

Oxfam meets Albright

Social justice organization launched; first of kind in college history

by Tyler Parmer
Albrightian

For one Albright student, it was a journey that began six months ago from one innocent e-mail sent from one hopeful Albright administrator.

At the initial meeting, junior Sean Snyder explained that the Oxfam America Club was “a brand new social justice organization dedicated to raising awareness and advocacy for injustices throughout the world. [The club] will work to create lasting solutions for poverty, hunger and prejudices that violate basic human rights”.

After a quick organization and appointment of an E-board, event support was planned. This moment had been six months in the making.

In that email originally sent to freshmen and sophomores last spring, just two students responded according to Karen Evans, director of the Albright College Career Development Center. “Only two people responded,” said Evans, “and the first one actually never showed for the meeting.”

But luckily Snyder, a sophomore at the time, was the final person to meet with Evans about this new opportunity. There was

no doubt in his mind that he was ready for the challenge.

That challenge was becoming a social change leader for Oxfam America, an “international relief and development organization...creating lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and injustice by

leadership and advocacy training to teach a select group of U.S. college students about the global fight against poverty, hunger and injustice.”

“I was excited at the opportunity to possibly run my own social justice [organization] and make a big impact on my campus,” said the Philadelphia, Pa. native.

Evans, an eight-year employee of the college and former community services coordinator for the five Berks County colleges, remarked, “the opportunity certainly matched his talents and skills.”

“He was so enthusiastic and dedicated to public service and the issues that surround Oxfam.”

In that brief initial meeting with Evans, Snyder understood the magnitude of the change he could make in Reading, Pa. The process to become a change initiative leader was an arduous task, to say the least.

A lengthy application process classified by Oxfam as “highly competitive” followed, which included a written application, campus and personal references, as well as numerous essay responses. A tough assignment, but Snyder is no stranger to overcoming adversity.

As an adolescent, Snyder was affected by abuse. His mother is

a Hodgkin’s and Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma cancer survivor. His home was severely burned during his freshman year of college.

Those events made him stronger as a man and softer in the heart towards with regard to the less fortunate. As a result, it is not difficult to understand what the March email represented to Snyder, and soon after, Albright College.

In early May, Snyder received the long-anticipated phone call stating he had been selected as one of 50 CHANGE initiative leaders from across the United States.

“First thing I did was call my mom,” said Snyder, with a smile.

However, being selected as one of just 50 change initiative leaders marked just the beginning in launching Oxfam at Albright.

Over the summer, Snyder attended mandatory leadership training at Oxfam America headquarters in Boston, Mass. Evans believes having this effort attached to an international organization gained the club the administration’s support. Snyder’s persistence to meet with Albright President Dr. Lex McMillan, III and other key administrators aided his cause.

“I had no concerns [about the project] because I was so enthused by my own vision as well as the

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Sean Snyder, President of Oxfam Photo: Morgan Hanlon

saving lives, helping people overcome poverty and fighting for social justice” according to www.oxfamamerica.org. It was a vision that caught Snyder’s attention.

The focus of responsibility for a social justice leader is directed by Oxfam’s CHANGE initiative, whose goals are: “to broaden perspectives, inspire action, and shape a new generation of global citizens”. [The CHANGE initiative] “uses

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News in the Brief

compiled by Betsy Gordon
Albrightian

Mexico Celebrates Bicentennial

Sept. 16, 2010 marked 200 years of Mexican independence from Spain. Mexico’s Independence War began on Sept. 16, 1810, and lasted for 10 years.

This year also marks 100 years since the revolution that displaced dictator Porfirio Diaz.

U.S. Hiker Sarah Shourd Released From Iran

On Sept. 15, 2010, after more than a year of imprisonment, Sarah Shourd was released from an Iranian prison on \$500,000 bail.

In July 2009, Shourd was arrested on charges of espionage. Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal, Shourd’s fiance and friend, respectively, were also arrested and still remain in Iran.

If convicted, Bauer and Fattal could face up to 10 years in prison.

First Living Medal of Honor Recipient Since Vietnam War

Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta will be the first living Medal of Honor recipient from either of the current wars.

In 2007, Giunta - then a specialist - and his platoon

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Mosque controversy: compromise or combustion?

Let freedom of religion ring

by Alura Benek and Sarah Timmons
Albrightian

The building of an Islamic community center Park51 by the Cordoba Initiative in lower Manhattan has attracted an enormous amount of controversy as of late. Many Americans oppose the project because the new complex will be two blocks from the World Trade Center. However, the real question is how much of this controversy actually relates to public disapproval of the project itself? And by extension, is this issue really something for the public to dispute?

Since Sept. 11, 2001, mainstream America generally associates the various factions of Islam with the terrorist organization responsible for the attack. This stereotyping of Islam has led to ignorance and a failure to recognize that a small extremist group alone caused the hurt that many Americans still feel. As we acknowledged the ninth anniversary of the attack, we think of the victims and their families. Many of those who argue against construction feel that the presence of Park51 would desecrate the memory

of the victims, but this argument completely ignores the fact that there were Muslim Americans among those who lost their lives.

These Americans are often forgotten when discussing this sensitive matter, but they are no less American than you or I. As the other victims of that day, the Muslims who worked in the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were caught off guard.

Would anyone question if these individuals are American regardless of their religion and the views held by mainstream America?

This question was posed by Dr. Jennifer Koosed, associate professor of religious studies at Albright College.

Dr. Koosed also points out an interesting contrast between reactions to terrorist activity in the United States. In 1995, Timothy McVeigh, a man connected to the Christian Identity Movement, detonated a bomb in an Oklahoma Federal building, killing approximately 168 and injuring more than 680 people. His actions did not cause public opinion to associate all of Christianity with the Christian Identity Movement

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Salt in every American’s wound

by Anna Berzins
Albrightian

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day that remains in the hearts and minds of Americans along with millions of others around the world. The proposed 13-story Islamic Center named Park51, two blocks from Ground Zero, is to be championed by the man in charge, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. It is being constructed as a community center for prayer, healing and peace between all religious backgrounds.

Most people remember exactly where they were when they found out about Sept. 11. I remember I was in Mrs. Needles’ sixth grade social studies classroom when I found out about the terrorist attacks. I was sitting next to my friend Jessica and our teacher received a few telephone calls and was immediately tense. She explained the situation, but I did not understand the true meaning of the assault on the country.

While I was not directly impacted, many families lost loved ones that day. The site of the unforgettable terrorist attacks should remain a sacred place of commemoration for those victims of Sept. 11 and their families.

