

a collection of
Essays

first year experience & chancellor's leadership corp



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First-Year Student Writing, service learning, & college success

Introduction

Written and verbal competency is central to University of Arkansas at Little Rock's core curriculum. For all students to be engaged in learning the power of the written word, the concept of "writing across the curriculum" has been supported with a variety of attempts to achieve the concept through curriculum integration.

Geared toward the aims of supporting and nurturing writing in first-year students, these essays are of the student's reflections on their service learning or learning about strategies that assist with the critical transition to college, through a personal awareness course.

This project supports institutional purpose in meeting the written competency core curriculum requirement through an academic discipline. It further demonstrates to first-year students the notion that writing is important and that UALR teaches and expects students to write throughout their academic careers.

Description

The ideation for this project began in the spring 2003 term when UALR eliminated the Written Proficiency of English Exam (WPE) graduation requirement, not to negate the importance of the core competency but to reassess writing within the disciplines. In the Personal Awareness courses, especially PEAW 1300 The First-Year Experience and PEAW 1124 Chancellor's Leadership Corps, the opportunity exists to combine established elements of the curriculum in supporting the process of students learning to write. This would be enhanced and strengthened by producing a collection of the student's written work. The collection would, from one perspective, demonstrate how much value is placed on a first-year student's written work. The collection also has the potential to be used as an artifact in future student portfolios, demonstrating, individuals learning about the writing process.

Objectives

To support the discovery of the writing process in freshmen students.

To connect freshmen students' writing assignments to a service learning experience.

To connect freshmen students' writing assignments in the fall 2012 to the established learning objectives in PEAW 1300, the First-Year Experience course or PEAW 1124 the Chancellor's Leadership Corps.

To contribute to the assessment of the student's service learning experience.

The five instructors involved, embraced this writing project with little hesitation and committed to providing numerous opportunities for their students to write in meaningful ways. Dedicated instructors willing to take on this additional project are an asset to UALR's First -Year initiatives reflecting best practices worldwide, in selecting the most qualified, committed individuals to teach these courses.

Learning from our experiences in fall 2012, the instructors adjusted classroom writing assignments, deadlines and provided ample opportunity for students to practice submitting drafts for review using e-mail. Utilizing the technology of computers, instructors submitted their student's final essays via e-mail to the UALR Office of Communications. This process was designed to assist in the graphic design and layout of the preliminary draft of the collection. It was not without its challenges due to the incompatibility of various software packages. Students with new laptops, already loaded with the latest software sent their essays to faculty and staff which had difficulty opening the documents.

Time management skills are one of the learning objectives of all courses. These skills are frequently mentioned by students as either having been learned to some degree in high school or improved as a result of the PEAW 1124/1300 courses. It was not possible to include essays submitted by students after the established submission date or those that do not submit the required final draft to their instructor. It would appear that some students can continue to improve their organizational and time management skills in relation to meeting the necessary deadline and improve their essay.

It is also evident that the student writing reflects upon their self expectations as they transition into the university culture from high school. Their comfort zone is the familiar in referencing of family, high school graduation and friends. The old versus the new is a frequently mentioned theme.

Social connections and concerns about "fitting in," "making new friends," feeling comfortable" in class and at the university are common self-expressions in the essays. Their future aspirations, hopes and adjustments to college life are celebrated.

It is interesting to note that the students mention the new friends and re-acquaintances that they made through the PEAW courses and service learning experiences. "Getting involved," being engaged in coursework and the community seems to lessen the isolation of the unfamiliar as they move towards the second semester of college life.

It has been a pleasure to collaborate and share the excitement of the instructors and students! I hope you will enjoy these student essays keeping in mind that the process of writing was at the heart of this project as first-year students participated in curriculum designed to support their transition to college.

Thea Zidonowitz Hoeft, Ed.D.
Division Chief for Undergraduate Academic Advising/
Coordinator of Personal Awareness Courses

Trakenya Dobbins

Instructor, PEAW 1300 First Year Experience

I am Trakenya Gordon Dobbins. I have always had a great desire to positively impact and assist students to succeed. This desire is personal because I am a first-generation college student. I am the first in my family to attend and graduate from college as well as the first to get a doctorate degree. It has been my passion since graduating college to assist other students like me. I therefore chose a career in higher education. After having worked on college campuses for approximately 10-12 years in administrative capacities, I chose to make a career change and teach!

Teaching the First Year Experience classes this semester has definitely been an eye-opening and personal awareness journey for both my students and me. While expecting to play the role of coach to my students along this journey, I have found my students coaching me. We have had a fantastic voyage of goal-setting, learning and studying, and career exploration.

Throughout this experience, we have discussed reasons for attending UALR. We have discussed the traits of a master student; a student possessing the skills necessary to succeed in college. We have also discussed the most important and impactful moments learned throughout the class. Each of these discussions were written as separate assignments, and later fused together, resulting in the following essays written by my students. These essays detail their journey throughout the First Year Experience class this semester.

It must be noted that the students in the following pages represent students from all five of my classes, who submitted high-quality essays during the first draft date! These students represent various ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds such as being African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Eskimo, and athletes and may have any of the following characteristics and qualities: first generation being the first in their family to attend college; adult learners juggling work and home life; students from other states; or students who lived in Arkansas and wanted to stay close to home. Some of the students represented in the following essays were chosen for having shown the most improvement over the weeks we've spent together this semester. But overall, all of the students discuss impactful things learned from attending UALR and the First Year Experience class!

My name is Cassi Brown. I am from Hot Springs, Arkansas. This is where my twin and I were born and raised. I chose to attend UALR because it is the one of the best schools to go to for my major, Psychology. A plus to UALR is that it is really close to home.

I have learned a couple of things this semester while attending UALR. One thing would be is I have learned to develop my time more wisely. Since I live in Hot Springs I have to make sure I start everything an hour early. Another thing I have learned while attending college is to make at least one friend in each class. This will help you for when you are not able to attend class and need to know what the professor went over in class.

I have also learned a couple of things while being in this class. I have learned what kind of learner I am, for instance, I am an auditory learner and learn best by just listening to what the teacher says. Another thing I learned from this class is co-op/internship opportunities from Mr. Jesse Mason: these increase the chances of getting job offers after graduation.

I completed my Service Learning at Summit School in Hot Springs. I feel like this would be the type of environment I will be in for my future career, working with kids. I had the chance to help out a few kids, whether it was reading to them or even just helping them study. It was a great experience for me and I would do it again if I had the chance. I learned there are a lot of kids that need people to talk to just to help them with their problems and, or make them a better person. A lot of the kids there do not have a good home life and just like attention when they can get it. My experience at UALR, in just one sentence, would be that it have been helpful in many ways, as in helping with my career, and also life changing, by being able to help others in need.

My name is Katie Farmin, and I was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. I've spent my entire life living in Bryant, Arkansas, where I recently graduated from Bryant High School. I chose to attend UALR because I was uncertain of what I wanted to declare my major as, it wasn't very far from home, it would be paid for by the scholarships I received, and some of my closest friends were also planning on attending.

During this first semester of attending UALR, I have learned the true meaning of responsibility. I am continuously learning how to effectively manage my time between school, friends, family, and everything in between. I've learned how easy it can be to get behind in schoolwork when there is so much else going on. Taking my First Year Experience class has provided me with tips on how to effectively take notes, read textbooks, and study, which will help me throughout my college career. My experience at UALR has been a constant learning experience that I am excited to continue.

For my Service Learning, I have worked on completing my hours at Central Arkansas Rescue Effort for Animals (CARE). Volunteering has shown me that in doing so, it could help my chances in receiving a job position I'm applying for in the future. Working at CARE has required me to have patience, and has required me to interact with other workers and with those dependent on me for learning information about the dogs.

Jazman Lynette Gulley

Section 10

I am Jazman Lynette Gulley. I am from Pine Bluff, AR. I am the proud older sister of a cancer survivor and an autistic brother. I decided to attend the University of Arkansas because my first college choice was more expensive and UALR was a wonderful school that was closer to home.

While attending UALR I have learned many things. I have learned to communicate with people from all different backgrounds. Whether it was ethical background, where they were from, or what kind of person they were, I communicated with each person differently. UALR has also taught me responsibility. As an adult I have to take responsibility for my actions. I am responsible for my work, going to class, and getting to class on time as well.

From this class I have learned a variety of things. One thing that I learned that will be essential to my career is SMART goals. By using it, I won't waste time on goals that are not reachable. Another thing that I learned from this class that will be essential to my college career is SQR3 reading method. By using SQR3, I will be able to quickly get a feel of the subject matter in which I am reading and also know main points about that subject matter as well.

I completed my service learning in Pine Bluff, AR with the Angels of Praise Ministry. While working on my service learning, I learned two things. One of those things was how to be more patient. While working the praise dance workshop, I had to understand that the girls learned at different speeds and I had to be more patient with those who didn't learn as fast. I also learned how to deal with younger children. You don't communicate with them the same as you do adults. My experience at UALR has thus far been great. I have really enjoyed my first semester.

Asia Mayall-Rae Hosey

Section 10

My name is Asia Mayall-Rae Hosey and I am originally from Richmond, Virginia but this August I recently moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. I decided to further my education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for the simple fact that I wanted a change in my life. I know that the move was drastic and bold, but simple and boring never really did look good on me.

A few things that I have learned while attending UALR are more on the unconventional side of the spectrum. I learned to live with a complete stranger, I learned to overcome a fear of expressing myself without feeling as if I would be judged, and lastly I learned an independence that I thought I would never have. Taking the First Year Experience class gave me the tools that would not only help me in my college life, but also tools that have been proven to help govern my life after college. One of the most important tools that I have in my toolkit is that of the mentality to "fake it until you make it". This mentality has proven true several times, you may not like every person or every situation but while you are there you make the best of everyday and every moment.

Another aspect of this course was to spend some time in our local community through a service learning project. I choose to complete said project at the School for the Blind. This experience made me all the more humble and taught me a patience I did not know that I had. Overall my experience at UALR has been full of happiness, anxiety and sadness and I cannot wait to see what next semester brings.

Madison Paige Logsdon

Section 10

My name is Madison Paige Logsdon. I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. I chose to attend UALR because it's not only here in Arkansas, but I also received a large scholarship to the university.

There have been many things I have learned this semester while attending UALR, referring not only to academics, but also to self knowledge. I have of course obtained knowledge and information from classes such as College Algebra, Biology, and Composition II that I never knew before. In Algebra, I've learned and applied equations such as the Compound Interest Equation, which will be valuable to me in the future. In Biology, I've learned information about different kinds of carbohydrates and fats that I now feel will be important for me to know later on. In Composition II, I've learned how to be a better writer overall, which will help me in many of my future classes. While I will remember some of the information I have learned from these classes later on, and while I've gained a few useful skills, I haven't gained personal knowledge from these classes.

However, in First Year Experience, I have learned things that I consider important that will impact my college career or even my life. I've learned how to build friendships within the school place, how to better work together, how to plan for the future, how to prepare and efficiently execute a job interview, and how to use better study techniques. All of what I've learned in these areas definitely will have an impact on my college career and I will use some of what I've learned even later in my career.

I completed my Service Learning with Children International. Through completing the 15 hours, I have learned interpersonal skills with adults as well as interpersonal skills with children.

Caique Salgado Luz

Section 10

My name is Caique Salgado Luz. I am from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I moved to United States when I was six and I can speak three different languages (Portuguese, Spanish, and English). I chose University of Arkansas at Little Rock, because it was close to my family members and it had a pretty recognizable IT program.

I have learned that most of my classes are very self initiated and requires students to be versatile and flexible. Many of the teachers in my classes do not warn students on when work is due and requires you to have self-discipline to actually do the work. The biggest thing that I have learned in First Year Experience has to be that I had a problem with time management. Having to juggle between work and school has been the biggest problem for me to manage thus far, and this class has helped me on some study tactics that have been showing improvement in my grades. I have also learned that I am a kinesthetic learner and that most of my learning occurs from trial and error and by being hands on.

I spent my volunteer hours at Race for the Cure. Seeing all those people gather for one cause was very emotional. I learned that people could make a difference, no matter how small and that helping people always makes me feel good. If I had to describe my experience at UALR, I would have to say it has been memorable and I will never forget it.

Ashley Jean Wilbanks

Section 10

My name is Ashley Jean Wilbanks. I was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas but have grown up in East End and Sheridan, Arkansas. I chose to attend UALR because it is the only college in Arkansas that has a good Interpreting for the Deaf program.

While attending UALR this semester I have learned some time management skills, and how to get along with others that I don't agree with. I had to learn time management skills when I had assignments from all five of my classes due in the same week. I had to manage my time and get the most important assignments done first. When working in group projects I had to keep my mouth shut and cooperate with people who got on my nerves or that I didn't like or agree with.

While in First Year Experience I have learned that I am a kinesthetic learner and some helpful hints to help me study and learn. Some examples are; I should make study sheets, play music softly, and vary my activities if I am feeling frustrated. Also I have learned how to enhance my note taking and reading skills by using strategies that fit the subject or lesson.

I completed my 15 hours of Service Learning at Children's Hospital. I spent the time in the administrative building helping label and tab letters and cutting laminated cards out. After completing the 15 hours I have learned that there is a lot of behind the scene things that I have never thought about, but people have to do, like paper work. My experience at UALR has been stressful and boring.

Shanavia D. Cole

Section 11

I am Shanavia D. Cole, born and raised in the small town of Magnolia, Arkansas. When people find out that I am from Magnolia, they always say “refrigerator”. I chose UALR because it is only two hours away from home; I am very attached to my family.

While attending UALR this semester I’ve learned that timing is everything. For me, timing has been one of the main factors that have determined my success. I’ve also learned that I may need to open up and explore the activities that the campus has to offer. Overall, my First Year Experience class has equipped me with life-long materials that will help me in the near future with various collegiate courses. A few of these strategies include chunking when reading and recitation, rehearsal, and repetition when studying.

I completed my service learning with the Susan G. Komen foundation and while participating I learned how to interact with people of different ethnicities. My experience at UALR this semester has been an experience worth remembering.

Marisa Cook

Section 11

My name is Marisa Cook, and I am an Air force Brat. I was born in Nebraska, but our family almost immediately moved after my birth to England. After England, we moved to New Jersey, where we spent most of my childhood, and then finally to Arkansas. I chose to attend UALR because it is close to the dance studio I go to, and I really want to spend the rest of my life in Arkansas.

While at UALR this semester, I have learned that teachers, although not very expressive about it, really want you to graduate. I have also learned that there are so many out-of-the-class resources available to me for free, unlike in high school. In First Year Experience, I learned about how to work with a group productively, without doing all the work (or none at all), and how to survive an interview.

I chose to do my volunteer time with Race for the Cure. I don’t feel like I had learned much through my service, other than it backing up the fact that I extremely dislike large crowds. I did have a great time meeting new people, and working with a life changing event.

Brittany Nicole Daniels

Section 11

My name is Brittany Nicole Daniels. I was born in Little Rock Arkansas but I was raised in Marianna Arkansas. At Lee Senior High School, I was an A and B student all the way through, graduated with honors, was a great singer, loved helping the elderly and was always active in church. I chose to attend UALR, because I loved their campus, their nursing program and it was also close to where my residence was.

While attending UALR, I've learned that it is much different from high school. You have to be more responsible than you were in high school, because you have no one there to make you go to school. You have no one to wake you up to make sure that you get to class on time. You also have to be focused or you will surely fail. You have to study, study, study; can't miss class; and surely can't be late everyday, because the teachers or professors don't mind dropping you from their class. This First Year Experience class has made me realize what I really want to be. It has helped me determine what I want to be in life before it got too late.

I'm currently still completing my service learning with Eastern Seals. What I've learned so far was that it sure does feel good to help the children with disabilities as well as other toddlers that needed help with their homework and art work. My experience at UALR has been an excited one!

Ernestine Dapremont

Section 11

My name is Ernestine Dapremont, I am from New Orleans, LA. I moved to Arkansas in 2005 because of hurricane Katrina. I graduated from Conway high school in 2010. After I finished high school I moved to California with my mother where I completed Dental Assistant School. I choose to attend UALR because when I was in high school I had a family member whom uses to work there and every time I came to visit I had a great experience. Since then I knew UALR was the place for me to further my education.

This semester while attending UALR I have learned to communicate with different ethnic backgrounds. I know it's sad to say however, I also learned how to protect my valuable things. Taking this class was very beneficial to me. I've learned how to manage my time where I can have enough time to study without feeling overwhelmed and still have time to do other things. I also learned two unique studies techniques, study for thirty minutes then take a five minute break or you can study five minutes before your classes. Come to find out, you retain a lot of information while using these techniques.

For my service learning I volunteered at a church, where we feed and clothed the less fortunate. While doing my service learning I've learned to put others before me and appreciate what I already have. My experience this semester at UALR was difficult at times but overall it was great one.

Felicia Mukesh Kapoor

Section 11

My name is Felicia Mukesh Kapoor and I am from West Memphis, Arkansas. I am a first generation student and I have a great family support system that helps me get through the most difficult of times. I would like to earn a Master's degree in Pharmacy at UAMS and make my family proud. I chose UALR because I have been told that it has a great chemistry program.

While attending UALR I have learned that college is no joke. Even though you can have some good times with your friends it's just as important to spend time on studying and learning. So in essence I have learned better time management skills. I have also learned that no matter what the problem may be there is always a place on the UALR campus that can help, ranging from a nurse all the way to having a professional proofread any of your papers.

After taking First Year Experience I have learned some great things. One thing I learned was the S.M.A.R.T goal system which can be virtually applied to any situation to help you plan better. I have also learned various note taking methods that will help me succeed along with learning to be a better test taker. The Career Exploration Paper in a way helped me confirm with myself, that yes I have chosen the correct career path for myself.

I completed my 15 service hours at the American Heart Association here in downtown Little Rock. I learned many things while doing my service learning. First of all that organization is everything when it comes to being professional, I also learned that no matter how big or small someone's job may seem only they know how hard and crazy of a job they have. I can with 100% surety say that I have enjoyed my first semester at UALR.

Casey Dylan Gainous

Section 11

My name is Casey Dylan Gainous currently living at home with my parents in Alexander, Arkansas. I plan to get my Bachelor's degree in Nursing then pursue onward to obtain my Master's degree. I chose to attend UALR so that I could live at home while getting my Bachelor's degree without acquiring numerous amounts of student loans and unnecessary debt.

College is definitely much different than attending high school. I have had to learn to be responsible, follow instructions exactly and juggle different classes all at one time. Assignments are expected to be completed and turned in exactly when they are due. College instructors have higher expectations than high school teachers.

I have learned several valuable pieces of information from my First Year Experience class. First, I have learned it is important to set short-term goals so that your long-term goals can be achieved. Second, learning how I can be a successful college student in regards to managing my studying with my personal life. Lastly, the Career Exploration Paper has helped me confirm that becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) is what I want to do.

I had the opportunity to volunteer for the Susan G. Komen, Race for the Cure in which I completed 15 hours of community service. I learned through my volunteering opportunity how important this annual event is for those people who are currently living with breast cancer, those who have lost a loved one from the disease and it takes a lot of volunteers to make the event successful. My first semester at UALR has been great.

Stephanie McClelland

Section 11

My name is Stephanie McClelland. I was born in Little Rock but I was raised in Hensley, Arkansas and I am an Inuit, or Eskimo. I chose to attend UALR because it was not that far from my hometown, because of its wonderful rating and it had always captured my interest.

There are many things that I have learned while attending UALR. The most amazing thing that I have learned so far is how the body functions in anatomy and physiology. I have also learned the composition of nearly all the structures in the body. In college algebra, I learned how to find the multiplicities of polynomial equations.

From First Year Experience, I have learned how to wisely make goals. I have learned how to balance and manage my time better. I also learned how to improve my notes and studying habits. In First Year Experience, I learned how to create an effective resume. Throughout this course, I have armed myself with the skills given through our notes and I can effectively study notes to transfer them into long term memory. This course has taught me the benefits and downfalls of owning a credit card. It has given me the knowledge I will utilize when it comes to owning a credit card. Because of First Year Experience, I will be able to prepare myself for exams and prevent test anxiety. I can use the budgeting skills I have learned through this course for the rest of my life so I can be frugal and wise with my earnings.

I completed my 15 hours of volunteering for the Race For the Cure and Bauxite Animal Shelter. I learned that if you ask for help from your community they will help support the cause. I found out that Arkansas has very caring citizens. My experience in First Year Experience has been enjoyable, filled with knowledge and a completely different experience than any other I have felt.

Tanesha Monique Williams

Section 11

My name is Tanesha Monique Williams, I'm eighteen years old. I was born in Forest City, Arkansas. I've been raised in Little Rock, Arkansas all my life. I chose to attend the UALR mainly because it's the closest university to my parents and my older sister—who I look up to—attends here, and I wanted to be close to her.

While attending UALR, I have quickly learned that the ball is truly in my court and college is what you make it. But I've definitely learned time management and organizational skills. I've learned that college is only hard if you put off your work, or just simply think you have all the time in the world to get your business taken care of. Another thing that I've learned is getting to know my professors, one of the best things that I've done. If they know you well they are more likely to work with you when you have problems. Or if you are a pretty decent student they don't mind being a helping hand.

The most helpful things that I've learned while being here have come from my First Year Experience class. This class has taught me that I'm not in high school anymore and it's up to me to remember when my assignments are due. That's why the syllabus is like your bible in all your classes. This class also taught me that studying for ten minutes versus hours is more effective. With these things in mind I know I will continue to be successful in my college career.

I completed my service learning at the Arkansas Food Bank. My tasks were to unpack donated foods, sort the foods and shelve the food. Seeing the food in the conditions that it was in I learned that those who can afford to go to the grocery store shouldn't take that for granted. It's a lot of hungry people who just have to eat what they are given with no say so in it. Volunteering at the Arkansas Food Bank has helped me shape my character in being more humble. This semester at UALR has been very eye opening but it has motivated me to keep my head in the books and push for my degree in May 2016

Brittney Nicole Brasuell

Section 12

My name is Brittney Nicole Brasuell and I am 18 years old. I am from Van Buren, Arkansas. I am attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock because I received a scholarship to participate in the sport of track. I also attend to receive the higher education that I need to pursue my dream career of being a Veterinarian. My major at UALR is Biology Pre-Vet.

While attending UALR, I have learned that communication is a major concept in getting to know people, finding out information, and getting help from your professors. If you are afraid to talk to someone then you can't get to know them. If you can't communicate to your teachers about what you are struggling with then you can't get the help you need.

While taking and participating in my First Year Experience class, I have learned better ways to study so that the information sinks in and to relay it on the test. A study habit that works for me is the 30 + 3 method which means study for 30 minutes with a three minute break. I have learned to take better notes more effectively during a lecture, to be selective about notes, and to only write down the important ideas. Write the notes in your own words so you don't have to remember what the professor said while you were writing.

I completed my service learning with the UALR Rock for the Cure team, participating in the race for breast cancer. When taking part in this race I learned that taking time out and helping others is more valuable to my time. Walking in this race meant a whole lot to the women suffering from this disease and to the families of those women. This race also meant a lot to me by donating my time and money to this organization in memory and celebration of two of my family members. I have learned that no matter what you have done you can always change your strategies to adapt to the activities you are doing now.

Philip Anthony Broadway

Section 12

My name is Philip Anthony Broadway. I was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas and currently reside in Sherwood, Arkansas. My main interests reside in anime and video games, making me close to the textbook definition of a “geek”. I decided to attend UALR because I had heard that it was more of a simpler and quieter college. Also, it was closer and allowed me to stay at home and still attend classes, while letting me not worry about room and board fees.

During this semester attending UALR, I have learned a lot of things. I have learned several concepts regarding speaking and communication in my Speech class, teaching me that communication is a lot more important and complex than I realized. I have learned how to hold a basic conversation in American Sign Language because of this class. I have also learned the basics of writing poetry and short stories in my Creative Writing class as well as the basics of earliest civilizations in my history class.

From my First Year Experience class I have learned a lot of things covering how to be a “master student”, of which I find some to be vital for my future. Being a timely person with things I am responsible for will help me become more reliable to other people. Being a creative individual will also allow me to stand out from my peers.

For my service learning, I joined the media crew at my church and worked to film each service for viewers on the church website. I have learned what it is like working in a media crew for big events and how teamwork is of utmost importance in a big group. This semester at UALR, I have learned many things. This semester has been new, exciting, and yet very challenging

I am Aimee-Claire Glenn from Shreveport, Louisiana, and I am a thirty-three year old first-time college student. I moved to Little Rock three years ago when I got married, and I am expecting my first child this December. I chose to attend UALR for its excellent pre-medical program and wonderful support services for non-traditional students like me.

The primary things I have learned at UALR this semester are planning and perseverance. Going into this semester, I was concerned that I might struggle with the subject matter of my classes. However, the intellectual rigors of Algebra and Biology have nothing on the challenges of being a full-time student, wife, employee, and expectant mother all at the same time. I learned early on this semester that writing everything down in my planner, expecting the unexpected, and working through it all with a positive attitude are necessary.

As it turns out, the skills that were critical to getting me through this semester were the very skills we studied in Dr. Dobbins's class. Dr. Dobbins's approachability and the camaraderie I developed with my group project members have helped me open up to all my professors and classmates. This has gone farther than anything to make me feel at home at UALR.

I performed my Service-Learning Project at CARTI because the CEO is a client of mine. I worked in their main office preparing donor baskets and silent auction items. I was already familiar with this organization, and I was happy to support them in preparing for various fundraising activities. This semester I realized that in order to achieve my dream of being a doctor I must first master the skills of a juggler!

Ta'Quan Dwayne Ivory

Section 12

My name is Ta'Quan Dewayne Ivory. I'm from Gurdon, Arkansas. I graduated in the class of 2012. I decided to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock the second semester of my senior year in high school. UALR was the best college that fit me with my major, Health Science and minor, Physical Education. With that degree I plan to become a coach or an athletic trainer in the State of Texas.

While attending UALR I have learned many things in life. One thing I have learned was responsibility. I learned responsibility in so many different ways, such as learning how to become a young adult that lived by his own rules. I also learned responsibility by not staying on campus. I learned and realized you do not have to follow all your high school friends to a college up the street from your parents' house; you can make friends anywhere as long as you learn how to adapt to other people's lifestyle.

When choosing Dr. Dobbins class I was kind of nervous because the first day I noticed there were rarely any men in her class. So yes, I was kind of shy the first couple of weeks of class but I learned how to adapt to the environment of being around mostly women in a class. This class was a big impact on my career because one of the first things I learned was how to study and where was the best place for me to study. At UALR, I have experienced that college will not be easy; it's something you must be serious about and it's like a big goal. With a goal set, it's your challenge to reach it.

My name is Keirrie Johnson and I was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I lived in White Hall, Arkansas the majority of my life. I wanted to attend University of Arkansas at Little Rock because both of my sisters have attended here and they both enjoyed it. Since they enjoyed it I thought I would too. It also isn't far from home and has good teachers.

This semester I have learned how to interact with my peers and how to become more independent. Now that I am away from home and my parents, I have to take care of my personal matters on my own. Some things that I have learned and think are important in this class are college lingo, the study skills that best work for me, how to do and complete group work, and proper etiquette for the work place or job interview.

The site that I volunteered at for my service learning was Senior Citizen Activities Today, Inc. (also known as SCAT). I learned how to speak and conduct myself with seniors and how to handle and file documents and paperwork. My experience at University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been a great one thus far. The teachers and staff that I have interacted with have all been pleasant and very helpful. I am excited to begin the rest of my college experience here.

I am Cherie Mitchem. I moved to Little Rock last year from Mountain Home, AR. I chose to go to UALR because it is a 4-year university located close to where I live. I am a non-traditional student. I have not declared my major yet, but taking this class and writing the Career Exploration Paper has helped me broaden my knowledge of careers and their details.

This semester at UALR has gone by so quickly. I enjoy coming to school and I get a lot out of the classes I am taking. My math has greatly improved and I actually like doing algebra now because I understand it better. The composition class is fun, and not boring, and I have a really good instructor. I have learned how to do rhetorical analysis on any genre of document, and to revise my own work. I think my writing skills have improved quite a bit from that class. My art class is Introduction to Visual Art and isn't hands on, but very interesting to learn about the history and origins of certain pieces of art. I have learned about some architecture as well. The First Year Experience class has provided me with a lot useful information that will be of value to me now and in the future. For example: co-op opportunities, when I am eligible to apply for co-ops, how to build my credit, and who to talk to if I need help in building my credit.

I completed my service learning at Methodist Family Health. Working in the Dietary department with the Dietitian got me to questioning if this is what I really want to major in. I don't think that job is interesting enough for me, and I wouldn't have discovered that without the service learning requirement and Career Exploration Paper. Both were very helpful. In addition, I have learned that I am a kinesthetic learner, right brained, and I had semi-effective study habits to begin with. But I have since developed a routine that involves a specific study time in a quiet, well-lit area. I have made a resume that I could use today if I were looking for a job. I feel more prepared now than I did at the beginning of the semester, and it's a lot more comfortable for me. Altogether, my experience this semester at UALR has been exciting, challenging and rewarding.

Joseph Silvestre Paulino

Section 12

My name is Joseph Silvestre Paulino. I am from the Dominican Republic born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I chose to attend UALR because I was offered a baseball scholarship that I could not pass down; however, academically I knew UALR has one of the top business departments in America.

