

Changing of the Guard in Food Services?

Dining Services study requested by President to explore outsourcing

by Kelsey Zenna and
Tyler Parmer
Albrightian

On Sept. 8, 2010, all students at Albright College received an e-mail from Dr. Gina-Lyn Crance, dean of students and vice president of student affairs detailing the college's plan to begin a new campus dining study. According to President Lex McMillan, III, the college "would begin the process of exploring the pros and cons of engaging a professional dining services firm to manage our food service operation."

The initial response of the student body has been negative, and outspoken, unidentified groups have engaged in full-out propaganda campaigns. Posters throughout campus have stated phrases such as "Our tuition, our choice" and "Give the students a vote, not a survey. Stop the outsourcing." Other signs threatened, "Do you want our quality to go down and prices to go up?" and "Keep food service from being outsourced". With the Albright community and student and professional jobs allegedly under attack, tension has increased as more false information has been passed around on campus. According to Crance, the concerns are valid, but most, if not all of the rumors, are false.

"A committee has been formed to review dining service companies and analyze

and discuss what each has to offer," said Crance. At the conclusion of the study, the committee will recommend whether or not to outsource the current food services operation. Many Albright educators, however, are not convinced, says long-time Professor of English Dr. Mary Jane Androne.

"People are overwhelmingly against the idea of the new campus dining study," said Androne. "Whenever

creased difficulties the faculty now face getting copyright information on textbooks and how the health packages and benefits, and the flexibility of schedules, have dramatically changed. Student employment is another pressing issue, and according to all parties, students remain the top stakeholders in this divisive topic.

"Of the outsourcing we've done, where's the change been?" questioned Wood. "The same people are still here. Ask Diane [Sheetz]."

Sheetz is the currently the assistant manager of the Albright College bookstore. When the bookstore transitioned from being privately owned to publicly owned by Barnes & Noble, Sheetz received a promotion. While the compensation package may have changed in composition for the bookstore employees,

it still is similar according to Wood, and no jobs were lost during the switch. Certain benefits improved the bookstore for the future. Now as one of 800 schools under the Barnes & Noble company, Albright's bookstore possesses increased buying power and prowess in a new age of buying textbooks and utilizing technology. Wood noted Barnes & Noble challenged employees to become more actively involved in the Albright community.

Yet, Androne cited in-

creased difficulties the faculty now face getting copyright information on textbooks and how the health packages and benefits, and the flexibility of schedules, have dramatically changed. Student employment is another pressing issue, and according to all parties, students remain the top stakeholders in this divisive topic.

"It's not possible to use food services without student employees," said Wood. "They all use students. Why would we eliminate [the largest student employer] on campus?"

In regards to other non-student employees, Wood stated that retaining them will be a top priority. He added that "part of the negotiations is to keep our employees" and that in regards to tuition remission "current employees will be 'grandfathered in.'"

Nevertheless, Androne, traditionally a proponent of change if the proposal improves Albright, remains skeptical and fears an increasing amount of campus operations are being outsourced.

"First it was the bookstore, the dining hall is next, after that it could be public safety or even maintenance. Right now people feel that they can get special needs accommodated at the dining hall, but it won't be the same [if they outsource]."

Noting the study was never directed for "puni-

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News in the Brief

compiled by
Elizabeth Gordon
Albrightian

Travel Warning Issued for Americans Traveling to Europe

A general travel alert was issued on Oct. 3, 2010, warning Americans to be vigilant while traveling throughout Europe.

High-profile landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Berlin's Central Station and Hotel Adlon, in Berlin, were included in a list of potential targets.

According to CNN, "news emerged last week that Western intelligence officials were looking at information about a possible 'Mumbai-style' attack in cities across Europe."

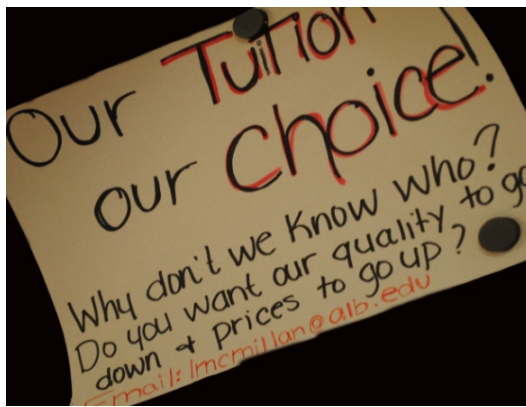
According to Fox News, "State Department spokeswoman Nicole Thompson said she could not recall another Europe-wide alert of this nature."

On Oct. 28, 2010, the Eiffel Tower was evacuated for the second time in two weeks, and Sweden raised its terror threat alert to the highest in the nation's history on Oct. 1, 2010, according to the Guardian.

Man Shot in U.S.-Mexico Border Lake, Wife Forced to Leave Body

According to the Associated Press, Texas residents Tiffany Hartley, 29, and David Hartley, 30, were sightseeing in Falcon Lake on Sept. 30, 2010.

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Students Voice Opinions in Jake's Place
Photo: Morgan Hanlon

you bring in an outside corporation you lose control."

Clearly, there is as much concern among the faculty as the student population.

Continued Androne, "There is a notion that we are fractured as a community and that's a real loss. A company would not be as responsive to the college's concerns."

Albright College Vice President of Administration and Finance William Wood, working alongside Crance in a behind-the-scenes role, says subcontracting is ex-

Albright's "Perfect 10"

2010 Homecoming Preview

by Nicholas Homa
Albrightian

Albright's 2010 Homecoming Weekend is sure to be one to remember, with three days of festivities for both students and alumni. The "Perfect 10 Weekend" borrows its name from one of the dates upon which some of the events take place, Oct. 10, 2010 (10-10-10).

Homecoming kicks off on Friday, Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m. with a 60th reunion luncheon for the class of 1950. The luncheon commemorates the returning alumni and gives them a chance to discuss their experiences at Albright. The luncheon will take place at the South Lounge Fireside in the Campus Center.

Festivities for returning alumni will continue Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. with the 50-Plus Club Induction Ceremony. The ceremony serves as a rite of passage for members of the class of 1960 as they celebrate 50 years since their grad-

uation from Albright College. The induction will take place in the South Lounge West in the Campus Center.

Friday's activities continue with a tour of the new additions to the Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science, consisting of over 41,600 square feet of state-of-the-art lab space. The tour will take place at 5 p.m. and depart from Sylvan Pond.

For those looking for a more theatrical way to spend their homecoming evening, the Domino Players provide a very viable option. The Domino Players are performing their most recent play, Arabian Nights, directed by Terri Mastrobuono. The performance will take place at 8 p.m. at the Wachovia Theatre in the Center for the Arts.