Even though the Muslims planning on constructing the community center are not members of the al-Qaida terrorist group that killed innocent victims, it is a slap in the face to Americans to have the center built extremely close to Ground Zero. The same religious group who destroyed the Twin Towers in the name of Islam should be more a little more sensitive to victims’ families, regardless of religious denomination.

Emotional pain is associated with the World Trade Center attacks, especially to those who lost loved ones on Sept. 11. People are entitled to pray and have a community center, but building it so close to Ground Zero adds salt to the wound. The place should be regarded as a sacred memorial.

There are a few good reasons why this plan should not be constructed. According to CNN.com, “nearly 3,000 people died in the 9/11 attacks, including firefighters, policeman, men, women, and other public officials.”

Those who support building this community center and mosque should be more considerate of Americans’

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support I had already gained from administration since I was selected to be a change leader in May," said Snyder.

Evans, who added she was "happy to promote Sean and be his adviser," felt the opportunity fit his talent and skills. The success of the newly-minted club lie in the history/secondary education major's ability to gather other Albrightians on board with his vision, which was as large as his lanky 6-foot-6-inch frame.

Fast forward to that opening gathering in September. Lured perhaps by the prospect of becoming a part of something historical and never seen before on campus, 18 students, freshman to seniors, had gathered for the inaugural meeting.

Freshman Morgan Hanlon, an avid supporter of the new club and appointed as its vice president of Media Relations, was motivated to join because of its leader. It's been a catalyst in her wanting to become so involved, so quickly.

"I did it because it's the right thing to do," said Hanlon. I believe one person can change the world if they have supporters around them. I truly think he [Snyder] can do that."

Regardless of the benefits each new member originally sought after, they have seen passion in the vision Snyder was selling. Hanlon is a shining example of those inspired by his vision.

"I derive most of my passion from him," gushed the Environmental Studies major. "He's such a great leader, and while he is one that people might think is idealistic, he's ready to change the world."

The ground-breaking ceremony occurred September 9. A crowd of 30 plus people gathered to hear Snyder deliver the keynote speech to kick off Oxfam at Albright. An information table included food and information about the club. The majority of the red adirondack chairs were turned around with quotes of inspiration from social change leaders from across the world, both living and dead.

As a part of his inaugural Oxfam speech, which was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Snyder referenced notorious moments of oppression in world history including the Holocaust, the Civil Rights movement and the conflict in third-world countries of such as Darfur and Haiti. The City of Reading was even a focal point, with the Oxfam president going so far as to compare Reading's recent struggles to those in third world nations, and that the plethora of problems "amount to a lack of concern for our fellow mankind". Reading will be a part of the CHANGE initiative.

A Stand Up for Poverty petition to send to United States President Barack Obama for his trip to the United Nations was signed by 233 students on Sept 17. Other

planned events include a lobbying trip to Harrisburg and a hunger banquet to be held on Nov 18. Other events also may be planned.

According to Evans, Oxfam is not the first direct movement aimed at social justice awareness at Albright. In 2003, a hunger banquet was held by student and facilitated by Albright College chaplain, the Rev. Paul Clark. A hunger banquet, according to www.dosomething.org is an "event that allows guests to experience firsthand how our decisions affect others in the world". Evans also noted Clark is "very excited" about Oxfam, and nominated Snyder to join select Albright administrators at the City of Reading Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Sept 28.

Snyder hopes that others become a part of the change movement taking over Albright.

"We need to take a stand for the world we want to create, and what is good for all of mankind," proclaimed Snyder in his 12-minute speech, which can be found on www.facebook.com.

Evans feels the club has a bright future, specifically with each wave of new students that steps foot on campus.

"I think this is a great cause that allows students coming into college to learn about worldwide issues," said the bubbly Evans. "It allows you to be active and [be] social in a club."

For the rest of the Albright College campus, the opportunity to get involved is an easy one, with one prerequisite. Energy, which is something Hanlon does not lack.

"I want to be a part of that," added Hanlon via cell phone. "That's my whole life goal. I want to put a stop to these conditions [i.e. environmental abuse] that affect other people."

"It's about the students - the student's energy is behind it," continued Evans. "If you feel you can make a big difference, you will convey that to other students." Clearly, change has arrived.

"It's inspiring," continued Hanlon. "I want to inspire people like that some day."

"It's a really good situation," gleamed Evans.

Snyder confirmed what has now become the obvious for students and the tight-knit community that surrounds them in regards to positive change for the world.

"We need to be the difference... A new day has awakened here at Albright."

Correction

The article on convocation in the Welcome Mat edition incorrectly reported the Class of 2014 as the largest incoming class in Albright College history. It was the largest applicant pool in the college's history, totaling over 7,000 applicants. *The Albrightian* regrets the error.

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pg. 1 terrorist organization, and churches continue to be built without much concern. Why is it that mainstream America will acknowledge an extremist fringe group of its own religion as the cause of a terrorist attack but fails to notice the difference in other religions, particularly Islam?

When the Cordoba Initiative announced the project this past December, the press received it openly as a symbol of religious tolerance. Since then, however, the media has distorted perception of the project. In the end, the Park51 project is being built in compliance with local laws and ordinances on private property. Although many may not agree with the construction, legally there is little to do that could prevent the Cordoba Initiative from building it.

At a White House dinner celebrating the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, President Barack Obama fully supported the construction of Park51, stating:

"As a citizen, and as president, I believe that Muslims have the same right to practice

their religion as everyone else in this country."

The president has been criticized for his comments by those with more conservative views. These individuals remain opposed for personal reasons, and this must be respected.

The first amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion. The exact language is "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Many of our ancestors came to this land to experience such freedom. To limit this right for one religious group would greatly undermine this American value overall.

"I feel that maybe if it was closer [to the World Trade Center] it would be more of an issue," said junior Wes Flemings, "It's two city blocks away; there shouldn't be a problem."

Sept. 11 was an act of hatred and intolerance, but the Park51 Islamic community center will be a symbol of American growth and understanding in direct contrast with the extremism of the radical Islamic terrorists.

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pg. 1 feelings. America is a diverse nation with high religious tolerance, but this is not about legal or religious freedoms or rights. It is about doing what is morally right. This is not being anti-Muslim or fighting against places of community congregation.

"I don't think it's the right place to build something that could be targeted for violence and it endangers the community as whole," said Albright junior Sean Snyder. "Anyone who is angry enough at Muslims could possibly attack the community center."

"The number of mosques in New York City has increased dramatically in a generation, going from under ten in 1970 to over a 100 in 2001, including 17 in Manhattan," states Canada Free Press. There is no need for another one.

