



The fans came out for Fan Day fun and to see the Dragons take a double-header from Lon Morris.

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The Bat

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"The Friendliest College In The South"

Volume 85, No. 7, Thursday, April 8, 2010

SGA: Reading to the Future

CHRISTINA GUNLOCK
Staff Writer

When PJC college students come knocking at the door, the Aikin Elementary first graders get very excited.

They shout, "The Readers are here! The Readers are here!"

A group of PJC Student Government Association (SGA) students visits Rebecca Floyd's first grade class each Tuesday at 2 p.m. Six to 12 students drive to the elementary school to read books aloud to the classroom full of eager first graders.

The group of PJC students is part of the program, Reading to the Future, started by the Lamar County Coalition of Education, Business and Industry in 2009. After reading about the program, students and PJC Student Activities Coordinator Deanna Young attended a volunteer orientation last September.

The Aikin Elementary Library sets aside age appropriate books for the readers to pick from, but if a reader has a book they really want to read to the first graders they can bring it as well.

Often the first graders pick the same book to read several times.

They don't care if it is the same book; they just want to sing along with the songs and hear the story.

Although only one student can read per visit, multiple PJC students go in order to connect with the first graders. The first graders ask all sorts of questions such as, where the readers live, what they want to be when they grow up, what's college life like; in general, questions about life.

One first grader, Jimena, likes the readers because she delights in reading. She loves it when her book is chosen for reading. At home, Jimena's older brother reads her favorite book, "Mail Harry to the Moon," among others, to her.

Another first grader, Hunter, said when the readers come in and read it makes him "feel good. They (the readers) read good books."

Reader Shantwanae Akins read the book, "I Stink," by Kate and Jim McMullan, on March 30. The book was about a garbage truck and his route through the neighborhood eating up people's trash.

Hunter said, "It was awesome. My favorite part of today's book was when he went around picking up people's trash to eat it."

Out in the community, the first graders frequently recognize the



Stephanie Norman/ The Bat

Shantwanae Akins, a PJC student and SGA member, reads "Down by the Bay" to Rebecca Floyd's first grade class at Aikin Elementary last Tuesday. Each Tuesday, PJC SGA members read to the same class as part of the local Reading to the Future program.

readers that come to their class.

The first graders are not the only ones who benefit from the students coming.

"It is the uplifting moment of our Tuesday," Young said.

"At first, I was doing it just for the points, then I wanted to keep going," PJC student Terrace Bonner said, explaining he continued to participate because of the first graders. (SGA awards points as

incentives for increased student involvement.)

The benefits to the students are many.

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Historic instruments find home at PJC

STEPHANIE NORMAN
Editor

The PJC Music Building is home to two historic instruments; one square grand piano and one pump organ. Unless students have a class inside this building, it is most likely they would never know these two instruments were in place.

PJC music instructor Jenny Vaughan, an avid pianist herself, shared some history of which she was aware.

The 19th century square grand piano has been here "for a very long time," Vaughan said. This type piano was designed during the 19th Century with the idea of taking up less floor space than a wing-shaped grand piano. In many ways, the idea was brilliant and indeed did take up a significantly

less amount of room. However, the way the insides of the piano were put together isn't quite as elegant as the original wing-shaped piano. Vaughan said the square grands were soon discontinued.

Before coming to the PJC

campus, the square grand piano was located in the Maxey House in Paris and Vaughan said it once belonged to Cornel Maxey long ago. As of now, the historic piece is just for looks and decoration.

"It is un-playable, but it's beau-

tiful," Vaughan said.

The piano has hand-carved wood legs and designs along the trim. Since being taken out of the Maxey House, it has been refurbished once and remains in good-looking condition.



Stephanie Norman/ The Bat

The square grand piano sits just inside the Music Building.



Stephanie Norman/ The Bat

The pipe organ remains closed to keep out dust.

"It never did have a bench that went with it," Vaughan said. Of course, there was most likely a bench at some point in its history, but not since it has been at the school.

Sitting beside the square grand is another valuable instrument, a pump organ. This is a smaller instrument, but, in some minds, takes a little more coordination to play.

"You alternate between your feet and hands," Vaughan said. Just like any other organ pipe, there has to be air being pumped in order for the keys being pressed to produce a sound.

This instrument is quite complicated. There are also knobs above the keyboard, which the player can adjust to find the exact

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Opinion / Features

Opinion

Outside of class

CARMEN MARTIN
Staff Writer

Sitting on the couch with a new friend watching "Zombieland" and laughing with the golf boys at a Student Government Association sponsored activity are among the many activities I've taken part in. Riding in the SGA float for the homecoming parade, throwing candy to all the fans, while laughing is another event I enjoyed.

