Principal’s Corner

Greetings to the Preston Nation! Preston will be treated to the pitter-patter of little feet for the next several years. One of our new residents will be only three years old! She must be a bit precocious? So I’ve heard, although we have yet to meet.

Mystery explained: for the first time, a family will be occupying the Principal’s Lodge! Dr. Bobby Donaldson (HIST) has been appointed as the next principal of Preston, and he will be joined by his three-year-old daughter Ruby and his wife Elise Ahyi. I expect them to come to Preston Dining in the near future. Let’s all give them a warm Preston welcome! He has also been put on the faculty associates meal plan, so we should expect to see him weekly. Be sure to take the opportunity to drop by his table for conversation.

I invited them to be our guests of honor at the March 26 Tea, but Bobby will be at a conference delivering a paper and sent his regrets. Meanwhile, he and I are also discussing an appearance at Preston Presents that will enable him to meet us and discuss Preston’s future. Please make a special effort to attend. I will notify you as soon as

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Winter Wonderland!

On Friday, Feb. 12, Columbia got its first major snow shower in seven years, and Prestonites certainly made the most of their snowy surroundings. According to The Gamecock, the Columbia Metropolitan Airport reported 8.6 inches of snow by Saturday, shattering the forecasted one- to three-inch estimate. Preston was left covered with a lovely blanket of snow, making it a picturesque night and beautiful winter morning.

Photos courtesy of Zac Baker and Morgan Isreal

Principal’s Corner, from pg. 1

we have set it up.

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On Friday, April 9, we will caravan to the Congaree National Park for an Owl Prowl from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. It takes about 40 minutes to get there, so plan accordingly. You will find a sign-up sheet on the front desk: first come, first served. We can bring as many as 30. I will call promptly at 8:30 on Mar. 26—the first chance to reserve the 9th—but someone may beat me to the draw, and we might not be able to take 30. In any case, please remove your name if your plans change so someone else can have your spot. If you are taking a vacated spot, please put your name at the end of the list so we will maintain priority. I will find out on the 26th when I have to give a final count.

For the uninitiated, the CNP is a fabulous place day or night. We are unlikely to see any owls, but with any luck, we will hear them calling to each other. The rangers are all adept at imitating the call of the Barred Owl, and our guide will try to provoke a conversation. We might also encounter fireflies and frogs; rain before we get there will bring them out. Bring flashlights with red cellophane filters so we’ll have unobtrusive light as needed. We will also look for spider eyes. Under red light, they look like tiny opals.

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The Facebook is finally finished, albeit in draft form. Alexis will let you know when she posts it on Blackboard. You should review your entry for accuracy ASAP. If you see errors or find information that you did not authorize (or the absence of either authorized information or information you would like to include), let Alexis know by e-mail. We published the minimal information for everyone: name, photo, and room number. If you would like a better photo, let me know, and I’ll take a new one at our mutual convenience. (PDining is one option). I want you to have a photo that you like.

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As you are signing up for courses, keep in mind that our own Prof. Tom Terrill (endearred to us as the host of FEDEX—and let’s not forget his wife Sarah who co-hosts so engagingly) will be teaching a Preston-specific UNIV 290 course in the Fall semester. Drop by his office for details and a chat.

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Gatsby Week is approaching fast. The Banquet and Celebration will take place in the Back Garden on Thursday, April 15 in the evening. Wednesday evening will feature the Provost’s Concert, the last V.O.M.I.T. of the year, on and near the back porch. Get your talents ready!

That’s it for now. Here’s hoping that the remainder of the current academic year smiles upon all of us. -Jim Stiver
Student Spotlight: Zachary Baker

**Preferred name:** Zac  
**Year:** First Year  
**Major:** Visual Communications  
**How long you've lived in Preston:** 1.5 semesters  
**Hometown:** Irmo, SC  
**Favorite food:** Pasta  

**If you were an animal, what would you be?:** I'd be some sort of bird. I love the perspective that they get on the world.  

**If one song were to describe your life, what song would it be?:** “Dancing Machine” by Jackson 5

**Fall or spring?:** I like the colors of fall better, but you can't beat spring's weather. Spring.  

**Coffee or tea?:** Lately tea. Sweet tea, fruit tea or chai.  

**Favorite class this semester:** Astronomy. Its outta this world! Haha... just kidding. I’m really having a fun time in the Jamaica Community and Culture class. The Spring Break Jamaica trip doesn't hurt either!  

**Hobbies/Interests:** I love looking at things and discussing how that makes me feel a certain way. This includes everything from why a product's packaging "makes" me buy it to analyzing a font’s character. I also love Ultimate Frisbee and moving a bunch to music.  

**Why you live in Preston:** I live in Preston because we all have one BIG thing in common—we are all different. The diversity in this community really fosters a fantastic sense of togetherness and belonging unlike anything I've experienced before.