On Saturday Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Albright will hold its Repeal of Prohibition Tailgate. Alumni, parents and friends who are over the age of 21 may participate and park their vehicles for food and celebration. For the first time ever,

the festivities will include a special reunion tailgate area for all reunion classes from 11:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.

Albrights Rock 'n' Rollin' Homecoming parade will kick off on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to spectate as parade participants ride their floats down 13th Street. Prizes will be awarded to the participants in three categories: Most Spirited Pooch, Best Decorated Baby Stroller and Greatest Decade Costume.

If you're looking for an alternative to Saturday's on-campus activities, the Journey to the Moon trip gives participants the chance to visit the Planetarium and Reading Museum. The Planetarium bestows the ability to experience the universe in fantastic detail. Guided tours through the Reading Museum will also be given. The transportation shuttle departs from 13th Street in front of the registration table at 1 p.m.

The homecoming game takes place from 1 p.m. till 4

p.m., in which our Lions play against the Lycoming Warriors. The game will feature a halftime crowning of this year's homecoming king and queen, inductions to the hall of fame, and alumni association awards honoring the football team from 1960. They finished undefeated with an overall 9-0 record.

The Alumni Awards Brunch takes place on Sunday, Oct. 10. The brunch will honor past alumni who have gone on to accomplish noteworthy achievements like Distinguished Alumnus John I. Risinger, PH.D. He serves as the director of gynecologic oncology research at Michigan State University College of Medicine. The brunch will cost \$15 to attend.

The painstaking amount of planning that went into creating the 2010 Homecoming Weekend will surely be one to remember, with an illustrious array of activities spanning three days.

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tive reasons", "[A potential switch] will allow the college to make more money and improve its current set-up [with less money]," says the Penn State alumnus. "Steve [Amore, director of food services] wants more focus on nutrition in the dining services. Larger [professional] firms have nutritionists on staff. The employee training would be completely covered by the company without having to bring in people to train the staff."

Capital funding still is the number one driving force for the college administration, regardless of other perceived motivations according to both vice presidents. Achieving financial stability is one of the colleges four pillars of success in its strategic. Student satisfaction and retention are also big factors exploring an outside management firm.

"The rule of thumb for a college of this size is that it can expect \$1 million of renovations," said Wood. "The cost to renovate to more modern, up-to-date facilities including updating Jake's Place and the Dining Hall would probably cost more than that estimate."

Amore can submit a business proposal that displays how the present situation can be profitable and overhaul the current set-up over the next three to four years. If the proposal is unsuccessful, it appears that the self-operated food services may have its days numbered. It is responsible for us to ask the question [of students being satisfied with the current service]," said Crance. "It's also important for retention and we will certainly ask questions on our [Albright's] terms."

Dean Crance stressed the importance of student involvement in this study and said that she has asked the SGA President, a student athlete and an international student to represent the student community on the study's committee. Amore will also sit on the committee. A number of other employees from departments affected by a potential change in food service providers will serve on the committee.

"It's scary to be evaluated, and feel vulnerable," continued Crance. "[There are] absolutely no planned changes for student or dining hall employees simply because of the study."

The campus dining study's committee will meet for the first time Oct. 8. SGA President Kat Biehl's job on the study's committee will be to provide the student perspective. She said she hopes to convey important information as well as ask the questions students would like answered. Biehl said that the study "could go a number of ways."

However, Biehl highlighted the effort Food Services puts into its production including vegetarian, vegan and organic options and the special dinners. She said, "that's what makes it [Food Services] special." Biehl encouraged those who are invested in something like Albright's Food Services should "speak out and be involved."

Wood and Crance both said despite reports contrary to popular opinion, outsourcing food services should be able to host the special dinners. Wood referenced his former employer, Hartwick College, as an example of a school as they continued to host themed dinners even after bringing in an outside management firm.

Amore said that the department first heard about this study on the morning of Sept. 8 just hours prior to when students received the email detailing this change. While he said that little information has yet been revealed, the idea of the study does "create a level of uncertainty." However, he said that as the process of the study is elaborated on, the employees of Food Services "will develop a level of comfort and stand on our merits."

Amore said that, as of now, everyone is remaining "optimistic" about the study. He also said that food services is interested in "learning things about who we are and how the campus perceives us. It is an opportunity for us to develop and make improvements."

As for how the new study would affect the student force that currently is employed through food services, Amore said that the students are an "integral part of the workforce" due to the "tremendous workload" involved with food services, which serves about 2,200 meals daily and runs full-scale catering, retain operations and the Albright Early Learning Center. Amore said the food services team plans to present a "competitive proposal." He said that the employees of food services "understand the value of service and always have a strong desire to appease the students, staff and faculty. We would like to do this by maintaining a self-sufficiency."

While some students are unsure about how this study could affect the school, freshman Jess Weil has chosen to write a petition against this study. Weil said that her previous experience as an employee of Passavant Retirement Community, which also outsourced its food services division, inspired her to fight against this change. She said that she was "concerned of the probability that student and

part-time employees" would find their jobs in jeopardy. She said that her experience from the nursing home and conversations she's had with friends from other colleges that have outsourced has given her reason to believe that allowing a third-party into food services would "cause a shift over to more mainstream companies" and there is a "high likelihood of the quality of food going down."

Weil said that the students "may originally feel like there are benefits, but the cons will eventually outweigh the pros."

Weil encourages any student who wants to keep the current food services operation to sign the petition and said copies will be sent to the director of food services, Crance, McMillan, the Board of Trustees and possibly the Alumni Committee.

Jessie McKee, a freshman, started working in the dining hall at the beginning of the semester. Though the email sent out by the administration said that the school will work to protect the jobs of current employees, McKee said, "I'm kind of debating that fact, because if they do outsource, I'm worried about freshmen losing their

jobs first."

McKee urges students to "have the study go positively by signing the petition and keeping people's jobs."

From a more generalized view, McKee said she is worried about tuition hikes for room and board because of more outsourcing.

In the e-mail from Crance, it was mentioned that Albright is affiliated with 14 other schools. These schools are labeled "benchmark schools" because they are the schools the college bases its performance and future goals of off. Out of these, 12 schools are affiliated with outside food management while only a few are self-operated. Peter North is the director of auxiliary / life safety at Gettysburg College, one of the few schools that is still self-operative. Though Gettysburg College is self-operative, North explained why some schools might choose to work with a contractor.

"The most prevalent reason is the contractor will typically provide capital for renovations." However, he said, "Self-operation allows you to retain control which would be lost -- to a point -

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Tiffany Hartley stated that she and her husband crossed into the Mexican side of the lake, at which point pirates on speedboats attacked them. David Hartley was allegedly shot in the back of the head as they fled, and his wife turned to help him but was unable to pull his body aboard her watercraft. She then retreated to the U.S. side and was aided by a passerby.

The body and David Hartley's watercraft have not yet been recovered.

