2014 commencement weekend

Saturday, May 24
2 p.m. Mandatory practice line-up for all graduating seniors
3:15 p.m. Robing for Baccalaureate
4 p.m. Baccalaureate service, Memorial Chapel
Speaker: Bishop Peggy A. Johnson, Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church
5:30 p.m. Jacob Albright Society Dinner & Ceremony (by invitation only), Dining Hall
7:30-10 p.m. Senior Send-off; hosted by the Alumni Relations Office, Campus Center

Sunday, May 25
8:45 a.m. Robing for Commencement
10 a.m. Commencement ceremony, Shirk Stadium
Speaker: Bob Garfield, Co-host of On the Media, National Public Radio
(In the event of severe inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Bollman Center; decision to be made by 6 a.m.)
12 p.m. ALL Graduates Light Fare Reception (tickets not required)
ALL students (traditional day, DCP and graduate) and their families are invited to the Campus Center Dining Hall. This reception is hosted by the Albright faculty. Signs will be posted for the graduates and their families to gather by traditional day academic disciplines, DCP and graduate program.

Need more information? For information about parking, accessibility needs, directions, accommodations, photos and video, tickets, gifts and memorabilia, and to learn more about the speakers and honorary degree recipients, visit the Commencement web site at www.albright.edu/commencement.

SENIOR WALKWAY LEGACY
a great graduation gift!

Not sure what to get your senior for graduation? Why not consider honoring his/her legacy forever on the Albright campus! Through the Senior Walkway Legacy program, you can pay tribute to your student’s successes at Albright by adding his/her name to one of the square pavers in the circular walkway around Sylvan Pond. With a gift of $100 or more—just 12 monthly online payments of $8.33—your student’s name and class year, along with the names of five classmates, will be engraved on a 12”x12” paver.

Parents who make a gift in the name of their student of $100 or more will also qualify their student to be a member of the President’s Council for Young Alumni. This membership provides your student with recognition as a leadership donor to the College, as well as an invitation to the President’s Council Reception. This special celebration, which is held during Homecoming Weekend, shines a light on Albright’s leading donors during an evening filled with delicious food, fellowship and fun!

So what are you waiting for? Sign up today by contacting Kelyn Klein at 610-929-6786 or kklein@alb.edu. For more information, go to http://albright.edu/seniorwalkway/
the volunteer center

Albright College’s Volunteer Center, located on the lower level of the Campus Center, offers a variety of service opportunities and experiences for students to get involved with both on and off campus. The center is in the process of planning several new events to take place this spring, and will be joining the Alumni Association for the first ever Albright College Day of Service on Saturday, April 5.

albright alumni legacy program

Albright alumni parents may greet their graduating son or daughter after receiving his/her diploma and a keepsake photo will be taken. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 1-877-411-7510 or alumni@alb.edu.

Graduation is quickly approaching. Does your son/daughter have a job offer yet? If the answer is no, have him/her contact the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center now at elcdc@alb.edu or 610-921-7630. Not only can we help your student now, but we take care of our alumni forever! As an alumnus of Albright College, your graduate will have access to services such as resume critiques, job search methods, interview preparation and graduate school admission help at any time.

senior send-off

Class of 2014 parents, help the Alumni Relations Office celebrate your senior’s success at the first annual Senior Send-off Event. Join us on Saturday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Campus Center for this fun evening. Alumni, faculty and staff will toast the graduates as they transition into successful, productive and involved alumni!

Heavy hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Check your mail in the coming months for your invitation and the opportunity to register your graduate and family.
housing selection for 2014-15 academic year

Housing selection information was made available to all returning students in late February when the selection process began. Because we know that the spring semester can be a busy time for students, here are some important dates the Office of Residential Life would like to share with parents:

- Please be aware that Albright College does have a sophomore year residency requirement. If a returning student entering his/her sophomore year does not complete the online housing selection process by May 16, 2014, the student’s fall course registration schedule will be automatically cancelled.
- Only registered students are allowed to reside in college-owned housing. If a returning student with assigned housing for the 2014-15 academic year has not registered for classes by May 16, his/her housing assignment will be cancelled and he/she will be placed on the waitlist.

residence hall closing information

All residential students will receive detailed close-down information in early May, but parents should also be aware of the following dates and times:

- Residence halls close for undergraduate students on Tuesday, May 20, 6 p.m.
- Residence halls close for graduating seniors on Sunday, May 25, 6 p.m.

All students should make arrangements to vacate their residence hall by the above times. Students must reserve a time with a resident assistant to complete a final check-out of their room. At this time, the room should be empty of personal items and debris so that it can be inspected for damages.