While extremists are the ones who acted as terrorists in the name of Islam, the heart-wrenching stories of the victims and their families should cause one to step away and reconsider building this structure so close to an open American wound.

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The voice of Albright College since 1904

9/11 nine years later...

by Grace Marcus
Albrightian

It has become a national trauma – the image of the Twin Towers burned in the back of every American’s mind. On Tuesday Sept. 11, 2001 from 8:46 a.m. to 10:28 a.m. many lives were lost, opinions were changed and hearts were shattered. September 11th will go down in American history as the first time America had been attacked on our own soil since WWII. The areas attacked were: Manhattan, N.Y.; Alexandria, Va.; and Washington, D.C. Most of America paid more attention to the attacks at the Pentagon and World Trade Center, and most people forgot about a fourth plane. United Airlines Flight 93 had been hijacked and redirected to Washington, D.C. from its original destination, San Francisco International. Ever since this horrifying day the nation has become more cautious, judgmental and sadly, more racist. This is to mean that – whether we want to admit it or not – many people in America have become guilty of racial profiling.

Other reasons why Sept. 11 was such a catastrophe to Americans is that the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center held hundreds of financial businesses; the Pen-

tagon is home to the U.S. National Defense Department and the third plane was going to hit a known political symbol, either the U.S. Capitol or the White House, but no one knows for sure. Unfortunately, when something happens to us that might provoke unwanted feelings, we feel the need to put the blame on others. Since the hijackers were of Middle Eastern descent we tend to blame all people of that race or treat them differently, consciously or subconsciously. Everyone has an opinion on this horrible event – from the actions airport security takes to how we treat others who are different from us. After giving you a brief overview of one of the most tragic events in American history, I have interviewed students from Albright College that had experienced this tragic event since it happened in their hometowns.

Junior Meghan Wheeler, a New York City native, stated her personal reaction to the attacks and how our nation reacted: “We saw the second plane hit from school; they closed the schools and my mom came to come pick me up.”

When the planes hit confusion spread like wildfire and unanswered questions were everywhere, which scared Wheeler, who was so

close to the city. “I’ve had five uncles that were at the scene of the Twin Towers during Sept. 11 and have at least ten friends with one parent because of Sept. 11. People won’t joke much about the Holocaust and Hitler regime, but everyone jokes about terrorists since Sept. 11. If everyone in America lost a relative or friend on Sept. 11 no one would be joking about this.”

Growing up as a city girl, Wheeler was always open to every race, religion, and never thought anything of it. “I think racial profiling is kind of ridiculous, if I ever was racial profiling people I wouldn’t get into taxis, ride trains, etc. I’ve lived in the city with so many people you can’t not assume everyone is a bad guy.”

Since Wheeler is a city girl, she remarks on how she is one to give equal chances for everyone. “If we continue to discriminate against one group of people based on race we are no better than Hitler.” With this very bold statement by Wheeler, it really does make you think twice about discriminating against others. As we all know, New York was not the only place that was attacked during Sept. 11; our nation’s capitol was attacked, as well. Being a D.C. native as well, I interviewed junior Camille Wilson on the events that happened after

the Pentagon was hit.

Wilson speaks about how she was in sixth grade when a hijacked plane hit the Pentagon in Arlington County, Va. Being that young, as many current Albright students Albright were, we were lost, confused and scared. When we are that young our parents and teachers are the source of all answers, and the fact that this attack was so shocking, our parents and teachers even had no clear cut answers for us. “The school I went to had us sit in the gym when the planes hit. We were all so confused, it felt weird especially since one of the classmates parents were both pilots.”

Everyone’s normal reaction would be to give sympathy and the usual line saying “everything will get better,” when in reality many people are silent and can only say, “I’m sorry” to such a tragic event. Washington, D.C. natives were baffled, confused and even angry when a plane struck the Pentagon. Many people felt that we were hit hard since the Pentagon houses our national defense. When speaking about Sept. 11 being nine years ago, Wilson can’t wrap her head around it. “I can’t believe it, that’s so weird to me.”

Knowing that we were attacked on our soil many people have different reac-

tions to how others reacted. “I feel that it was wrong and I mean unfortunately a natural response which was a tired try to reunite our nation. I definitely feel we could have done a better job when it came to the discrimination not only for ourselves, but for the kids also.”

Wilson has a good point; discrimination should stop because of the kids. By how holding a grudge, sometimes we will unknowingly teach our children prejudice and racial profiling. Along with racial profiling, airport security is another reaction to the attacks. “Well I know the airport is definitely all about the metal detectors being set off every two minutes and checking your luggage with dogs and gloves and protocols and what have you. It is definitely a stressful environment flying. Not to mention not being able to pack bottles of lotion, perfume, tooth paste and other little stuff like that.”

After speaking with two Albright students who lived very close to the main terrorist attacks, they both clearly feel the same way by living in such urban areas. Sept. 11 is for sure an event that will go down as a day of infamy. No one will ever forget that fateful day with the burned in picture of the Twin Towers, Pentagon and plane that crashed in Shanksville, Pa.

Serving those who served

by Elizabeth Gordon
Albrightian

Smiling, joking and always ready to offer a kind word or a helping hand, the 216 veterans attending the Stand Down at Levittown, Pa., hardly seemed to have a care in the world. They walked from tent to tent, receiving free health exams and filing for benefits. Some of them played cards under the large tent where meals were eaten, chatting as they stayed out of the heat. Others merely wandered the grounds, content to talk to whoever would listen. Although their ages and tours of duty spanned several generations, all had served their country. And all were homeless.

Homeless veterans arrived from shelters by bus on Friday and Saturday. Stand Downs are nationwide events that are organized year-round – this particular Stand Down was organized by Veterans Helping Veterans and spanned a three-day period over Patriot Day weekend.

Lindsay Phillips, an assistant professor of psychology in the Degree Completion Program at Albright College, formerly worked as a psychologist in the US Department of Veterans Af-

fairs (VA). Her desire to raise awareness about the difficulties homeless veterans face led her to organize a group of 15 student volunteers.

“I think that individuals need to learn more about veterans who are homeless and help them integrate into the community. These men and women served our country and we owe them the respect of assisting them in their time of need,” Phillips said.

The VA, Impact Services and Disabled American Veterans were among the 18 organizations at the Stand Down.

Impact Services, founded in 1974, is a transitional housing program that aides homeless veterans who have been diagnosed with drug or alcohol addictions – sometimes both – as well as mental health issues. This type of diagnosis is known as a dual-diagnosis, with which nearly 100 percent of the veterans are admitted. Upwards of 220 veterans are admitted to the program each year. Aside from a dual-diagnosis, an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge is required for entry into the 124 housing facility, which is located at 124 East Indiana Ave., Philadelphia. The program lasts for

a total of three years; however, Case Manager Padraic O’Neill has only ever heard of one person completing the program.

