

COURTNEY DEASON '93HS

I was born in Selma and raised just outside of Marion, in Sprott. I attended Southern Academy in Greensboro for K-8th grade until I could attend Marion Military Institute, which I did for high school, graduating in 1993. While at MMI, I was involved in many extracurricular activities: cheerleader, National Honor Society, Choir, Drama, softball, Spanish Club, newspaper and I graduated as a cadet 2nd lieutenant. I went to Judson on a voice scholarship where I began as a music major and then changed to business, graduating in 1997 from there with a B.S. in Business and minor in music, making me truly Marion Made. I had worked as a diamond buyer in a small, but prestigious jewelry store in Selma while completing my senior year and then worked as Clinique counter manager for a couple of years after graduation.

During the summers while I attended Judson, I worked as camp counselor for a Girl Scouts camp. I reflected on how rewarding working with children had been for me, so I moved to Tuscaloosa and enrolled in the College of Education at The University of Alabama to become a teacher. As I progressed through the curriculum, I became interested in special education. I joined the cohort and obtained my bachelor's teaching certification in Special Education –Collaborative K-12. After completing that, I took a job at McCleskey Middle School in Marietta, Georgia as a special education teacher where I became the lead special education teacher among a large faculty. I continued to teach there for 4 years, until deciding to move back home, or next-door to home. I bought and renovated my great-grandparents' house next to my parents and took a teaching job at Bibb County Junior High School where I taught special education and was the cheerleader sponsor. After 3 years there, I took a job as a special education teacher at Dallas County High School where I sponsored the dance and flag team for 4 years. I took the Praxis test to gain certification to teach high school English and was able to transfer to a position at Dallas County High. So, after 5 years as a special education teacher, I taught 10th grade English for another 5 years, during which time I completed my Masters in English Education and began work on my Ed.S. Teacher Leader advanced degree. While working on that degree, a temporary position became available to teach at MMI, and I was so eager to get to what I considered my dream job. SO, while taking a full course load, I added the additional 12 hours of upper level English courses I needed to be qualified and applied for the available temporary teaching position. I left a tenured position and took a leap of faith. I now believe that has been the best decision I have made in my career. During that year 2018-19, I completed my Ed.S. and was offered a full-time position. Coming home to teach at MMI has been my life's dream and it is just as wonderful as I had imagined it would be. Looking out across our beautiful campus and into the eyes of the cadets fills me with a sense of heritage, pride, belonging, and hope. I am so honored to be continuing my journey at Marion Military Institute and so grateful to be helping so many cadets continue their journey here and toward their future. This is a truly unique place of which I am so proud to be a part.

