

GIRL meets COLLEGE

Geneva Magsino

First Year Experience

NACURH 2016 at University of Delaware

Case Western Reserve University



Collegiate Accomplishments and Involvements

Academic Honors

Geneva came to Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) after earning an Associates Degree in General Science from Raritan Valley Community College. The Academy for Health and Medical Sciences along with Raritan Valley Community College gives students a unique opportunity to earn an associate's degree in General Science as well as a high school diploma. Geneva decided to attend the academy because she wanted to be a doctor and the majority of the classes offered were geared toward medicine.

As a student at CWRU, Geneva has chosen to major in International Studies. After being exposed to many of the hard science courses, Geneva decided that she wanted to major in humanities. Because she was pursuing pre-med, Geneva wanted to make sure she was learning important topics in the humanities alongside the sciences. She chose to major in International Studies with a concentration in Global Health because the major allows her to take classes about various cultures and their health. Because she grew up in the Philippines and America, Geneva became curious about how social inequality affects a person's health.

During her first semester she took a class called Living With and Making Decisions Concerning Injustice. This class has been her favorite since she got to CWRU because it changed the way she viewed how certain systems the perpetrate injustice on others. The course focused on the choices and decisions people make concerning injustices they face. After taking this class, she decided she is more interested of going to law school instead of medical school. She hopes to someday work for the United Nations.

In addition to her International Studies Major, Geneva is also pursuing an Acting Minor. Growing up, Geneva had always been interested in acting. However, she never pursued acting before college. After taking an acting class this past semester, Geneva fell in love with it. She then decided to minor in acting because it gave her more confidence. Geneva thinks that as a leader it is important to know how to be able to speak well in public. She believes that acting has played a strong role in improving her public speaking skills. Lastly, acting allows Geneva to live through someone else's experiences, and this will continue to help her understand the diverse people she serves.



Collegiate Accomplishments and Involvements

Campus and Community Involvement

In her free time, Geneva likes to get involved on campus and in the Cleveland community. Perhaps her largest involvement is with the Residence Hall Association. Initially Geneva was elected to the Clarke Tower Community Council as a Community Representative, which serve as general council members where roles and responsibilities are determined within the group. In addition, these representatives are not required to attend the General Body meetings each week. Geneva quickly found herself applying to become a General Body At-Large Member where she could advocate for her residents on a larger scale.

It was not long before Geneva found herself filling the role of Vice President on her council. Geneva stepped up to take the role after the President moved on to the executive board. A couple months later, Geneva found herself taking on the highest responsibility of a council, President.

Since joining RHA, Geneva has been involved in several initiatives and programs. For instance, she helped organize and delegate for Jack Bash, one of the largest annual RHA events on campus. In addition, Geneva has been really focused on getting feedback and ideas from residents. Some of these ideas have sparked the beginning of some new initiatives on campus. For example, Geneva has been making a push for a new initiative which could draw students together in the dining halls. Additionally, when she noticed that her council needed more manpower, she was able to recruit more members into the council, doubling the amount of members the council had.

Geneva also serves as the RHA representative on the Residence Life Appeal Board. The board works to address appeals made by students who do not agree with a decision of the Residence Life administrative hearings. The appeal is reviewed by the board, and additional meetings can be held to give the student an opportunity to voice their opinions. Geneva believes that being a part of the board helps her understand residents better as she is given the opportunity to hear about resident issues.

Furthermore, Geneva also serves on the External Communications Committee of the Undergraduate Diversity Collaborative, an organization that strives to educate the student body about diversity and inclusion. The committee develops programs and initiatives to create a more inclusive and diverse campus climate by working with other organizations and university administrators.

In addition to the Residence Life Appeal Board and the Undergraduate Diversity Collaborative, Geneva spends her free time volunteering as a Health Leads Advocate. Health Leads is an organization that believes healthcare providers should not only manage a patient's disease but also find solutions to improve their overall health by helping patients who lack basic needs such as food. Health Leads Advocates connect patients to resources that could help them obtain what they need. Every week volunteers are expected to serve four hours at University Hospitals, two hours at leadership trainings, and two hours of calling patients to make sure they were successful or unsuccessful with the resources the advocates provided for them.



