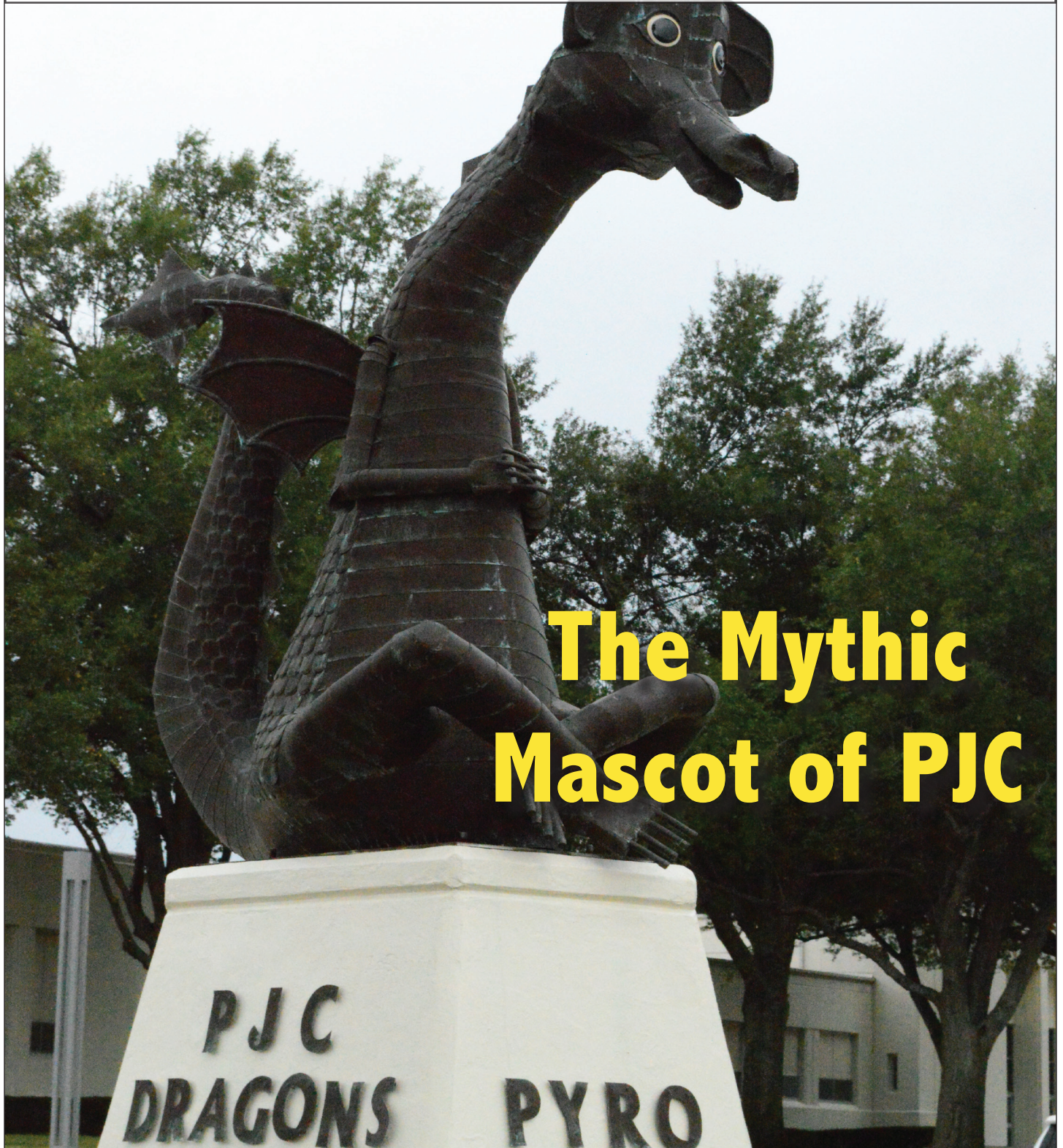


# The Bat



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"The Friendliest College In The South"

Thursday, October 25, 2012  
Volume 88, No. 3



**The Mythic  
Mascot of PJC**

## The Bat

The student publication of Paris Junior College since 1925

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Comments and views in *The Bat*, a student publication of Paris Junior College, reflect thoughts and opinions of individual writers not necessarily the views of other students, staff members, faculty, administrative offices, or the PJC Board of Regents.