This fall I have increased my skills at reading comprehension in my Academic Literacy class, and improved my writing ability in Comp 1. In College Algebra I have learned how to solve linear equations, quadratic functions, and logarithmic functions which makes my love of math stronger when I learn how to solve math problems. I have also learned that theatricality is in life all around us. In my Intro to Theater class I became intrigued at how lighting is so important in a play; I did 10 hours of setting up lights for the UALR play *The Bacchae* of Euripides this fall.

In my First Year Experience class what I found very useful was learning what kind of learner I am. I am a visual, kinesthetic learner which will help me understand my studying and learning methods. Also during my research for the Career Exploration Paper, I became confident with the major I have declared in business. Lastly, I have learned how to manage my money on a monthly basis. I did my service learning experience with the UALR Race For the Cure Foundation. I registered people for the race and raised money by selling shirts in the student center. My experience this semester has been overall a positive battle: I never knew how fast I would have to grow up!

Tessla Vigil

Section 12

My name is Tessla Vigil, but a lot of people call me Tess. I am 22 years old, from Hot Springs Arkansas, and I have two children. I am an Art major, and I chose to attend UALR because it was close to my house, and it offers a great art program.

While attending UALR I have learned many things about myself, and my major. For example, there is a difference in a BA and a BFA. I have learned that I was only in college for reasons that weren't my own and that I needed to find my own reasons or I wasn't going to make it. My study habits were very poor and my dedication to my school work wasn't where it should be.

Being in the First Year Experience class, I have learned that I am not the only student that has kids, a job, and issues that just happen in your daily life. Dr. Dobbins has motivated me to do better, and to do something that I love rather than to do something for the money. I am now informed on my career, its requirements and I know in what cities the business does better.

I completed my service learning hours at Aeropostale in the Park Plaza Mall. I learned all about team work, communication, honesty, respect and integrity. Those are all qualities that you must have in the working world for a successful business. You must also hire employees with those qualities. My semester at UALR has been a roller coaster ride that you get off of and run back into line before it takes off again, with your best friend beside you.

Damalia Weaver

Section 12

My name is Damalia Weaver and I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. I am 18 years old and I plan on majoring in Nursing. I chose to attend UALR because both of my parents are UALR alumni and I want to follow in their footsteps.

While attending UALR this semester, I have learned how to manage my time better and become more responsible. During this semester I have been employed while taking on a full time schedule of classes. Managing my time and taking responsibility for all that needed to be done in my life was very important.

My First Year Experience class taught me the importance of studying. I learned many new studying techniques such as, the 30 plus 3 method, 10 minute method, and periodic reviews. I've tried all three of them, and they all have been effective for me. I also learned what style of learning was best for me. By finding out my learning style, I learned the best study techniques, test-taking skills, and note-taking skills to fit my learning style.

Doing my 15 hours of service learning, I volunteered at the Arkansas Democratic Headquarters. At the headquarters I made calls and canvassed many areas to educate the public on the upcoming election. I learned more about how important it is to give back to the community and politics. My experience this semester at UALR has been full of gaining knowledge, becoming responsible, and learning more about myself.

My name is Brianna Frazier, and I grew up in Sherwood, Arkansas. I went to Sylvan Hills High School. For college, I wanted to go somewhere close to home. My mother mentioned UALR because my intended major was nursing and UALR has an outstanding nursing program, so I decided to go to UALR.

I have learned a lot of great material since I have been attending UALR. For example, in my psychology class I've learned the different stages of sleep which was very interesting to me. In First Year Experience I learned different techniques to help me throughout college. I believe that this class was one of the most beneficial. It helped me look more into my career and because I came into college with bad study skills, the study skills I've learned were the most helpful for me. Now I'm leaving this class able to study hard the right way to make good grades.

I also really enjoyed the service learning. I was very grateful to be able to work at Children International. I learned how to do different office work, but the most satisfying of my experience was working with the children. I love working with kids so this was a great experience. My experience this semester was very different from high school but it was very rewarding and I learned a lot from it.

Gina Jackson

Section 13

I'm a weird 19 year old chick named Gina Jackson. I was born and raised in Arkansas so I know all about the true definition of country. I was forced to go to the University of Little Rock. My parents wanted me to "get my feet wet" before I jumped off the deep board and moved out of state to Southern Illinois University.

During my first semester attending UALR I have learned more things about adulthood. I learned how to balance school, my first real job, and my social life. In my First Year Experience class I have learned about what's ahead of me in life, for instance preparing for my first job interview. It sounds like preparing for an interview is common knowledge but the way Dr. Dobbins taught me showed a lot of the hidden actuality of it all. Even though this class taught common knowledge things, like being a better college student, and how to prepare for the stresses of life, I learned more about this in detail. I learned the tricks to surviving college from this class.

I did my Service Learning for The Visitor Center National Historic Site. Through the time I spent volunteering I learned a lot about civil rights. I volunteered at the 55th Commemoration of Central High's Desegregation. I got to visit Minnijean Brown-Trickey, one of the Little Rock Nine, and I also got to meet Tommie Smith, the man who held the black fist in the 1968 Summer Olympics taking a stand in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. The whole experience was an honor. I learned so much history during that weekend and got to meet other special people. I was glad I did my Service Learning for The Visitor Center and being a part of the commemoration. My experience at UALR has gone pretty smoothly and it's been easy for me so I'm thankful I got to UALR this year.

My name is Talyn Nicole Jones and I am from Lonoke, Arkansas. Lonoke is a small town not too far from Little Rock. When I toured UALR and looked at the Nursing program, it instantly won me over. I like the fact that I can get my Bachelor's degree and my Nursing degree all in the same place, while staying at a university that is not too far from home. It's just the right size for me coming from a small town, that's what I love about UALR!

While attending UALR this semester I learned that there are so many different types of people that make up the university; from the students to the faculty. None of which is a bad thing, it's what makes the university so unique. I love being able to go into a classroom and not knowing what to expect from a professor; it makes the class that much more exciting.

I have learned tons of important things while being in my First Year Experience class, but what I enjoyed most and will take with me in my future is learning about myself. I have learned so much about me as a person and how I learn, which will help me throughout college and even in my career. I am so grateful for that because it has already helped me through my first semester.

I completed my 15 hours of Service Learning through Arkansas Children's Hospital. I worked in an office that deals with all the doctor's and nurse's personnel files. I learned that when it comes to a hospital, there is more than just doctors and nurses that make up the working side of it all; there are many administration offices and etc. that do the paperwork side and they are just as important. My experience this semester at UALR has been very impacting on my life already.

KatyJoe Moore

Section 13

My name is KatyJoe Moore. I am from the small town of Brinkley, Arkansas. I attended Brinkley schools from pre-school until the day I graduated. I chose to attend UALR because they offered me not only one, but two scholarships that would pay for my school. Attending UALR has been great and I am very thankful that I do not have to worry about paying for anything.

This semester, while attending UALR, I have learned more about myself and the subjects I'm interested in. Being in Mrs. Dobbins First Year Experience class, I was able to get great advice on how to take notes, take test, write papers, and other important things we need to know as freshmen. Being self-manageable is another skill I've learned while attending UALR. Learning this skill has helped me with assignments and tests. When I first started, I did not know how to manage all the homework and classes. I have also learned other skills like time management, organization and most importantly, social skills. Before UALR I had a difficult time making friends and being able to speak to people that I do not know. Now I have the ability to feel confident when I walk into a room full of strangers.

This year I had the privilege of volunteering with the Susan G. Komen: Race for the Cure. For several days I volunteered the Race Space. I registered people for the race, made goodie bags for participants, helped organize the boxes, and help customers. While doing my service learning I learned about breast cancer and I was able to see just how many women in Arkansas have breast cancer, have survived cancer, and how many have lost someone from this tragic disease. I can honestly say that my experience at UALR has and always will be beneficial.

Sarah Snyder

Section 13

My name is Sarah Snyder. I was raised as an Air Force brat so growing up I never had a "hometown." I chose to attend UALR because my fiancé's family lives in Arkansas and we are both ready to settle down in one spot, finish college and get a good career. I honestly didn't expect to get accepted to UALR, so when the letter came to my house I had to go for it.

When the semester first started, I thought I had my time management in control but I found out what worked in high school doesn't work well now. I had to learn how to manage my school work, job, and time with family. Having a friend in all your classes is a good thing too. Having at least one person to help review and study can help out a lot. I also learned, very quickly might I add, that getting a lot of sleep is important. When you don't get enough sleep you feel awful.

My First Year Experience class helped me figure out that I'm a kinesthetic learner. Knowing that single bit of information and what it means has helped me figure out easier ways to study and how to get through classes where the professor teaches in ways that don't particularly help me.

I completed my 15 hours of Service Learning at the Humane Society of Pulaski County. I learned that it's important to get your dog neutered and/or your cat spayed. When you don't a lot of those animals end up in shelters or killed and it's not fair. My experience this semester at UALR has been exciting and scary at the same time.

Jordan Temple

Section 13

My name is Jordan Temple; I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. I moved to Little Rock, Arkansas in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina destroyed my home. After living in Arkansas for seven years I graduated from Little Rock Catholic High School. After graduating I decided to go to UALR because I heard great things about the school and my tuition would be paid with a scholarship.

After my first semester at UALR I have learned to work hard and sleep when I'm dead. Most of the things that I have learned that will affect the rest of my college career and life were things that I learned in my First Year Experience class. Some great tips and tweaks that I learned in class were: time management skills, how to prepare for a test, and team work in group projects. I also learned after doing my Career Exploration Paper that nursing is really what I want to do for the rest of my life. The Career Exploration Paper is a great assignment that will aid you in a big life changing decision.

I chose to do my 15 hours of service learning at UAMS; there are several different organizations to choose from on their website. After completing my hours, I learned that sitting at a desk grading papers is not what I want to do for the rest of my life. Some great things that came out of the experience were the friendships that I made (that will maybe help me further down the road) and the professional work ethic and attitude skills I gained. My experience at UALR this semester has been great; I have made several new friends and love my awesome teachers!

Nicholas Robert Thurber

Section 13

I am Nicholas Robert Thurber born into a loving family who has supported and helped guide me through everything in my life whether it be academic decisions or just letting me learn from my own mistakes. I decided to attend UALR for one main reason, to stay close to home. I would just simply miss them too much and I don't want them to have to worry if I am doing alright or not.

While attending UALR this semester I have learned many things about college. Studying has always been one of my Achilles' heels, but college has showed me that if you do not study then you will not do so well. Showing up to class is another thing. Having to get up early is always tough especially on dark gloomy days when it's nice to stay in and stay warm, but you must go or you will miss out on the experience of college. At first I was skeptical of this First Year Experience class and thought it was a waste of money and, more importantly, my time. Surprisingly enough, it has showed me some things that could help me not only with my college career, but my life as well. The learning styles are what really have helped me. Knowing my learning style and trying to figure the teaching style of a professor has actually worked with me. The guest speakers Dr. Dobbins chose for us also had an impact on me; I started thinking about the future and what I need to do to reach my long-term goals. This class has also reminded me of what I want to do as a career, and that is teaching a high school class.

Doing service learning at the animal shelter has showed me that all things from different backgrounds and homes need to be treated equally and loved the same. It opened up my soft side for helpless animals and I never wanted to leave. My experience at UALR has been eye opening.

My name is Eun Ha and I am currently a freshman at UALR. I was born in Gyeongju, South Korea and moved to Bryant, AR at the age of three. I spent most of my childhood in Bryant and then moved to Little Rock during junior high school. I chose to attend UALR because of the scholarships and grants offered to me by UALR and other in-state organizations.

While attending UALR this fall, I learned the meaning of self-responsibility. I am responsible for the choices that I make and equally responsible for the ones I don't make. I am responsible for providing for myself and responsible for seeking assistance from others when I need it. I also discovered the importance of time-management. After much trial-and-error, I learned how to effectively manage my time in order to complete tasks that are required of me and have time left over to do things I enjoy. Lastly, I learned the essential balance of work and play: it doesn't pay to be too consumed in either.

During the course of my First Year Experience class, one phrase that still sticks out to me is "Fake it 'til you make it." I think this is one of the best words of advice that is relevant for everything; sometimes life is about enduring in order to get what you want/need. I also learned the importance of etiquette and appearances in academia as well as daily life.

I completed my Service Learning at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock. Through the process of volunteering, I learned how important interpersonal skills were to make lasting impressions and connections. My experience during my first fall semester at UALR lived up to my expectations and was enjoyable for me.

My name is Tiffany Files. I am from Little Rock, Arkansas, and I am a full-time horseback rider. When I'm not riding, I am reading a book, watching criminal investigation shows on TV, or playing around on my computer. I decided to go to UALR because it's in my hometown and it is close enough that I can live at home.

I have learned a lot of things while attending UALR, but the biggest things I have learned is that I would rather take classes on campus than online, that most people really don't care what you look like, and that college can be a fun experience instead of a scary one. Some things I learned from this particular class are some good study habits, some ways to wisely set a schedule for your time, and that there are people on campus willing to help you out if you are a non-traditional student.

I have done my service learning at the Humane Society in Little Rock. Working for the Humane Society has really opened my eyes that there are some nice people out there. These people take care of these animals out of their own time; they don't get paid for it. This gives me a new appreciation for the Humane Society. I loved working there, but the only problem has been I want to take every animal home with me! So far, my experience this semester has been amazing.

Brandon Hill

Section 14

My name is Brandon Hill. I'm the oldest of two other siblings. I've moved a lot so I can't really say where I'm from. Little Rock had been my home until I was 12, then my father moved the family to Bloomington, IL because of a job opportunity. I chose UALR because most of my family is alumni.

While attending UALR, I learned a few things. In my opinion, always keep a map with you. My first few weeks were torture because I never knew where anything was. I should have walked the campus with my map a few days before classes started so I wouldn't be a novice to the layout. The second thing I learned was, stay in touch with your advisors. They are truly on campus to help you. My advisor gives me advice all the time about how to deal with a class or which route I should take to reach my goals.

While attending Mrs. Dobbins' First Year Experience Class, I learned a lot too. Something I've always had a problem with, is checking my email. It only takes about five minutes out of your day, but when Mrs. Dobbins suggested it, it was like pulling teeth. You never know what changes your professor is going to make, so stay updated by checking your email.

For my volunteer hours required in the class, I participated in "Race for the Cure". It's a run that raises money for Breast Cancer. In my opinion, I gained communication skills from talking to donators and people just wanting to know more about the Race. I can't lie, my experience at UALR has been eye opening, and as the semester goes on I realize it's only the beginning!

Morgan Jane Lawrence

Section 14

I am Morgan Jane Lawrence, and I am 18 years old. I have lived in Arkansas my whole life with my parents and my two little sisters. God, family, friends, and school come before everything. I decided to attend UALR because my dad attended college here and really enjoyed it.

While attending UALR, I have learned that it is an all around good school. I have also learned how to become a better writer, and a better researcher. My understanding of math has seemed to improve. I also feel at home while attending UALR, so I guess you could say attending UALR taught me to be myself too.

First Year Experience also taught me some important things that will impact my college career and life. I have learned what kind of learner I am, and I have also learned the best way to take notes. It is much easier to study when you know exactly how. I can read faster, and still retain all of my information. I have applied these skills in each of my classes and can see my grades have improved. Writing my Career Exploration Paper, I discovered more about my future career as a Kindergarten Teacher and know that it is exactly what I want to do.

In this class, I was also required to do fifteen hours of service learning. To complete these hours I chose to participate in The Race for the Cure. While spending some hours volunteering at a booth, asking for donations, and walking in the race, I learned that I helped out a great cause in a major way by doing just a few small tasks. This semester at UALR has been interesting and enlightening.

Ricardo Matamoros Lopez

Section 14

My name is Ricardo Matamoros López. I am from Hermitage Arkansas, and I am currently a freshman at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I chose to attend to UALR because it is the only metropolitan school in the state of Arkansas.

During my first semester at UALR, I have learned that the life as a college student is much different as that of a high school student. In order to be successful as a student and as a person, I have learned that you must be very responsible and know well how to manage your time. From my First Year Experience class I have learned many methods that can help me be successful in my college courses such as, note taking skills, time management, and multitasking. In addition, I would like to say that the most valuable thing that I learned in my First Experience class is SMART goals. I believe that specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely goals can have an impact in my college career by helping me achieve my main goal and my purposes.

For my Service Learning I chose to participate in the Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure. After completing my 15 hours of service learning by fundraising for the Susan G. Komen program and participating in the actual race, I learned that great things can be done for good purposes if we all work as a team. My experience during this semester at UALR was unique but quite different at the same time.

My name is Shawn McKenzie. I was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I now live in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. I am a proud wife, and mother of four handsome, intelligent sons. I choose to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock because it is a progressive four-year institution that I will be proud to graduate from.

This semester at UALR, I've learned that education is the gateway to a productive, successful future. I love to learn and this university is a perfect fit for me. My First Year Experience class has taught me that I am a left-brained learner and several ways to study that will be effective with my learning style.

I completed my Service Learning at the Garland County Library and at the Jessieville High School Sports Arena. The library has an endless array of resources, from old-school reference books to the latest in electronic learning. At the Sports Arena, the students get to release their pent-up energy and just play. It is so much fun to see them share and teach one another. This semester at UALR has only increased my desire to learn and excel in all things

My name is Jenna Irene Pierce. I am from Maumelle, Arkansas. I have an older brother, who is 20, and a younger sister, who is 12. I chose to attend UALR because it was closest to my home and my family. Another reason is because my mother and grandmother also attend UALR.

A few things I have learned this semester at UALR are that college is a lot different from high school. In high school your teachers are always after you to get all your work done. In college your teachers tell you what is assigned, go over it briefly and then you are on your own. Your college professors don't accept late work, unlike the high school teachers.

My First Year Experience class has taught me a lot I consider to be important. Time management is one. I've learned that if I don't manage my time right, I will be behind and once I'm behind it's really hard to catch up. I learned new ways to study so I will take more in and understand the material, other than reading and having no clue what I just read or went over. If you take breaks periodically, it'll help your brain rest and you'll be able to take more in. I have also learned how to prepare and present yourself for interviews. Your overall appearance and attitude are major factors in deciding if you're going to get the job.

For my service learning I joined Race for the Cure. I have become more aware of breast cancer and met some awesome people who have beat breast cancer. This was a wonderful experience for me because I got to meet new people while doing the race and volunteering for it. My experience this semester at UALR was fun, but at the same time overwhelming. I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing my old classmates. I would definitely say college is life changing.

Joanna Allison Whittaker

Section 14

My name is Joanna Allison Whittaker and I am from Maumelle, Arkansas. I am the youngest of three, and the only person in my family to attend college. I am majoring in Criminal Justice, and once I graduate I hope to be involved in law enforcement. I chose to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock because it is a good school, it is close to home, and it has a great criminal justice department.

During my first semester attending UALR I have learned how to branch out of my comfort zone and meet new people. I have also learned how to prioritize my responsibilities and complete my tasks in the most time efficient way. From my First Year Experience class I have learned a few different studying techniques. From these different techniques I learned that for myself, periodic reviews (weekly reviews) help me the most when I study. I have also learned to more accurately incorporate the different learning styles, (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic) into my different classes.

The service learning that I chose to participate in was Race for the Cure, I spent my fifteen hours informing people of what the race is, raising money, and getting people to participate in the actual race. Through my service, I learned how to work with others while fundraising; the people I worked with all had their own approaches to raising money and trying to get people to participate in the race. Overall my experience this semester at UALR has been unforgettable; I have made new friends, become more sociable, and learned that I truly value receiving a higher education.

Karen Frost

Instructor, PEAW 1300 First Year Experience

This is my seventh year to teach the First Year Experience course and to be involved in the Writing Across the Curriculum Project. It has been a very busy but a very fulfilling semester for me. All of the students wrote about the Service-Learning Project which is always a great chance for them to see how good helping others can feel, and this semester was no exception. One project, was the opportunity to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen foundation and participate in the Race for the Cure or as Ms. Tran referred to it "Rock for the Cure." Several of the students were involved with this endeavor and found it very fulfilling as you will see from their essays. Thanks to Ms. Kim Tran, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Williams and anyone else who was involved for spearheading and organizing this volunteer opportunity for the students. We have had a very busy and productive semester, and I hope to see these students for many more semesters here at UALR. I'm always glad to hear from the students that, for the most part, they find the experience very fulfilling and enjoyable.

I am a full-time instructor teaching the First Year Experience course

Section

2

Austin Benson

Community Outreach Touches Inside

I am from Springfield, AR. I am majoring in Studio Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design. I hope to one day work in Advertising.

Community Outreach Touches Inside

For my community service, I volunteered through an outreach of my home church. My church had just begun a new community outreach program right before school started. The outreach includes a clothing closet, a food pantry, distribution of household items and school supplies, and spiritual encouragement. This outreach was much bigger than any of the leaders thought it would be, reaching out to over forty families each month. The church is always looking for volunteers to help, whether it is to help hang up clothes or to carry in items in preparation for the once a month outreach, to greet a family and take them through the different areas of the church for assistance, or to work in one of the areas helping the families find what they need. I personally saw the families in need and what my church was doing to help them. I wanted to be a part of that caring for others.

Over the last few months as I have helped in my church's community outreach, I have had the privilege of having several jobs. I have helped set up and have carried people's things to their vehicles, but most days I have worked in the clothing closet. I assisted those in need by helping find clothes for them and their loved ones. Recently, I was assigned to welcome the families as they entered the clothing closet, and I was asked by one of the leaders to use my artistic abilities to decorate the families' shopping bags. So many families came last month that I was asked to come and help as an ambassador; they use the title ambassador for a person who acts as a guide for a family. This person stays with the family showing them around and helping them get what they need from each area of the outreach. With every job I have had, it has always been a true blessing to me. There have been a lot of long hours, but it was always worth it.

I think the best part of my community service experience has been seeing the children that have come. To see their faces light up when they find that right pair of shoes or just the perfect jacket that fits them is unexplainable. Those kids know that all those things are there are just for them, and to them, it is the best thing ever.

I have learned that there are many people in my community that are much less fortunate than my family and that I am able to do a little something to make things just a little bit better for them. I am most definitely going to keep helping with the outreach. There are bonds that have grown with the people I have worked with and most importantly with the families that have come. I couldn't just stop going to help.

Overall, my community service made a difference. It made a difference through food, clothes, supplies, and encouragement for those who came, and it made a difference in my heart.

Jon Bradford

Self-Sacrifice

I am from Sheridan, Arkansas. I am majoring in nursing. My career plans are to always be in the medical field.

I will volunteer towards any organization that is in the fight to find the cure for cancer. Furthermore, this is why I volunteered my Service-Learning hours to the Race for the Cure. Their mission is my mission. I completely agree that if everyone in the United States would come together and volunteer that major advances towards finding a cure for cancer can be accomplished. With every beat of my heart I hope and believe that through millions of volunteers just like me, we can accomplish this task. Alone we are weak, yet together we are strong.

My duties in helping with the Race for the Cure included mostly organizing handout bags and also doing endless paper work for the thousands of volunteers. The Race for the Cure is an amazing organization. It opened my eyes to how many people actually care and give towards society. I believe that organizations like the Race for the Cure are incredible and self-sacrificing for the greater good of society.

There is no word that can explain the feeling I had watching cancer survivor after cancer survivor come in and sign up for the "Race." Actually, the number of people that were involved in the event was mind blowing. I am positive with every year this event and many like it will keep growing exponentially. There will always be a fight until we find a cure.

My experience volunteering with this organization will continue until the day I die. I strongly believe in their mission and their primary objective. It is something that doesn't deserve remuneration, but something I'll do for free with all the energy I am able to provide in order to find a cure for cancer. I will continuously self-sacrifice my time and my life in their fight, along with my own, to keep searching and searching for a cure for cancer. Together as a nation united we can accomplish anything.

Rachel Chatwood

Volunteering: A Part of My Everyday Life

I was born in Woodson, a little town a few miles outside of city limits. I love to write and want to be an author later on in life. I also want to be a cardiologist. I graduated from Combs High School in Arizona and then moved back here to Arkansas. I didn't think I would go straight to college, but my family convinced me otherwise. I'm glad I'm here continuing my education.

Volunteering is something that happens in my everyday life. Whether it's helping my sisters with their homework or helping out at my church, I do it without tangible reward. The only reward I receive is the satisfaction of helping someone else when they really need it.

This semester, I chose to volunteer at First Baptist Church in Woodson, Arkansas. This wasn't a new experience for me only new in the sense that I hadn't done it in a year. My job was to take down the names of everyone who attended and then write down the assignments they had to complete for the night. Once I completed that, I tutored a third grader who had weekly homework assignments and really needed the help. It also helps me because I can review the things I learned in elementary school and re-learn the things I forgot.

I also volunteer at my church. I teach the preschool class. It's new and something I've never really done before. It's a little difficult for me because they don't really understand what I'm trying to teach, and I can never keep their attention. I learned that I have to give them something to preoccupy them and then tell them something and have them repeat it over and over again. They can tell me parts of what they repeated if I try to quiz them over it all and that satisfies me. At least I know they were listening. I also play the drums when the drummer isn't there and record the minutes for Sunday school. I do these things with no tangible reward—just recognition for doing them.

Beginning in October of 2008 up until October of 2012, and then again in October of 2012, I've volunteered at my community's annual Fall Festival at the face painting booth. My first year, I was okay at face painting, and I got better as each year came and went. I don't consider myself an artist, but they wanted someone young and close to the children's ages, so I said I would do it. I'm glad I chose to do the face painting booth; it taught me that everything good that happens in your life doesn't have to be for a price. Just bringing a smile to someone's face should be payment enough.

Lakyn Faulkner

Asbaldo

Lakyn Breann Faulkner is my full name, but most people call me Lake. I am a Biology Pre-Med major. I come from a small town in southern Arkansas named El Dorado

For my Service-Learning this semester, I chose to go to Springhill Elementary in Bryant, Arkansas. Most of my Service-Learning was done with the Kindergarteners that attend Springhill Elementary. I adore children and their wild sense of humor, especially children ages four to seven years. With children of that age there is always help needed within the school, not only helping them education wise, but just keeping them all rounded up. You never know where they might stray.

During my Service-Learning, I did whatever the teacher needed. Mainly I taught the students their alphabet flash cards, helped draw, read, and write. I didn't realize until I attended the class how much teaching Kindergarteners has changed since I was a kid. My favorite part of the class was the hands on work with the alphabet flash cards. Individually I took each child and went through all the cards to see who understood and who needed more attention in the subject. A large amount of them knew what they all were, but a few of them struggled. They tend to mess up on the letters that are similar like P and B. The elementary class were all angels, unlike the majority of children their age. My least favorite part of my Service-Learning was telling the students goodbye at the end of the day. Each student had a unique attitude. An immense amount of them were fun and goofy, but a few others kept to themselves and were shy.

While I was there I met a little Hispanic boy with large dimples named, Asbaldo. He was the highlight of my day when I went there. Every time a teacher or I would talk to him he would not understand us. I realized that he didn't speak English at all. Thankfully I have a great background in Spanish. Although he was a very shy child he always had the giggles when he called Mrs. McDaniel granny in Spanish 'yaya'. I found it quite hilarious, so did the teacher once I told her. Mischievous is the only word to really describe him. When I first talked to him in Spanish, he sighed in awe. I practiced the alphabet flash cards with him and realized he needed a lot of help. I began explaining things in his terms and then in English; he finally caught on. After a while he began to read in English and speak it much better. His smile at the end of the day was what made my day. I felt like I had actually made a difference in his life. It brought me sweet joy and still does to this day.

From the beginning of the semester until this day I go to Springhill Elementary to help with the Kindergarteners. Seeing all of the smiling faces brings my heart joy and is the closest thing to home for me. Having finished my Service-Learning makes me feel accomplished and a part of the community. Before when I first heard about doing the fifteen hours of service I was filled with dread and was not sure exactly how it all was going to work out. Now Service-Learning or volunteering is just a part of my week, a part of my life. I learned that the children truly are our future and starting small is just a start to a better future. I believe we all should take more time with children to understand their thoughts and feelings, even if it means taking ten minutes out of your day to help them with their homework or just to talk to them about their day.

Overall I would do my Service-Learning again any day. The children made a large impression on me. Having spent so much time with them, they have grown on me. Asbaldo made me realize that I should ask for help more often, because then I might learn more not only about myself, but others as well. Asbaldo taught me that a smile is all a person needs for a job well done.

Jason Goza

In The FutureNet

I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. I am majoring in nursing. My career plans are becoming either a pediatric nurse or a nurse anesthetist. When given this service learning project, I was actually quite relieved. In high school, I did some volunteer work for the Principals Cabinet at Central High nearby for a daycare. I knew instantly that I wanted to go back. The kids that I helped there really enjoyed my company as much as I did theirs.

While volunteering for the daycare, which was called InnerCity FutureNet, I did a variety of tasks. I would help clean up the place and prepare for the children to arrive. Once they got there, I would do things like help them with their homework, cater to their snack time needs, and act as a role model for them. It was very satisfying to me watching them grow and learn. It was also rather funny when they referred to me as Mr. Jason.

During this time, we did have some good and bad days. There were times where they would get punished for disobeying the older staff. But there was this one time where I helped a little girl learn how not to cry at everything. She loved me after that. Most of the experiences were good ones though.

