Chastity Duque

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Cause and Effect

 At some point in life, we all look back and think of all the things we wish we had done. Most of us at an early age set goals for ourselves that we want to achieve as we are older. For some, these goals are mastered early in life. For the rest, the opportunity has just passed by. Days go by and we put off our dreams for many reasons. We feel as though something is missing in our lives and it is not complete. When we have these feelings, we tend to be full of regret. It is difficult to let go of our dreams and to feel content with life. I sometimes experience a feeling of void and failure because I never carried out what I set forth to do.

 I am forty years old. Within the last few years, several of my friends that I went to school with, have passed away. The cause of deaths was from various reasons, such as a car accident, heart attack, suicide and cancer. Most were very sudden deaths with no warning; while others knew the end of their days was coming and had quite some time for planning.

 A friend was very dear to my husband and me. He lost his battle with cancer over a year ago. He battled numerous brain tumors for many years. The tumors would shrink but always came 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 that had become successful. Seeing how quickly his life was taken really affected my life. It made me take a step back and examine my own life.

My generation is not that old in age. Therefore, these tragic events have been a hard thing for my mind to grasp. Each incident made me realize, that there is so much that I would like to do with my life. We never know the amount of time we 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 my goals I set for myself many years ago. 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 as to 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 which made it possible for me to go to school and work. I could take classes at my own time. Not long after applying I received a letter that I was accepted. It was hard to begin with. I had been out of school for many years and forgot a lot of things. As time has went by it 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 that life is short. We never know if today will be our last. We should live our lives to the fullest and pursue all our dreams and not live with any regrets. We should not put off until tomorrow what we can do today.