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### Cover Photo

Pyro the dragon stands as a testament to the many traditions upheld faithfully by each PJC student and staffer over the years of the college's existence.

Photo by  
Lindsey Griffis

# All about the dragon

## A PJC spotlight on Pyro the dragon

DAVID DANNHEIM  
STAFF WRITER

**P**yro, the PJC dragon mascot, has a mythical history; most of the lore and legends that surround Pyro either cannot be attributed or have no specific source.

One thing is for certain, however; Pyro the dragon has had quite a journey through the halls of PJC's past.

Paul Bailey, former public information officer and coordinator of the 75th Anniversary publication has contributed the following information to "The Bat."

According to a story told by Ruth Vernon, a student in 1925 and witness to the decisions made, a faculty meeting to decide the colors and school mascot was held in 1925.

During the meeting, it was suggested that PJC, like Paris High School, should be the Wildcats.

The idea, however, was met with much resistance; people wanted to see a mascot that was "fiercer" than the Wildcats.

PJC football coach H.L. "Hub" Hollis then suggested that PJC should adopt the dragon as its mascot, because it was much larger and fiercer than a Wildcat.

Everyone at the meeting came to agreement, and Pyro the dragon was born.

The story behind Pyro's name was unable to be found, though the word Pyro typically means



Lindsey Griffis /The Bat

**An exhibit on Pyro has been set up in the front of the library by English instructor and archivist Daisy Harvill. Displays of stuffed dragons devoted to Pyro the dragon can be found in offices all over the campus.**

fire, or something that involves fire.

As for the colors of the mascot and the college itself, it was suggested that the college adopt the maroon and white colors that were made popular at the time by Texas A&M University.

According to the story told by Vernon, Charlotte Hendrichson, a professor at the time, spoke up.

"No, we will have no Aggie colors on this campus!"

Hendrichson, a graduate of Baylor, was quite adamant that PJC avoid the maroon and white colors of TAMU. Instead, she suggested an eye-catching green and gold, the colors of her alma mater, Baylor University.

This suggestion was met with no resistance, and with Vernon as a witness, the decision was made.

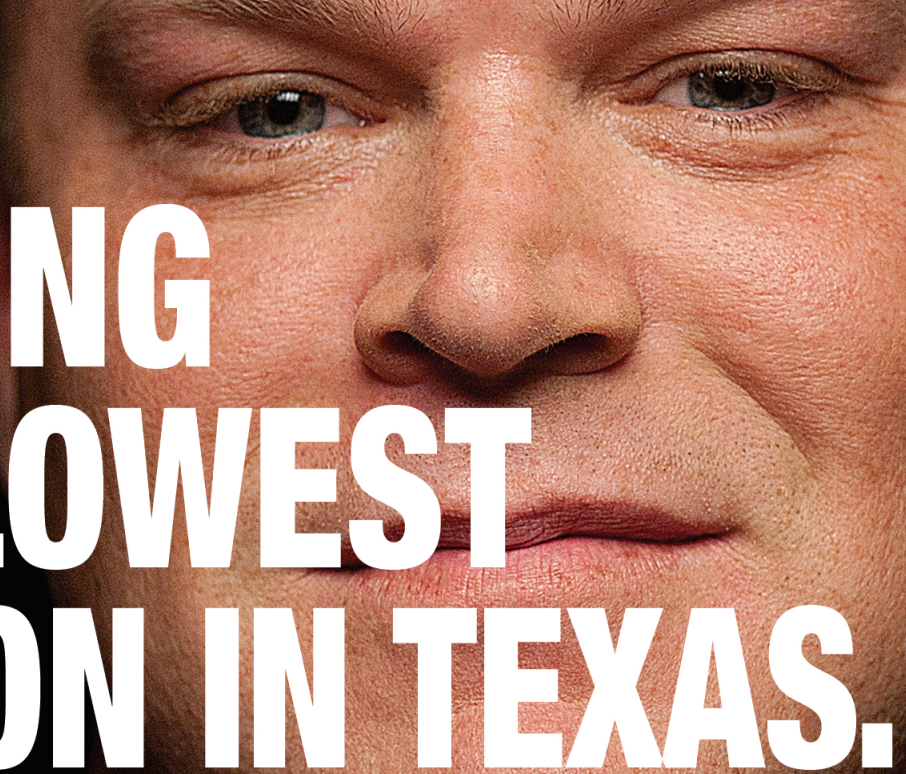
Most if not all students at PJC recognize those symbols of PJC tradition today.

