Outstanding Service Award

Elizabeth Townsend

Moore Hall Nominee

2004-2005

Biting into a Snickers bar reveals many things. The one thing everyone realizes right away is that a Snickers is a composition candy bar. This means that there are multiple components to the deliciousness that is a Snickers. These components are the chocolate outer layer, the peanuts and caramel, and the nougat. Individually, these items are good, but when combined the Snickers way, result is an excellent candy bar.

In the same way, Elizabeth Townsend's involvement and activities are wonderful by themselves, but when combined, make for an excellent student dedicated to the service of others! Just as the chocolate layer covers the other ingredients, Elizabeth's non-resident hall activities round out her service activities. She's involved with Young Democrats, Queer Straight Alliance, and was a class leader for the Introduction to Leadership Concepts class. The peanuts and caramel can be considered her Housing and Dining Ambassador and NRHH involvement. Being an ambassador encompasses many things, like a bag of mixed nuts, and National Residence Hall Honorary is the sweet caramel of an honor society. The nougat is the core of the candy bar, giving it a starting point. Moore Hall involvement has been the center of Elizabeth's activities for the last four years. It has been central to what she has done for K-State.

Individually, each membership and position could have had all of Elizabeth's attention and focus. Instead, she wanted to combine many aspects of college life and be successful at them all. When all these ingredients are mixed, the result is a student with an amazing heart for service.

Just as the chocolate coating on a Snickers Bar encompasses the inner parts of the candy bar, Elizabeth's non-hall involvement rounds out her service achievements.

She is a member of the Young Democrats group on campus. The K-State Young Democrats seek to provide opportunities for students to become involved in government through voting, advocacy efforts and volunteerism.

She is also a member of the Queer Straight Alliance. This campus group's purpose is to develop and maintain a communication system and social network for queers and allies across campus. The group compiles informational and educational resources while creating a safe, welcoming environment for all K-State students.

Her involvement in the Leadership Program was superbly demonstrated when she was a class leader for the Introduction to Leadership Studies class. Even being given the responsibility of leading a Leadership small group speaks volumes of Elizabeth's commitment to excellence. The mission statement of the Leadership Program is as follows: "Developing knowledgeable, ethical, caring, inclusive leaders for a diverse world." It is this kind of selfless commitment to others that elevates Elizabeth above the rest.

The next layer down into our candy bar is the mixture of peanuts and caramel. This level consists of two different elements, salted legumes and sweet caramel, which serve to complement each other very nicely. Likewise, Elizabeth's second layer consists of two distinct commitments that harmoniously coordinate with one another: Housing and Dining Ambassadors & National Residence Hall Honorary.

As a Housing and Dining Ambassador, Elizabeth showed K-State to prospective students. She was an ambassador during her Junior year and through the first half of her Senior year. To be an ambassador, an individual must be able to communicate well with many unique types of people, sort of a mixed bag of nuts, if you will. Elizabeth has proved herself proficient in connecting to these many different types of people, as expressed by a supervisor:

> *"Elizabeth was a great help in serving prospective students and parents on behalf of Housing and Dining Services. The Housing and Dining Ambassadors is a volunteer organization which serves K-State families in a variety of ways. Elizabeth provided an enthusiasm and knowledge about the Residence Halls that was outstanding. She was always willing to help out as much as her schedule would permit. Of course, I only knew her for one semester, but I feel she did a great job in that semester. Go Elizabeth and good luck."*
> *-Randy Ware, Advisor for Housing Ambassadors*

Elizabeth proved herself very capable of leading campus tours, organizing tour teams, and presenting the best face of K-State for those she was serving with her wide knowledge concerning the University and residence hall life.

The second variety of ingredient in this layer is the sweet, sticky caramel. This is surely the sugary reward of any candy bar. Much like a layer of caramel is the sweet portion of our candy metaphor, the National Residence Hall Honorary is the sweetest portion of the residence halls. It includes only the top 1% of leaders in the residence hall system, and maintains a high level of excellence. This level of distinction is seen in Elizabeth's academics, dedication to community service, and her involvement within NRHH. She has a rare willingness to step up and take responsibility to get things done in any situation. Her peers steadfastly agree with this point:

> *"Elizabeth took no time getting involved in NRHH after her induction. She is currently the Historian of our chapter, a position in which she was elected this Spring. Elizabeth jumped in to volunteer for the position right away! Elizabeth is also active in the chapter through her attendance at meetings and events. Elizabeth always has a smile on her face and is a wonderful asset to our chapter."*
> *-Shea Olsen, LAC NRHH Vice President*

Elizabeth has shown herself to be an servant as a Housing and Dining Ambassador to incoming and prospective students, as well as her role as Historian of NRHH. She is dedicated to these organizations, and consistently involved. But wait, there's more.

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Moore Hall has served as Elizabeth's base of operations for the last 4 years. She has lived, worked, and participated in Moore every year of her enrollment at K-State. That is why Moore Hall involvement serves as the nougat of Elizabeth's life as a Snickers bar. She has been the most active in Moore and has made a great difference in this place for those who live here now, and those who are yet to arrive. She has been involved in serving the residents of the building as a Community Assistant, Associate Justice on the Judicial Board, member of the Diversity Team, Hall Governing Board, and more. Her service to the Moore Hall community is unprecedented, and is at the core of her K-State experience.

