

Letter to my past self

Dear Maggi,

When we came to Lá: lem te Baker in the Fall of 2007, when it first opened, we had just turned eighteen. Living there for those first two semesters of our academic journey helped to shape our career, even if we did not know it at the time. Now, seventeen years later, so many things have changed!

I now work as the UFV (University of the Fraser Valley) Alumni Engagement Coordinator, creating opportunities and experiences for graduates of UFV to be able to continue to succeed. I would have never found this path if I had not lived, worked, and played on campus.

I wish I could tell you how all those anxieties and fears you felt those first few weeks would dissipate, and that there was a new world waiting for you on campus. Being the first in our family to go to post-secondary was hard; we had to learn how to lead the way, but our impact has had major ripple effects.

Taking chances to engage, work, and play while we lived in Lá: lem te Baker was the best decision we could have made. Seeing how community programming worked was powerful and helped shape what workstudy opportunities we went after, and what contracts we applied for in the future. Those moments changed our trajectory forever.

I am still taking chances and jumping at opportunities when they come up, from professional development, to creating brand-new initiatives, or supporting community programs. Learning to step out of my comfort zone and embrace experiential learning while at Lá: lem te Baker helped us to live our best life.

Maggi, be kind to yourself. While you navigate being a young adult away from home for the first time, learning in an unfamiliar environment, and becoming financially independent there are going to be stressful moments. Do not take it out on yourself, lean into the supports and relationships you will make. There are so many people rooting for your success.

You do not know it, but we are going to follow a career that will seek to support people just like us. As our ability and knowledge continue to grow, along with our ability to find meaningful ways to support good works, I can see us becoming a stronger advocate for non-profits. One day we may even open a consultation business to help them with their public relations needs.

Take care of yourself and remember that I love you.

Maggi.