

# Kaylee Ann Smith

Stein Fibers, Ltd., Technical Sales, Merchandising, and Marketing Coordinator

Age: 25

## WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Greenville, North Carolina

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

I moved to Charlotte from Raleigh in 2017! (Both great cities!)

## TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

Born in eastern North Carolina, I was raised in a true southern rural town called Pinetops, NC. My parents are and have always been, my biggest supporters and best friends. I have one younger brother, Chris, and I am a dog mom to the sweetest Cockapoo, Brody!

Education and success were always important to me as a student and now as a young professional. After graduating from D.H. Conley High, I attended my dream school, the Wilson College of Textiles at NC State. In 2017, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Textile Engineering, Product Engineering. I also completed a minor in Materials Science and Engineering. Currently, I am a Technical Sales Representative for Stein Fibers, Ltd. involved in the business development of our upholstered fabrics division. I also serve as Stein Fibers' Marketing Coordinator.

I was a competitive cheerleader for 16 years, four as a Varsity Cheerleader for the Wolfpack at NC State. I'm currently the Assistant Cheerleading Coach at UNC Charlotte. As a 2 time Collegiate All-American, I believe athletes should be well-rounded and strive to include all aspects of life in the teachings of the sport. Being a part of the mental and physical growth of an athlete is something that one cannot explain and truly is the highlight of my week.

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

I have very strong memories and powerful moments with Make-A-Wish. However, my most fond memory is watching my athletes volunteer in the same realm. As an athletic program, you have many opportunities to interact with various community groups. In Fall of 2019, our program had the opportunity to interact with *Dream on 3*. *Dream on 3* is a sports nonprofit providing kids living with a disability or life-altering condition an opportunity to live out their ultimate sports dreams. Our athletes spent hours volunteering with the

children, their families, and their parents. They consistently ask how they can become more involved as this experience was the highlight of their football season.

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

Giving back is what provides me the most joy. Make-A-Wish provided me a home during the transition between graduation and the working world. I am a member of the W.I.S.H. Society, Women Inspiring Strength and Hope. Over the last two years, I have raised close to \$13,000 through social media campaigns and event partnerships. This funding allowed me to grant two wishes in the Central and Western North Carolina region. In 2018, I was a Make-A-Wish W.I.S.H. Society Honoree. Wishes not only would transform the lives of wish kids, they unite families and strengthen communities, and that truly is the transformative power of wishes. In 2019, I was so honored to receive the Make-A-Wish, Power of a Wish Award. Cheers for Wishes was created in 2019 in efforts to combine my coaching abilities with my passion for Make-A-Wish. Cheers for Wishes hosts annual cheerleading events and clinics where 100% of funds raised go directly to Make-A-Wish Central and Western North Carolina.

My late grandfather, Paul A. Smith, ended his battle with ALS in January 2014. My grandfather earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Richmond and worked as a mechanical design engineer in many different industries and countries. There are many times when I wish I could pick his brain and learn more from him! In memory of his life, I serve as a member on the ALS Walk Committee and lead my own walk team, Paul's ALStars.

I also serve as a Connections Volunteer at Forest Hill Church.

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

- Voted Stein Fibers Sales Champion – 2019
- 2018 W.I.S.H. Society Honoree
- 2019 Power of a Wish Award

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?**

If it includes a lake or an ocean, I am there! I also love to fish! I love a boat day but also enjoy sitting by the water with a good book. I love to craft. I have a soft spot for interior design and decorating for Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?**

Life itself is a privilege, but to live life to the fullest – well, that is a choice.

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

To be completely honest, this question is hard for me to comprehend. I cannot say for sure where I will be in 5 or 10 years. I thoroughly enjoy my time working in the furniture industry, and I am working towards being in a leadership position in the next 10 years. Although, I do not have a specific goal for the next 10 years, I do know that I will choose to be happy in my career and purposefully giving back to the community where I am placed. I'm look forward to enjoying life as it comes.

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

See the Northern Lights! I do not have a preference on where, but I would like to spend a few nights under the "Lights."

### **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?**

I traveled to Italy with my grandmother, Sharon Smith! We spent time in Rome, Florence, and Venice.

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

'm a 2-time Collegiate National Champion!

### **WHO IS YOUR HERO?**

My parents. They have consistently pushed me to be a better person and strive to support me in all my endeavors. By watching them, I learned that hard work and determination result in endless opportunities. My father taught me how to find creative solutions to everyday problems. My mother taught me how to logically think through a decision-making process. They are my biggest fans and I am forever grateful for their support.

### **WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?**

Own Your Everyday: Overcome the Pressure to Prove and Show up for What You Were Made to Do by Jordan Lee Dooley

### **WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?**

Movies are not my thing! Sitting still for longer than an hour is typically challenging for me.

**WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?**

Carrie Underwood in Raleigh

[LinkedIn](#)