UA LITTLE ROCK | STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

October 15th, 2026
To the student body and administration of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock:

Dear Trojans,

Today, I share this message not only on behalf of the UA Little Rock Student Government Association, but as Aiden Hattaway's friend and honorary brother.

Aiden passed away on Saturday, October 10 due to a tragic car accident. He was a sophomore studying ecological and organismal biology, but to our family and those who loved him, he was so much more than the details we can share in a statement. He was part of our everyday lives, our memories, and our future we imagined together. It is difficult to find words for losing someone who should still be here and had so much to accomplish.

Aiden cared very deeply about the people around him and always would try and make time for them, putting them ahead of himself whether he knew them or not. He would sit with strangers anywhere if he was walking around and they were having a bad day. He would listen, advise, and try to make you laugh. One of the last things he did the day he passed was he bought a man who looked as if he hadn't eaten in a while a burger and fries from the Root Cafe. There was no requirement for him to do so, he got a request from a person in need and provided for them. He always found ways to make others laugh however bad his day was going. His quick wit would leave others standing in confusion and without a response. He used humor as a way to connect with people and I guarantee you if you met him you walked away with a smile or as he liked to put it a chuckle in your heart. He considered it his job to keep others happy and he did that very well.

Beginning Friday, October 16, SGA will set up a memorial at Cooper Fountain, where Aiden enjoyed sitting, watching and interacting with both faculty and students on campus during the spring semester. A place that brought him moments of peace can now give us a place to remember him and be close to the memories we carry.

If you are able, we invite you to leave plants, a note, or something that reminds you of Aiden and the things he enjoyed. You do not need to bring anything or know the right words. You are welcome to stop by, sit for a while, and remember him in your own way. One of his last wishes was when he was gone that

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people don’t try to separate, in honor of him I invite you to try and make connections while you're there although I understand this is difficult.

To everyone who knew Aiden, as family, a friend, a classmate, or a familiar face on campus, your memories of him matter. We hope you will help us honor his life by sharing those memories and caring for one another in the days ahead.

Aiden, you are loved, you are missed, and you will forever remain part of our family and this community.

With love and remembrance,
Ian Gayler, CHASSE Senator
UA Little Rock Student Government Association