



Saints Spotlight: Lila Feldmann '20

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Lila Feldmann '20 is, in a word, busy. She's involved in a wide variety of activities and groups on campus, beyond her academic pursuits: she plays varsity volleyball,

performs with the Andrean Ensemble, and can often be seen on stage in Forbes Theatre. She also writes for the newspapers, participates in Model UN, Coding Club, and Adaptive Aquatics, and is co-head of International House, Tastes of Home, and the Student Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship. On top of all that, last year, she started an "SAS Behind the Scenes" video series. Lila, who hails from Mozambique, took a short break from all that she does to share some of her experiences and reflections from her time at St. Andrew's.

The Student Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship (SISE) is one of my favorite things that I do at St. Andrew's because I have my own personal project that I get to work on, with funding. In SISE, students create a social entrepreneurship pitch—an idea for a business or initiative that positively benefits a community—and then we teach students about the structure of business, how to create revenue, how to have advisors on your project, who you need to get involved. We spend the second half of the year helping students design a pitch, and then they pitch to a board of angel investors. All three projects that pitched this year received funding.

My own SISE project is coding a website for people with disabilities, that pairs them with shelter animals. I'm communicating with a bunch of shelters around Delaware and I'm working with them to get their animals' profiles. I had to do some social testing for my pitch—I brought dogs into classes and had people fill out surveys on how their moods changed when dogs were introduced. I got

a lot of positive feedback from the community on that. People wanted to know, do dogs really have an impact? The answer is: they really do!

SAS Behind the Scenes is a video series where we appreciate some of the people and aspects of campus that [might otherwise] go unnoticed. The first video was all about SAGE, the cooking staff. The second was about Mr. Kalmbacher, who tunes all the pianos in the school. The third was about [Athletic Director] Al Wood, and we did one about Mr. Lewis, who is in the Technology Department. SAS Behind the Scenes is about getting to know people better on the campus and learning more about what their lives are like outside of St. Andrew's.

Mozambique, where I'm from, is a very far commute. My trip home over Spring Break took 36 hours. It's difficult being away from your parents but the community's very supportive and when you're homesick there are a lot of people who want to make you feel better. That's partly why I'm involved in Tastes of Home—it helps people who are homesick have something that makes them feel like they're at home with the school. The International House has functions about once a month for international students, and we also have events that happen on Long Weekends when international students stay on campus. I made everyone cinnamon buns on one Long Weekend and we all got together and had breakfast. The two faculty heads of International House host dinners on all the weekends when parents are coming to campus and the international students might not have family here, so that we are part of a family too. We have our own little group. We all support each other and we all know how everyone else is feeling.

The phone policy is one of my favorite [parts of St. Andrew's]. It makes St. Andrew's so much more of a genuine place because people aren't just communicating with each other through commenting on random posts. We're actually talking to each other. Another one of my favorite things is the Front Lawn. I love the Front Lawn especially during the spring and the fall when everyone's out there playing sports. We got a volleyball net set up and I spent hours one night playing with [friends] and a bunch of people had no idea how to play. We just went out there and we weren't on our phones and spent hours together playing volleyball.