

A letter to a fellow Comet...

Hello...my name is Sharon, and I am a proud member of the Class of 1983. It means so much to me to be able to write this letter to you. Twenty-seven years ago I would never have thought that I would be where I am today. Has it been easy? By no means. I have been blessed to have people around me that have inspired me...kept me going...and pushed me at times...but without them I could never have made the journey. I know that world that we live in today is so much more stressful then it was when I was at Cody. You can still realize your dreams, though...

I am the first of five children to attend college. I attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn...I still remember the joy on my parent's faces when I showed them my acceptance letter. Both of them had to leave school at early ages to help their families. They were thrilled that I was not only going to college...but to "the U of M." I had many obstacles to overcome during my undergraduate years...finance concerns, the loss of my father and brother...but I never lost focus on what I wanted: a college degree. It took me 12 years, but I not only graduated with a bachelors degree...I graduated with a double major in Psychology and Art History.

One of the hardest things to learn about college is that it is your first opportunity to be an adult...and it is the first time that you have to be responsible for your own life. No one will tell you what courses to take...when to do your homework...what resources you need to locate. You will have to want it bad enough to be proactive and work for it. There will be times that you just want to say "forget it" and walk away...never do that. You are only human, and there will be days that it will be just too much. Take a break...breathe...think...and go to one of those people around you that you trust. You aren't in this journey alone...as you move down the path you will see how many people are cheering you from the sides of the road. Your family...former teachers...friends...members of your community...they will always be there for you. You are probably asking what my job is...I am a student advisor. I made a pledge to always be there for students, as others had been for me...and it gives me such joy to know that I can make a difference and help someone reach their dreams.

Education is an adventure. Not only do you learn new ideas and concepts, but you are exposed to different ways of thinking...different cultures...different languages...the boundaries of your world fall away. Let yourself be exposed to these new ideas...you never know, you might find your calling. Take your education seriously...it will open doors for you down the road that will shape your life. Believe in who you are and what you want, but know when to ask for help along the way.

As you continue to work on the next three years of high school, keep focused on learning and growing. Ask questions...find new experiences to challenge your self...and never give up. I hope that my words will stay with you...and may you shine as brightly as a Comet!