

*Grace Allen Delacruz*

*Class of 2014*



WOW, how fast time flies! It seems as if I graduated high school just yesterday in 2010. Now, I am a college senior graduating in less than a year. I am majoring in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Intercultural Organization. In May of 2014, I will be earning my Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. I am currently a Speech Communication Ambassador and I am the community service chair for a Lambda Pi Eta, a national communication honor society. This past spring, as a Junior I also had the wonderful chance to be a Presidential Social Media Ambassador.

When I sit and think about all that has led me up to where I am now, it is all overwhelming and exciting at the same time. When I first came to Valdosta State University for a campus tour I fell in love with the beautiful architectural design of the buildings and of course the palm trees. As a freshman, I had no idea what I wanted to study so I stayed undecided for a few semesters. By my

sophomore year of college I took two courses, Human Communication and Introduction to Communication Theories and I absolutely loved it! I realized talking to people, learning about interactions and studying the reason why we communicate was all so fascinating to me.

Getting to know people and speaking with them is one thing I truly enjoy. I love finding ways in which I can relate to others around me. Growing up, I have moved several times and I believe that this is the reason why I appreciate diversity and am very interested in others both alike and different from me. Because of these classes I immediately fell in love with studying communication and that is what I became passionate about. Don't forget that I love to talk! 😊

Various topics like the differences in the way people communicate, to theories like intercultural communication, research methods classes, giving impromptu speeches, to developing professional presentations. I quickly realized that this is what I love doing! Since then, I have loved all that I have learned in the classroom. There were definitely some challenges along the way, and I quickly realized that it was not high school anymore. Through all my years spent in college I have had several people along the way to guide me when I was doubtful, a family who gave me endless support and comfort, awesome professors in the speech communication department. (We are literally like a family there!) And the faithfulness of the Lord in my life has really altogether been a great support system for me. I have met so many incredible people and I have had the chance to network as well.

A BIG HUG to my parents, brother and extended family in the Philippines and the US, to my teachers and coaches at my high school CCA, to all the lifelong friendships I started at Valdosta State, to the Speech Communication department for all their guidance and passion, to Dr. Viverette and the Office of Social Equity for welcoming me and making it fun to be there, and to John the U-Can Man for even giving me this amazing opportunity to be a part of his passion. You all have made such a big impact in my life along the way and it is an honor to know all of you.

To all the Future Valdosta State Blazers:

1. *Find your passion:* Stick with something that you love doing, and give yourself time to let that develop. Whether you are undecided or decided your freshman year, find out what you love to do. Be willing to learn new things in the classroom, but make it enjoyable as well.

2. *Appreciate family and friends:* For me I am so tightly know to my family and close friends, and I have definitely gone to them for advice and support. They are probably your biggest fan base while at college.

2. *Take advantage of staff, faculty, and professors on campus:* Just simply talk to them, listen to their stories, network with them and definitely take note of office hours because these are so very helpful. Within a matter of time, you'll start to understand that they started out as an undergrad too!

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I had fun writing it.

