

Mentor's Reflection by Mr. Bo Sims, Bailey's Brother

Four years ago, I started writing this letter to you. I was going to incorporate something from each year leading up to this exact moment; hoping that I could be your mentor. But, you know the story about my stolen laptop, so let's just pretend this letter dates back to May of 2017.

First, I want to say I am so HONORED to not only be your mentor, but to be your brother. I knew from the moment you took my homework spot at the dining room table you were going to do big things. Seeing your books sprawled out at the table a bowl of grapes next to you, and your notebooks in hand, I had a good feeling your academic future was going to be big. Let me be the first to say "I was right" because, you know...Bo Knows.

You burst through the doors of Scecina and may have lived your first year as "Bo's Sister" but I knew what was going on behind the scenes. You were achieving things I never could. You were bringing light to the shadow that I had casted over you your whole life: being so involved, taking more initiative, and earning a higher GPA your freshman year than I ever had and one-upping me by becoming Valedictorian while I claimed my spot as Salutatorian. I was so proud to see how much you had grown after your freshman year, but you didn't stop there.

Over the past few years, I have watched you blossom into the intelligent and beautiful young woman. You're are a natural leader, a problem solver, an amazing friend, and confident. Sometimes I find myself asking if I really am the older one; because more times than not, YOU inspire ME to be my best self.

I love you with every ounce of my being, and I'm so glad I got to grow up with you, learn with you, laugh with you, inspire you (and protect you when I needed to). As you take this step into the next chapter of your life, I may not always be directly by your side, but I will always have your back. Congratulations and good luck, Miss Valedictorian.

Senior's Reflection by Bailey Sims

Dear Bo,

I remember thinking when I was a freshman that if I were to receive this award my senior year, you would be my mentor. Not just because you are my brother, but because you are the hardest working person I know. You are always there to support and help me through my problems, no matter what the problem may be. Throughout the years you have helped me in more ways than one, and probably in more ways than you realize. Through your own personal and academic success, including being the Salutatorian of your class, you have inspired me to work hard at everything I do and to never give up on my goals.

There have been a number of times when I have been referred to as "Bo's little sister." I know I always act like it's the most annoying thing in the world, but honestly, I am honored to be known as your sister. You are truly amazing and have accomplished so much in your life, and still have so much more to accomplish. You never give up on your dreams, and you never give up on the people around you. You are always there to support me and encourage me through difficult times. You have always been my brother, but you have also become my best friend! I am so grateful for all of the time we get to spend together and for all of the memories we have made. Thank you so much for being the best big brother and mentor anyone could ask for. I will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done for me but know that I will never want anyone else to take your place in my life!

Love you,

Bailey. Aka "Bo's little sister"