I plan on volunteering for this daycare whenever I can. I enjoy working with those kids. After I finish, I will feel better knowing that I've left a good impression on these kid's lives. I learned that kids are very loving people when shown love.

All in all, I had a wonderful experience working with those kids. I guess you could say I'm caught in the FutureNet!

Connor Jones

My name is Connor Jones. I'm from North Little Rock. I'm a freshman at UALR. As of now I'm currently working on my BSN. I plan on becoming a nurse anesthetist.

I went and volunteered my time at the Maumelle Senior Wellness Center. At first I was a little skeptical. I couldn't see the benefits of doing community service at that time. After playing Wii bowling with some senior citizens, I quickly changed my mind. It was actually fun and very entertaining to say the least. I also helped serve ice cream, then cleaned up everything with the help of some other community service people, that were court ordered. I had some laughs with them as we set up for events that they had, like Halloween and for their "ice cream social." I'm really not looking forward to getting old if my social life is going to be eating generic ice cream. They exercised too but I would get out at school at 12:00, so most of the time I got there after everything was over and had to clean up. But I wasn't too sad about missing exercise time. I am happy that I got to partake in the interesting experience of volunteering at the Maumelle Senior Wellness Center. If I learned anything from this experience, it's that you can always learn something from someone else no matter his/her age or education level.

Matilda Lignell

Service Learning - A Way to Make a Change

When we all were informed that we would need to do 15 hours of service, I have to be honest with you, I was not exactly jumping up and down. But after this experience I have really changed my mind.

I chose to go to The First Tee. Since I play for the Women's Golf Team here at UALR, the decision to work with helping kids with their golf, lay very close to my heart. First Tee is a non-profit organization that teaches kids about values in life and how to combine this with a healthy lifestyle; this is where golf enters the picture. Since 1997, the organization has reached 6.5 million participants in their program, and they offer their programs in 50 states all over the country. Imagine how many kids that they have helped out!

Basically what I did was to help the kids during practice, teach them about golf, support them in their sport and just be there for them, be someone for them to talk to. I truly felt great to contribute like this. I remember this one kid named Joey, who is 13 years old, coming up to me after the day was over and saying, "I hope to see you again soon Coach Matilda." I mean, what an amazing feeling to have made an impact on someone like that.

I must say that my favorite part in all of this was the experience itself. Back home where I am from, I never really had the opportunity to help out like this, and I have really learned a lot not only about contributing to the community, but also about myself.

During the time I will spend in the future at UALR, I will always help out at First Tee. We do this practically every Saturday, and we take turns on who gets to go there, so that each and every one of us on the team contributes to the organization.

Change is something that everybody wants, but not everyone works towards the change. Like a famous singer once said, "If you want to make a change, take a look in the mirror; start with yourself and make the change." That is what I have learned.

Kaneshia Martin

Brownie, Daisy, & Junior Scouts

I am from Blytheville, Arkansas and my current major is nursing. My career plan is to earn my bachelor's degree, attend graduate school, and work as a Registered Nurse.

For my Service-Learning hours, I have chosen the organization Diamonds of Girl Scouts. One of the main reasons I chose this organization is because I love kids, and I also was a girl scout once before. This is an important organization that helps young girls grow and mature into young ladies. Several people such as mothers, sisters, and outside sources volunteer with girl scouts to help out with events and outings held for the girls.

This year the Diamonds of Girl Scouts had a lot planned. I worked mostly with Ms. Regina at Watson Elementary School with the Girls Scouts program. On selected days, we met at the school with three selected groups of girls to do activities that dealt with leadership and growth. My duty was to get the girls to interact with one another and participate in activities. I felt great and comfortable with my duty and being around the girls.

I have to say my favorite part about my entire experience was the Clinton Event. We took a trip to the Clinton Museum with the mothers and scouts. I went to volunteer and since Nydia's mother could not make it, I took the role as her mother for the evening. During this event the scouts learned a lot, and so did I.

I plan to continue volunteering for this organization, even though I have completed my hours. Overall, my experience was great, and I'm glad I chose this organization. I helped the scouts grow and learn, and at the same time they taught me how to be a scout all over again. If I had to do it all over again, there would definitely be no second guess.

Kelsey McCowen

Volunteering for the Race for the Cure

I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. I am majoring in Nursing. My career plans are to be a Neonatal Nurse.

I chose to volunteer my time at Race for the Cure with UALR. I chose this organization because my mom and I have always attended the race, so I thought I would enjoy joining with UALR and help raise some money for the cause. I think everyone knows about Race for the Cure, but to those who don't; it is an event started by a woman who lost her sister to breast cancer. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is an event that promotes awareness, education and early detection of breast cancer, raises money for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivors and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

At UALR we set up a booth with information about the race, sign-up sheets, and website information. I volunteered most of my hours at this booth collecting donations and answering people's questions. I also made a poster for the booth that looked like a Race for the Cure ribbon. I found five people to participate in the race with me. Then on October 20th I walked the race with the UALR team.

"Race Day" was the best part of this experience. There were so many people! As far as you could see in front of you and behind you there were thousands of people. As we walked over the first bridge you could look over and see just as many people on the second bridge on their way back to the finish line. Under the bridges were the "Canoe for the Cure" team waving and yelling! I saw one survivor who had her sons pushing her wheelchair while she held up a sign decorated with a pink boa. It was a lot of fun just seeing all the groups of people who made an event of this within their groups by making team shirts with cute, funny logos on them. At the end, there was a parade set up for the survivors. They had a pink zebra Jeep, a pink Mustang, a pink Hummer, a pink fire truck, and a pink tractor. All the survivors sat on a float at the end and a band and the cheerleaders from North Little Rock led the parade.

I completed my volunteer hours when the race was over. I hope that it will become a personal project, and that I can join in this event for many years. I will try to bring in more people to the race as well as participate in the race myself every year. I am so glad that I chose this organization for my volunteer hours.

I feel like this was a very uplifting experience, and it made me feel good to be able to be a part of it. I feel like that day made a difference in a lot of people's lives. For it to make that big of an impact, there has to be many, many volunteers and people willing to give their time. I think everyone who volunteers makes a difference. See you there next year!

Jhailan Rathey

I am from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I am majoring in Criminal Justice. My career plans are to become a police officer for the city of Las Vegas and further my career plans with The United States Customs and Border Protection.

Participating in the “Service-Learning” portion of the First Year Experience class was completely a moving opportunity for me. For the program, I decided to volunteer at a local neighborhood watch, Westfield Watch. The organization is located in my neighborhood, and it precisely deters and analyzes crime throughout my community. I chose the organization because the work displayed throughout the organization depicts a positive outward result for the community. Much volunteer help was needed in the organization in order to maintain an effective and proactive watch over the neighborhood.

As a volunteer within the organization, I constantly patrolled the neighborhood day by day. I was watchful either on foot or on bicycle. At often times, I patrolled the neighborhood at dusk, taking note of vehicle traffic and foot traffic entering in and out of the neighborhood. As a criminal justice major, I found this volunteering opportunity to be a “thumbs-up” for my awareness and studies of law enforcement. There was not a day when I dreaded performing my duties for the neighborhood watch.

I enjoyed every bit of my patrol duties while in participation with the watch. There were many instances where suspicious activities were observed, causing the police to be notified. The calling of police was the excitement of my duties. It was extremely awesome to watch a perpetrator escorted out of the neighborhood. At the end of the day, I would look back at my neighborhood and realize the difference I made in my community.

As the president of the neighborhood watch, I have the authority to communicate with local police and neighborhood officials to ensure the safety of our community in which we live in. The organization brings forth great experience for volunteers who are interested in law enforcement. The organization will always strive for safety, excellence, and control. Without the organization, the community would be in a much worse shape than it is now.

Choosing the neighborhood watch was the best choice I could’ve made in regards of volunteering. While volunteering, I learned that it is up to each individual person to make a difference in his or her community. Each night, I return home knowing that I have made a difference in my community.

Jose Romero

I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. I am majoring in biology at UALR. My career plans are still undecided.

The organization that I choose to volunteer at is called Seis Puentes. It is an outreach program that helps out the Hispanic community trying to learn English among other things. It also hosts workshops relating to health and community issues for those who speak Spanish but not English, so that they are informed. I chose this program mainly because it helps out the Hispanic community. I have had experience since I was child where my relatives did not understand any English so when they needed to see a doctor or get a job application filled out they asked me. I did not mind since I knew I was helping them, but I asked myself, what about those other people who are not so lucky. They must go through a lot of trouble and frustration just to live their daily lives here in the United States. They come to the United States to live a better life, but instead they meet hardship mainly because of the language barrier. I want the Hispanic community to be more involved especially on the issues that directly impact them, for them to do so, they must learn English.

The volunteer job I had was just simply helping out to translate whenever someone did not understand. My favorite part of this volunteer job is the smile on the people's faces when they realize how much English they have learned because it shows how great they feel about themselves and their accomplishments. Unfortunately, this outreach program might close at the end of this year because of budget issues. That is why it is important to spread the word of the effectiveness of this program and maybe it could be saved. I learned that just because you are dealt with certain limitations, that should not stop you from succeeding in life.

Sierra Shannon

I am from Benton, Arkansas. I am majoring in Management. My career plans are to own a big business someday.

I chose to volunteer at Race for the Cure because I have participated in the race for three years prior to this. In all the years I have been, I'm always blown away at how many people actually show up to walk for breast cancer; it's very moving. Race for the Cure is so important to me because my aunt, great grandma, and my pastor's late wife Dena lost their lives to breast cancer. Knowing that every person there has donated money to find a cure for breast cancer is incredible to me. UALR needed my help in volunteering to sign people up, get donations, tell people what the cause is about, and just to get the word out there so more people will want to volunteer or go to the race on their own.

I sat in the Donaghey Student Center at the Rocks for the Cure table, and as people walked by my table, I would stop them and ask if they wanted to sign up or donate to a great cause. Most people graciously did donate. Getting people's attention was hard at first, but once I got used to it, the volunteers, donations, and getting people signing up just became natural to me.

My favorite part about Rocks for the Cure was seeing everyone from UALR get together to fight for breast cancer. All of us working together and helping made the experience that much more amazing for me. Some highs about the race were learning how much money we got in donations and registrations at the end of the race. In total, we raised \$6,700. This is an amazing number considering there was only about fifty of us volunteering.

I plan on participating in the race next year and for many years to come. The experience was awesome because I wasn't alone. I had many people by my side this year. What I learned from this experience was volunteering can make any activity that much more fun and exciting because you can meet new people and help a great cause.

Volunteering for Rocks for the Cure made a difference in me. Being a part of such a great team and working together was an amazing experience to be a part of. We all made a difference together with our donations and by walking in the race for breast cancer survivors and those who have lost their lives.

Blake Wilson

Well my name is Blake Wilson, and I am a freshman at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In high school I played football, and I also raced dirt track. I attended Sheridan High School from which I got my diploma and now I am here at UALR to get my degree in nursing. I did my Service-Learning hours at my old high school, and this is how it went.

Back in high school, if you would've asked me to do community service I would've said, "No." Well, since doing community service is mandatory, I've learned that I like doing it. I chose my old high school football team because it's a big chapter in my life, and it means a lot to me. Volunteer help is needed, I believe, because it shows that to me if something has helped you and played an important role in your life, then why stop doing it?

One Monday when I was free from work and school, I decided to go back to Sheridan High School for their football practice. I've played and practiced many times on that field and coming back onto the field gave me butterflies. I helped out Coach Campbell and the other coaches with whatever they needed, from something as simple as holding a piece of paper, to carrying dummies off the field.

The best part about this experience was getting to revisit my old high school and seeing my old coaches with new players. But, it tore me apart not getting to practice or play football again. If I could do it all over again, I would in a heartbeat.

I feel that this was a good experience for me because I remembered memories that I made at that high school, and I learned a lesson. I learned that if you're going to do something, do it right and with a hundred percent effort. Whenever I leave this planet, I want to be able to look the people I love the most in the eyes with their knowing that I did my very best. To me, if you can do that, then you're perfect.

Going back to a place you loved and recalling memories you've made is priceless. Serving the community of Sheridan makes me feel satisfied because I gave back to what they gave me. They gave me memories and new friendships that will last forever and nobody can ever take it away. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I wouldn't have to think twice about it. Would you?

Section 15

Gelina Buslig

Volunteering for Arkansas Food Bank

I am from El Dorado, Arkansas. I am majoring in Biology. My career plan is to become a dermatologist.

For my service experience I volunteered at the Arkansas Food Bank at their new warehouse after meeting the volunteering supervisor for the Arkansas Food Bank at the Service Fair for UALR. I chose this organization because they offered a flexible volunteering schedule, and I feel strongly about helping people that have trouble gaining supplies for basic needs. This organization is important because they assist the needy by providing free food. They also provide other basic necessities such as health supplies and clothes. The Arkansas Food Bank does not have that many employees, so their productivity thrives on volunteers.

My job was to stock the food bank's agency mart and fill health supply boxes for senior citizens. The Arkansas Food Bank's agency mart is a grocery-store-styled room where they have people make appointments to receive food. I had to place donated food in the appropriate sections of the agency mart. On another day, I worked on filling health supply boxes for senior citizens. I had to retrieve various donated items such as shampoo, soap, and vitamins from boxes to put into smaller boxes for elderly individuals. When I began stocking the agency mart, I felt really excited; I was determined to make the agency mart really presentable and neat, but as the hours passed I became tired and bored. My experience when filling the health supply boxes was more enjoyable. When I was filling the supply boxes, I actually thought about the senior citizens that would receive the boxes. Imagining different people opening the boxes that I filled personally made the service experience easier to appreciate.

I believe that meeting people is the high of the experience, and trying to reserve a service day and working long hours were the lows of the experience. My favorite part of the experience was meeting other volunteers. They enjoyed helping others and were always open to conversation. I believe that they made the experience more tolerable. Although trying to solidify a reservation for a service day was tedious, I think my least favorite part about the service was filling the agency mart.

After I get all fifteen hours of my work done for my service experience assignment, I don't think I'll do anything else for this organization. When it is finished, I think I'll feel satisfied with the productive work I've done, but I'll also be relieved that I don't have to work for so many hours stocking an agency mart. From this experience, I learned about the process of maintaining a food bank and the kind of work necessary to supply goods to less fortunate people.

Although this experience wasn't as enjoyable as I hoped it would be, I still enjoyed dealing with the supplies needy people require to some extent. I know that I merely stocked an agency mart and filled health supply boxes for seniors, but I believe that every little step counts. Overall, I feel glad about the experience because I was able to make other people's lives easier by doing a little of the work. However, I don't think I would do this again just because of the disorganized behavior of the Arkansas Food Bank's volunteering supervisor.

Victoria Douglas

A Race for a Cause

I am from Jacksonville, Arkansas. I am double majoring in criminal justice and applied music. My career plans are to graduate from college and start my criminal justice career. After I retire from the criminal justice, I have the applied music to fall back on.

As a freshman at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, along with dozens of other freshman, I was told I had to take a class called "First Year Experience". A requirement of the class was a total of 15 volunteer hours. For my volunteer hours I chose to participate and help with Race for the Cure on October 20, 2012.

The requirements to get the whole 15 hours I needed were that I needed 5 hours of volunteer work outside of the race such as hanging posters and "Race Space", participation in the race, and to have as much fun as possible. I chose to volunteer at "Race Space" which was a place where people could sign up for the race, pick up shirts, and buy Race for the Cure attire such as hats, sock, pendants, jackets, etc.

When the day came for the race, it was like trying to drive in Tokyo, Japan! At 6:00 a.m., all of Little Rock, Arkansas was bumper to bumper of ladies and gentlemen trying to find a parking spot so they could get ready to race. With a little luck and somewhat of a miracle you could find a spot to park your car. After you got out of your vehicle, all you could see for miles was pink. Pink clothes, pink boas, pink strollers; take anything a person would have on them or around them and paint it pink.

You had two options as a participant: race or walk. I chose to walk with my mom and 6 year old niece. My mother is a breast cancer survivor, so this was the main reason that I chose to do my volunteer hours by participating in the Race for the Cure. While we walked, there were so many ladies with smiles on their faces. Some of them were making new friends, told their story, and made ever person their feel included. It was almost like every person that participated in Race for the Cure was a big family that was together for one reason; to find a cure for the horrific disease we know as breast cancer.

I think that required volunteer hours for freshmen in college is an excellent idea. Not only does it look good on resumes for work places and scholarship applications, but it also gets the student involved in their community. Knowing about your community and the people in the community as well gives the person a better understanding of their surroundings. I also feel like it brings the state closer together when people are actively participating in activities by volunteering.

Britney Hood

Race For The Cure

I am from Hot Springs, Arkansas. I am currently an undecided major. My career goals consist of becoming a nurse and working in a nursery in a hospital in Hot Springs.

One out of every eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer in her lifetime. We can lower that number by raising awareness. Recently, I volunteered for Race for the Cure collecting donations, selling t-shirts, and informing people about breast cancer itself as well as what Race for the Cure was all about, and where their money would go if they donated.

For my service, I helped set up a table in the Student Center for Race for the Cure to raise awareness about the race and breast cancer. I sat at this table and as people passed, I asked them to donate for the cause, to buy a t-shirt, or just get informed on the subject matter. Even if some people didn't have money to donate, I still got the satisfaction of speaking with them about the cause. Hopefully, what I had to say had an impact on these people.

The only sad part about my Service-Learning project was when people rushed through and didn't take time to even listen. Most people have change in the bottom of their purse and even the smallest donations could help, but a lot of people didn't think that way, so they rushed past without taking a second to look our direction. My favorite part of volunteering was interacting with people who were volunteering their time with me as well as people walking through the Student Center.

The Race for the Cure is an annual event, so I plan to participate in the years to come as well. Hopefully, next year, I won't be working on the Saturday of the race so I will actually be able to attend. I am very satisfied with my experience because I feel like I did my part in helping raise awareness and collect donations to benefit research and provide mammograms for women who can't afford them. From this experience I have learned that a little effort can go a long way. If everyone did his or her part, we could lower the statistic of one in eight United States women developing breast cancer in her lifetime instead of it continually rising as it has in years past.

Even though I was unable to participate in the actual race, I feel like I have done my part in helping my community. I wasn't able to tell everyone about it, but I was able to inform some people who will 'pay it forward' and spread the word. This has been one of my best college experiences thus far, and I hope to be involved with Race for the Cure in the upcoming years as well.

Samantha Mehran

My volunteer experience at UAMS

My name is Samantha Mehran. I am from Greenbrier, Arkansas. I am majoring in Spanish. My career plans are to become a Spanish teacher.

During the last two weeks of September, I volunteered at UAMS which stands for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. I chose to volunteer at UAMS because I thought it was a good opportunity to observe hospital operation twenty-four hours per day. UAMS is an important hospital in our state since it is an educational institution that trains future doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Volunteers are a vital part of the manpower in all medical facilities in order to provide the care that is necessary.

I worked in the Family Resource Center at UAMS. My duties were to help patients' families with places to stay, places to eat, and how to access the computers. The patient's family always needs a place to stay and a place to eat because the patient may remain in the hospital from days to months. Also, the patient's family may use the computer to check their e-mail, research medical topics or just catch up on the news. I felt very good about the duties I was given because I knew how to accomplish every task in a timely manner. I knew that my assistance was needed and appreciated.

During this time, I had many positive perceptions such as being able to assist people with their needs. The patient's family enjoyed to coming into the Family Resource Center to sit down and relax. They were able to read a magazine or a newspaper and relax in a quiet environment. My favorite part about volunteering was helping every person in need, no matter how small or large the request.

In the future, if UAMS needs my volunteer services, I would be willing to help. I have finished volunteering and am very satisfied with this experience. Every person was very nice to me, and I learned to always be kind and patient to those people in need.

This experience was very rewarding for me. I wanted to see how a hospital operates twenty-four hours a day. I feel like I made a difference because I was able to serve my community. This experience helped me to be more organized in order to be successful in the future. It also helped me to create a network with different people. I would definitely do volunteer work at UAMS again. I learned it is always nice to help others in need because it makes me feel better about myself, and I know I have taken a positive step in helping someone else.

Ben Phillips

Organized Chaos

I am Ben Phillips, and I am a Geology student, and I am planning to help find natural gas for big companies to frac. Little Rock is where I am from, and it is the best place to be for outdoor volunteer work.

I am the leader of Venture Crew 8, and I had such an annoying volunteer service. I made the best of it however, and got to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Volunteer work always gives a person a lot of experience and something new to learn. For this one weekend, as president of Venture Crew, I learned how important it is to notify everyone, and have a set schedule.

On that weekend my crew had to work with the Boy Scouts in order to teach them how to make Survival bracelets. It's a pretty easy concept to do, and with a little teaching, anyone can make one. We also had to tell them the most important rule of survival. It's a simple task and doesn't seem too hard to coordinate. Well, before we even began to make the bracelets, we could not find our way to where we needed to be. It was at Camp Robison, and it's absolutely massive. The Boy Scouts for some reason didn't give us a map or even directions to get to where we needed to be. We were lost for over an hour just trying find someone to help us. We eventually ended up accidentally finding where it was and quickly set up what was needed. The problem was, we sat around for at least two hours waiting for the first group to show up. Finally the first group did, and so did four others. Making bracelets is easy, but when you have forty people, that is a lot of rope to cut on such a short notice. So we finally got the rope cut, and the first lessons actually started. Not even two minutes into teaching the first group of kids, another group of five or so showed up, and started to complain about not knowing what to do. I had to step up and show them what to do, and finally every group that had showed up went away, and for thirty minutes we waited for another group to show up. The same exact thing happened all day, until the last group of ten kids who were polite, patient, and didn't complain about having to wait. We gave them three bracelets each for being so polite. Even worse, our station was the only one that had that happen. Everywhere else was one to two groups at a time, not three or four. It was like organized chaos, because nobody had any sense of time management, but they sure had groups and a pattern for each group to follow. To say the least, I will refuse to volunteer for Boy Scouts again. I'll just go back to park clean-up at least trash doesn't complain.

I may not have had the best time volunteering, and I actually didn't get a sense of accomplishment by doing it this time. Needless to say that is a rare case, and people will usually learn things through doing good things. I learned the importance of leading and time management. Without these skills you cannot be a leader of anything or anyone. I learned this by a bad volunteering opportunity, but you can always learn from volunteering.

Lyndsey Wheeler

My name is Lyndsey Wheeler and I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. My major is Music Education. I plan to become a music teacher.

I chose to volunteer for the Little Rock School District. I performed my community service with my mom who is a music teacher at Horace Mann Magnet Middle School. The reason I chose this field to volunteer is because it will provide me practical experience in my intended field. When I volunteer, I get to assist with daily classroom operations, administrative tasks, and students.

I helped students in the music classroom learn fundamentals of music by assisting with daily assignments, rhythm practices and beginning sight reading skills. Other tasks included scanning textbooks into inventory and helping students become familiar with the building. Before I volunteered, I never really realized the impact a teacher could have on a student's life. One little girl that I assisted with began to talk and play with me. By the time class was over, she was so taken by me that she called me her big sister it made me feel important to think that someone could think that highly of me.

The low of volunteering was it took a lot of preparation. Students had to be accounted for before the lesson could begin; lesson plans had to be tailored to meet disability needs of students and were multiple time restrictions. The highs of volunteering were interacting with students who look up to me, sharing my gifts and learning from firsthand account the rewards of teaching. My favorite part about volunteering was learning social skills and working with the students. My least favorite part was having to scan all of those books, but it was all worth it.

Through this experience I have learned many skills while volunteering including improving and developing my organizational, communication and interpersonal skills with people more specifically. This experience helped me to realize that time management is important. I learned to be patient with people, and I learned that teaching is not an easy job, but overall this experience was positive.

In closing, while some people are naturally outgoing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people, like me. Volunteering gave me the opportunity to practice and develop my social skills. In all, this whole experience gave me the healthy boost to my self-confidence. I attribute his competency to volunteering and more.

Alexis Williams

Rendre, Indeed!

Bonjour! My name is Alexis Williams, and I am an eighteen-year-old collegiate at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In my sophomore year of high school, my family moved to my alma mater, Paragould High School in Paragould, Arkansas. A proud secondary graduate, I decided to attend UALR to achieve my baccalaureate, where I am currently double-majoring in English and French; I aspire to become a lawyer (which division I know not), so my post-undergraduate goal is to attend UALR's William H. Bowen School of Law to earn a juris doctorate.

The French word rendre means “to give back,” and my Service-Learning experience provided ample opportunities to exhibit rendre. I chose to volunteer at the Pulaski County Humane Society because I possess a lifelong affinity for animals (dogs, in particular) and I felt the need to “to give back” to the creatures that do nothing but give. Animals give their love, affections, and loyalty to humans, but unfortunately, humans do not always reciprocate. For this reason, establishments like the Pulaski County Humane Society have become a vital presence in our society. Pulaski County Humane Society accepts any animal in need; if they are short on room, they will make room. They are a non-profit organization completely funded by private and public donations; as a result, PCHS is always in need of volunteer aid.

The Humane Society utilizes a color system that denotes the integration level of animals, and green signifies fairly socialized dogs. The “park” is an expansive grassy property that has four connecting fenced-in zones, each complete with a bench, play toys, and bathing area (consisting of a spigot, pool, and towels). At the Humane Society (located on Colonel Glenn Road), I pretty much have free-range. I am responsible for taking many of the dogs (those with a green label) out to the park to play in appropriate weather. In the event of inclement weather, I walk the green dogs outside for long enough for them to relieve themselves, and then I bring them back inside. I enjoyed all of the activities allotted to me, from cuddling with the eight-year-old pit bull named “Susie” to integrating a rambunctious pug puppy named Rylie who played ceaselessly with tennis balls much too large for his mouth.

The only “low” I can recall was when I witnessed how emaciated the twenty puppies were who had been rescued from a neglectful owner. Such a sight breaks my heart, and it will empower me—even after reaching my fifteen hours—to continue to visit the Humane Society. My favorite parts were listening to the kittens meow at each other and playing outside with the big dogs (while they simply enjoyed the sunshine and their freedom). My least favorite part was not being permitted to take ALL of the dogs out to play, but I understand that was for safety precautions.

Next semester, I intend to re-establish my presence at the Humane Society, and I know without a doubt that it will be a decision with no regrets. I have two dogs at home: a Chinese pug and a Pembroke Welsh corgi; serving at PCHS made me appreciate my own animals more, while in turn empathizing with the other innocent souls that were not blessed to be adopted into a loving home. I hope that one day all of the creatures at PCHS will find compassionate owners. In the lives of these animals, I may not have made a huge impact, but I would like to believe that I at least fostered in them a sense that humans do care for them. My overall experience was one of great satisfaction! Will I do it again? Yes.

Logan Hampton & Nick Steele

Co-instructors, PEAW 1124 First Year Experience

What a pleasure it has been to work with the fall 2011 Chancellor's Leadership Corps (CLC)! This fall, we welcomed 174 new scholars to the CLC program. Fortunately, Nick Steele was hired full time to coordinate the program. He quickly put in place a new structure, which organized scholars into families of approximately 50 new scholars led by a junior mentor with sophomore ambassadors working with 8 – 10 new scholars.

Reading the essays, you will learn more about CLC, in particular, and life and activities on campus, in general. The students wrote about their community service experiences, "move in" day, their classes, Greek like, and diversity.

To all our CLC scholars, junior mentors, sophomore ambassadors and freshmen scholars, you have challenged and encouraged us to better serve and educate you. We thank you and count it a privilege to learn, lead, and serve with you.

Lakan Young Agustin

Road to Success

I am from Bryant High School and I want to be a general surgeon.

When I first came to UALR, I was thinking the classes would be very formal and serious and intimidating. I learned that most of the classes are actually pretty laid back. All of the things I heard in high school about how if you don't sit up straight in your desk, the teacher will ask you to leave are just myths. So many teachers in high school tried to scare us about going to college and I have no idea why now. College at UALR is super friendly and amazing. It is a lot of hard work, especially because I work at full time job, but everything is very possible. At UALR, with all of the help provided, nothing is impossible. One of the major things that surprised me about college is that there are blind students on campus and most of them walk around and find their classes by themselves. These students cannot physically see, yet they somehow find their way around campus and know how to get place to place. These students complete their work and earn degrees. If a person who cannot physically see can earn a degree, then why do so many "normal" people drop out? These blind people motivated me extremely and helped me to know that if a blind person can come to class every day, learn, do their work, and earn a degree, anyone can do it. My freshman experience is different from most people because I got married just 2 weeks after school started. College students need some kind of backbone support to contribute to their success whether it be a friend or family member, and getting married for me was the best choice. Although for most students, getting married in their freshman year of college would be stressful and overwhelming, I have always lived a different life than everyone else and it actually made my life ten times easier. I have a wonderful husband who supports all of my decisions and encourages me to study hard every night. On the nights I feel I can't hold my eyes open another minute, my husband brings me a cup of cappuccino or always finds some way to encourage me to keep going and have a positive attitude about it. Living with my husband keeps me safe from bad party influences, drug temptations, and mischief activities. Even though I have never wanted to participate in any of those activities, he is always there for me, steering me on the right path. I feel comfortable at UALR because everyone is unique and different in their own ways. The best part about the differences is that everyone is accepted. I can live my way of life and be sitting by a person completely opposite from everything I know, and we still somehow connect. UALR brings together everyone. I believe that UALR students will change Little Rock's future for the better just by showing the community that acceptance of others leads to success within yourself.