Honor the Fallen - September

There were 23 soldiers of the United Army, four midshipmen of the Navy (three SEALs), three Marines and two members of the Air Force killed in action during the month of September.

President Barack Obama declared Operation Iraqi Freedom over on Aug. 31. The Albrightian salutes the men and women who put their lives on the line for the protection of our Constitutional rights, specifically the freedom of press.

Courtesy of iCasualties.org and Military Times.

thealbrightian

Albright College • Box #1132 • 13th & Bern Streets
P.O. Box 15234 • Reading, PA 19612
albrightian@albright.edu • ph: 610.921.7558 • f: 610.921.7530
www.albright.edu/albrightian

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The voice of Albright College since 1904

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell': Repeal Fails in Senate

by Victoria Piscitelli
Albrightian

On Sept. 21, 2010, a \$726 billion defense policy bill was proposed to the senate. The bill, presented by Democrats, included a provision to repeal "Pub.L. 103-160," which is the law commonly known as "don't ask, don't tell." The bill failed to pass, due to a unanimous vote against it by the Republican members of the senate.

Seventeen years ago, "don't ask, don't tell" was passed to enforce the already standing policy in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), "10 U.S.C. § 654," that stops gays from openly serving in the military. Anyone found to be violating this policy was to be discharged from the military, unless one of the exceptions from the UCMJ is applicable.

Many gay rights groups are pushing to repeal the law.

They say that it is unfair and discriminatory to not allow openly gay individuals to serve in the military. Some argue that being gay or straight does not affect the morale of the troops and that anyone who wants to serve should be allowed to serve.

Junior Kristen Rod is very passionate about this issue, and commented: "I think that the repeal for don't ask, don't tell is just another step back. It's awful that people that want to fight for our country cannot just because of their sexual identity. The people comfortably sitting on their couches, driving their fancy cars, should not be worried about the sexuality of a person fighting for that comfort. In the end, a soldier is not defined by who they take home at night, but how much they are willing to sacrifice for a country like ours."

Throughout history, there have been many debates over equality in serving in the

armed forces. Activists argue that African Americans and women have gone through the same struggles, and both have been allowed to serve for many years.

Many military leaders and troops believe that allowing gays to be open about their sexuality will affect unit cohesion and morale. Many worry about the negative effects, especially when soldiers have such close bonds with each other.

Military members who are opposed to repealing the bill do not want preferential treatment to be given because of someone's sexual orientation. They argue that there is no need to broadcast orientation, and the regulation should be left as it is.

The possibility of distractions causes more concern. Humans have a natural tendency to attempt to protect a loved one, especially a lover, in harm's way. On the battlefield this reaction can be danger-

ous to the individual and the whole unit. For this reason, women in the military are not allowed to have jobs that will put them directly into combat situations.

The general public has many misconceptions about the military. For instance, it is a little known fact that there are consequences for being caught committing any act of public affection with a fellow soldier, whether it is a homosexual or heterosexual act.

A Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, who would like to remain anonymous, does not believe this is the most important issue at this time, but said: "I do not go around telling everyone that I am straight, it is just assumed. Right now there is a policy on no public display of affection in the military so I believe that if it is left alone it would not be such a big issue."

The prevention of sexual harassment is a major concern

for the cohesion of a military unit. In mandatory classes on prevention, they refer to the policy as "don't ask, don't tell, don't harass, don't pursue." Today's cultural stereotypes of the gay community can easily lead to misunderstandings and charges of harassment.

The issue is not the military's opinion on gays, but a matter of pros and cons of allowing them to be open about their sexual orientation.

The bottom line is that being a soldier means the possibility of giving up who you are for who you need to be: setting aside your differences for the good of the mission. It means that being an individual is not as important as your duty to your country and your fellow soldiers. At the end of the day, all that really matters is getting everyone home safely.

Check out more about DADT at www.npr.org.

Asalaamu Alaikum = Hello

by Adam Stamm, based in Cairo
Albrightian

Arabic is a difficult language to learn. For anyone who has tried to learn to read and write the language, this statement falls short in describing the difficulty of the language. It is quite common to find native Egyptians that have spoken Arabic their whole lives and insist that while they can speak the language, they never wanted to learn how to read or write it. Put simply, Arabic contradicts so many common functions from English and other European languages.

It should first be said that common knowledge of opening a book doesn't apply. Arabic is read from right to left. It is a difficult habit to replace, and to suddenly switch from Arabic to English readings after a few hours of studying can be quite confusing.

While there are only six more letters in the Arabic alphabet than the English alphabet, each letter changes how it looks by the position it is placed in a word. To add to the difficulty there are a large number of letters that have the exact same shape and can only be identified by how many dots, or the position of the dots the letter has. For example the similar phonetic letter "b" has a dot under its symbol. If a person accidentally places the dot above the symbol the letter becomes an "n" phonetically. There are many cases where this happens, but over time it is possible to make sense of the language.

The BBC reported on a team of neuro-scientists at the University of Haifa who have unlocked the reason Arabic is difficult. In a study of a group of students who spoke Hebrew, English and Arabic, the scientist flashed words to students in a fifth of a second on a computer screen. They found that when words in Hebrew and English appeared, the students used both the right and left hemispheres of their brain. It was found that because there is so much detail in Arabic, only the right hemisphere of the brain is used, making the language quite difficult.

If the characters in the language weren't hard enough, learning the differences in the character sounds are. The most noticeable difference in letters are those that speakers must use the inner most sounds of the back of the throat. Quite romantic, right? There are classes where students must strenuously try to recreate the noises that are made when a person gargles mouthwash in the morning. While these sounds can be unmistakable, there are letters that are near impossible to differentiate.

In Arabic, there are two "h" sounds. There is a "haa" sound that someone might make when they are laughing, and there is the "huh" sound when might release a signifying sound of confusion. With a simple slip of a tongue, a novice in Arabic could alarm or confuse the native listener because of how easy it is to accidentally say something that the speaker didn't mean at all.

There is a wonderful

story about an international student who mixed up these two sounds and completely confused the person to whom he was speaking to. After a long bus ride this international student had to find a bathroom as quickly as possible. The student believed he knew what he said, and he speedily hurried over to a group of men standing on the side of the street. As he approached

the men, he begins to ask as carefully as he could where he could find a bathroom. The men did not answer. The student, perspiring, frantically asked again where a bathroom was. Some of the men smiled, while others looked extremely confused. The irritated student walked away and eventually found a bathroom. Later in the day the student found out that he had used the wrong

"h" sound and said a completely different word. Instead of asking "where is the bathroom" the student was frantically asking a group of men, "Where is the pigeon?"

While extremely difficult, Arabic is a beautiful language. It is a pearl that is clasped beneath reversed word placement and difficult vocabulary, but when it is spoken it is a language for all to hear.

