

AVERIE AMOS

MAJOR: Electrical Engineering

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: Stigler, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Freshman

What does Oklahoma State mean to you? Oklahoma State means so many different things to me. Love, support, family, hope, friendship and home; these are some of the many terms that come to my mind when I think about what Oklahoma State means to me. Growing up coming to Oklahoma State for football games and various other events and now living here and going to school, I have had the opportunity to become accustomed to life here in Stillwater. I have been able to recognize not only what the Cowboy Family is and what it means, but also the love and support that you gain when you come here. One of the main things that comes to mind when I think about what Oklahoma State means to me is home. Being from a small town, any town that is remotely large seems like somewhere enormous. Coming to Oklahoma State, however, I truly feel safe and at home due to the amazing people here in Stillwater. Stating all of this, I have found that Oklahoma State means countless different things to me, especially love, support and home.

What is your passion and how are you committed to pursuing it? Throughout my life I have set many goals for myself and have become passionate about countless different things. My biggest passion, however, is the pursuit of higher education. Education is something that has always been extremely important to me and is something I have always been very passionate about. From a very young age I have learned and been taught about the importance of having an education. My mother is a high school teacher, and it is through her wisdom and example that I have been able to see both sides of education and learn how truly important it is. Seeing both sides of education, I have also developed a greater understanding and appreciation for teachers. Teachers honestly do not get enough credit for what they do. They are the stepping stones and building blocks of our lives, and they provide us the most unique and powerful opportunities. Without teachers, we would not be able to achieve a multitude of different things and professions. Having this experience in my life has made me even more passionate about achieving a college education and degree, and I plan on using this drive and determination to pursue my passion and make it a reality.

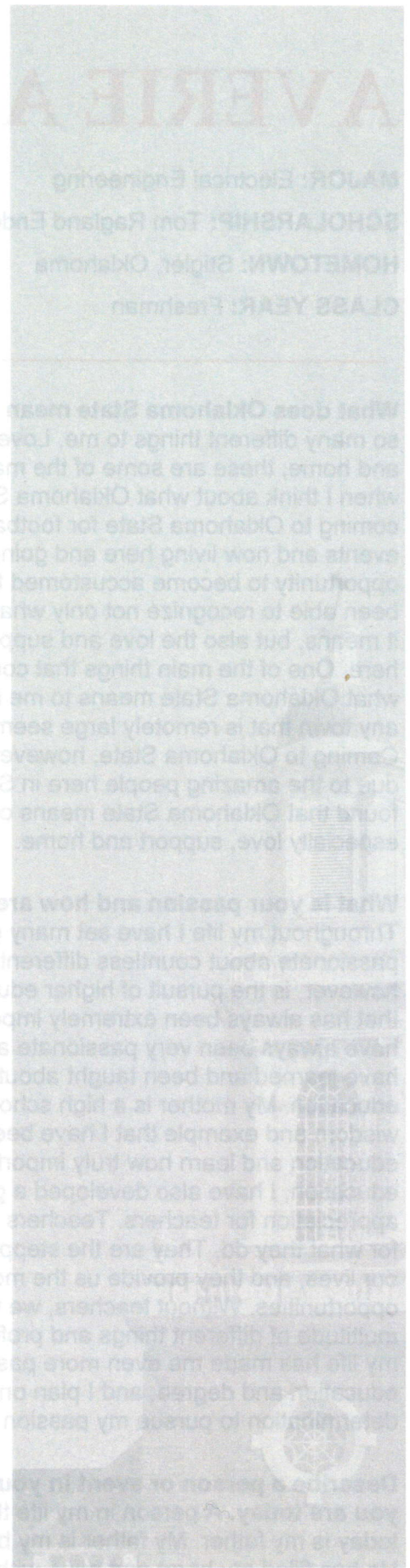
Describe a person or event in your life that shaped you into who you are today. A person in my life that shaped me into who I am today is my father. My father is my biggest role model and supporter. He has filled my heart and mind with love, hope, trust, dedication and



*Dear donor,
"I sincerely thank you for all of your help and support. It is because of your generosity that I have been blessed with the opportunity to go to Oklahoma State, achieve my goals of attaining a college education, and have the opportunity to be involved on campus with Greek life and other amazing clubs and organizations. I cannot thank you enough for all of the support you have given me and the countless opportunities you have provided me with."*

Averie Amos

empathy, and it is because of him that I possess the qualities I have today. My dad is the hardest worker I know and he has taught me many valuable life lessons, one of the main ones being that hard work and dedication will always lead you towards success. I am beyond thankful and grateful for my father, and I honestly do not think I would be the person I am today if it were not for him showing me the way.



