

CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

Thankful for Dr. Ott: a Farewell of Gratitude



SAPC senior student, Joanna Hipp is a religion major and English and women's studies minor. She's in her fourth year at SAPC, and is currently serving as the president of the SGA. Joanna is the winner of the first annual faculty/staff appreciation contest, for the honest, thoughtful, and heartfelt tribute she pays to her mentor, Dr. Dan Ott, in the following essay:

There are many things that make St. Andrews a great place. There are numerous faculty, staff, and other students I could mention who make St. Andrews a special place for me. And, the tranquil setting, in the midst of a small town make St. Andrews a unique home. St. Andrews is also a place "Where you can..." Where you can get involved, create new clubs and organi-

Relay

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part about all this is that even though these people were on my Facebook page, being that we had never met face-to-face, and being that quite a few of them were of considerable fame, it would have been all too easy for them to just ignore my request and go on about their business. But in the true spirit of helpfulness, hopefulness, and generosi-

ty, these people from far away, who've never met me in person, these people who only know me as a "fan" actually took the time to care, despite distance or personal relationship. And, that is quite remarkable.

By the end of the event, Team SAPC had far exceeded its \$500 goal, collectively raising a grand total of \$1,130. In addition to the above surprising people that I mentioned, there are so many other people who had con-

tributed to the success of team SAPC. Because of everyone involved, Team SAPC was truly the loudest and proudest team at the entire Relay For Life event. And we owe it all to everyone's contributions; whether you are a friend, a relative, a spontaneous do-gooder, or all of the above---we thank you. You all are the true meaning of kindness for kindness sake, and therefore, you all are fabulous.

zations, join teams, become student leaders, and so much more. However, as the semester draws to a close, a haunting and exciting reality draws near. My advisor, mentor, professor and friend is leaving.

So, what makes St. Andrews great? The relationship one builds with his or her professor is what makes St. Andrews great to me. I am sure we all can think of at least one professor who has done more than simply teach us. He or she has challenged us, become close to us, and become a good friend, and one that not only teaches but is open to learning from you too. Dr. Dan Ott has made this school a welcoming home. Not only does he teach, he leads the McNair Lecture series, the Science and Religion Roundtable, and also started the MLK Day of Service. With little recognition, this man goes beyond the classroom. He deeply engages students in discussion-based class settings, and sets high expectations for all students. Dr. Ott challenges students to delve deep inside themselves, think for themselves, and find out what he or she really believes for him or her self. He teaches you to think critically and articulate what you hold true.

Dr. Dan Ott has helped me grow in numerous ways. He has taught me how to write, think, and grow in all areas of my life. I feel confident graduating in May and going on to Seminary. Dr. Ott

has given me the knowledge and confidence that I can succeed in whatever course of study I choose.

I would personally like to thank Dr. Dan Ott for teaching me over the past three and a half years. Dan, I am deeply honored to have studied, worked, and grow under your guidance. I hope you continue to challenge students at your new school. I hope they realize what a gift you provide to the education department, and what a great asset you are to a growing and thriving community. I thank you for all that you have done for me over the past years. I wish you and your family all the best in the coming years. The Ott family has really been behind me for a number of years, and I really appreciate all you have done for me and my family. There are simply not enough words to express my gratitude, and I really do wish you all the best as you continue your educational journey in guiding young minds.

About: SAPC students are beginning a new tradition. We want to recognize the faculty and staff members that help to shape our experiences here. Not only do we want to recognize them, we want them to recognize themselves. We want others to recognize them. With the hope that by doing so, excellence in teaching and administration will continue, expand, and be learned from. Special thanks to all the wonderful people of SAPC that help make the students time here better.