

“I believe”

By Molly Hollihan '97

I believe true love is worth waiting for, but is hard to spot. When it arrives, it may come disguised as something you didn't think you wanted but reveals itself to be everything you ever needed.

I believe in examining your life, in planning your future, and hoping for the best. However, I know if you examine life rather than live it, you miss out on the glories around you. If you are too prescriptive in your plans, you lose opportunities. If, in your hoping, you have your eyes squinted closed, you won't see the positive possibilities even when the best doesn't happen.

I believe in gratitude. Your heart should sing “thank you” all day long.

I believe in second chances (or third or fifth or twelfth chances if needed). If you don't do as you were supposed to have done, the universe will spiral back so you can do as you should. It is easier if you take the appropriate path the first time, but mistakes will be forgiven.

I believe everything is interconnected. Our actions have a dramatic affect on those around us, even if we have never met.

I believe that grief is the most personal and most potent emotion. Although death is a powerful catalyst, grief can be caused by much more than somebody's death. It can be brought about any time what is hoped for does not fall in line with what actually happens. If we could understand how grief underscores a person's actions, we could better relate to his or her humanity and be compassionate.

I believe when you honestly ask a question, you will be presented with the answer. You have to be vigilant, and you may not like the response, but it will be the right answer.

I believe pure joy is innate. I hear my infant son giggle a deep belly laugh as he falls asleep at night. I watch his eyes light up when his big brother comes home from school. His mannerisms exemplify taking pleasure in the simple things like finally getting the ears of the stuffed bunny into his mouth. I know that our default setting as humans is supposed to be joy and it is that sad that this is marred by harsh living for so many people in the world.

I believe in the communion of saints. There are people who have gone before us (such as my beloved father) and those who live among us (such as a certain college pastor) who model how to live a godly life. They may never have set foot in a church or they may be part of an organized religion's hierarchy but regardless of their official faith status, they inspire me to further my relationship with the creator.

I believe in the Dinesen quote, “The cure for anything is salt water – sweat, tears, or the sea.” So if all else fails, combine the three and weep while you run along the ocean beach.