

President Foley, Trustees, Benefactors, and Fellow Scholarship recipients,

I was asked to speak this evening about three important points that have contributed to my college career. Those three points are life as a non-traditional student, why I chose Mt. Aloysius to further my education, and my future career goals.

Making the decision to come back to school after nearly twenty years was truthfully one of the most difficult ones I have had to make. At the time I had recently become unemployed due to the company closing and jobs were few and far between. My goal was to find a career that would not only help support my family financially, but also secure a future for me. When I spoke to my husband about going back to school I received his full support on the condition that I chose a career that I loved.

I sat down and made a long list of things that sparked my interest and came up with the one career that covered them all...nursing.

Finding the field that I planned to enter was the easy part. Figuring out how I was going to balance the responsibility of being a mom of 5, a wife and a student was going to require more planning than I realized. Finding a schedule that permitted me to be in numerous places at one time was almost impossible.

I began my search for a school that offered a nursing degree program, a location close to home, and was within my financial ability. Before long, Mt. Aloysius College was my school of choice. The schedule was manageable around my families needs, and offering on-line classes was one thing that really helped me make my decision.

The transition to student did not come easily for me. My first day of classes came as a shock. As each class began I looked around the room to see these young kids, many of which around the age of my oldest son and I thought "OK, I have totally lost my mind". At that point I decided that as long as the professor was older than I was I would be fine. Well, let me just say, she wasn't. Adding insult to injury was the arrival of the syllabus which listed all the assignments for the semester, along with test dates, and chapters to be covered. Three pages in I felt my head start to spin and a sudden urge to run screaming down the hall. That was five years ago.

Tonight I stand before you as a level 3 nursing student with my sights set on graduation day. It has been an experience to say the least but my husband and I have always stressed the importance of school and life goals to our children. In May I will not only receive my Associates degree in Nursing, but I will have also proven to my children that no matter how bumpy the road to achieving your goals and dreams may be, it is possible.

During my time here at Mt. Aloysius College I have been able to not only work on my Associates degree but also complete course work towards my Bachelor Degree in Nursing as well. My future plans are to complete the B.S.N. program and advance my career into Advanced Practice Nursing. For now I am taking one day at a time, balancing life as a mother, wife, and student, and watching the light at the end of the tunnel getting ever brighter.

Unfortunately, I did not have the ability to pay for college and without financial aid and the scholarships that are provided by our benefactors, my education would have not been possible. I will be forever grateful to all of the people who have helped provide the financial support I have received because without it all of this would have remained a dream instead of a reality.

Thank you.