It’s hard to believe that only two years ago, I stood staring out my Lammers Hall dorm room window after move-in, watching my parents drive away until the last glimpse of their van vanished behind the tree line. It is one of those moments that I reflect upon often when I think back to my very first memories of university life. I had an inextinguishable feeling of excitement during the summer before heading to campus, but as my parents left, I couldn’t shake a feeling of uncertainty. Where do I go from here? Little did I know that within a week, I would learn to call this new and unfamiliar place my home, that I would live in a warm and energetic hall with Honors students whom I’d quickly regard as family.

I still find it astounding that these learners, from all corners of the state and region, could come together so readily to seek out and accept anyone looking for support and friendship. Every day I am grateful for the bonds that I have forged here, the experiences to learn and to laugh, to better myself and to become a man with the knowledge, memories and unyielding support to carry him throughout his life. I regard living in the Honors Housing section of Lammers Hall as one of the greatest decisions I have made; I can’t imagine a more loving, accepting, and frankly speaking, utterly hilarious environment in which to venture through my college years. As a third-year student who has lived in Lammers since I first enrolled at WSU, I can say that it’s not the building that makes a home, but the family that dwells within it. The family I found here, brought together by the Honors Program, is one that simply cannot be matched.

The Honors section is composed of students with shared interests and objectives; it is a place where you can fearlessly be yourself and work hard to accomplish your goals. The section has been an incredible environment in which to study, with specific study rooms sanctioned for more diligent and solitary work along with places like the common room and mini-lounges where students can congregate and work while enjoying each other’s company. I have found that students living in the Honors section take their work seriously, but also enjoy having lots of fun. Often waiting in the common room ready to take my mind off class and coursework or to go on an off-campus adventure, my cohorts always have a story to tell, a joke to share, a painting to paint, or a movie to watch before venturing out for the night. In my time here, twenty Honors students from the section have donned matching shirts with words of encouragement for Boston Marathon bombing victims as they participated in a benefit run in Stanley Park, gone apple picking en masse, taken a group trip to the Big E organized by the Honors Program, or gone to take pictures with Santa at the Holyoke Mall every year, and countless outings off-campus to bowl, hike, play paintball, watch movies, and shop.

If you are reading this as a current or upcoming Honors student at Westfield State, I encourage you with every fiber of my being to apply for housing in the Honors section of Lammers Hall. Trust me when I tell you that the memories you will forge in this incredible space and the people you will meet within its halls will become some of the greatest you have ever known. With only four short years on the WSU campus, I urge you to make the most of this exhilarating time in your life by surrounding yourself in a warm environment dedicated to the advancement of your education and the founding of lifelong friends and family.

Jake is a junior History major from Gloucester, MA.

Has Jake sold you on Honors Housing? If you’d like more information contact the Honors Program.