

## **I Can Make a Difference**

The greatest legacies people leave on this Earth are the positive impacts they make in the lives of other people. My prayer is that in all areas of my life I will make constructive contributions and memorable impacts on everyone I come in contact with. As I move forward in my college career at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, I am developing skills and ideas that will benefit my life, and in return, the lives of others, as I apply my knowledge in the community and later, in my classroom as a history teacher.

I believe the most important way to make a difference is by positively influencing a younger generation. I attend a small, but growing, church in Wilmington called Lifepoint Church. In the fall when I return for classes I am going to start volunteering in their Kidzone. As a student leader working with toddlers and/or elementary school age children, I will be an encouraging role model and leader as they begin their young walk with Christ. I wish to see young children come to know Christ because for me, that was the most important decision I made, and it will be the most important decision anyone makes, no matter what their age. As a student leader, I will be able to help children learn about God and all the wonderful lessons that He teaches us in life. Volunteering at Lifepoint will be one the most important impacts I make on others. I can make a difference in the lives of young children by preparing them and watching them grow in their understanding and search for God. I have a heart to serve others and as a student leader, I will be able to use the gifts God gave me to serve Him and serve the world through having a positive impact on the lives of young children.

As I stated earlier I attend the University of North Carolina Wilmington. I am majoring in History, working to receive my Secondary Education Certificate and Teaching License, and getting my minor in religion. My love of history has always been a special indication for me that I should further my academic study of the subject and in doing so, I have found even more

passion for learning about my family's history. I wrote a research paper titled "A Brief History of the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment Through July 1, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg" using the Setzer family civil war letters. From this paper I also discovered that I have a talent for merging historical fact with creative fiction. I plan on writing a variety of short stories that combine historical fact with characters that will bring the historical event to life. After speaking with many college peers and current high school students, I have found that high school history classes tend to be one of the least well liked classes. I wish to change that when I become a teacher. I believe that by integrating historical fact with personal characters and teaching through the fictional eyes of people that witnessed and experienced a specific event, students will not only find the material more interesting, but will remember the facts long after they are tested on it. I can make a difference in the lives of history students by presenting them with a new and intriguing way to study history, possibly revolutionizing the way history is taught, or at least remembered.

I still have a few years to finish my college career and continuing years to earn my masters degree, but that does not mean I cannot make a difference in the lives of my peers and teachers as I go through this educational process. With every class I take, with every professor I study under, and with every research paper I write I am bettering myself so that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of someone in the future. Each step of the way builds my knowledge and I do not take that lightly. I am very privileged and blessed to be at a college university and I do not take that for granted. I diligently study and make the most of every opportunity I am presented with so that in the future I will be able to give my all back into the lives of my own students. My goal now is to learn everything I can so that I will be able to give my students the very best. I am very future oriented and always try to see ahead of what is just in front of me now.

As I go day to day I try to be a guiding and positive light for those around me, but I still look toward the horizon to see how today might positively impact tomorrow. This philosophy holds true as I work with the young children in my church and with my college career. Everything I am doing now is to prepare for the future. I think the way I can make a difference in the world is through the giving of myself for other people. Serving in my church, teaching young children about Christ, and teaching students about the past are just a few examples of how I can make a difference in the lives of other people. I have a great outlook and attitude about life and I hope that I contribute positively to the world. I just wish to help others and be a blessing in other people's lives, just as others have blessed my life. I can make a difference by giving of myself to serve others.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Member of Sigma Alpha Lambda (a National Leadership and Honors Organization dedicated to developing the individual and serving our community.)
- Participant in the Campus Crusade for Christ chapter at UNCW
- Future volunteer at Lifepoint Church (Fall 2012)