Ashlee Laramore – Nominated by the Kappa Delta Sorority

Platform: “Not Just a Number…Don’t Let a Scale Define You”

“Miss Ashlee, am I fat?” is the exact question an eight-year old girl I babysit asked me one afternoon on the way to the pool. In that moment, a flood of emotions and memories raced through my veins. It was around the same age as this young girl, that I began asking myself the exact same question. The world we live in obsesses over weight; it almost seems as if everyone is either too thin, too overweight, or even too average. The media has created unrealistic body type expectations, and for some people these expectations have become obsessions, and these obsessions have become eating disorders. Studies show that eating disorders do not discriminate. People of all ages, races, and genders suffer from eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating. However, studies have found that the most common age for eating disorders to arise is ages 18-21. The National Association for Eating Disorders found that 10-20% of college aged women and 4-10% of college aged men suffer from some form of an eating disorder. Personally, my eating disorder began at a much younger age. I became concerned with my weight around age eight, and by age ten I developed bulimic patterns. I kept it a secret for almost six years before anyone knew something was wrong. My platform, “Not Just a Number…Don’t Let the Scale Define You,” is a program that would provide information about eating disorders, help detect eating disorders in others, offer group fitness classes to promote healthy living, and an educational program to teach middle school aged students about the physical and emotional damage caused from eating disorders. Often times, those suffering with an eating disorder do not seek help, and their families and friends do not notice that something is wrong. Eating disorders are common on college campuses, and students should be aware of the warning signs that accompany eating disorders. Troy University could get involved by sponsoring seminars that explain these warning signs and help students understand the significance of eating disorders. Through these seminars, if a student notices a peer exhibiting warning signs, they would now know the best way to offer encouragement for that individual to seek proper counseling. We could also offer a variety of group fitness options such as yoga, Pilates, Zumba, and Cross Fit. Through group fitness, students interested in losing weight and living a healthy lifestyle would be encouraged to do so in the right way while having a support group. University students could also engage the community by explaining the long-term physical and emotional effects eating disorders have by speaking to middle school and high
school students. The focus of the seminars at both the secondary school campuses and the college campus would be that the number on a scale does not measure intelligence, ambition, joy, humor, or any other inner quality. A person is worth so much more than a number on a scale. After years of suffering, I finally realized this, but the battle with my eating disorder is still occasionally fought. I have often wondered about the outcome of my eating disorder if someone had noticed the warning signs. If “Not Just a Number... Don’t Let the Scale Define You,” can help prevent one person from the years of suffering that I (and many others) have experienced, then it would be more than worth the effort to launch this program at Troy University.

Troy University SGA – Slayton Scott

Slayton Scott – Platform

My name is Slayton Scott, and if elected Troy University’s 2014 Homecoming Queen, my platform will be the Melanoma Research Foundation. This platform is one that I am very passionate about since my uncle’s recent loss of his battle with stage five melanoma cancer. In addition to this tragedy, his wife, my aunt, is now fighting this same battle. I have seen first hand the damages this fast growing cancer can cause and through my personal experience, I would love to have the opportunity to spread awareness and enlighten ways of prevention to Troy University’s students as well as the Troy community. Many people are unaware of the risks and dangers of melanoma and by simply advocating the Melanoma Research Foundation; I strongly believe that we can make the difference to provoke awareness about the unknown facts of melanoma. If elected as Homecoming Queen, I would enact a service project implementing the several causes and many ways to prevent melanoma, and raise money to further the research for the Melanoma Foundation.
My platform for the service project is National Drowning Prevention Alliance. Their mission is to prevent drowning through swim lesson programs. In doing this, they make it their primary goal to inform parents and children of the dangers drowning can lead to, how to prevent drowning, and what to do in case of emergency. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children ages 1 to 4. Therefore, the importance of education and being involved in a swim program can prevent these deaths. The National Drowning Prevention Alliance has many beliefs in the way to help people learn to swim. A few of these beliefs include safer aquatic recreation, adult supervision, CPR education, incorporate swimming safety during swim lessons, and educate in beach safety as well.
Rachal Ezell – Nominated by Panhellenic Council
Rachal Ezell – Platform

-The Miracle League Organization
Molly Bell – Nominated by The College of Republicans

