

# *A Student on the Purpose Road*

My Name is Mary Horn, and I'm a 20-year-old junior this year at Alice Lloyd College. I'm from a little town in Virginia called Pilgrims Knob, and I'm in the process of pursuing a career in education (High School/Math). I really want to work in special education helping children who are having problems in learning.

When I first arrived at Alice Lloyd College, I thought I wanted to become a lawyer. After taking some courses and praying really hard, I realized that my purpose in life was to become a teacher. I wanted to do something that involved giving back to my community. Being a teacher is an excellent way of doing just that. I have a passion for children, and I just love being around them.

I can't wait to finish my degree here at Alice Lloyd. My education wouldn't be possible if it were not for donors that give to this wonderful institution. Their support has given me the opportunity to find my purpose in life. Their donations make the cost of my education low and very affordable. This is a blessing for me.

When I think about what Alice Lloyd College means to me, I become speechless. When I was in high school, I never thought that I would be able to



go to a 4-year college because of the cost. Words can't express how grateful I am for the privilege to go to a college where tuition is guaranteed. As of today, I don't owe anything -- not many upcoming juniors at any college or university can say that!

When I was growing up, my parents taught me the value of education. My dad, Terry, did not

graduate from high school. He had to withdraw from school in the 8th grade to get a job and help his family. Later, he was employed at a coal mine, where he worked for a little over 18 years. It was an



unknown blessing, when he was laid off in the winter of 2003. A year later, he started taking courses to earn his GED. He currently works for the Buchanan County School Board Maintenance Division. My mom, Margaret, graduated high school among the top of her class, but she couldn't afford college. In 1997, Mom was blessed with the opportunity to go to a community college where she graduated with an accounting degree.

I'm very proud of my parents and their accomplishments. They have done a great job raising me and my two sisters. When I graduated high school, my mom knew that she couldn't afford to send me to college. Luckily, Alice Lloyd College gave me a scholarship which helped me make my dreams come true.

Alice Lloyd College has given me more than just an educational experience. It is truly giving me a life experience. One of the greatest opportunities of attending Alice Lloyd is being a part of the Student Work Program. Being a student supervisor and working in the president's office has enabled me to grow in ways I never could have imagined. Like some other students, I have also chosen to pursue the summer work program offered here at the College. Sometimes the work is difficult, but I know the many experiences I go through will help prepare me for the future!