

## **On the Road**

*As appeared in The Mount Olive Messenger, a Goldsboro News Argus Publication.*

So I'm all set to hit the road this Sunday. I'm headed off to Virginia for my first road trip of high schools and college fairs and I feel like I am as prepared as I can be. I got my directions, GPS, hotel reservations and another set of directions in case I lose my first set.

I have to say that I'm looking forward to travelling; it is a chance to get out of the office, meet new people and share with them what Mount Olive College can offer. It is also a chance to get students excited about college and education in general. Speaking of education, how about the President's speech to students the other night?

Refraining from any comments that are too controversial, I thought the President's speech itself was pretty good. Encouraging students to stay in school and work hard for themselves and their country seems universal enough, regardless of which end of the political spectrum you stand. To me, it doesn't really matter what students aspire to be, as long as they take themselves seriously and have a sensible plan.

The speech was a little dose of inspiration for me as I hit the road soon. I hope that I can simply inspire the students that I get to talk to (wherever they decide to go to school), to take the opportunity for education seriously and enthusiastically. It's definitely an opportunity that many people in poorer countries would love to have.

Personally, I'm hoping to hit some Red Lobster Restaurants in Virginia (my girlfriend is not a fan of seafood, so this is my chance to go crazy) and punish myself with too much take-out food while sprawled on the bed in my hotel room. Doesn't that sound like fun?

Just kidding. I know that I'm going to have to remind myself to stay in shape and make sure I am eating right. I've never been to South West Virginia before, so I may try and do a little sight seeing too. Anyway, next time I write, I'll be on the road.

I'm out like Paula Abdul on American Idol.