“I’ve been there since April, and I haven’t seen a program completion yet. A lot of guys just go back out the door. We have had some guys move next door early, to DDX2,” O’Neill said.

DDX1 and DDX2 were founded in 2004 and are the two buildings that comprise 124. The differences between the former and latter are that the former lasts for eight months while the latter lasts for 16, and residents in DDX2 enjoy more freedoms than those in DDX1.

“We offer a ton of stuff related to job placement and job preparation, [and also] life skills. Next door to our building on our little . . . campus is the labor department . . . which helps them try to get back to work – building resumes, and finding jobs,” O’Neill stated. The program also directs veterans to Career Link.

Impact also has a housing unit located at 174 West Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, which is aptly named “174.”

“174 is for more adjusted individuals. They could be dual-diagnosed; they could come

through DDX1 and DDX2, and be stable enough to move on to 174. Sometimes we get some people who’ve become homeless but are stable enough to move back in to a more independent lifestyle, which is what 174 offers. It doesn’t have the structure that 124 does,” O’Neill explained.

Participants in 174 enroll in the program for one year, and share an apartment with a roommate. If they aren’t employed, they must be searching for employment. On the contrary, participants in DDX1 are forbidden from working for the eight month duration of the program.

“They have to get it together, so to speak,” O’Neill stated.

Instead, participants go to the gym Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they are required to attend a life skills course. Recently, they have started a newsletter as a creative outlet. On Fridays, they play games with the staff.

“Something simple to socialize and make them smile,” O’Neill commented. “A lot of the guys are . . . always looking for that next fix, the next thing that’s going to make their lives better, erase all their problems from the past and make the fu-

ture rainbows and marshmallows and all that happy [stuff] that’s really not true. That’s the problem – when reality strikes, they can’t handle it; they go use again. We try to get them to see that whatever you’re doing right now, if it’s not unhealthy, then that’s what life’s all about. Just sit down and play a board game and enjoy the time. Stop worrying about ‘my VA claim, my cigarettes, my baby momma’ – any drama. . . . It never ends, anyway.”

However, for Disabled American Veterans Supervisor Robert McClellan, VA claims are at the top of his priority list. McClellan supervises offices in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, explaining benefits and helping veterans file claims to receive those benefits. He also makes a yearly trip to Washington, D.C., on behalf of disabled veterans. The majority of veterans, according to McClellan, are veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

“With them coming back from the wars, to jump back into civilian life from the military, it’s a tough ordeal. So now, thanks to . . . organizations like Harley Davidson [and] General Elec-
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Albright Learning Center, writing center revamped

by Tom Spincic
Albrightian

The peer tutors working with Albright's Academic Learning and Writing Centers are among the "unsung heroes" of our academic community.

This past July, both the Academic Learning and Writing Centers' tutoring programs were granted international certification by the CRLA, or College Reading and Learning Association. The International Tutor Program Certification offers structure and vision for tutor training, along with the potential to improve and expand upon the previously laid framework.

Erin Evans, assistant dean and director of the Academic Learning Center, beams at the very mention of her tutors and their endeavors. Since her arrival on campus in the fall semester of 2009, the program underwent a rigorous retooling process, changing and evolving at a rapid pace.

"Before, we had no umbrella of support," she elaborates. "With the certification, we have global strategies and professional standards... Our [CRLA] application was said to be one of the best of the year!"

The Centers began revamping their tutoring programs even before becoming certified. This is part of the process—CRLA certification is offered on three different levels. So far, Albright has applied for the first level. To move into the upper echelons of certification, a college needs to develop a more complex structure, with additional curriculum and training sessions.

Rachel Liberatore, coordinator of the Writing Center, is passionate about the program due in part to the personal nature of her involvement.

"I rose through the ranks myself. I was a tutor when I was in college... I like being able to offer the perspective of a tutor from a director's standpoint, too."

The increased structure in tutor training applies to the Writing Center just as much as the Academic Learning Center, despite the fact that they are two separate entities. Specific areas addressed in the training include communication skills, strategies essential to learning, cultural issues, one-on-one counseling, and "do's and don'ts" lists. Interactive training using the methods specified helps to strengthen bonds between the tutor and the pupil.

Collaborative abilities are emphasized, as is student input. Thanks to the new guidelines laid out during the past three semesters, tutors are exposed early on to the potential for professional development. Tutors work not only with their pupils (sometimes, affectionately referred to as "tutees") but also with professors in the fields in order to create a broad, all-encompassing augmentation to the learning process.

Liberatore is extremely proud of the vast accomplishments the Writing Center has achieved in such a short time.

"The administration has been

extremely supportive. People are proud of what we do."

Last year's statistics practically speak for themselves. At the ALC, tutors logged 5,424 hours last year, with 715 student requests for tutors. 3,809 individual tutoring sessions were held, as well as 173 group-study sessions. The Writing Center held 2,322 sessions with 378 different students. This year may bring even greater numbers—according to the ALC, 200 requests for tutors have been recorded during this semester alone.

Room for advancement exists not only in the certification program, but also for the tutors themselves. An example of the change implemented since Evans' arrival at Albright includes the addition of "tutor managers"—tutors who have been working with the Centers for a while and exhibit good leadership skills.

Senior Kaitlin Zeigenfuss is a tutor manager, specializing in the sciences.

"Being a tutor doesn't always mean you tutor in one specific subject. I've tutored in a wide range—chemistry, general biology, molecular genetics, and organic chemistry."

Zeigenfuss invests a fair amount of time in being a tutor. She spends at least seven hours per week holding individual sessions with her three tutees, attending tutor manager meetings, and participating in other functions like group-study sessions. Some of her time has even included being tutored herself.

"We don't want to seem as if we're 'above' anyone... even tutor managers get tutored sometimes. It doesn't matter who you are, it can be really helpful."

Zeigenfuss is excited to see what the future will bring.

"Getting tutored shouldn't be demeaning or looked down upon... the program's improved by leaps and bounds. As tutors, we have such strong support from the faculty and from Erin [Evans]. Participating in the program is just so beneficial."

So what else is on tap for the ALC and Writing Center? Cross-cultural tutoring—an extension of last year's practice. Evans plans to invite the presidents of Albright's multi-ethnic organizations (such as the International Students Association and the African-American Society) to form a panel designated to inform others about the importance of learning about and respecting others' cultures.

Last year, the panel was made up exclusively of international students and faculty. Albright's ESL department was as instrumental in organizing the session, as were the students who shared their perspectives. The idea for this year is similar, but now more broad and all-encompassing.

