

Name: Kate Shackelford

Year: 04

Major: Hospitality Management, Event Management Option

Qualifications:

Student worker at Special Events, Office of the President

HUGS Program Volunteer

Chi Omega Computer Chair

Chi Omega Housing Chair

The Augusta National Masters Tournament Auburn student worker

Platform:

Auburn, Alabama, the Loveliest Village on the Plains, is well-known as a small, friendly city and it is easy to assume that students and residents are safe and secure from the problems of the real world. But with over 24,000 students enrolled at Auburn University, there will always be a small risk of both violent and non-violent crime on campus and off campus.

Self-defense techniques are crucial tools for any individual to not only be able to protect themselves in situations where their safety is at risk but also to build self-confidence and to feel in control of their lives. By knowing how to defend themselves, individuals can feel empowered and reduce their fear and anxiety, allowing them to navigate the world with greater ease and confidence. The act of learning self-defense can instill a sense of strength and resilience, further boosting self-assurance. Confidence in one's abilities is essential to flourishing, and when the students on our campus feel confident to thrive, the greater campus community benefits.

As Miss Homecoming, I would be honored to serve as a representative of our entire student body, but especially as a representative of Auburn women. My platform is to promote self-confidence through self-defense and the opportunity to contribute to the empowerment of women at Auburn University would be a privilege.

To accomplish my goal, I would work alongside Auburn Student Government Association and the University to improve funding and awareness for the RAD System of Self-Defense class offered here at Auburn University. The program at Auburn University is a one semester hour class and the RAD system has been used to train over 900,000 women, but I would propose the expansion of RAD to make it more accessible to students. Students with busy course loads and other campus responsibilities often find it difficult to add a self-defense course into their semester curriculum. The RAD system also has various levels of skill for their classes ranging from introductory to advanced and classes designed for men, women, children, and senior citizens.

Unfortunately, I know first-hand that it only takes a moment for a setting to go from completely safe to a potentially dangerous situation. I have experienced the feeling of extreme fright due to the lack of self-defense knowledge. I can also attest to the anxiety I experienced after the incident that diminished my self-confidence. Thanks to my enrollment in Auburn's offered RAD class, I have been able to regain my courage and control, which is why I believe this to be such an important topic to discuss on Auburn's campus. I hope to use the position of Miss Homecoming to empower current and future Auburn students with confidence in their abilities and to cultivate a safer campus community.

The ability to feel secure is not one to take for granted, and, through these initiatives, I hope the students on Auburn's campus will feel encouraged, empowered, and equipped.