Molly Bell – Platform

My name is Molly Bell. If elected to the 2014 Troy University Homecoming court the platform I would like to implement would be the “Be(YOU)tiful campaign”. The main goal of this platform would be to promote positive body image and raise awareness about eating disorders across Troy University’s campus and the Troy community. Over 30 million Americans will struggle with a clinically significant eating disorder at some point during their life. I am passionate in trying to make a difference. If chosen, I would support this campaign through a week long awareness week on the Troy University campus and with the help of SGA and the Student Counseling organization I would put out posters and raise awareness. Next, I would like to do a fundraiser throughout the week to raise money for the National Eating Disorders Awareness group (NEDA). NEDA is where people turn for hope, help and recovery. They have specific programs and support groups for those struggling with eating disorders. My next goal would be to get a speaker to come and speak about the dangers of eating disorders and about being healthy and confident in the body that God gives each person.
Elizabeth Aycox – Nominated by Sigma Chi Fraternity

Elizabeth Aycox – Platform
Elizabeth's platform is Combatting Depression and she will be working with the Counseling Center on campus. She plans to donate any scholarship she receives to the Jed Foundation.
Self-esteem and self confidence is a serious problem in many young girls life. Statistics show that more than 70% of girls avoid daily routine activities due to how they view and/or feel about themselves. Self image is an issue that can be solved with a kind smile or warm words of encouragement. The ‘More Beautiful You’ campaign is designed to give girls a self confidence boost and a mentor whom they can relate to and seek guidance through everyday obstacles. The mentors are young women throughout the community who are willing to take two or three middle school aged girls under their wing and show them the meaning of true beauty. If selected as Troy University’s homecoming queen I want to bring the ‘More Beautiful You’ campaign to our local schools and help young girls in Pike County.
Rena Amar - Nominated by Student Alumni Association

Rena Amar (Platform) - Dodge Ball for Dollars
(To benefit the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence)
Dodge Ball for Dollars is a fun and recreational way to get Troy University students involved in
the community, and additionally raise much needed funds for the Troy School District. Being an
education major and having consistently volunteered at Troy Elementary, it is clear that money is
desperately needed to facilitate projects and events for local students. This event would be
interactive and would require sign ups with a registration fee which would be the revenue
generator. The teams would compete for the winning title and the winning team would win a
grand prize. My intent would be to collect donations from local business for prizes and also
additional monetary support for this great cause. The winning team would also get to present the
event proceeds to the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence. This fun and competitive
event could change the lives of many Troy School District students. With my goal of becoming
a teacher nearing on the horizon, I believe this project would also be of immeasurable benefit to
my personal growth in my career. Education is a rewarding career of building children up to
accomplish their dreams. I feel Dodge Ball for Dollars will be an amazing step in reaching goals
for everyone involved.
Emails, text messages, social media posts, and online transactions are all simple technologies that we utilize on a daily basis. The progression of technology is exceeding expectations annually dominating almost every profession nationwide; however, only twenty-seven percent of computer science and mathematics related jobs are occupied by women, a percent that is decreasing each year. Companies across the country require IT specialists, financial analysts, software techs, and so many other professionals in STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; areas just to maintain minimum functions of the business, but the STEM fields still remain egregiously underrepresented by the female population. The gender gap in STEM threatens America's future technological dominance because the perspectives of both men and women are required for maximum efficiency and productivity. I want to focus on young students in elementary school because that is when the feeling incompetence in STEM begins for young girls; this critical time in their lives sets the standard for how STEM will be perceived for the rest of their education. Reworking the K-12 curriculum is the first step in cultivating strong female scientists and mathematicians. From a young age, girls must be groomed for STEM education in an exciting and interesting way to combat the normal feeling of inferiority. Curiosity can be wielded as a secret weapon; keep girls interested and they will yearn for more knowledge. Schools must provide opportunities for girls to participate in hands-on STEM related workshops as well as encourage girls to get involved with school science fairs, math contests, and technology fairs. One of the most effective ways to spark young girl's interest in STEM is through positive female role-models who work in STEM fields. Almost every female scientist or
mathematician credit a female mentor who influenced their love for the less-adorned fields of study because their role models were serving as a living example of women's potential in STEM. I hope to not only implement STEM fairs and contests in local Troy schools, but also to act as a positive female role model that loves the STEM fields.

Hannah Nix – Nominated by The Square Root of C Math Club
Hannah Nix – Platform

The organization that I have chosen for my platform is the Girls and Boys Club in Troy, Alabama. The mission of this organization is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. I want to focus specifically on the ROBO TECH Robotics program for ages 6 to 13. This program is an easy and fun way to explore science, technology, engineering and math. My service project would be to volunteer at the Girls and Boys Club, but specifically get involved with the ROBO TECH Robotics program. As a math major, I am very aware of the need for more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) emphasis in the young kids of America. It is my goal to inspire children to have more interests in STEM subjects.
Amber Voss – Nominated by Political Science Club

Amber Voss - Platform

When you first think of solutions to help the community in areas where citizens live below the poverty level, collecting food comes to mind. However, food is not necessarily always the solution. People forget the other necessities of life, for instance toiletries. Toiletries are essential to functioning daily. I intend on creating a way for those in need of the Troy University Family and Troy Community to be able to have access to a “Troy Toiletries Center.” Like many other organizations that help those by providing necessities, those who would like to receive toiletries must show their need. For instance, a community member would have to qualify by a system similar to SNAP.

