A college degree to me is more than getting a good job after I graduate. I want to acquire knowledge and experiences that will assist me in my life-long journey as an individual. A degree means much more than my material success, it means my personal success and well-being. I want more than to learn how to get good grades on tests, I want to be a well-rounded person after college.

My synergy class was a college experience that has definitely helped me in thinking more positively. Many of the autobiography books as well as the self-evaluations in class influenced my optimism. While reading Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy and Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelson, I noticed that both books emphasize never giving up, no matter the circumstances. I could relate to these authors in the ways of rejection, especially with given how my first semester went. Back in the fall, my grades were fine, I was not stressed over my studies, but socially and skillfully, I was being shut down left and right. By reading the books I have in class, I was given a boost of confidence to compare myself to others in a positive way. I thought if Marcus and Lucy could excel through all the rough patches they’ve been through, then so could I.

College is going to impact my future in many ways. I would say being in clubs like Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Connect 4 which is the Presbyterian Church’s college ministry (C4), and now being a new RA will give me challenges to make me a stronger person, as well as build camaraderie and leadership. With the professor’s I’ve gotten to know, friends I’ve made, and clubs I’m involved with, I believe I am creating a resilient net of support for my college career and that will impact my future more than any course will.