Hannah Albert

I went to high school at Southwest Christian Academy, I am pursuing to become a veterinarian, I am a red head that enjoys life to the fullest.

Orientation day changed my life as I knew it. It started when I met Molly Kyle, she was lost and I was on my way to a business seminar. It turns out she was looking for the same seminar I was headed to, so I told her to tag along. We began to talk about our lives and interest and the next thing I knew, we are moving into our new dorm room as freshmen. I realized by meeting Molly that I wasn't going to be alone in college, we both can have fun together and enjoy life, but also we help keep each on task, which is to make good grades so we can full fill our dreams. UALR has opened so many opportunities for my life, it has come with great experiences and good strengthening lessons. Along with these great things that UALR has offered, the most cherished one of all is Molly Kyle.

Taylor Anderson

I went to England High School and I plan on getting a degree in nursing then explore my options within that field.

At the beginning of my freshman year at UALR, I didn't know what to expect. With a new atmosphere from growing up in a small town, and being an expectant Mommy, I wasn't sure how my year would turn out. The classes I soon found out were much harder than what I was used to and I learned quickly that when the instructors say study, you should definitely study.

After my first test grades I was pretty down because I felt as if I couldn't catch on to the college life, and all I could think about was my little girl due in February. I was even debating on whether staying in school. Maybe I wasn't meant for a degree, maybe I should just get a descent job and make my own way. As much as I wanted to do that, I knew that I needed to push forward and stay in school so one day my family could live a comfortable life. With my CLC family giving me positive reinforcement I knew I could make it through the semester and then I could overcome anything.

Jessica Aylife

I graduated from Bryant High School and I plan on being a neurosurgeon.

During the first few months of my freshman year here at UALR, it has been an emotional experience to say the least. I have met some amazing people; old friends have grown to be some of the best of my life, new friends have grown closer to me than anyone has in such a short time, and some friends have disappeared from my life completely. These great friends have helped me through the good and bad, and we have shared many laughs and tears together. I did not find the transition here hard since I had already gone to hell and back at ASMSA; however, it is much different than I expected. It is so much bigger than I comprehended and there are so many people that I don't know but would like to. It is hard and I do feel somewhat alone in a medium sized pond on occasion. Despite all this, I find it much easier to be here than any high school I have gone to (probably because I was an outcast those 4 years). The classes are more demanding, but I find it easy to keep up since I was able to choose what interests me. Because of the great opportunities awarded to me, I will be classified as a junior at the end of this semester and for that I am very thankful. Although many bash UALR, they do not see the promise that the students here get to live and watch every day.

Brandon Bagwell

I graduated from Wilbur D Mills University Studies High School; I plan to work in the medical field with my degree and help support my family as soon as I can.

"My decision to come to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been one of the most life changing events I have ever been through. Ever since move in day I have been busy with endless lists of things to do. I am not complaining, but believe me, it has been rough. It takes lots of will power and dedication to make yourself study; especially when a majority of your classes only last around 45 minutes and the professor says "ya'll can go now!" I quickly realized that it is much easier to go to a party than to sit in the West Hall study room and work on a research paper, but once you hear one of Dr. Hampton's famous speeches, you're reminded to buckle down and "finish strong." Despite all the friends who want to hang out, and the delicious temptation of the Trojan Grill, I have found that dedication arises to those who actually want to succeed.

In a nutshell, college has been great for me so far. I've made tons of new friends, not even counting all of my pledge brothers of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and I have learned many lessons in the short first half of this fall semester. The number one lesson I have learned is that prioritizing is key. You have to prioritize everything if you want to succeed, and organization is vital to successful study habits, etc. Figure out what is most important, not necessarily what is most fun, and put that first. Good things will follow, I promise."

John Barnes

Hi, my name is John Barnes and I attended the University of Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts.

A wise person once said, “the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary”; and although the quote does not hold true for everyone, it does hold true for me. My name is John Barnes and I want to be a more successful scholar; that is why I came to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. There are two definitions of a scholar: a). someone who specializes in a certain realm of academics and b). one who is highly educated and enjoys acquiring knowledge. Before coming to UALR I leaned more towards the latter type, but ever since coming here, day by day I become more of a specialized scholar. My interests, goals, accomplishments, and work ethic show that my past, present, and future decisions are all steps geared towards me becoming a specialized scholar.

My academic interests all include biology, psychology, government affairs, singing, French, and neuroscience, to say the least. Although I would like to become specialized in all of them at the same time, I realize that I must take baby steps. With that being said, that is why I chose my major to be Biology, my minor to be Psychology, and I recently joined the UALR Gospel Choir.

In conclusion, the main goal here is for my association with Chancellor Leadership Corps (CLC), University Science Scholars, Ark-LSAMP, UALR Gospel Chorale, African-American Male Initiative, and University Program Council will allow me to initiate my process.

Madison Bayne

My First Year of College

I graduated from Little Rock Central High School, and have a passion for anthropology.

My first year of college began with an unbearable amount of change. From fear of being lost between classes, to sheer terror at meeting new people. Yet somewhere along the way I found the best people in my life. I grew closer with my family (distance really does make the heart grow fonder), and made some of the best friends I've ever had. My amazing roommate, my favorite girlfriends, and the best guys I've ever met (shout out to the kappa sig's!). I got used to my classes, and used to my course load. Even more of a rough transition, I got used to working all day and most of the night. College has taught me to be patient, strong willed, and open minded. And every day I grow more and more as a person. I love who I'm growing into, and love what my first year of college has taught me. I'm lucky to spend it with the people I do, and to go to UALR.

Hunter Bell

Mechanical Engineer

I was homeschooled all my life and raised to provide. Not a day went by I wasn't hunting, fishing, or farming.

It was June 21. A not lovely Thursday. CLC day to most. It was my first full day to be at UALR. The next day was my birthday. My roommate told me happy birthday in a way I'll never forget. I met some of the best people ever those two days. Move in week was approaching!

My first week at UALR was packed with activities. I made friends everywhere. Everyone was welcoming. With a CLC class larger than my town population I felt overwhelmed but surprisingly at home. Since then not a day has gone by that I haven't felt at home. CLC is a family, UALR is a home. My family and my home.

Katelin Bell

I graduated Bryant High School with the dream of working with whales and it will happen, no excuses. I grew up with the most sarcastic brothers and parents on this planet.

The night before I had to move onto campus I probably cried for a good hour. I was absolutely terrified to move onto campus. My parents were my best friends and I couldn't sleep without my cat and dog at the foot of my bed. I was also scared to meet new people because I was such a shy person. Throughout the week of orientation I realized I wasn't the only person starting this new chapter in my life. I've met so many very weird but entertaining people that made me laugh till I cried more than ever. Conversations with Rachel about her driving tractors and her obsession with Pat Summitt, horrifying Chat Roulette sessions with Jessica and Daniel, and the late night meetings with my CLC family where I laughed the entire time because everyone had something hilarious to say. These stories are only the beginning of my memories and my friendships. My mom always told me, "The people you meet in college are going to be the people you are friends with for the rest of your life." Mother knows best right? If it weren't for CLC I wouldn't have met all of these amazing people. These amazing people aren't just my friends, they are my second family.

Kevin Bell Jr.

I went to Liberty-Eylau High School in Texarkana, Texas and plan on being a doctor.

It wasn't until the first night in my dorm room that I realized it wasn't all just a dream. Just earlier, I remembered waking up out of my sleep at four in the morning and too hype and anxious to go back to sleep. Tears began to roll down my eyes as I began reading all the messages on my phone all my friends and family sent me while I was sleep, saying their final goodbye's and showing me appreciation. High school graduation, passing my driver's test to get my license, and now my first night in college to peruse my dreams as a child to become a medical doctor was a little too good to be true.

At first I felt a little weird sleeping in the same room as this stranger that I have never ever seen before in my life. I didn't know anything about him, not anybody that went to school here. I was a little quiet at first just to observe my surroundings. After a while I began to open my circle to become familiar with some of these guys I now call my friends. I was determined to get this far in life and now have my mind set and focused on pursuing the dreams of my life. It's really important to me because I want to be able to pay my mom back for everything that she has done for me and my two sisters and brother.

Woody Bellairs

After I get my degree, I want to get into Law School.

When I told people I was going to UALR, their first reactions was always something about my getting shot at. I only took them seriously after I was running down the hallway hearing nerf darts fly by my head. Needless to say, I have made some great, lifelong friends here at UALR. These first few months have been every bit of what people said it would be and more. The people are amazing, the classes are fantastic, even the dorms are extraordinary. I have made friends that I know will stay with me for the rest of my life. These friends are always going to be there when I need help with anything. They're especially useful when doing homework. The classes are awesome. The classes are just small enough that you get personal help. The professors are very knowledgeable and don't mind stopping to answer questions to those who need it. The dorms are fantastic too. They're larger and nicer than I expected them to be. The RA, Wesley, does a fantastic job with his programs, and the people on the floor are really, really cool guys. I wouldn't trade my experience at UALR for anything in the world, and I believe this is easily the best campus in Arkansas.

Alex Berry

I went to Bryant High School!

I was always told that college would be one of the hardest moments in your life to overcome. By far that is one of the greatest lies anyone can tell me. College has been the best time I have ever had. Between only having classes in the morning and the rest of the day to go to work or hang out with friends, being in college has taught me to become more responsible for myself and persevere in everything I do. But, being in college can be challenging at times. For example, trying to find a nice balance between work, school, volunteering, and any other activities that a college student must do, honestly can get pretty tough at times. But, who doesn't like a challenge? However, college is one of the best things that could have happened to me since the day I started kindergarten. UALR was the best choice and so was being accepted into the CLC program because I had no idea how I was going to pay for school until this opportunity was put in front of me. Both CLC and the University have so far made my first year college experience pretty awesome!

Matt Bohannon

I'm from Cabot High School

Since I've come to college I have been overjoyed with my experience. These past few months have been some of the best times I have ever had and will continue to have. I chose to rush pike and have ZERO regrets about it. My brothers have had my back through some trying times and I wouldn't have made it without them. I am looking to continue my education at UALR and finish my degree. I'm very proud to say I am a part of this college. The friends and connections I have already made will last a life time. CLC has given me all of the opportunity and experiences I have enjoyed. I am thankful for all of the people who have come into my life here at UALR. I am excited to see where UALR will take me in the next few years, and make some more memories I can think back on in the future.

Latasha Briscoe

I went to high school in Augusta, Ar. I plan to use my biology degree by hopefully going into the medical field and coming back to the delta (where I'm from) and using my new skills where it is most needed, in small towns. My family is very supportive and loving, and something that describes me I believe is the color pink. I choose pink because its color to me means punk, love, with a mix of spice, and I am all of those things.

When I ended my senior year in High School I was actually scared about going to college. It wasn't about my grades or anything; it was about not finding friends. I came from a very small town and a small school where everyone knew each other, so it was a huge transition into college for me. Coming to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock was the best decision I feel that I have made so far. At UALR I am involved in Chancellors Leadership Corps. They encourage volunteering and we exert leadership roles all across campus. Here I have met some wonderful friends and people in general that I hope remain in my life until death. We had our CLC Orientation over the summer which helped me choose my wonderful roommate Alexandra. I love how all CLC people are roommates because my floor, the third floor of west hall is awesome! I feel like we are all sisters and with CLC together we are one big family as a whole with Nick as our dad. I am very grateful for CLC, because without it, my transition into college would have been very difficult.

Autumn Brown

I went to Little Rock Central High school, indefinite in my career choice as of now, and I love my family.

Growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas I never really imagined that I would be attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I mean, not that I was itching to go out of state or had a different university in mind, but the fact that I drove by UALR almost every day didn't make it out to be a likely destination for me. However, due to the amount of scholarships that I received as well as the other positives that I began to attribute to the University, I now live in the dorms of this once psychologically distant place. I went from growing up in a household with three brothers and no sisters to living on a floor full of girls. I went from once aspiring to be a doctor, to working at a doctor's office. I have gone from never eating cafeteria food in high school to eating it under a meal plan. As far as others' concern about taking sixteen hours during my first semester of college, classes have been going well. My time management has been the biggest issue, but ultimately I've been handling business. Hopefully, my time here will involve continual progression and I will continue to enjoy my UALR experience.

Dustin Brown

I am a graduate from Hermitage High school and I seek to further and expand my education here at UALR.

One word comes to mind when thinking about my experience at UALR... Awesomeness. Before I came to the campus of UALR I had no idea what the year would have in store for me. I have a great roommate, friends, an awesome ambassador and a great relationship. All of these things, which I have become accustomed to and love, developed through my role in CLC. Before I started my freshman year, I remember Nick Steele and many CLC members saying, "We will eventually come to be your new family away from home." At first I thought, "they had no idea what they were talking about and that these strangers and my classmates would definitely not become my family or best-friends because I already had that back home," but boy was I wrong. I have learned to trust, love and depend on my new crazy family members. I would not trade any of my long movie nights with friends, hardcore study sessions with my roommate or any of the fun and sometimes sleep-deprived volunteering opportunities that I have experienced this year. Thank you CLC for everything that you have done to make my first year an unforgettable one.

Zack Brown

I went to White High School, and I'm not too sure what I want to do.

My experience at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been a very enjoyable time. I have met some incredibly amazing people at this fine university. The majority of the people are friendly to new comers and the new comers are also friendly to the new comers. The classes aren't so bad either. The teachers are really dedicated here to the students because they are always eager to help their students in any way, shape, or form. Living on campus is also a blast. I currently do not have a roommate, which I do not mind. I have an entire room to myself in the West Hall, so I really have no complaints about the dorms. I also like living on campus because it is so much easier to study for classes because you have access to so many fine resources on campus such as the library or the writing center as well as most of the teachers. The folks working in the cafeteria are also pretty amazing, mainly because they make my food, and I sure do like food. The experiences that I'm having at UALR are pretty grand, and I hope to remain here for the remainder of my college time.

Olivia Brumley

I went to Lonoke High School, I am currently undeclared, I have an amazing older brother who attends UALR as well, and I am very indecisive.

During my high school years, UALR was the last school I thought I would pick. I don't know why, but in Lonoke, UALR has a bad rap. However, every single one of my friends from back home is considering a transfer. They don't understand why they moved so far away to get an education. They don't understand why they aren't having as much fun as they thought they would. I'm having a blast. UALR offers a modern environment, allows me to live on my own, yet places me close enough to home to have a safety net. My friends from back home were so ready to "get out", thinking UALR wasn't far enough, it is. Living at UALR has made me realize what's important. Living at UALR has drawn me closer to my family, their importance. Living at UALR, moving to college, has made me realize who I care about, what I'm passionate about, how much I love sleep, and how thankful I am for home cooked meals. UALR is now home, as is Little Rock. I wouldn't have picked anywhere different or changed a single decision. I am very thankful for the CLC program as well, that introduced me to a life-long friend. UALR is where it's at.

Emily Bruner

Remember, you are enough.

“Coming to college I thought I wouldn’t have a problem adjusting. I’ve always been very independent and took care of myself throughout high school, relying on my parents here and there. When I did get to college, life decided to prove me wrong. She gave me a big slap of wake up and said get out there and meet people. So I did.

As a theatre major I was encouraged to audition for the fall show, *The Bacchae*. So I did, and made it into the cast. Being a part of the cast made my transition complete. In high school I spent all of my time in theatre, it was where I belonged, where my family was. After four years spent with most of the same people during high school, I realized that I was out of practice with making new friends. But, like with most things, it happened. The time I spent with the cast of *The Bacchae* made UALR my place to belong and college truly my “home away from home.” The experience has reminded me to be open to what life has to offer, to make friends, and how those friends can become your family.”

Tiffany Burkhalter

After I obtain my degree and finish medical school it’s my desire to move to Africa where I hope to open orphanages and medical clinics to help improve the standard of living in impoverished countries.

“When I sat down to write this I couldn’t organize my thoughts quickly enough to pen them to a page. I felt like Peter Pan trying to catch his shadow. My thoughts were impetuous and diverse, running to-and-fro, eluding my grasp. Instead of the smooth and concise sentences that I expected to flow loquaciously from my pen, I got chaos. Every time I thought about my life on campus and the adventures I’d experienced thus far a myriad of words jumped out at me. All of them vying for a chance to be featured.

Engaging, exciting, exhilarating, enlightening.

These are some of the few words that came to mind. Life on campus has been expansive and all-inclusive. It’s the rare unity of cultures, religions, and education on an inconceivable level. It’s the openness that encompasses every inch of this place, sweeping across campus like a gentle wind. It’s a tangible atmosphere of acceptance and a yearning for knowledge. It’s beautiful and refreshing, overwhelmingly so. When I think about my life, and what it has been like to be a part of this campus, all I can do is sit back and bask in the gratifying glow of my college experience.”

Grace Burr

I was homeschooled in Searcy Arkansas and would love to become a costume designer with my Theatre degree.

"I come from a place of not seeing a ton of people everyday. I was completely blown away and overwhelmed in my first few weeks at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Everyday was a fresh new experience. Before classes had even started I landed a position as the Assistant Stage Manager in the school's theatre production. On top of my classes everyday I would go to rehearsal until 11 at night. Before I could say the word "midterm" I knew I was in over my head. Progress reports were due and I couldn't believe my eyes! All A's? That's me! I had helped in the play and made all A's, but wait, the semester wasn't even over.

Now it was time to experience a different time of my freshman year. This was the time where I got my homework done early and had movie nights on my floor. Don't forget the nights I went out and had a good time though. Every experience I have had at UALR has been a positive one. I have learned so much not only in my classes but also about people, dancing, cooking, laughing, time management, and most importantly, how to have a good time in a new place. Every day I wake up I am excited, because today leads to a new adventure waiting for me here in Little Rock."

Javari Burnett

I attended Marion High school in Marion AR, where I am now a 2012 Alumni. I hope to further my education and obtain a degree in Journalism and become a Journalist/Reporter. My friends and family are my support system, helping me through all of life's trials and tribulations. I'd describe myself as being unique, because there's no one else like me.

College. It's the intuition of higher learning that most of us are anxious to attend, counting down the days, class periods, and minutes until graduation. After all the anticipation, it was move in day. My palms sweaty, heart racing, and throat quite dry, I didn't know what to expect. Would college meet up to my expectations? Shortly, I learned that it would. I told myself that I had 2 goals for my freshman year, which were being social and finding out what really makes me happy. I stepped out of my comfort zone and started to talk people I normally wouldn't. The entire campus is completely diverse, with no one individual similar to the next. Throughout this semester, I've done a lot of soul searching, discovering who I really am, and finding out what brings me true contentment. What makes me happy is just doing what's right and always putting my best foot forward. I've learned to take nothing in life for granted and always surround myself around supportive family and friends. In the end, find a passion and pursue it. Learn more. Fall in love. Follow your dreams. Be true to who you are. Finally, make every moment count. You only get to experience college once. YOLO

Nicholas Butterfield

I attended Cabot High School and what to become a system engineer. I have a big family and love to be around them and something that describes me is that I love baseball.

My freshman experience has been an amazing experience. When I choose UALR I knew it would be a close family. As of now I have not been disappointed. My CLC family has made this experience a lot easier to grow into. They are there when we need them and always have answers to your problems. I know my decision to come here was the best one I have ever made and I look forward to the good times that are still to come.

David Carrasquillo

I went to Sylvan Hills High School. With my degree I wanted to be able to build airplanes. I have 2 older brothers Jose and Sam Carrasquillo. And my mother Maria Torres and my Father Jose Carrasquillo. My favorite hobby is fishing.

When I was finishing up high school I did not have any expectations of actually going to college. The reason why I believed this was because I didn't have the money to pay for it and I didn't want to put that burden on my parents. So here I was thinking about how I was going to be the only one in my family without a college education. Until something fell in my lap; the flier for the CLC scholarship, against all odds I actually fit the requirements of the scholarship. So I applied for it, and almost a month later I got accepted! My family was so excited that I actually was going to get the chance to go to college that my mother started to cry and my father told me that he was proud of me. Which coming from him is very rare. Coming to UALR was such a change from going to high school; people actually looked at you differently and treated you as an adult. I love it, here at UALR I can actually build relationships with people and not have to worry about the high school drama. I've met some pretty interesting people while being here at UALR and I hope that my relationships continue to grow.

Asa Carver

"My name is Asa Carver and I am an undeclared freshman from Camden."

"When I first came to UALR, I didn't know what to expect. Other than about five people, I didn't have a clue who anybody was or if they were even interested in meeting me. I learned in my first semester in Little Rock however, that the the people here are great if you give them a chance.

Overall UALR is a great place. Most of the professors do an excellent job and make it known that they want you to succeed in life. The other UALR staff, like maintenance workers, are also friendly and seem like they want to make a student's time at the school more enjoyable. The other students are great here too. Coming from Camden, I hadn't seen much diversity at school, but in coming to UALR I've had the opportunity to meet students of all kinds, even students from overseas.

Although there is some campus life, mostly everybody leaves on the weekend to go home or venture off wherever their life is taking them. But since the campus is basically empty, you can do as you please without having to think about being disturbed by somebody else, so an empty campus isn't always a bad thing."

Lindsey Clark

I am from Eureka Springs High School and I want to major in Psychology with a minor in criminal justice.

My first year experience has been a bumpy ride to say the least. Between classes, friends, eating, volunteering and finding time to study and sleep it has been difficult. When they say you better know how to manage your time, they aren't kidding. Friends can be your greatest help or your greatest downfall in college. You have to know when to stay in your room and study and when to go out and have fun. My friends that I have made here in just a few months I know will be my friends for life. Even though we all have different goal sets and different things we want to do with our lives we will always be there for the other. In the last few months I have held friends while they have cried and been held when I was upset, I have laughed until I have cried, and told things that I would never tell. I am glad to say that moving to UALR has been one of the best decisions of my life. If I hadn't I never would have met all the wonderful people that I now call my friends, and not just friends, best friends.

Meagon Clark

I graduated from Star City High School, and I want to become a kindergarten teacher.

When coming into this whole new transition, I will have to admit I was not by any means ready for this new chapter to begin in my life. Although I wasn't ready, CLC helped me transition into the college life. We really are a family, and if you go into it with an open mind and accept your family, then you will have an exceptional freshman experience. I have met so many wonderful people through CLC, student organizations, living on campus, and just being open about meeting new people. I wouldn't change one decision I made about coming to UALR. Everyone I have met has gone out of their way to be helpful, especially my CLC family. I am exceptionally happy that I received the CLC scholarship. Not only does it open up so many doors for your future that lies ahead, but it also creates a relationship that lasts for a lifetime. I love the relationships I have built with my family and my ambassador. Even though we all give him a hard time, we wouldn't trade him for anything. He is very patient and caring.

Brenttia Clayton

I attended Osceola High School, I want to be able to major in either Nursing or Early Childhood Education. I am not quite sure yet, however I want my major to have something to do with children. With my Nursing Degree I would become a Pediatric Nurse. I grew up in a single parent house hold, just me, my mom, and sister. Something that describes me is outgoing and friendly.

"It was August 17th 2012 when my whole life did a 360. I went from the girl who depends on her mom for EVERYTHING to a girl that was about to start her life on her own. My first week of college was the worst experience EVER! I cried like a baby that whole week, BUT as time went by it got better. As much as I tried to make my dorm room look like home the more I missed it. I attempted to be the same "me," but eventually that changed. (FOR THE BETTER) By being in college my whole mind set changed. I have different priorities; things that I did not feel were that important in high school became important. Eventually, my grammar changed, the way I dressed, and even things I liked to do for fun. I know this sounds good and all, but I lost one of my childhood friends because of this change I made to better myself. At first I was upset, but eventually that changed too because I changed the type of friends I had.

I can truly say I found my true best friend in college and its all because of CLC. :)

While I have been in college I have learned that sometimes things go wrong just so you can appreciate the right things. Things change and people grow up. Surround yourself with positive people and "deuces" to the negative.

Life is full of amazing things, but it is also what you make it. Don't take it for granted because you only have one."

Talethe Collins

I am an Honor Graduate from Lee Senior High School.

Before my senior year in high school, I already had my plans set up. My aspiration was to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and earn a Master's Degree in Political Science. Some of my classmates didn't really care too much about where they were attending college. Majority just wanted to graduate and leave home. I was totally the opposite. I wanted to attend a university that I felt would be diverse, beneficial for my education, and affordable with my scholarship money. Thankfully, UALR gave me everything I could ever wish for. The University is very nice. It is filled with many loving people. I have to admit that I was very nervous when I first stepped foot on campus, but so many people from the university and my CLC family made me feel right at home. So far, UALR has giving me a great start on my education. As well as, being able to be a member of one of the finest programs here at the University called Chancellor Leaderships Corps has taught me many things and has given me wonderful experiences to share such special memories. Our motto is a status that I will always carry with me which is the "Triple R" and it stands for Respect, Restraint, and Responsibility. I hope that you will decide to become a part of our Trojan Pride and leave your unique mark.

Amanda Copeland

My name is Amanda Copeland and I am from Little Rock, Arkansas. My intended major is Criminal Justice.

I did not know what to expect my first year at UALR. I expected my first year to be challenging and for the most part it has been. But, you have to be willing to change and adapt. With your new freedom and responsibility, you really have to learn to keep up with things and to study more. The professors will not be running around after you like the teachers in high school. I also learned you will have classes that are extremely demanding, but there are also classes that can be very underwhelming. Without my first year experience class, my transition to college would not have been as easy. My first year experience class has taught me to work and study hard though, for these classes are preparing me for my future. I never really had to study in high school, but now I am determined to do well. I have learned many skills and lessons this year that I can utilize to advance through school and in my future career.

Cynthia Cox

I went to the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts; and I believe that your family is not the people that you are related to you, but those that really care.

“When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.”

-Confucius

I've learned a lot during my time at UALR. I've learned how to determine a hydrate's waterless mass; I've learned why volcanic hot-spots such as Hawaii's volcanic chain exists, and I've even learned how to classify rocks based on the physical properties they possess. Most importantly, however, is that I have learned a lot about myself that I didn't know, and how to adjust the steps I take to reach my goals.

The most important thing that I have learned about myself is what my limits are. Shocking, I know. I spent the last two years in a very high stress environment, and that continued into this past semester at UALR. Because of this I have found out exactly what my breaking point is where stress is concerned. And I have been able to reassess my goals, and what I want and need to do in my life. I have also learned how to adjust the steps that I need to reach the goals that I desire to reach. I have definitely learned a lot about myself this semester at UALR.”

Mariah Crites

I graduated from North Little Rock High School and couldn't wait to start the next chapter of my life.

Unlike most students, I had no idea where I wanted to attend college and I didn't make my final decision until May of this year. I can gladly say that I haven't regretted that decision since I started at UALR. I have met a lot of cool people, learned new things, and enjoyed the freedom of being on my own. Plus, my roommate and I get along better than I could have ever hoped for. I really thought it would be a difficult adjust to share a small room with someone else, but it turned out just fine. Choosing UALR has been one of the most rewarding choices I have ever made.

Eric Cross

It feels good to be home! I was born in Little Rock, but moved away with my family when I was two, and am back living in my hometown for the first time since we moved. I am currently majoring in Health and Exercise Sciences with a minor in Secondary Education, with plans on becoming a high school basketball coach.

"I have to say that if it weren't for CLC I would definitely not be currently attending UALR. However, I am extremely glad that I have decided to come here. My college experience so far has been way better than I expected, and I've been presented with so many great opportunities it is unreal.

When I first arrived on to campus, I was just a regular student with nothing to do all day but twiddle my thumbs and get into trouble. Just a few weeks after arriving, though, it became apparent to me why God sent me to UALR.

First off, every teacher that I currently have is a great teacher and I enjoy their class each and every day. I have found that they all have no problem with helping when you are struggling, and they really seem to care about whether we pass or not. Also, because of my connection to Dr. Hampton through CLC I was able to receive a job in the DSC working a few days a week. The job is perfect because I can study while I'm at work. Basically, I'm getting paid to study, which is always a huge incentive.

Both of these things are all good and everything, but the biggest upside to attending UALR so far, has without a doubt, been my involvement in the Women's UALR basketball team. Just a few weeks after arriving here, my high school basketball coach called me and told me to go by Coach Foley's office and talk to him. I was puzzled to hear this and was confused as to why I needed to talk to the GIRLS basketball coach. He explained to me, though, that Coach Foley was willing to allow me to be a volunteer student assistant coach. I was thrilled with the news and immediately walked across campus to the Jack Stephen's Center to talk to Coach Foley. I walked in and he greeted me as if he had known me for years. After telling him about my interests in becoming a coach and learning from him, he immediately told me what paper work I would need to fill out, and welcomed me aboard.

From that day forward I've been attending practice every day, helping out where I can, and taking mental notes on each and every thing Coach Foley does or says. This experience has been nothing short of great so far and I know that it will do nothing but continue to get better. I feel like UALR and the opportunities that I have been presented here are leading me toward a very successful future. I definitely made the right choice in attending UALR."

Brandon Crow

I attended Malvern high school, I'd like to be a doctor someday and I'm really good with computers.

