Haley Osborn has always known that she wants to be a teacher. Until recently, though, she was in a dilemma over what she wanted to teach.

“I was pushed towards mathematics when I was in high school,” Haley recalls. “When I came to UNI, I was originally a Math Education major.”

However, after taking a few courses in Math Education, she started to reconsider her plans. “I realized it wasn’t for me,” she says.

So, she started weighing her options and, courtesy of UNI, she had quite a few. “I settled for All Science Teaching as my best option,” she says.

UNI has provided Haley with “an amazing experience.” She was drawn to UNI initially because of the reputation of the College of Education. On her first visit, she found out that there was more to UNI than its academic reputation.

“I loved the sense of community that everyone on the campus shared,” she recalls.

Once the classes began, she loved UNI even more. “The professors are so willing to help in every way that they possibly can,” she says. “And I have made so many friends that will last me a lifetime.”

It’s not been all fun, though.

“The undergraduate coursework has been just that: work,” Haley says. “Most science classes are hard but, if you put in the time and effort, and get help from the professors, you will do well.”

Putting in the time has not been a problem for her in anyway. “I find science so interesting that it is easy for me to want to put in the time,” she explains.

However, her most favorite class so far, interestingly, has not been on science.

“Although ‘Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners’ with Deborah Gallagher is not a science class, it often pushed me to think outside the box and how I could do something unconventionally or differently to help students,” she says. “This thought can also be applied to many science subjects in the field and in the classroom.”

Haley plans to teach in Iowa for at least five years after she graduates from UNI. “I will then see where teaching takes me.”

At present, though, she finds very little time between her classes and studies, and the different work that she is involved in.

“I am part of the TC/TK security team, and also the property manager for my sorority, Alpha Delta Pi,” she says. “I also work part-time at Maurice’s, a women’s clothing store.”

She also volunteers at Ronald McDonald House Charities through her sorority and the STEM Ambassadors program.

Haley loves being a STEM Ambassador.

“My friend joined last year and told me about it,” she says. “I have loved every moment since I joined. I love working with kids of any age and seeing them excited about learning and getting to share my experiences as a student with others.”

So, free time is not something that comes by too often but when it does, she loves to spend it with friends and family.

Haley feels very strongly about STEM and her advice to would-be STEM majors is very simple: “Go for it.”

“Never think that you are not good enough or not smart enough for a field that you want to go into,” she says.

“School is going to be hard but if you put in the work, it is worthwhile in the end.”

Never think that you are not good enough or not smart enough for a field that you want to go into. School is going to be hard but if you put in the work, it is worthwhile in the end.

Haley Osborn

Story by Mir Ashfaquzzaman, UNI STEM Graduate Assistant, ashfaqum@uni.edu