CAI CLEMENTS

MAJOR: Computer Engineering

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: Valliant, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Freshman

What does Oklahoma State mean to you? Oklahoma State University is an important step in my career and life as a whole. It is much more than just a school, it is an opportunity. It is an opportunity for me to grow as a person and as a professional. With a solid location to learn, such as Oklahoma State, I am given the opportunity to succeed.

Describe a personal achievement that makes you proud. My proudest achievement thus far was earning the Eagle Scout rank in Scouts BSA. The work I put into earn the rank taught me numerous, valuable life lessons. I was able to develop my leadership skills, public speaking skills and multiple other important characteristics of who I am as a person.

How has scholarship support impacted your college experience? Scholarship support is what makes attending a great school possible for me. I was raised in a rural town and my family is not able to financially support all of my college needs. Thanks to the support of the scholarships I am being awarded I will be able to attend my dream school at Oklahoma State!



Dear donor,

"Without the financial support you have given me, I would have had a much more difficult time attending college at OSU. You have helped make my dreams a reality. Thank you for your generosity and the work you put in to assist me as well as others in their careers and higher education."

Cai Clements

CHADEN RISHER- PREVATTE

MAJOR: Informational Technology

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: Broken Bow, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Freshman

What is the most meaningful experience you've had at Oklahoma State? The most meaningful experience I've had is starting my website agency. I had such a fun time working on websites for close friends and eventually started branching out. It was such a great experience to learn how a business operates and how to talk to clients.

What are your career goals? My goals are to take my website agency to the next level. I want to be able to retire some of my family. I want to be able to support my girlfriend's music career by allowing her to not worry about money and do what she wants.

Describe a person or event in your life that shaped you into who you are today. Mrs. Clardy at Idabel's Kiamichi Technology Center shaped me into who I am today. Our robotics team got me interested in coding. From there, my cousin taught me about cybersecurity, and I immediately started learning to hack computers.



Dear donor,

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart. This has lightened the load on my family. I appreciate everything you have done for me."

Chaden Risher-Prevatte

ERIN DUNLAP

MAJOR: Computer Science

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: McAlester, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Sophomore



What aspects of Oklahoma State are the most important to you?

Here at Oklahoma State, I admire the number of opportunities, resources and faculty that this university brings to each student. Whether it is needing help with homework outside of class, looking for an internship/job or reaching out to an advisor to set up the next semester's class schedule, Oklahoma State has always shown a helpful hand through my journey in college. Along with these few examples, OSU overall feels like a second home. I was more than happy to discover the welcoming arms from my peers, friends and clubs that have created an environment where I can feel safe.

Describe a personal achievement that makes you proud. After my first year at Oklahoma State, I had made many connections with fellow peers and friends which opened a new door for me to learn and gain opportunities. With these connections, I was able to find my first STEM-related job over the summer at a company called iCode School Franchise located in Edmond, Okla. During my time at this job, I was able to teach kids from 5-14 years old how to program games, robots, apps and much more. I learned a lot of useful skills throughout my time, but most of all I learned how to step outside of my comfort zone, which was a challenging task for me to accomplish. After working hard in the first month at iCode, my boss noticed my superior performance and allowed me to instruct the Thundercoding bootcamp. Within this opportunity I was able to spend a day teaching community students about robotics and how to program them on the behalf of iCode. This event was held by the Oklahoma City Thunder in collaboration with Google and is a great personal achievement that I look back on today. I am immensely proud of myself for taking this step to taking such an exciting opportunity.

