

transferred from the College of the Sequoias with me. Together, we are overcoming our fears and anxieties about being here at Fresno State.

How do you feel about moving from such a small town like Orosi to a larger place like Fresno?

If you come from a small town, you are familiar with everything and everyone there. When I moved to Fresno, everything was different and new. Fresno is a large enough city to be exciting, but it's not so large that it's scary, like Los Angeles or San Francisco. Still, you don't get that personal feeling right off as you do in a small town. And Orosi really is a small town! [There's only one stop signal in the town]. In Orosi, many people know me or my family, so I feel secure and comfortable there. In Fresno, I'm just another stranger. I have to work harder to impress people to gain their trust and respect. People in a larger city like Fresno tend to be more difficult to get to know. I still like Fresno though. It just takes getting used to.

Did you have any problems adjusting to living in Fresno?

At first, I thought "Mom, I'm gonna starve! My goodness, I have to cook for myself every night." However, cooking and other living adjustments weren't a problem because my roommates helped me adjust to the new environment. They have all graduated now. They don't bother me while I am studying; in fact, they often type my papers for me. And to make my

apartment more comfortable, I brought almost everything from home, including my dresser that I've had since I was seven years old and the same bath towels that I had at home, so I am physically surrounded by my "home" up here, too.

What differences have you found between the community college you attended and CSU, Fresno?

The reputation that a community college is academically easier than the university is a myth. The teachers are about the same in their teaching methods, in grading, and in assigning homework. I had feared that the instructors would be less accessible to me here, but I had no problems meeting them. During the early weeks of my first semester here, I did have problems finding their offices. But, I kept knocking on wrong doors until I finally found or unwittingly "bumped into" my professors.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Since my elementary school days, I think I have always believed that I would enjoy teaching and that it would be something that I would be good at doing. I like talking and working with people, so someday I hope to teach in elementary school because that's where children are most influenced and need guidance. Young children are extremely impressionable. By reinforcing their positive behavior, we can help children someday become responsible adults. I think motivating children to be enthusiastic learners is important, too. If they don't learn when they are young that reading and writing can be exciting or that school is fun, then later on they probably won't enjoy learning for their own self enjoyment or cultural enrichment.

If you had your college career to do all over again, would you do it the same?

Yes, I would do it the same way. I made many friends at the College of the Sequoias. Also, it would have been unfair to ask my parents to pay a higher "tuition" during my first two years of college when they didn't need to. I might have tried to go to Fresno State immediately after high school if the cost had been the same, but I'm not sure I was mature enough to have done it then.

What advice do you have for transfer students coming here?

Don't be afraid to ask questions in order to get help on selecting courses, scheduling classes, or choosing professors. Prepare yourself by asking questions, and don't be intimidated by the size and unfamiliarity of the university environment. For instance, if you are looking for reference books in the library, you have to go in there and ask! Don't let too many extracurricular distractions interfere with your academic goals. But at the same time, what's more important, don't shut yourself off from new friendships and experiences.

What do you do for relaxation?

I like riding my bicycle and playing racquetball. I enjoy waterskiing at Kaweah and Pine Flat reservoirs and on the Kings River. On long weekends and in the summertime, I like to travel to the coast to Pismo Beach, Carmel, and Monterey. I also like to write letters to my friends in various cities.