

PERSPECTIVES

“A” is for ‘Active St. Android’

Parrish Ravelli
Class of 2003

Do you accept the world around you? This is a question that I learned to ask myself at St. Andrews. This is a question that has led me to believe that there are things in this world that I can do to change the circumstances for myself. More importantly, this is a question that led me to believe that I can change the circumstances for people who need it to change.

One day, I reflected on my first six months after graduation, spent primarily in the kitchen of a local restaurant. I remember feeling discomfort in what I was contributing to the world around me. I was not helping to organize students to come together, I was not helping to desegregate social lines between us and the visiting alums, I was not helping to make the community around me a better place, and I was not learning. That is the day I talked with a fellow alum about his experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA. Within two weeks I had applied and interviewed. Within a month, I had relocated from North Carolina to Montana and was involved a year of service.

During my preparation for service, we talked about engaging the community to take ownership of our work, organizing people around a specific cause, and most

importantly sustaining the impact of my work. I was going to be going into a new community to gather resources and make something, where currently, there was nothing. I was the only VISTA in my area and I remember my new friends asking me how I would deal with that. It reminded me of when other people would talk about SAPC, confused of how anything worth doing came about.

When we came to St. Andrews, we asked ourselves that question; do we accept the world around us? We didn't and we learned how to do something about it. We learned about the politics of relationships while we acted as the key social components of a successful community. We were getting people excited about the fact that they were a part of our small, creative and productive society. We volunteered, we taught, we coached, we always were learning.

So, today, right now, do I accept the world around me? Some of it yes, some of it no, and I have chosen to do something about it. Personally and professionally I work to change the circumstances for the people around me that need it to change in order to live and have the opportunities they deserve. It is absolutely because I learned how to ask myself that question and be an active part of the community that I am in.

Letter from the Editor

'Tis the season to be jolly. And this season, we have a lot to be jolly about! Like the re-launching of The Lance and it couldn't have happened at a more fitting time. For, after all, the holiday season is a season to be thankful. And there are many to whom I want to give thanks. First off, I would like to thank Melissa Hopkins for taking on the

task of being a advisor for The Lance. I wouldn't be doing this without her support. Secondly, I would like to thank Renée Jones for her unwavering enthusiasm for this project, and for always seeing what it could be. Next, I would like to thank each and every person who took the time to show their support in whatever way – whether it be through spreading the word, sending a submission or cheering me on. You all know who you are. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank whoever may be reading this right now. Because it's loyalty like yours that makes it worth it! And I hope this paper does you proud. I wanted it to be not only a student newspaper, but an outlet for creativity. My aim for The Lance was to have it be both visually and verbally entertaining. I wanted the Lance to show that all aspects of campus life can be fun and enjoyed. So I hope that this paper serves as a heaping dose of hospitality, inviting all the readers into that cozy little reality that his life at St. Andrews. A hearty welcome to you all! Enjoy!

Alice V-Z Harrison
Editor, The Lance

**It's a Dog Eat Dog World Out There
Let Career Services Prep You for It!**

Steve Lambert
Class of 2010

“Which animal best describes your personality in the workplace?” An obscure question, but could you respond under pressure knowing the answer would effect the rest of your life? This is a question I faced

while being interviewed for a job I needed for after graduation. Although I was caught slightly off guard, the rest of the interview seemed like a breeze, and that is because I had great interview preparation through career services.

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