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The Potential of Youth - Football looks to rebound

by Mandie Mulcahy
Albrightian

After coming off a very successful season last year, the Lions currently have a record of two wins and two losses.

The Lions are a young team this year. They lost 14 starters and three team captains. Five of those players were four year starters. The Lions aren't letting that hold them back, though; they are gaining experience and maturing along the way. Head Coach John Marzka notes that the team has already come a long way since the beginning of the season.

This season, Marzka is most pleased with the offensive line.

"There are four returning starters as well as a new starter this year, Taylor

Howes. They set the tone for the whole football team. It's a very physical, intelligent, athletic line," explained Marzka.

The coaches strive to prepare the players to apply the lessons they've learned on the field regarding success to other parts of life where it's applicable.

"We see the football field as an extension of the classroom. Lessons learned on the field are as valuable as anything you can learn in a classroom," explained Marzka.

Football at Albright College is not simply a sport. The team is prepared to handle challenges in the real world, too.

"We want to teach our guys how to make big plays

on the field when it counts because if we can do that, we can teach them how to make big plays in the real world. When the time comes, they're going to



Albright Trio of Patrick McCarthy, Nate Coe, and Tony Brennan
Photo: Morgan Hanlon

know how to do it because they learned it here. That's what I love most," continued Marzka.

The Lions have six ma-

or season goals this season. The three most important are to survive camp, win the opener and be 1-0 every week.

"We don't play one 10-week season. We play 10 one-week seasons," explains Marzka, referring to the team's mentality.

This weekend, the Lions face a long time rival, Lycoming College, in Albright's Homecoming game.

Lycoming has been at the top of the conference for the past 15 years.

"They have a great coaching staff, aggressive players, great defense, and they're always well prepared," said Marzka. "I can appreciate that because we do so much of the same,"

continued Marzka.

Earlier in the season, Lycoming beat Ithaca by one, which was a huge win for the team.

"It says a lot about where they are this year," added Marzka.

However, the Lions plan to approach this game as they would any other, with determination and heart.

"Favorite part is just being able to go out on Saturdays in front of the crowds; being able to play the game. Homecoming is no different for us. We want to come out and be 1-0 after the game," explained junior tailback Josan Holmes.

Coming off a 38-35 loss to Wilkes University, the Lions face Lycoming College in the annual Homecoming game Saturday, Oct. 9 at Shirk Stadium at 1 p.m.

Rugby Rises From the Ashes

by Grace Marcus
Albrightian

Albright rugby, once a prominent varsity sport, has experienced much adversity in recent years.

They were shot down, but they're not giving up. In fact, they're working harder than they ever have before.

Throughout the history of sports, there has been an ongoing debate over which sport is rougher: rugby or football. Rugby has become increasingly popular throughout the world and even here at Albright College.

The Albright's men's rugby team is by far one of the most intense sports to watch and play. Broken bones, bruises and concussions are commonly sustained injuries on the field.

A rugby game consists of 15 players on the field at all times with two 40-minute halves. There is no padding. The only protection that is given to rugby players is either a scrum cap or mouth guard. When a player scores, it is worth five points and called a "try." One of the many challenges the team has to face is waking up Sunday morning after a game. Conditioning and continuous running for 40 minutes is another hurdle many of the players.

Various Albright students can attest to the fact that rugby has become a very popular sport on campus.

Senior captains Luke Sutliff and Sean Ferro have high hopes for the future of

the season and team. With around 30 members on the team, they plan to continue dedicating their time and energy into making the club sport suitable enough for to re-entrance into Albright's varsity athletics.

Ferro also is saddened looking back on his time as a freshman on the rugby team. "Four years ago we were ranked number three in the nation in division two. We lost our coach, Jason Horowitz, due to embezzlement and could no longer recruit players," said Ferro.

As an effect of losing their coach, the rugby team's budget dropped and the team became an organization that is student-run.

There is no longer anyone on the team who was recruited to Albright. Everyone is there fully on their own accord.

Since the loss of their coach, Ferro has stepped up as team captain and coach. When it comes to practices, scheduled games, and coaching, the team is left to do it on their own.

The team has been out of league for three years now. However, they were promised to get back into the EPRU (Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union), under a few conditions. The EPRU is the second largest union.

"We are trying to get back into the league so the EPRU wants to know if we are a sustainable team. We are the B side of Penn State Berks rugby team and if all goes well we will be a part of the league again," ex-

plained Sutliff.

"We have to prove that we have over 25 players who show up to every game without any money issues. By doing that, we have split duties of the team amongst the players so there is a treasurer overseeing the collecting dues and paying insurance and dues," explained Sutliff.

The two confident captains hope that Albright's rugby team will become part of the league in the very near future.

With all of the time and energy put into making the players better, the teammates have started looking at each other as true brothers.

"No one regrets joining and everyone is always having fun. Our goal is to make it back into the league and to incorporate our group with as many other organizations on campus," said Ferro enthusiastically.

A great deal of effort goes into the rugby team itself. It takes passion and dedication to keep the team up and running.

"Anyone can tell you that when you join and have not played a contact sport before, you come in as a wad of cookie dough, but leave carved out of wood. The toughness and aggression grows each week in rookies," said Ferro. "People who join as seniors always wish they had joined their freshman year," he continued.

Another important aspect of the rugby team is grades.

"We keep on top if each

student's grades and constantly badger anyone who is slacking in their classes," explained Ferro.

With the number of duties required of the rugby players to keep the team together, there are also other challenges they face.

"It can be frustrating at times, teaching new members

the game, but also we are going to lose seven seniors this year," noted Sutliff.

The men work and continue to strive to reach their goal and become part of Albright's official sports teams once again. Their next game is scheduled for this weekend against East Stroudsburg University.

Lady Lions Rising to the Top

by Justin Choate
Albrightian

As the season progresses for the Lady Lions field hockey team, they continue to stay hot, winning their first conference game on Saturday October 25th. The Lady Lions held on for the win to defeat Shenandoah University 1-0.

Freshman forward and midfielder Ashleigh Bradley scored the goal for the Lady Lions in the 31st minute. It was her third of the season.

Freshman goalie Marguerite Delucas, earned her sixth win of the season.

The Lady Lions started off the season with two losses to Delaware Valley College and York College. Rather than settling, the Lady Lions fought back to win the next three straight against Immaculata University, 2-1 in overtime, Stockton College 1-0 and Keystone College 4-0.

After falling to Cabrini College 2-1, the Red and White took another two victories against Neumann University 6-3 and Goucher College 3-0.

"Every game is important because we need to take our mistakes from the game

before and correct them. We need to stick together and make as little errors as possible because every game is winnable," explained freshman Candice Tate.

As the season moves along the Lady Lions hope to continue down the track they are on now.

"There is always room for improvement. We want to try our best and hopefully improve from last season," added Tate.

The ladies hope to remain on top of the Commonwealth standing.

