

Emmy Beason

When reflecting on my time at Auburn, I am overcome with gratitude and love for this university that has only grown over the past three years. Lately as I have been researching graduate programs in hopes of finding another impactful experience, I've also been considering the reasons I love Auburn. While I am thankful to have been involved in fantastic organizations, the experience that I will cherish beyond graduation and the one that has made me love Auburn is the community that has encouraged me, grown me, and challenged me to see the world through new lenses during my time here.

As both a Camp War Eagle Counselor and Head Counselor, I have had the honor of welcoming half of Auburn's current undergraduate student body to our university. This experience brought me such joy, incredible friends, and many lessons, but above all, it showed me firsthand that each student walks into Auburn with very different experiences, thoughts, and ideas- all hoping deep down that Auburn is a place they will love. However, what will make this place their home and what they are looking for varies drastically from student to student. Auburn has provided me with friendships better than I could have ever hoped for in countless areas of my life on and off campus, but I also know there were times when I didn't yet see that or have the love of Auburn that I do now because I lacked community. Regardless of our individual reasons for choosing Auburn, I believe that every student desires community and connection.

Through my campaign for Miss Homecoming, I will empower students to find their community and their reason for loving Auburn. For some, our reason may be found in the classroom, pursuing our career ambitions beside friends who were once only classmates. For others, our reason may be found in an organization where we feel our voice is heard and we can see a tangible change taking place from our work. For some, loving Auburn is seeking for it to grow by using our voices to advocate for the changes we wish to see, whether that be through SGA or another platform. One of the best ways we can love Auburn is by leaving it better than we found it.

During Homecoming week, I will encourage students to find their reason, share their reason and be the reason. I am excited to walk alongside the students who feel alone in their search for community by connecting them with people who are going to be their reason for loving Auburn. By helping students connect through events like First 56 and encouraging them to discover their own unique passions, my hope is that this platform creates a space for students to find and share their reason for loving Auburn. I can't wait to see students step up to Be the Reason that others find connection and be the community they wish to see because the Auburn Family starts with each of us. War Eagle!