Various images of Pyro appeared in drawings through the years in both issues of "The Bat" and the now defunct "Galleon", the campus yearbook that ceased publication in 1970.

Many campus offices sport collections of stuffed dragons, and the bookstore maintains a constant supply of "Dragon pride" items.

The late Daon Wall, who was the president of the Board of Regents at the time in 2001, created the Pyro statue that stands guard at the PJC entrance, according to a 2001 edition of "The Bat."

See Page 4, Pyro



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# PJC baseball players attend All-Star Game

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Six Paris Junior College baseball players attended the Junior College All-Star Game at Concordia University in Austin September 28-29.

"This is the largest group of PJC baseball players to attend the JUCO All-Star weekend in the past 15 years," said PJC Baseball Coach Deron Clark.

Dragons attending were Alex Bisacca of Plano, Alex Bruu of McKinney, Chase Harvey of Paris, Matt Johnson of Plano, G.R. Hinsley of Richmond and Travis Lee of Magnolia.

"Both Bruu and Bisacca represented the Dragons as pitchers while the other four were position players," Clark said. "All six guys played very well with Bisacca and Bruu both striking out two in their two innings of work and the four position players all made stellar defensive plays in their respective games. Congratulations to all of these young men and their families on this awesome honor."

The baseball team opened October with the Annual Region XIV East Conference Tournament in Carthage, Texas, hosted by Panola College.



Courtesy Photo

Paris Junior College Dragons baseball players participating in the recent Junior College All Star Game in Austin, Texas, include (from left): Travis Lee of Magnolia, Alex Bisacca of Plano, Chase Harvey of Paris, G.R. Hinsley of Richmond, Alex Bruu of McKinney, and Matt Johnson of Plano.

# PJC golfers place second at TJC College Fall Invitational

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Paris Junior College Dragons golf team came in second at the Tyler Junior College Fall Invitational held at Oak Hurst Golf Course in Bullard, Texas, Oct. 22-23.

"We played well this

week, especially in the second round," said PJC Golf Coach David Johnson. "We had to be able to put both rounds together to gain second. Our team's expectations are high, so we were disappointed with our first round performance. We made some strides this week. I thought we com-

peted well and made good decisions on shot-making and club selection."

The Dragons had rounds of 300 and 290, finishing four shots behind Tyler. PJC was led by red-shirt freshman Ben Welker, who finished in fourth place with rounds of 76 and a 2-under 70.

Freshman Zac Oliver continued his good play this semester with rounds of 73-74 for fifth place. Other scores for the Dragons included Evan Feltham with 72-77, Jeremy Salas with 79-73, and Paul Simpson with 80-73.

## Continued from page 2, Pyro

The miniature stood at six inches tall, and was the perfect model for the statue; President Walters agreed to use the miniature as the design, and the job was ready to begin.

"This project has been very enjoyable even though it took 21 and a half months to complete," Wall said at the time.

"This either proves this was a difficult project or that I work too slowly. There was no way

to hurry. Each piece presented a challenge of its own, requiring design, cutting, shaping, clamping, if possible, and then riveting."