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**Preston Blockbuster**—saving the world, one movie at a time

Preston Blockbuster is Preston’s free movie rental system, located in room 234. 250 movies are currently in the collection, and new movies are bought every semester (provided there is funding by Preston Government). Evidently, Prestonites have a funny bone because comedy is the most popular genre—but there's plenty to choose from! Some of the most popular titles include *Office Space, Edward Scissorhands*, and *Definitely, Maybe*. And, of course, suggestions for new movie purchases are always welcome. For more information on this awesome Preston service, contact Sam Barfield!
Preston Powderpuff

Super Bowl Weekend 2010, hordes of Prestonites went to battle on the football field (er, Preston Green) to show the world who’s the boss. Competition was fierce, and after everyone licked their metaphorical and literal wounds, it could be said that all had a great time. In fact, Prestonites on the sidelines commented that the game was even better than the commercials. Eat that, Doritos.

Following the game, Prestonites gathered to watch this little thing called the Super Bowl (which, of course, didn’t even compare to the awesomeness of Preston’s game). Go Saints!

*Photos courtesy of Zac Baker*
Preston Date Auction
February 2010
A Fun (and Funny) Fundraiser for Haiti Relief

Preston’s Date Auction, held on Thursday, Feb. 11 in Currell College, was a great hit and raised almost $1,300 for relief in Haiti. That’s $500 more than we raised last year! A special thanks goes out to our auctioneers this year, who included Anna Hodgson, Sam Barfield, Ashley McGarry, Ben Sternemann, Sam Diamond, Brian Davidson, Malia Ward, Steve Zimovan, Max Housley, and Bri Tracy. Of course, thanks also to Dr. French and Joe Muscarella for doing an awesome job as our auctioneers and to everyone who helped behind the scenes to make this event a success. We couldn’t have done it without you!

*Photos courtesy of Zac Baker*
Enter the Dragon

By Hal French

The beast lurks in the subterranean psyche
of everything that is Chinese.
Hidden, its primordial energy emerges unbidden
through orifices clean and unclean,
bestowing blessings shrouded in mystery,
awakening fascination with awe-filled emanations
that tantalize, but warn against probing too deeply.
The tiger still crouches, the dragon remains hidden.
But once a year the dragon is welcomed
out of the basement.
His form, colorfully weaving its way through Chinatown,
strikes a note of high revelry,
appropriate to the Festival of the New Year.
Cel-e-br-a-tion, Chinese style,
Mardi Gras, Octoberfest mood.
The dragon unleashes our minds,
liberates us from proprieties,
just for a day. Play with him.
And then he is caged once more.

But just supposing, just supposing,
at day’s end, when his handlers
are about to restrain him,
he breaks loose, and goes galloping
out of Chinatown through the streets of San Francisco
and then heads east.
The dust swirls around him as he slithers swiftly
across the Great American Desert,
and strange harbingers, not our accustomed weathermen,
tell us that something is about to happen.
Watch for him! Watch for him in the weird,
the impulse to do something that is so unlike you.
Watch for him in all of the challenges to our dispositions
to “Stay the course.”
Cherish him. He’s your very own dragon. He’s inviting you
to experience freedom: genuine, wild, liberating freedom!

**Dr. Hal French** is a Preston Emeritus Professor and was selected by students as the Outstanding Faculty Associate in 2000, 2002, and 2004. He continues to teach one or two classes per semester for the Department of Religious Studies and for the Honors College. French has taught at the University of South Carolina since 1972 and is currently dividing his time (in semi-retirement) between teaching part-time and several other activities. Most recently, he served as one of the auctioneers at the Preston Date Auction!
Prestonites came to last fall's formal banquet dressed to the nines, making the banquet quite a hit! The banquet was themed "A Night at the Taj Mahal" and was held at the newly renovated Top of Carolina. Carolina Catering provided a buffet spread, and each table shared a bottle of sparkling cider. Additionally, all enjoyed music from the well-known DJ Alejandro. Students dressed to impress, and it was a lovely affair. Thanks to everyone who made it happen!
*Photos courtesy of Olesya Vaskevich and Jim Stiver*

**Monday Morning Coffee Club!**

For the second semester in a row, Preston has been providing free coffee on Monday mornings in the Preston Lobby for all of our Prestonites. This semester, cookies will also be available! Bring your own cup, and enjoy a hot cup of java juice. Special thanks goes out to Janet Safford for keeping all of us sufficiently caffeinated!

**Fight the Mondays!—Movie Moment**

*Peter Gibbons:* Want to go to Chotchkie's? Get some coffee?
*Samir:* Oh, it's a little early.
*Peter Gibbons:* I gotta get outta here. I think I'm gonna lose it.
*Female Temp:* Uh-oh. Sounds like somebody's got a case of the Mondays.

-Office Space (1999)

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**Upcoming Events!**

March
- 26 Preston Tea, Principal’s Lodge, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 27 Cookie Decorating/Eating, JCR, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

April
- 9 Owl Prowl, Congaree National Park, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
- 13 Preston Trivia Night, 7:52 p.m.
- 14 Provost’s Concert/VOMIT, Preston Back Porch
- 15 Gatsby Banquet, Preston Back Garden
- 17 Paintball!
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Preston Field Day, Preston Green

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**News! News! News!**

For more information regarding Preston’s new Principal, **Bobby Donaldson**, please check out this article from USC’s Office of Publications:


**Welcome aboard, Dr. Donaldson!**