

The small school experience – building a network

*The Young Alumni Club allows recent Adrian College graduates the chance to give back via an affordable monthly gift. This gift can be applied to support any area of campus.*

*This month's profile features Greg Norton, a 2010 graduate from Cleveland, OH.*

The ability to get to know faculty and staff members, as well as other professionals on and off campus, is one of the most valuable experiences of getting a college education.

Greg Norton got that experience at Adrian College. The Young Alumni Club member said the personal relationships one can build while going to Adrian is integral to being a Bulldog.

“One of the nicest things is the relationships you build in a small classroom setting with your peers and professors,” he said. “It really means a lot.”

Those relationships weren't exclusive to the classroom, however. Greg said he was able to connect with professors he never even had. Greg currently works in health care management and said he received valuable advice from Marcia Boynton, director of the Institute for Health Studies.

“I was able to reach out with her and have several conversations about my career path even though I was never one of her students,” he said.

The network Greg established during his time at AC became more apparent when he entered the real world.

“When I started to work in the real world more and more during my senior year and the first year out of college, I realized I had this network of people who had a vested interest in helping me,” he said. “I've called professors who were willing to take the time to give me guidance, advice, and their opinions. I don't think you'd get that at a bigger school.”

Bringing back a fraternity is another thing students at a bigger school probably don't have the opportunity to do, but Greg did. Like fellow Young Alumni Club member, Mitch Harris, Greg was one of the members who brought Tau Kappa Epsilon back to campus.

And like the small classroom setting, TKE provided Greg the chance to build relationships.

“I would have never met half of the guys on campus because we all had our different groups we hung out with, some of them played different sports, I had my own interests so being able to bring everyone together was great,” he said.

He still stays in touch with some of his fraternity brothers. Greg said one of his closest friends from TKE was a part of his wedding.

Greg was the treasurer of TKE and Student Government Association (SGA). He also served on FIN-COM, allocating money for student groups.

“Learning how to work with groups of people and lead people was challenging but was an unbelievable experience,” he said.

Greg originally had his donations go towards Renaissance II, President Jeffrey Docking’s plan that has seen nearly every academic building renovated during his tenure. He recently had his donation start going to TKE. Greg said it was an easy decision as he currently serves on the alumni board for the fraternity.

“I can’t speak highly enough of that organization or the people that went the process with me,” he said.

Greg said he became a donor because he was part of Phonathon as a student.

“I know how funds are used to grow the school,” he said. “I find that it’s almost a responsibility to give back to organizations that took care of you. Adrian College definitely took care of me and my fraternity. That’s why I participate.”