Wall's philosophy helped him tackle the daunting project.

"You can do anything you can imagine," he said. "If you have faith to do it, and persistence to carry it out, it can be done."

The statue was put in place October 16, 2001. Wall also

built the big red hat that sits on top of the Paris Eiffel Tower.

The very same dragon Wall sculpted decades ago is the first thing most students remember about this campus.

The statue stands as a statement to the long standing traditions of PJC, as well as the people that stood behind those traditions nearly a hundred years ago.

It just goes to show that everything on campus and even the campus itself has a story;

Pyro is no different.

A dragon of few words, Pyro need not speak; his history speaks for him, and the many people who brought him into fruition.

The next time you pass by the big old copper statue of the friendly dragon, remember the many people who went before to help bring the symbol of PJC's dragon into the light of day.

# Homecoming 2012

## Dragon



Homecoming king and queen nominees for 2012 are, top from left: Ashley Reed, Clarksville; Carlee Bishop, Greenville; Hailey Hickman, Honey Grove; Cheyenne Swenson, Draper, Utah. Bottom from left: Chase Harvey, Paris; Trevor Hevron, Honey Grove; Ryan Fickel, Liberty Hill and Matt Bishop, Plano. The king and queen will be crowned during half-time of the Dragon's basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 3.

Courtesy photo

**AYLA WAQAR**  
STAFF WRITER

*Homecoming 2012 will feature many events this year.*

**Thursday, Nov. 1** - The 2012 Homecoming Parade will line up starting at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, in front of the Hunt Center and the parade will begin at 4 p.m. The top three floats selected by the judges will be awarded \$100 each. For more details, call Glenna Preston or Kenneth Webb at ext 402/433. The Homecoming Pep Rally will immediately follow the parade in the Hunt Center Gymnasium. The theme for the parade, as well as the pep rally, is "Aloha to the Aggies!"

**Friday, Nov. 2** - There will be a President's Reception in the ballroom of the McLemore Student Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. honoring PJC alumni, employees, and friends.

**Saturday, Nov. 3** - The distinguished alumni awards luncheon honoring Ruth Ann (Jack) Stallings, will be at the Love Civic Center at noon. Tickets are \$20, and reservations must be made in advance. For more information contact Derald Bulls ext 276.

Three local residents, EC Hancock, retired PJC instructor and chair of the Math and Science Department, Jimmy Hancock, retired PJC instructor and Dean of Instructional

Support Services, Continuing Education and Off-Campus Centers, and Paul Gene Roden, 24-year member of the PJC Board of Regents, 12 as board president, will be inducted into the Academic Hall of Honor at 2:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Student Center.

Former PJC Athletic Director and women's basketball coach Don Wilhelm will be inducted into the athletic Hall of Fame at half-time at the women's basketball game against Murray State College at 4 p.m. Men's basketball game will start at 6 p.m. in the Hunt Center against Murray State. The King and Queen will be crowned during half-time during the men's basketball game.

### Fools

Thursday, Nov. 8 through Saturday Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 11 at 2:30 p.m. "Fools," a Neil Simon comedy, will be performed by the Drama Dept. in the Ray Karrer Theater. General admission will be \$5, and is free for PJC students with a student ID.

### Homecoming

The last day to vote for homecoming nominees on Sulphur Springs campus is Monday, Oct. 29 and for the Greenville campus the last day to vote is Thursday, Nov. 1.

### The Blend Club

Blend with the Blend Club on Paris campus, Friday Oct. 26 at noon in the Recreation Room of the lower level of the Student Center. The Blend Club also meets on Tuesdays in the Wesley Center at 12:30 p.m.

The Sulphur Springs campus Blend Club meets on Wednesdays in the workbook at 12:30. They will also be hosting a Halloween social. Contact Nicole Kitto at nicole.kitto@gmail.com

Greenville Campus Blend Club meets on Thursdays in the student area at noon. Contact Sierra Bowen at bowenwende@yahoo.com

### African-American Student Union

The Paris campus AASU meets on Tuesdays in room 205 of the Student Center.

