

Emily Kertzman '08  
Wheaton College (IL)

*Transitioning to college has been a strange process but an exciting one nonetheless. It is like switching to an alternate reality, one in which there is little familiarity.*

*Although I am not physically at South Shore Christian Academy, I realize that I am still just as much a part of the family as I was from kindergarten to graduation. Going away to college did not mean I would lose the close personal relationships I have developed over the years. My academic and spiritual growth during my time at SSCA can be largely attributed to the influence these relationships had on me.*

*The curriculum at South Shore Christian Academy is taught through the lens of Biblical truth. I am truly grateful that I was able to learn from this perspective, but my walk with God was most encouraged by the personal lives of my teachers. On countless occasions I found myself wandering into their classrooms after school or at lunch to talk about questions I had about God and life in general. Faculty members have prayed with me and talked with me through issues that were extremely painful to deal with. As they continuously cared about me outside the classroom, I saw the reality of Christ and His love, and I wanted that in my own life. No matter what I was dealing with, they always encouraged me to go hard after God and shared stories of His faithfulness. I learned that my relationship with God could not deepen if I did not dig. It is a simple concept, but it is something I did not internalize until this past summer.*

*Beginning to realize the implications of surrendering my life to Jesus, I began my journey as a Wheaton College student. The training I received at SSCA, particularly in AP classes, prepared me for college work. Rigorous AP classes forced me to be responsible with my time, which is definitely a constant struggle in college. A fair amount of the material I am currently learning in some of my classes has already been introduced in high school. This gives me more confidence when I have to study for or take an exam.*

*With the independence one gains as a college student comes the responsibility of making Godly decisions. At SSCA, because my teachers knew me personally, they knew when I was giving my best. They were there to remind me that our best brings God glory and He knows we are human and are often going to fail.*

*Regardless of where I am or what I am doing, the purpose of my life is to be a witness of the living Jesus Christ. It is only by His grace that we can live for Him. The choices that I make need to be consistent with His character.*

*I thank God that I grew up at a school where teachers encourage their students to dedicate their lives to the Lord and help prepare them to make choices on their own.*

*Julia Marley '08  
Smith College*

*I think I have much more work to do here (than at SSCA) but I have more time to do it.*

*My schedule is unique in that I only have one class on both Mondays and Tuesdays, so I sort of have a four-day weekend to do my work. There can be A LOT of reading. My first paper was a success. I had a fairly good argument, but was very confused when I wrote it, so I took it to the writing center here (I can't believe everyone doesn't use it, it's such an amazing resource) and a writing counselor gave me some really good advice on how to make it clearer. I got an A and was very happy.*

*Sometimes I get confused in my astronomy class. It takes a lot of imagination from me because I'm not science-oriented. I understand the ideas we go over, it's just hard to wrap my mind around the lab reports sometimes. But the teachers are very helpful.*

*Spanish is so much fun; I'm understanding my teachers (one teaches the class and the other leads the discussion sessions) and feeling more confident about my grammar. I definitely want to continue with it, and maybe minor in it.*

*Basically, I think the most important thing is knowing how to manage your time. So many girls stay up until 3 in the morning to finish their work because they procrastinate all the time. I definitely plan to stay well-rested because I can't think creatively when I'm exhausted. Also, you have to choose classes and activities carefully so you don't overload yourself. I have a really good set of classes that's balancing well so far (my poetry workshop is the one I didn't mention. I have a fabulous teacher).*

*I feel very comfortable and prepared here.*

*It's just about putting your nose to the grindstone and not worrying about your performance beyond that.*

Emilee Cox '08  
Gordon College

*I love college! I'm a freshman at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. I'm a Biology/ Pre-med major, so it can get pretty busy. Last week I had three papers due and three tests. So you can imagine I was pretty stressed out. I love it though. I love my classes and I'm learning a ton! My Cells and Genetics professor is so great. I've learned a lot from him. He comes into class singing random bio songs, such as the Mitosis song. He's a good time. It's been hard trying to adjust to his way of teaching though; he's very different from my teachers at SSCA.*

*I'm taking a lot of hard classes this semester, but it will be worth it in the end. Most of my classes are core classes which means they're mandatory. They can be a little annoying but I'm glad I'm being forced to take them. My Christianity, Culture, and Character class is somewhat like Moral Issues. We have been learning how to adopt a Christian worldview and defend our faith. It lasts all year so it's split into two tracks, the service learning track and the regular track. Right now I'm in the service learning track. We had to choose ministries to participate in with the Gordon in Lynn program. I teach English as a second language at the Ford School in Lynn.*

*Besides classes, I pretty much do homework and hang out with my friends. I don't have the time to do any extracurricular activities at the moment. I was doing Young Life which is a ministry that goes into the local high schools and does like a youth group, but it's a big time commitment. Maybe next year. Oh, and I work in the dining hall on the weekends and a little deli called Gillies on Mondays. It's really fun. I make sandwiches for people, it's hard work! I've also been known to stack a few chips. But other than that, I really just hang out and study. My floor is the best floor known to man! We have floor dinner and floor fellowship every week so we're all really close. We are also really close with our brother floor. We have floor events like laser tag and dinners. We also watch a lot of movies with them and of course they are a few dance parties here and there! They're great.*

*I'm so glad I got the privilege to go to SSCA. I came into Gordon completely prepared for all the work. They aren't kidding when they say they're a college prep school. I was able to test out of first semester Spanish which was fantastic. Thank you to Mrs. Ambroceo. And since I am a bio major, I'm taking mostly science courses and I'm doing really well in them. Mrs. Stiles is a great teacher, don't take her for granted. I'm ahead in most of my classes because of her. I know all my teachers really prepared me for college; I'm just seeing the results of Spanish and bio now.*

*So those are all the updates I have for you as of now. I would love to see any of you make a college visit here! The campus is lovely and the people are all sorts of wonderful. It was nice to let you in on my life and I hope that you take advantage of your school year because, even though it's totally cliché, it is over before you know it.*