

**Name:** Abigail Stephenson

**Year:** 04

**Major:** History

**Qualifications:**

- Alpha Omicron Pi President
- War Eagle Girl
- Mortar Board Senior Honor Society
- Head Orientation Counselor
- Student Recruiter

My platform, *Set Sail with Abigail*, is centered around the line of the creed, “I believe in education, which gives me the knowledge to work wisely and trains my mind and my hands to work skillfully.”

During my time at Auburn, I have garnered invaluable skills and lessons from faculty and peers that have catalyzed my interests and experiences. From Dr. Roberts, I have learned how to blend personalism and professionalism while witnessing him engage with guests, alumni, and students. From my family, I have been taught the importance of education along with the deep-rooted history of Auburn traditions. From my fellow orientation counselors, I have learned the unifying work of diverse skill sets and how to use these skills to contribute to a team.

I share these personal anecdotes to show the moments in which the Auburn family has taught me something and left me better prepared to step into new experiences, thus cultivating my passion for appreciating the Auburn family in turn for their work. Auburn people personify the second line of the creed with their actions and attitudes, and it is because of these relationships that students gain the knowledge, wisdom, and skill that prepare us to set sail into the next steps of our Auburn journey.

*Set Sail with Abigail* is a platform rooted in appreciation for the Auburn family with three key pieces, namely thanking fellow Auburn students, the Auburn family, and Auburn faculty members for the ways in which they have propelled us on our Auburn journey. First, I want to create a space for students to share the stories of how **friendships** have impacted them. Second, I want to appreciate the Auburn **family** by practicing gratitude and providing resources for students to write and deliver thank you notes to close friends or family members. Finally, I want to encourage students to thank their professors, organization advisors, and all campus **faculty** for their hard work on campus. Ultimately, I want to motivate students to see how Auburn caters unparalleled skills and experiences that serve as unseen bookmarks in accelerating each chapter of our Auburn story.

Woven in between the highlights of our Auburn experience lie the unwritten texts from upperclassman that give freshmen confidence to apply for organizations, the smell of syrup and bacon as Dr. Woodard hands out waffles on the concourse, the hand of a friend around your shoulder as Jordan-Hare sings to swag surf, and the feeling of toilet paper wrapped around your feet as you walk through Toomer’s Corner and yell war eagle to a nameless fan. We have each at one point or another in our Auburn stories embarked upon a new experience because of the encouragement of a friend, the work of an administrator, or the guidance of a family member, and during this celebratory season of Homecoming, it is only fitting to celebrate those who make Auburn home for us and pioneer experiences to prepare us to do the same.

With gratitude,

*Abigail Stephenson*