As parents, our children are the lights of our lives. We take pride in them, nurture them, guide them and support them in their Albright education so that one day they may shine their own light on the world. But our children can’t shine without us.

Through my work as chair of Albright’s Parents Council, I have come to realize that without the financial commitment of so many, Albright would not be able to provide the top-notch academic and extracurricular experiences that benefit our students. I have also learned that many parents like me wish to support the College and the many ways it endeavors to help our students find their lights.

In October, That Their Light May Shine: The Campaign for Albright College was launched publicly. This comprehensive fundraising campaign, the most ambitious in the institution’s history, includes as a central priority increased support for Parents Supporting The Fund for Albright.

Parents Supporting The Fund for Albright is one of the ways you can make an immediate impact on the lives of our students by giving through The Fund for Albright.

Please join me in supporting Albright and our students by making your gift today.

For more information on ways you can help, check us out at www.albright.edu/parents/council.html or contact Kathleen Sutton, director of The Fund for Albright, at ksutton@alb.edu or 610-929-6608.

Jill Marsteller
Parent of Daniel ‘14
Chair, Parents Council
study abroad: one alumna’s life-changing experience

Studying abroad is a wonderful way to experience a new culture, learn about oneself, discover new strengths and abilities, and conquer new challenges. Not only does it provide experiences that a classroom setting couldn’t possibly provide, it presents experiences and opportunities that stay with your student long after he or she has received a diploma.

Sophia Schuster ’12, an environmental studies and political science major, shares how her study abroad experience opened up a whole new world.

I was sitting in Dr. Osgood’s “Latin American Environmental Issues” class when a representative from the School for Field Studies came in to discuss some of the programs. She went through slide after slide, displaying beautiful pictures from around the world—Kenya, Turks and Caicos, Australia, and Bhutan. Wait, Bhutan? What on earth is a Bhutan? I prided myself on being a well-rounded, culturally aware young woman, yet I had never heard of this place. The images in her slides were as if from an oriental dream. I was engrossed immediately and spent the duration of the next week investigating Bhutan, the last standing Buddhist empire in the entire world whose government measured the country’s success on GNH, or Gross National Happiness, as opposed to the common, Western valuation of Gross Domestic Product. It uses the Bhutanese ngultrum and the people speak Dzongkha.

Six months later, I found myself on a plane with 16 other students, none of whom came from Albright or even Pennsylvania. Kuzu zangpo (that means “hello”), Bhutan! While I had participated in travel programs and research projects, and gone abroad with my parents, this was the first time that I had ever travelled alone. The fact that we were all in the same position, however, provided a great comfort, and enabled us to establish friendships quickly. My study group—there were four of us—assessed the local environmental impacts of small-scale hydroelectric dam systems. Others evaluated the social consequences of the dam systems, the common issue of public health in the developing world and specific problems faced by the average Bhutanese family, as well as the effects of deforestation on the local environment and economy. To be honest, though, the more time I spent there, the more I realized that studying and the academic rigor of the program was just a minute part of the overall experience.

I don’t remember the exact scientific method and procedure that I used for my specific part of the research project. I do remember sitting around a campfire and discussing the values of democracy and how Bhutan was faring in its recent transition from a constitutional monarchy. I remember meandering around the capital city of Thimphu, prayer flags in hand, and getting fitted for a kira; hiking to the Taktshang Monastery, or Tiger’s Nest, located on the cliff, 900 meters high, to which Guru Rinpoche rode on a tiger’s back to bring Buddhism to the people of Bhutan; and getting a treasured locket blessed by a Buddhist lama. At the end of the trip, I was so excited to be going home, but I could not help but cry because the experience had opened a window in me, one that I would continue to look through.

Seven weeks. That’s all it took for me. I had always wanted to see the world. After this trip, however, I finally realized the difference between sight and experience. The first resulted in several albums worth of pictures; the latter resulted in memories to which no photo could do justice.

Travel is an addiction, and of all the addictions in this world, it is one that we should truly embrace. It was this addiction that took me to Hungary for a year and a half to teach English as a foreign language.

Deadlines to apply for Study Abroad Opportunities

• For summer 2014: March 28, 2014
• For fall 2014: March 28, 2014
• For spring 2015: October 31, 2014

Questions about Study Abroad?

Have your son/daughter contact Kim Justeson at 610-921-6739 or kjusteson@alb.edu. Check out the website at www.albright.edu/elcdc/el/studyabroad/index.html