CAACURH and NACURH Involvement

Involvement

After having been at CWRU for only 6 months, Geneva has taken plenty of initiative in becoming involved on the regional level. Geneva attended her first CAACURH conference at The George Washington University this past November. As a first-time delegate, Geneva took the opportunity to present her program, Build-A-Leader, with the following description:

“This program will help students understand the different leadership traits that are important to them. First, I will give them a scenario where their employer has just asked them to build the perfect partner to work with on an important project. They are given only a certain amount of money. This money will be used to determine the different leadership traits that their partner will possess. Certain leadership traits have more value than others. Some of these traits include: hard working, great communication skills, independent, sense of humor, very committed, creative, confident, honest, trustworthy, passionate, inspiring, able to delegate, positive, resilient, etc. After each student creates their partner, we will collaborate as a team to come up with the best traits within the limited budget. This exercise will help students understand that not everyone is perfect and possess every single leadership quality there is. In addition, it will give students an idea on which leadership traits are important to them.”

Geneva enjoyed her time at the conference so much that she asked if she could experience boardroom. As a result, she was able to serve about an hour as a proxy in RHA boardroom. Once back at CWRU, Geneva became more interested in the role of the NCC. She decided to reach out to the current NCC to see if she could find out more about the position. Her efforts eventually led to her sitting in on an NCC chat. She eventually went on to win the NCC position for the 2016-2017 academic year. As the incoming NCC, she has already budgeted and planned for the NACURH conference. She will be bringing ten delegates and two advisors to University of Delaware. In an effort to be more knowledgeable about her NCC role, Geneva pushed for the outgoing NCC to accompany the delegation at NACURH since it has never been done in the institution's RHA organization before. After discussing with the RHA executive board, the outgoing NCC was given the chance to attend NACURH to further transition Geneva into the NCC role.

Strengths

1. Developer - Individuals with this strength see the potential in others and work to help others reach their success.
2. Connectedness - Individuals with this strength believe that everything happens for a reason and have a strong value system.
3. Belief - Individuals with this strength stick to their strong core values.
4. Context - Individuals with this strength look to the past for inspiration.
5. Achiever - Individuals with this strength have a constant need for achievement.



The Interview

What's your favorite conference cheer?

"My favorite conference cheer is "L-O-V-E! Love you, love you!" I've always liked that cheer because I think it has two important meanings. One is to spread love to everyone by telling them you love them and two is to remind that person to love themselves."

What advice would you give to incoming freshmen?

"One of my favorite shows, *Boy Meets World*, ended with this saying, "Dream. Try. Do good." Ever since I watched the finale, I've tried to live by those words. However, it's hard to dream, try and do good when you're not comfortable with you are. My advice is to never apologize for who you are because even though you're not perfect, you are enough. When you learn to truly love yourself, only then will you be able to dream, try and do good."

What moment are you most proud of?

"As my brain tries to ponder this question I keep thinking about how the small moments are actually the ones that define our future endeavors, the ones where no one claps for you or gives you recognition and you're just left alone in the quiet to listen to your own voice. My proudest moment in RHA is when I emailed Victoria, the RHA president, that I would love to be part of RHA. I'm proud of that moment because I took a risk and jumped without looking and without realizing it at that moment that one email has continued to change my life. Being a part of RHA has given me my most cherished friends and mentors. I've also gotten so many opportunities to experience so many wonderful moments such as being vice president and eventually president of my council. Sending an email to someone might seem like a small moment but like I said the smallest moments are sometimes the most monumental."

How have you grown through your leadership experience?

"I always thought I was the kind of leader that didn't have what it takes to be president. I never thought it made me a worse or better leader. I just thought I was better suited to help a president and not be a president--at least not yet. I was completely comfortable being behind the scenes. However, sometimes life puts us in situations where we have to make a choice. When I learned my council president had to step down, I only had two options: to take on this new challenge or to pass it off to someone else. I decided to step up as president because the only thing stopping me was fear of not being good enough. Unfortunately, I don't think I'll ever stop being afraid but I've learned that I will never let fear stop me from accomplishing what I want to do. Eventually, I went on to win elections for the position of NCC on the RHA executive board. Being in RHA has continuously pushed me to be a better and a more confident leader."

What are your goals for next year as the NCC?

"One of my biggest goals next year as NCC is to strengthen our relationship with NRHH. As a representative of my institution for both RHA and NRHH at conferences, it's pertinent to continue building upon the relationship of the two organizations. As NCC, I want to be more involved external recognition within RHA. This means a continued effort to promote writing OTMs and bids about the wonderful people and ideas that have positively impacted the residential hall community. I also believe RHA members should be more aware of our regional and national affiliates. Thus, more members would be interested in attending the conferences, where they can develop their leadership skills and gain new ideas from other schools. Lastly, I hope to increase my institution's involvement in the conferences' philanthropies."