The ALC is also working to bring tutoring out of the office. Walk-in hours are held in Walton and North Halls, the Computer Center, and the Schumo Center from September to December. Resident Assistants will sign tutees into the dorms and direct them to the sessions. No appointments are neces-

sary. Both centers sponsor a series of Academic Enrichment Workshops, collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and staff. A wide array of topics, from time management to revision and editing, are addressed.

Both the Academic Learning Center and the Writing Center strongly encourage involvement from the student body. The centers have a series of upcoming events planned for the week of October 4-9, or Tutor Appreciation Week.

From Oct. 4-8, the Centers are setting up a table in the Campus Center Main Lounge, intended for students to write thank-you cards to their tutors. Thank-you cards will be provided and delivered to the tutors' mailboxes. The hours of

operation run from 12-1:30pm and 4:45-6:30pm. Students can also sign up for upcoming events.

On Oct. 4, the Centers will operate a Wii Bowling night in the Campus Center Main Lounge, from 6-8pm. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. On Oct. 5, a kickball game will take place from 6-8pm on Kelchner Field. Signups begin Sept. 30 in the Campus Center, Albright Learning, or Writing Center. Both events are open to all students, faculty and staff.

The Centers will also play a role in the Homecoming festivities—on Oct. 8, the ALC is sponsoring a float decorating party in the Albright Woods parking lot from 4-7pm. On Oct. 9, the Homecom-

ing Parade kicks off, with the Tutor Appreciation Float sailing in full force from 10:30-11:30am. Once again, the event is open to all students, faculty and staff.

Evans smiles as she explains the mechanics behind the peer tutoring program. Details and statistics are transcribed on handouts throughout the Academic Learning Center, but she knows practically all of them by heart. After hearing her speak for even two minutes, it is quite apparent that Evans has an immeasurable amount of faith in the program, its accomplishments, and the promise both Centers hold.

"The tutors are just so important... they continue to inspire me."

Campus facelift continues, few projects completed on time

by Grace Marcus
Albrightian

In the last six months, Albright has been going under reconstruction and renovation to make our learning experience better. This past summer, Jakes Place and Science Hall have been renovated to make students' lives better at Albright.

Jakes Place which is known for students and faculty members to get lunch was also a place for students to relax, do their homework, or watch the big game on the TV Screen. Jakes also is known as a place for, "food, friends and fun" Jakes houses a recreational center with 3 pool tables, a TV, and a ping pong table. I sat down with Tim Byerly, the dining service operations manager, and we spoke about the ideas, he and Brad Smith have for Jakes Place. Other than many physical differences to Jakes Place there are also many internal differences. "Jakes is having a face lift. We are separating the lunch and dinner menus; lunch will offer more specials and the dinner menus will be geared to more night time food flavors with value meals and appetizers." "We are also teaming up with the Rec Center; me and Brad Smith are getting certain programs and hours to Jakes." With more programs and hours, Jakes will become more of a reliable hangout space for students. Byerly stresses to me how he wants Jakes to become more of a student oriented area. "We are looking to put in a Wii TV room, an arcade game room, more flat screen TV's and student's art work to really tie the place together." Even though the salad bar is not new to Jakes, having it placed in a more noticeable area can increase variety to students and faculty members. Byerly also tells me how there will be a new sound system, stage lighting, and new pool tables. When speaking more about the collaboration him and Brad Smith will have, he tells me about future programs that will sure make student life more enjoyable. "We

are going to have programs like trivia night, ladies night with outsource speakers, man cave night, ROOTbeer pong, board game night, and more activities for students at Albright that will want to make Jakes Place a new hangout" Byerly has many great new ideas for Jakes Place and coordinating with Brad will bring back the "fun" in Jakes Place's. Tim states that, "we have missed the fun part of, 'food, friends, fun' and want to bring it back." Remember where the bowling alley once was? It is now stadium seating to watch TV and play games with friends. Also the black slates along the right side of Jakes are magnetic boards so students will be able to post activities and group events to come. As I left the interview, Byerly mentioned to me how Jakes Place is having a flashback for homecoming and it should be a blast.

Other than Jakes Place, Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science building's renovations continue. Since the inconvenient block that angered students has been lifted, many students have been happy about the path by Selwyn and the Science Building being opened back up. With questions being thrown around the students on when the science building will be done, I interviewed Dr. Pamela Artz, Chair of the Chemistry and Biochemistry program at Albright. Everyone can take a deep breath, we have a date. "May 2011 is what I understand for the completion of renovation" states Artz. If any student noticed that we have a newly put in green house to the science building. Artz said that, "the green house will be mainly used by the biologists for classes and also for research in the science department depending on the project". As many students know the Science Building when complete and done of course, will be one of Albright's greatest assets to learning and the community. With all of the time and money put into the building, many students wonder if the wait is even worth it. Artz states, "Well the timing was awkward

due to delays from the harsh winter according to what I was told. Some of the services are not working in the new addition but those services should come on line soon. For now, we are coping with the situation. As for it being worth it, the college was badly in need of improved science facilities that are commensurate with our programs which produce excellent outcomes. It is only a shame that the new facilities did not come sooner, but they are very much needed and appreciated. It is analogous to a vaccination, such that we endure a small hurt to have a good outcome in the long run." Now that we have a finalized date, students will have to come to the fact that construction workers, loud noises and hard hats will be part of our community for a little while.

Since Jakes Place and the Science Building are becoming old news, the Life Sports Center also known as the "Turtle Dome" is having a new roof put in. The only information we have right now is the email that was sent to us. "As you have observed, we are currently underway with construction activity to repair the Life Sports Gym roof. We have mobilized and installed exterior scaffolding and have been constructing interior scaffolding and shoring for several days. Because we are moving into the more invasive phase of the roof project, occupancy to the Life Sports Gym will be limited to construction team members only for safety purposes beginning Monday September 13, 2010. We expect the gym to be closed to occupants until the week prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday, but updates will follow. Additionally, beginning Monday September 20, parking will not be permitted below the Life Sports Gym for a period of 4 - 6 weeks, except under specific circumstances requested by Albright and relayed to the Project Team. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we thank you for your understanding."

Peace talks progress U.S. Senator Mitchell diffuses tension

by Adam Stamm
Albrightian

On Sept. 2, 2010, delegations from the United States, Israel and Palestine met in Washington, D.C. to begin the first round of trilateral talks. The peace talks are widely believed to have little effect on the stability of the region.

