

Name: Beth Westmoreland

Ballot: #5

Year: 03

Major: Food Science

Qualifications:

Auburn University Student Recruiters
Committee of 19
Agricultural Council
Food Science Club
Social Sorority

Platform: When it comes to opportunities that will enable us to expand our cultural horizons at Auburn University, the possibilities are endless. As college students, we can choose to supplement our Auburn Experience with various adventures and involvement. College is a time of exploration, that of the self and of the world. A growing part of becoming a well-rounded graduate is developing a global mindset. It is for this reason that a key component of Dr. Gogue's number one strategic goal is to internationalize this campus.

The most obvious way to get an international experience is to immerse yourself in an unfamiliar culture, to live and study in a place completely foreign to you. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to study abroad last summer. After being in Europe for two months, I returned to Auburn with a new perspective of the world and a strong desire to travel and learn. My excitement was contagious, and I shared my stories with all.

Although programs, exchanges, and internships abroad are available to students regardless of major or college, studying abroad is not feasible for every student. In many situations, a student's feet remain on U.S. soil for the duration of his or her college career. Even though this student, a representative of the majority, may never study outside of the Auburn city limits, all hope is not lost. How does campus become truly internationalized when only one in twenty-seven students studies abroad each year? We can do this by tapping into a resource that we often overlook, international students. Through my major I have made friends with a young woman from China. While it is fun for me to teach her about life in the south and our Auburn traditions, she has taught me an incredible amount about her culture. Though I have never set foot in her country, this journey has been a key component of my education at Auburn, a journey I hope that every Auburn student will experience. Peers who have studied abroad or who have international friends are perfect resources when you decide to begin your journey.

As Miss Auburn, I will aid in the internationalization of Auburn's campus by instating an International Awareness Day. My platform, "Passport to Possibility," would create an initiative that would facilitate interaction between international and domestic students. On this day, all Auburn students would be invited to wear a nametag displaying a country they have visited, a country they wish to visit, or their

native country. A student planning to study abroad might meet a native from the country he or she wishes to visit. Students not planning to study abroad would have the opportunity to meet someone from a country they have always dreamed of visiting. Essentially, we will be making the world a smaller place as we become one big international family. Students can make new friends, learn about different cultures, or even study in a new land. Just imagine the possibilities!