

Now that my second year of college is coming to a close and another class of Kewpies will soon graduate I feel it is time to reflect on my status as a Kewpie alumnus and 2009 recipient of the kewpie.net scholarship. Receiving the kewpie.net scholarship and being recognized as a fervent supporter of Hickman High School still means a lot to me and the Hickman community will always hold a place in my heart. The people I encountered during my time at Hickman continue to be some of my closest friends and my experiences as a Kewpie will forever be among my fondest memories.

Currently, I am a sophomore at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri where I continue to play baseball and strive for excellence in the classroom. The teachers at Hickman most definitely shaped me into who I am today and I attribute their influence and concern for the goodwill of the world as the reason why I am studying International Relations. Oftentimes, I find myself sitting in class and *relearning* complex political science material because my classes at Hickman prepared me so well for college. The prestigious education I am receiving at William Jewell would not have been possible without the support of the Hickman Kewpie community. The kewpie.net scholarship has continued to impact my family's life and I am still committed to what I was recognized for two years ago when I received the award, which is enthusiasm for Hickman High School and spreading the Kewpie spirit.

As we approach March Madness we will begin to see many young men and women attempt to win basketball games for their respective universities. These college athletes have almost uniformly received full-ride athletic scholarships, but I want to point out that this is only a microcosm of the entire college athlete population. Many of us, whether athletes or not, go to college with the primary goal of receiving a degree and learning the necessary tools that will allow us to have prosperous lives. Some of us are fortunate enough to continue playing a sport or participating in some competitive activity at the college level, but only few students receive full scholarships. I think it is important to note that almost every student on a college campus across the nation is in need of support. I am most certainly still grateful to the people who donated to the kewpie.net scholarship and supported me as I began my college journey. The values that the William Jewell baseball program instill in my teammates and I every day, such as discipline, hard work, toughness, and leadership are parallel to the values that the Hickman community work to encourage in young people every day. While we work hard to win games, all of us know that the program prepares us for life after college and I am thankful that the kewpie.net family awarded me the scholarship and allowed me to play college baseball and pursue my college and life goals.