

The Bat



A Student Publication of Paris Junior College
"The Friendliest College In The South"

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**'Swingers
of Birches'
brings
out the best**

**EMTs working
towards the
future**

**Musical
theater
challenges
students**

**Student
talks about
her heritage**



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The student publication of Paris Junior College

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Cover Photo

Ayla Waqar, pictured on the cover, is proud of her Arab heritage.

Photo by Christina Gunlock

A glimpse into the life of Ayla Waqar

DAVID DANNHEIM
STAFF WRITER

Ayla Waqar is a student here at Paris Junior College; like any regular student, she drinks Coca-Cola, enjoys sleeping, and hanging out with her friends.

What sets Waqar apart from the rest of her class, however, is that she is one of the few PJC students of Arab descent. She is proud of her heritage, and is a self-described “modest Muslim.”

“To me, religion is more of a personal thing, and I don’t like it when people are pushy with their religious affiliation,” she said. “It’s really a personal thing between you and God; at least, that’s my belief.”

Though Waqar was born in America, her family was not; her dad, Muhammad, and mother Saeeda is of Pakistani descent.

Muhammad traveled or lived in many parts of the world, including Belgium, Taiwan, the United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE, says Waqar, is an extremely prosperous, but small, nation in the midst of the Middle Eastern nations.

It is the home of the tallest skyscraper in the world, the Burj Khalifa, as well as many other beautiful landmarks that make it the desert oasis.

When Waqar asked her father why he chose America over a country like England where, Waqar jests, she could have gotten a cool accent), he jokingly replied that England had too many ex-girlfriends.

In reality, Waqar says, her father Muhammad moved to America because of the opportunities it presented for him as a modest entrepreneur.

He moved between the states and Pakistan many times before settling down here in Paris.

Waqar says she remembers



Courtesy Photo

Ayla Waqar poses in front of the Atlantis resort in the United Arab Emirates.

visiting the UAE; there were bazaars filled with gold and everything was luxurious, down to the toilets (which she says were like thrones.)

“There was this lady there that was covered in a Burka (the traditional clothing all Middle Eastern women are required to wear), and she was just dripping gold; compared to her, I felt like a poor person,” she said.

“And I don’t think I’ve ever seen as many Bentleys, Rolls Royce’s or Ferraris in my entire life, as I did when I went to the UAE.”

Waqar is undecided on what she wants her major to be, but she knows that she would like to have a job where she gets to travel.

“I don’t think I could handle a stationary career very well,” she said.

Waqar graduated from North Lamar in 2011, and when she

told her parents that she wanted to go to PJC, her father was ecstatic but her mother was not. Eventually, however, they were both pleased with her choice.

Once she graduates from PJC, she would like to go to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

She takes pride in, and enjoys, the fact that she can call herself an Asian (the Middle-East is part of Asia), and when people ask about her ethnicity, she humorously exclaims that she is simply Asian.

“I don’t know what it is, but when people think you’re Asian, they think you’re smarter, so I just go with it,” she said.

She emphasizes that, whether they are American, Middle Eastern, Asian or anything else, people are people, and they are more similar than they are given credit for.

Learning to save lives

ALEXANDER THOMAS
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The medical field is always in need of workers and PJC is in line, training people for future jobs. The Emergency Medical Services class trains students to be emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

EMS classes are different from classes other students normally take, in that EMS students receive a certificate at the end of their training and are able to jump into their choice field of work. EMTs and paramedics are trained to ride and work ambulances, work in emergency rooms, surgeries, and handle baby deliveries.

“It is a very rewarding career,” said Blaine Jones, EMS Education Coordinator.

EMT basic training requires at least 96 hours of

field work. As for paramedics, they require a minimum of 500 hours. (Both technicians and paramedics are on call and been called to actual events and have worked alongside actual paramedics and technicians on sight.)

In order to get into the classes, a student must be 18 or older, have a clean criminal background and have a GED or high school diploma said Jones.

The program is fairly easy to get into he said.

“We usually have enough spaces to fill,” said Brad Bolton EMS instructor “Last year we had to turn a few students away but that does not happen very often.”

The Commission on Accreditation recently accredited the EMS course for EMS Programs, a national accreditation program. Accreditation will be a requirement after Jan 2013.



Alexander Thomas/The Bat

Lindsay Goodson and Geoff Morgan practice taking vitals on a mannequin.

Over all, the EMS course is a great class according to students who are taking it and have good things to say.

“We have a good reputation,” said Jones.

“I’ve always been interested in medical things,” said Frankie Sims, a student looking to become a paramedic.

“I came here because Blaine

is one of the best teachers around, one of the toughest.”

“I kind of grew up in it. I kind of have a heart for it,” said Nathan Palmer. The medical field will always be in need of people, experienced enough to come in and work and PJC’s EMS classes are working on training people.

Final Examination Schedule

Spring semester examinations will begin Monday, May 7, 2012, and will continue through Friday, May 11, 2012. Examination periods will be one hour and fifteen minutes in length. Examinations will be given in the classrooms in which the class regularly meets unless the instructor involved gives a change to the students.

