

## May 2023 Graduation Cap Contest



I hand painted this cap topper which has sentimental value to me. The chapel on the cap is Henry Pfeiffer Chapel. My work-study has been in the chapel for the past four years and through that I have watched lives transform and also celebrate those lives who have passed. The chapel is the first building I think of when I think about Pfeiffer. The quote "It's a beautiful day in the village, a beautiful day to graduate" is a nod to Mister Rodgers' Neighborhood with a Misenheimer village twist. It is also a nod to my internship at PBS Charlotte. Mister Rodgers has been a role model for me and I have grown up trying to always "be a helper" like he always said. My two majors are Religion and Practical Theology and Visual Communications, and like Rodgers, I would love to use television to inspire and encourage children.



*This cap is entitled "Pf fabulous Falcon"! It is complete with over 4,000 rhinestones & took more than 52 total combined hours to complete. I have always struggled with anxiety & OCD, but throughout my journey at Pfeiffer, studying Counseling & Human Services, as well as Psychology, I have learned that crafting helps me to relax & focus my energy into something productive. I feel this design is representative of my mental health struggle, as I have restarted this project 3 times, in an effort to strive for perfection, only to realize that perfection is truly unattainable. Even as I look at this finished product, I see areas I wish to change; however, the final product is not what is most important, but rather the completion process. In the same, my experiences at Pfeiffer amount to so much more than a diploma. As an incoming freshman, I wanted a 4.0 GPA & had strict plans to become an Occupational Therapist. Throughout my time, I found that counseling was my true passion; however, deviating from my predetermined plan was undeniably scary. But through my experiences, I found fulfillment, joy, & a passion for healing clients beyond their physical body. It was the journey that I will be taking with me, rather than the degree. And no, I do not have a 4.0 GPA, but a 3.9 is pretty close. Perfection is NOT required to create something beautiful & meaningful.*