

A speech for Alpha Omicron Pi's (Sigma Gamma Chapter) sisterhood round of recruitment- to exemplify a sisterly bond I had made with a current member, to encourage prospective members to join.

Kylie O'Connor,

What a cool name, right?

I looked it up hoping it would mean something tough so I could relate it to your personality-driven, strong willed yet agreeable and compassionate, unique, but I found out O'Connor just means descendant of Conchobhar. I'm sure they were cool though.

I remember meeting you on Bid-day and I was so excited to talk to you- you give off a very intriguing, almost mysterious aura, that and your hair was very beautiful-

but I was shy at heart, giving it everything I had to be extroverted and open myself up to this whole sorority thing.

I thought to myself- well we'll talk for today but who knows if we'll talk again, i'm not sure about sororities and i think i just heard her say she liked the gym so THAT's not gonna work out.

I don't remember how you did it- you must've casted some sort of spell on me, but we ended up at a gym. My mom's jaw almost fell off hearing I was there- but little did she know you'd be taking me boxing next. Being at the gym with Kylie these past years became my catharsis from homework and any other stress in life. It sounds simple- but I don't know what I would've done with myself without all those days where it became hard to think about anything sad when I was staring at a weight that was about to put my back out with Kylie there smirking, telling me; "nah you got it. I believe in you." And she meant it- and she always has.

Coming into college I struggled with self confidence, health, and how I looked. Now I've put myself through weightlifting class, a boxing lesson, snowboarding, sailing... What else have you done to me Kylie?

I tell that story specifically because it's an example of how my friendship with Kylie pushed me to change for the better, by becoming more confident in myself, which is all around reflective of what a sorority as a whole can do for you. It isn't specifically about *what* you may try. You don't have to let this crazy girl convince you to try surfing when you can't swim because I sure didn't, but be open to every new experience these girls will give you.

There was a time where I was tethered to my hometown, Wilmington, and I felt disconnected from everything up here in Boone because of it. I wanted to move back home.

Kylie would tell me "no, give it more time"

"Think about our sisters and how they'd miss you."

And these experiences I looked forward to having with her and with the sisters I loved were too special to me to miss out on, and here I am today. Giving a recruitment speech about you, which was another dream that kept me here. I would do anything to honor the dear friendship you've given me, and I wish I could stay up here and give more speeches about each and every one of you who have shaped me.

I'm so glad I stayed, Kylie- I'm so glad you visited me at the beach, we went to Nashville, we went to Portugal! I wish I could stay up here and recite all of our memories and laugh together but we'd be here all night because every single moment is one of my favorites. You inspire ambition in me Kylie, because of all these experiences you and AOII have given me, I want other girls to experience as well one day. You have a pure heart, an incredible mind, and a deep spirit in you- You're my best friend, and I love you Kylie.

Shout out to my public speaking professor