MONDAY, May 7

Exams are to be given for all MONDAY-WEDNESDAY classes regularly meeting at these periods.

8:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
All Monday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes - **MON** classes as scheduled

TUESDAY, May 8

Exams are to be given for TUESDAY-THURSDAY classes regularly meeting at these periods.

8:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
All Tuesday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes - **TUES** classes as schedule

WEDNESDAY, May 9

Exams are to be given for all MONDAY-WEDNESDAY classes regularly meeting at these periods.

9:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
3:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. All Wednesday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes - **WED** classes as scheduled

THURSDAY, May 10

Exams are to be given for all TUESDAY-THURSDAY classes regularly meeting at these periods.

9:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
3:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. All Thursday evening classes

Learning Frameworks classes - **THURS** classes as scheduled

FRIDAY, May 11, 2012

Exams are to be given for all Friday classes during regular meeting time.

All you need is talent!

BARBARA TORRES
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, Paris Junior College started offering an Associate of Science in Musical Theater.

This program is allowing PJC students to transfer as juniors to universities that have musical theater programs.

Musical theater uses dialogue and music to tell a story. It is a way to expand the PJC music and theater departments, recognizing the need to provide a concentration program combined with music and drama courses, vocals, piano, fundamentals, and stage movements.

The PJC program gives students a better chance to get a main stage experience, which means a higher probability they will actually get to perform. Students are trained as vocalists, actors, and dancers.

"To get in this program, you don't need anything in particular, just talent,"

says Philip Briggs, instructor of music.

Taking these classes at PJC is a good value. Musical theater prepares students to teach or how to audition. In addition to attending classes, it prepares

them professionally.

"It's a heavy load, kind of like nursing; lots of time and commitment," says Briggs.

According to Briggs, five students are finishing the program this spring.

Taylor Jackson, PJC student graduating this spring is excited.

She is hoping to transfer to Southeastern University in fall and continue majoring in musical theater.

"I'm really excited. It's been a long time since it all started!" says Taylor.

"It's not an easy program,

it's hard," says Briggs. "You audition and you have to pass a performance major. If you have the chops to do it, then you have the chance."

For auditions students must be prepared to sing a song that demonstrates their vocal abilities, and have a prepared monologue to perform.

Auditions will be May 19, June 16, August 13, and August 20 for fall semester enrollment.

For more information about the auditions or scholarships available for music or drama, contact William Walker at (903) 782-0488 or Philip Briggs at (903) 782-0343.

"If you have the chops to do it, then you have the chance." Philip Briggs

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And the winners are!



Alexander Thomas/The Bat

From left, Journalism Student of the Year Christina Gunlock; Outstanding English Student of the Year John J. Kidwell; Outstanding Artist Candra Wyatt; winner of the Paris News Scholarship, David Dannheim; Outstanding Student in Foreign Language Ingeborg Heijlgers; Outstanding Student in English as a Second Language Edith Ramirez.

Creative writing and visual arts awards were presented April 18, in the Student Center Ballroom.

Here is the list of winners of Creative Writings and Visual Arts Award winners, those who placed first through third as well as the scholarship and Outstanding Student awards. To see a full list, look into the Swingers of Birches publication.

1st place in the Narrative Essay is Cortney Stewart, 2nd place is Jack Elliot, and 3rd place is Jessica Cannon. 1st place in Poetry is Laura Shelton, 2nd place is Travis L. Allen, and 3rd place is Riede Faires. 1st place in Regional Literature is David Dannheim, 2nd place is Jessica Cannon, and 3rd place is Will Whitaker. 1st place in Argumentative/ Informative Essay is Emily Bart, 2nd place is Rita Renee'

Davis, and 3rd place is Cameron David. 1st place in Research Essay with Documentation is Rhiannon Chambers, 2nd place is Will Whitaker, and 3rd place is Cortney Stewart. 1st place in Short Story is Olivia Palomares, 2nd place is Samantha Weeks, and 3rd place is Krystin Krodle.

Here are the Visual Arts winners.

In Two-Dimensional Design, 1st place is James Carey, 2nd place is Candra Wyatt, and 3rd place is Jessica Guajardo. In Three-Dimensional Design, 1st place is Candra Wyatt, 2nd place is David Malicoat, and 3rd place is James Carey. In Painting, 1st place is Candra Wyatt, 2nd place is Fancy Woods, and 3rd place is Michael Thacker. In Drawing, 1st place is Brian Parks, 2nd place is Victoria Gribble, and 3rd place is Holly Banks.

In Level 1 Photography, 1st place is Tasha Johnson, 2nd place is Debbie France, and 3rd place is Fancy Woods. In Level 2 Photography, 1st place is Montel Thomas, 2nd place is Jessica Guajardo, and 3rd place is Montel Thomas. In Level 3 Photography, 1st place is Frank Ray, 2nd place is Joe Jackson, and 3rd place Sandy Taylor.

Here are the scholarship and Outstanding Student award winners.

Journalism Student of the Year Christina Gunlock, Outstanding Student in English John J. Kidwell, Outstanding Artist Candra Wyatt, winner of the Paris News scholarship is David Dannheim, Outstanding Student in Foreign Language is Ingeborg Heijlgers, and Outstanding Student in English as a Second Language is Edith Ramirez.

