



A Letter From Abroad

Hello to Everyone,
GIANT here on the last night in Rome. Its been quite a week exploring central Italy, so I thought I would give some heads up on what went on with me, the group, and Florence and Rome enjoyed the company of 10 knights and one extremely nervous professor.

Florence was definitely my favorite of the two. We stayed right across from the Bellini chapel, which has an incredible crypt inside. Stained glass, marble, and bronze fill this vast space with perfect lighting patterns and serene atmosphere. The other sight which astounded me in Florence was the Accademia, home of the David. I didnt know much about the statue outside of pictures, but the sculpture was perfect. Symmetry, shadow, detail, and attention to accuracy was all over this 34 ft piece of majesty. This museum was also personally responsible for me falling in love

with Bertocelli art. Yeah, Ryan bought his first art book.

Some other sights in Florence included the Uffizi museum. This houses the central hub of Renaissance art. Donatello, Raphael, Bertocelli, Daiomi, and a whole lot more. The line was a bit disoriented, and the staff was less than desireable, but the art was rivitting. The Birth of Venus was incredible, as well as two Roman war tapestries that covered the walls of another chamber. My favorite was a gold and mother-of-pearl hallway with many action statues. We also got in some great shopping and heckled with the merchants. I got a leather jacket and engineer boots (my big purchase for the trip). The food was excellent and the people VERY friendly and helpful. I talked to Americans, Brits, and Australians while I was there. All and all, an educating experience into the heart of the Renaissance.

After Florence, Chance, Cindy, Caroline, Chuck and I headed further south to Rome. After hunting for a hotel, we found a cozy lodging at the Luciani. Its right across from the Termini (train station), and very close to the Metro to travel to other ports of call. The first full day, we headed for the Vatican. With all certainty in my mortal mind, the St. Peter Basilica is the most awe-inspiring, majestic building I ever laid my eyes upon. 284 columns, 144 saints, St. Pauls tomb, Pope Alexanders statue, and the changing of the Swiss Guards in front of the gate to the Vatican State. Along with a visit to the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum, it was a full day of memories and lessons.

Today, we conquered Rome! The Colesseum was awesome, the Roman Forum was filled with sights, and the Fontana di Treve was beautiful. The Forum was my personal favorite.

Its not everyday you peek inside Caesars tomb, walk around the Senate House, stand on Marc Antonys spot where he addressed the nation, and 'permenantly borrow' a piece of the original road of Rome. Also visited the Spanish Steps and Palatine Hill. It was a 12 mile day and we are feeling it now. But this whole week has been a mind blow and it feels like we havent been back to the Croft in a month....but thats about how long we have been here now.

Alright everybody, heading for bed. We have a 10:00 train tomorrow to Bolzano. Hope everything in the USA is doing ok. Please send some correspondence and let me know all of you are well and ticking. Talk to yousoon and love to everybody. CLAO.

Cheers,
Ryan

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Country GIANT
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A New Student's Guide To SAPC

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Staff Writer

Welcome new students to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and Laurinburg, North Carolina, home to top quality education, the Knights, and, a Wal-Mart Supercenter. The first semester has already gotten underway, Drop/Add period is over, as is the room change period, and good times are coming. To a new student, the campus may seem old, deteriorating, and out of date, but inside, there's top notch education at a small liberal arts college. Of course, there's much to tell about what St. Andrews has to offer to its students besides the education. There are lots of things, from exploring the area around campus, to events on the weekends, to the meals at SAGA, so its best if we start with SAGA first, for good reason.

For those who are on the meal plan, SAGA is your source for healthy, nutritious, and tasty food, whichever way you look at it. It can

be a guessing game as to what will be served at SAGA for a upcoming meals like lunch or dinner, will it be steak and cheese sandwiches or chicken fried beef? If the some of the food doesn't look appealing, the kitchen staff will usually be cooking up a good substitution at the JIT. If all else fails, just pretend your about to eat something you like to eat, because skipping meals and not eating healthy food will get you sick or worse. If you're still hungry way after SAGA closes, there's the Knight Life, on the floor above SAGA. The Knight Life has snacks and drinks to offer at decent prices and is open late. Off campus, there's a good selection of fast-food and regular restaurants from Taco Bell and Mi Casita to McDonald's and McDuff's. For eating off campus, the best time to go is on the weekends, when there's lots of free time instead of during the busy week.

Next up is stuff to do on campus, and during the fall and spring semesters, there's a lot to do. There are concerts, comedians, movie nights, flag football, dorm cookouts,

Airband, and more. The biggest event is called Ganza, which is a weeklong celebration in the spring semester. Last year's Ganza had outdoor concerts by the lake, cosmic dodgeball, a campus wide capture the flag, and inflatable obstacle courses and other games. Until then, there will be lots of fun and cool events coming to St. Andrews this semester and already an 80's band, a comedian, and a Game Show have come to SAPC the past few weekends. For those students who are 21 or older, you might have already experienced the week and weekend events at Orange. For everyone else, or those who seek something that doesn't involve drinking, a road trip for the day to Fayetteville or Aberdeen, or even a quick trip to the beach is a good plan to take.

Some of the areas around campus offer great places to relax and woodland trails to explore. One of the best places to go to relax is by the Vardell building, which has some benches near the lake to sit while looking across the lake at the Belk Center and surrounding buildings.

Another good place to relax is a small gazebo and garden behind the Vardell parking lot. As for the walking trails on campus, the main trail starts by Morgan Jones and goes around the lake over to Farrago and Concord. There is another trail nearby that leads away from campus for a good distance, it's a long walk if you're up for it. There's a smaller trail across the street from the Liberal Arts building parking lot, but it's a short trail and ends quickly at Scotia Village, the Assisted Living home for the elderly.

There are so many places you will discover over the semester. If you take the initiative, you will discover that there's much more to Laurinburg than the campus and Wal-Mart. Laurinburg and St. Andrews could easily become a new home for you. All you have to do is let it.