As the peace talks moved to the Sinai Peninsula, violence has continued in and around Gaza. Already four Palestinians from Gaza have died from airstrikes in the area, and Israel has seen countless rockets rain down on Israeli towns near the Gaza border.

Hamas, the ruling political party in Gaza, condemns the peace talks and vows to keep fighting. Without including a Hamas delegation, there will never be full stability in the region.

The talks aim to work on a framework to create two separate state identities. Because of current Israeli settlements in the West Bank and large populations of Arab Israelis, labeling borders has become a problem. In the West Bank city of Bethlehem, for example, any person can see a growing community of Israeli citizens even though the settlement is located within Palestinian territory.

United State's special envoy to the Middle East, Senator George Mitchell, made it clear that for the peace talks to work, both sides would have to establish fundamental compromises.

Already, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has threatened to walk out of the talks because of the issue with Israeli settlements. Israel had placed a temporary restriction on building settlements in the West Bank, but those restrictions will end on the 26th of September. Israel has not made it clear that they will renew those restrictions.

Residing in the West Bank are nearly 430,000 Israeli settlers in East Jerusalem. In total they cover nearly 40 percent of West Bank land. Palestinian population in the West Bank is 2.5 million. This issue has plagued the stability in the region, and it has already begun to comprise the peace talks.

In the past ten years, there have been six separate peace talks. The last peace talk in 2007 took place in Annapolis, Md., but ended when Israel invaded Gaza. Peace talks began in the region in 1967, after UN Security Council Resolution 242. The resolution calls for an exchange of land for peace. Every peace talk after has embodied these principles.

In a BBC look at the regions newspapers, it is quite clear that both sides see settlements as an obstacle for peace. Whether the settlement construction is halted for good, or they continue as usual, a struggle will continue.

In Cairo, there is a small amount of hope for the talks. While it encourages many students at the American University in Cairo that the talks began again, many students feel that nothing will be accomplished. Chad Jacobs, an American student studying in Cairo, believes that, "until this settlement issue is solved the region will never have peace. It began with the settlements; it must end with the settlements."

Even with little belief in the talks from those in the region, the U.S. envoy still has hope in the talks. In a question and answer session U.S. Senator Mitchell stated, "There are going to be difficult days and many obstacles along the way. We recognize that this is not an easy task. But as the President told the leaders, we expect to continue until our job is complete and successful."

Ramadan: a reminder to be thankful An update from Cairo

by Adam Stamm
Albrightian

Throughout Cairo, during August and the beginning of September, it is not unusual to pass closed restaurants with many tables and chairs sitting out front. People may sit at the tables, but they have no food or no water. I quickly learned that the poor citizens of Cairo were partaking in one of the harshest holidays in Islam, Ramadan. For everyone who participates, you cannot eat or even drink anything all day long until the last prayer of the day has begun. After the prayer has begun, millions of hungry people inhale whatever food is placed before them.

For many Christian Westerners, it is impossible for us to imagine fasting all day for an entire month. In addition, it is even harder to imagine entire cities closing the majority of their restaurants to respect this holy month. This is the reality of Ramadan in non-secular Muslim nations.

The most similar time period that, as Christians, we can relate to is Lent. For many Americans, we give up medial items such as television and video games, but giving up TV and movies, as I have done in the past, just doesn't quite compare. It is as if we are comparing checkers to chess, both have similar structures, but they just don't compare as games. Ramadan is a twisted holy month that makes everyone in the area suffer. Lent has become a minor inconvenience for American Christians those that choose to participate.

Everyone I interact with all day long is constantly suffering. The children no longer skip and play in the streets during the day; instead they drag thier feet where ever they go and when they can, stay inside and sleep.

It wasn't unusual around mid-afternoon, during Ramadan, to pass a group of guards on the American University in Cairo campus slouched in their chairs trying not to fall asleep. They look both tired and unhappy. A few hours later, I would pass those same guards after nightfall and they would be cheerful, chatty and every guard fashioned the largest smile you can imagine on a worn-out Arab man.



A hungry boy waits to eat his supper during Ramadan
Photo provided by Adam Stamm

until it was dark. Now that Ramadan is over I can enjoy my two favorite past times all day long!"

The dramatic change that overcomes everyone was epic. Those grouchy old men that you thought simply hated you because you are you, became the most talkative and loving men once the sun set and they could eat.

As my unintentional daily fast would come to a close, I started to understand this shopkeeper's words. Food was no longer a routine. I ate because I was hungry, not because it was time to. I began to understand that so often I go to eat lunch simply because there is a societal understanding that at 12 p.m. I should eat. Ramadan disobeys this understanding, and those participating (intentionally or unintentionally) begin to understand what it feels like to be hungry, not just obeying a set routine.

I must be honest, I am not sad that Ramadan is over. It is a wonderful feeling to eat at any time of the day, but I want to maintain the feeling of choosing to eat when I am hungry. As Americans we don't really understand what this feeling is like. With food available nearly everywhere we look, there are few times we find it hard to eat.

Currently, a large portion of our world's population spends much of the day hungry. It was an unknown feeling to me before I landed in Cairo, but I can honestly say I know what it is like to feel hunger and I am thankful to have felt it.

While I don't plan to fast anytime soon, I know I will eventually want to. It is a strange feeling to appreciate hunger, but I have found that I want to intentionally fast. Until then, I will consciously enjoy my meals, and give thanks for having them.

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Brief cont'd from pg. 1

were ambushed. Giunta's actions rescued a comrade who was captured and wounded, and Giunta was able to provide medical aid until a medevac arrived.

According to the US Army Center of Military history, a total of 3,468 medals

of honor have been awarded. Of those, 621 were awarded posthumously.

Honor the Fallen - September Casualties

Marine Lance Corporal Christopher B. Rodgers, 20; Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua T. Twigg, 21; Army Private First Class Diego M. Montoya, 20; Marine Lance Cpl. Ross S.

Carver, 21; Marine Sergeant Jesse M. Balthaser, 23; Army Captain Jason T. McMahan, 35; Marine Corporal Philip G. E. Charte, 22; Army Sergeant Philip C. Jenkins, 26; Army Private James F. McClamrock, 22; Marine Cpl. John C. Bishop, 25; Army First Lieutenant Todd W. Weaver, 26; Senior Airman James A. Hansen, 25.

Conde leads strong start for men's soccer

Opening stretch best in years

by Justin Choate
Albrightian

With the soccer season just under way, the Albright Lions have gotten off to a strong start. With a 1-0-0 record going into the home opener, the team had high hopes.

After falling behind 1-0 to Immaculata University with 21 minutes in the first half remaining, the Lions had a change in momentum. It was clear that the Lions were not going to take a loss.

