**STRUGGLING ECONOMY DOESN’T DISHEARTEN, BUT TEACHES**

*By Emily Keevil*

Sophomore year put everything in perspective for senior Kendra Jordan. In high school, she was the girl with the beautiful house, car, and clothes. However, that fall semester, she discovered the devastating news that her parent’s house in Greensboro was being foreclosed upon. Jordan’s family had three months to sell everything and vacate the premises.

“To have a really blessed life and then to lose it all. That was the biggest thing I’ve ever had to deal with,” said an emotional Jordan.

The trouble at home took a toll on Jordan’s relationship with her parents. She became distant from her father, even though he was already an absent father and he “missed a lot” during her childhood. Instead of being there emotionally, he built a relationship with his children on material items. Despite the negative effects of her parent’s financial situation, the entire ordeal taught Jordan a valuable lesson and really put things in perspective for her.

“I’ve become so stingy with my money. I saved $15,000 to pay for school, my apartment, everything. It helped me be financial savvy. Money can’t buy happiness. How much I make [in the future] won’t matter. I would rather have a relationship with my kids.”

Looking at the past and how her father handled the situation brought tears to Jordan’s eyes. However, the strength in her voice reiterated the fact that she truly did become a stronger and better person through all of this turmoil.