

Student Spotlight: Casie Goodman



"For with God, nothing shall be impossible."

■ LUKE 1:37 KJV

Casie N. Goodman is an Early Childhood Special Education major. The Warner Robins, GA native is scheduled to graduate in May 2017.

1. Why did you choose to attend MGA?

Choosing to attend MGA allowed me to fulfill my dreams of becoming an elementary school teacher while still being able to stay in my hometown, raise my children, and take part in my family events like normal. Its affordability kept my family 'almost' debt free while I attended school.

2. Who is your favorite professor/staff member? Why?

My favorite professor at this college would have to be Dr. Shamani Shikwambi. He is so much more than just a professor, and is so passionate about what he teaches. He always pushes his students to be the best they can be. Dr. Shikwambi is not only a professor inside the classroom but he is also an honest mentor for life. While his courses are far from easy, he is there to ensure that you are fully prepared to go out and make a difference in the lives of children as a future teacher.

3. Tell us about your experience in an internship, research project and how has it impacted you.

As a teacher candidate, we participate in student teaching in schools throughout the community. We are given the opportunity to be a part of different areas of the community to see the different types of students we may have in our future classrooms. This has been an incredible experience because it just goes to show that no matter where you are teaching, the kids are there to learn. For many of them it may be their place of fun and friends, but for others it may be their safe place to go and the only warm meal they receive during the day. What I find so inspiring is knowing that I am helping these children become the people they want to be. There are challenging days, but when a child has an 'aha' moment it is truly a magical experience.

4. When you are not at the MGA, how do you like to spend your time?

I am a Girl Scout Daisy troop leader for a troop at Langston Road Elementary School in Perry, Ga. I am also an active member in the National Society of Leadership and Success as well as a member of their Executive board as co-chair of social events. In addition, I am a mother of two beautiful children and a wife to a wonderful husband. My life revolves around my family, and I am so blessed to be able to make memories with my parents, grandparents, and great grandpa on a regular basis.

5. What's your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan on becoming a teacher at a local elementary school. I plan to teach for a year before pursuing my master's degree online.

6. Tell us something about yourself that otherwise we wouldn't know or guess.

I was a teen mom, but I defied the odds and graduated high school when I was 16 years old. I began college the summer after I graduated high school, even before I had my daughter. The journey was not easy by any means, but I did it with the support of my family and friends. I am here to encourage people who think pregnancy is the end, to keep pushing and striving you can still reach your dreams. It may take longer than expected and there will be bumps in the road, but if you stand strong in what you believe, there is nothing you can't accomplish. Give it everything you've got, you will see all your hard work pay off in the end.

7. What inspires you?

My children are my inspiration. I want them to always work hard, no matter what; things may not always be easy, but they will be able to get through anything with family support. They should know just how important education is and that chasing their dreams is the ultimate goal, no matter the circumstance.

8. If you had to sit next to someone on a plane for the next 8 hours, who would it be and why?

This is a tough one, but it would be my Great Grandma. She passed away a few years ago and I would give anything to be able to talk to her and hear her encouragement and advice just one more time.

9. Give one experience that changed your life forever?

Becoming a mom at a young age, because it taught me the value of life. I learned that high school fun and friends eventually faded. This experience helped instill in me the value of family support. My family is always here for me with encouragement and support.

10. Finish this sentence: Greatness means (to you)Is realizing what is great about myself.

Achieving greatness is knowing that at the end of the day I have done my very best. I have been the best student, teacher, friend, mother, wife, and daughter I could possibly be.

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