With six minutes to play in the first half, the Immaculata Mighty Macs scored again, but the goal was reversed due to an off sides call by the referee. By the end of the first half, the score remained 1-0 with Immaculata still on top.

The second half started

out rough with numerous yellow cards handed out to the Mighty Macs. With 20 minutes left in the game, there was a great deal of tension between the teams that put a fire in the Lions' eyes.

Not even a second after the clock started back up, senior midfielder Chas DeSanto scored to tie the game. DeSanto was assisted by freshman forward Gibrilla Conde.

Coach Pat Stanco noted Conde's contribution to the team. "We have more attacking firepower this year with Gibrilla Conde to add to Adam Toroneiwski and Mark Yost."

Three minutes later, freshman forward Kory Reddick scored a second time to make it 2-1 with 17 minutes left in regulation playing time. Reddick was assisted by freshman middle Shawn

Murphy.

With more yellow cards handed out to both teams and a heated last few minutes, the Lions held on to their lead for a win in the second season of the game. This domination over the Mighty Macs gave sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Barr his first win of the season.

"We need to play our hardest for 90 minutes every game," noted Stanco. "If we do that we will be successful," he continued.

Although starting off strong this season, the Lions still have a long road ahead of them. With games against Elizabethtown, Alverina and Penn State Berks, the team will work to keep up the momentum going to stay in a good position in the Commonwealth Conference standings.

Lady lions adjusting to new surroundings

by Mandie Mulcahy
Albrightian

The women's volleyball season began on Sept. 1, 2010 with a home match against Penn State Berks where the team took a surprising loss.

The Albright women's volleyball team closed out last season with an impressive record of 15 wins. Over the past two years, the team has had a complete turnaround.

This dramatic improvement has had a significant impact on the girls.

"When I came to Albright, some people didn't even know we had a volleyball team. Nothing was really expected of us. Over the past two years I've been here, we've proved to so many people, including ourselves, that we can do this. The greatest thing would be for us to continue to succeed at old and new challenges," explained Junior Megan Wheeler.

Two years ago, Michael Marks joined the volleyball's coaching staff as an assistant coach. Prior to coaching at Albright, Marks was the head coach at Alveria College. His hard work and dedication to the team has been a major contributor to their successful season. This year, Marks is taking over as head coach for the first time.

Although this season started out rough for the girls, Coach Marks hopes to continue improving this team. The girls are in the process of adjusting to the coaching change, but they have a lot of faith in Marks.

"The one thing we need

to do differently this year compared to last season is to play aggressively and with more control. There were times last year when we played not to lose. This season we want to control the game and play to win, especially against our conference opponents," explained Marks.

It is still the beginning of the season, and the girls know what they must do to get their stats back on track.

Right now, "we have a new coach, so most likely we will be switching up the drills we do in practice to prepare

for the games," explained Junior Laura Van Bendegem. With these new changes, the team is hoping to make this season their best. Their goal, according to Van Bendegem: "Stay positive 100 percent of the time, and to play as a team 100 percent of the time."

In the upcoming season, "we need to stay focused, keep our minds on exactly what it is we want and do anything to get there," explained Wheeler.

In the previous season, part of the team's success stemmed from the girls ability to work together as a whole.

"As a team, we want to win more than ever and we're all fully confident in each other that we can make it happen," said Wheeler.

Marks is proud of how far the team has already come and is going to keep pushing the girls to improve because he sees the potential that lies ahead for them.

"The one thing about the Albright volleyball team that

I am the most proud of are the players themselves. They show a great deal of maturity and responsibility, which I believe will be very valuable for us to succeed this season. I'm really very fond of all the girls and I have a great deal of respect for each and every player," explained Marks.

Another big part of this team is their ability to get along both on and off the court.

"My favorite part is the team itself. The girls are more like a family than a team, we have each others' backs," said Van Bendegem.

The Lady Lions are currently 2-8. For a listing of all the teams' upcoming games this season, visit www.albrightathletics.com.

Serve cont'd from pg. 3

erans are veterans themselves. "The national service staff that we have is all disabled veterans, to include myself. It's most comforting to a veteran to come back to know that the guy taking care of [him] has . . . bought the t-shirt, so they say," McClellan explained. McClellan's co-worker, who was interviewing a disabled veteran as this writer interviewed McClellan, is a disabled former Marine. McClellan described the ability to associate with other veterans as "a comfort, because it still feels like, as they say, 'one team, one fight.'" In the spirit of camaraderie, Disabled American Veterans has twelve vans that drive across the country, appearing at Stand Downs as mobile service offices and providing transportation for veterans who are unable to access the VA. Disabled American Veterans has offices almost ev-

erans are veterans themselves. "The national service staff that we have is all disabled veterans, to include myself. It's most comforting to a veteran to come back to know that the guy taking care of [him] has . . . bought the t-shirt, so they say," McClellan explained. McClellan's co-worker, who was interviewing a disabled veteran as this writer interviewed McClellan, is a disabled former Marine. McClellan described the ability to associate with other veterans as "a comfort, because it still feels like, as they say, 'one team, one fight.'" In the spirit of camaraderie, Disabled American Veterans has twelve vans that drive across the country, appearing at Stand Downs as mobile service offices and providing transportation for veterans who are unable to access the VA. Disabled American Veterans has offices almost ev-

Peltz anchors women's soccer

Veteran goalie, key returnees lead improved team

by Mandie Mulcahy
Albrightian

The women's soccer team at Albright College has started off the season with a 2-2-2 record. The Lady Lions have many returning players from last year's team who will help them achieve victory.

Last season, the Lady Lions had two impressive shutouts against Elizabethtown College and Widener University.

One key returner this season, junior goalkeeper Keeley Peltz, mentions personal goals she is trying to reach this year.

"I'm looking to trying to expand our record and build on last season's accomplishments. I think we have a good squad this year with both returning players and new players and therefore we should really be able to do big things," explained Peltz.

Another important returner to this season's team is sophomore forward Jordan Cassidy. As a freshman last year, she was one of the leading scorers for the Lady Lions.

The team is looking forward to this season, particularly to their game against Messiah College at the end of the season. The Lady Lions are also excited for their game against Widener University, with the hopes of gaining yet another shutout against them. The women will be playing in a total of 19 games this season.

The team is working to improve their record from last season and doing their best to overcome the new challenges that face them in this upcoming season. Furthermore, while individual players are meeting goals, the team is also striving to meet certain aspirations, which

is not always easy.

"As a team, we need to improve on working as a unit and communication. It's always hard at the beginning of a new season with the addition of new players on the field and not being totally comfortable with the team yet, but I think as the season moves on it will definitely improve," explained Peltz.

