

An Open Letter of thanks to the St. Andrews Community

Leigh Anna Clinard
The Lance

I am graduating from college in six weeks. This is an incredible accomplishment considering my parents had to talk me into going to college. After high school, all I wanted to do was work, and I definitely had no burning desire to pursue higher education. But then I did listen to my parents and I came to visit St. Andrews. I felt welcomed by the admissions staff; and I honestly felt that they wanted me to be a part of the community. This feeling of acceptance continued as I met students, faculty, and other employees of the college. I continue to be amazed at the lengths people will go around here to help each other out.

I want to take this opportunity during my last semester at SAPC to thank all those that have helped to make my undergraduate experience a life-changing one.

Thank you Admissions, for helping me

make the decision to come here, and for providing the best work-study job imaginable. Thank you for supporting me through difficult times, and for always maintaining your enthusiasm towards St. Andrews and its mission.

Thank you Faculty, for insisting that I give my personal best all of the time. Because of your persistence, I have accomplished more than I thought possible. You taught me as much about myself as you taught me about academics. Without your support I would never have pursued a post-graduate legal education.

Thank you Students, for the good times. When the rigors of academia became overwhelming, you provided an escape. Thank you for being individuals. I have learned from the diversity of your perspectives. We all come from different places and understanding your worldview had broadened mine.

To the Staff that ensures such mundane details as whether or not the lights work, whether or not we have clean common areas, or whether

or not we have meals available: What would we do without you? Your contribution to the mission of the college is deeply appreciated. Many mornings a smile from you has brightened my day. Thank you.

To the President, Deans, and Administrative Staff, thank you for never being as intimidating as you look. Thank you for your advice and support. Your leadership ensures that the mission of St. Andrews is carried out. You have earned the immense respect that I give you.

Graduation will be a very bittersweet experience. I wish you all the best. I hope that St. Andrews continues to educate people, change lives, and teach people about themselves.

I encourage other members of the St. Andrews community to express their feelings about this institution. This paper is a forum for the St. Andrews Community; make use of it!

A Letter Home from Iraq

This letter comes to us, through the help of Professor Prust, from Ryan Schulte, a former student at St. Andrews who left last semester after being called up from the Reserves and is currently stationed in Iraq. Ryan was planning to be a contributing writer The Lance before he was called up. The Lance, along with Professor Prust and Ryan's friends wish to share this letter with you in the hopes that you will keep Ryan in your thoughts and remember that even though the fighting in Iraq may be on the other side of the globe, we are all affected by it.

Emily Boomgarden
Editor in Chief

Dear Mr. Prust,

Well, I'm here. You know they say that there are only two places where the Joshua Tree is located. One is California and the other right outside the tent I'm staying in. According to myth, one place is the entrance of Heaven while the other is the other end of that divine spectrum. First I thought California was the latter of the two. Well, California is a dream compared to this place.

I am currently about 25 miles from the Iraqi border in Kuwait. This base which we are located at is the final stop before we "Cross the berm." Right now we are getting all of our supplies; beans, bullets, and band-aids. Our final

location in Iraq, which has changed more times than I care to count, is about 15-20 miles outside of Tikrit. Obviously one of the worst places to be, unfortunately. We have been assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Combat Team. I can't go into specifics about our mission other than it isn't pretty. Just yesterday a group of Marines left this base heading towards Baghdad and they were "hit" pretty severely from what I hear. We are going to take that exact same route right through Baghdad on up to our final destination. So the mood here is intense.

I am sure you watch the news, but as I have learned, the news only reports maybe a tenth of what is happening over here. As this situation stands right now, we are no longer fighting Saddam's regime or republican guard, rather we are facing off with the world's terrorists. The consensus here is that as long as they come here to fight us, they'll meet us head first and not the homeland. All this is going on while we continue to train Iraqi police and stabilize Iraq. Around June is when the second and final draft of the Iraqi constitution is to take place. Many rumors say that goal is unlikely to occur, although we remain optimistic.

On the lighter side of matters, it is only about 97_ during the day and down in the 50's at night, so the weather isn't bad yet. The food is awesome believe it or not. The showers are nothing more than a two minute douse of sulfuric water that absolutely stinks, and the sand is able to get inside bodily orifices that I never knew existed. But hey, life is good for now.

In these conditions, I can say that those dorms over there look



Sgt. Ryan Schulte during combat training.

like paradise. I'm sure many students don't even realize how nice it really is there. I can't wait, God willing, when I get to return and continue my education. By the way, I have one of those practice LSAT books here with me. Obviously, time permitting, I'm going to go through it with a fine tooth comb.

Anyway, I just thought I'd give a heads-up of my current situation and say "Hi" to everyone there. I do ask one thing though. It is a pretty hard demand but the importance of it towards my morale and even sanity depends on it. I ask that you and whoever is willing to please write me letters. Just a quick hello would do just fine. Those letters will help in keeping me tied to a civilized world. Receiving mail here is like receiving a gold bar. It's priceless. My mailing address is listed at the end of this letter. Hopefully in time I will be able to start sending email with pictures but until then the good old postal serv-

ice will have to do.

So, in conclusion to this letter, tell everyone that I said "Hey", I am doing good considering the circumstances and to please pray for my safe return along with those I am serving with. I look forward to seeing you when I return in or around a year. Until then, please write and write often.

Your student from Baghdad,
Ryan Schulte

Mailing Address:

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