Albright finished last season with a record of 6-13-0 overall and 2-5 for the conference. But with their current overall record of 6-4 and 1-1 in the Commonwealth, the Lady Lions have already shown improvement this season.

With eight games remaining this season, five of which are Commonwealth Conference games, the girls have a great chance of improving upon last season's record.

The Lady Lions face Widener University tomorrow, October 8th, at 3 p.m.

A Night of Ancient Storytelling A Review of Arabian Nights

by Helen Anderson
Albrightian

Although many people may think that the title of the Domino Players' most recent performance was taken from the Disney movie *Aladdin*, "The Arabian Nights" is a collage of colorful stories all spun and tied together like prints in a silk scarf. This play kicked off the Domino Players' year-long celebration of female playwrights. This adaptation of "The Arabian Nights" was also directed by a woman, Terri Mastrobuono and written by Mary Zimmerman.

The story begins with King Shahryar (senior Chris Roche), who was betrayed by his first wife. As a method of coping, he not only kills his wife but then weds, loves and kills a new girl every night until there seems to be no more dames to deflower.

This all changes when Scheherazade (sophomore Karina Grossman) agrees to be with Shahryar while her younger sister Dunyazade (sophomore Jazmine Henry) accompanies her. Meanwhile, her father (Dr. John Pankratz) waits every night with her burial shroud. Scheherazade manages to keep the king from killing her by

weaving wonderfully funny, sad and wise stories every night for 1000 nights that make him want to hear more from this enchanting orator.

Soon Shahryar begins to show his softer side, and his heart is healed by Mistress Scheherazade's numerous stories. She is eventually released from his control but chooses to stay with him. Additionally, her sister and father's lives are spared by the king.

This premiere production features many veteran upperclassman actors as well as a handful of novice and talented freshman. Siobhan O'Hara and Megan Walls play a number of the female dancers and slave girls in the show. Logan Toomey, with his sonorous and booming voice, and Tyler Ryan, with his sly grin, are excellent in their various male roles.

When asked what it was like to work with the upperclassmen and Dr. Pankratz, Megan Walls happily replied, "It has been amazing! I saw The Cherry Orchard last year and I remember thinking so highly of the people on stage. I couldn't wait to go to the same school as them and to be able to learn from them. Since then I have learned that they are just ordi-

nary people with extraordinary talent. Every single member of the cast, including the other three freshmen, has taught me something."

April A. Jones, a sophomore theatre major, commented on her gratitude for the show's director. "I give my props to Terri. She had a lot on her plate and she needed to figure out her direction in a short amount of time. I think she did a great job," she remarked. Jones also spoke about the sexual nature of the play: "Terri told us from the beginning that she didn't want us, the cast, to hide the fact that his was a sexual show. She wanted us to be comfortable with our bodies and trust ourselves."

Although it takes place in ancient times, *The Arabian Nights* is a story that says a lot about human nature and how we deal with or avoid matters of the heart as well as our physical and emotional needs. We must all acknowledge the different aspects of our lives and treasure those that we love because tomorrow might never come, and no one can ever be sure of their future.

If you want to experience modern life lessons from in an ancient setting, then be sure to check out the show!

"Jersey Shore": One New Jerseyan's Opinion

by Amylynn Doffont
Albrightian

"My home is your vacation" is what I used to say before MTV's hugely successful *Jersey Shore* was casted; now it is just a craze at the shore. Not saying I dislike this show or anything, but these people used to be famous, just like you and me. Now, they are famous for being--for lack of a better word--idiots. The comical series is viewed by millions of viewers every week. J-Wow, Snooki, Pauly D, Mike "The Situation", Angelina, Ronnie, Vinny, Sammi, and a new cast member coming on for the second half of the season, Deena Nicole Cortese, are just normal people, living a crazy life in Seaside Heights, NJ.

The reality series began in Seaside Heights and the second season takes place in Miami Beach. There was a lot of early criticism about the show because of all the partying and the Italian-American stereotyping. One of the most major controversies was the common use of the word "guido" that takes place on the show. Though castmembers say that the word is used to describe an attractive Italian male, Italian-Americans were offended by the usage of the word that was once was a slur used against Italians.

Another issue is the portrayal of Seaside Heights. It may look nice on the show, but it is not nice as it looks. I live about fifteen minutes away from Seaside Heights and I go to their beaches in Seaside Park, which are nice; but the Heights not so much. In the summer, it gets hectic

and is almost impossible to get the beach around 11 a.m. because of the craze that is going on about the show. Forget about going to the Seaside Heights Boardwalk at night, because it is FULL of people just waiting to see if the cast walks out of the "Beachcomber" or "Jack and Bill's". This summer, since everyone now knows who cast is and where the show is being taped, fans were all over the boardwalk just scoping out the hot spots where the cast used to go last season, like "Karma and Bamboo". I ventured to the boardwalk over the summer and what I had noticed were two things. One, there is now a sandwich called "The Snooki sandwich" on the boardwalk. And two, there was underwear being made and on the back of them said "The Situation". If I am the only who thinks it's a craze, then I must be crazy.

The reality television show is entertaining and very popular. However, I do not think MTV knew what they were getting themselves into until after the show was aired. The cast-members are an insane bunch, but somehow make at least \$20,000 dollars an episode. And they do not just appear on MTV now; they are on television shows like Rachel Ray and they just recently appeared on MTV's Video Music Awards. To be considered for the cast, all that was necessary was a little temper, strong drinking habits, and fist pumping skills. Judging by the growing success of the show, *Jersey Shore* does not seem to be going anywhere. It is here to stay whether we like it or not.

Who's Hot and Who's Not? Lady Gaga Vs. Rihanna

by Amir Hardy
Albrightian

With Rihanna's new album, *LOUD*, arriving in November and Lady Gaga prepping her much-anticipated sophomore LP for release at the top of the new year, two of pop's brightest shining stars will be in direct competition to be crowned queen of the charts and claim pop culture dominance. Separating and comparing their strengths, it's time to put Lady Gaga and Rihanna head-to-head in a pop diva melee—who's hot and who's not?

Musical Talent

Both artists have provided some of today's biggest hits; but who rules in terms of vocal, musical and creative abilities?

HOT: Lady Gaga takes this one. Love or hate her, Gaga is an artist's artist. She plays instruments, writes and produces. Not only is she a better vocalist than her pop counterparts, but she has artistic control over the music she is releasing. Not to mention, with just an album and EP under her belt, she has matched the worldwide sales that Rihanna has collected with the release of four albums.

NOT: Because Rihanna commonly records the material that she is given by today's big-

gest producers and songwriters, it is suspected that she is mainly driven by commercial success instead of artistic expression. Though she is talented, Rihanna seems to make guaranteed hit records and lacks some of the artistry and originality that Gaga's music has.