College is full of all-nighters, new experiences, and tons of games. College is full of flirting, fun, and girls. College is full of learning to study, studying, and studying what you just studied. We give our speeches, write our papers, and do our experiments. It feels like a continuation of high school, but it's completely different. From the first day at UALR I knew it'd be different; West hall has its rules but rules are meant to be broken. College life is so much easier than high school, the teachers are unbiased, the students are uncaring, and only a minority is primitive in their ways. Since college has begun, I've began to complete long term goals; I've built a computer and I'm working towards attending medical school. College is a lot like high school but college is very different, and the adjustment would never have been as easy without my friends and colleagues helping one another in CLC.

Erin Crutchfield

I went to white hall high school, I have one sister named Amanda, and I want to do something in the History field.

"I started out as a frightened girl not knowing what I was getting myself into. The first few days of college I cried every night, missing my friends and family back in White Hall. I was used to seeing them EVERYDAY. After about two full weeks, I had a completely different attitude. The people at UALR did not replace my family back home but they made me feel like I was a part of their family. They made me feel like I belonged at this University. UALR is now my second home and family. The people here are so kind and helpful, it is impossible to feel lost or lonely.

CLC has also had a great impact on my college life. Everybody in this scholarship program is there to help you at the snap of your fingers, and that's what so great about CLC. My roommate is also another factor in my pretty awesome college life. At first we came from the same town as just acquaintances and now we have become actual friends. Any time either of us needs anything the other is there with a helping hand. I know it is pretty cheesy but my boyfriend, Chris, also helps me so much. He is always there to give me the push I need to get through a test or difficult situation. I am so thankful to attend such a great university with such great people."

Jack Dahlstrom

I went to Little Rock Catholic High School. I want to get a degree in criminal justice, enlist in the Coast Guard, and then go into law enforcement. I like biking, backpacking, and classic rock.

The first day I was here I was incredibly tired. Running on no sleep isn't easy, especially if you were driving all night. On the night before the first day of move in week, my roommate, Will Garner, and I went down to Dallas for an Iron Maiden concert. Best concert I've ever been to. On move-in day, we threw all of our stuff in our room, and then hit the road for Dallas. Went to the concert, had a blast, took a power nap, and then started to head back at about 2 in the morning. Got back to UALR just when everyone else was waking up and getting ready. Even though I was dead tired, it was worth it. My first semester so far has been like that first day: tiring. I'm sure it'll all be worth it in the end, though.

Emily Danielsen

I am from Lonoke High School and I intend on majoring in Speech pathology. I have great parents, one older brother, and I love my 3 dogs. I also love to shop!

As an entering Freshman at UALR, I had no idea what to expect. It definitely wasn't what I had imagined. There are so many people at college that you can never learn everyone's name or begin to know half of the faculty. One thing that was really strange to me is that the teachers don't reside in the classroom all the time, they have an office. Also, there are people coming to school at UALR from all over the world. One of my best friends is from Australia. I have also met people from Africa and China.

The dorms at UALR are really nice, but it was definitely a huge adjustment having to share a bathroom with 3 other people and my bedroom with one other person. I was used to my own room, bathroom, and just a lot of privacy. At college, there isn't much privacy and people seem to be everywhere. The teachers care a lot less about their students than they did in High School though. In college, if you want to make a good grade, it's up to you. Teachers don't care if you pass or fail, they just tell you to study. One of the biggest shockers to me is how many people drop classes. I didn't figure it would be that much, but it is. I started out with 100 people in my Human Anatomy class and at the end, we are now down to around 30.

Going to college is fun too though. It's really nice to always have someone close by to hang out with. There are late night trips out, no parents, and a lot of freedom. One of my favorite things is movie night where all of my friends get together and just hang out. College can be fun, but you definitely have to limit yourself. It is a huge responsibility and only you, the student, can decide how much you should play and how much you need to study. College is fun, but it's about growing up and being responsible too."

Justin Dardenne

I went to Watson Chapel High School located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I intend to help others with my nursing degree to help get them back on their feet. I want to go on a ski trip with my family. I am amazing at ping pong.

“What? Another icebreaker, are you serious?” Those were the words I said to my roommate the first week at UALR while I attended the CLC workshops. I wasn’t a big fan of icebreakers at all and I dreaded going to every single one of them, but if it weren’t for the icebreakers I wouldn’t have found my new bud Kyle Wheelless. After all the wonderful icebreakers I realized they weren’t so bad after all since I’m a quiet person and I didn’t know anyone at UALR. They actually helped meet a lot of new people that I would have never met on my own. The first week on campus was actually busier than my regular week of class. Like many people I thought all the workshops were pointless and no use to me but I found out all the information I obtained from the workshops were pretty helpful. Like going to class and getting an attendance grade or just showing up to class because there might be a pop quiz. As a freshman starting a new chapter in my life I was nervous but CLC helped my transition into college life. I can definitely say CLC has helped me make new friends and it has helped me with any questions I have about college. “

Amber Davis

I want to learn as much as I can so that I will be able to help those I care for as well as those around me.

I figured college would just be another high school but with more students. In some ways I was right. There are still cliques, there are still those who think you suck, and there are still those who love to make you feel bad. I guess there are people like that everywhere though. What I really noticed was the diversity and acceptance. You can be a loner, or you can hang with a large crowd. It doesn’t really matter because you are you. For every one person who thinks badly of you, there are ten more who know that you are a good person and see the best in you, accepting you for who you are. I think that is just amazing. By learning more about the people around me and in the world, I am learning more about myself. By being a part of the community around me, I am growing as a person. It’s a wonderful experience and a beautiful gift. I plan to make the most of the time I have been given.

Daniel Davis

I graduated from Bryant High School, and when I get out of school, I plan to teach foreign language, first at the high school level, and someday at the college level.

“For all the things that have happened in college:

Crazy - all the time with my friends.

Opinionated - all the wonderful student organizations on campus.

Loud - there's a right time for that, but usually it doesn't happen then.

Liberal - being open to different and new things.

Everyone - that's who we accept.

Graduation - the goal I strive for.

Experience - I've gained so much since just a few months ago.”

Caleb De La Paz

I went to Cabot High School for all four years of my high school career. I grew up with a family of eight and can't think of anything more I enjoy than hanging out with them. I spend most of my spare time doing something outdoors (running, hiking, biking, and swimming).

When I was deciding on which college to go to in high school, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock was not one of my top choices. I really was leaning more towards Arkansas State University at Jonesboro and University of Central Arkansas. I thought I had wanted to go to them because all my friends were going to those places and I did not want to have to make new friends here. When spring was coming to an end and I received my Chancellor's Leadership Corps acceptance, I decided I would go here because of the money and just tough it out for four years. Little did I know that this would have been one of the best choices I have ever made.

Going to UALR has been a great experience so far. The classes are really engaging and I feel like the smaller class environment here is the best thing for me. I get more one on one contact with my professors and can easily ask questions which help me learn better. Also, the environment is great. The building and facilities for the most part are really good and everyone is nice. I absolutely love the cross country program here as well. The team is awesome and the facilities are very nice.

As for my personal life, I really enjoy the roommates I am with. I am residing in North Hall and I really like it. It doesn't even feel like a dorm. It feels more like home and is equipped with really nice appliances and everything else. One thing I don't really like here is the lack of campus life. I went to the neon party and to movie night to watch *The Dark Knight Rises* and both were really empty. On top of that, the movie was always cutting out and the speakers were really horrible. I just wish there were more student life activities.

All in all, I really like the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and am glad I chose it. Besides the lack of student life, the excellent facilities, programs, and education here really make this university appeal to me.

Jeremy Dedman

I went to high school at Saint Josephs Catholic School and I intend to pursue a medical degree after completing my major. I come from a family of doctors. I love poetry, a nice glass of milk, and, of course, my friend Pua.

College has been one of the more interesting times of my life. I would like to tell you that my high school experience consisted of hard work and gratification but, being truthful is a part of CLC so, I will tell you that it was not. I hoped that college would be a place that I could find what I wanted to do with my life; somewhere I would have something to work for. So far it has lived up to my expectations. CLC has not only accepted me into a community but, most importantly, has given me motivation to be the best that I can be.

Ryan Donahue

I went to high school at Catholic High in little rock Arkansas and i would like to become a mechanical engineer with the degree I want to get.

In all honesty, UALR is not at all what I had expected it to be. I came here thinking that I would be bored all the time because it was a small school, unlike all of my friends who went to big state schools. But to my surprise I found myself busy a lot of the times with the new friends I have made. I Decided to become a new member of Pi Kappa Alpha, which I truly believe was a great decision because I already have a great support system with my new brothers in the fraternity. As far as classes go I never thought it would be so hard to wake up for a 9am class. In high school I was used to waking up at 6am and going to school at 8am, but for some reason, even with an extra hour of sleep, I find it nearly impossible to get out of bed in the mornings. All in all, my first semester as a freshman at UALR has been one of the most fun and exciting experiences in my life, but hopefully, the first semester is only a precursor to the many semesters to come."

Sarah Eid

My name is Sarah Eid and I want to become an anesthesiologist.

College introduces a completely different environment compared to high school such as the unique diversity, demanding course work, and opportunities to meet new people. So far, college has been a real challenge from time management skills to study strategies. I was little prepared for this academic leap. College is nothing like the high school I came from where grades were easily achievable from little to no hard work. Comparing the biology courses I took in high school, I've learned that college courses are much more detailed and I developed a brand new drive to improve my standing in this field of study. Even when times were looking tough with my academics, I found the energy to move forward from the wonderful connections I've made here on campus. My roommate especially helped me pull through. She's introduced me to different types of Korean cuisine, gave me guitar lessons, and has also been there for me when I needed someone to talk to. Throughout my experience as a freshman in college, CLC has become an extended part of my family. If I wasn't a CLC scholar, I would be misinformed about how to succeed in college and I would not have learned the importance of being a leader and how it can contribute to my future. As I said before, I was little prepared for college but with CLC contributing to my education, I know now that I can persevere through.

Jacob Ellis

I graduated from the Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts and intend to go to medical school after college to become a psychiatrist.

Going to a high school away from home I must have been mad
But they lured me with images of a future in which I would be glad

Told me that "college would be a breeze once you're done here"
But what got me most was the possibility of my dream held dear

To go far away, to a place where I knew no one
But by the end of those two years my decisions were few to none

Because only one college offered what it all came down to
Go there and come out with money in hand
Or go elsewhere and be indebted to a few
But this location was better than planned

A campus so beautiful
Teachers invested
Food not awful
Housing yet to be bested

So even though I'm closer to home
Than I was the last two years prior
I'm somewhere new to roam
And continue with my learning desire

Korey Fells

I am Korey Fells. I went to the great Parkview High School. I've been called the music man. Music is my life! No matter what I decide to do the rest of my life, I want to make sure that I am a good father and husband to my family.

To realize something means to see and understand something that you didn't quite get at first. During my first semester of college, I realized sooooo many things! It goes from how I learned that I actually don't like Ramen noodles to how the beginning of college is the time for me to work on myself and to grow. I realized that most of the people that smile in your face talk behind your back. I learned once again that people see negative before they see positive. I learned that nobody knew more about everyone in CLC than NICK STEELE. But the most important thing that I can say I learned is that I truly do have a passion for music. I learned that I could do much more than even I would expect of myself. This is the beginning. This is where it all starts! It's time to and make a difference in this game of life.

Chanler Ferguson

I went to Drew Central High School, I am not sure yet what I want to do with my degree, my family is the best and I hate being away from them.

My first semester in college has been like a roller coaster. I have been so homesick that I drove two hours home in the middle of the week, I have been plain sick and had to go to the doctor, and I have been overwhelmed. At the least I guess you could say my first semester of college has definitely been an adjustment. However, amongst the busyness I have found a few friends who make a laugh go a long way.

From falling in the hallway floor and laughing for fifteen minutes over Heather Haynie's broken Keurig, which is a story only we would understand, to many lost adventures around Little Rock with my roommate, Ashley, and even carving pumpkins with Konley and Mariah, or giving strangers a ride because Rachel is too kind. These are some of the many little things that made my life here at UALR great during my first semester.

Kailey Fogo

I went to Arkansas School for Math, Science and the Arts and I intend to become a pharmacist.

Throughout this semester I have been able to experience more freedom in my life. This freedom has led me to new discoveries. These discoveries have ranged from being as small as eating whenever I wanted to, to being able to see my friends at any time of the day. The diversity of this college astounds me and yet everyone here seems to get along, this shows me that skin color and religion can be pushed aside to make a more harmonic environment. UALR has been a great inspiration on me and hope throughout the next four years the inspiration will grow even stronger. CLC is one of the factors to this inspiration, not only because I can consider them my family away from home, but also a tool to help survive the college life. Their Facebook page alone has been a tremendous help in navigating my way through the semester. The amount of people in CLC gives me the opportunity for study groups in almost all my classes. I look forward to spending my next four years on this campus because of the people here and the wildlife you see day to day.

Kristina Frogoso

I graduated from the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts in Hot Springs, and I plan on majoring in Environmental Health Sciences.

I enjoy Monday mornings when I get to walk through beautiful architecture and scenery, through crosswalks and pathways that lead me to Fribrough Hall for my Biology lecture. I have Dr. Payne for my instructor, and he gives interesting lectures and sometimes shares hysterical stories. Afterwards, I attend my Biology Lab and successfully complete activities with the coolest, most fun group. Then, in the afternoon, I walk to the Student Union to my Pop Guitar class where I learn a plethora of different tunes and techniques in playing the guitar.

On Tuesday mornings, I go to College Algebra to be enlightened by Mrs. Hundley. Then, I walk over to Dickinson Hall 100 to attend the CLC class where I learn about campus events and volunteer projects that are available. I enjoy this class because various speakers and presenters come to share loads of information to help us succeed in college. Afterwards, I attend Intro to Art, my favorite class ever this semester. Mrs. Stults is the coolest art instructor. She is extremely passionate with her lectures, and she can tell stories that will mesmerize the listeners. My last class of the day is Science Skills with Dr. Lanza and Dr. Winter where I learn how to write and present scientific projects.

On Wednesday mornings, I get up earlier than usual to go over to the Bale Elementary School and read to my two second grade kids, Jomarion and Alexis, for the volunteer project called the AR Kids Read. I relish every minute of interacting with these kids. I go through the same schedule the rest of the week. And on weekends, I have the fortunate opportunity to take leisure and spend time with friends. College is quite nice.

Hannah Fulmer

I attended high school at Mayflower High School.

My first semester here at UALR has been great. New place, new people, new experiences. I've met a bunch of people here, and I always feel so comfortable around everyone. CLC has really helped me meet new people, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the organization. This semester has been a little stressful, and I've had the mid-semester "I'm thinking about changing my major" crisis that I think almost all students have at some point in their college career. But, I think it did me good. I think the major I'm planning on pursuing now is the right path for me. I think I've found where I should be. My friends here have been supportive about my decision, and I'm thankful for them as well. They keep me going and help me release some stress. Everyone needs a Mario Brothers and Oreo night every once in a while. UALR is the best school in Arkansas as far as I'm concerned, and I truly believe that I made the right decision in choosing to attend.

Natalia Gage

I went to McClellan Magnet High School and I feel as though I want to go into pharmacy and help myself and my family. Something that describes me is dedicated. I have that drive to do anything I put my mind to and I'm serious when I need to be.

My first semester has been very interesting for me. Starting from move-in day up until now I've had nonstop fun and memories that I will carry with me forever. I was the first to move in my dorm room and set up my side and I was super excited about it all; I ran around the dorm room screaming and yelling how happy I was about being there. Kadijah Mitchell whom is my roommate moved in and we were so geeked about seeing each other and talking getting to know one another. After I settled the fact that I was now a real college student I then prepared for my first class. My first class I'd ever went to was History and I loved it maybe because it was my first class. My teacher was so nice and funny and seemed super excited about being there. Everyone made me feel very comfortable and the environment did as well. What was funny to me was the way I remembered where my first class was and it's because my ambassador John Madding brought it to my attention that the building looked like a parking deck, so whenever I forgot I remember "Talia look for the parking deck" it was an easy way for me to remember where to go. Overall my first semester has been amazing and I wouldn't change it for anything.

Martin Garcia

I am from Monticello Arkansas and attended Drew Central High School. I am currently undecided. I have a family of 4 brothers and 4 sisters. Some things I like doing are running and hanging out with friends.

This first year at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been a life changing experience. I have had the time of my life and the days just seem to fly by when you're having fun. I have been able to grow more as a person. I am now more talkative than before and I'm really proud of that. The friends I have made here are simply the best. We get along so well because we have so much in common. Even though I do like similarities, differences aren't bad either. Here at the University of Arkansas I got the chance to see so many different kinds of people varying in ethnicity. Seeing all these different people makes me feel glad that I made a great choice by coming to this university. Also as a CLC (Chancellor's Leadership Corp) student I have really enjoyed what the program has done for me. Volunteering helps me do one of the things I like doing which is helping people. Through CLC I have met most of my friends. We help each other in the many problems we have like struggling in class for example. We help each other out and look out for each other. I know I have their support as well as the support of my family and that is what keeps me going. I'm so grateful that I came to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, being here is something that I will never forget.

Jamie Gardner

I went to Blytheville High School. I want to get a doctorate degree and become an OB GYN.

Two weeks after classes started I realized that I was on my own now and every decision I made was up to me. I could go to class if I wanted, stay out as late as I wanted, and do whatever I wanted to do. This is the life. Since being here for the first semester I have made a lot of friends and memories already. Krishondra Watson is the best roommate ever. I love the girl. We clicked instantly at the CLC orientation. We are total opposites, but in a way we're somewhat the same. I'm loud and crazy and she's quiet and laid back (when we're around certain people). She is one of those people that when you meet her she makes you want to do better for yourself and be a better person. She is my "holy" friend as I would say. We are now and forever sisters. Now back to this academic college life. It's hard out here for a pimp. I'm so glad I listened to those long lectures about being organized, managing your time, and prioritizing things. I'm always up to my neck in homework, but I manage to get it done on time all the time. Being in college is a life changing experience to me. UALR is the place where you can find yourself without being judged and a place where you become someone. UALR is AWESOME. It's so family friendly. This my FIRST CHOICE, if I didn't get accepted here I was going to keep applying every semester until I did. I LOVE IT HERE!!!!!!!

Konley Gill

I attended North Little Rock High School where I realized that I wanted to go into teaching.

One of the main things that I never wanted to do in college was live on campus. I even applied here based on the fact that I thought it wasn't required. The whole college/dorm lifestyle frightened me because I didn't want to get stuck with a roommate who I had nothing in common with. Thank the Lord, one of my old friends had gotten accepted into CLC and we were able to room up, without her, I don't think I'd be able to survive on campus. CLC has also been a great factor into determining my outlook on campus life by bringing me closer together with people who think and act like I do. CLC is a great program and I'm thankful every day that I was able to come here and meet so many great and amazing people. It's made me feel more accepted and loved at UALR, without this network full of hardworking and dedicated individuals; I can't imagine how bleak my college life would've been.

Roger Gillum

Cabot high school, pre-med, going to UAMS.

I chose to come to UALR because I did not want to be too far from my home in Cabot and on move in day I was more than uneasy about the whole situation. I was moving away from home into a dorm with a roommate who I had only talked to for about 30 minutes in the past. I did not know what to expect but I knew one way or another I would make it. Over the course of the first week living on campus I started to get to know some of the people in CLC and I started to feel more at home. It was really helpful to me being part of a relatively small group that CLC is because when you first walk into your classes, even if you do not actually know the people, you at least recognize the faces and know that you have something in common. Since those initial days at UALR I have grown to consider this my second home and have already made several strong memories and good friendships here. While I'm sure I could have made it on my own, being a part of the CLC family made my freshman experience much better.

Morgan Gower

I went to Stuttgart High School and now pursuing a degree in business in hopes of managing a company one day.

After graduating from my small school, Stuttgart High School, I was terrified of moving into college. I knew everyone in my small town and I was afraid that when I moved to Little Rock to attend UALR I wouldn't meet anyone. To my surprise, I started meeting people at UALR instantly because of CLC. I was hesitant when it came to attending CLC social functions but once I was there I was so glad I went. Thanks to CLC I've met several people who will be my friends throughout college, and even some that will be lifelong friends. UALR offered me things that no other college in the state did. By attending UALR, I can receive an excellent education, socialize with all different types of people, and gain independence. One of the reasons I chose UALR was because of the diversity of the campus and having the option to meet a broad variety of people. In addition, Little Rock is only an hour away from my home town. Living at the dorm, I can gain independence and learn how to handle things on my own. However, if things get tough or I just want the comforts of home, I can easily drive home after class. I owe my happiness to UALR. Without this college or CLC, I wouldn't have the wonderful friends that I do today.

Corey Green

I went to Lake Hamilton High School. I want to be a surgeon, my family loves getting together for holidays. I love being outdoors, hunting, fishing, mudding and camping.

Moving to college is like moving to a new city and not knowing anyone at all. You go from being this person that was so active in high school; that was an athlete, had friends, and cheered in student section to none of that. I can't begin to tell you how many friends I have made since CLC; it's a great experience. A chance to meet new people, share ideas and all the advice you could ever want. Hopefully if you are a new CLC freshman and are reading this you should have heard about the Christian based chapter my friends and I have started. We Alpha Xi Rho aim to fulfill the desire of unison that many college students want to be a part of, without necessarily being a fraternity or sorority. A chapter who allows them to be a part of something larger than themselves and gives them reasons to partake in campus events, intramural sports, student section and the development of friendship and sibling hood. Not only in CLC but with others that aren't a part of an organization as well. So I've had a great freshman year and to whom this may concern "GO XI RHO" and have fun the right way...OH! And keep your grades up!

Caroline Groce

I love the outdoors and enjoy helping people.

"Where are you going to college?"

If you asked me this time last year I would've said I don't know or probably something like I'll go where ever everyone else goes.

I didn't care where I went. I didn't even know what I wanted to do with my life. I wasn't even sure if I was going to college or not. My mom knew that but I didn't know that.

Then I got accepted into University of Arkansas at Little Rock but everything didn't start changing until I was accepted into CLC.

Chancellors Leadership Corps has never impacted my life more than anything else has. It challenges me every day to live up to my full potential, it gives me a willingness to try new things, it really gets me excited and involved in my community, a chance to meet new people that are similar towards me, and it gives you the perfect first year experience living on campus and involved in campus life.

CLC doesn't just do all that but it makes me feel like I belong somewhere. CLC isn't just a big group of students, it's a big family and that is something I couldn't be happier.

Carissa Groves

I graduated from Bryant High School in Arkansas.

Transitioning from high school into college was a scary thought. I had no idea what to expect. The one thing that crossed my mind was who my roommate would be. It was getting closer to the day that came when we chose our roommates. I still had no idea. One night I was talking to a friend of mine and he told me several girls from my high school were looking for a roommates. I added them on facebook and one responded really fast. I remembered her in several of my classes but we hardly exchanged words. I was then concerned with her lifestyle and study habits. I was hoping things would work out. Move in day came and she helped me move in. She had a smile on her face and was so welcoming. I then had confidence things were going to be ok. I actually found that we were alike in many ways, not all but quite a few. She was always there for me when I faced relationship problems, when I felt my health was fading, and when I was stressing over tests. We worked, shopped, ate, and did much more together. She became the closest friend I had. I could safely say I made the wisest decision choosing her as my roommate. She was a huge impact on my transition to college.

Kyle Grumbine

I've been home schooled my entire life, and I plan to become a surgeon with my degree in Biology.

I was really nervous about going to college. I had no idea what it was going to be like. With my shyness, I figured there was a good chance that I was going to go the entire four years without getting to know anyone. To my surprise I have already made a few friends in the Chancellor's Leadership Corps program, and I'm more than happy with that. They have helped me through quite a few things with my classes like studying for tests and problems. With me trying to become an orthopedic surgeon, I decided to get some of my science classes out of the way early. To my surprise (and against my hopes) those classes have not been that easy. Luckily, I have been able survive with the help of the new friends I've made and some of my old friends from back home too. Sadly the whole living on campus all the time thing wasn't working out, and since I don't live very far from Little Rock, I've started coming home a little bit more, and being in a place that I feel a little more comfortable sometimes has made studying quite a bit better. Though I am really excited to see what the rest of this school year brings, I'm still planning to approach it, and the rest of my time a UALR, with a healthy amount of caution.

Sandra Guardado

I attended Parkview high school, and with my business degree I would like to open sell/rent houses and also become a buyer for a company. In my family I have one brother and one sister; they are both older than me. My sister is currently attending UALR, and my brother is attending UALR for one year as well. Something that describes me is that I am responsible and friendly.

As a freshman in college I have learned many things and I have met many amazing people. So far my college experience has been pretty good, I have met many people that I have gotten really close to and I have also become more responsible as an individual. I have learned to manage my time between work, school, friends and my family. Although sometimes it can be extremely difficult to fit everything into my schedule, somehow I manage to fit it all in. Not only have I become more responsible but I have also changed a couple of my habits. One of those habits is my sleeping habit. Ever since I began college, I have gotten used to sleeping whenever I want and also going to wherever and whenever I want. Since I have changed this habit, I go out to eat sometimes in the middle of the night or just stay up doing homework or watching TV. Another habit that I have changed is my diet. Since I live on campus I am required to have a meal plan. This meal plan is actually very helpful because it saves me time from going all the way back home. Even though eating on campus is very helpful, I have started to gain more weight. A lot of people gain the "freshman 15", and I am extremely scared that will occur to me. I started off working out three times the week, but as I started getting more homework and having to go to work more, I started lacking on my exercising. Overall I have had a great college experience so far. Hopefully it continues this way and my grades stay up so my stress level can stay as low as possible.

Brenden Guffey

I went to Bryant High School and wish pursue a business degree at this moment in time.

This past few weeks at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock have been quite an experience like no other. I have made multiple friends and acquaintances due to being in the Chancellors Leadership Corps. First day I got here I was able to talk to people like I have known them for years! From classmates to gym partners to intramural sports teammates, there is a place for everyone. I have been encouraged to go and try new things such as going to a dance club, being forced to join my friend at the gym to numerous other things. I have never once felt like I do not belong at this school and I am extremely glad I chose this school over others especially for these reasons. My new acclaimed friends I would not want to trade for anything as they help me keep my head straight and help me open up to new ideas and surroundings. The experience is truly one of a kind and is priceless.

Maxwell Gullion

My name is Maxwell Gullion and I went to Blevins High School. My intended major is Computer Science and I plan to become a video game programmer when I graduate.

Since coming to UALR I have changed and molded how I am. I have become more helping than before and actually try my best. It's a big change from never having homework to having homework every night. I would happily be able to say that college is going to be the best part of my life because I am here at UALR. Coming here has made it easier for me to manage time and balance out my life.

William Harbison

No one in my family ever had the opportunity to go off to college, so when I received my acceptance letter into ASMSA my family knew I had a shot to make something of myself, and as it would seem UALR was my destination.

College was never something I planned, and in reality only was achieved because my family told me how important it was. I needed to try my hardest to escape the poverty level income that plagued my household growing up. The day I was awarded the Chancellor's Scholarship I called my family, and I remember the excitement they had for my future.

The school year started off better than I could have ever imagined, reunited with some of my old ASMSA friends, and fulfilling the dream my parents envisioned for me. Making new friends was never a skill I had, but that didn't matter to me because I had made a few new acquaintances and I already had my best friends from ASMSA even if some of them did not attend UALR. Yet oddly enough the best feeling I have had while attending this campus has not come from my ASMSA friends, or from my new PIKE friends, but from a single person. I never thought I could bond so quickly with someone I hardly knew. And before I knew it I had made a new best friend, but the individual was much more than that. Not only was it someone I shared so many interests with, but someone I could talk to about anything. Regardless of our current standing or the past few months, when I think of my first semester attending UALR it will be forever entwined with the person that made my start here so memorable.

Dylan Harris

I went to High School in Sheridan, Arkansas and I plan on being a teacher with my mathematics degree.

Hi, my name is Dylan Harris and when I first moved into UALR I was really nervous because I've never lived away from home before. I did not expect to make that many friends because of how shy and quiet I am, but boy was I wrong. In the couple of months that have went by since that first day of college on August 23, I have made several friends such as Cory Ringsmuth who lives on the fourth floor of West Hall with me and several other friends of mine now. I have also made several other new friends my classes this semester such as Will Garner and Erica Torres in US History and also Dylan Wood in my Science of Biology Lab class. But besides the friends that I have made and some of the experiences I have had so far at college, I am just so proud of myself for going to college and making something of myself someday soon. It feels great to have complete support from my family and friends who want the best for me even if it separates us because of the busy schedules that we all have. I cannot wait until I have my degree in my hand so I can have that feeling of accomplishment and the feeling of my parents crying with joy because their son did something that most people in America do not accomplish, which is earning a college degree. This will be something that my parents and I will hope to see my sisters accomplish as well.

Matthew Head

I went to Vilonia High School, I am undecided on my degree, my family is very close to me, and I hope to get the most out of college I can!

My first semester here at UALR has been a fun and stressful time. I've learned three main lessons so far this year. I've learned that just because a test is a couple weeks away does not mean you can put off studying. I've learned that sleep is an option, not a necessity. The third thing I've learned is a hundred-fifty flex dollars is spent much faster than you realize.

I've had a few big tests already that I have waited way too long to study for. Most of these tests I was given a few weeks ahead of time to study for but I always put off till the last night and been way too stressed. My new plan is to study a bit each night and review the night before.