Ever since I was in grade school, I was always told to be active in my school because one day that participation would pay off for me. Today, I know it's true.

Being involved in activities has paid for some of my education and helped me in getting to know the school and its staff a lot better. Involving yourself in organizations is also a way to meet students on campus besides those in your classrooms. It opens your school world to all kinds of possibilities from

making friends, to having good standing with teachers, to increasing the possibility of getting your tuition paid.

Being Student Government Association president has opened the door to so many new people, to new chances to learn, and to help my school. By being the face of the student body, I hope I put a positive look on the school; not only by being involved in SGA, but being Hispanic Club vice president, a member of the newly formed Book Club and also being a member of *The Bat* staff.

Helping all these clubs get a start and just adding to their membership helps you immensely, but also helps them. By having student activities on your college resume and keeping a GPA that's remotely good, you look like an outstanding student that a school would beg to have. When you're a student that makes good grades and maintains a positive role on campus, that's a huge



"Being involved in activities has paid for some of my education."

Carmen Martin

blinking light to a four-year school that you're valuable.

In your upcoming school year whether you are at PJC or transferring, be sure to look up clubs on campus and see what is available to you and what piques your interest. There are organizations for everyone and being so involved is almost just as important as going to class.

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"They may not know any other day of the week, but they know when it's Tuesday," said Floyd. The program has fostered lots of student involvement in her class; the first graders ask questions and pick the books to read. It also has encouraged the first graders to get their hands on more books.

Originally, Reading to the Future was a program for second graders, but there

were so many volunteers all of the second grade classes and most of the first grade classes in Lamar County have been "adopted," according to Executive Director of the Lamar County Coalition Stephanie Connot.

At the beginning of this semester, Yliana Castro, vice president of SGA, was debating whether to major in business or education. Castro has since decided

to pursue education largely because of her experiences reading to the class.

She said she does not remember any of her high school teachers but she remembers all of her elementary teachers.

"It's inspiring," Castro said. "They're the best learners at that age (and being around them) puts a smile on my face."

Dragon Puffs



Concert Season Filled With Events

Chorale presents "Red Carpet Night at the Movies" at the First United Methodist Church, dedicated to La Veda Farris, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 19.

Encore! Show Choir presents "Encore Evolution" at PJC's Ray Karrer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 30; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1; and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2.

This concert season is dedicated to Patricia Fowzer. For more information call 903-782-0343.

Final Book Club Meeting Nears

"The Time Traveler's Wife" is to be the last book discussed by the book club at 1 p.m. April 29, in the library. Dessert is to be provided.

Creative Writing Awards

The Creative Writing and art awards will be announced at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, in the ballroom. The speaker is to be Margret Ruff.

Drama Department "Scenes"

The drama department presents a student showcase "A Night of Scenes," at 7 p.m. April 9 and 10, in the Ray Karrer Theater. Admission is free. The play contains some adult humor and situations; parental discretion is advised.

PJC Graduation Deadlines

In order to participate in the graduation ceremony students must register by May 6 at the Registration Desk in the Administration Building. Students can pre-order caps and gowns at the Business Office; they are provided at no cost to students. The ceremony is set for 8 p.m. Friday, May 14, in the Noyes stadium.

Boxing/Mario Kart Wii Tournament

The library sponsors a Wii Boxing and Mario Kart rematch at 10 p.m. April 15. Sign-up at the library front desk for one or

both tournaments. Pizza and drinks are to be provided. Two grand prizes, \$15 gift cards to Hastings, will be awarded.

Free Student Movie Night

SGA's movie night is scheduled for 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, in the Student Center ballroom.

Skate Party for College Students

SGA is sponsoring a skate party at 9 p.m. April 13, at the Family Fun Center in Paris. Admission is free with PJC Student I.D.

Dodge Ball Tournament

Sponsored by SGA, there is to be a one-day dodge ball tournament starting at 6 p.m. April 15, in the old gym. There can be no more than 10 players to a team. Sign-ups are in Deanna Young's office, downstairs of the Student Center. Players must be PJC students.

PJC Student featured on MTV

Amber Adair, a PJC student, is to be featured at 9 p.m. Monday, April 12, on the MTV network documentary series *True Life*, in an episode entitled "I Have Neurofibromatosis." Some of the filming for the show took place at the PJC Greenville campus where Adair attends classes.

Nursing Grants

St. Joseph's Community Foundation is now accepting applications for nursing education grants. Applications are available at the PJC Nursing Department Office. The deadline is Monday, April 19. For more information call Courtney Eudy at 903-784-5136.

