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students, instill in you the readiness for a lifetime of learning, acquaint you with those abilities, characteristics, and values that distinguish human beings at their best, and enhance your potential to make a difference for the better in this world. And this, I believe, is a mission that not only endures through the ages, it is a mission that best prepares you for the demands of today and the uncertainties of the world of tomorrow.

On reflection, the experiences of the past year have demonstrated to me without question that the promise and reality of St. Andrews are one and the same. I have observed time and again that at the heart of a St. Andrews education is a passionate commitment among faculty and students to open and free inquiry. Guided by faculty members dedicated to the pursuit of educational excel-

lence and committed to challenging students to grow beyond complacency, our stimulating learning-living environment provides an ideal setting in which to explore what it means to be truly human.

As your President, my primary objective is to ever enhance the educational quality of this institution and my primary responsibility is to assure that the future vitality of this college is safeguarded. Therefore, every decision I make and every action I take is guided by an unwavering commitment to excellence in all that we do. Frankly, I am proud to be associated with a college that enjoys uncommon success in changing lives for the better and a well-deserved reputation for educational excellence. For example, since 1996 St. Andrews has been cited by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the "nation's best liberal arts schools;" St. Andrews

was cited in both the 1990 and 1995 editions of the book *Looking Beyond the Ivy League*; St. Andrews was cited in both the 1996 and 2000 editions of the book *Colleges That Change Lives*; St. Andrews was cited in 2003 in the book *Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That is Best for You*; and just this past April, St. Andrews was highlighted by *The Washington Post Magazine* as one of the top "20 Undiscovered Gems," of high quality educational institutions in the mid-Atlantic region.

Over the past year we have deliberately labored to build upon the successes of the past and have been blessed to witness tremendous improvements and incredible new accomplishments at this institution. Through the hard work of many, a new sense of energy and excitement permeates the campus.

Justifiable pride in all that St. Andrews stands for is the norm, and our readiness and enthusiasm for facing the challenges of the future has never been higher. How special it is to be a part of all the good that is happening at this time and in this place.

It is a wonderful privilege to be a part of an institution committed to making a difference for the better. A privilege in which you can and should take well-deserved pride. So, wear the colors blue and white of your *alma mater*. Wear caps and clothes that proudly proclaim you belong to St. Andrews and let your pride be visible across this campus, this community, and everywhere you travel. And, with satisfaction, be sure to tell others that you attend St. Andrews because it made all the difference for you.

**A NEW YEAR BEGINS**

Cynthia Robinson  
Dean of Student Affairs

**WELCOME STUDENTS!**

FALL 2003 is going to be so exciting for all of us! OSA is thrilled that everyone is finally here and we are off to a great beginning!

Orientation Weekend went off without a hitch as we welcomed 247 new students to St. Andrews. Many thanks to all who helped us make this a smooth opening. While all our returning students came in on Sunday and the new students were finishing their Orientation schedule, you could feel the campus coming alive. Enough to give us all Goosebumps!

So many wonderful things happened on our campus this summer in preparation for student return. First, we are well on our way to creating a true Student Center in Belk. Before students left new paint and carpet in Belk Main Lounge and the Gathering Place and the new roof had been completed.

Now students have a completely remodeled Bookstore with all new reasonably priced and attractive sportswear, college mementos and, of course, new textbooks. The Gathering Place is now a quick self-serve eatery serving Starbucks coffees, muffins and fruit, specialty salads and sandwiches and Pepsi product drinks for purchase. You'll be able to hang out and watch the big screen TV or enjoy coffeehouse and Open Mic entertainment there or sit out on the balcony in new tables and chairs and enjoy the

beauty of our lake and grounds and our gorgeous sunsets. Shortly you will see we have installed an ATM machine to ease your need to have a little cash, and it also has options to purchase prepaid wireless and long distance cards. It will be located outside of the Gathering Place. (It needs the new phone system to operate.)

We have made improvements to The Alcove with the addition of a Playstation 2 - just bring your games over and enjoy!

We have also acquired a lot of recreational equipment for you to check out and enjoy - just turn in your ID in exchange for the equipment at the PE Center and have a great time! In the residence halls students were greeted with paint, furniture, and a visible emphasis on the college's responsibility for student safety.

Freshmen halls received new bedroom furniture and the ADL's new appliances. We have redistributed furniture about campus in a manner that we believe is fair with the resources we have and lends itself to future furniture replacement. All students have new vanity lights and 15 showers were reworked.

As about 600 students descended upon campus within a week we have experience some physical plant and maintenance inconveniences. Thanks to students for patience as we have worked through these difficulties. The whole campus is currently in process of receiving their new digital phone for the phone system.

By the time you read this in print you will have received your phone. The phone's great features will be fully operational once we have everything installed and we 'flip the switch' to the new

system campus-wide, in just a week or two. The capabilities of the high speed cable for this phone system creates future plans for upgrades in cable TV, computer lines and building security and down the road even the possibility of our own SAPC-TV station! However, we can only do so much in one year without being disruptive to you and the starting point to these campus upgrades is the phone system.

So stay tuned in the future! As students arrived Computer Services realized very quickly that, based on the amount of traffic in our network, we had likely been infected with a virus. Unfortunately student access to the network had to be shut down in order to isolate the problem and as this is being written we are preparing a systematic removal of the virus in order to expeditiously return all users to the SAPC Network. This should be rectified by the time you read this. There are many thanks to students and to Computer Services for their cooperation throughout this difficult challenge.

The new Saltire has been distributed in a whole new format, spiral bound with an academic planner built right in and it has daily entries with what's happening on campus, from academics to athletics to entertainment. Our numbers grew and we have had to order more copies of the Saltire, so for returning students who did not receive their copy, they should be in soon.

It is most thrilling to get this academic year underway. The Office of Student Affairs stands ready to assist students in making this a great year. Stop by and share your ideas.

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Swanson, and Kat Mabry are also Staff Writers. We also have the help of the wonderful Professor Edna Anne Loftus and Adryn Henard acting as proof-readers. Ms. Merri Bass, Director of Communications, is our Advisor.

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to express our hope that you all enjoy *The Lance* as much as we have enjoyed getting it running. We are always willing to welcome more people to our staff and would love all the reader input we can get. We are also looking for people to submit their art, short stories and poetry to *The Wall*, and would welcome periodical guest columnists.

And now...On With the Show...

**Meet Sir Lancelot**

Greetings,

I am Sir Lancelot, the man who has the answers to all of life's questions. From the sublime to the ridiculous there is no question too great or small for my mental prowess. In future issues of the *Lance* this column will contain answers to questions you, the reader, submit to me. You can reach me via email at [sirlancelot-sapc@yahoo.com](mailto:sirlancelot-sapc@yahoo.com). Submissions to be considered for the following month's paper must be received no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month, so that I may have time to consider your quandaries. I am looking forward to helping my fellow knights so don't be shy, send in your questions today!

Your Friend,  
Sir Lancelot