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*Experience from page 3*

Throughout my career at Mont Alto as a Woodsmen Team member, the foresters continued to encourage me and at some point, I competed in almost every Woodsmen event. I bolt split for the Mont Alto Woodsmen's Team on Saturday at the Mid-Atlantic Meet. At a meet in Canada, I pole climbed and horizontal chopped. In North Carolina I threw an ax. In some of the events I competed in I finished well, even claiming a few first places for Mont Alto, and others I just finished. But finishing in itself is a success for a five-foot nothing girl who had never picked up an ax before.

The history of the forester at Mont Alto is rich and should be celebrated by more of us here. From them and from their sport I learned one of the greatest lessons of my life – to believe in myself.

Having returned to Mont Alto once more, I can see that things have not changed much in five years. The foresters are still the foresters, and I for one hope they always will be, for they are some of the greatest men and women I have ever known.

## Transition From Mont Alto Campus to University Park: One Student's Experience and Advice

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When I was asked to write about what it is like to transition from Mont Alto to University Park, I wasn't sure where I should begin. When my second year at Mont Alto ended, it was a bittersweet time. I knew that I would be leaving behind some of my closest friends who were returning to Mont Alto the following year. I also had to say goodbye to friends who were graduating. On the other hand, there were those who were joining me on my journey. It was hard to leave because I met so many great people; I had the best roommate who I lived with for two years and I was involved in many different organizations/clubs while at Mont Alto.

Summer came and went, and before I knew it I was moving into my first apartment. A week passed and classes started. Now, I'm not going to lie: I was extremely nervous walking onto campus that first day. I actually had my younger sister, who

attended University Park the previous year, show me where my building was. Friends of mine who attended University Park the year before said that I would learn my way around and that the campus wouldn't seem so big after awhile. I thought they were crazy, but it turns out they were right. I felt like I was a part of the campus not long after that terrifying first day.

One of the main differences, aside from the new location, is the classes. By the time you transition to University Park, most of you will be in your majors so you will mostly be taking courses related only to your major. However, a few of those general education courses may need to be scheduled. Be prepared, no matter what class it is: There is a chance that you will be walking into a class that is larger than what the largest classroom at Mont Alto can hold! My first class at University Park was Kines 126 (an

education course) and when I walked in, I found 100+ students sitting in the room. All I could do was gasp! It had to have been a dead giveaway that I was new to this. It was difficult at first to realize I wouldn't get to know my professors the way that I did at Mont Alto.

Adjusting to the change of location was rough. I was so used to my friends living a couple doors down or at the other end of my floor in Mont Alto Hall. Now they are at the other end of Beaver Avenue or a couple miles out North Atherton. For me this was (and still is) the hardest part. Granted, I have met remarkable people here, I have made new friends, and I have actually met one of my roommates for next year. But, it was still hard.

My best advice to anyone transitioning to University Park – don't just sit around when you get here - get involved! There are numerous clubs and organizations here; you are

bound to find something that fits your interest. The best decision I made was to apply for a position on the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG). This particular organization represents all nineteen Penn State locations, including Mont Alto. Through this organization I have met amazing people who were also from different locations and going through similar situations.

Some people have a harder time adjusting than others; I was one of those people. I love it here now. It is a new chapter in my life, but I still miss Mont Alto – the faculty, administrators, staff and people who I became friends with. But, this is another two-year adventure and I plan to make the best of it.

If you have any concerns about coming here, attend the Change of Assignment (since technically that's what we all do when we come up here) Social in the beginning of the year. This

particular event is hosted by CCSG to help familiarize those students coming from different locations with this campus. I would suggest checking out the CCSG website, <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/ccsg>, where you will find information and individuals that you can ask for help. Another great resource to become familiar with is the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). Galen Foulke (President) and Luke Adam (Vice President) are friendly people who will be representing you and the rest of the student body next year. If you have any issues or concerns with University Park, they are the individuals to see.

I wish the best of luck to those who will be coming to University Park in the future. Cherish your time and memories at both Mont Alto and University Park - it goes by too fast!