Hi everyone,

I know you have not heard from me for a very long time. So I'll give you a bit of an update on my life. I am now at Saginaw Valley State University, and I love it. I did the last year exploring my creative side, learning more about myself and what I want to do "when I grow up".

When I transferred to SVSU I looked at the art program and decided to try it out. I took a 2D design class and loved it. I talked with my professor and at the end of the class and he told me I should take what I can do farther. So I took that opinion to heart and took three art classes this last semester. *(I do not suggest this for anyone)* each class is 3 hours plus all the extra time you need outside the class is well, a lot of time! I took a drawing class, B&W photography and a 3D design class.

I enjoyed all of them, but I mostly I excelled in 3D design. We learned about ways to define space using different shapes and create these sculptures. So by the end of the class we had done several assignments each very different. One of my favorite projects was when my professor assigned the project by saying "define space using line, and make sure there is variation!" That was it! We are supposed to start out by drawing out some ideas on paper. For some reason this never really worked for me, so I skipped this step and went directly to the "small model" stage. I fooled around with some wire and made something that looked like a twisted coil and added some twine to make it look as if it twirled inward. When I showed it to my professor he said "that is what I want… it's great!" He then proceeded to show the class. I was surprised, none of the other assignments had been this easy… something must be wrong… right? I got the full size put together and turned it in… when I got my grade, I originally thought it was a mistake! The mark was 200 out of 200! I went in and talked with my professor and he proceeded to tell me that there was no mistake and that the design was sound in every way. When we did the in class critique, he recommended that I enter it into the student art show at the end of the semester.

I entered the piece along with two photos I had taken. When I went to the show in May with my grandpa we found out that only half of all the pieces entered are shown. When we looked through the show… All three of my pieces were in the final show! This was a confirmation to me that I can in fact be a part of the design and art world. I love it and it still surprises me that my designs and photos were good enough to be showcased with so many other more experienced artists. While at the show I talked with some of the professors that were there. They were very happy with my pieces and asked if I would be going farther into the art program. … I said yes and that I enjoy it

even when it frustrates me. That statement brought a bit of laughter from one professor, who also said that my designs were very unique and he enjoyed them.
I have had a lot of ups and downs in the past year and a half but now I am doing extremely well. My summer is being spent with Grandpa John and working as a pool attendant at Outdoor Adventure, which is quite the experience! For now I am enjoying life and following the direction I believe God wants for me.

PICTURES OF MADISON……and her current Tanzanian adventures……

She has promised to give a full update at the "end" of her summer adventure!