

Living a Life that Matters:
Profile of Abby Cramton

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“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” –Galatians 5:6b

“God has a plan for me,” says Abby Cramton, while her smile shines brightly and her eyes grow full of excitement. That big smile rarely leaves her face when she is talking about her passion for Christ. Abby Cramton is a graduating senior at Purdue, and she is a well-loved Resident Assistant in Harrison Hall. She loves being with her girls. Hanging out with them, getting to know them, and laughing with them is what makes the position so rewarding. Being there for them helping them grow is one of the most important aspects of it all. “I am so thankful that God has blessed me with this job, given me the skills I need to do it well, and for showing me where I can make improvements.”

Abby Cramton was raised in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of the great city of Chicago. She is majoring in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations, and minors in both English and Political Science. In the summer, Abby likes to nanny to a special family in her town. She also is a waitress and worked at a library for several months. To make her RA, school, and social schedule even crazier, Abby likes to lead and be active in a bible study she created in her residence hall. Being a Christian for Abby means yearning to learn more about Christ in order to become like him. The love, grace, and mercy that Christ has shown Abby compel her to share his love, grace, and mercy with other people.

While studying the broad major of Communication, it is very important to apply for internships around your sophomore year. In January of 2002, Abby’s father made her sit down and complete her résumé so she could begin sending it out for companies to

look at. Abby began this project in the Liberal Arts office where she looked through many books full of internship opportunities. There was one in particular that had caught her searching eye. There was an internship opening for the lovely Rosie O'Donnell Show. Of course one would think to themselves that there is no way that such a famous talk show host living in New York City would pick an average gal from Indiana to become her intern. Abby thought wrong. At the beginning of June 2002, Abby received a phone call from Ms. Mary MacNamara, the internship coordinator from the Rosie O'Donnell Show. To Abby's surprise, Mary wanted to fly Abby out to New York for a one-day interview to become one of the lucky interns for The Caroline Rhea Show. Abby had once again succeeded. She was the head intern for The Caroline Rhea Show in New York City.

After a few weeks, Abby moved out to New York City and began her amazing experience with the show. Ruth, Caroline's assistant, was a great help in showing Abby the ways of television life. Abby was the only girl who was a full time intern, and she worked five days a week. Some of her jobs included making the guests of the show feel comfortable, taking their pictures, getting their autographs, and being Ms. Rhea's right hand gal. "When she said jump, I asked how high. When she said go get me ice cream, I ran."

While working for the show, Abby had the chance to meet many of America's most well renowned and respected actors, actresses, and artists of our day. A few of her favorites include Nelly, Usher, Mekhi Pfeiffer, Adam Sandler, Alec Baldwin, Elijah Wood, Jerry O'Donnell, Bruce Springsteen, and the hysterical Jimmy Fallon of Saturday Night Live. "It is quite funny because the actors are a lot shorter in person than they look

on television,” Abby said with a giggle. The person she enjoyed meeting the most was Mr. Don Pardo. Mr. Pardo is not quite famous by name, but you would recognize his voice anywhere. He has been the Saturday Night Live announcer for 28 years. He did the original Price is Right and Jeopardy back in the 1940’s and 1950’s. Thinking about it in your head, you hear him say, “Its Saturday Night Liiive featuring Jimmmmmmy Falllllllonnnnnn...” Because the SNL and Caroline Rhea studios were right next to each other, Abby saw Mr. Pardo frequently. He hung out in the announcer booth from about 10am-3pm every day and read the papers. He did not need to be there until Thursday, but he said he did not have anything else to do. Lots of people thought he was an annoying, crazy old man but Abby thought he was great. When Abby was working, she also became good friends with one of Caroline’s bodyguards. Even though Abby’s internship has ended, they still keep in touch on a regular basis. He is now the bodyguard of thee Tom Cruise, and he is living in Spain at the moment while Tom films his movies.

With this wonderful experience of working for Caroline Rhea, Abby learned many of the “behind the scene” tricks. Everything is perfectly planned out, well-rehearsed, and observably staged, which makes it hard for her to watch any talk show today. She has learned what it takes to succeed in the television business and the many aspects of television production. With the amazing people skills that Abby possesses, she is able to speak with a number of different people, and gradually climb the social ladder in the process. With her loving personality, she was able to accomplish her goal of getting an internship and experiencing such a miraculous one at that. Being blessed with an incredible personality and wonderful people skills is a tremendous advantage in all aspects of life.

When Abby finally ends her college days at Purdue, she feels that God will guide her on the path that will lead her to success. She will continue to look to further advance Christ's cause by sharing his love with others. With the amazing opportunities she has already experienced, Abby will continue to grow into an outstanding adult and continue to interact with a variety of different people. She has a lot of hope for the future, and she is definitely pursuing her goal of living a life that matters.

Works Cited

Cramton, Abby. Personal Interview. 3 February 2005.

Publication Venue

“The Communicator” is the official publication of the Department of Communication. It is a newsletter where students who are majoring in communication have the chance to write stories or important information about other communicators. Most of the writers involved are interested in creative writing or journalism. Some of the communicators like to share their career experiences, department news, hobbies of the graduate students, and where some of the alumni have received jobs at.

Most of the students who are majoring in communication know exactly what “The Communicator” is. This profile would be an excellent piece of writing to have published. Having people learn about Abby’s amazing internship opportunity will motivate the undergraduate students in communication to apply for the same internships. Sharing Abby’s experiences with the entire communication department would give hope to everyone that dreams do come true. “The Communicator” is the perfect publication venue for “Living a Life that Matters: Profile of Abby Cramton.”