Biol 294: Genetics Writing Assignment #1 Professor Rinehart-Kim Bridgette Buchanan

All throughout high school, there was always an unstated expectation that you should know what you were going to major in come your freshman year of college. Initially, I did not know if I would have been able to figure that out, but at the end of my freshman year in high school, I took a trip to an aquarium in Monterey Bay, California. They had an exhibit of several different types of jellyfish. This exhibit amazed me because up until that point, I had no idea there were that many different types of jellyfish. I attribute my decision of entering the marine biology field to that exact moment in time because I realized the only thing I ever wanted to devote myself to was studying marine life. As of today, I am majoring in biology with a concentration in marine biology and a minor in ocean and earth science.

When I was a senior in high school, I completed my Girl Scout Gold Award. I spent all year compiling research of our local turtles to provide to my community. Even though I spent a whole year working on this project, I found it fun and interesting. I did not feel like I spent a whole lot of time working on this project, but in reality I put over 100 hours into a small website that provided my community with a centralized location of information regarding not only our local turtles, but some endangered sea turtles and ways that anyone could help protect our environment. This project helped me finalize my decision to go towards the marine biology path because I found out it was something I was truly passionate about.

Something that sets me apart from my peers is my leadership experience. I pursued leadership experiences all throughout high school from several different clubs which helped me with my college leadership. I am currently the Vice President of Finance for Delta Zeta which allows me to further my leadership experience every day. The experience of being in an executive position has allowed me to further my professionalism, and it has pushed me out of my comfort zone. I have the confidence, respect, and professionalism to handle anything that is thrown in my direction.

I aim to eventually work at a rehabilitation center for marine life. I would like to work one on one with marine life to further my education and understanding of marine wildlife. One thing I am passionate about is sustainability, so I feel as though working at a rehabilitation center will help me gain experience and knowledge towards bettering our planet. Certain rehabilitation centers also offer a learning opportunity for the public to come in and understand the importance of helping maintain our marine environment and Earth in general. My goal is to reach as many people as I possibly can, so we as a community can work together to rebuild our environment to what it once was, even if that process is a very slow one.