I can’t stop crying.

These four years have gone by way too fast. Words could never describe how quickly they go by. The sheer amount of lessons that you learn, people you meet and connect with, experiences you have, and growing that you do is unfathomable.

There would never be enough thank you’s in the world to represent how grateful I am for every person. Every memory. Every second of every day. There have been some amazing peaks, and there have been some terribly shitty lows. And I’ve loved them all the same; because they got me to where I am today.

Some of these highlights:

* I played a sport in college
* I found the people I should not surround myself with (Elvis, Miles, sometimes Margarita and Trevor)
* I dated someone, in a serious way
* I broke up with them, and broke their heart
* I dated many people
* I had hook-ups
* I had flings
* I had one night stands (Sam?)
* I broke many people’s hearts (John, Maxwell, Durst, Nick, Brandon, Roshan)
* I had passionate lovers
* I had friends with benefits
* I had a three way (Miles, Wyatt)
* I pierced my nose
* And my ear
* I got addicted to weed
* I broke the addiction
* And got addicted again
* I found out I was addicted to other things
* I found out I had an eating disorder
* I’m still recovering from it
* I gained best friends
* I travelled with them
* I lost best friends
* I lost average friends
* I pushed people away
* I let people in
* I connected deeply with strangers
* I got an STD (Los)
* I avoided pregnancy
* I chose chasing boys over friendships (Otto vs the 7 dwarfs)
* I lost friendships to those chasing boys (Claudia)
* I gave up something that I used to love (water polo)
* I found out new things that I love (yoga, rock climbing, traveling, meditation)
* I did a lot of drugs (weed, tobacco, alcohol, coke, molly, acid (lucy), shrooms, adderall)
* I hated myself
* I loved myself
* I became spiritual
* I grew more connected to the Earth and other beings than ever before
* I found what I love about myself
* And I manifested it (and am manifesting it) to become true
* I learned that I love school
* I learned that I want to continue school
* I found my passion
* I know how to achieve this passion
* I want to help others
* I stopped being afraid to be myself
* I stopped caring what others think of me
* I made lifelong friends
* I made money
* I lost money
* I got jobs, and worked a lot
* I worked my ass off in school
* I got pretty freaking smart in the end here
* I cried, many times. On the phone to my mom, to Maxwell, to Claudia, to Yeng…
* I laughed
* I found my happy places, and quiet spots to be in solitude (Terrace Hill, My rock on Pirates Cove, the pyramid area with the benches on campus)
* I reclaimed conversation, twice (no phone)
* I reclaimed conversation with the people around me
* I fought for what I love (connection, non-judgement, empathy, kindness)
* I played music
* I lead teams of people
* I researched on my own
* I impressed myself and others (even teaching research in the end)
* I experienced death (Tom, Grandpa)
* I LIVED, I LEARNED, I GREW.

The funny thing is, this list doesn’t even begin to describe or show all of the incredible, crazy, and life-altering memories I’ve had while here in college. I’ve had panic attacks in front of others and shown my vulnerability, I’ve held others when they are crying, I’ve said goodbye to more people than I can remember, I’ve met more people than I could ever forget, I’ve had the craziest, most intense four years of my life. It’s easy for me to say I’m not ready for it to end, but in a way I think that it is the right time.

All good things must come to an end, and I do say that a lot of the beauty of college lies in the impermanence. These people, these memories, this time in my life - it will always be here. It isn’t easy, but it is time to accept change in life. And as this chapter of my life comes to a close, I eagerly open a new page… as I excitedly await what is next.

As of right now, some goals for myself as I take this next step into the future:

I hope to stay true to my hopes and aspirations. I want to help others for a living. I want to do something that is important to me, to the world, and to individuals. I want to spread kindness, and give as much love as I possibly can to myself and to the world. I want the best for everyone that I possibly can get, and I want to manifest my truest dreams into reality.

I want to be, forever, unapologetically, me.

Life travels far too fast.

However,

I do my best…

To keep up with it. ;)

Until next time…

Jessie J. Smith

Age : 21

Graduating College in 4 days