

The Bat



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A new era
Math/Science building brings opportunities

The Bat

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Cover Photo

Sara Corsetti, student at PJC, studies in the new Math and Science lobby before her class. Photo by Dometreus (Bo) Pruitt

Building ushers in new era for math, science studies

BARBARA TORRES

STAFF WRITER

With big windows, a lot of space, and great views, the new Math and Science building has everyone's attention and makes a great first impression of the campus.

The new building may have been the main topic all year, but it has only been open this spring semester. It definitely makes the campus look larger and it also gives it a much more modern look.

The spacious lobby is comfortable and inviting to students and teachers. There are motion-censored lights, and a lot of natural sunlight.

The building is more than three sizes larger than the previous Math and Science areas. "I didn't know how cramped

we were in the old building," says Michael Barnett, biology instructor.

Even though the building has a lot to offer, some of the teachers may miss their old classrooms. Barnett was once a student in the old NS building and had been teaching there for 30 years.

"My life changed in those rooms, I found out I wanted to be a teacher there," he says.

This building is probably one of the most important things for the school to move forward. The teachers were able to work with the architects and had input on lab designs.

It has new technology, such as Wi-Fi and the building has three ITV rooms.

"The technology is outstand-



Barbara Torres/The Bat

Lobby of the new Math and Science building on the Paris campus offers natural sunlight and places to

ing, it is more than what we were expecting, which leads to more creative instruction," says Ed McCraw, associate dean of Math

and Sciences.

The climate is also more pleasant. The teachers are allowed to use the thermostats and change the temperatures in their rooms. There are

rules to follow in the building such as, no food or drinks in the classrooms. The rules apply to both teachers and students.

The teachers seem to really like the building, and they are enjoying the extra space they have. "It's very easy to get excited about teaching courses when you have such a nice facility and technology that is offered," says McCraw.

"In the old one [building] we were scrambling to find room," says John Fornof, math instructor.

He adds jokingly, "I find it interesting how the first floor is the math building, but there is no pencil sharpener."

Students all seem positive about the new facilities and the amenities. They like the big lobby and the tall windows of the building when you first walk in. Most of the teachers' curriculums have remained the same; but some have made a few changes to their techniques.

"It's very easy to get excited about teaching courses when you have such a nice facility and technology that is offered."

Ed McCraw

"Change is good and if we can get students excited for their class, it's good," says Mallie Hood, math instructor. As for the old NS she says, "It's exciting to get it fixed up. Someday I'll say 'that was my spot'."

New building creates ideal environment for learning



Students make use of the spacious lobby in the new Math/Science building between classes. The new facility provides an array of study and break areas, as well as state-of-the-art class room amenities.



Above: Brandy O'Neal takes advantage of the new Math Lab.
Below: Instructor Michael Barnett demonstrates proper procedure during biology lab.



Photos by Dometreus (Bo) Pruitt / The Bat

Looking to improve Wi-Fi

DOMETREUS (Bo) PRUITT
STAFF WRITER

Paris Junior College has a new staff member this semester who will play a major role in the future technology of the Paris campus. David Nichols, Director of Information Technology, will oversee the performance of the college's networking system.

Nichols comes to PJC from the University of Texas at Tyler where he worked with the Northeast Texas Consortium (Net Net) organization that establishes network connections to 13 colleges.

PJC is a hub site for Net Net and has a large router located here on campus.

Nichols explains he assists

with Internet connections, and video conferences between colleges and high schools for dual credit classes. The Information Technology Department is working to provide work-study students as proctors in the "ITV" classrooms to assist in getting the classes started if ever there is a problem with connections between campuses.

Greenville and Sulphur Springs both have Wi-Fi throughout their campuses, and Nichols gave an estimated time no later than Fall 2013 when Wi-Fi will be accessible throughout the Paris campus.

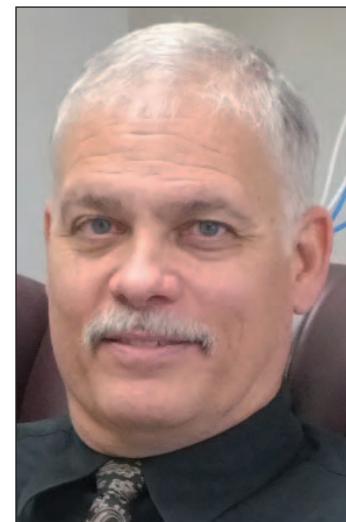
"There may be a delay in some areas because network upgrades need to be put in place prior to installing Wi-Fi

in order to support additional computers," Nichols said.

A FAQ for projectors is also in its development stage, to assist teachers with less down time.

His advice for those interested in a career in Information Technology is, "Learn as much as you can, and admit that you don't know everything. There's always something new developing in the industry; find a niche that you enjoy and stick with it."