### Dropping classes

The last day to drop with a "W" will be Thursday, Nov. 15.

# Veterans Day Happenings

**LINDSEY GRIFFIS**  
STAFF WRITER



Lindsey Griffis/ The Bat

The bells will toll, and the flags will fly on Friday, Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. Allen Williams, Ken Hanushek, and the Chamber singers will hold a Veterans Day memorial in DeShong Chapel. Hanushek will read the list of 61 names of PJC alumni that gave their lives for this country listed on the monument in front of the A.D. building. As each name is called out the bells will sound out a single toll. Student and faculty veterans will be present to carry the flags and a wreath to be placed on the memorial. After the ceremony taps will be played and a moment of silence will be held.



Courtesy Photo

PJC's Chorale presented "American Treasures," in the Calvary United Methodist Church on the evening of October 16, 2012. The chorale is conducted by PJC Director of Choirs Philip Briggs.

# What my phone says about me

Francis Hang, PJC student, gives us a tour of his iPhone.



### Waze

One of my favorite apps for when I'm on the road. It's my GPS and also live stream of traffic. Cool thing is, the live stream of traffic comes from other people that are also using the app.



### Amazon

I love shopping online for stuff and this allows me to do so instead of going to a computer. I can buy it right from my phone!



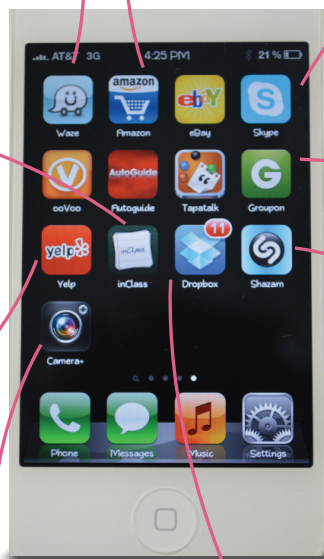
### Skype

Have to video chat with friends and family. It always helps, especially when I see something neat and I want to show it. I can easily video call instead of sending a picture message.



### inClass

My favorite school planner. I can have all my classes, teachers, phone numbers, and more stored here. It also has alarms to upcoming due dates.



### Groupon

Love this app! Gives me the best deals for things to do, eat, or see locally (not for Paris).



### Yelp

Whenever I can't decide on what I want to eat, I use Yelp. It pulls up local restaurants and shows reviews from other fellow "Yelpers."



### Shazam

Got an awesome song you're listening to but don't know the name? Use Shazam, it listens to the music you're listening to and it will detect the song, artist, and information for you.



### Camera+

Personally, I use this more than my normal camera, because with this you get more choices with picture taking. If you're into photography, this is a great app!



### Drop Box

Pretty great storage app since it shares with my computer. As long as my devices are on the same network, I can share files between the devices.

# MEET PRINCESS

Class of 2014



**SCAN THIS QR CODE** To learn more about Princess, watch her video profile and learn how Texas A&M University-Commerce can change your future.

**P**rincess, a math major from Fresno, Calif., transferred to A&M-Commerce because she wanted more from her education.

Here, she's found her niche in the math department thanks to Calculus professors like Dr. Dorsett who encouraged her to put her best into the class, as well as the other classes she was taking at the time.

"I would love to use math everyday I'm at work," Princess said. "I don't know exactly what I plan to do with my degree but I'm confident I will find a career path that's best for me."

Outside of class, Princess is a member of the New Beginnings Multicultural Gospel Choir where she's made several new friends that help keep her grounded.

"At A&M-Commerce, I've become more disciplined and well organized. I've gotten better at prioritizing my time and separating social time with studying time. I'm really trying to obtain and keep a high GPA," she said. "Looking ahead, I hope to get involved in more math and academic-based organizations on campus, and just have a fun college experience."

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