

Dear Future Me,

Look at all the places you've gone, the memories you've made and the coffee cups you've collected. Cherish all of it because today is the end of an era. Today is the day six year old you dreamed of, although she never could imagine it would end like this (still looking at a math and econ double major? because six year old you wasn't) . The people you've met and the paths you have walked down have shaped you into the undeniably, fiercely strong woman you are today. All the triumphs and tribulations have gotten you to this very spot, molded you into this person, given you these countless opportunities. Keep all the people, places, and things that are coming to mind reading this close, they are sunshine. Always face the sun, so the shadows fall behind you.

There will be unexpected opportunities in the future. Take them and do not look back. God has a plan for you. There will be times of sorrow and sadness, cling to the Lord, for He is good, His love is everlasting. Do not find shame in being a woman of God in world that rallies against the church on everyday of the year except Easter and Christmas. Spend your life loving and serving the Lord and you will forever be rewarded.

I hope within the next three years of college you have learned to embrace the spontaneity of life, set aside time to have fun, and make the best decision for yourself in the moment with the given information no matter what other people say. Live your life without the fear of ridicule and failure, and you will be happy. You will find that there is sunshine there. Embrace it now if not yet. Remember this is the one thing that Dad always reminded you to do. The world is a harsh place with its rigid realities, find the little joys in books, art, music, math, and good conversations with good people. Dream big dreams and never stop chasing them.