

Name: Emery Waggoner

Year: 04

Major: Human Development and Family Science

Qualifications:

War Eagle Girls and Plainsman

Member of Office of Accessibility

Mortar Board Member

HDFS Professionals Club Executive Member

Student Government Association

WHO WE ARE with Waggoner

When I was diagnosed with a heart condition during my senior year of high school, I panicked that it might ruin the Auburn student experience for me. I was then connected with the Office of Accessibility. With great kindness, they worked with me to ease the logistical stressors of being a student and simultaneously handling a medical situation. Throughout my time here, I have heard from many different students with similar stories that wouldn't be here at Auburn if it weren't for the incredible resources in the Office of Accessibility. While we do have many students who do already reap these benefits, I'm running for Miss Homecoming because I want to spread the word about the resources at the Office of Accessibility and help fellow Auburn students who might be struggling in silence. My platform seeks to help the average Auburn student live the Auburn Creed every day, seeking out ways to support students in need. We say that Auburn is a family, and in trying to be that family, this platform is focused on highlighting the things that I believe WE ARE.

WE ARE... caring. In my time at Auburn, I have been on the receiving end of so much kindness. What I have found is that my vulnerability has been met with kindness; with friends and advisors who help me become better. My hope is that this platform helps more Auburn Students realize that there are people here for them at Auburn. I would like to explore the creation of a partnership program like Eagles' Wings, but for capable Auburn students to be paired with disabled or injured students working with the Office of Accessibility (retrieve students' mobile orders from campus dining locations, carry students' backpacks to class, offer students a ride, etc.).

WE ARE... strong. Though vulnerability is often encouraged, what is often glossed over is that it takes strength to be vulnerable. But Auburn people are strong. We embrace difficulty, we power through disadvantages, we even pack out Jordan-Hare even when our football team is 5-5. I think a common misconception is that requiring accommodations is something to be ashamed of, when in reality it makes you even stronger. I hope to empower students that are

hesitant to work with the Office of Accessibility by highlighting testimonials from my peers who are strong enough and willing to share their personal accommodations stories.

WE ARE... humble. I'd like to exercise our humility by creating either a physical or virtual mailbox to serve as a feedback form for students to submit constructive criticism of ways to make Auburn's campus more accessible. On top of that, let's use our humility to be who we say WE ARE and learn to instinctively put others' needs before our own. Let's do justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly like so many Auburn men and women have before us. ***Let's be more of who we already are.***