Chastity Duque

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Goals

Over the past few years, I have felt that I am not where I want to be at this point in my life. I set goals for myself at an early age that I wanted to achieve as I got older. Some of the goals I mastered early in my adult life. For the rest of my goals, the opportunity just passed me by. I have felt as if something is missing in my life, and it is not complete. When I have these feelings, I tend to be full of regret. I sometimes experience a feeling of emptiness and failure because I never carried out what I set forth to do.

Within the last few years, several of my friends whom I went to school with have passed away. Their causes of death were various, such as a car accident, heart attack, suicide, and cancer. Most of my friends died suddenly with no warning, while others knew the end of their days was coming and had quite some time for planning.

One friend who was very dear to my husband and me lost his battle with cancer over a year ago. He battled numerous brain tumors for many years. The tumors would shrink but always come back. For years, the tumors were slow growing with very minimal side effects. A few months before his passing, the tumors spread throughout his brain. The spread was very sudden and eventually took his life. He seemed fine one day, and the next day he was gone. He had recently married. He also had started his own trucking company, which had become successful. Seeing how quickly his life was taken really affected me. It made me take a step back and examine my own life.

I am not that old in age. Therefore, these tragic events have been a hard concept for my mind to grasp. Each incident made me realize that there is so much that I would like to do with my life. I don’t know the amount of time I have here on earth. These deaths opened my eyes to see that I want to complete things in my life that I started and to accomplish the goals I set for myself many years ago. I suddenly felt as though I was not content with the choices I have made. I decided that I don’t want to look back on my life someday and have regrets for things I could have done. I don’t want to set things aside any longer. Now is the time to move forward and chase my dreams.

I have worked at a childcare center for many years and really enjoy my job. It is a very rewarding job. I have always wanted to further my education and become a schoolteacher. I love working with children. Teaching has always been the career path that I would like to take. Over the years, I have constantly made excuses for why going back to school would be hard. I was raising a family while working a full-time job. Going to school seemed impossible. Therefore, for years I put it off and didn’t pursue my dream.

Last fall, I decided to go back to school. I was told that many colleges now offer excellent online courses. I applied at Darton State College to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education. Darton offered online classes that made it possible for me to go to school and work. I could take classes on my own time. Not long after applying, I received a letter that I was accepted. Classes were hard for me in the beginning. I had been out of school for many years and forgot a lot of things. As time has gone by, school has begun to settle down and has become a little easier. I am taking things day by day. I am determined to do my very best. Even if I don’t succeed, I will be able to say that I tried my best and I didn’t give up. If I leave this earth tomorrow, I will have at least tried to accomplish my goal of being a teacher.

What I have learned from all this is that life is short; any day could be the last. As when I was young, I should live my life to the fullest and pursue my dreams. I should not live with any regrets. Lastly, I have learned that I should not put off until tomorrow what I can do today.