

PERSPECTIVES

Five Golden Starts for St. Andrews

Ruka Akolade '14

Being an out of state student is bad enough without the school you're attending or the people surrounding you making it harder for you.

Attending UNC Pembroke last semester for me may have been an experience that I needed but not the experience that I necessarily wanted.

Yes, Pembroke was a good school with a high level of education but college is a lot more than the education, it's the people you meet and the life lessons you learn during that time. I am the kind of person who is shy when I first meet someone and trying to make friends and meet new people was a difficult task for me. To me it seemed as though everyone was more worried about their clicks that they were already involved in than anything else. My college experience quickly became a High school experience and that was not what I wanted. The professors and dorm supervisors treated you like children and not college students, your friend were not even allowed in your room after 11pm because campus police would come banging on the door and it just didn't feel like the environment I wanted to be in.

Coming to St. Andrews has been one of the best decisions that I have ever made. I have a great group of girls as teammates, everyone on campus knows who you are and tries to get to know you, people smile and greet you as you walk by them, the teachers here are all incredible and it's just icing on the cake that I get to be here and share this experience with the best guy in the world. Honestly I have loved the past 2 months being here at St. Andrews and I would not change this experience for anything else in this world because I think for me it's the best place as far as education and the opportunity to play volleyball.

So I guess to sum up how I feel about St. Andrews, I guess I would say.....FANTASTIC, BLAST IN A GLASS AND A GOOOD TIME!!!!

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

- Voltaire

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Life After St. Andrews

Matthew Peak '08

In May of 2008, I rolled my wheelchair down the exit ramp of the presentation platform with my degree in hand. Finished was my undergraduate education at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. Now, the year 2011 is upon me and I am asking myself what life has been like since I graduated. More importantly I want to know what I have learned. It is a sobering moment to realize how short life is and yet how big it is for those who are willing to grow and learn.

While at college, I started with a Creative Writing major and switched over to a Communications major, both of which have served me well ever since. The professors I met knew more about the world than I did and there were people who stirred my passions and others who angered me to no end. Those who proved themselves to be faithful friends appeared on the scene. I ate out more in four years, had more Chinese and Papa John's Pizza than I could have hoped for, and had more personal freedom than I ever thought possible.

And yet I remember being tired and exhausted all the time, remembered experiencing burn out often and living in that zone known as "auto-robotic." Surely a fifteen hour day should be enough to accomplish my fourteen credit course load and have enough time to spend with friends. Yet it never was. When I look back at those four years I remain frustrated because I feel I could have done so much better as a student and as a person.

At home, away from the explosive college life, I had opportunities to sit under the Dogwood in my front yard, reflecting on my four years. I wanted to work, to be responsible, but nothing afforded itself and efforts to jump start a home business almost threw me into bankruptcy, leaving me time to reflect. It was the Dogwood tree what showed me what I needed to learn.

That tree proved itself the finest example of what was wrong in my life. I noticed that it did not strive to be the biggest tree or to prevent other trees from growing. Nor did it attempt to grow as big and fast as possible or seek to stay

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"Think Globally, Act Locally"