Fashion Legacy

Gaga and Rihanna have both been accepted into the elite world of fashion with prominent magazine spreads, jaw-dropping red carpet fashions and influence through their fashion senses. But who has the grander influence?

HOT: Rihanna has earned the respect of some of the most highly esteemed members of the fashion industry. She has been featured in *Vogue Italia*, landed endorsements with Gucci and sat front row in New York and Paris Fashion Weeks. Additionally her personal style has influenced clothes that can be normally spotted in affordable stores like H&M and Forever 21. Her hairstyles have influenced women across the world, all aiming to get the "Rihanna look." Not only does her fashion sense earn her a place with the big names of the industry; but it also inspires and connects to her fan-base and general public.

NOT: Lady Gaga is defi-

nitely an important member of the fashion industry, but unlike Rihanna, she lacks the role as a trendsetter and style that is considered accessible by the average Joe. With Gaga, it is more about the statement she is making, more-so than the catchiness of her personal style. Rihanna manages to capture both of these elements effortlessly.

Pop Culture Notoriety

There are several celebrities that contribute to the definition of modern pop culture and create the aspects that will still be remembered decades from now. Both women are major players in pop culture, but who has the more significant impact?

HOT: It's a tie! Both women are extremely famous for who they are and the art that they create. Whether it is hit records, stunning magazine covers or major endorsements, their success will continue to rise as long as they stay true to themselves.

With both ladies preparing to continue their reigns with their new albums, both are hoping to squash all in their way and own every aspect of pop superstardom. 2011 is shaping up to be an interesting and revealing year. Let the best diva win.

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Adopt-a-Public Safety Officer Program Launched Bridges the gap between public safety and residential community

by Jordan Bonte
Albrightian

Albright College has begun a new program in order to familiarize students with Public Safety officers. This program is called, "Adopt a Public Safety Officer" and was created by Captain Michael Gross, director of Public Safety. According to Gross, the Adopt a Public Safety Officer program "places one of our Public Safety Officers in a residence hall on a more frequent basis for familiarity." The Adopt a Public Safety Officer Program is meant to make the officers more approachable to students. If an incident occurs and a student needs to talk to an officer, the student will be comfortable with doing so.

"Each officer will spend a portion of their working shift in the particular residence hall they are assigned to. The ideal is that residents and housing staff will become familiar with the officer . . . bringing

a sense of community to the residence hall. By getting to know each other, everyone becomes more comfortable with asking and answering questions that sometimes go unanswered. People tend to interact and communicate more with people they are familiar with. Hopefully, the program will help in reducing some problems that commonly exist in residence halls. In addition, officers will conduct two programs a month with housing staff for the residence hall." Every resident hall is involved in the Adopt a Public Safety Officer program; the resident assistants are working with Public Safety Officers to run the program.

Resident Assistants also attend two programs run by Public Safety to help them run the program more efficiently. Brianne Williams, the Resident Assistant for the fourth floor of Albright Court, has gained insight from these programs. "It helps us be-

cause a lot of times the people that come are residents, [and they] will take it a lot more seriously because they see an adult figure here," says Brianne upon reflecting on the program, "It helps to teach us that you can have fun and still be safe and do all the stuff that is supposed to be in the dorm."

Many students are not yet aware of what the program is and what it has to offer. Junior, Andrew Stokes was one of the few who were well informed to the program. "It allows a Public Safety officer be a liaison for the dorms," said Stokes, "one officer per dorm patrols the housing facilities once in a while."

Preety Kaur, a junior, also saw the potential benefits to the program; "It can help students because they actually get to know public safety, and it gives them a chance to ask a public safety officer questions that they may not know otherwise, or even specific rules or regulations." Sarab

Sodhi, a senior, thought the program would help to create a bridge between the student body and the officers: "A lot of people are freaked out when they see someone from Public Safety; that's a natural response . . . [they think,] 'they're going to bust me for something.' It makes it a lot easier to actually see them at a meeting. You get to talk to them, you get to ask them questions, and you get to know them as a person. I know pretty much everyone who works in the office, they are all really nice people, it's just that people don't get that . . . they don't get that they can help you with problems if you have them."

Vanara Unga, a junior, responded by saying, "I think it will help students build a relationship with an officer and help them feel more comfortable to find help if they need it." Joanne Pun, a sophomore, added, "If they have any problems with anything, they can talk to them or

[if] they feel like something is iffy in or around their building and they are concerned about it, they usually can ask a Public Safety Officer. It's like their own personal body guard in their building, so that way they will feel more safe because sometimes they're scared about random people coming into the dorms."

The idea for this program came from Capt. Michael Gross, who wanted to find a way to get students more involved with Public Safety Officers. "The initial thought was to come up with something that would get our officers more involved with the residents in residence halls as well as with the resident assistants. I checked numerous college websites and noticed one that had a similar program. I took some of the ideals from their synopsis and added several ideals of my own" said Gross. This program is here permanently and will continue to grow in the future.

From Abs to Zumba

Albright has Fitness Classes for Everyone

by Grace Marcus
Albrightian

Many Albright students say the reasons they came here are the opportunities, activities and resources Albright provides. Trips to Wildwood and an impressive gym are two of the many activities aimed toward keeping students out of their dorm rooms and having fun while making new friends. One thing Albright has that many students tend to overlook are the fitness classes. Think about it, when you're at home you would spend hundreds of dollars for a

gym membership to work out and take classes. Fitness classes have now become very popular and effective for people who want to stay in shape or want to get in shape. Instead of running on a treadmill listening to that same playlist you made for the gym, why not go with a group of your friends and work out together at a class with an instructor who is having fun, and keeping you motivated? Many people do not realize that fitness classes at Albright are a diamond in the rough, once you find them you will never give it up. Junior Alyssa Smith finds time

with her chaotic schedule as a education major to stay in shape and have fun doing it. Smith teaches a Latin cardio jam class Tuesday nights in the fitness room across from the racquet ball courts. "The class is a combination of zumba, reggaeton, salsa, latin hip hop and lots of attitude," Alyssa explains it. "The class is mainly cardio and gives your abs and legs a good workout". Smith talks about the class in more detail, "It's a half hour class on Tuesday's at 7 pm. The class is set at a fast pace, which allows you to use attitude to express yourself and have fun while

burning calories and toning muscles". Smith also notes that when you are done with the class, you are sure to leave in a sweat, so you will feel like you worked out. "The girls who take the class smile and look around and start laughing, they are clearly enjoying themselves." "I did hear one girl say, 'even though I could not do some of the moves, it still was fun' " The class has a set routine that is usually the same every week. "We first start with a five to ten minute warm up, then we learn and go over three dance routines twice, then after doing the danc-

es, then I do a cool down to bring down the heart rate and that is basically the class. The routines are simple but repeating them over and over definitely gives you a good workout." Other than Alyssa's Latin Cardio Jam class, there are other classes that are available during afternoons and nights for students and faculty throughout the week. Classes like, "Butt and Guts", Yoga, "Awesome Abs", "Cardio Kick boxing" and much more are available in the fitness room throughout the week. So check it out you might find a class that interests you.

