

Laurie Blaske

AS I ENTERED THE DOORS OF ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE, I REMEMBER BEING SCARED OF WHAT I WAS ENTERING. IT WAS UNFAMILIAR TO ME, A FEELING THAT I DID NOT LIKE. I FELT LIKE I REALLY WASN'T HERE, AS IF I WAS DREAMING THAT I WAS IN COLLEGE. AS I ENTERED MY FIRST CLASS, WHICH WAS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, I WAS SCARED AND THOUGHT I WAS IN A NIGHTMARE, BUT THEN WHEN I WALKED ABOUT THAT CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT A LITTLE OLDER, AND OFFICIALLY KNEW I AM A COLLEGE STUDENT.

PEOPLE TELL YOU THAT THESE COLLEGE YEARS WILL BE THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE. THEY TELL YOU THAT THESE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT YEARS IN YOUR LIFE, BUT WHAT THEY DON'T TELL YOU IS HOW FAST THEY TRULY GO BY. IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY THAT I WAS THE UNFAMILIAR FRESHMAN THAT WALKED INTO THAT CLASSROOM, BUT I AM NOT, I AM NOW THAT SENIOR THAT IS GRADUATING, GRADUATING NOT JUST FROM SFC, BUT FROM THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF HER LIFE.

SFC HAS GIVEN ME THE CHANCE TO GROW AS A PERSON THROUGH GUIDANCE OF THE BEST FACULTY AND MOST OF ALL THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS I HAVE MADE HERE. THEY HAVE GUIDED ME THROUGH MANY HARD TIMES, BUT IT ALL HAS LED ME TO THIS MOMENT, MY GRADUATION. I FEEL THAT THIS COLLEGE IS NOT JUST A COLLEGE; IT TRULY BECOMES YOUR FAMILY AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY. LIFE LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED HERE, LESSONS THAT I WILL KEEP WITH ME FOREVER.

I MUST THANK ALL THE WONDERFUL PROFESSORS THAT HAVE GIVEN ME THE KNOWLEDGE TO GO OUT IN THE WORLD. YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME MORE THEN CURRICULUM,

BUT LIFE LESSONS, THAT I WILL TAKE WITH ME. THE SPECIAL BONDS THAT I HAVE MADE WITH ALL OF MY FRIENDS I KNOW WILL LAST ME A LIFETIME. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HANGING OUT IN HALLWAYS, OUTSIDE, CLASSROOMS, THE SGA OFFICES, OR THE LOUNGE, EACH ONE OF YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SO MANY MEMORIES, THAT I WILL TREASURE.



NOW AS I LEAVE MY LAST CLASS AT SFC, I WALK OUT NOT A COLLEGE STUDENT, I WALK OUT AS A COLLEGE GRADUATE THAT HAS THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE EXPERIENCE THAT WILL LAST A LIFE TIME.

ALL OF MY TIME HERE AT SFC WILL BE IN MY HEART FOREVER. IT WAS TRULY A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE, AND I AM SO GLAD TO KNOW THE YEARS AT SFC WERE THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE, AND I WOULD NEVER CHANGE THEM FOR A MOMENT. I JUST HOPE THAT FUTURE CLASSES HAVE THE

EXPERIENCE THAT I DO, BECAUSE THEY WILL BE FOREVER CHANGED AS I AM. AND TO MY FELLOW GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2008, SOME WHO ARE MY FRIENDS, SOME WHO I HAVE NEVER MET, GOOD LUCK WITH ALL FUTURE ENDEAVORS, AND JUST REMEMBER WE WERE ALL TOGETHER IN A MOMENT IN TIME, WE ARE ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE. AND TO ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE I LEAVE YOU THE LYRICS OF MADONNA'S SONG:

AND I'LL REMEMBER,
THE STRENGTH THAT YOU GAVE ME,
NOW THAT I AM STANDING ON MY OWN
I'LL REMEMBER
THE WAY YOU CHANGED ME
I'LL REMEMBER

Assem El Ghaziri



LOOKING BACK ON MY FOUR YEARS AS A STUDENT ATHLETE AT ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE, ONLY POSITIVE THOUGHTS COME TO MIND. SFC WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT HAS BEEN UNLIKE ANY OTHER FOR ME. THE SMALL COLLEGE OF BIG DREAMS IS ALSO TRULY FULL OF GREAT SURPRISES, RESOURCES, AND PEOPLE. I REALLY APPRECIATED ALL OF OUR EXCELLENT PROFESSORS AND STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES, WHICH HELPED ME AND ALL OF MY FELLOW GRADUATES FLOURISH THROUGHOUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREERS.

AS AN NCAA DIVISION I STUDENT ATHLETE, I CAN SAY THAT I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS HERE AT SFC FOR BOTH PRACTICE AND COMPETITION. IT IS VERY HARD TO IMAGINE LIFE NOW REMOVED FROM SFC. THIS IS NOT TO MENTION THE OTHER COUNTLESS HOURS INVESTED IN THE CLASSROOM, ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT, STUDY SESSIONS, AND ONE-ON-ONE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION. WHENEVER I NEEDED A LITTLE BIT OF GUIDANCE OR EXTRA ASSISTANCE WITH A PERSONAL OR ACADEMIC MATTER, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE AT SFC WILLING AND READY TO HELP ME. MY CHOSEN AREA OF STUDY WAS HEALTH SCIENCE. I CAN TRULY STATE THAT I FEEL THAT I AM MORE THAN READY TO COMPETE IN MY PROFESSIONAL WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH THE SKILLS AND LESSONS LEARNED AT SFC.

ALSO AT SFC, I LEARNED ABOUT HARNESSING MY OWN POTENTIAL, AND UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPING MY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. IN MY OPINION, AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT THAT OFFERS STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO LEARN AND GROW IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF COLLEGE MISSIONS. THANKS TO A WARM, FAMILY ATMOSPHERE THAT WAS FOCUSED ON SERVICE AND FRANCISCAN VALUES, ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE NOT ONLY MET MY PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS BUT ALSO EXCEEDED THEM.

LASTLY, THE BIGGEST REASON THAT I AM THANKFUL I ATTENDED SFC WAS BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSE MELTING POT THAT REPRESENTS OUR STUDENT BODY. NOT ONLY DID I MEET NEW AND INTERESTING PEOPLE, BUT I ALSO DEVELOPED FRIENDSHIPS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL MY FELLOW GRADUATES, AND THOSE OF THE FUTURE!

