

# DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

CLASS OF 2015

## Wagner College freshman Alexia Bayer combines business with French

*Busy scholarship student hopes to work for an international nonprofit group*

By SANNA CHU



PHOTO BY KEVIN HAGEN FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Wagner College freshman Alexia Bayer hopes to double major in business and French, and plans to spend a semester abroad in France.

Alexia Bayer has her eyes set on the world stage.

The Wagner College freshman plans on majoring in international business with a double major or minor in her true passion: French.

"I've always loved French," says Bayer, who started studying the Romance language in the seventh grade.

The 18-year-old Connecticut native caught the travel bug after a People to People Student Ambassador trip around Europe before her senior year of high school.

"Now I just want to travel everywhere," she says.

Bayer doesn't have to wait long — she's spending the next semester studying abroad at the University of Lyon.

“I think the best way to learn a new language is to be immersed in it,” she says. “In my class, all our discussions, our papers and our lectures are all in French.”

Aside from French, Bayer takes a full course load that includes economics, business, math and an honors class.

Because she has a music and academic scholarship, she’s also required to participate in choir and band and take vocal and honors classes, all while maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

On top of that, Bayer, a member of several community service clubs, works as a student ambassador and holds down a part-time position at the Starbucks on campus.

“I like being busy,” she says. “I love college. It’s definitely made me more independent and more confident in myself.”

When she does have free time, Bayer hops on the Staten Island ferry and visits Manhattan. She takes advantage of student discount tickets for shows, attends dance classes or just wanders around.

“You can always find something new in Manhattan,” she says.

Baylor chose Wagner College because it has the best of both worlds.

“It looks like it’s a suburban, almost New England campus, but it’s so close to the city,” she says.

The close relationship between professors and students has also been another plus.

“They want you to do well,” she says. “My professors know everybody’s name.”

After graduation, Bayer hopes to combine her two majors into a future career since “French is the international business language.”

Her ideal job would be to work for an international non-profit.

But before that, she wants to join the Peace Corps.

“I like languages in general,” says Bayer, who has also studied Spanish and plans on learning Portuguese next. “I like understanding other cultures and being able to communicate with people.”

When she’s not rushing to class, giving campus tours, or working, Bayer is busy learning dance routines and coming up with choreography for her dance company back home.

Luckily, Bayer handles her crazy schedule with ease — and a little help, of course.

“I’m totally addicted to coffee,” she says. “If I didn’t have caffeine I’ll never make it through the day.”