My name is Meghan Elizabeth Cappel, and I am a freshman at the University of Cincinnati in the Carl H. Lindner Honors-PLUS Program where I will be studying marketing. I currently reside in the Turner Residence Hall on campus. My parents, Tom and Janet Cappel, live on the west side of Cincinnati. I have a younger sister, Kendall, who is currently a sophomore at Seton High School. I would consider myself to be a very dedicated, service-oriented individual. I am also very humble, and I try to focus my energy and leadership skills in groups and activities with which I have great passion.

I feel very blessed to have been afforded such great educational opportunities. I attended Our Lady of Victory for grade school, and then moved on to Seton High School. Upon graduation from high school, I enrolled at the University of Cincinnati. Since I am a freshman, I am currently enrolled in Gateway to University Honors, Introduction to Psychology, Honors Finite Mathematics, and Honors English Composition. Business Pathways, Business Fast Track, and Business Etiquette are the core business classes I am currently taking. I will soon be scheduling courses for winter quarter, and at least one of those will be an honors experience course. I consider myself to be lucky to be included in a program that offers a close-knit circle of 22 friends. Being in the Honors-PLUS Program allows me to live, study, and enjoy the college experience with this very focused group of students. Whenever a homework question arises, I know I can walk down the hall to ask one of my fellow classmates. We socialize together on campus, and being a part of this program makes me feel excited about developing in the University of Cincinnati’s community and as a business professional.

Living in the Cincinnati area has been a benefit to me, and I know I will continue to thrive in the city. There is nothing better than going downtown in the winter for dinner and being bundled up in warm coats, gloves, and hats. Window shopping to prepare a Christmas wish list is something every child looks forward to, especially me. Skating on the ice rink, or riding in the horse drawn carriage are other highlights of the holidays in downtown Cincinnati. The city also brings a variety of culture to its citizens. I love going to Broadway shows at the Aronoff, eating sushi and other delicacies from the Hibachi grill, and celebrating my German heritage at Goettafest. As a business student, the city of Cincinnati is the ideal place to study and have cooperative educational experiences. Cincinnati has many Fortune 500 companies, and the job options are endless for internships and co-ops throughout my career at the University of Cincinnati. In a few months, I will have an interview for my summer internship. I am hoping to work at a marketing firm, like Nielsen, or in brand management at Proctor and Gamble.

While I have not yet travelled the world, I can say I have seen many cities in the United States. For a relaxing vacation, every year my family stays in our family home in Hilton Head, South Carolina. We read books, swim in the pool, and lounge on the beach for hours every day. My family eats at our favorite local restaurants each night. While on vacation, I order a variety of seafood as I am always sure that Hilton Head will offer something fantastic fresh from the ocean. Another must-do on Hilton Head Island is to visit The Salty Dog for dinner and head to the gift shop to buy a brightly colored t-shirts for a souvenir. For an exciting vacation, my favorite spot would be Walt Disney World in Florida. Even as a 17 year old, I had a blast riding the newer rides the park had to offer. There is nothing better than reliving great childhood memories in a place where dreams really do come true. Disney World offers this “magical” presence that can be found nowhere else. I also enjoy travelling to the West coast to see relatives in Seattle, Washington. Who knew you could find a city with a Starbucks on every corner?! I would love to eat New England clam chowder in Boston, have lobster in Maine, and spend a week in the Hamptons. I cannot wait to go on my international trip with my Honors-PLUS class in three years. I know that wherever we go, I will learn about the businesses and culture and have a great time with friends.

I will be a student at the University of Cincinnati for the next five years. Upon graduation, I hope to have job placement in one of the great corporations in the Cincinnati area. I will be very prepared to enter the business world because of the education I have received at the University of Cincinnati. I hope to go on to pursue a Master’s degree in my chosen field to advance my career and continue my passion for lifelong learning. I eagerly anticipate the Honors-PLUS international trip, and I hope to travel the world for leisure and enjoyment throughout my life. One of my goals is to visit Ireland and Germany to explore my family’s origins and learn about the cultures that had such an important impact on our lives.

In my life, my family and my health are very important. The majority of my family lives in the Cincinnati. Multi-generational celebrations keep our large family very connected. Even my relatives in Seattle and Los Angeles can keep in touch via Skype, email, and text, so distance has no impact on our close-knit relationship. My family is important because they make up my core values and ideals. They are my support system always ready to celebrate a triumph or offer encouragement after a disappointment. I am determined that, as I grow older, I will nurture these close bonds with my extended family to inspire a similar support network for future generations.

Although I am only a freshman at the University of Cincinnati, I know I will be able to accomplish exciting things during my time here. While I have no idea where this journey will take me, I can’t wait to begin the internship and co-op rotations. I am looking forward to getting very involved in a variety of clubs and activities to help me grow as a student and develop relationships that will last a lifetime. I know I need to stay true to myself, my values, and my family in order to reach my full potential. I am very excited to continue on my journey through college, making new friendships, expanding my professional network, and enjoying life on the University of Cincinnati campus. Travelling with my classmates will be an experience I will treasure for a lifetime. This is an exciting time for me with changes that come almost every day. These next five years may seem to pass in an instant, but I intend to learn as much as possible while embracing every opportunity presented to me.