

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 26th 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)