Testimonials

The RHA mascot at CWRU is a weepul, a round fluffy creature with googly eyes. As a result, CWRU tends to have a lot of these little toys floating around. At conferences, delegates may also see these floating around as CWRU delegates tend to give them out as a form of recognition. Internally, CWRU RHA uses the weepul as a form of recognition for a member who has done something great in the past week. Below are two nominations that were written for Geneva:

“Geneva embodies what it means to be an RHA member by constantly working to build community for those around her. Whenever there is something that needs to be done for the organization Geneva is always one of the first to volunteer and goes above and beyond to help in any way possible. For example, Geneva attended CAACURH but went beyond the delegation expectations and presented an amazing program on leadership. When the Exec board needed volunteers for the “For the Kids” philanthropy event Geneva was one of the few who attended and even stayed until the last exec member left. Just through interactions with Geneva, I get the sense that she is very passionate about RHA, helping others, and building community. Thanks for being such an amazing member of RHA!”

Acadia Fairchild, RHA Vice President of Residential Relations

“Geneva has already done so much in RHA and it’s only been a week. Not only did she immediately step up to take on a community rep position after being written in, but she did so enthusiastically. She was a great contributor at retreat, asking great questions and making great comments, and supporting her fellow Clarke Tower members. She is the only new member who applied to be a General Body at-large member and truly showed that she is passionate about RHA and will make a great addition to General Body. I have no doubt that Geneva will do great things for Clarke Tower and for RHA this year, and she’s done a wonderful job setting a great starting tone.”

Victoria Robinson, RHA President

In addition to the “Weepul” of the week submissions, RHA’s Vice President of Internal Development decided to put together a form for gathering support for Geneva. The following is an example of the impact that Geneva makes in the organization:

“Although she is new to RHA, let alone Case Western Reserve University, Geneva has stepped up as Clarke Tower Community Council’s VP and does her job well. She contributes meaningful ideas to every council meeting and is always supportive of her fellow council members. Through these contributions, Geneva has grown confident in her leadership. Geneva is also the go-to person for help when it comes down to preparing for a Clarke Tower community event. For Jack Bash, an annual pumpkin-dropping event hosted by Clarke Tower Community Council, Geneva made fabulous decorations and delegated tasks to volunteers. Not only did she delegate, she also volunteered and returned sound equipment from Jack Bash when no one else was available. In addition, she helped create marketing material and was the first to volunteer to carry food to a de-stress event the council hosted for its residents during finals week. Even outside of council-related events, Geneva tirelessly seeks ways to improve the community. She has done research on events and workshops at other campuses, such as UNC Chapel Hill’s Tunnel of Oppression, to help improve Case Western by collaborating with the different organizations on campus. Geneva has come a long way from the beginning of the year, and because of her endless positivity, selflessness, and passion, Geneva should win the First Year Experience Award.”

Essay

When high school ended, I realized that some of my best memories were created from an opportunity I got as a freshman to join a leadership development organization, SkillsUSA. Back then, I walked with my head down and no confidence. However, through the years our school's SkillsUSA chapter has helped me find my voice as well as improve upon the personal skills as a leader. Somehow, as soon as I joined SkillsUSA, doors kept opening for me: becoming a state champion for career pathways for two consecutive years, attending the National SkillsUSA Conference twice, being elected as a NJ State Officer, advocating for SkillsUSA and Career Technical Education at Capitol Hill, and travelling all around different New Jersey schools to educate, motivate, and inspire incoming SkillsUSA members. These experiences have forever shaped my personal skills and have turned me from being someone who could not even get the courage to stand in front of a room of people to someone who is a leader.

When arrived at Case Western Reserve University, I was desperate to find an organization, like SkillsUSA, that would enhance my leadership skills. Despite the myriad of clubs I signed up for, I was lost on which one would suit my goals and expectations. It wasn't until I received an email from the RHA President, Victoria, that I became a member of the Residence Hall Association, which quickly became an organization that leveled my passion for SkillsUSA. In her email, she explained how I had been written in as a Community Representative for my residence hall. I quickly accepted without knowing the opportunities that I would be presented with as part of the organization. In an attempt to be a more involved member, I decided to be an at-large member. As an at-large member, I was expected to attend General Body meetings every week and during those meetings, I found the most incredible friends and roles models. I remember walking home from a meeting and realizing that there was never a meeting that I didn't have a smile on my face.

I was happy when I became vice president of our council and eventually president. As president, I have doubled the number of people on my council as well as put on some successful programs.

