

The Redhead in the Corner by Summer Threadgill

Entering into the newly renovated Alumni Hall at Mississippi College, one might find students on first dates at Chickfila, students rushing to finish an assignment, or students playing cards. Walking downstairs is when one walks into the heart of social life at Mississippi College. Over to your right is a few concentrated students diligently pursuing their degree with a multitude of students laughing and goofing off until the wee hours of the morning. Looking to the left, you would find two study rooms.

The corner one is always occupied from the hours of seven PM to 12 AM, always by the same girl, the same redhead. This girl might just look crazy due to talking to her computer until the computer dies from a lack of battery and the charger wastes away in her dorm. Once that happens, she pulls out her phone and continues in the same way. She might look exhausted as she stays in the room until she eventually falls asleep then decides to call it a night.

This redhead in the corner is Lauren Fox. One of Swannanoa Social Tribe's Vice Presidents never enters into the room without a thought on her mind. She is one of the only Vice President's currently studying and pursuing a nursing degree while also leading a rush process for new members, all in the midst of a pandemic.

Lauren and her co-chair, Sophie Tuscant, are unique to the Mississippi College campus this year. In the midst of a pandemic, they were the first on campus organizations to plan the first ever completely online recruitment process. From Squeal Night, the night the PNM finds out their tribe, to Active Night, the night one becomes an active member, Lauren and Sophie will be there through it all- virtually of course.

Lauren and Sophie have completely revolutionized Swannanoa's process not just because it is virtual, but a new precedent is being set, one of grace and availability.

The new members described Lauren as "a dad." She appears quiet at first but is full of humor and wisdom. She speaks just when you need her to, and she extends grace to them.

"She pushes me to be positive and it's not even that she comes at me and says, 'hey you're being negative right now like let's change that' like she changes my perspective on being positive," describes Sophie.

Lauren leads the tribe well by extending grace, remaining positive, going with the flow, and simply showing up. She not only extends the Fruit of the Spirit to others, but to herself also.

When asked about the typical day in the life of a nursing school VP, Lauren simply scrunched her face.

"I have clinicals until 4 then homework for about 4 hours then run to the commons to help lead the process," said Lauren.

A leadership position isn't always sunshine and rainbows. Lauren wakes up and tells the Lord that she can't do it another day. His strength renews her, and she makes it another day. Since coronavirus, the simple things in life are no longer just there for Lauren. She now sees the enjoyment and the gift that they are.

"The process is simply strange this year. It is hard not having our traditions play out but at least I get to know and lead this group of girls," says Lauren.

Whether in the hospital, on a zoom call, or simply eating in the caf with friends, there are extra layers to Lauren Fox. Next time one might see the redhead in the corner, sit down and begin to peel back the layers in order to enjoy a greater picture of Christ himself.