Elizabeth has been very active in Moore Hall starting in her freshman year. As a resident of the eighth floor, she was the 8A representative. At this position, she made sure her wing knew what was going on in the hall as well as attended the Hall Governing Board meetings every week to see that her wing was well represented. Floor executive meetings also required her input regarding activities on her floor. In addition to being the 8A representative, Elizabeth took action to make a difference in Moore Hall by volunteering as an

Associate Justice for the hall's judicial board. Participation here allowed her to actively make sure that Moore Hall residents were able to live in a close community setting.

Lovely ladies in the serving line at the Moore Hall Barbeque. From Left: Kelsey Zirkle, Elizabeth Townsend, and Annette Lawless

During her sophomore year, Elizabeth took on even more roles. She continued to be an Associate Justice for the judicial board. On top of that, she became a Moore Hall Community Assistant, working at the front desk in the first floor lobby. Her enthusiasm, happy spirit, and willingness to help residents made her shine in this position. Her co-workers only express admiration for her great attitude and work ethic:

> *"Elizabeth is the most positive person I've ever met. No problem is too big, and no task is too small for her tireless dedication. She's someone you can always rely on." -Christina Hansen, Moore Hall Community Assistant*

> *"Elizabeth knows this hall and this campus like the back of her hand. Not only that, but she knows the answer to just about any question a person could throw at her. I've only been here half as long as she has, but in these two years she has helped me learn more about being a leader and getting involved at K-State than I've learned in most of my classes."*
> *-Kelsey Zirkle, Moore Hall Community Assistant*

In relation this new position as a CA, Elizabeth was elected to the Executive Board as the Community Assistant Representative. Here she made sure that the CA's interests were heard during Moore Hall Executive Board meetings.

Elizabeth with fellow HGB members Annette (middle) and Lacy (right), take time to prepare themselves before a General Body meeting.

In addition to all of that, Elizabeth was part of the hall's Diversity Team. The diversity team ensured that the residents where aware of social, ethnic, physical, and personality differences present in Moore Hall. Her contributions to this team have not gone unnoticed:

> *"Elizabeth is such a great person. It's been a privilege to be around her on a regular basis in Moore. She's very outgoing and very involved. Most of my interaction with Elizabeth is through the Diversity Team. She is so compassionate regarding the welfare of others. It's people like her that make my job worthwhile and fulfilling.*
> *-Windi Singers, Moore Hall Multicultural Assistant*

Elizabeth did not slow down here! In the 2003-2004 school year, her junior year, she continued as a Community Assistant, a Diversity Team member, and as an Associate Justice. In these roles, Elizabeth had much experience and brought her wealth of knowledge to each of these to better Moore Hall. There is no doubt that her involvement was pivotal to each of these positions as a whole. Her Executive Team position changed as she took on the role of the Secretary.

Keeping minutes and making sure the whole board was kept up to date, this new leadership position was one where she excelled! Just see what fellow Exec. Team members had to say about her: *"She is really supportive of everyone's ideas on the Executive Team, and she is always willing to lend a helping hand. Even though she's involved with so much, it never feels like she is not giving her all."*

Elizabeth is always in the middle of the action, as seen in this HGB Executive Team snapshot.

-Sarah Morton, Moore Hall Vice President

"Working with Elizabeth on the Executive Team has been an honor. With her 4 years of experience, she knows how things are done. If I ever had questions or concerns, she would point me in the right direction. Her joyous attitude and involvement in Moore Hall set the tone and her good advice will be surely missed. I have not seen anyone put so much of their life in this hall. She truly has made a difference!"

-Brent Hunstad, Moore Hall Chief Justice

To finish up strong her Senior year, Elizabeth has come back to Moore Hall as a Community Assistant and Diversity Team member for the third year in a row! She also continued as the Secretary for the Executive Team for the second year . Elizabeth's mark on Moore Hall is undeniable, and her legacy is one she can most certainly be proud of. She has contributed to every part of the Moore community, and will be an asset sorely missed as she graduates.

As you can now surely see, Elizabeth Townsend has excelled in serving the many different groups she has been a part of at K-State. She has gone above and beyond anything required of her and is deserving of recognition for all she has contributed to the residence halls and the university at large. The bid you are reading would not have been presented if this were not so.

Elizabeth has served K-State with her involvement as a member of Young Democrats, the Queer Straight Alliance, and leading a small group in Leadership Studies. She has served the residence hall system as a Housing and Dining Ambassador, and as Historian of the National Residence Hall Honorary.

Above all these, she has whole-heartedly served the Moore Hall community for four years. In that time she has been an Associate Justice, Community Assistant, member of the Diversity Team, CA Representative and Secretary on the HGB Executive Team. Her dedication to these causes is what makes Elizabeth shine bright as an example of outstanding service. Her legacy is one that is envied by all those satisfied with mediocrity in their life. Elizabeth has rejected that mindset, and focused herself on excellence and commitment to outstanding service for the betterment of Kansas State University

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GRAB ELIZABETH.

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