, I received one authentic message from a reader. If I get enough messages, I will gladly do a "Dear Brooksmeister..." column. Yes, you may write about anything, and yes, I do give relationship advice. Fire away. Preemptively, here is my first piece of advice: the men and women of Brooks are the finest in the town.

With that, I leave you until next time, and wish you the very best in all that you do.

Yours,

--The BM

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Justin Ross
Cartoonist

TorchToons



Andrew Hwang
Guest Cartoonist



Handing out the Torch since Fall 2007

Emilie Moore.....Editor
Anson Jablinski.....Staff Writer
Chase Kanaly.....Staff Writer
Justin Ross.....Humorist

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**