

## **Marcie Carter**

I just want to start off by thanking my friends and mentors in the Emerging Leader Institute. I am so honored that I was chosen to be part of such an awesome class at UK. I am so sad by how fast the semester has flown by. What did I do while I was in the Emerging Leader Institute. I did a lot. Above all I made some lasting friendships. In ELI I learned how to communicate more effectively. I learned how to listen and try to understand and appreciate other people's opinions. Two activities that really stood out to me were when we played Barnga and when we worked together with the Hula Hoops. These were two different activities.

Barnga was a card game that we played in groups. Each group was given a set of directions. Certain people were told the directions and the other people were not. Then a person would supposedly win the card game and move to the next group. It was really funny because some people figured out the game and others didn't. Some people got frustrated. This game really made me evaluate myself. I usually get so frustrated. I also learned how to be patient and understanding and really care about who I am working with. When I don't catch on to something or when I am not in control of a situation I freak out. In this exercise I was not in control. I am a perfectionist to some extent and I am really trying to work on that. I have learned that I don't have to be in total control of everything. I wonder why I get so stressed out? I learned too, that instead of getting so frustrated with myself to sit back, relax and laugh a little at myself. I along with others got to caught up in figuring out the game and it was difficult for me.

The other activity that really taught me a lot was the Hula Hoop activity. As a group we had to work together to get many Hula Hoops passed around the circle, (while

holding hands) at the same time. It was a definite challenge. The whole ELI class really worked together. We were timed on how quickly we could get all the Hula Hoops around. We kept improving our time. I learned what it is like to really get close with your group and learn to work together towards a common purpose. This activity just shows that if you build the trust within a group then hopefully the project will be successful. Every single member of the group was a part of the project. Making sure everyone is involved is another important point. I have seen through different activities and along with this activity in ELI that if you get everyone involved and make everyone feel that they are part of the group, then usually every member will want to contribute to the project.

I am an officer in my sorority. I have decided that I am going to take some of these activities back to my sorority and try to bring us closer as a group. The sorority provides great opportunities to get every member involved and excited in a project. If the sorority is going to be successful in recruitment in the Fall 2001 we must learn to work together as a a group for the common goal. By doing different team building activities hopefully this will get all members to feel a part of something and want to contribute. For others who are perfectionists like myself, I will show them how I am learning to overcome that. I am definitely well equipped with a lot of new knowledge to take with me throughout college and life. If I didn't have the experiences from ELI I would still be stuck in my rut. For example, from day one ELI is arranged to get you to come out of your comfort shell. I am an outgoing person, but that was a little difficult at first. I look back and don't know why I was nervous. I can't wait to move on and really get to work on the skills I learned: communication skills, patience and the importance of working

together. As I am sad for this class to come to an end, I am excited for what the future will bring. Again, I am so thankful to have been a part of ELI. I hope others will enjoy ELI as much as I have. Bye friends, keep in touch.