

Scholarship Essay

Since I could remember I have always had an interest for learning. My uncles use to tell me when I was little I was going to be smart. I always went around asking who, what, where, when, why, and how? Even now up to this day, I love to learn new things. I have always loved school and took advantage of the things I learned. Unlike others my age, I took high school serious. I realized that college was expensive and it may not be an opportunity for me or others to go and high school was free public education so I took good use of the knowledge I learned there. Currently I am blessed and enrolled in college ending my third semester. Everything I am learning now in school, is applying towards my career, future, and rest of my life. College is a necessity in life to get ahead and be successful. College is also very expensive, and coming from my background I praise God for the loans that I have to pay for some of my schooling. I almost did not make it into this semester in school because I was short about 1500 dollars. The school was short on grants that I was supposed to receive. Some think 1,000 dollars is not a lot of money when your tuition is about 20,000, but every penny counts and is a blessing to receive. I feel if God has been making it half way for me he will somehow make the other half fall through for me in my future. My career goal in life is to receive my Bachelor's degree in Social work in 2012 and receive my Master's degree by 2015. I want to become a child abuse investigator or counsel battered woman and help broken families and homes. I feel in my heart my desire in life is to help others in some way, because I know when I think I have things bad its people in the world dealing with worse issues and I want to be able to help.

Kurk L. Nicholas Jr. Scholarship

“Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself,” is a quote from a Chinese Proverb that has stuck with me since the beginning of my freshmen year in college, and to this day I still use for inspiration. My name is Renee Michelle Brantley and I am senior currently majoring in Urban Planning, with a minor in Sociology. I know how to balance my personal and academic life, and my grades are a perfect example of that. I value education and take it very seriously, because I know that an educated person is limitless.

In the future I plan on becoming an Urban Planner and Entrepreneur. My primary job would be to acknowledge the problems within a community, and try to figure out alternative solutions to fix them. Urban Planners are people who keepers of the vision within a community, and are a voice for the people who do not have one. No neighborhood should have to compromise their health, safety, and welfare all because a developer wants to make some money. This is why I want to work in low income neighborhoods and help develop positive establishments that the people can look forward to.

Aside from becoming an Urban Planner and Entrepreneur, I really want to become an example to young children and show them that no matter their circumstances, education and a persistent mind can take them anywhere in the world, only if they have faith. No one was dealt a perfect hand of cards to play to with, so it is time to stop making excuses for ourselves and go out and make things happen!

November 28, 2009

As a child, my parents instilled in me the importance of a couple things. One, that *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*, the importance of a college education and to always press towards the higher calling when achieving my goals. Many times children never put into perspective what their parents tell them, but I did; that is why I decided to pursue a career in the field of Nutrition. My desires in life are to become a Dietician. In graduate school, I intend to learn and focus on the principles of human nutrition and foods. I also intend to view the opportunities that are available for potential Dieticians. I feel that a Master's degree will extend my opportunity to research things that will help me excel in becoming a Dietitian. It would not only enhance my desire for wanting to learn the nutritional facts of life but also my aspirations for wanting to help others become product of their profession and also helping overcome obstacles that are experienced throughout life. All throughout my college years I have excelled academically as well as socially. Never looking back on yesterday but focusing on tomorrow has always help me when striving to be the best I could possibly be. Now that I am older, I realize that a college education is the key that unlocks the door to my future and if I do not move further in my education in obtaining a Master's degree in graduate school, then I leave my future unattended. One of my essential factors for attending this graduate school is to prove my determination. I am determined in my studies as well as the path that I have set for my future. My intentions prior to obtaining a Master's degree is to send the message to my fellow college peers that every step in life involves research and if I place my achievements and abilities in the hands of the enemy, then I have lead myself to failure. After graduate school, I plan to enlist in the United States Air Force as an officer with hopes of receiving a Dietetic position on base. I also plan to obtain a P.H.D. while enlisted as an officer. In fact, graduate school will enhance my knowledge in the Nutrition and Dietetic field. However, an essential factor for applying for this scholarship is to relinquish the financial burden from my parents. Since my enrollment at Alabama A&M University, my family has suffered many

hardships and setbacks trying to give me the tools I need to make it in life. In order to subsequent this financial need, I have taken on the responsibility of working to help pay for my education but within the past couple of months I have found it difficult to study and maintain a decent GPA while working, although I have successfully maintained a 3.8/4.0. I am in fear that without additional help for graduate school, I will not be able to continue my education. I thank the committee in advance for the consideration of my application.

Upon entering Alabama A&M University, I chose to major in Communicative Sciences and Disorders (or Speech Pathology). Speech Pathologists work with individuals to help them overcome and/or prevent speaking disorders by performing assessments, giving diagnosis, and implementing different methods of treatment. Speech pathologists work to eliminate speech-related disorders, as well as those related to language, communication, fluency, and swallowing.

