Nikki Beckett

Professor Hueners

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Life for Brittany

Stress is something everyone experiences at some point in their life and especially when attending college. There are always exams to study for, papers to write, and many assignments to turn in, so you never truly get a break. Now, imagine having all that stress and hard work along with a baby. It definitely does not sound easy and my sister, Brittany, may tell you it’s not.

When looking into the eyes of Brittany you will see the bright-eyed senior that always greets everyone she sees with a huge smile. She has eyes as dark as chocolate that sit perfectly on her face, her hair is as red as fire and is styled in short waves that hang slightly below her chin, including a few blonde highlights. She is petite and stands only at five feet four inches tall, just short of our mother.

The second day of February 2007 will always be a day that Brittany will never forget. This is the day she realized she was pregnant. The news was as shocking as winning the lottery to everyone she told, because it was uncommon for Brittany to be irresponsible and no one had expected that this would happen to her, especially at this time. It was a shock to Brittany herself, being a sophomore in college and getting pregnant wasn’t something she prepared for, but having a baby was exciting as well. She commented, “A lot that went through my mind was ‘how did it happen?’ because we had used protection.”

When Brittany broke the news to our mother, she felt as nervous as a child on their first day of school because she thought our mom would be disappointed. Our mom, however, tried to remind Brittany of all the positive aspects that come with having a baby. Brittany significantly remembers our mom telling her, “Although, you may have not planned for this, a baby is a miracle either way.” This quote stayed with my sister throughout her entire pregnancy and she would recite it whenever she got nervous.

Brittany realized that she was really going to be a mother and had to face the upcoming challenges of finding and affording daycare, staying caught up in school, and still going to work. Brittany recalled, “After the first week, I knew that there was no choice; that this was a miracle and I had to take it as that.” Brittany thought about many things in life that way… although she’s going to be a single mother, she will always have blessings. With every passing month, Brittany’s stomach grew bigger and bigger, as if a watermelon was growing under her shirt. She continued to develop more confidence and eagerly waited for the exciting challenges coming up.

At the time Brittany was pregnant, she was working over thirty hours a week at Prostrollo’s Auto Mall and was a full-time college student. Brittany enjoyed her job and worked like a beaver, as she does with most everything in her life. She reluctantly reported to her boss that she was pregnant and would have to request some time off when she had the baby. This was a hard issue for Brittany, because she wasn’t used to doing so. Brittany had been working at Prostrollo’s for roughly two years and had worked every Saturday except for one, in which she requested off for our family vacation.

Brittany graciously received a highchair, car seat, walker, and hand-me-down clothes from a few friends at work. She was more than grateful for all the encouragement she received from everyone. At first, she was very skeptical to tell people she was pregnant because she thought they were going to treat her differently being an unmarried, twenty-year old college student. Another piece of advice my mom gave her was, “Don’t worry about what others will think of you. If they think differently they obviously weren’t very good friends to begin with.”

When Lexi Marie Schoenfelder was born, Brittany felt like a child on their birthday! Once Brittany had Lexi, she took off four weeks of work and missed only two days of school; again showing how she’s such a hard worker. Brittany stated, “I only had classes Tuesday’s and Thursday’s taking 12 credits, because I wasn’t sure whether I would have difficulties with the pregnancy.”

Lexi started walking and celebrated her first birthday this year. It was a big event with family and friends all coming to celebrate how far Brittany and Lexi have come. Brittany stated, “I will never regret having Lexi. How would I go on without Lexi in my life? I do, at moments, feel like my college experience has been taken away, but then I get to wake up to her smiling face and get to experience her moments, like when she first walked, and I would never take it back.”