May 2014

Hail to ISU

Abby Gilman
Iowa State University

Mitchell Yoon
Iowa State University

Brian Achenbach
Iowa State University

Liz Zabel
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos

Part of the Higher Education Commons, Journalism Studies Commons, and the Oral History Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2014/iss3/12

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ethos by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
“This University has always been a sort of second home to me, with a family history that runs four generations deep.”

Abby Gilman

Major: Journalism and Mass Communications

I sat down to write this at least five separate times to no avail. What you’re reading now is my sixth attempt. This either proves that A) I’m not ready to be a productive and responsible member of society; or B) my time at Iowa State has been full of all the feels, too many to bottle up and convert into 400 coherent words.

The Atlantic recently ran an article about why writers are the worst procrastinators (coincidentally, I was reading that article rather than facing my upcoming and then passing deadline—sorry, Kiana.) The article discussed two types of learners: the fixed mindset and the growth mindset. As I kept reading, I was associating more and more with the fixed mindset crew. That bothered me. While I do believe that humans are born with special skills and talents, I also believe in growth. After all, what are experiences good for if you don’t grow?

I came into Iowa State unsure of my goals and passions, questioning my “fixed” skill of writing. I’ve made my fair share of mistakes. I’ve botched photo shoots for campus publications, written articles that make me cringe today and chosen mug night over an 8 a.m. Friday class one too many times. But I found a way to learn, and in turn I’ve had two amazing internships and experienced the feeling of picking up a magazine at Target and flipping to my byline. And mug night? Well, I’m allowed some slack, right?

This University has always been a sort of second home to me, with a family history that runs four generations deep. Some of my first life memories are of this campus. I remember attending home football games, sitting on a checkered brown blanket on the grassy hillside of Jack Trice and running down to the fence with my sisters to high-five the players as they took the field.

My parents met outside the Fieldhouse—present day Outlaws—on the opening night twenty-odd years ago, and I built my own fantasy of meeting “the one” at Iowa State (ayo fellas, still got a month to lock this one down).

I arrived on campus my freshman year with roots already in the ground, but even that didn’t keep me from bawling in the shower of Helser just hours after my parents left. It didn’t take long for Ames to take on a new light, one formed in equal appreciation of the past and readiness to mold to who I was becoming. My adviser, Deb Gibson, has consistently been a reliable mentor, guiding me through countless life decisions, big and small. Working at the M-Shop has introduced me to passionate people I’m proud to call my good friends. Plus, getting paid to see live music isn’t too bad, either.

Never again in my life will I have an experience that comes close to the one Iowa State offered me, but it’s time to move on. Here’s to the next chapter. Family, friends, professors and colleagues: I can’t thank everyone who had an impact on my last four years enough. I love you all.

Now if only I had 1,000 more words, I’d get to all those bottled up feels.
Melvin Ejim

Major: History

I could have never predicted the impact that Iowa State has had on my life. When I made the decision to come to Iowa State, it was an easy one at the time. Iowa State was the school I had the biggest connection with; they were one of the first schools to recruit me during my junior year at Brewster Academy.

When I first got to Iowa State, I was excited about the basketball program and the new direction it was going in under the leadership of Coach Fred Hoiberg. I thought being here would put me in the perfect situation to be under great guidance, which would give me an opportunity to improve on the court. But to say that my college career has just been about basketball would be doing it an injustice.

My experience at Iowa State has been much more than basketball. It was here in the classrooms of Ross Hall where I began to develop my interest in history. I had passionate professors who made the different subjects within my history classes so interesting for me. It was like I was going to class every day, simply listening to new stories. It didn’t feel like I was learning at all—well, at least not learning in the usual, boring sense. It was more like I was going on an adventure every day in my head.

I have so much appreciation for the history department as a whole. Whether it was a professor who talked to me during office hours and was so understanding about my basketball schedule, or Jennifer Rivera in the front office, every one of them has helped make my story here at Iowa State that much more special.

I have honestly had the time of my life at Iowa State. My coaches Fred Hoiberg, Cornel Mann, Matt Abdelmassih and Doc Sadler, and former coaches Jeff Rutter and TJ Otzelberger, have instilled so many things that I will take with me as I continue to grow as a man. The history department helped me learn the importance of looking back and understanding history, and it also exposed me to a different way of learning. My teammates over the years have taught me a new meaning of brotherhood, through the good times and through the bad. Cyclone Nation will always be the best fans in my eyes; they have shown me so much love and support through the years.

I am blessed that basketball is what made a way for me here, but through hard work, dedication and drive on and off the court, I have had such a successful and fulfilling journey at Iowa State. I am proud to say that I am Melvin Ejim: a Nigerian, a Canadian, a basketball player, soon to be a college graduate and forever a Cyclone.
The best part is, it’s not over yet. My ISU story has only just begun; I can’t wait to return to Ames as an alumni and give back to this phenomenal university that has given me so much.

Szuyin Leow

Major: Mechanical Engineering & Economics

One of my dad’s favorite mottos is “Do the common thing in an uncommon way.” So when I saw the words of one of Iowa State’s most renowned graduates, George Washington Carver, emblazoned across the front of Beardshear Hall this fall, I recognized the sentiment immediately: “When you can do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.”

I came to Iowa State because I sought a premier educational experience. I wanted a college degree that would provide me with skills and knowledge and that, in turn, would empower me to get a good job and make an impact on my community. However, as I prepare to graduate this May, I realize that my degree is just one small part of my collegiate experience. Like many others who have embraced the multitude of student involvement opportunities here, I have benefitted from the uncommonly exceptional offerings of Iowa State.

Together with my Pi Beta Phi sorority sisters, I saw my chapter win the Balfour Cup, an award recognizing the No. 1 Pi Phi chapter in the nation out of more than 130. After five years of involvement with Dance Marathon, I continue to be amazed by the power of hundreds of college students standing together for something bigger than themselves; this past year, we raised a record-breaking $427,350 for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

But the most special aspects of my student involvement are things that I could never enumerate on a resume. My Pi Phi sisters are more than just my roommates and friends; they are my role models and mentors. With my fellow Dance Marathon leaders, I shared not only long hours of meetings and planning, but a continued life-long mission and passion to help others. Over the years, these uncommonly remarkable students have become my family, and Ames has become my home.

And the best part is, it’s not over yet. My ISU story has only just begun; I can’t wait to return to Ames as an alumni and give back to this phenomenal university that has given me so much. And while the college degree that I’ll proudly hang on my wall might look like any other, I know that this ISU journey has been anything but common.