Softball Fan Day

SGA sponsors a fan day beginning at 1 p.m. April 14, at the softball field behind Love Civic Center. There will be free hot dogs, snacks and drinks and a t-shirt raffle.

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sounds he desires. Without pumping the foot pedals and pressing keys at the same time, the instrument is silent.

Years ago, a Paris woman, Totts Fuller, well

known for her musical talents, asked the PJC Music Department to keep this pipe organ when she became too frail to keep it in her home.

The way the two instruments sit now, they are

just for visual enjoyment. Currently there are no plans for them in the near future, except to keep them dusted and looking tidy. They can be viewed by anyone interested.

The Bat

The Paris Junior College student newspaper

Comments and views in *The Bat*, the student newspaper of Paris Junior College, reflect thoughts and opinions of individual writers and are not necessarily the views of other students, staff members, faculty, administrative offices, or the PJC Board of Regents.

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LETTERS POLICY

The Bat welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed, and include a telephone number. Mail letters to *The Bat*, 2400 Clarksville St., Paris, TX 75460. Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar, and libelous statements.

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Sports

Basketball ends on high note

PJC falls to Navarro in regional finals

QUENTIN CARPENTER
Sports Editor

PJC's basketball season ended, with a 55-46 loss to Navarro College in the finals of the Region XIV tournament in Tyler March 8.

In the first half, both teams were neck and neck, neither team pulling more than three points away from the other.

At half time, PJC was ahead 23-20, but in the second half Navarro seemed to come alive, putting up 35 points on the Dragons, while PJC only managed to match its first half total of 23 points.

PJC kept it within three points until 8:47 left in the game when Navarro's Matt Pressley hit both free throws from a PJC foul. From that point on, PJC never regained the lead and in the end, fell to

Navarro 55-46.

Demarkus Wilson and Bryce Cartwright were the teams top scorers with ten points a piece. A close second was Sedrick McBounds with eight.

"We had a chance, but Navarro was better than us the last 20 minutes. They just did the little things right, particularly rebounding," said PJC's head coach Tom Schuberth.

PJC was out rebounded 38-26 during the game.

This is Navarro's second Region XIV Title and second year straight knocking PJC out of the tournament.

Many questions remain after the season-ending 55-46 loss to Navarro. The most prominent questions in the fans minds at this

point are not about the past season, but about the future. How is Schuberth planning to improve the team for next year? What schools are looking at the sophomores of this season?

"We are losing a lot of good players so we are recruiting the best available at all positions," Schuberth said.

As for the sophomores leaving, coach Schuberth says, "All of our sophomores are being recruited by different levels, and we are focused on having them graduate."

Bryce Cartwright is gathering interest from Lamar University and several other colleges. LaTay Darden is being looked at by Murray State, Derick Echols Prairie View A&M, and Desmond King, Texas A&M Commerce.



Quentin Carpenter/The Bat

PJC's LaTay Darden dunks during the finals of the Region XIV tournament against Navarro. PJC lost the game 55-46.

Women's team season ends in semi-finals

The Lady Dragons' season had its share of ups and downs. Thanks to the efforts of Sean LeBeauf, assistant coach Darryl Ellis and this year's team, the Lady Dragons finished number four in the conference after being ranked number ten out of ten teams in the pre-season polls.

The final loss was in the semi-finals of the Region XIV Tournament to Trinity Valley, who finished number six in the nation.

The low point in the season, according to LeBeauf, was "going into the second part of the conference schedule we had been tied for second. Then we lost four out of five games."

According to LeBeauf, the turning point was not a game the Lady Dragons won, but a loss to Trinity Valley in which the Lady Dragons were leading at Trinity Valley going into the half.

"Even though they lost that game, they knew with the kind of effort they displayed on a regular basis that they were tough enough to be competitive with the top teams in the league," says LeBeauf.

In the region tournament, the Lady Dragons beat Kilgore 55-51 in the first round. Next up was the team that the Lady Dragons started their turn around against, Trinity Valley. The Lady Dragons lost the

game 83-66.

"We played hard enough and pushed them to the max, but we just didn't have the talent that they had," says LeBeauf.

The team only had three sophomores, Meoshi Bradley, Taylor Ammons, and Randi White, so the team will be able to carry this seasons experience on to next season.

"What they can carry to next season is the type of dedication and commitment you need to be successful," says LeBeauf. "The people that work the hardest and are willing to sacrifice themselves will be successful at the end of the day."

Dragons sweep rival Bearcats

PJC's Fan Day Wednesday, March 24 featured the Dragons baseball team versus Lon Morris in a double-header at Hub Hollis Field in Paris.