After a day of work of keeping Paris Junior College connected to the Internet, Nichols commutes back to his home in Winnsboro to be with his wife, four daughters and his son.



Dometreus (Bo) Pruitt / The Bat

David Nichols, Director of Information Technology, is looking forward to improving the college's network.



Barbara Torres/The Bat

Evan Feltham and Paul Simpson, PJC golfers, say the weather and the friendly people are some of the best parts of coming to PJC.

Canadian, Scot come to PJC to play golf

AYLA WAQAR
STAFF WRITER

Sunbathing in December may be unusual for Texans, but Paris Junior College golfers from Canada and Scotland find the weather in Paris surprising.

Paul Simpson, from Aboyne, Scotland, and Evan Feltham, from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, are sophomores and play golf for PJC.

Feltham enjoys ice hockey, and snowboarding in Canada.

"Wintery stuff", he says. "You can't do that here; you can sunbathe in December, though."

Along with missing his family and friends, he says, "I

miss the cold weather."

Simpson agrees. "Weather back home is about a foot of snow right now, and it's sunny outside here; I love how you can sunbathe in the middle of December."

Other than playing golf, Simpson enjoys playing soccer, Manchester United being his favorite team.

Simpson came to the United States January of 2012 on a golf scholarship and transferred to Paris from Midland last semester.

See GOLF page 5



PJC Dragons warm up before a game against Kilgore on January 23; the Dragons won with a score of 62-58. Below from (left), Voche' Martin and Brea Castro-Gambell prepare for a conference game. (Center) Lady Dragons huddle after a loss against Kilgore. (Right) Coach Sean Lebeauf preparing his players before yesterday's game against Jacksonville.



Dometreus (Bo) Pruitt/ The Bat

GOLF continued from page 4.

"Paris is a nice little place, everything here is flat and brown unlike Scotland where everything is mountainous," he says, "The people are very friendly; little things like saying 'ma'am' and 'sir', I'm not used to back home."

Simpson is pursuing a degree in business, and will also be transferring at the end of this semester somewhere in the south.

He would like to settle in the United States forever, "Hopefully if your government will let me," he says jokingly.

"I'm from a small town in Scotland, about the same size as Paris, I wanted to get out."

Feltham has been at PJC since August of 2012.

Feltham, like Simpson finds the language different, "You talk weird," he says. "'Ya'll' is one of my favorite things, and the people are very friendly. It's a totally new culture, a lot of Mexican culture influence. I enjoy Mexican food a lot."

As for his other interests, he says, "I used to motocross, but I saw someone get killed; now I play golf."

This is Feltham's last semester at PJC; he is majoring in accounting and is looking at different universities to transfer to on a golf scholarship.

Golf coach David Johnson recruited both golfers through the Internet.

"They have recruiting services in their home countries they can contact," he says. "They put their resumes and videos on a website, and they send them to about 300 coaches across the United States, and we decide through e-mails."

He adds, "They turned out to be solid players, and good people. They handle themselves well; for me it's just as important for them to be good people as well as good players, and they are."

Dragon Puffs

Halo 4 Tournament

The Library will host a gaming tournament at 10 p.m. Thursday, Feb 7, at the Learning Center on the Paris campus.

The tournament is open to teams of four. Teams are encouraged to sign up early. Contact the PJC Library for more information.

Group Show: Advanced Approaches to Photography

View the photographic works of Jessica Guajardo and Montel Thomas in the Foyer Gallery from Feb. 5 through Feb. 28

Cyrano de Bergerac

This is a story of split personalities, human frailty and unrequited love.

The Drama Department performs *Cyrano de Bergerac* in the Ray Karrer Theater at 7:30 p.m. Friday March 1, Saturday March 2, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$5, and PJC students can attend for free with a student ID.

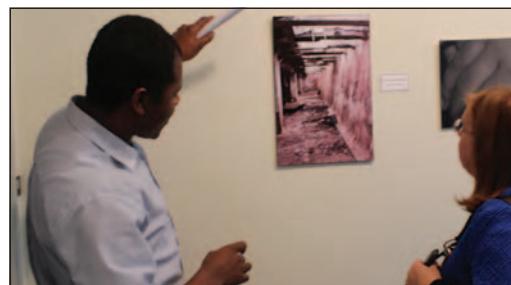
The Blend Club

The Paris campus Blend Club meets on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. across 24th St. at the Wesley Campus Center. Free lunches are served to students on Tuesdays.

Artists relate photos of abandoned buildings, hands to life

A public reception was held February 5 for PJC students Jessica Guajardo and Montel Thomas. The exhibit, hosted by the Paris campus's Foyer Gallery runs until February 28 and displays the work of photographers as a part of their final semester.

Thomas's work revolves around old abandoned buildings, whereas Guajardo's art examines the hands of different subjects of different ages in vivid detail.