In the future, I am determined to pursue a career in Speech Pathology because of my passion for overcoming and preventing speaking disorders. I feel that this career will suit me because, although it may be challenging, it is something that I love. In addition, I have a passion for sign language, which can definitely come in handy for the patients with whom I will be working. I aspire to become fluent in sign language, and hope to have the opportunity to submerge myself in the deaf culture—this way I will be able to relate to my patients more effectively, giving them a sense of comfort and putting them at ease.

In order to achieve my goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist, I must first pursue at least a Masters Degree. While in college, I will strive to do the best that I possibly can to reach all of my educational goals, including excellent academic performance and improved leadership abilities. I am confident that, with diligence, hard work, and commitment, my career goals can and will be met.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. "

— Barack Obama

In my life there have been people who told me what I could not be. They said the stars that I desire to reach, are too far, and the sky will stop me. They said I am dreaming, and they are trying to wake me. This has been my motivation to succeed at the battles and trials I have faced in my lifetime. My desire is too strong, and only my will can stop me. Growing up in a surrounding where the limited few would go to college, or graduate high school, for that matter, I have heard negative statements about possibilities and dreams on a regular basis. My road to law school has not been a smooth one, but with every hill and period in the doldrums, it has been essential in my maturity as a student, and ultimately as a person. Being the youngest of four siblings, I saw college as an obligation to my family to restore hope that change will come to our family. As a young child in elementary school, when one would ask my classmates or me, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" The common answer in my school was "Alive!" I was born and raised in Newark, NJ. During the time of my development, it was unwavering to hear someone you knew was killed, arrested, or seriously injured. So, the occupational query was too far off, when we were trying to stay alive. I had always been involved in helping others, organizing activities, and very good at winning arguments, but my mother knew that being a professional arguer was reserved exclusively for attorneys. Thus, my journey to college in the south began.

I have always felt I was not smart enough to go to law school, or choose law as a career path because I could not afford the colleges that nurture the legal mind. In having this underlying insecurity, I chose an academic path that my heart was not truly in. Although successful at it, my passion was not for Business Management. I have then let my career choose me rather than I choosing my career. I sought after advancement after advancement, even obtained my Masters of Science in Business Management.

I was still left with a void, knowing I was not doing what I loved, but what I was good at. Nothing can cover or contain the discontentment or anger I feel when I see an injustice. It is funny how sometimes the absence of something you have taken for granted, can suddenly make you see it for the special and amazing gift it was in the first place. My perspective on my education and career changed dramatically after my dear wife helped me understand that my dream of being an attorney is in the air and all I have to do is reach and grab it. She helped me believe "The stars are in reach, because the sky came down to me." It humbled me to acknowledge that I have the opportunities that others in my family had not come so easily for them (my father did not graduate high school). This has validated my belief that I am capable and competent, but more importantly, it has given me the confidence to aim for a career in which I can make a real and lasting difference in the lives of others. I have proven to myself that I have the ability to succeed at anything I put my mind to, and I am happy to say I have now found my career focus. It is now my goal to become an attorney for children's issues and/or civil rights, most likely as a civil rights attorney because of the reopening of civil rights cases. It is my hope that I will be able to build a strong academic foundation in the law upon which to build my career at your college.

My dreams of becoming a successful attorney are actually becoming reality right before my eyes. I have been accepted to a well respected, prestigious institution of law named Birmingham School of Law, in Birmingham, AL. I have been afforded the opportunity to make a difference in our judicial system, and become an advocate for the voiceless. This endeavor for myself is to begin Spring semester 2010, which is in January 2010. Although this opportunity is offered to me, there still is a financial obligation to fulfill this task. As one can imagine law school is very expensive and requires a tremendous sacrifice, especially from one who has a family to provide for. Due to this financial obligation to the law program, I am pleading for assistance in supporting my educational goals financially. Assistance with tuition, travel, books, lab fees, or any contribution will be greatly appreciated. The seed that one plants in my life will definitely be housed in good ground. I plan to commit myself diligently day and night to

excel in my educational journey. I am a true believer that God will not give you a vision without provision. The reason why God blesses us is not for just ourselves, but to be able to pass on the blessing to others who can one day bless someone else. It is my ultimate goal that I will be associated with these two quotes by Barack Obama. Thanks for reviewing my statement.

"If there's a child on the south side of Chicago who can't read, that matters to me, even if it's not my child. If there's a senior citizen somewhere who can't pay for their prescription, who has to choose between medicine and the rent, that makes my life poorer - even if it's not my grandparent. If there's an Arab-American or Mexican-American family being rounded up by John Ashcroft without benefit of an attorney or due process, I know that that threatens my civil liberties. And I don't have to be a woman to be concerned that the Supreme Court is trying to take away a woman's right, because I know that my rights are next. It is that fundamental belief - I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper - that makes this country work."

— Barack Obama

Sincerely,

Rajae A. Robinson