The second thing I've learned is that just because it is night time, does not mean everyone is going to go to bed. Most of my nights so far have involved hanging out in the dorm living rooms with the rest of my nocturnal roommates. I learned that only a couple of hours of sleep is enough to stay awake the whole next day.

The third thing I learned is that I need to learn to conserve my flex dollars better. A trip to the Trojan Grill each night adds up very quickly. I spent my last six dollars of my plan on one final delicious baja turkey flatbread. Thanks to my lesson I plan on spending my flex dollars much more conservatively next semester.

Overall my experience here at UALR this semester has been very fun. Thanks to these three lessons I believe my next semesters here will be very enjoyable and productive.

Megan Heaton

I was born in Little Rock and graduated from Little Rock Central High School. I am an Early Childhood Education Major and want to become a first grade teacher.

Initially, I didn't want to go to UALR. I thought that living too close to home would be unbearable and I wanted to get as far away as I could from Little Rock. Because I didn't want to be here, I didn't make the most out of my first few weeks of college. I spent the majority of my time at home because dorm life was foreign to me and on weekends, I went to visit friends at other colleges. When I walked around campus, I felt so out of the loop. This feeling of not belonging continued until I decided to attend Meet the Greeks and ceased when I met the wonderful ladies of Chi Omega. When I met the girls, I instantly felt accepted and they treated me like they had known me for years. I've always been interested in joining a sorority and knew that rushing would help me meet people and get involved on campus. I went through rush and thankfully was offered a bid from Chi Omega. I accepted without hesitation and since then I've made so many great friends within the Greek community, become more involved on campus, and focused more on my school work. Joining a sorority made UALR a place that I love attending and I am so glad that I went Greek!

Erica Henson

I went to Benton High School, with my degree I want to help people, and I am very dedicated to gaining success.

Transitions and Family

Transitioning from high school to college was really difficult for me, because I lacked self-discipline and good time management skills. CLC really set the bar for my achievements and my CLC family let me know I wasn't alone on this new journey. I came to CLC with just my best friend, but I have already gained more than I could have ever imagined and I have made so many positive connections for my future.

I have my whole family here. Family begins with my great grand-father, Mr. Hampton. Nick Steele and Amber Standridge are the grandparents I never had. They have so much wisdom, but let us learn off of each other. Then I have my amazing mom, Caprice Phillips, she is always here for me and is constantly texting me to remind me of things. I also have my father, Michael Lock, who is absent in most of my endeavors, but there when it really counts. Then I have all 178 of my brothers and sisters. I love each and every one of them.

I can proudly say my transition to college has been a success due to my awesome Chancellor's Leadership Corps family. I love college.

Adela Hernandez

I was raised in Glenwood AR and attended Centerpoint High School. My family is the reason why I am going to college, they and i want the best for me, to be better than them and have a successful career in my future. My attended major is a bachelor's degree in social worker. I know what I want and I have a vision, and i am determined to reach my goals.

Before coming to college I thought I had everything figured out. I thought I knew where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do with my life. I was certain that I knew who I was and where I stood with my beliefs. Within in the first week, everything had already changed for me. I was exposed to different cultures, religions, races, and more – something I had never come in contact with when I was in Glenwood.

I became a lot more open-minded and willing to learn about different types of people. I made friends with people I never thought I would, and learned that despite cultural and religious differences, a lot of us are the same. We grow up with the same cultural and moral values, and that it's important to be accepting of others. Before I came to college, I thought I already knew everything I needed to know, and that I was coming only to learn in classes. I can honestly say I've learned more about myself and the world around me by coming to college and I'm so excited to learn more, both inside and outside the classroom.

Callie Hernandez

My name is Callie Hernandez and I am from Kirby High School. I plan to major in Political Science and I plan to get into Law School with that major. I come from a large family of 10, being the middle child. I am a pretty quiet person but I can be loud once you get to know me.

Where to start?... Lets just say that the whole college experience for me has been great!! I never imagined this is what college life would be like. Late nights out driving around for Dunkin Donuts, IHOP at 3 am, random trips to Wal-Mart, and the best part is there is always someone who will tag along. The nights when I don't feel like being alone and having friends come stay with me in the room, deciding to start studying for exams the night before and pulling all-nighters with all the other girls on my floor, all of these things have been priceless moments to me. Coming from a small town where there was very few people and not very diverse at all, kept me from getting the full, life changing, exciting, full of new things, learning experience I have gotten since I moved to college. My professors have been very helpful and I have learned a lot from them as well. One of the greatest persons I have met is my ambassador. She has been very helpful, caring, and kept me on track with a lot. Life used to be the same everyday for me back in my hometown. Since I came to college I actually enjoy waking up and starting a new day cause I feel like there are a million opportunities waiting for me out there and a new adventure just waiting to be made.

Shelby Hicks

I attended my High School career at Bauxite High School. I plan to major in Nursing and from there become a registered labor and delivery nurse.

My college experience at UALR has been one that I will always remember. I originally had not planned on going to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, but now I am very happy I did. At the beginning of my senior year I was still unsure of where I wanted to go to college, and I had visited UALR a few times. Then this man from my church, who worked at UALR, told me and my boyfriend that this guy named Nick Steele had been following us on face book, and was interested in him and I joining CLC.

From there I learned more about what CLC was and got really interested in joining it, and mainly because of the great scholarship opportunity. Also, since my ACT score was not the highest and CLC focused more on the grade point average I realized it was a perfect thing for me to do. I fit all of the scholarship requirements because of all the volunteer stuff I had done in the past. Over all this has been an amazing and different experience out of high school that I have ever had.

Jordan Hillis

I intend to become a neonatal nurse after completing my degree.

When applying for colleges I would have never thought I would end up so close to home. All my life I had wanted to move away to experience something new, like I had all my life, since I have two military parents. When I applied to UALR, I applied because I didn't want to break my moms heart by moving several states away, and I just didn't want to give up the life I had established here in Arkansas. I don't regret my decision to come to UALR since this is such an experience that I would never want to give up. Since being at UALR, I have furthered my future and joined the most amazing sorority, which is Chi Omega. Not only has the first half of my freshman year been one of the greatest experiences, but I looking forward to graduating in 2016!

Annon Hodges

I love technology and singing, just like my big brother, Chris Brown.

Hooray! The first semester is just about done. One down...and forever more to go. That is not a completely sad thing, however. My first semester was pretty surprising. I have not ever been that busy. From the terrifying essays in Moneyhon's history class to getting community service hours to my responsibilities outside of school. Whoa there. Despite all of that, college creates this new feeling inside me that I really can't explain in words, but it's a weird yet awesome one. I can definitely say that. I love my RA, Wesley Baltimore, and my other mentors such as John Madding, Dominique Thomas, and Roderick Henderson. It's funny how it has only been a few months, but each of those I named have affected me in a great way already! Well, that's how fast the transformation starts. I love UALR and I'm looking forward to what's next. Bring it!

Neil Hudson

I attended Valley View High School in Jonesboro, AR, from 2008 to 2012. I want to go into law school and specialize in civil or criminal law.

First Semester

When I originally applied for entrance into UALR, as well as the scholarships, including the one that has brought me into the superb community of the Chancellor's Leadership Corps, I had no idea of the experiences and interesting times I would encounter when the school year began. At the CLC interview in March, I seemed to grasp a portion of the aesthetic that my journey throughout college would be associated with. I had met some pretty nice people, took a look at the campus, met my roommate William, and knew that by the time that August came around, I would be ready to immerse myself in the great things college life has to offer.

Opening week presented me with multiple instances to meet numerous people with whom I hope to carry friendships throughout college and through after. While the prospect of taking 17 hours this semester may have seemed frightening to me in the summer, I have enjoyed each and every one of my classes and have been able to work through them, good times and bad, to learn topics that have stretched the breadth of my knowledge to bounds much farther than situated in high school. I have also joined a plethora of campus clubs and organizations that I like to engage in, allowing me to relish what free time I have to participate in entertaining pursuits. One could say that my first semester here at UALR has been a pleasant one, and I would believe so.

Alexandra Hutchins

I am from North West Arkansas, and attended a local charter school called Benton County School of the Arts. My intended major is biology.

My first semester here in this foreign place called college has flown by. I have to say that college has been a big transition for me. I'm in this new environment away from home, learning about myself and becoming more independent. With each day my confidence grows, because I know I have made the right choice. I have realized college is not just about your education but your experience here has a whole. I have met new people, who I will hopefully have bonds with for the rest of my life. I have joined organizations to get me out of my comfort zone, and I have developed a desire to become more open to new things. UALR isn't home just yet, but with each new day I feel like this place becomes less surreal. I'm looking forward to my next semester and what exciting new events it will bring.

Natasha Jaffar

I graduated from Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, Ar. in the fall of 2012. I am always hyper, loud, I love meeting new people, I am crazy for music, and my family is everything to me. Fashion has always been a subject that amazes me and through my high school and college life, I have realized that I want to be a change in the world and work with women that want to develop the fashion world and expand the idea of beauty.

Before coming to University of Arkansas in Little Rock, I thought I had my entire life figured out. I thought I wanted to become a fashion designer and go to a design school but my parents made me stop and think about my decision. When I make major verdicts, I like to stick to them no matter what and I became nervous dedicating my entire life to something I wasn't even completely sure I wanted to do. I came to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with my eyes wide open. I ignored what everyone told me about college and set my own rules and ideas. Doing that was probably my greatest decisions.

Although I'll always love fashion and design, I wanted to find something that I would be able to dedicate my time and life to happily. I became an SGA senator and joined Chi Omega along with making sure I kept my CLC scholarship in tact, I roomed with my best friend, which worked out perfectly, and I grew more independent as a person.

I've met so many amazing people and mentors; I've gone outside my little bubble and broadened my horizons to see a whole new world. I really am excited about the next few years here because I know that the transition to adulthood starts here.

Erin Jameson

My name is Erin I am a biology major, I live in Sherwood, riding horses is my passion and I love picnics under the stars.

Coming into school I was honestly dreading it. This wasn't the school that I wanted to go to and this year couldn't pass fast enough so that I could get out of this place. I just knew coming into it that I was not going to like anyone here, they were all going to be weird and not my type of people. I got more and more negative as the time got closer and by move in day I was so angry about coming that I wouldn't even talk about it to anyone. My whole mood changed though the second I started meeting people. We were all required to go to all of those CLC lectures (which were not desirable) but it did give us all a chance to meet one another and talk. I met so many people there that I now hold very dear to me. I am so happy now (after it is all finished) that I am in CLC and that we did have to go to all of those things because without those I would not have the wonderful, fun and supportive friends that I have today. I am very grateful for my friends and they have made me come to love UALR for more than just a school, because of my friends this place is starting to feel like home.

Ramisha Jeffery

Ashdown, Arkansas. With a Biology degree I would like to enter into the medical field.

“U is for Unique-

Each individual shine differently and have a voice,
Whether you grasp the opportunities are not, it's your choice.
Be yourself among others and don't be afraid to stand out.
Have faith in your goals and create your own route.

A is for Ambition-

The desire to strive for success requires hard work,
Determination, and nothing less than your best.
Success is failure turned inside out.
It's the bright shadow from the clouds of doubt.

L is for Learn-

Knowledge is a buildup of things you learn.
It is the power you own because it is something you earn.
Expand your education and learn something new each day.
Starting at UALR, I will grow and find my way.

R is for Remember-

Remember where you came from and where you're going . . .
Stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
Remember to stand back up, wipe yourself off, and NEVER quit!

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is where I choose to continue my higher education. Along with the amazing staff, mentors, and facility leaders that make you feel welcomed and at home, the diversity is incredible. The resources are endless and the opportunities are plentiful. I don't adore the housing too much, but I will forever remember the life-learned experiences. At UALR, I will continue to learn, lead, serve, achieve and find myself!

Tucker Johnson

I went to Wilbur D. Mills University Studies High School.

When I came to college I had no expectation of meeting the guys that I now call my brothers. These guys, particularly third floor west hall, have gone from being just some dudes that I called Vilonia and White Hall. Getting used to college isn't really that hard as a whole but it makes it so much more fun and enjoyable when you're all in CLC and you all end up living on the same floor and you all end up having to join an organization. We all chose the same organization and all of a sudden I just made best friends than I had any idea I'd meet.

It's not only those I hope to call brothers when we all get through the pledging process of Pike, but it's the guys that I interact with on a daily basis. Even when I don't want to hear a damn word from them these guys won't shut up. I don't get mad though because it's not a bad thing at all. Black Jesus, big red, scooter, Max and the list goes on of random nicknamed floor mates. We have more fun on the third floor than I've had with some of the guys I've known for 4 plus years of my life. its mind blowing how close you can get with a group of random guys that you connect with forcibly and just find out yall all want to be friends and go have "family dinners" in the Diamond Café and group gym sessions. West Hall prison does some crazy things to people.

Preston Kearns

I'm just your typically awkward teenager, you might find I can be crazy at times but I think you'll grow to love me.

My freshman year has wound up being one of the best times of my life. Throughout High School I typically was a loner, stuck to a small group of friends, and didn't really do much. As I've gone through College I've found myself on a drastic new route from the one from High School. I've met a great deal of new people, gone to a lot of events I wouldn't have attended in High School, and made amazing new friends. I found out that I can be a pretty awesome guy (just saying). Though I will be honest I've made my fair share of mistakes. Procrastination, staying up all night, and being overly forgetful I found myself getting really stressed. Let's not forget how I got stressed presenting myself to all these new people, or how stressed I found myself talking to that one girl that I really liked. I was feeling as if I would never recover from all these mistakes. Thanks to some encouragement and some assistance from these people I've only known for a short while though I felt I could stand my ground and push back up. I feel that I've have all the support I could ever need right here on Campus. I feel like I've found a family and I want to be able to help everyone like they've helped me. I can say that this has most certainly has been the best time I've ever had and I'm more than certain It can only get better and better.

Charles Keenum

I graduated at Whitehall high school.

At the beginning of the experience I was told that we are representing the student body. I was told the three R's: Respect, Responsibility, and Restraint. Throughout the year I have seen many things and I have grown from them. Most of those things were part of CLC or had something to do with it. I have been told a myriad of things regarding CLC. From the best to the worst, so I reserve my own opinions about the Corps. I would be foolish not to listen but I would be just as rash to act without all the information or biased information. I have met many people through the Chancellor's Leadership Corp; I have also made quite an impression on people as well. The people around me in and out of CLC have made quite an impression on me; including those who had their CLC scholarships revoked. Those fallen angels were picked for the scholarship for a reason and through circumstances they were not able to fulfill the requirements for scholarship renewal. Losing their scholarship doesn't make them bad people it just shows that they are very strong and resilient for they are still models for the student body just in a different sense. I will say this: I do not desire to join them because I unable to take on their pain.

Jane Kim

I graduated from the Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts. Though I'm still unsure about what I'll be doing for the rest of my life, I've settled on majoring in chemistry—a particular field of study that I happen to enjoy. Many people tell me that I have more potential than I realize; sometimes I surprise myself with what I can do. I like to create and play music, be seen as a helpful figure, and I have a terrible sweet tooth for sour candy.

For a kid who graduated from a boarding school with two years of college insight, my first semester in UALR turned out completely different from what I had prepared for. I always stressed myself over my academics and I didn't socialize much. Although I did indeed feel slight pressures from my academics, I somehow managed to make a lot of connections on campus. When your roommate is a complete stranger, it's not often you grow on each other like family. In some cases, making a friend is like having a random encounter along the way from what you originally intended to do. While I visited a friend's residence hall, I met a spontaneous musician who played guitar in the lounge. At first, I approached him to show off my own skills, but I grew to appreciate the music that we shared and his strange yet witty personality. We always laugh at how we all came to know each other; I meet the best people in the weirdest scenarios.

Apart from being satisfied with my social life, I also remembered the reason for why I came to UALR in the first place—to prepare for my future career. I learned from high school that your education is super important and that you should never sway from that notion. However, as more time passed with increasing difficulty in my classes, that perspective overcame me. The attention I gave to friends and family became unbalanced and I lost sight of what was really important: being happy with my opportunities to learn and with the people around me. I didn't expect to push people away and lose the importance of my values for my own ambitions. For the first time in my life, I actually wanted to be responsible and learn to change myself. After many grueling weeks of shifting around the weights of my professional goals and different relations with others, I'm close to keeping everything balanced. As an ASMSA graduate, a UALR student, and a CLC scholar, I'm proud to say that I've changed for the better. With these people by my side, I know I can pull through.

Molly Kyle

I am a graduate from Lakeside High School. I hope to use my biology degree to become a dentist and not only improve people's smiles, but also their self esteem. I love my friends and family, love playing golf and being outdoors, love dogs...and people sometimes!

Who knew being lost could lead to such a great roommate and friendship. It all began at freshman orientation when I was lost on my way to a Business Seminar. I bumped into Hannah Albert who was looking for the same thing. On our way to find the business seminar we got to talking and realized we had a lot in common, from the fact that we both love dogs and have the same music interests to the fact that we both have the same major. We ended up becoming not only roommates, but also best friends. She has listened to all of problems on more than one occasion, laughed at my not so funny humor, and helped me through all of my boy issues. Hannah is like the left brain to my right brain – she completes that awkward gap between the two hemispheres of the brain and makes it work to its full potential. Thanks to my decision to come to UALR I found this great friendship along with many others that I know will last a lifetime.

Jordan Lee

I went to high school at Parkers Chapel. I plan on becoming a physical therapist. Hopefully with this degree I can make enough money so that my family won't have to worry about anything.

This first semester has been a huge change for me. I've lived a small town all my life and living in Little Rock is way different. There is so much more to do up here than there was to do in El Dorado. Overall, this semester has been great and I love UALR.

Pua Lee

I went to ASMSA where I learned that I had a deep interest in Microbiology. I plan on being a scientist in the lab for the Center for Disease Control.

Being a freshman is like being on an out of control waterfall: chaotic, fast and slippery. The chaos all begins as soon as the fresh, young minds of the class of 2016 unpacks their last bag and lies on their new bed for the first time. Their eyes drift and they fall asleep, eagerly anticipating the busy week ahead of them. They wake up, bleary eyed, and realize that they slept in a little too late. The hectic move in was too much. They rush to their event, bright eyed and bushytailed. Soon the whole semester is flashing by them like headlights on a night highway. The classes are time consuming. The clubs they signed up for are scheduling events and mandatory meetings. Volunteer work eats up their free time. They are lucky if they get 5 hours of sleep after starting on their 50 problem chemistry assignment. A few classes are skipped and the next thing they know their grades are slipping down letter grades. Points missed there and points missed here. They didn't try hard enough on their last paper, but they will surely try harder on the next one. Soon, everything slips out from under them and just when they think that things can't get worse they hit the bottom. They stop and look above them as the experience they just had will change them for the rest of their life. They go to class, handle the assignments, manage their time, and even get some sleep as they adjust. Being a freshman is like being on an out of control waterfall: chaotic, fast, and slippery.

DeAnna Lewis

I attended the Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Art in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I am from Sherwood, Arkansas. I am currently majoring in Biology with a minor in Spanish. I plan on going to medical school and becoming a Pediatrician.

Expecting the worse, and gaining the best." As a kid, I didn't imagine myself staying so close to home after I graduated from high school. I wanted to go to some fancy school that I could brag about to my friends, but instead, I chose to come to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. First, I expected it to be a boring experience, especially since we do not have a football team. Surprisingly, I have been highly pleased with what the campus has to offer. The classes aren't too far apart, the people are friendly, and most importantly there are not any major "cliques." Staying close to home turned out to not be so bad. Because my family lives in Sherwood, it feels like I am away from home. My support system is great. I have friends and family that will come to my rescue at anytime that I might not have had otherwise if I had gone off to school. Culturally, I am being exposed to all sorts of things. My roommates are from Spain, and China. So, I am constantly learning new things. What high school didn't prepare me for was to expect changes in friendships/relationships once college started. Although, I can't say that all of those changes have been bad. I can say that the obstacles that we have gone through have strengthened our relationship for the better. UALR has become a safe haven, a home not too far from home. Now I expect the best and am glad that I chose to be a Trojan.

Lance Lippig

Hi! My name is Lance Lippig! I was home schooled almost all of my life, and thoroughly enjoyed it! Hopefully by attending UALR I can attain a systems engineering degree to help me design sports cars! I thoroughly enjoy researching exotic cars, worshipping the Lord, chilling with my friends and family, and playing basketball! oh, and I like to eat a lot too.

I was skeptical about what it would be like to live on campus. I didn't want to live on a campus that didn't have much to offer or any cool people living on it. On move in day, I started to experience some of the reasons that make UALR a great university. Several EIT men helped me move into my dorm room, where I met my roommates. My current roommate, Andrew Hegg has been a blessing and a lot of fun to get to know. I didn't know who he was at all that day, but God provided for me by putting him there in my life. Since move in day I have explored the campus and found lots of exciting things to do! I found an awesome gym and work out center in the DSC, several interesting places to eat, good places to study, and some awesome places to hang out! I'm so thankful the Lord has placed me at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock because it is a unique and exciting place to study at!

La 'Kendra Mallett

I went to Northside high school in Fort Smith, Arkansas, I plan to pursue a doctorate in psychology, I have 13 siblings and I am the first to attend college straight from high school.

"Leaving home.

Being on my own.

I was full of excitement

but scared of being alone.

No one could prepare me

for the feeling it brings,

nor could anyone tell me

how hard it would be.

At first I was nervous

but I soon found relief

with all my fellow CLC members

and my new found roomie.

I have gotten use to the campus

and all the friendly faces.

I have made new friends

and have been to new places.

I just had to see for myself

and begin to reach for my goals,

because only I can determine

how far I will go."

Jordan McCarver

I am Jordan (Duff)ie McCarver a freshman at UALR attending classes to become a mechanical engineer from Malvern Arkansas.

An old ball cap and a backpack full of books, An early alarm and a walk across campus, A class or two and a lunch break, Movie nights and old guitars, Video games and homework to kill, long days and sleepless nights, Weekend jobs and community service hours, old friends and new ones alike, Nerf gun shots fired and games won, New ideas and new decisions, A five speed and a long drive home, Lessons learned and lessons forgot, Buttons pushed and boundaries crossed, countless hours of study and countless hours of worry, A guitar riff and a drum solo, making memories and changing lives, classes I'll never remember and friends I'll never forget, these are the things that make up the life of the few the proud the freshman.

Taylor McClanahan

Hey my name is Taylor McClanahan. I went to the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts in Hot Springs, AR, but I am originally from Prescott, Ar. My major is Mathematics with a minor in Spanish. With this degree I would love to teach math in a Spanish-speaking country.

When I first completed my college acceptance forms with my bestfriends, we were a little skeptical about committing our undergraduate years at UALR. There were positive comments about this school, as well as some negative ones. Fortunately, my parents would only be an hour and a half away from their baby girl. Now this made me uneasy.

Once I moved in on campus, I felt excited and ready to start this college experience. Now I appreciate and enjoy the close connections I have with my teachers and classmates. Walking from my room to class is a breeze and the markets close by are a plus.

Overall, I must say that UALR has surpassed my expectations. My bestfriends and I started this ultimate UALR journey together, and we plan to end it that same way!

Elliot McDonald

I went to Pine Bluff High School, I plan on working for a major company such as Dell with my degree, I'm the youngest of my family, and I'm a cool guy once you get to know me.

The day I got my acceptance letter to UALR I screamed oh yeah. Once I got my CLC scholarship I screamed oh yeah. Once I saw how much I had to move in on move in day I screamed oh Lord! Since I've been at UALR this first semester I've had a few ups and downs. However all around, it has been an awesome experience. Meeting all the new people of many different races and personalities was pretty enjoyable in my opinion.

After my first month of being here, I have gotten use to my class schedule and my professors. When I first stepped onto campus my biggest worry was getting lost. But now I have no worries, I just continue to stay on top of my studies and any business I have to take care of. If I continue to do this, I know I will graduate with flying colors.

Paul McIntosh

A word that would describe me is compassionate. I am empathetic towards others though most qualities I exhibit aren't shown to all; I'm mostly introverted and keep personal feelings and views to myself.

My first semester in college has been quite different from that from previous years of schooling. However, not much different than it is the same. This semester, there was been some incidents that have started to slither there way into my life as they did in high school but the only difference is that I've learn how to deal with it or seemly make it insignificant to me. There was a growing process that I have undergone and still am progressing toward in the direction of who I will be as a mature adult. This semester I have watched myself change slowly into the person who will be married and a father and have a steady career and who will find happiness pursuing the things he wants in life. Starting school here was an initial point of a beginning and now I follow through to the end. I would like to make a small mention of ambassador Elvie whom I said I would mention while I volunteered with her at Boo at the Zoo. Noticing her judgment and goal to stay until the job was done somewhat dawned on me that even if I wait until the time is up, my work load isn't finished until the job is done and if that means going off the. Clock to make sure I'm finished then so be it. There's some much effort one can put place and. You basically get back out what you put in. If trying my hardest doesn't get me all the way there then at least I did indeed try and my benefit is the honor of having done so in the end. There are some things I learned through volunteering this semester and some things I've thought on. My semester has been made up of a growing process and so far, s it's been good.

Breanna McMorris

I went to Blevins High School, I want to become a RN, and I am outgoing.

August 17TH 2012. That is the day I moved to Little Rock to become a Trojan. I waited for the day. I thought I was ready to move away from home and be "independent". I thought wrong. After my mama and aunt help me move my stuff in, I could feel the tears forming in my eyes. I thought I was going to have a heart attack. But, as you can see I didn't. Still here. I moped around a bit that day. But, as the weeks progressed I got over it. After the CLC interactions, I felt a little bit better. They include you in things even if you don't want to be in them, but that's a good thing. I used to be a VERY shy person. CLC changed that for me. They bring you out of your shell and make you feel wanted. You can be yourself around them and not feel awkward. I'm very glad I decided to move to Little Rock and become a UALR student. It gives me a chance to be on my own and enjoy my college life. CLC really made my first year experience a very memorable and fun moment."

Jasmine Milton

I'm 18 years old, I went to John L. McClellan, and I want to be a social worker.

COLLEGE

(Two months in...)

Transitioning from high school to college was really easy for me. Honestly I don't feel college is as scary as all my high school teachers made it seem. The trick I've learned in earning good grades is time management and plenty of studying. I think if I continue to live by those two rules I will continue to be fine academically.

I have also had good experiences socially as well. I was lucky enough to be able to room with my best friend of nine years Brittany Tenpenny. I love rooming with her and I couldn't ask for a better roommate. A lot of people tried warning us before hand that rooming with your best friend is the worst thing you could possibly do, but since we've been in college and have been living together we've only gotten closer and I believe that will continue throughout our years here at UALR.

I've also made other friends while at UALR. Besides my CLC family, I've joined an organization entitled African American Female Initiative (AAFI), and I have met and gotten to know plenty of different people and good role models there. But I think I've made the strongest bond/friendship with the entire third floor of West Hall boy's side. Initially I was only friends with one person who lived there, but after coming over on a daily basis I got to meet lots of new people with such different personalities. But despite their differences, the third floor is like one big happy dysfunctional family and I'm very happy to be a part of it. I was even graced with the title of the "mother" of the floor. So to all of my lovely children (Qke'Yoree, Zach, Tucker, Brandon, Brendon, Andre, Shun, Tristan, Everett, Harrison, Woody, Scooter, Matt, Max, Austin, Burke, Tevin...) you have made my first few months here at UALR awesome and I love you guys.

Kadijah Mitchell

I was a Trojan for four years prior to UALR. I rocked it then, I'll rock it even harder now.

I've been a college student for 2 months now, and it just hit me a couple days ago when I noticed how broke I really am. That and the fact I have no one to tell me when to be in, when to do my homework, and what is right from wrong, has been on my mind heavy. Mommy is not here to put money in my pocket every week, but you can bet I brought my appetite for food and fashion with me! I can't count the times I have woken up and decided on the spot I would take myself to Park Plaza. Forever21, Spencer's, Journeys, Chik-Fil-A, they all are favorites of mine; I have no problem showing love. Let me not forget that I do own a car, which comes with maintenance, expensive maintenance. She decides to get sick once I am moved away from my caregiver, leaving me with all bills, bills and no more summer job.

Sometimes, I stay out pretty late with friends; there have been times when homework was left undone. Good side to this is I do not get griped at for these actions. On the other hand, if I get too comfortable in the routine, my grades will suffer. All the work I did for scholarships would be for nothing. That there scares me. I guess you can say I am lucky, my reality check came quick, and it did not hurt. I have not gotten off track but I felt a swerve to get my attention. I know exactly what I want, and what it is going to take to get it. If I can keep this attitude, and stay on my toes, I will be just fine. I know I have the potential, it is just about prioritizing.

Hallie Moore

"I graduated from Perryville High school and I am planning on earning a degree in middle school education with a specialty in language arts and social studies."