Colton Sanders / The Bat

Thomas explains the natural lighting he utilized to give the photograph a unique, seemingly surreal color.



Colton Sanders / The Bat

Guajardo, her family, and Spanish instructor Kelli Ebel and her son appreciate themed photography at student exhibit.

Literary creativity recognized and rewarded

COLTON SANDERS

STAFF WRITER

The deadline for Paris Junior College's annual Creative Writing Awards contest is 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb 28.

All students who would like to know more about the contest can pick up entry forms and more information from any English instructor on any campus.

Forms can also be found outside the Writing Center in the English hallway on the Paris Campus and in the main office on the Greenville and Sulphur Springs campuses.

Multiple cash prizes are awarded to each category of submission. The categories consist of Short Story, Poetry, Argumentative / Informative Essay, Research Essay with documentation, Regional Lit-

erature, and Narrative Essay. First place winners can win anywhere from \$30 to \$70, while runner-up prizes range from \$15 to \$40.

A writer may submit a work in each category, but only one in each. Stories entered into any of the six categories can also be entered for the William A. Owens Scholarship Award, which carries its own requirements.

This is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a PJC student who must be enrolled in twelve academic hours including a three hour course in English during each of the Fall and Spring semesters of the following 2013-2014 academic year.

In the last few years, the William A. Owens Scholarship award has gone unclaimed due to lack of submissions. "We encourage students from nursing,

jewelry and other departments to enter, not just English students," Dennis said.

Applicants should submit their works via CD or flash drive along with two physical copies of each work to Marsha Dennis in 124 AD on the Paris Campus. Entries may also be mailed to Dennis, but must be post marked no later than Feb. 28.

Winners will be announced at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17 in the Student Center Ballroom on the Paris Campus. Outstanding entries will appear in the 2013 edition of the literary magazine, "Swingers of Birches."

For more information on the Creative Writing contest, contact Dennis at (903) 782-0317, mdennis@parisjc.edu, or stop by her office in room 124 AD.

What my phone says about me

Rex McCoy, student at PJC, gives us a tour of his iPhone.



Twitch

It's an app in which people stream video games. I watch people play video games and they are usually pretty good. They can also chat and talk about the games.



StumbleUpon

Stumble upon your interests. It helps me find a new website based upon my interests.



Instagram

I use it to make pictures look cool.



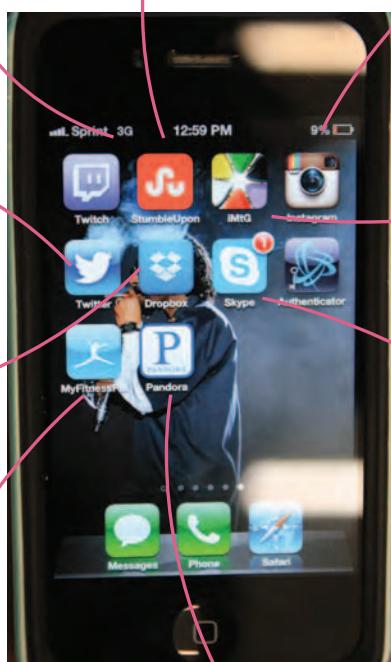
Twitter

I use it to keep up with people. Harley Morenstein, from "Epic Meal Time" is my favorite person to follow.



Dropbox

I use it to share files from my phone to my computer faster.



iMtG

It's like a life counter for the card game, Magic.



Skype

Use it to help people with homework and to keep in touch with my friends. I also talk to people while playing video games.



My fitness pal

I use it to count calories and keep up with my intake of food.



Pandora

I plug it into my car and I like listening to music while I drive.

MEET CHRIS

Class of 2013



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

Chris, a music major and graduate of Celina High School, chose to attend A&M-Commerce after being admitted to the Honors College and hearing the wind ensemble play at the Evening at the Eisemann.

"I was blown away by the quality of music I heard, and by the scholarship I was offered," Chris said.

Two of Chris' favorite classes, The 1960s: A Nation Divided and Cinema, Philosophy and the Political, complemented his music studies by delving into the human experience, something that Chris feels is at the root of music appreciation.

"Most everything that is a part of American culture today finds its roots (or at least influences) in the turbulence of the 1960s, and many of the issues aroused during that time are still issues today, issues which demand not only solutions, but a better knowledge of their origins to find those solutions."

It's Steinway Artist, Dr. Luis Sanchez, an internationally acclaimed pianist and Chris' piano professor, however, that inspires him to excel in music.

"I have had (and hopefully will continue to have) the privilege of studying piano with Dr. Luis Sanchez over the past few years," Chris said. "Dr. Sanchez is genuinely concerned for the educational, physical, and emotional welfare of his students. He is ever-patient in teaching us what it means to be a musician."

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