

Name: Vera Smith T

Year: 03

Major: Biomedical Sciences, a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Harp Performance

Qualifications:

SGA COSAM Senator

SGA AVP of Campus Life

Chi Omega Chaplain

Chi Omega Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Omicron Delta Kappa

My platform, “Raise Your Voice with Vera” focuses on the ability of the individual student to thrive at Auburn. There are an infinite number of pathways for each student to engage and find a home on campus, but these are joined by three factors – finding a passion in which to invest, reaching out to those in leadership, and forming relationships and mentorships with other students. Auburn is a large campus, and the only way that it can be made to feel smaller and more personal is for relationships to be formed across all parts of campus.

First, I will encourage students to seek out and find what they wish to pursue on campus. Every student is unique, with different strengths and talents that make them who they are. Auburn is a vast campus with many different opportunities and organizations – all with the purpose of allowing every student to feel at home and pursue their dreams, no matter what they may be. Personally, I have the privilege of playing the harp at Auburn through the School of Music. Although this is a very specific passion, Auburn has pushed me towards success in every way, whether this is through tailoring classroom instruction for me or by allowing me to become a member of the AU Orchestra. I believe that everyone has specific strengths, and Auburn has the resources and spirit to allow students to act on them and better themselves through finding their niche on campus.

Second, I wish to promote the forming of relationships between students and those in leadership positions, specifically faculty. Auburn is blessed to have faculty who work every day to assist students in becoming successful and thriving adults. Once a student has discovered their passion on campus, they can take advantage of requesting guidance from the wonderful faculty at Auburn. The professors and advisors at Auburn stand ready and willing to assist any student, and all one must do is take the first step of reaching out and asking for guidance. Many students are unaware of the resources that Auburn offers to facilitate these relationships. As Miss Auburn, I wish to facilitate and promote these relationships, as they “facilitate mutual helpfulness and happiness for all.”

Thirdly, once one has been assisted and encouraged by those in leadership positions, it is most important to respond by spreading the word and, in turn, assisting other students in discovering their passions and the pathways that Auburn will offer them. As a younger student, I was blessed by older students who encouraged me and helped me to find my way on campus. Whether this is through mentorships, or simply friendships, I wish to bring students together – because this is what makes Auburn the amazing campus that it is. Personal student relationships form the pathways that make a student population of almost 35,000 seem like a home. The “human touch” is a powerful thing, and relationships are the way we keep it alive at Auburn.