This first semester at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has definitely been like a bag of trail mix- sweet and salty. I always knew I would attend college; I just never had my heart set on one in particular. My boyfriend, Kyle, chose UALR so I thought I would come to Little Rock so we could go to college together. UALR offered me great scholarships, especially the Chancellor's Leadership Corp scholarship. We registered, had our roommates chosen, bought our books, and were all ready to move in to the dorms come August 17th. Something shattered my plans however, because only a few days before move in day, my would-be roommate decided she would no longer be living on campus. I would now be put with someone new, someone not in CLC, and someone I had never meet before. This definitely soured my move in day expectations. Thankfully, I was not placed with someone who was roommate-horror story material. With the roommate obstacle out of the way, I then had to learn the campus. UALR has a beautiful, well laid out campus and I caught on real quick and was able to find my classes with ease. When classes started August 23rd, I was faced with a day full of apprehensions and new obstacles. My nervousness began to dwindle as the first few weeks of college zoomed by. Homework, service projects, exploring Little Rock, and hanging out have become my typical schedule. I am excited to schedule new classes for the coming spring semester and I hope to experience new, thrilling adventures!

Caitlin Morrison

I am a small town girl from a Christian school and a complicated family. Although I do not know what I want to major in, hopefully I can one day have an enjoyable career that pays enough to support my family.

In my time spent here at UALR, I have had some of the best times of my life. At first I was scared to leave my friends and family, but during my time here I have made relationships that will last a lifetime. My current roommate has been there for me from day one, even through my health problems and my many dramatic disputes. Besides my friends outside of class, many professors have also been helpful and friendly, working with me through any situation. In my free time, my friends and I have had a blast. From the five-dollar Tuesday movie nights, to the pumpkin paintings and two a.m. fire alarms, the memories here will never fade. I did not think that I would enjoy coming to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to begin with but I would not have done anything differently for the world.

Rodneysia Musgraves

“Rodneysia Musgraves of Magnolia (AR) High School. Wants to make my way up my career ladder through internships and have a great successful career as a Female Engineer.”

FAM[ILY]

A certain group of people

Means the world to me

By my side through all good and bad

Supported me and gave me all they had

A certain group of people

I know will always have my back

Entering the real world but ready for the challenge

Came here alone but with them I can manage

A certain group of people

I will not let down

With my head on straight

I will not graduate late

A certain group of people

I am more than blessed to have

I want them to know they can always count on me

Because they are my FAM[ILY]

Trevor Nanney

I attended West Memphis High School and I want to major in Computer Science and work at a big company as an IT guy or repair guy. I have 3 brothers and sisters other than me. I love soccer and video games.

My experience here at UALR has been nothing but great. I have made a lot of new friends and have spent my time trying to get to know them. The hardest part of it all is being so far away from home and managing your time wisely. You should be able to have fun and experience new things but at the same time you have to make sure that you study and do your homework. No matter what, at the end of the day you still have to get school work done over everything. I really enjoy volunteering each week at LSY. It is very uplifting and makes me feel good about myself. Some kids have it so bad at home and just their life in general and they just cling on to you when you tutor them and it feels good to make them happy. I am definitely glad that I chose UALR and do not have any regret or remorse about it.

Dillon Nash

I went to Brinkley High School, and would like to become a high school softball coach after obtaining my degree.

Moving into West Hall on August 17, 2012 I didn't know what exactly I would be getting myself into. Growing up in such a small town, this was such a big place and a new world to me. All the friendly smiling faces greeting me and my parents, had me wondering if these people really acted like this? Well, after being at UALR for a couple of months now, I can see that most of the people here helping us move in, are actually nice people and are still very friendly.

I thought coming here without my parents and sister as well as all my friends from back home would be really hard on me, but it has been pretty nice! Before coming, I struggled with the thought of not fitting in. Coming from such a small school, I never had to worry about fitting in, because everyone was friends with everyone. I now realize that it is pretty much the same here, and I can blend in with any group that I want to! The freedom is pretty awesome, and I have made plenty of friends who I have already experienced new things with and will share fond memories with for the years to come.

Academic wise, the teachers are very helpful and have fantastic attitudes for the most part. I am noticing myself take a lot from the classes and apply them to my personal life, and bring them up in conversations. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is a great learning environment and the perfect place for me.

Brianna Nicholas

I want to be a writer and travel the world. Writing is my passion.

"Boredom idle
Fingers tapping fabricated wood
Thumb rubbing nose
Tap, tap, tapping
Strange metronome
Whistle
False Fire
Sleep deprived bones ache
Wide-eyed
Dreams claim breath
Awake
Alive
Horizontal beams dance
Shift in mind
In state
Lips cracked like sidewalks
Silent days
Default win
Spider scares
Homework drowning the skies
Echoing tunes
Another haunting win
Pine sap outside Stabler
Awake
Repeat"

Caitly Nguyen

I want to go to graduate school in California, where I'm from, for psychology.

Coming into college, I didn't really know anyone except my roommate, who I went to school with, Madison Butram. Most of my friends went to U of A, ASU, or UCA. Immediately, I met the wonderful Jake Wideman. Both of us being from big cities, we automatically had a connection. I never realized that I would honestly make friends like Jake that would last a lifetime. I could talk about my first semester classes or teachers, but I think that the biggest affect that this first semester of college has had on me is the people. I have made several other friends that I really enjoy being around and are getting me through the stress of school, work, etc. I got a job at Barnes and Noble this semester, working 25 hours a week, I'm taking four classes, plus the CLC class, and a lab, and I also have hours of homework every week. Let's just say stress is a very predominant aspect of my life this semester, but the people in my life, those who were in it before and after I started college, are getting me through this year. I don't know what I would do without them.

Ashley Norton

I graduated from Star City High School, I want to become a pharmacist, and my favorite thing to do is dance.

Walking out of a high school in a one red-light town and into college here in Little Rock has definitely given me a new perspective on life. I went from living with my mom as an only child and having to share nothing to taking care of myself and having a crazy, fun-sized roommate that I share everything with. Needless to say, this new beginning has been an interesting experience.

In high school, everyone knew each other and their business. Now it seems I meet someone new every day. I use to be a nerd in high school, and I guess I am still a nerd even in college. Coming to college single for the first time in four years has been difficult, but I have been fortunate enough to make new friends that keep me going.

High school was not exactly easy for me. College has been my chance to start over and figure out what I really want in life. This is my opportunity to make all the things I have only thought of as future dreams a reality.

LaChansity O'Guinn

I'm very ambitious and I set my mind to achieve all my goals that I have intended in my life.

My first semester in college has been a success! I've met new people that I have enjoyed and some that I really grew a relationship with. I've really enjoyed the service learning that I have been admitted to such as the P.A.R.K were I kind of tutor kids that need that extra help in school, I really like the "Big sister, Big brother" program were I volunteer at the baseball stadium and help the little kids face paint and got to interact with them. My college experience is really the best I love my roommate, the friends, and the food!

Carissa Olson

I was homeschooled from fifth grade all the way through graduation.

I'm glad I chose UALR. One of the biggest reasons for me is because it's the perfect distance away from home: close enough to go home on the weekends if I want to, yet it's still far enough away for me to have my independence. Another reason is because of the CLC program. Without the CLC program, I wouldn't have met so many wonderful people. College is like a stepping stone between life at home and life in the "real world". It's like you're living in the real world, but you don't have to pay a mortgage, or property taxes, or bills, for the most part. It's also like the real world because you're surrounded by people from many different cultures, religions, and backgrounds. You get a chance to become friends with people who are very different from you, and yet with similarities. The CLC program gives me a chance to go out and meet these people. It gives us a bond of sorts, a mission, and a common goal. I love being a CLC Scholar!

Emily Parker

I went to Benton High School, I want to major in Special Education, and so I can graduate and work at an autistic school for children. I hope to always keep close to my family, and make time for them with having a busy job, as well.

When I first started at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, I wasn't planning on staying here past the first year. I had a bitter taste in my mouth about being so close to home, and having to live at home to take care of my family, because I always wanted to be an Arkansas Razorback. Once I joined CLC, I immediately began to feel at home. CLC is more than just a scholarship; it's a family. I know that whenever I need some help or anything, I can call anyone in CLC, and they will be there for me. I've come to the conclusion that college isn't just about where you are; it's what you make of it. The friends you make, the organizations you join, and the things you learn. One of my favorite things about going to school here is being able to walk through the Student Center anytime of the day; knowing someone in there, and being able to sit and talk to them. While I'm still only in the middle of my first year of college, I've already fallen in love with everything about The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and don't plan on moving schools. I honestly don't think that I would be this happy anywhere else.

Esmeralda Pena

I'm lost on what I will do. I can't decide if I have a wandering soul or if I am meant to plant my roots in just one spot. This has to do with my career, family and location. It's hard to choose something when you have different opinions pulling you from side to side.

"When all else is rough, just sit down and cry your heart out. . . WRONG!"

"Quit feeling sorry for yourself!" I hear the words repeat in my head. His scold in my mind, as he looks at me with a face of disgust. Then I think back to hope that I will not disappoint him, forcing a smile on my face.

You think homework is rough? Think again. You think your teachers are mean? Think again. Try living the real life, he says to me. I know better than to break down on these topics, especially not in front of him. Most definitely not in front of him.

I've been brainwashed, but it's for a greater cause (it seems like at the moment). Do my work, do my work, do my work, stay focused, not too much fun, do more work. "Are you proud of me yet?" Of course I will never ask him. That would be a foolish mistake.

Late nights studying, I feel lonely and need someone to talk to. My pride though, will not let anyone know that I am stressing about any classes. Staring at my phone, I text "Hey wyd?: Sent 11:53PM." Anxiously, I wait for his reply. Zzzzz, my phone vibrates. "Ya duermete," go to sleep already, "you got school, I don't," I read on my phone.

Putting all my things down, I lay in bed. With sadness, thoughts run through my head. "Stop feeling sorry for yourself," "You'll be fine," "He should have been able to come instead of me," "I'll make him proud."

Closing my eyes, finally drifting away, my last thoughts are always "I love you . . ."

Gabrielle Phifer

I went to high school at Crossett High School. My plan is to major in Mass Communication. With a degree in this major, I hope to get a job in TV News Broadcasting.

Coming into college, I was pretty nervous about the whole process. I had always heard people say that college was hard, and the professors were going to be pretty hard on you. I was the only one coming from my high school, so I didn't know if I would make new friends, or be involved in any groups like I was in high school. I really didn't know what to expect.

The first day we moved in, some of the CLC ambassadors were the first group of people that came to greet me and welcome me to the campus. They helped me move my stuff in and they seemed pretty nice. I took my stuff to my room, and my roommate hadn't made it there yet. When she did, I was kind of semi-excited. My first thought was, "Oh, I am definitely changing roommates." But she helped my transition go a little smoother. The first group of friends I had was some of her friends. I honestly didn't think we would become good friends because of our many differences, but we did and I'm glad to have her as a roommate and a friend.

Being in CLC has also given me the opportunity to meet a lot of new people very quickly. I'm not only meeting people in my culture, but different cultures as well. On the first day of college classes, I was so shocked, yet excited to see the number of people that were in CLC. Because of my new friends, I feel as if I belong, as if my purpose to be here was not just a coincidence. College is very well not like high school, it is better.

UALR was honestly not the school I wanted to go to. But now, I have no regrets. I feel as if I have made the best decision. Not only for my career choice, but because I have gotten the opportunity to be a part of a family, My CLC family.

Keyosha Pigram

I am a graduate of West Memphis High School, and I desire to get a Bachelor's degree in Nursing here at UALR. I plan to become a RN, Pediatric Nurse, and further my education as a Nurse Practitioner. I would describe myself as being a hard worker because no matter what I do, I always work hard towards my goals and in classes without giving up.

My first year experience as a "College Student" has been a challenging experience, but I manage to stay motivated in spite of any circumstance. As an incoming Freshman, I was excited to get away from home and to just meet new people; I was excited about starting a new chapter in my life. People always told me "You will miss home" and I always replied "No I will not." Since I have been at UALR, I can assure you that sometimes I do miss home. College life is a big transition from being at home with my parents. Being involved with CLC has helped me to meet new people and become active upon campus. I have met some really nice people, and some who are just what they are. I have learned that everyone can not be friends. I now associate myself around positive people, and people who is getting their life on track with God. I also learned that I am more mature than others, and being around negativity is not healthy. I remember praying to God that I will give up things and people that mean me no good. I asked God to reveal the negativeness that I needed to get rid of. It is quite funny because I didn't have to get rid of anything; God basically took the negative things and people away from me. Now that I look back, I laugh every time because I see that those negative people and I would have never worked out anyway. I honestly thank God for that! Also, College is "The Real World" that my mother has warned me about. I honestly have to say I have been managing this new college life very well. God and College has helped me to realize who I really am and my purpose in life. I have grown and I have developed a better relationship with God. I am focused, and I have no doubt in my mind that I will succeed. I always remembered that one have to fail in order to succeed. I am now a happy freshman who enjoys college, life, and my relationship with God. Nothing and no one can ever keep me down because with the grace of The Lord, I will rise again!

Charlie Pitman

I graduated from Cabot High School. Though I am interested with technology, I am still uncertain of what I want to do with my degree. I enjoy hanging out with my friends and family.

When moving into the dorms at UALR, I had mixed emotions. Glad that I'm moving along in my life, but at the same time sad that it felt that I was leaving my friends and family behind. When the day came though moving in was great. Everyone was friendly and was able to lead a helping hand to others move in, and meeting my roommates for the first time knowing that they are also friendly and good to get along with helped a lot with the transition from high school to college. The Scholarship I have earned the Chancellor's Leadership Corps scholarship has also helped a lot as well as two organizations I have joined so far the Society of Women Engineers and the Society of Computing and Information Science. These organizations and the scholarship have introduced me to new people as well as keeping me involved in student events and when needed helping me with my academics. So far this year is going great. With keeping my scholarship and branching out to different organization, I can't wait to see where I will be at in four years when I graduate.

Brianna Podgorski

My goal is to use my Social Work degree towards eventually getting a Masters and then using it towards counseling people outside the US.

Saving the First Year

There's something about starting off your first year of school after having been out of the country for the entire summer. Something different. Something difficult. Quite honestly, I came into the school year with a broken heart from serving as a missionary intern overseas for my summer, and not wanting to be surrounded by many self-centered individualistic college freshmen who did not understand my heart.

Honestly, much of this year has been filled with just what I expected. Filled with selfish students with very little to no responsibility, with people who do not understand where I am coming from with my heart, and with many people being treated unfairly by their peers or by people in authority.

But even amongst that, I have found people who get it—people who see life from a lens similar to mine. These are the people who hold a place in my heart, who I respect. Those beautiful people are the ones who are making college okay. They are the ones who are saving this first year of mine.

Taylor Puckett

I'm a theatre major, dance minor, with the intentions of pursuing a career in performing arts. Although the entertainment industry is an unsure place of employment, theatre and dance is what I've always done, and all I can see myself doing in the future.

I never planned on coming to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. With the intentions of receiving a major in theatre and a minor in dance, I've had dreams of getting out of Arkansas for as long as I can remember. Ever since I began dancing at the age of three, and began theatre at the age of six, it's been my dream to pursue a career in the performing arts. I've always had dreams of going to an art institute in somewhere such as New York or Chicago. Unfortunately, that wasn't an option due to the expenses not only for tuition, but also living in a big northern city. December of my senior year is when I made the decision that I was going to attend UALR. At first, I was a little let down. I felt like I was going to shelter my potential to grow as a performer if I attended a school this close to home. I honestly felt a little lame that I wasn't "going away" for school like many of my high school friends. I quickly began applying for scholarships, receiving the CLC scholarship, an academic scholarship, the Arkansas Lottery scholarship, as well as a theatre scholarship. I also tried out for the dance team here at UALR, which gives a scholarship spring semester. Now that I am here, living on campus and involved in the school, I realize how lucky I am to be a student here. UALR has developed an outstanding performing arts program over the years, and I truly believe this is the best place for me to be in the state. The people I have met thus far have really made a difference in my experience here at UALR. Although I still have plans of leaving Arkansas to pursue my career in the entertainment industry, I know that the next four years here at UALR will without a doubt prepare for my future adventures in life.

Mariano Ramirez

I went to Lonoke high school and I plan to major in biology. I am very fun guy to be around and I like to play sports.

I never thought I could adapt so quickly to the college life I had never experienced. I never thought I would ever think of UALR as my home, I mean not like the one I was used in my hometown. The fact that I was going to live on my own for the first time was a scary one. Leaving my family members was a very hard thing I had to experience but I knew it was part of life. I didn't know anyone just Lonoke high school graduates from my town that were going to enroll at UALR. CLC made all the things I mentioned as if I had already experienced them before and made me feel like I had another family. Through CLC I got to meet great people that helped me with everything I had a question about. I am very grateful with everyone that made my stay at UALR a great one. It was a great thing to know that I wasn't going to college not knowing anyone of the freshmen class and west hall residents. I believe colleges across the state should go by the example of CLC because it is such a great help to incoming freshmen.

David Ray

I am an engineer looking to get a job, family, and friends to make my future life easier.

My Personal UALR and my Life-Changing First Experiences

UALR has showed me what true college is supposed to be about. It's completely different from high-school and will forever change my life. The freedom given is amazing and self-defeating at the same time. You have the freedom to do what you want, but if you don't do your homework or go to your classes you fail. I'm not really the part type, so its fairly easy for me to focus on my schoolwork and still be able to hang-out with my friends instead of partying all the time. There are things here that I have never seen or hear of. The people are pretty interesting and unique. UALR is my new life, and I'm going to have to get used to it. That shouldn't be that hard. All of my family and friends who have already completed college keep telling me to enjoy my college experience because it will be the best days of my life. I kind of see that in entirely different contexts: "Life is short, so enjoy it" and "life is rough and full of hard work." This first semester is combining the two for me by learning to enjoy hard work and learning to fulfill my purpose of going to college: getting my degree to get a nice job.

The other day, I spent \$350 at the c-store downstairs from my dorm. I feel as if I should be weary of how my money I spend, while on the other hand there is the fact that my money will leave me after this semester is over with. College is changing not only my social and learning skills, but my financial skills. I think my first semester of college is going great. I also think that I will enjoy college to the fullest and will make the most out of my "self-improving college state." I cant wait to continue on my journey of college. There are unknown things ahead that will change my life just as this first semester has.

Montana Richey

I went to high school at Bauxite High School. I would like to become a 2nd grade teacher with my degree. I have two parents, my dad, Mark, and my mom, Lisa. I have one brother, Houston. One word that describes me is sarcastic.

The biggest adjustment coming from high school to college has been sharing a room with another person 24/7. I am lucky enough to room with my best friend, Shelby Hicks. We had some trouble in the beginning adjusting to sharing such a small space with each other. Luckily we have similar schedules so we do not wake each other up in the mornings. Our problems consist of interrupting each other's naps, walking in when the other has company over, and having to go rescue a locked out roommate. Having to remember your key every time you leave your room was difficult for Shelby at first, and is still very difficult for her. I couldn't count all the times I had to go rescue her from the hallway. I don't hold it against her though because she has always been forgetful. I've even had to bring her a towel multiple times when she has gone to take a shower and forgotten one. Even though she is forgetful I love her to death and I couldn't have asked for a better roommate and best friend. She has made my college experience very memorable so far.

Amber Renfro

I went to Malvern High School and I plan to major in Early Childhood Education. With my degree, I plan to go into Overseas English as a Second Language teaching. Why I chose this is probably because my family is very cultural and this is a way for me to be able to express my interest and use it as a fun career.

I never thought college was what everyone said it was about. The late night parties, the life changing experiences, the hours of studying and the broad selection of friends. I came to college expecting hours and hours of studying but I got so much more. My college is paid for, I have so many friends that have become family and I have already experienced so much. I've met the best friends of my life all the way to my car almost catching fire and almost experiencing death. Sure, it's shocking but it is a part of life. While in high school, my life was almost dull, nothing new happened and it was the same every day. College; it is a new day every day. I come to class expecting and I go to sleep thinking about my eventful days. I do not know what my life would be like without all the events that have taken place. It has only been three months but it tops my whole life. I can only imagine how the rest of my four years at UALR will play out because as I sit here writing this, I am anticipating what life changing event will happen next.

Takiyah Ridley

I went to Osceola High, I want a degree in Pre-Medician, and I am in Michae's family

My first semester has been an amazing transition thanks to my CLC Family. They have been so helpful. They made sure that I stay on top of my classes. They have really helped me come out of my shell and over come my fear of public speaking with the activities that we do. They are an scholarship that open many door for people. Also because of CLC have meet some wonderful people that I have already grew to love so much like my roommate LaChansity who has became one of my close friends alone with Natalia. These two make my day were always clowning acting goofy at strange times in the morning. I love the late night talks and study session that I have with the members of my family away from home. Without these people I don't know if my transition would have been as awesome and amazing for this first semester of college for me.

Zach Retton

I went to White Hall.

Before I moved in to college I did not think I would have near the amount of friends that I do now. After getting to know everyone in CLC, my pledge brothers, and the entire 3rd floor I have more friends than I ever thought was possible. This group of guys and girls that I have gotten to know has helped me with many things, from typing papers, just hanging out in the DSC, on the 3rd floor and eating "family" dinners together. Many of us have been through thick and thin together. The "family" I have gotten to know has and will help make this college experience better.

Autumn Rouse

I hope to work on design teams advancing technology in the future.

"From kickball to water slides,
From first day jitters to first exams,
My crew was right by my side.
After losing my basketball family,
I didn't know how I would cope.
But I saw a group dancing in the parking lot,
and I was drawn in like a rope.
From midnight studying to family dinners,
There was the brainy one,
The stylish one,
The blunt one,
The crazy one,
the mother of the crew,
And me, the add on.
They accepted me though,
Crazy as I am.
As time went by our family slowly drifted apart.
Feelings hit the fan,
Shattering our bond like a glass thrown to the floor.
From pouring our feelings out to not talking at all,
Lessons were learned.
Life's bruises taken with a wince.
I look to God and ask is this how it is?
And I understand that some are in your life for a reason,
And some only last a season."

Charles Rowland

I went to Fountain Lake High School. I plan on becoming a chiropractor. Just plain awesome.

So college. a lot of studying and work all the time right? Not all the time. Most of my time, I spent with my friends playing Xbox, computer games, and Magic till, usually, 1 a.m. It was a great time and an even better experience. To anyone who doesn't want to live in a dorm because it's too lame or uncool, just shut up, accept it, and have fun! Get to know your roommates and floor mates because you never know, they might be able to tutor you in chemistry or calculus. If I have one thing to say about my college experience, it's all fun and games till you get your brain eaten by your zombie roommates.

Sharon Ruiz

My name is Sharon Ruiz and my hometown is Caddo Gap, where I attended high school. I intend to major in Biology in order to pursue my goal of becoming a geneticist.

As a first generation college student, I have the urge to lead my family in the path that education has to offer. I strive to be the daughter and sister that not only leads by word but by example as well. This has become possible for me thanks to the love and support of my parents. My mother earned her high school diploma through hard work and sacrifice. She would have wished more than anything to keep pursuing her education, but she was not financially able to do so. My father only got as far as the third grade and then dropped out to work to help support his family. It is thanks to their sacrifice that I am where I stand now.

My freshmen year at this institution, I would say, has been splendid as far. Honestly, prior to residing here, I thought I would very much dislike it, but you come to see now it is the total contrary. I have enjoyed every day of my college experience thus far. But, I must admit that it would not be a great experience if it were not for my friends and CLC family. I will never forget how many wonderful, countless, and unbounded memories we have experienced and how many are yet to come. The rest of my freshmen year and all it has to offer is more than welcome.

Zachary Rutledge

I am from Marion High School, with the intentions of being a doctor or psychiatrist.

When people start college they become fearful of how their lives are going to change: to much stress, meeting new people, losing old friends, and being broke. My biggest fear was that I would be homesick and out of my element. But in a way the exact opposite happened.

Instead of missing my old home I have made a new one. Now when I think of home I don't think about my almost empty room in Marion. I think about the room in South Hall or my friends room upstairs where we all hang out. UALR has become my home and I have enjoyed it far more than I was expecting.

I have met amazing friends that will be with me for the next four years if not for the rest of life. In a way we have become more than friends we have become our own little family. I know that should I ever need them they are there and vice versa.

So, my biggest fear turned out to be my biggest blessing. I was forced out of my element but it helped me to be much happier because I built a new one. I didn't get home sick because I found a home where I list expected it and a family that I will always be connected to.

Aundreya Sanders

I graduated from McGehee High School. I'm an English major and I hope to attend law school after I graduate college.

My entire life, I've known that I belong in a big city. Small town life just wasn't for me; it didn't fit my dreams and I always wanted more. I knew college would be my first big step towards getting to the city. I was torn between moving to Fayetteville or moving to Little Rock; obviously, I moved to Little Rock. I was determined to be the girl that left the small town and never returned because life didn't work out how I planned. Receiving the CLC scholarship is definitely what made me decide between Fayetteville and Little Rock.

It's hard imagining how my life would be if I hadn't chosen to attend college at UALR. Attending school here and being a part of CLC introduced me to the person that is now my absolute best friend, Brenttia Clayton. I was always told "you'll find your real friends when you go to college"; something I never believed until I came to college. We became friends so quickly, and now we're basically inseparable. I honestly feel like I've known her my entire life. Having her by my side, about twenty hours out of the day made my transition to college so much easier.

Hanna Szama

I went to high school at Pulaski Academy, and I hope to go on to get a Phd in Psychology and work with people with mental disorders. I work a lot and i like to do photography in my spare time.

Starting out at UALR, I was very nervous, I had gone to my school since I was five years old and had never gone anywhere else. I only had one friend starting out here, my roommate Natasha. Everyone told us since we were best friends that we shouldn't live together because we wouldn't be friends by the end of the semester. Natasha and I are about as different as it gets, she is uptown New York sorority girl and I am downtown hippie. Aside from our styles our personalities are totally different too, she is peppy and I am just down to earth. Even though we are completely different I don't know what I would have done this first semester without her. We do just about everything besides rooming together. Whether it be going to SGA meetings, cramming all night for exams with jamming breaks every hour, daily lunch, or going on midnight sonic runs. I think we have totally proved everyone wrong this semester and shown that two best friends can live together.

Jonathan Silen

I went to Hampton High School and am currently working on a degree in Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology. I love my family and so far I really love the campus and coming to UALR.

Why did I choose UALR? I chose UALR for many reasons, among them one being how genuinely nice the campus is. I love the way the campus feels homey and incorporates nature instead of being all concrete and steel. It has a clean and nice atmosphere where some campuses don't. This also ties into the way I feel about the people I've met here. Most of them have been nice and kind as well as wanting to help. My professors are great and the classes aren't that hard yet. Not only that, but my roommate isn't half bad either. The program I'm in has also helped tremendously with being able to cope with college as a freshman. CLC has done everything it can to make the experience welcoming and enjoyable. I've made friends through CLC and most of the people I've met are nice to hang around with. One of the best parts of the people is their lack of total seriousness that one would expect out of being a CLC member. Just the other night we had a Nerf gun war in the dorms and no one really cared. If the future is going to be any reflection of my time so far, then I think I'm going to enjoy my time here.

Chelsea Simpkins

I attended ASMSA and I want to take my bachelors degree in molecular biotechnology and go to UAMS School of public health. I am a person who loves God, her church, and her family and friends.

There are many adjectives I could use to describe the first semester of my freshman year of college but there is only one adjective that truly stands out when I think about my first semester and that is: relaxing. I know most freshmen wouldn't describe their first semester as being relaxing but after coming from ASMSA I needed some relaxation. I'm not saying that my first semester has been all easy but the course load has been a lot lighter. My first semester being relaxed has given me more time to enjoy the little things in life instead of just being all about school. For example, this semester I have been able to do more volunteering, spend time at church, and be with my friends and family. I'm very thankful that my college experience didn't start off too hard or too stressful, although, I'm sure it will get more challenging as time goes on. In addition, I have truly enjoyed meeting everyone that I have met so far in college. Many of them I believe I might be able to call lifelong friends, or at least college long friends. Furthermore, I am also thankful that I am a part of the Chancellor's Leadership Corps (CLC) because it has also contributed greatly to my first semester being a really great one.

Gurjit Singh

I am from Osceola high school. After I get my degree I want to go to med school at TCU then do my residence becoming an anesthesiologists.

When I started college I was really worried about the classes being hard and making a lot of friends because I have always been shy person. It turned out classes weren't that bad and thanks to CLC I really opened up and was able to make a ton of friends. One of my closest and first friends I made was David Carrasaquillo. During the clc orientation he approached and I was kinda creeped out by him but now we are roommates. Another close friend I made was Spencer Lloyd I meet him through living on the same floor with him. Also through my floor I met Corey Green and Korey Fells and from endless nights of playing ncaa 13 we also became close friends. If it wasn't for CLC I wouldn't of made all of the friends I have today. They will do anything for me and I would do anything for them because they are more than just friends to me but more like brothers. And now we are starting an organization together and it is called Alpha Xi Rho hopefully this will became really well know by the second year. One last thing GO SECOND FLOOR AND ALPHA XI RHO!!

Ashley Smith

White hall.

My first semester at UALR has been really fun so far. I have met so many wonderful people including my roommate. We really get along and have become good friends. I am still close to my family which is nice but it feels like I am on my own which is a scary but good feeling. I do not know what I am majoring in yet but I am sure that I will find something great here at UALR because my teachers are helpful and nice.

Rachel Smith

I'm from Nashville, Arkansas. Go Scrappers.

