

By: Rylee Davis

Bridget Valle Lee describes herself in three words: energetic, enthusiastic and hardworking...in addition to Type A.

Bridget, 19, is a first year business major at UMass. The rectangular dorm was decorated with three, self painted blue cheetah print canvases, one medium striped paint frame, a white B and a blue starry canvas.

"I'm just honestly a perfectionist, which has some positives and negatives," said Bridget. "I'm super organized but outgoing. I'm not afraid to have a personality."

Bridget's wardrobe specifically highlights her preference for bright colors. She was adorned with her favorite neon orange, Old Navy leggings, heather gray sweater, black headband and gold hoop earrings.

The spotless space reflects an organized lifestyle. The air itself smelled clean, as though Windex was recently used. "It's so simple, and I'm a very clean person. I just like everything organized," said Bridget.

While Bridget considers herself structured and Type A, she also believes in constructive positivity.

"When you have a lot of energy, you bring a lot of excitement, enthusiasm and happiness to the world," said Bridget.

Bridget is the fourth of six children. The bustle of her large, active family led to overlapping events and time management skills.

"I think kind of being in the middle and being in the midst of all the chaos caused me to be a very organized and structured person," said Bridget.

A large family has contributed to Bridget's social nature.

"I've never been alone my whole life; I've shared a room and I've been surrounded by so many people so sometimes on the weekends here, but my friends live on the other side of Southwest and I feel really lonely sometimes," said Bridget. "I get so sad because that's how I strive. I'm just a natural extrovert, so I need to be around people even if we're not talking."

The Lee family is incredibly athletic. Every one of Bridget's sisters played Field Hockey, Hockey and Lacrosse. While Bridget began to follow her family legacy, Covid offered her an opportunity to try track.

“I was kind of scared to branch out, but my whole life I’ve been one of the Lee’s,” said Bridget. “I thought it was cool I finally had something I could shine in without my siblings.”

Bridget currently is a member of the UMass Track and Field program. Her life-long athletic involvement has led to a 7th all-time performance of 19 feet 1.5 inches in long jump (all conditions).

“Even though it's just a sport, I have so much sentimental attachment to it,” said Lee. “It’s cool that I get to have good academics and athletics at UMass.”

Despite any meet day nerves, she keeps one mantra in the back of her head.

“Be in the moment. Be present,” said Lee.