

Savannah Marie Pewett
Arras Foundation, A-Team
Walden University, Graduate Student

AGE:

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WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Winter Park, Florida

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

Cumulatively about 13 years.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

I am someone that is immensely grateful to be alive. I attempt to cherish each moment that is given to me. I am finishing my dual master's in school counseling/mental health counseling. I will then complete my Ph.D. in Human Development (focusing on children and adolescents). I am a world traveler and have spent extended periods of time in three other countries for short-term work and internship placements. My life revolves around making the world a better place- personally and professionally.

DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

Out of all of the volunteering experiences that I have had in my life, I would say that the most memorable moments are those that do not even "feel" like volunteering. For example, one night I went out into Charlotte to provide dinner, blankets, and gloves to those that were currently houseless. For most of the night, this was a solo mission that aimed to do one thing: to help. I was not sporting my beauty pageant regalia, or serving for an organization, this was just from my heart. I got to talk to many people that night and hear their stories. This is by far my most memorable volunteer experience.

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.

I remember one of my favorite undergraduate professors stating "sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield." This phrase rang deep into my soul. That is why to this day I try to help those that are houseless and food-insecure. In the blink of an eye, we can all be in that position. I try to provide support to these communities by spreading awareness and providing donations. Recently, in May, I spearheaded a fundraiser and donated hundreds of non-perishable food items through my latest pageant. This helped support local food banks. Whenever volunteer opportunities arise, I do my best to partake in community engagements.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

Most of my accomplishments have been in the academic sector. Some accomplishments have included the most philanthropic award, Outstanding Student Commitment Award, and 4.0 Student. The Arras Foundation completed its summer superlatives and I received "Most like Sunshine."

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?

I have been a dancer my whole life, and I just received my twenty-year award (for dancing)! I love all types of dance, but I prefer tap, contemporary and lyrical dancing. I also love being outdoors hiking and camping.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?

This quote from Maya Angelou... "Still like dust, I'll rise." Also, "Que Sera, Sera."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?

In five years- I will have my Ph.D. completed, my supervision hours for therapy completed, and I hope to start traveling more on a full-time basis. In five years I hope to land an online professor position, so I can do what I love: academia. I hope to grow my virtual private practice by providing healing modalities (including therapy). The focus here will be on travel.

In ten years- I hope to be settled with a family that I have created. I hope that I am at a University teaching psychology, education, and maybe even criminal justice (as I have grad credits in all of these sectors). I hope to live a happy and sustainable life.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

I was supposed to spend some extended time abroad in Greece, but then COVID hit. I hope to get back over there and spend some much-needed time at the beach!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?

I used my passport last from February-May 2022. I had a graduate school residency in the Dominican Republic; I was providing therapy to adolescents. I get to go to Paris, France, and Florence, Italy at the end of September. :)

WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?

I am also a cosmetologist! When the "Hunger Games" was being filmed in Charlotte, I was a cosmetology intern- and I did hair for it!

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

I would not say that any one specific person is my "hero;" however, anyone who is able to rise above their challenges and adversities is heroic in my eyes.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

I am currently reading "Embrace Your Almost: Find Clarity and Contentment in the In-Betweens, not Quides, and Unknowns" by Jordan Lee Dooley.

WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

The last movie that I saw in the movie theater was "Where the Crawdads Sing."

WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?

It has been so long, I do not even remember!

HOW DID THE COVID PANDEMIC AFFECT YOUR PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

I believe COVID impacted many aspects of life. In my professional life, I had to learn how to adapt to virtual platforms. Providing therapeutic counseling to children and adolescents can be challenging in itself, learning how to incorporate this virtually was challenging at first. Although I do love the virtual setting, it is harder to form meaningful relationships with clients and others through the remote platform. In my personal life, I had to manage job transitions, including moving to find a position I liked. COVID era brought many transitions to the forefront of my life.

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