I will specifically focus on:
1. Create a location where those who qualify can receive toiletries
2. Create or work with a system already in effect to make sure a citizen qualifies for assistance
3. Collect toiletries to stock the “Troy Toiletries Center”
4. Informing the community of the need of such a project

The title of Troy University Homecoming Queen combined with the support of Troy University and the Troy Community will allow me to create a project to help those in the Troy Community. My goal is to inform and motivate the community to help their neighbors in need.
I highly encourage the public to adopt a cat or dog instead of purchasing a pet from a breeder. By choosing adoption over buying from a breeder you can help save lives. Every year, 6 to 8 million dogs and cats end up in animal shelters, and half of them have to be euthanized because there simply aren’t enough good homes for them. I believe that every animal deserves a loving home. In addition to adopting, families can help fight the homeless animal overpopulation crisis by making sure to have their animals spayed or neutered. With the planned construction of a new Animal Shelter in Pike County, I would work with the campus and community to make this vision a reality.

As our Homecoming theme is, “Getting Back to our Roots…We are One.” I truly believe that as Trojans we are taught to respect one another, to lead by example and most of all live a fruitful and caring life. One major way to spread the Trojan message of service to others is through our furry friends. With the Pike Animal Shelter still in the process of fundraising to build their new complex on Henderson Highway, I would work with Student Groups to help fundraise for this great cause. Our People for Pets campaign would work to help make this vision a reality.

I feel that I have the potential to be the fuel that sets the fire ablaze. Who could be a better spokesperson and advocate for encouraging the communities’ awareness of the importance of dog adoption than a confident, educated, and motivated young leader on Troy University’s campus who can also relate to the target audience? A fire, once started, will inevitably die out without being fed. This issue is one of utmost importance, and should not to be considered a short-lived fad or something only to be addressed throughout the next school year. I plan to dedicate my time to work with Pike Animal Shelter in the future to continue to advocate the
importance of this issue. Animals cannot speak for themselves, so I feel as though it is my duty and responsibility to let the community know about the importance.

I plan to work with Pike Animal Shelter and help them promote the importance of finding these animals a home by hosting an animal advocacy day on campus. I hope to work with university officials and approve dogs to come on campus for a day for dog adoption. I will have spay and neuter forms available for student body as well as the community in order to promote this awareness as well. Everyone, animals and humans alike, deserve to be happy, and this is my chance to make that happen for animals across Pike County, AL.

Platform Bullets:
YEAR ROUND EFFORT.

- Fundraising Campaign for Pike Animal Shelter, A consolidated Pet Partnership in Pike County, AL.
- Planning a Dog Park Project in Janice Hawkins Part with the SGA.
- Promote a “Stress Free Exam Day” with local litters.
- Adoption and Spay/Neuter Day on the Quadrangle.
More than 122,344 people in the United States are currently on the national waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant and another name is added to the every 12 minutes. When I was eleven years old, my mom was one of those people. She was in need of a life-saving liver transplant. Luckily after much prayer, she received one before it became too late. Eighteen people die everyday from the lack of available organs and 7% of people on the waiting list die before they are able to receive a transplant.

Organ donation is a prevalent issue in our society and an issue that hits very close to home. This is why I have chosen my platform to be the American Transplant Foundation. I will be registering individuals to become an organ donor online. Becoming a donor is easy and anyone can do it regardless of race, gender, or medical history. There is also no cost for the donor or family of the donor. Becoming an organ donor is a simple, easy way to make a difference! While 90% of Americans say that they support organ donation, only 30% know the essential steps to becoming a donor.

Healthcare professionals are required to ask the potential donor’s family whether or not he/she would like to be an organ donor or have ever expressed that wish. Putting “organ donor” on a license or signing the back of a card is not enough. This is why I will also be encouraging students to take the most important step—talking with friends and family about their decision. So, in case anything happens, his/her friends and family are aware of the decision. My slogan will go along with the Foundation’s registration campaign: Donate Life.

