

## You CAN come home again

By Dorian Randall



If you're a football fan, homecoming is one of the most anticipated times of the year. There's tailgating, celebrating with alumni, cheering on your favorite teams, and whooping and hollering during the halftime show. I've never been much of a football fan, but I've always loved the idea of coming together to root for something bigger. It's about being part of a "village," so to speak. It's about how those around you make you feel at home.

Living in NYC for seven years taught me many things about navigating the world.

From learning the confusing city map to knowing what subway trains routinely run late, I've seen how a big city can sometimes swallow you up. But the biggest thing the city taught me was the value of Mississippi's calmer pace and strong sense of community. I missed green grass, the chirp of cardinals in my parents' backyard, and making the twenty-minute drive to my grandmother's house. I missed old friends I haven't seen in years and driving to the reservoir to watch the geese glide along the water. I missed when a stranger waved hello and feeling the delight of a silly conversation with the cashier at the grocery store. I missed that kind of comfort. I missed home. That ultimately led me to return to Jackson earlier this year to reconnect with my loved ones and find my place in the community I knew so well.

One of the best things about coming home (outside of spending more time with my parents, of course!) has been joining New Perspectives as a Marketing Associate. As you know, they are exceptional. I've witnessed their partnership as a team but also their diligent service. Their client-first approach moves beyond dollars and cents; it encompasses a true care for those around them. Their commitment to making financial literacy more accessible has truly inspired me, not just as a team member, but also as a person. They are purposeful and some of the most welcoming people I've ever worked with.

And for me, this is what life's all about. It's about being part of a community and knowing you can always come home again.

"Life takes you to unexpected places. Love brings you home." – Melissa McClone

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