

To all my friends at the University Club of Rockford,

Another semester has come to an end, and I am getting really excited to finish out my undergraduate career! I learned so much in the last 4 months, both inside and outside of the classroom. As always, this semester brought new challenges. I did not have to miss any substantial time like last semester, but I had very difficult course work. I got my first C+ ever, which was frustrating given how hard I worked in that class, but it taught me a lot and I realize that it's okay. As a straight-A student all through high school, and an A/B student throughout college, this letter grade upset me. I realize, though, that what matters is what I learned in the class, not the letter they gave me, and I believe I retained much more information than my grade may suggest. Also, despite this one grade, I made the Dean's List and had excellent grades in my other courses. I also finished all my requirements for my biology major and my lab courses, so I am winding down the requirements I have left.

Due to my pregnancy, I no longer volunteered in the hospital as I did last year, but I hope to continue in that service once I graduate. I shadowed in the Labor & Delivery unit at Vanderbilt Hospital, and this has been my favorite shadowing experience so far! This is the field I am most interested in as of yet. I moved into my own apartment, and this allowed me a new adult experience, and the opportunity to see a different side of Nashville – one outside of Vanderbilt's campus. I also joined a Christian sorority on campus, and it has been a fantastic experience for me. I wish I had joined this community sooner! There is so much love and support both from and for these girls that I have befriended.

As I go into my final semester of my senior year, I'm reminded that everything I have accomplished and will accomplish in the future is made possible through the kindness and generosity shown to me by your organization. I am eternally grateful for your help! Thank you for all you do.

Merry Christmas and best wishes,
Sydnie Smith