I love basketball. In case you didn't read that correctly let me be clear. I am absolutely obsessed with basketball; I L-O-V-E BASKETBALL. At UALR it is perfectly okay to be obsessed with basketball. They have excellent teams that make the NCAA Tournament in March (men's and women's) almost every year, so everyone pretty much loves basketball too. The best part about UALR is that students get into home basketball games for FREE! And that is actually the reason why I decided to come here. I'm very excited for basketball season to start up and I know that both teams will do well. Another great thing about UALR is that there are many different people here. Where I'm from most people either hate or don't know who LeBron James is. But here my next door neighbor in West Hall loves LeBron just as much as I do. We watch his games together and have become great friends. UALR is awesome, and so is their basketball.

Tiffany Smith

I went to Malvern High School for all 4 years of my high school experience. I want to get a degree in accounting or something in business in order to have background knowledge in the business field as I want to deal with corporate law. I come from a single parent, extended family household. I am an easy person to get to know. I believe that I am pretty laid back. I don't discriminate against anyone, and because of this I befriend people regardless of their background.

Late nights, and early mornings. These words describe my freshmen experience so far. From fun nights of hanging out on the fourth floor, "guy's side" as me and my roomy Amber, or "fuzz" as I've called her for 3 years now have so cleverly dubbed it, to "it's a trap," my college life thus far has been anything but normal. I thought my transition from high school to college would be a hard one, but the people around me have helped to prove me wrong. The zings, booms, and crashes from video games, the sounds of shuffling, and the laughter of happy people fill my head when I think of my everyday life. Those late night talks on ground floor, ranging from serious issues to "auto box, auto box," have taught me to appreciate everyone around me. Who would've thought I'd meet some of the best friends I've ever had at this university? People always tell you that your freshmen year of college is when you experience everything, and you know what? They're right. I am so happy I chose UALR as my home, if not, I would have never gotten to meet any of the amazing people I have come to know and now think of as family.

Stacy Snyder

Marilyn Monroe's quote "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring," sums up how I live my life.

My first semester of college went better than I expected. Part of the reason college went well was due to the fact that I had an awesome roommate named Shelby. I could trust her, and she was there for me when I needed her. I made some awesome friends. There were many nights of playing Mario, Life, and Catch Phrase. We were like a bunch of kids yelling at each other. I was honestly surprised that no one on my floor complained about the level of noise we made. There were many trips to the dollar theatre, and many late night trips to Yogurt Mountain. I remember Hannah laughing at me when I was choking during the saltine cracker challenge. When they told me the fire alarms were sensitive I honestly did not take it serious. However, after 2 fire alarms within a couple weeks over burnt popcorn, you start to take the sensitivity of the fire alarms seriously. All of this was like a life adventure for me. There were no parents around and I became an adult. College life was amazing my first semester and I can't wait until next semester.

Shelby Steinman

My name is Shelby Steinman and I am from Marion High School, my goal is to major in Nursing and go on to work at St. Jude in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Game of Life, Catch phrase, The dollar theatre, learning to drive in little rock, getting lost, illegal turns, 3 hour drives home, 2 am fire alarms, burnt popcorn, random trips to the mall, yogurt mountain, refund checks, free samples are a college students best friend, movie nights, Mario, lazy days, tons of naps, college algebra headaches, government tests, anatomy class, boo at the zoo, witches hats, crazy makeup, lots of laughs. Here are UALR I have had so many great times. I was nervous about college at first but having an awesome roommate and great friends by my side to inspire and encourage me has been so helpful. All of this has made my first semester of college a huge success and I cannot wait to have many more great times at UALR.

Jakyra Stewart

I attended John L. McClellan High School, I am majoring in Marketing and I plan to travel the world.

If you want to meet a real celebrity come to room 214 in West Hall that is where Jay-Z lives. At least that is what we like to call ourselves. My name is Jakyra and my roommate name is Zartashia Get it Jay-Z. Since being at UALR, I have found friends that I wouldn't trade in for the world. One particular person is my roommate Zartashia Javid, she is the most sincere person I know. It's funny because we both were going to be roommates at Fayetteville together and we both ended up getting the Chancellor's scholarship; so I guess you can call it fate. We have our ups and downs, but our ups always overcome our downs. We have this routine that we do; every morning I wake up at six, she toss and turns and say, "Jay I'm hot." So I turn the air on and as I am leaving she yells, "Turn the light off." I wait a minute and then she says, "I love you Jay, have a good day." We kind of have a habit of complimenting one another even when we think we are ugly; we tell each other we are amazingly beautiful. We call Thursdays our "Roomy Day" because that's like the one day we can spend time with each other. If we ever needed one another, it has never been an issue pick up the phone and call. I know I will always be there for her and I hope she feels the same, I mean you can't stop Jay-Z. I got 99 problems but my roommate ain't one.

Hannah Steumon

I'm a graduate from Lonoke High School who seeks to further my education here at UALR so that I may have a better future.

When I first toured UALR last fall, I didn't think about what it would be like to be an actual student here. But now, I'm here attending classes and finding out that taking Historical Geology without first taking Physical Geology is pure suicide. The classes here are so much more widespread than those in high school. But honestly it's not just the classes that are so different. My walks to class every morning get me thinking about my life now as a college student, and what my life used to be like as a kid. It's honestly crazy for me to think that recess and nap time were over ten years ago. Being here at UALR has given me a sense of independence and I've found that there are so many opportunities for me to better myself. I've discovered that I love being my own person and not having Mom there to tell me what to do. However, I miss having someone else do my laundry and provide dinner. Being here at UALR, I've found can that I grow as a person and influence others through being a light to this campus and participating in community events. Although I may miss home at times, my life here at UALR promises a way for me to grow. As Dr. Hampton would say, I'm going to "finish strong."

Kaitlyn Tate

I attended Lonoke High School. I don't know what I want to major in yet, but I'm leaning towards Nursing.

Starting off my final semester of high school, I had so many decisions to make. What college I was going to attend was above all the most important decision I had to make. With my mind set on going to the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), the University of Arkansas at Little Rock wasn't even one of my top picks for colleges I wanted to go to. That is, until, I heard word of the Chancellor's Leadership Corps Scholarship. When I found out that it was \$4000 a semester I remember thinking to myself "Wow wouldn't that be awesome to have! But there's no way I'd be that lucky to get that". Well, with my hopes high and my expectations low, I filled out an application for the scholarship. Weeks later, I received a letter in the mail saying I had an interview for the scholarship. I was in such shock I didn't even know what to say. I showed my family and friends and they were all just as thrilled as I was! I went to the interview, so nervous I could barely sleep that night; well, several nights before that. Once the interview was over, I felt really good about it! I was anxious. But in the back of my mind I always had that reoccurring thought that "this is too good to be true" to happen to me. Well, a couple of weeks after my interview I got a letter in the mail that little did I know would change my entire life. I remember saying a quick prayer before opening the letter. I opened it up, and it says that I've received the Chancellor's Leadership Corp's Scholarship for \$8000 a year. I didn't even know what to say, or what to do. I literally had to sit there for a minute just to let it all sink in. CLC is the reason I chose the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and I honestly could not be happier with the decision I chose.

Brittany Tenpenny

I graduated from McClellan Magnet High School. When I receive my degree (whenever I decide on a major) I will hopefully use it to get me out of Arkansas and in a state with a good paying job. I live with my mother, sister, and two little brothers. Something that describes me is tall.

“Hey do you mind helping my friend carry that TV upstairs? He’s complaining saying that the TV is too heavy for him.” Oliver was complaining about having to carry the TV upstairs to our room. I tried to make him look bad in front of the ladies that were standing around when I went and asked another guy help him to take the TV inside. It’s around 8am when I jump out of bed to pack all my things, which wasn’t much, to head to UALR for move in day. After getting all my things put up my best friend Jasmine comes in the room carrying boxes with the word EGGS on them. I made only two trips down stairs to bring in my things and let me tell you that was hard just going to the second floor. All those stairs showed me just how much I wasn’t physically fit. I was only carrying a pillow and was getting tired. Jasmine had to make almost two trips back to the house and unpacking was hard as ever, but we did it as a team. Jasmine has been my best friend before UALR was even thought of and we decided to room together even though everyone else is saying it was a bad idea, but so far we have proven everyone wrong. This was my experience coming into UALR.

Sha'Neicqua Tidwell

I attended and graduated from Camden Fairview High School. With my degree, I plan to attend medical school to become a neonatologist and do research on diseases that affect newborns and infants.

“Time for Action

Wake up.

One day you open your eyes and you realize that you’re an adult and you’re not in high school any more. You’re on your own, and you are responsible for you.

Breathe.

That’s what you tell yourself when you passed a midterm that you thought you failed.

Live.

It’s about more than just going to class, studying, and making good grades. You’ve got to have a life; a campus life that is, and a social one to. Because one day you’ll need the people you know and those who know you.

Survive.

No it’s not always going to be easy, but what part of life is?

Serve.

Lead. Learn. Serve. That’s what we learned in Chancellor’s Leadership Corp, but it’s our divine purpose to give back.

Lastly but not least. . . .

Enjoy.

Every moment is the greatest moment of your life. It’s all in what you do with the time you’re given and what you make of it. Life is too short, and time waits for no one, so why not make the most out of every give moment? One day you’ll look back on what could have, should have, or would have been, but then it’s too late. Now is the time; your time!”

Anthony Traylor

I graduated from West Memphis High School, with my degree I attend to assist in managing a business or starting my own business. I grew up in a family of six including: me, my dad, my mom, two little brothers and an older sister. Something that describes me is outgoing, proactive, and driven to succeed!

Coming from a small town just down the road, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock turned out to be a great place for upcoming freshman to venture out from home. As soon as I arrived on move-in day I knew I had found my new "home". There wasn't one moment that I wasn't greeted by someone, whether it was a student, parent, or one of the many R.A.'s. The closer I got to my room, the more I fell in love with this place. Everyone made me feel so welcome. Never before did I feel more accepted. After getting all settled in with the many ice breakers and gatherings, it was time to start classes. The professors weren't as bad as my high school teachers had made them out to be. I was expecting these mean and hateful people, but instead I came across some genuine and noble adults. People who were there for you whenever you needed, people who took the time out to make sure that you understand what was going on, but more importantly, I found people who were here to help me, guide me, and protect me as I travel on my journey towards success!

Alexa Trembl

I grew up in Ohio but I moved to Cabot, Arkansas; I graduated from Cabot High School, and I want to be a doctor in the future.

One of the hardest things about going off to college is leaving all your friends and having to build new friendships. The transition to college was definitely not a piece of cake for me, but being in CLC has really helped me get to know people and build friendships. I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't received the CLC scholarship. The Chancellor's Leadership Corps has really helped me transition to college. It has helped me figure out what kind of person I want to be and how grateful I am to have been able to meet all these new people. In high school you are somebody, but in college you're just a face in a crowd. This realization is hard for some people, and for me, it was exactly that. Some people have a harder time with the transition to college, but being in CLC has helped with my transition. Leaving home was hard enough for me to have to handle, but leaving my life behind me and having to start fresh scared me to death. I do not think that I would have transitioned so well without the help of everyone in CLC. I am truly grateful and I will never forget this experience. I still don't know my purpose here yet, but I'm starting to figure out where I belong. Isn't that what college is all about?

Taylor Washington

I plan to attend medical school and become an Obstetrician/Gynecologist.

As an incoming freshman, I didn't expect to enjoy my experience at UALR at all. When I completed filling out all the online forms to confirm my spot at UALR, I was already planning to transfer to an out of state university at the end of my sophomore year. There was no particular university in mind at the time; I just knew that any place would be better than where I was going.

By accepting to attend UALR, I felt I was settling and becoming complacent. All this potential I thought I had would just go to waste because I wouldn't be challenged or stimulated. I wanted to attend a large university with progressive-thinking and diverse people.

With my first semester almost over, I have reevaluated all of those previous thoughts. There are students and teachers from every walk of life here who genuinely want to learn and improve the world. Despite the stigma of the south being intolerant and ignorant, the UALR community is surprisingly very diverse and embraces everyone. I love that when I walk around campus I see people of every ethnicity, religious background, and sexual orientation. In class, I listen to the comments and questions of my classmates during discussions and often find myself saying, "I have never thought about it like that before." We all have our own beliefs, ways of thinking and rationalizing, styles of dress, and aspirations, and that is beautiful because we are all growing into our own together. It has been an interesting experience, opening up to new people and finding that many of the aspects that I was looking for in a university was literally 15 minutes from my house.

I have had to humble myself a lot, and realize that there is a lot that I can learn from the students and teachers at this university. I have already learned so much already and know that my work is only going to get more challenging. No place or person can hold me back; I am the only one who can do so, and I choose to continue to push myself and stay involved in all that is UALR, in and outside of class.

Everything is a matter of choice. Ultimately, I chose to attend UALR and have grown to be pleased with my choice. By seeking out and taking advantage of the opportunities offered at the school and the surrounding community, I am definitely growing as a student and citizen of the world.

LaCresha Wesson

I went to Magnolia High School and my intended major is nursing because my mother has many health issues and I want to be able to help as well as others.

LaCresha Wesson

Heart racing from the anxiety of living the college life. I longed for the day that I would officially become a Trojan at UALR. On the first day of classes, I was nervous because I knew college classes were way different than high school classes. After the first few weeks of going to my classes, I thought "I could do this" and maybe college is not so hard after all. That was before I had my first mid-term. Once I realized I was going to have my first mid-term, I was beyond nervous. I was not sure how the test was formatted and I was unsure if I could pass. The first mid-term was in my History class and luckily I had fellow CLC members in the class with me that I could study with, including my roommate. So we studied together but I'm guessing not well enough because I made a C. I cried my eyes out and I was so disappointed in myself but my roommate was able to calm me down and said "Cresha, it's not the end of the world; you can always bring it up. My roommate has really helped me with my confidence to continue to succeed in my first semester.

Ashley Wheeler

I graduated From Cabot High School and Plan to get a degree in Social work with a minor in Spanish and work for either an adoption agency, hospitals, or DHS and one day be able to go and work in a government social work office.

My first semester at college isn't what I thought or expected it would be. I never thought I would miss home or miss having my family right there down the hall from me. Everyone always says that college was there favorite time in life and gives such high expectations but they never said how hard it would be. I am very thankful to have such a wonderful roommate who has been there for me since the day we moved in. She has helped me adjust to being away from home and has given me someone to rely on and lean on for support, and I can only hope that I have done the same for her! She has become my closest friend and I am so thankful for college not only for giving me the opportunity to further my education but to make lifelong friends. The friends I have met here in college I know will continue to grow and will be friendships that will last a lifetime. Coming to UALR is the best decision I have made even though it comes with stress and being busy all the time I wouldn't have picked anywhere else to go to college.

Kyle Wheelless

I graduated from Perryville High and am currently seeking a degree in chemistry from UALR.

When first coming to UALR I was nervous, scared, and excited all at the same time. It's hard to imagine someone who wouldn't be. I was nervous about living with a roommate that I barely knew, and I was scared of the unknown, yet I was excited of what I hoped was to come. I met my roommate because of CLC, we met at the CLC interview. We both liked each other and thought of each other as tolerable. Even though neither of us will admit it, we both roomed together just so we wouldn't get a random roommate. Well my roommate and I have grown close. We are so blunt and rude to each other, we don't have to argue. Each of us have learned new things from one another and formed new hobbies. At first, we just started helping each other with our homework, I would listen to his speech and he would reread my comp papers. Then we began to play ping pong together and are currently addicted to it. Now we are even watching all of the seasons of "The Walking Dead". I am very glad I am in CLC for many reasons. However, I am most glad I joined CLC because of my roommate.

Joli Whiteseven

I graduated from ASMSA and am studying biology in the hopes of obtaining a neurology degree.

"The crazy duo," was the high school term used to describe my best friend, Patsia and I. We were always on the loose, out to make life as interesting as possible. I knew that I could always count on her to back up my crazy plans, rough around to let out pent-up energy, or just share a blanket for a Chuck marathon. When I learned that we both signed the next four years of our lives away to the same school, I was beyond thrilled. I knew that we would only grow closer as we shared the stresses of college life, while looking for more ways to be mischievous. So far, we have succeeded in splashing through fountains at midnight, "flipping" other friends' rooms, as well as searching desperately for water towers to climb. Through all the craziness, I feel as though I have found my friend soul mate. Someone who I know won't judge me as I lay out all my secrets and insecurities and who will always be there to bail me out, no matter how messy the knot I have managed to entangle myself in. This semester alone, Patsia has been a shoulder to cry on, a late night munchie accomplice, and a devoted shopping partner. I will forever be indebted to her for the amazing friendship she has shown me, even when I fail to return the favor. Patsia will always be my most trusted and loyal sister.

Andrew Wideman

I went to West Frankfort High School, Wheatmore High School, Ledford Senior High School, Oak Grove High School, and Maumelle High School. I am not entirely sure what I want to do with my degree, but something to do with Human Resources, Non-Profit, and maybe even Consulting. My dad is dead, and my mother and her husband live in Illinois. I have 3 siblings and they are my best friends. I am pretty average guy with a lot of mediocrity in life.

A Bittersweet Farewell

I was always the one in the books while everyone else would be playing sports or going to parties and what not. I never cared to give the social life a try because I knew that once I made a name for myself then everything would be okay. Once high school came around I noticed that I would never have a name for myself without being social, so I did just that and quickly climbed the ranks to one of the most social ones there was along with my sister. Then life happened and everything changed for me. I moved eighteen hours away to live with my mother, whom I have never lived with mind you, after my dad got arrested. I had never been in the south, but North Carolina seemed like a pretty cool place. I immediately fell in love with it, making tons of friends and really growing up mentally into who I am today. Then guess what, life happened all over again, and I moved another eighteen hours in the direction I came and landed in Arkansas. I hated it. There was no attraction whatsoever for me. I hated the people at my school, and I was angry at my family for making me move. Then I fell in love, and everything changed. He showed me the wonders of Arkansas and I loved every minute of it. Then it came time to choose what college I would be going too. I got into several awesome colleges, but I knew I could not leave my love. I decided to tour UALR, where I was amazed. I thought this would be some terrible place without the real college experience. Boy I was wrong.

Before coming to UALR, I had faced many challenges in life that would have easily brought anyone down, but someone I managed to make it through. Upon arriving at UALR in August of 2012, I was scared, but once moved in through orientation, I remembered all those years ago back to when I was kid and I remembered the promise I made that it would all be worth it in the end. I was right. I made it to where I will become myself, with a full ride to be exact, and I couldn't be happier with my choice of UALR. This semester has flown by so quickly and my head is still held high for what the future holds.

Tevin Deshaun Wilborn

A person who does not hesitate to speak their mind.

Being a freshman and a CLC scholar have not only been an honor, but a blessing beyond measures. I love the person I am now and I feel that this scholarship have really taught me that. They taught me that I should be open minded and accepting to people with different backgrounds, interests, and other unique things about them. Yea, a bit risky and something I will never thought I would do, but I did. In the beginning it was a smooth sailing, I had a big circle of friends and just couldn't tell me or my "homies" anything.

However, as days went by and people started showing their TRUE emotion and actions against one another, that's when my big circle went from an oval to a dot. It hurt me a couple of times because I really do miss the people who I use to be really friends with and even the people who I did not meet already from high school. I thought the connection would still be there. But, like my grandmother always tell me ""You will not find your true friends until college, so be ready."" Well, I think I already have that part weeded out so the earlier the better. But you know what, let me say this...

This scholarship has really helped me to not get into too much trouble. I easily would just say forget some of this work, but thanks to this scholarship I don't have to pay for these classes. That's really my motivation throughout college. I hope I will never pay for these classes neither. But, that's really it, I hope I didn't cause any side eye looks or anything, because the best way to let me know who or what I was writing this about is a simple conference with me ONE on ONE. Thank you!

Hannah Williams

My name is Hannah Williams, I went to North Little Rock High school. I am pretty unsure in what I would like to major is but I have a great group of family and friends supporting me along the way.

As I got closer and closer to my senior year of high school, I thought it might be a pretty good idea to decide where I would like to go to college. Over the years I never really stressed about it all too much, for some reason I kind of thought it would just happen. But before I knew it the time to decide was now. I knew I didn't want to graduate with tons of student loans and I ended up getting a good scholarship from UALR so that is where I ended up.

I'm not going to lie, I had a pretty good high school experience, at NLR I graduated with honors and left feeling like I was pretty much friends with everyone. I was excited for a change but it was definitely bittersweet. I had been in a set routine for about four years so I didn't know what to expect. My first semester at UALR has definitely been a good one so far. I was incredibly stressed at some of my best friends leaving me but I feel as if I have done a good job with keeping up their relationships as well as new ones.

As far as academics go, my senior year of high school was pretty relaxed. Honestly, I was pretty stressed about being thrown into college. I hadn't put too much effort into school in a year I thought I might of lost my touch! But thankfully UALR and its staff have made the transition very easy, and I feel like I have had plenty of people and resources there to help me if I were to ever have any issues.

College has definitely been a whole new world and a major adjustment for me. But I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities I have been provided with at UALR. I have been blessed with meeting some great people as well as being close to home so I can stay close with most of my friends and family. I can not wait to see what else UALR can do for me.

George Wilson

I am a freshman at UALR.

Upon arriving at UALR, I felt bad for my ambassador. All summer, my group and I had barely posted anything on our Facebook page, and her attempts at trying to establish communication might as well have been with aliens than with us. Not wanting her to feel like an utter failure, I began to get to know Katy better, starting with the first night she made cookies for the group. That night ended with a two hour conversation and Katy and I establishing a friendship. Now, months since that day, it's safe to say I've got something closer to a sibling bond than just a friendship with that nut job. However, the reason Katy is so important, and why I'm choosing to write about her, is because she's the part of UALR I didn't expect. I knew I would make friends, I knew I would have an ambassador, I was even fairly sure I'd enjoy myself, but who could have predicted I would find a big sister?

Raven Wilson

I went to Joe T. Robinson High School. I'm majoring in Biology pre-med. I want to use my degree to become a doctor.

I remember prior to graduating telling myself and the majority of the people I knew and loved: I am NOT going to UALR. I was incredibly adamant. No person or thing could change my mind. I'd grown up in Little Rock Arkansas my entire life, and I saw this chapter of my life to leave and experience the "college experience", a propaganda commonly paraded on TV and movies. My friends were leaving, and I wanted to leave too. I'd received scholarships to U of A, Astate, UCA, Hendrix, and more, but none of them could measure up to the amount of money I was receiving from UALR. Based off that mere fact, I decided to go to UALR. Needless to say, I was not exactly happy, but my attitude about the entire thing changed when it came time for orientation. I met a lot of amazing people, including my roommate who I can now call a lifetime friend, and rekindled relationships with people I hadn't seen since middle school. I toured the school and got to see some of the classes I would need to take for my major. It was then that I came back to my reality. I was here for an education and I was going to receive it here, and better yet for free. It didn't hurt that I was roomed with an incredible person who has helped me get through the hard and difficult times I have faced in the span of these two months, helped me see the light when all I saw was obscurity (chemistry), and become my biggest supporter here at the University. I am truly happy that I am here.

William W. Wofford

I attended Brinkley High School. when i earn my degree i wish to edit movies and act in them. I would be described as funny most of the time and my family is a very awesome.

Hope, Love, & Friendship

So where do I begin? Well first of all, my name is William but almost everyone here has the habit of calling me Carlton. Why is that? Well let's just say that was part of the "transition" from high school to college. This is the first semester of my college career. It's isn't exactly hard it's just different. Don't get me wrong you still have to stay on top of things but over all its just different.

I still remember my graduation day at Brinkley High School. Boy we had a crew back then. Nathan Moffett would always sing "That's my Job" by Conway Twitty every day. It was annoying. Tranay Holiday and Dillon Nash were the Uno champs of the whole school every year. Even till this day, Dillon still calls me "Weeyum" and not "William." I'm like "really?" If anyone wanted to trade gossip we wouldn't say "tell me what happened!" we would say "Nuh uh don't close me out tha circle boo give me tha juice!" Not only that I still recall that were the biggest class of the century which was 69 graduates. Yeah Brinkley is a small town. I really don't blame people for not knowing where it's at.

Three months went by and it was time to move in our dorm. Like everyone else I was excited! I mean who wouldn't be? I've gotten to know my roommate Neil Hudson. He's cool and very intelligent. I already knew my next door neighbor Spencer Lloyd. His roommate is Brenden Guffey and despite my room "earthquaking" from their base music they're still alright in my book.

Spencer and I were in the same group under Summer Flannery. In that same group we had Jake Wildman which I'm sure everybody in our college class knows by now along with one of my best friends Caity Audrey. In this time of transition I made some new friends in the process. Katelyn North is the crazy fun I guess you can say. Matthew Head makes me laugh and Jack Williamson is always updated on the stock market.

There is a reason why half the school calls me Carlton. Have you ever seen Fresh Prince of Bel Air? One day I changed my profile picture on Facebook to me wearing a blue suit and white shirt. Next thing you know Nick Steel, our Chancellors Leadership Corp. Coordinator, wants me to do the Carlton dance in front of all of the CLC Freshmen. "William, I will pay you to dance on August 18th" Only to find out that I was set up. So as I go to class weather its Speech, Comp 1, Mass Media and Society, Spanish or Theater and Dance there is always someone saying "Hey what's up Carlton?!"

I love CLC. I love it with a passion but I wouldn't have gotten through the year without my real friends. I consider Trikele Smith to be my older brother in a way. Michael teaches me how to dance. Paul McIntosh is the perfect wrestling buddy.

Martin Garcia is like my conscience. Trevor Nanney is cool to hang out with even if he is in his room playing Super Smashbros by himself. Tiffany Smith, Amber Langston and Lindsey Clark are who I talk to if I have a problem. These guys are my guide and my conscience. They helped me recognize the better part of myself. They are my family.

"Tonight I find myself kneeling by the bed to pray. I haven't done this in a while so I don't know what to say, but Lord I feel so small sometimes in this big ol' place. Yeah I know there more important things. Don't forget to remember me." —Carrie Underwood. This was our senior song in high school. In summary this would thoroughly describe my transition from high school to college. I told you about my friend because I've learned to rely and depend on them. They keep me up until my homework is done. They encourage me if my day in class wasn't so good. Their hope, love and friendship is what is keeping me here at UALR. I thank Nick for calling me Carlton. I thank Trikele for being my brother. I even thank Summer for being the best Ambassador this college has ever had. Out of my college experience there is one thing that I have learned. It is only hard if you make it hard.

Dylan Wood

I went to Magnolia High School, I plan to get my biology degree, and hopefully get in to pharmacy school at UAMS, my family is amazing, and I love to run fast.

My first semester here, at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, has been great. Between being in CLC, and being a member of the track team, I feel so involved. The CLC program has given me the opportunity to meet so many new people, and have a step ahead in my studies. I really appreciate everything they have done for us. I definitely don't have a problem with my roommates because they are really cool guys, and have become some of my really good friends. I also get to learn some Swedish on the side! One of my roommates is from Sweden by the way. Being a part of a team has always been one of my favorite things, and being at this school just lets me continue to have that in my life. My grades are doing pretty well, and I am really having a good time here. I hope everything continues to go this well in the semesters to come.

Samuel Woody

After college I would like to go to law school and become a sports agent.

Going to school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been a very impactful decision in my life, not to mention a great one. Since being here I have been able to experience close relationships with some of my peers. I have also been involved with an organization the Fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha. This has brought my friendships with some of the guys I have been fortunate enough to meet to an even greater level. Living in the dorms I spend virtually all day throughout the week with Zach, Tucker, and Brandon. Being in the same organization we are even more so around each other. Some people may think that this could strain a friendship, but after all this I am closer to these guys than I could've ever imagined. Choosing to go to school here has been a great decision in my life and without it, I could've been with out some of the best friends I will ever have in my life.

Brittany Wright

I attended Blytheville High School and graduated with aspirations of taking steps toward my career at UALR.

My first semester at UALR has become one to remember. Being a part of the Chancellor's Leadership Corps has added many perks to my experience and it has played a big role in how I envision my academic future. Of course I was nervous, yet extremely anxious, to get away from home and start life on my own for the very first time. Fortunately, I'd met my roommate in the summer time so I knew that she wouldn't be a creeper. I was almost right. Finding friends wasn't that difficult at all because everyone was fresh and eager to meet the new faces that surrounded them. Speaking with many of the upperclassmen, West Hall didn't sound like the place to be. Luckily, I live with some of the greatest people that make West Hall the embracing community that it is. We've formed outrageous study groups to prep for tests and assignments and I know that if I ever need help that there is someone that I can go to. My transition to college was fairly smooth, yet challenging in some areas. All in all, I believe that I've adapted to my environment very well and I wouldn't change a thing about it.

Timothy Yu

I graduated from ASMSA, hoping to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering

My first semester was something I never expected. I look back and remember being in second grade, thinking I would never be as big or as old as the sixth graders. In the blink of an eye I was in junior high school and it was my first day in seventh grade. Five more years and I would be a senior, and that was an eternity from seventh grade. As soon as I turned around, I was senior searching for colleges. After being accepted to UALR and the CLC the second semester of my senior sluggishly continued. I thought college would never come, and I would be a senior for the rest of my life. Shortly after, the dean of my school was handing me my high school diploma, and I was packing for college. I arrived, and met my new roommates and life has been entirely different ever since. I can leave whenever I want, and go to bed when I actually feel tired. The best thing of college is my new friends. We stay up late watching movies, playing games, and eating pizza. While I wait here and anticipate for my degree, I know from past experience to take my time and enjoy my college years.

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