How would friends and family describe you? Since I was young, my family told me I was a little ball of light. They would say I was always so kindhearted and positive. Even when things went wrong, I would always try to look for the good in the situation even when it seemed like there was none. As I grew older, I gained the nickname "Positive Polly" from my friends at cheer. I was told I always looked at the bright side and encouraged others even when I was going through a tough time myself. As of today, my friends and family will still say that I have kept my ball of light with me. In the present and future, I will continue to use it as I grow, experience and learn new things.

Dear donor,

"As my journey at Oklahoma State University continues, I cannot help but think that it would not be possible without the help of your generous donation.

With your support, I have been able to network with people and have chances to become a part of incredible opportunities. I have also gained exceptional knowledge about computer science from my noble professors and have been able to branch out and learn increasingly every day. I would like to thank you for your inspiration and support that has made all this possible for me."

Erin Dunlap

HANNAH HURST

MAJOR: Biology

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: Broken Bow, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Sophomore

What does Oklahoma State mean to you? Oklahoma State University has been the place where I can be myself and achieve anything. There are unlimited possibilities out there and being at OSU has opened my eyes to that. Because of OSU I have learned that I am capable of more than I thought, and I can do whatever I want with my life if I pursue it hard enough. Oklahoma State has also showed me the value of a loving support system that helps in times of need.

What is your passion and how are you committed to pursuing it? My passion is helping others and being someone others can turn to in a time of need. I want to bring joy and comfort to people and my career path lines up perfectly with that in my opinion. I am majoring in biology with plans of working in the biotechnology industry. I want to explore new medical treatments and medications for people with hopes to improve their lives.

How would friends and family describe you? I think all my friends and family would describe me as a very laid-back person who is easy to get along with. They would most likely say I am fairly quiet, kind and selfless. My very close friends, however, know that I love to joke around and have fun. They would say I am someone who does not ever take things too seriously or gets their feelings hurt. My friends and family also know that I do my best with every task presented to me and I am someone who cares about the fine details of things.



*Dear donor,
"Your generous financial contribution to my education has been extremely helpful. Your support and confidence in me has instilled additional motivation and drive to reach my goals. It is comforting to know there are people who believe in me, and I cannot thank you enough! With your support, I am able to focus on my school work without the stress of financial burdens. Thank you again!"*

Hannah Hurst

TAYLOR JOHNSON

MAJOR: Mathematics and Secondary Education

SCHOLARSHIP: Tom Ragland Endowed Scholarship

HOMETOWN: Grove, Oklahoma

CLASS YEAR: Sophomore

What aspects of Oklahoma State are the most important to you?

I love that Oklahoma State makes a variety of students feel at home and like they have the tools to succeed. For me, it was important to choose a place where I could thrive academically and socially while preparing for my future. Here at OSU, I am able to do just that. They provide me with opportunities to do undergraduate research, have access to the Math Learning Success Center for help in classes and honors courses to challenge me. Yet, it is also a friendly environment where everyone gets hyped for game days or enjoys a snow day together. I think this focus on students as investments for the future and as individuals is what sets OSU apart.

What are your career goals? My goal is to become a high school math teacher. I think it is important to invest in our future and can't think of a better way to do that than working in public education. Mathematics is something that is extremely applicable, but also teaches critical thinking skills that can be used every day regardless of your future profession. I specifically want to teach high school so that I can support students as they are trying to discern their post-graduation life. Whether it is college, the military, trade school or straight into the workforce, they are society's future.

Describe a person or event in your life that shaped you into who you are today. My mom has definitely shaped me into who I am today. She is also a high school math teacher, which is the exact reason why I tried for a long time to play "beat that job" and find a career I would love more. However, when I see how she pours into each student that walks into her classroom, there isn't anyone else I would rather be like. She is an extremely strong and independent person, which is shown through her holding her students accountable and challenging them. Yet, she is also so compassionate and is there to answer every question, write recommendation letters or just be a listening ear.



Dear donor,

"Thank you so much for supporting my higher education! This donation helps alleviate financial stress and make school more feasible for me. I work part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer. Working only part-time currently allows me to make the most of my college experience! I am able to participate in student government, research, youth groups and more."

Taylor Johnson