**Individuality—Katie DeMasi, SAC ’18**

The first thing I noticed when we came to your campus was the dorm, Anselm House. My freshman year, I lived in Alumni Hall, which is the building where Saint Anselm College started. Unlike the majority of students at Saint A’s, I am NOT from New England. I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and decided to move up north for college--seven hours away from home. I came to the school having absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. There were so many amazing course options and majors to choose from; frankly, it was overwhelming. I visited the school for politics, then decided to go in as a biology major. I was ignoring my strengths and what I enjoyed doing most--reading and writing. But then one of the first courses I ever took at Saint Anselm pointed me in the right direction.

One of the introductory courses at Saint Anselm across all majors for freshman is Conversatio. Conversatio means “way of life,” and the course itself represents many different areas of study such as philosophy, theology, science, and English literature. My Conversatio professor was one of our monks, Brother Isaac, and he helped me to truly discover my passion. We were reading Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. It didn’t take long for Brother Isaac to recognize how easy it was for me to understand Shakespeare and to see how much I loved it. Soon, he was calling on me in every class. Once I found my passion for literature, I wanted to share it with others. So I declared English and education as my majors. Being a part of both the English and the education departments has helped me to nurture my passions. My experience at Saint A’s has helped me to discover who I truly am as an individual. My hope for each and every one of you is that you will look around and recognize the Brother Isaac in your life and, in doing so, truly find your passions and yourselves.

**Integrity—Casey Flanigan, SAC ’19**

Here at Priory, your definition of integrity is “learning flourishes in an environment of honesty, trust, and personal responsibility.” I want to take that one step further and say that we, as people, are able to flourish in an environment of honesty, trust, and personal responsibility. I believe that the definition of integrity comes down to the phrase of “you be you.” To me, it really means that I am able to be honest with myself about whether or not I’m making the right choices and each day doing what is best for me. I want to be able to trust myself that I have faith in my everyday life and that the direction I am leading myself in is the right one. And lastly, taking responsibility for my actions. In the end, I want to know that the way that I live my life is allowing me to be the best version of me that I can be.

After my first visit to Saint A’s, I knew that it was going to be the place where I could become a part of the community and at the same time become the best version of myself. I have found so many different opportunities to help myself learn and grow over the past two years and I can confidently say that Saint Anselm College has helped me find my best and truest self. After talking with a few students here yesterday, I have come to learn that much like Saint A’s, Priory is also a place where students can grow to become the best versions of themselves. Whether it be inside the classroom or out, all students have the ability to share their differences and be true to themselves. I have found—both at Saint Anselm College and here—that no matter who you are, or where you’re from, you can always be you—your *best* you.

**Spirituality—Noelle DeCroteau, SAC ’19**

Here at Woodside Priory, spirituality is described as how God works in us, through us, and for us. To me, this is a wonderful way to define spirituality in our daily lives.

My spirituality is something I hold close to my heart. I try to listen to God and see what He has planned for me. I do this by reflecting on my days and figuring out what I can do to make myself a better person, not only for God but also for myself. At Saint Anselm College, the opportunities to do this are endless. We have community outreach programs, service and solidarity trips, and an overall message to respect all of our brothers and sisters.

Your definition of spirituality could be the same, could be similar, or could be completely different than my definition. We use our individual spirituality to not only display our faith in something but also to show what it means to us in our lives. So whether we have faith in God, a spirit, a greater higher being, a strong force, or a deep passion for something, figure out how it works in you, how it works through you, and how it works for you. Whatever that may be for you, believe in it, and use it to define your spirituality, who you are, and who you are meant to be.

Because of my spirituality, I feel like I can conquer anything, including traveling thousands of miles away, to California, as a second-year college student, to begin my career journey as a teacher. I am able to do this and so much else because my spirituality allows me to believe that I do have a path and a reason to be here on earth.

**Community—Randy Jack ’18**

I come from a small town only twenty minutes away from Saint Anselm. And so, I began my career as a commuter student. I lived at home and drove to school each day for classes. Within weeks of my first semester, I realized how much I was missing out on. I quickly made the decision to immerse myself in the Anselmian community, so I decided to move onto campus halfway through my freshman year.

  Once I moved on campus, I realized the core of our community: we, as students, share the campus as our home with the monks. On any given day, you will see monks waiting in the same line as the students in our dining hall or coffee shop. Monks, faculty and students can be found trekking side by side through snow on the way to classes. You will even see monks and fans alike cheering on the Saint Anselm Hawks sports teams!

  On most Tuesday nights, you can find Father Cecil among the crowd of students competing in the College pub’s weekly trivia competition.  Few things in this world are as amusing as witnessing an almost-90-year-old priest trying to contribute to trivia questions about Justin Bieber or Harambe the Gorrilla.

The true community extends far wider than my school in Manchester, New Hampshire. In the weeks leading up to this trip, we came to learn more about Priory and how it’s a sister school of Saint Anselm. This truly hit us when we first visited your dining hall and noticed the banners hanging in honor the classes of 2017 through 2023. At Saint Anselm, we also have banners hanging in our dining hall representing each upcoming graduating class. Even though our two schools are more than three thousand miles apart, we are indeed one community, supporting each other in the mutual pursuit of strength and purpose.

**Hospitality—Colleen Gaughan, SAC ’18**

One of my favorite things that Saint A’s does for its students happens on move in day each year. As I first pulled on to campus my freshman year, anxious to start a new chapter in my life, the way was lined with all kinds of students – athletes, RAs, orientation leaders – who were all there to welcome me home. The sports teams even unloaded my car and carried everything into my dorm for me. They did not just do it for me, they did it for every new student there that day. It was surprising to me at the time, but now I see that it was just my first introduction to Anselmian Hospitality.

Since 1889, the monks have welcomed students from all walks of life to make Saint Anselm College their home. As a college community, we have returned that favor by treating everyone who comes on our campus with that same warmth and respect, regardless of who they are. At Saint A’s we often use the word “Anselmian” to describe our fellow students and how they act. Whether it is helping a new comer find their way or holding a door for an awkwardly long amount of time because we someone coming, as Anselmians we always show hospitality.

In addition to being an education and history major, I have also taken on the role of an admissions ambassador on campus. When I’m giving tours, hospitality is my job description. I cannot even count the number of times prospective students and families have commented on how friendly, warm, and welcoming Saint A’s is. The hospitality I felt the first time I stepped on campus is actually what drew me to the school in the first place. I have noticed this same hospitality after being at Priory for less than 48 hours. Seeing how similar your values are to ours, it is no wonder we have had that experience here at Priory or, as Mr. Molak called it, our “West Coast Campus.”

Speaking of Mr. Molak, I’d like to invite him and Mr. Schlaak to join me and my peers up here.

You heard Randy mention the banners representing the different graduating classes here at Priory. We’d like to present to you with another banner, one that we hope will hang as reminder of your “East Coast Campus” and our shared bond as Anselmians.