

At every turning point in our lives, there lies a moment of clarity, a moment when you realize you are exactly where you need to be. Yes, for as long as we can remember we've heard people preach to us "what is meant to be will be." That phrase floats around so much in our heads and through the tongues of others that it often loses its meaning. Difficult times are rarely made significantly better by those seven words, but there is so much truth behind them if only we take a moment to see it.

I'm the definition of a planner, so when I started college almost two and a half years ago I had every point in my UGA experience drawn out. Needless to say, those plans were derailed almost immediately, and I've never been so grateful for something in my life. During my first semester at UGA, in typical type-A fashion, I didn't take this change of plans well. I was lost in this sea of 30,000 students. My life that once felt so purposeful began to feel hopeless and meaningless. Being just a face in the crowd made me question how UGA could possibly be "where I was meant to be." I heard those seven words I mentioned earlier from countless people, and they would go right over my head. I didn't want to hear that struggling had to be part of my college experience. I just wanted to be everything I had planned to be.

Throughout the remainder of my first year, I gradually gained more peace and began to fall in love with my school and the people in it. But that moment of clarity, the one where you realize you are where you need to be? It came with all of you sitting in this room. Almost exactly a year ago, I was chosen to be Delta Gamma's Panhellenic delegate. I didn't have the typical response when our president called me and offered me the position. When she asked me if I wanted to accept and serve on Panhellenic Council, I replied, "Wow I'd love to! So what's Panhellenic?" Little did I know this group of women that I knew nothing about would become such a big part of my life and love for this university in just twelve short months. Though the girl who came into college with her structured plan didn't plan for this opportunity, I know serving on this council was exactly where I needed to be. It opened my eyes to the beautiful individuals who make each sorority. We are so much more than the letters we wear. We are women who strive to cultivate meaningful relationships, who vow to serve others, and who commit to taking advantage of living a full life. I have been so blessed by the influence Panhellenic Council has made on me—the friends, the open-minded perspective, the purpose I was looking for.

I would truly love the honor of continuing in this passion by representing UGA's sorority women at a more impactful level on Panhellenic's executive board. I strongly believe I possess the skills, drive, and character to serve as a leader to the ambitious and genuine women that take part in our Greek life system. One of my favorite quotes is "If you aren't humble enough to serve, you aren't wise enough to lead." In this way, the most glowing attribute a leader can bestow is their undeniable care for the people they serve. Never putting themselves on a pedestal and always being willing to bend over backwards for those they represent is vital to their success. Ultimately, it all comes down to care. That small word holds so much power. Care is the difference between being a figurehead and being a personable, approachable person with the will to make changes for the betterment of others. One of my greatest skills lies in my ability to encourage and comfort through my optimistic attitude. I will strive to continue to build uplifting relationships, communicating clearly Panhellenic's genuine care for each and every sorority. The love between our groups is so evident, and I think I would be a wonderful representation of the kindness that exists here. I am confident that with my strong work ethic, organization, and enthusiasm, I would radiate the positivity that Panhellenic deserves on our campus. I have grown so much since I started here at UGA—I think so much deeper, wiser, and more selflessly. I've been able to find exactly who I am because of my involvement with Panhellenic. My goals and

expectations of being outgoing, friendly, and genuinely caring have turned into a passion for this organization, and I believe that continuing to Panhellenic Executive Board is truly “where I’m meant to be.”