In addition, I was chosen to one of the RHA representatives on the Residence Life Appeal Board as well as a first year delegate the CAACURH conference, where I presented a program. My experiences at CAACURH opened my eyes to the endless possibilities students like me can create for college residents. Being in an environment where everyone is passionate about the positive changes they make back to their residential college communities fueled my interest in RHA.

Being an RHA member has definitely enhanced the soft skills I need to succeed in my future endeavors, which is why I decided to run for the executive board for the next academic year as the NCC. I am grateful for this nomination and even more thankful for the love and support that my fellow RHA members has given me. I feel extremely lucky to be part of an organization that has truly become a second family and a home away from home.





Office of Residence Life
Division of Student Affairs
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7064

Visitors and Deliveries
108 Thwing Center
Phone 216.368.6325
residencelife@case.edu

Saturday, May 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

students.case.edu/living

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Geneva Magsino's bid for the First Year Experience Award. Geneva is a first-year student in Magnolia Residential College at Case Western Reserve University. Committed, dedicated, and invested are just some of the terms come to mind when I think about Geneva. As a first-year student, Geneva has strongly demonstrated her commitment to her community.

Although Geneva is a member of Magnolia Residential College, she is one of the 46 first-year students assigned to a second-year residence hall. Because Magnolia spans across two residential complexes, there are two governing community councils. Geneva has been an active member in her community council which traditionally is composed of mostly second-year students. Her involvement with the council's traditional annual program JackBash was a huge asset to the successful planning and execution of the event. Additionally, she seems able to easily partner with both first-year students and second-year students in the residence hall to pursue community initiatives.

I also had the opportunity to co-advise CWRU's delegation to CAACURH's regional conference in Washington D.C. Geneva was one of the few delegation members who made it to all the delegation meetings. She went above and beyond in helping produce conference items such as the banner, display, and clothespins. Further, Geneva was diligent in the program proposal process, resulting in its eventual acceptance and presentation at the conference. Geneva put much time and effort into the development of her presentation to ensure it was of high caliber for conference attendees. Geneva was an excellent role model for other delegation members on how to connect with other delegates, how to engage with conference programming, and how to be a peer leader.

Lastly, Geneva is a strong support for other student leaders within the residence life department. For example, Geneva often helps volunteer for other community council's events or encourages residents to attend. In the Spring 2016, Geneva was an instrumental participant and volunteer for Cedar Community Council's traditional program "24 Hour Play". Geneva exhibits servant leadership in her involvement.

In summary, Geneva is an outstanding first-year student, demonstrating strong commitment for her academic career, to the CAACURH region, and to her local residential community. As such, she is most deserving of an award such as the First Year Experience Award.

Sincerely,

Aaron S. Baker

First Year Coordinator

Magnolia Residential College

Office of Residence Life | Office of Undergraduate Studies

Case Western Reserve University



CAACURH

CENTRAL ATLANTIC AFFILIATE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE
& UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS, INC.

May 15, 2016

Dear NACURH Board of Directors,

It is with great excitement and pride that I submit this letter of support on behalf of Case Western Reserve University's bid for Geneva Magsino and the First Year Experience. As the regional winner and nominee for the NACURH First Year Experience Award, this bid has received my full support, as well as overwhelming praise from the Residence Hall Association Presidents of the Central Atlantic Affiliate.

Much of this bid focused on the flexibility and rapid turnaround present in Geneva's RHA experience. The way she responded to adversity in order to create positive change is truly admirable, and shows great promise for future leadership and contributions to developing a positive residential community at CWRU.

The organizations in which first-year students choose to participate have the potential to significantly impact those students' collegiate experience and personal development. It is abundantly clear to me that Geneva's involvement the CWRU Residence Hall Association was a key factor in her outstanding contributions as a first-year student. When asked what moment she was most proud of, Geneva responded: "I keep thinking about how the small moments are actually the ones that define our future endeavors, the ones where alone in the quiet to listen to your own voice." Her response is highly indicative of her ability to lead, inspire self-care, and truly practice recognition.

I am proud to support Case Western Reserve University and Geneva Magsino in this bid for the NACURH First Year Experience award. On behalf of the voting representatives and Regional Board of Directors of the Central Atlantic Affiliate, I invite you to think critically about the elements of balance, self-awareness, challenge, and support present in our first-year students' lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Noah J. Boksansky
CAACURH CO for Bidding

Sources

Cover Background [Cover]: <http://marii85.deviantart.com/art/notebook-1-95900949>