Both the women's and men's soccer teams are coached by Pat Stanco. This year is Stanco's sixth season coaching at Albright College. Stanco is working to improve the Lady Lions' performance and attempting to train the women more vigorously in order to ensure a successful season.

"[Coach] has been making big changes within the program. He started off quickly by making pre season a lot more intense than previous pre seasons. This really got the girls on the squad a jump start into the regular season. Secondly, he gave both teams practice jerseys to wear at every practice. This was a great change in the program because it promotes team unity and discipline along with looking more like a structured and solid unit," continued Peltz.

Last season, the Lady Lions won nine out of 20 games. This season, many changes are taking place for both the athletes and coaches. New goals are being set and a higher level of dedication is being driven into the team's practice and game preparations with the hopes of coming up with a more successful season than last year.

The Lions' next home game is Sept. 23 at 4 p.m. against Keystone College.



Outside hitter, Alexa Jones
Photo by Morgan Hanlon

Glee, glitz, and glamour galore at 2010 Emmys

by Helen Anderson
Albrightian

As soon as Jimmy Fallon stepped in to his role as host of this year's Emmys, it was clear that the 62nd Emmys for primetime television were going to be a supreme source of entertainment. With so many great television programs and talented performers, how could this not be so?

The star-studded night started off with an amazing Glee-inspired skit which included many of the cast members: Fallon, Jon Hamm (*Mad Men*), Tina Fey (*30 Rock*), Joel McHale (*Community*) and even reality TV star Kate Gosselin. They did their own singing and dancing to the well-known anthem of youth and freedom, "Born to Run" by Bruce Springs-

teen. The audience cheered and applauded with enthusiasm and glee.

After the high spirits of the opening skit, the awards began to flow like liquid gold. Many notable comedy programs and performers won accolades in the beginning of the show. Some of the winners included Edie Falco for her role in Showtime's *Nurse Jackie* and Jane Lynch for her irrepressible role as the hated gym teacher/coach Sue Sylvester on *Glee*.

In the guest actor/actress category, the grand dame of eternal humor and youth, the divine Betty White, was awarded for her unforgettable hosting gig of an episode of *Saturday Night Live* on NBC. On the slightly more sinister side, the legendary John Lithgow was saluted with a statue for his role as

the friendly family man/violent Trinity serial killer on Showtime's *Dexter*. Both of these veteran actors won for their guest performances on hit television shows.

When it came down to the drama category, the completion was truly fierce. Many people hoped that *Glee* would take the top humorous honors at the Emmys because of their slew of nominations but *Mad Men* seemed to be the audience favorite and in the heart of this writer. The retro costumes and stellar writing certainly make this show, as well as the talented actors who inhabit the chauvinistic world of advertising in the 1960s. This television program seems to stand alone not only on its network (AMC) but among many other shows today because of the quality that its

writers and actors put forth.

As it turned out, *Mad Men* won for "Best Writing in a Drama Series," "Overall Outstanding Drama Series" and "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series" (Jon Hamm). The actresses on this show, including January Jones, Christina Hendricks and Elisabeth Moss were also nominated.

Other shows, like *Top Chef*, won for "Outstanding Reality Program" and Jon Stewart was awarded again for his fantastic and funny "fake" news show *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. Kyra Sedgwick, the wife of Kevin Bacon, won for her role as Brenda Leigh Johnson on the hit show *The Closer* and she was full of joy and happy disbelief when she won her golden statue.

While the television

shows are terrific at the Emmys, no awards show can be mentioned without talking about the fashion and style on the red carpet. The shades of blue, purple and black seemed to be the most popular on the color wheel on Emmys night. Christina Hendricks looked stunning in a lilac and feathery floor-length gown by Zac Posen. Both Lea Michele from *Glee* and January Jones were blooming in blue, but Michele wore a navy blue ruffled gown by Oscar de la Renta and Jones wore an ocean-blue structured gown from *Atelier Versace*.

Be sure to tune in to your favorite television shows right now, but do not forget about this year's crop of new fall programs! There is guaranteed to be something for everybody.

The 2010 VMAs: Gaga Rules, Kanye Returns and MTV Fails Again

by Amir Hardy
Albrightian

Though the 2010 Video Music Awards celebrated the illustrious music and fame of today's biggest pop superstars, pre-adolescent heartthrobs and the comedy of host Chelsea Handler, it was clear that reigning diva Lady Gaga was queen of the night. Gaga took an impressive eight awards home (out of her nominated 13), including "Video of the Year" for YouTube sensation "Bad Romance."

The 26th annual show kicked off with a performance by Eminem who surprised fans with an appearance by a bright-

redheaded Rihanna during a live rendition of the duo's smash single "Love The Way You Lie."

The show lost momentum after Handler entered the stage who opened with jabs at pop princess Katy Perry, Lindsay Lohan and Snookie, star of the MTV hit series "Jersey Shore." Usher's electrifying performance of "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love" and "OMG" not only revived the show but also confirmed that he has not lost his talent after more than 10 years in the industry.

British singer Florence + The Machine stood out from the rest of the performances with a pitch-perfect performance of

"Dog Days Are Over." Unlike the other performers, Florence amazed and entertained without complex choreography and intricate stage designs.

In one of the most anticipated moments of the night, country heavyweight Taylor Swift took the stage and performed "Innocent," the song inspired by the infamous incident with Kanye West from last year's VMAs. Swift was raw and emotional, differing from her usual upbeat and jovial performance style.

Linkin Park's bombastic performance of "Catalyst" was also a standout, with the band's awe-striking lyrics and vocal de-

liveries. The band performed on a roof in front of their screaming fans who were undoubtedly satisfied with the performance.

And, in the night's headlining moment, rapper Kanye West returned to the VMA stage after a year of playing enemy to the American public. West debuted a new song titled "Runaway" which like Swift, was inspired by last year's stint. Donning a bold red suit with flashy gold accents, West was confident but not overly-so like his persona of the past; it was clear that he was quenching redemption. The genuine performance won over the same audience that booed him just a year ago—this time,

they enthusiastically chanted his name by the end of the performance. It was the most surprising and heart-warming portion of the entire show.

Despite the noteworthy performances, this year's VMAs still lacked life due to its predictable nature and focus on garnering major ratings. Next year, hopefully, there will be a return to honoring those that create innovative and artistic statements through music video like legends like Michael Jackson and Madonna—pioneering artists that built and defined MTV. So, for the 2011 show, how about less Beiber and more recognition of true art?

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The Albrightian congratulates the following students for their academic achievements during the Spring 2010 semester!

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