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Gateway to Honors

9 September 2014

Significant Events Timeline

* Event 1: Fourth Grade

 My fourth grade year of elementary school was the main year in my youth that helped shape me into who I am today. During that year, I made several personal discoveries that influenced me. One major aspect of my growth was my first experience in theatre, when I was the lead in our school musical as Tom Sawyer. I actually had no choice in this; my teacher told me that I was the lead, and I had to do it. Although I was initially terrified, I ended up loving performing, and this experience began my lifelong love for performing and theatre. It also majorly improved my self-confidence, which was previously nearly non-existent. During this year I also was placed into a fifth-grade level math course which challenged me greatly, but it also shaped my knowledge in mathematics, and I have always been in advanced math since then. Finally, I had a cute fifth grade girlfriend who was super cool; she was a great influence on me and my confidence as well.

* Event 2: Moving to Gahanna, OH

 Right before I began middle school, my family moved from Columbus to Gahanna, OH. I did not have as rough of a transition as my older sister did because she was in the middle of middle school during the process while I was about to begin at a new school anyway, but I still had a bit of trouble adjusting to the all the new aspects of the move. One major part of it was that I was now to attend a public school while I had always been enrolled in small Christian private schools for elementary school, and the public school system was a bit of a culture-shock initially. I knew no one coming into the new school system and was thus forced to reach out and meet new people. I had some troubles in academics that first year, but I also had some teachers who had incredible impacts on my life, such as Mr. Toopes who taught us how to be young people of good character along with lessons in History in Science. Although my first year at Gahanna was slightly rough, I definitely think Gahanna impacted me very positively in the long-run.

* Event 3: Getting my first job

 In the summer of 2011, I began my first job at a sports bar called Signatures. I was only 15 when I began the job, and I was honestly probably too young. I was very excited to have an income for the first time, but it was initially more stressful than helpful. I was very anxious to mess up at work, and I was nervous to interact with customers and embarrass myself with mistakes. It was a good thing for me because I was forced to gain improved people skills and self-responsibility, but I was also constantly trying to balance work, school, and extra-curriculars during my sophomore year in high school, something most of my other peers did not have to deal with yet. I did end up working at Signatures for 3 years however, and the job overall impacted me positively.

* Event 4: Summer 2012

 The summer before my junior year in high school was a major time of growth for me in such a short period. I went on my first mission trip through my church youth group, rebuilding houses in Alabama from the tornados the previous year. I was impacted through my experience in working on the homes and our interactions with the families, and I surely want to continue with volunteer experiences such as that in my future. I’ve already checked out some volunteer organizations at UC, too. That summer I also got my driver’s license and first car; both those events signified independence for me as I was able to do so much more for myself. It was very liberating, a nice coming-of-age. In band I was a squad leader that summer, an experience that developed my leadership skills and helped further develop my personal responsibility as well. I was in charge of other people for the first time, and I had to learn how to oversee people and be a good leader. Finally, a huge event of this summer was my coming out. Obviously, it was a big deal, and I got very mixed reactions from friends and family, but it was a release that needed to happen. The summer of 2012 was very full of personal growth.

* Event 5: My Senior Year

 My senior year of high school was also a time for personal development. I had many leadership positions in Band, Choir, Theatre, and National Honor Society where I overlooked large groups of people as a section leader or Vice President of organizations, and I was able to put to work the people skills. organization skills, and leadership skills that I had compiled over the past couple years to test throughout my whole senior year in these positions as I organized events and oversaw groups. I had classes such as Engineering courses and AP French which really impacted my choices to major in Chemical Engineering and minor in French. I also got to spend the year with my best friends, and we got to all grow together in our leadership positions in Choir and Theatre as we were the people all the underclassmen looked up to as examples of skill, talent and character. I was impacted significantly when my youth pastor from my church moved away because he was going to have a baby with his wife and then start his seminary schooling. He was a major presence in my life that I hated to lose. I also experienced a break-up in the winter of my senior year that strongly impacted me, but I learned a lot about myself and how to improve myself for future relationships in the process. My senior year also represented a time of huge changes for myself.

* Event 6: Moving in to UC

 Like every other student in this course, I recently began attending the University of Cincinnati, and this process has already begun shaping me as an individual. It was tough to say goodbye to old friends, and I miss them a lot, but I know that this is my time to become the incredible young man I intend on being. UC offers so many opportunities, and I intend on taking hold of them. I have become involved in Young Life already, and have begun growing in my relationship with God again, something for which I’ve been longing for a couple years now. It has been very interesting to see how life is as an adult; I now have full independence. To be able to do or go whatever or wherever I want whenever I want is an incredible feeling. Having to pay for everything is not, however. The expenses of college do stress me out a lot, and I’m worried about paying for all the things I want to do including going on study abroad seminars or co-ops, but I intend on working hard to accomplish goals such as these. One of the only true negatives of UC so far is my Calculus II class. I hate Calc II. Anyway, I’m very excited to continue to grow as an individual this freshman year at Cincinnati.