Albright Housing History: the first of a series

A Look Back at Residential Life in Court and the Woods Apartments

by Anna Berzins
Albrightian

Albright College has seen much construction and renovation since its construction in 1856. Even Albright Court and the Albright Woods apartments have served other purposes in the past before evolving into the residence halls we know them as today.

Sidney Dreese, an Archivist and Special Collections librarian, has been at Albright for 5 years. He has a huge box of folders containing building histories, the sources from which he

acquires most of his information.

"I maintain records of college history, minutes of trustees and faculty, and predecessor institutions to Albright dating back to the 1850s. I have rare books, church records, and some distinct collections such as Berks County Reading, Pa., Pennsylvania Dutch, *Albrightian* archives, thousands of photos, yearbooks and literary manuscripts of local authors."

Albright Court was originally constructed as a hotel for families living in

Reading. A 1951 edition of *The Albrightian* stated that the building opened in April 1931, one block away from the main campus. It originally contained 28 apartments, a far cry from the dorm rooms we know today. According to a 1981 edition of *The Albrightian*, Albright purchased what would eventually become Albright Court in 1952 for \$171,000.

Albright's initial plans were to convert the apartment building into a dormitory for male students. The men's dormitory was to house 125. The apartments'

kitchens were converted to extra closet space and the building had a 12-vehicle garage. Most of the students residing in this building "had the lowest GPA among the dormitories, and were considered 'academic misfits'" according to an editorial comment made in a 1981 edition of *The Albrightian*.

The building's pre-World War II design was remodeled in 1980. The recreation room and the TV room in the basement were both remodeled and new plumbing, electrical, and heating systems were

installed. Albright's Human Resources department used to be located in Albright Court. When they moved out, more space became available to house the roughly 150 students who live there now. It now serves as a co-ed residence hall for students of all grade levels.

Roger Dean Jensen was the first botanist on the faculty at Albright. He died of cancer, but a tree was planted behind the Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science in his memory and the greenhouse was to be named after **Flashback cont'd on pg.7**

Sound the Alarm!

Investigative report finds safety concerns in Woods Apartments

by Tom Spincic
Albrightian

All residence halls are equipped with smoke detectors, but where does that signal go?

Walton, Crowell, Smith, Mohn, and North Halls, along with Albright Court, send signals to the main fire monitoring panel in the Public Safety office. Any status changes are reflected on the grid, alerting the Public Safety officers and fire department to any potential problems and allowing them to be defused as quickly as possible. The Albright Woods apartments, however, are not monitored on this grid.

Michael Gross, assistant director for public safety, confidently assures the buildings are quite safe and adequately monitored.

"All the codes for accept-

ability are met... we check the detectors and buildings daily and provide immediate response to every call."

Signs posted around the Woods apartments indicate clearly what to do in the event of a fire, and who students should notify should they encounter any trouble. It's been working well, as Gross stated there were no major disturbances in the immediate past. Most of the smoke alarm calls made from the Woods, he says, can be attributed to food preparation-related mishaps or students using hair-styling products too closely to the detectors.

If any of this sounds unnerving, take into account the fact that the Woods apartments were initially constructed as temporary housing units that were never actually taken down. Would it make sense

to spend the massive amounts of money required to wire the buildings into the grid if it's all going to be revamped? There has been no public statement in regards to any major upcoming renovations to the Woods. Edward Kappenstein, manager of Albright's Facilities Operations and Services, could not be reached for comment.

While we're on the subject of emergency notification, it's safe to assume every member of Albright's academic community has seen (or, at the very least, heard of) the emergency call boxes with which the campus is peppered. Some call boxes at other colleges and universities have blue flashing strobe lights which activate when the phones are in use. Our call boxes do not have these lights, but are they necessary?

A 2009 article from Emergency Management Maga-

zine examined the need for such lights. There is no body of legislation governing their deployment; by not installing the lights, Albright isn't breaking any rules. Apparently, this issue is hotly debated at other academic institutions nationwide. Some factions argue the lights should stay because parents and students want them, and that the presence of such lights helps strengthen one's sense of security. Yet others maintain the installation and maintenance of such lights are an unnecessary expense, and that they should be removed.

Junior James Zmiewski doesn't think the call boxes need lights.

"It's been a little over two years I've been at this school and I've never even seen anyone use the call boxes, except when the Public Safety guys test them. The campus is pretty

well-lit at night and in a decent area of town... I don't see how one flashing blue light would make a potentially bad situation any better."

Kristin Toth is a senior at Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey.

"Yeah, our school has those blue lights on the call boxes. I still live on campus and am out at night a lot... I like having the lights around, should anything go wrong. I mean, I can scream pretty loud, but I think the blue lights are a little more visually effective. You never know what could happen."

Many people expend immeasurable amounts of time and effort in order to ensure Albright is a safe place. It is fallacious to argue that the unexpected won't occur, but in the event that things go awry, our facilities are well equipped to handle whatever may come.

Flashback cont'd from pg.6

him. Before he died, he suggested the name for Albright Woods, located at the north end of campus.

Soon enough, it became clear that Albright Court would no longer be able to support the ever-growing student body. The idea for a new dormitory was presented to the college's administrators. They approved, and plans to build another dormitory were put into motion. It was to be modeled after apartment-style living and house 180 students.

The Albright Woods apartments were built in 1980 as temporary housing until other permanent structures could be built, but

they still stand today. The Albright Woods apartment buildings were completed in 1983 and are used as housing mainly for juniors and seniors.

Shea Stevens, area coordinator at Albright, offered his perspective on the renovations over the years.

"The neat thing about Albright's history in the dorms is that we've preserved the old, while building the new."

As area coordinator, Stevens manages the housing website, Facebook page, responds to emergency house calls, and performs other clerical duties in the Housing Office.

Food cont'd from pg.2

- with a contracted service. A contractor will be limited by the contract obviously."

Wood did remark that Gettysburg once utilized an outside vendor for its food services, found it insufficient, and returned to self-sufficiency.

North said that one of the keys to maintaining a self-operative dining service is the staff. Of Gettysburg, North said, "Gettysburg is blessed to have some very talented folks on our management team.

Kris Clarkson, dean of students at Juniata College, is partnered with Sodexo Food Management for its dining services.

Clarkson said that the

college has a "very positive relationship with our food services staff and with Sodexo."

Clarkson also said that the partnership with Sodexo has benefited the college because, "Sodexo has been willing to partner with the college on a number of food initiatives and on food-related facility renovations."

Successful or not, all parties agree active student involvement best for the students.