Dragon



DELTA PSI OMEGA

Delta Psi Omega is having a Glow Party in the PJC ballroom. Be sure to wear white shirts, or neon colors and have on glow-in-the-dark-accessories. Admission is \$3. It will be Friday, May 4 from 8 to 11 p.m. with music from DJ Kill-city and DJ Mo Blee.

Graduation

PJC graduation will be at 7 p.m., at Noyes Stadium on Friday, May 11. Graduating students will need to meet in the library at 6 p.m.

Library

All books are due back by Friday, May 4; check with the librarians for any overdue books or fines you might have.

Student Activities

Student Activities will host a late night breakfast Monday, May 7 at 10 p.m. in the PJC cafeteria.

MEET STEVEN

Class of 2014



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903.886.5000 or 888.868.2682

Hometown: Sumner, Texas

High School: North Lamar High School

Major: Double major in Physics & Chemistry

Why I chose A&M-Commerce: It was an affordable school in which I could complete my undergraduate studies.

Cool Stuff I did at A&M-Commerce: The most exciting aspect of my studies here in Commerce, is being part of the globally aware Regent Scholars. This being is first year incarnate, we are still discovering what we can offer to the university, but I'm confident that with a little time, we can become a valuable asset to the university as a whole.

How A&M-Commerce Changed Me: Ultimately, the university has given me the opportunity to succeed at what I choose. When I decided to add chemistry as a second major, I learned that no one here has declared that major, and the university created it just for me. That was certainly humbling, and has made me aware of just what I can offer.



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Cultural Blend mixes it up in the end



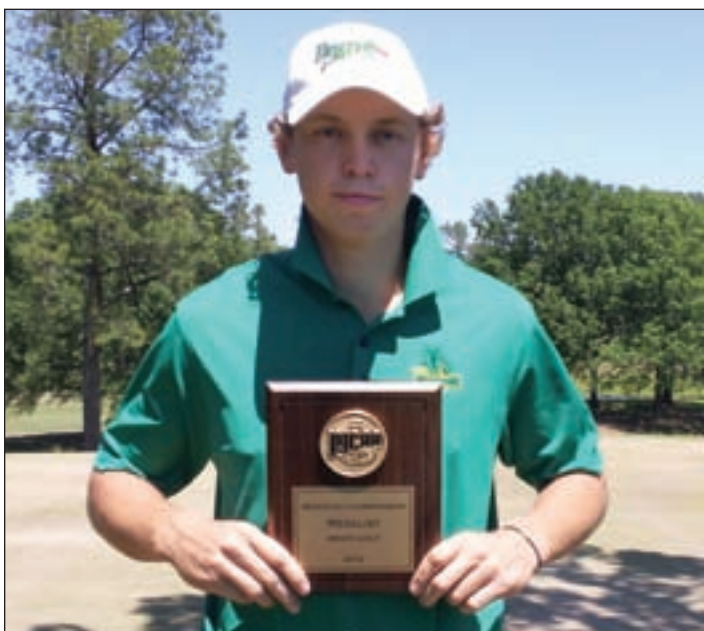
Alexander Thomas/The Bat



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

The Cultural Blend, formerly known as the Hispanic Club, has gained momentum this past year. They have increased in number of students in their organization. Their activities have ranged from Cultural Cafes to dance parties and gaming tournaments. The Blend Club hosted a dance party and gaming tournament complete with balloons and a strobelight. About 50 people participated in both (pictured above) the tournament and dancing. The dance party (above left) lasted from 8-10 p.m., while the Xbox 360 gaming tournament featured Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2. They wrapped up the year with a cook-out for PJC Spanish instructor Kelli Ebel, nicknamed Cafe Nicaragua, and for the Blend Club members as well at Ebel's ranch in Sulphur Bluff. Students road tripped to the property where they enjoyed hot dogs and other snacks and participated in a nature scavenger hunt (above right). Approximately 20 people enjoyed the 3 hour outing before heading back to campus.

Golfer headed to nationals



Courtesy Photo

Paris Junior College Dragons golfer Dennis Andersen of Randers, Denmark, finished the season's play as Medalist for Region XIV and qualified as an individual for the NJCAA National Tournament by finishing in seventh place overall in District II play.

At the last tournament, Andersen had rounds of 77, 73 and 74, placing him on the District II All Tournament team.

"Dennis has really played some good golf the last three to four tournaments," said PJC Golf Coach David Johnson. "He has showed a lot of maturity with his club choices and shot making. His golf course management has been well thought out and he has had a game plan and stuck to that plan. Dennis set some goals earlier this year and has worked hard to reach some of those goals. He still has one goal to reach, All American at Nationals, and he has given himself a chance to reach that goal as well."

Coach Johnson will accompany Andersen to the NJCAA National Tournament at Sand Creek Station in Newton, Kansas, on May 13-18.

You may not **WIN**
THE LOTTERY.

.....

You may not **DATE A**
MOVIE STAR.

.....

You may not **MAKE IT**
TO THE MAJORS.

.....

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