The Dragons defeated the Bearcats in both games 9-2 and 10-4. PJC's hitting was on track scoring 19 points total that day. The pitching was good enough to keep the Lon Morris team below five in both games.

At the game, fans were served with free hotdogs, drinks and snacks by PJC's Student Government Association.

The photos on the right are of Gavin Gray (batting), Phil Delisle (running) and Jordan Badarack (pitching), who started the first game of the fan day double header.

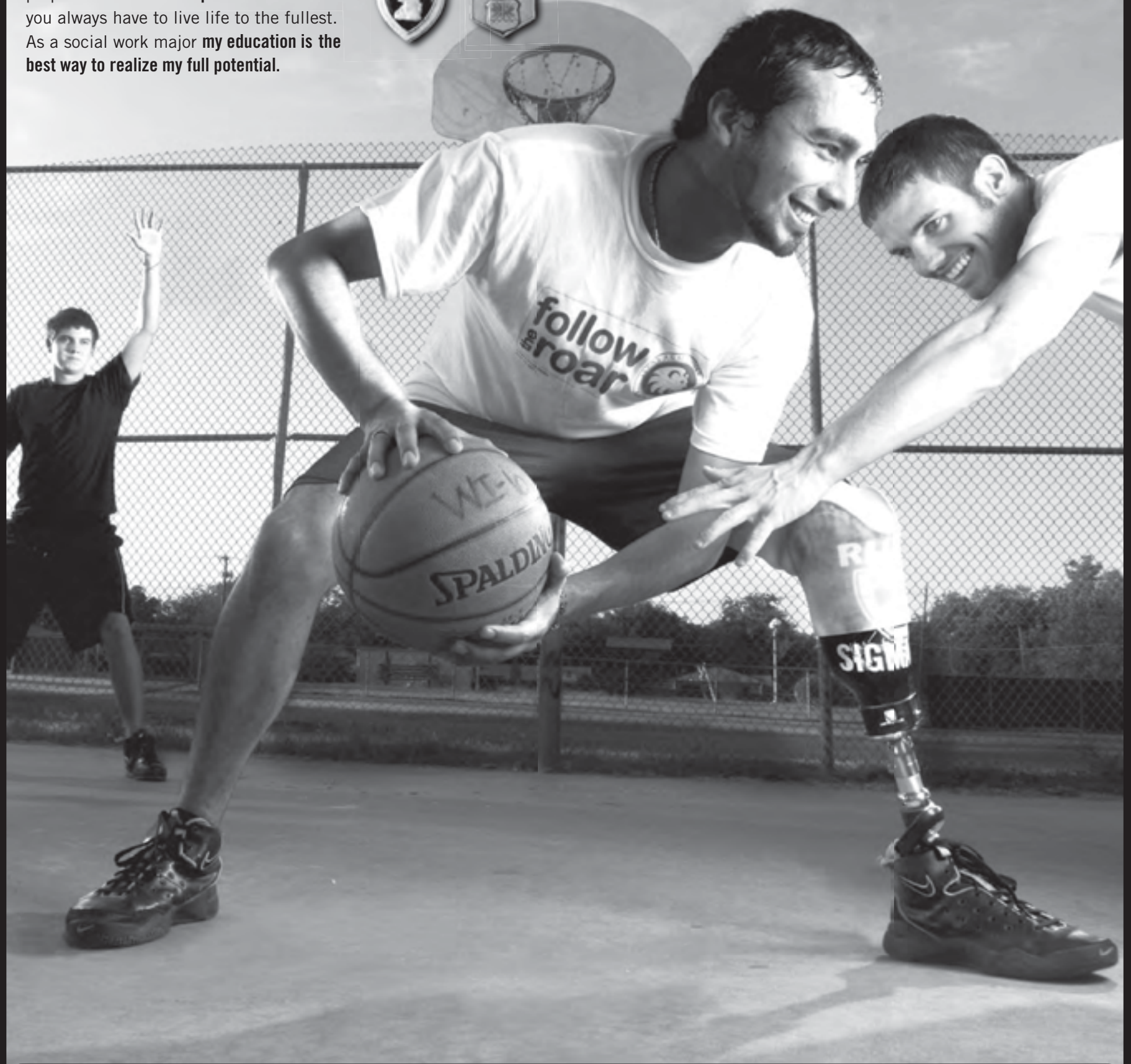


photos, Quentin Carpenter/The Bat

Scott, Class of 2010

(former Air Force Senior Airman 1st Class)

Being in the military taught me to always be prepared and to **never quit**. I've learned that you always have to live life to the fullest. As a social work major **my education is the best way to realize my full potential**.



NEVER QUIT

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