I have contacted the American Transplant Foundation about using them as my platform
and I look forward to bringing awareness to this prevailing issue.

http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/
http://www.donatelife.net/

Zahra Qureshi – Nominated by Chi Omega Sorority

Homecoming Platform: Miracle League

“Having a difference doesn’t make a difference”

“If I were to tell you about an organized youth baseball league, you might call it ordinary. If I were to tell you the athletes are physically and mentally challenged, you might call it touching. If you were to see them play, you would call it a miracle.” This statement has touched me, as I have been volunteering with Miracle League of Dothan and Troy for the past seven years. This program has not only changed my perspective on day-to-day activities, but has sparked hope and determination that through little miracles anything is possible and dreams can come true.

Through my years as a volunteer I have learned that the passion and love for baseball reaches out to every one of the special needs children and has a positive impact on them. Watching one of the players one day brought tears to my eyes. He had trouble with his speech; therefore, he could not tell anyone how much he was enjoying the game, but the sparkle in his eyes said it all. Deep down in my heart, I felt that he was my hero as I learned from him how to love life, despite of your weaknesses.

Miracle League of Dothan holds a special place in my heart, which is why I have chosen this organization as my platform for Troy University’s Homecoming 2014. This opportunity has helped me decide my career to become a speech therapist for special needs children. I feel as if it is my mission - not just a career - to help these children reach their goals and bring out their individual potential.
My name is Claire Fisher and if I am elected homecoming queen my platform will be the Chikondi Health Foundation. The Chikondi Health Foundation is a not-for-profit organization based in the United States that was organized by people who have a love for the medical and spiritual work done at Blessings Hospital in Lumbadzi, Malawi. My goal is to raise awareness of Malawi’s healthcare problems, and raise money to help send a surgical team to Blessings Hospital that can perform advanced operations.
Brandi White – Nominated by Phi Mu Sorority

Platform – Transforming Lives through the Arts
Jenna Jayjohn – Nominated by Troy Cheerleading

Jenna Jayjohn Platform – TIARAS

Did you know?

- The average teenage girl becomes sexually active at age 14
- 64% of teen girls are sexually active before age 18
- The US leads the world in highest rate of teenage pregnancies
- 50% of teenage girls suffer from insecurity or loneliness and cut themselves
- Suicide is the third highest cause of death among teenage girls

TIARAS is a non-profit charity organization that has a mission to show teenage girls the vision of God’s love and to re-write the statistics of teen pregnancy, promiscuity, and suicide. This organization bases their message to these girls on 1st Corinthians 13, and they want to instill a newfound sense of self-respect and self-worth. It supports the belief in purity, and as a daughter of God, one should honor her body, her decisions, and her future.

The Tiaras Ball Event is a night dedicated to these girls and the Tiaras message. It is a night of not only dresses and a pink carpet, but also a night of love, laughter, and worship that will focus on enlightening girls on God’s perfect plan for their lives. They will be taught through 1st Corinthians 13 and learn how to apply this to their lives presently and in the future.

There have been Tiaras events in Miami, Pembroke Pines, Tampa, and other cities in Florida, and this past year marked the first out of state event, which was hosted in Troy, Alabama. Troy’s event had over 100 girls register and attend and over 30 college girls volunteer as leaders for the night. The response was extremely encouraging and they plan on hosting the event again this year. Because this is a non-profit charity organization, the Tiaras Ball Event is free for all those that attend. The goal of the group this year is to raise $1500 to support the number of girls going. I’ve chosen Tiaras for my platform for many reasons. I think this is an
amazing organization with a positive and educational mission that is really going to help young girls for many years to come. I love that this group has planted new roots in Troy, and I believe that this location will make a large impact on this area. I would really love the opportunity as Homecoming Queen to help make this Tiaras Ball Event even more successful. I would love to use the money for the Queen’s platform to help fund the event and fund its publicity in order to bring more girls in need of this life changing message. I would like to help with the Dress Drive that donates dresses to girls that don’t have the opportunity to purchase their own. I really believe that this platform is one that could expand and end up making a huge difference in the lives of many girls, and I would love to be just one person that could contribute to making that become a reality.
Blake Crew – Platform

My name is Blake Crew and I would like for my homecoming queen platform to be **suicide awareness/prevention**. Suicide is something that is very close to my heart, as I lost my father to this in July of 2013. This platform is not something that I take lightly, and I really think that it is important for Troy students and faculty/staff to be more aware of. With this platform I plan to inform Troy’s campus of many facts and statistics dealing with suicide and also inform the campus of ways to help those who are battling suicidal thoughts. With the recent death of Robin Williams, I feel that suicide is finally at the attention of the American population and that could be beneficial in our student population realizing that suicide is a very huge problem today and I believe that immediate attention should be brought to the problem.
Abbey Raney – Nominated by Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Platform
Her service project platform is to raise awareness and funds for The Water Project. This project helps establish clean drinking water many African villages where a clean drinking source has been unavailable in the past.