

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography
M.I.T. Student

The fourth child in a series of eight, I grew up with constant companions and rarely had a moment alone. I always shared a room with a sister and didn't have much that I could personally call my own. By the time I reached high school, I knew I needed to get out of Arkansas, where I was born and raised, and establish something, anything that I could have all to myself. So when college application time rolled around, I didn't even apply to any schools in Arkansas. My application to MIT was completed on a whim; I hardly knew anything about the school besides its notoriety. When the acceptance letter came and my intent to matriculate was expressed to my parents, heavy disapproval looked back at me through my father's eyes. But I wasn't one to give up so easily on my dreams, so I packed my bags and headed to Boston.

I have always had a passion for science, and so when people asked me what I would major in, I almost arbitrarily chose biological engineering. It sounded interesting enough and I enjoyed biology in high school. As a current junior, I haven't looked back once since I made that decision. I love the major and love to stay involved with it. My lifestyle here at MIT really reflects my personality. I'm part of a sorority (love being part of a big family), but I extremely value my personal time to reflect and gather my thoughts. The river view in my room makes me infinitely happy, especially knowing that exploring Boston is only a short walk across the Harvard Bridge.

If I could change one thing about my time here, I would love the opportunity to dedicate more time to the liberal arts. When I was younger, my mother was convinced that I would never marry when I grew up because my nose was always stuck in a book. I haven't made a huge effort to try to keep on top of my reading list (which grows much more quickly than I can read), but maybe that will change this IAP. I would also love to learn my father's native tongue sometime. Both of my parents are Vietnamese, but my mother forgot how to speak it when she immigrated to America as a child so we only spoke English growing up. I'm only 20 years old right now, but there is so much world left for me to see and experience! My only hope is that I will be able to experience even a fraction of what the world has to offer.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

17.922 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. IAP Design Seminar
IAP 2013

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.