

My name is _____, a junior communication major with emphasis in journalism, photography, and public relations with a studio arts minor. My cumulative GPA is 3.671 and my communication GPA is 3.8.

Growing up I went to work with my grandpa a lot. He is the local sports editor for the county newspaper. I never once heard him complain about how his job was work and he got to meet so many people along the way. I enjoyed spending time with my grandpa, but I didn't realize at that time that I was falling in love with his career along the way. As I got into high school I started to learn a little more about photography and writing. I didn't know what I wanted to go to college for either until my grandma suggested a degree in communication and a light bulb went on. Once she said that I knew immediately that is what I wanted to pursue.

I started looking at universities and my mom suggested UW-Green Bay. Since that is what she wanted, it wasn't what I wanted. I ended up touring the campus and fell in love with it and saw it had the degree I wanted to pursue. I didn't have a choice after that, UWGB was the only college I wanted to go to. I guess my mom was right because I have never regretted becoming a Phoenix and making it my home. I get to share not only my passion for communication with my grandpa, but also with my professors. They are expanding my knowledge of the field by showing their students how much they enjoy what they do. They have encouraged me that there are lots of opportunities out there and I am taking advantage of as many as I can.

The opportunities that I have experienced are more than what I expected, and I am only a junior. My freshman year I applied to be a student ambassador and it has led to some of the memories that I will cherish most from college. One of the reasons I wanted to go into communication is because I didn't want to do the same thing every day for the rest of my life. As a student ambassador, every time I have the opportunity to meet someone new and improve on skills that I know that are helping me grow not only so I can get a good job, but also to be more effective in my personal life. The skills I am learning in the classroom, I am building on through my extracurricular. One of the biggest lessons I have learned is that effective communication is just as much about really listening as it is about effectively conveying a message.

Other extracurricular activities that I have been involved in are Circle K, I was elected in to the National Resident Hall Honorary, I was selected as a delegate for an RHAA conference in Canada, I volunteered for Phuture Phoenix, a member of the Provost Advisory Council, an overnight/shadow host for Admissions for admitted seniors, and a member of the new Public Relations Student Organization. I was also the recipient of a University Leadership Award and a Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges award. In my home town I volunteer with the Jaycee organization and I am an intern at a non-profit doing its social media.

My freshman year I signed up to take the Fourth Estate as a class. I have now been on the paper for five semesters, and three of them have been as the photography editor. I have the opportunity to improve on my leadership skills and constantly gain experience working in the field. One responsibility that most people do not realize the job requires is being able to work with other people to put out a complete product. Since I have been on the paper for longer than

most of the other editors, it has been important for me to step up and help them and other students. When I am at events I get to network with people and learn more about what their jobs are like. Every photography assignment has its own challenge and I want my work to show off the writer's content. When I explain to other people what I get to do at a college newspaper they are usually surprised because of the opportunities that I have had. I have won two awards, 2nd and 5th place for a news photo, at ACP's Best of the Midwest conference. I get to take pictures for each section, but the sections I take the most for are entertainment and sports. It is a challenge to take photos for these sections especially because of all of the elements I need to take in to consideration and there is only a certain window of time to get the right image. This is one of the reasons why I enjoy the communication field. I recently traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to cover the UWGB women's NCAA game. I traveled 55 long hours round trip on a bus for the game, but it was still worth it. I don't know many students that can say that they have had that experience to cover Division 1 national sporting events like the NCAA tournament. After the game my grandpa called to say how proud he was of me and he was bragging that he saw his granddaughter on ESPN. He helps to remind me all the time of how far I have come and how far I still can go. Photography is my passion and it is one thing I know that I will never stop enjoying.

After graduation I would like to look for a job in the photojournalism or public relations field. I would prefer to stay in Wisconsin so I can be closer to my family. However, a lot can change in a year and at this point I am focusing on my education and gaining experience in the field so when the time comes I can make the right decision. I am very involved in extracurricular activities, but I work hard in my classes. It is not just about getting a good grade for me, but being able to understand the material and the importance of it.

I don't take anything for granted because I know exactly how lucky I am to be a student at UWGB. I would not have the same opportunities that I have had if I went to another school. The interdisciplinary education that I am experiencing is worth every penny I am spending and more. I know that when I step into a classroom I am not a number, but a student. The major that I have chosen is not going to be easy because of its competitiveness, the criticism that follows, and the need to always be improving. One thing I do know however, is when I graduate I will be ready to face the challenges ahead because of the person that I have become since I started at UWGB.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me for your scholarship.