"Students who wish to be involved should attend town hall meetings, open forums and talk to the SGA President about ways to get involved," said Crance.

Androne echoed Crance,

defending the present operations. "The students should know what could really be lost and encouraged student participation in whatever way they can, whether it be getting involved with the SGA, writing into the paper or being involved in the petitions in Jake's Place."

"I wish people would suspend skepticism and allow people who have offered to be a part of the process to do their work," added the Crance.

In like a lion, out like a lamb - only time will tell if the concerns of the Albright community are heard by those making the decision.

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Shanghai Expo 2010: The Melting Pot of Nations

by Shun Kwan (Agnes) Yu
Albrightian

The “Better City, Better Life” theme of Expo 2010 represents the world’s common wish for better living conditions in the future urban environment. The emblem depicts three people standing hand in hand and symbolizes the unity of human beings; regardless of race, gender, religion or other sociocultural factors. The mascot “Haibao” illustrates the Chinese character word “people.” It further emphasizes the importance of humankind, and at the same time, embodies the character of Chinese culture.

More than 190 countries and 50 international organizations participate in this, the largest world fair ever. The grand gathering of the world’s cultures is held from May 1, 2010 to Oct. 31, 2010. Each unit has its own

pavilion introducing itself to the world. The region is divided into five zones, encompassing the pavilions of Asian countries, international organizations and theme pavilions, pavilions of Americans, African Joint and the European, corporate pavilions, urban civilization and exploration pavilions respectively. As of Sept. 28, 2010, the total visitors have hit 56,766,600, according to the Expo 2010 official website.

“If you do not go to Expo 2010, you will regret it. If you go to Expo 2010, you will regret it more.” This is the most common feedback I heard a million times before I experienced the six-month Expo myself. I doubted the seriousness of the problems people complained about. It must be people’s exaggeration only – that was what I thought.

However, I witnessed

the worst elements of human nature when I arrived at the Expo area: people were impolite and impatient; they jumped queues, shouted loudly, pushed one another and so on. Besides, Americans can never imagine how stuffy it can be in Asia during summer. Sometimes queues to enter the famous pavilions take up to five hours of waiting or more. The crowds, in addition to the hot weather, made tourists feel even more discontent.

Despite the dissatisfaction of Expo 2010, contrary to most of the visitors’ comments, I still would recommend people experience this rare occasion where they could “travel” around the world in a couple days.

The transportation inside and outside the Expo site is convenient. For visitors’ convenience to the Expo site, Shanghai constructed a comprehensive

urban transport metro system that enables visitors to reach almost every point in the city. In the Expo site, there are shuttle buses every couple minutes, transporting visitors to different zones. Volunteers are seen everywhere inside the Expo site and are helpful with any queries tourists encounter.

The pavilions’ architecture is incredibly amazing and creative, especially at night, when the pavilions are decorated with neon lights. Some popular pavilions include those of China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Korea, Swiss, France and Germany. Each pavilion has its own theme and highlights. Take the China pavilion as an example: its theme is “Chinese Wisdom in Urban Development,” and its highlight is the traditional Dougong style appearance. The contour design is based on the concept of “Oriental Crown,

Splendid China, Ample Barn and Rich People” to express the spirit of Chinese culture.

There are a lot of “strategies” regarding how to visit Expo 2010 wisely. Common ones are to bring a small portable chair, a portable fan and an empty bottle (since the security in front of the entrances does not allow people to bring in liquid). I would add another piece of advice – do not go to Shanghai for Expo 2010 only -- tour around the city!

China used to be an uncivilized country. After years of growth, some large cities in China like its capital, Beijing, and Shanghai are now well-developed. Shanghai is now the financial and cultural center of China. Echoing the theme of Expo 2010, “Better City, Better Life,” why don’t tourists cherish the opportunity to experience the “real” improved city – Shanghai?

Tutor Appreciation Week in Full Swing with the Wii

by Tom Spincic
Albrightian

Alura Benek takes a step back from the line and exclaims, “I’m really bad at this!”

She is referring to her participation in the Wii Bowling event which kicked off Tutor Appreciation Week. Sponsored by the Academic Learning Center and Writing Center, Wii Bowling took place Monday, Oct. 4 2010 in the Campus Center.

Wii Bowling is just one of the activities praising Albright’s tutors this week. From Oct. 4 to Oct. 9, a kickball game at Kelchner Field, tie-dying, the Tutor Appreciation Reception, the ALC float decorating party and their subsequent participation in the Homecoming Parade all make for an illuminating week based upon the idea of giving credit where credit is due. Additionally, a kiosk in the Campus Center will be up all week allowing the tutored to send thank-you cards to their tutors’ on-campus mailboxes.

Erin Evans, Assistant Dean and Director of the ALC, explains Tutor Appreciation Week began upon hearing about similar events going on at other academic institutions. She felt it would be a great way to show the tutors some extra recognition for a job well done. This is especially highlighted by the recent certification bestowed

upon the ALC and Writing Center from the College Reading and Learning Association, or CRLA.

In addition to a more comprehensive system of certifying the tutors, their importance is amplified by increased responsibility and higher expectations. The tutors, in addition to their academic roles, take on a role of “quiet leadership,” thus raising their profiles on campus. In addition to the thank-you cards in the mailboxes, e-mail tutors receive gift cards and candy at the holidays. Furthermore, Evans aspires to encourage the students thank their tutors in person more often.

“I know how good it feels when it happens to me,” she beams.

Rachel Liberatore, coordinator of the Writing Center, wants to make getting information about soliciting a tutor’s services “less intimidating.” She knows firsthand that the bark of tutoring is less intense than the bite, so to speak-- in college, she herself was a tutor.

Liberatore received her Bachelor of the Arts degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Ia. She went on to obtain two Masters degrees from the University of New Mexico-- one in English, another in language literacy and social-cultural studies. With this much time invested in the academic community, she is a valuable asset to the tutor-

ing system at Albright.

“Find something that challenges you,” Liberatore urges.

Tutors don’t limit themselves by specializing exclusively in one area. Despite the fact that the ALC and the Writing Center are separate entities, half of the tutor training occurring is unified between the two organizations. Writing Center tutors attend the same Academic Enrich-


ment Workshops as ALC tutors. The processes bear similarities to the functions of a committee, with particular emphasis on study skills. Some tutors even split duty between the ALC and the Writing Center. Benek worked for the Writing Center for just a week before being hired by the ALC.

“I was just hired [by the ALC] today,” Benek explains, as she looks up

from her game.

So how did Benek adjust to Wii Bowling? She closed out the game with a strike and a spare. She ended up with a “low score,” but for the 19-year-old history/secondary education major from Summit Hill, Pa., good times were had. Erin Evans could not be happier.

“This was our effort to put the spotlight on the tutors,” she smiles.



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