



I'm Wendy Zhang and I'm attending the University of Waterloo this fall to pursue a double degree in computer science and business administration. I'm graduating from Lord Byng Secondary and Byng Arts Mini School this month. I'll leave Vancouver and move to Waterloo this winter. Though I chose to go into the field of computer science in the end, my five years at Byng Arts Mini School is a very significant experience to me. Back when I was younger, my dream was to pursue a career in illustration. I have learnt so much from a secondary education with creative elements. It not only granted me valuable technical skills, but also taught me diligence. To create anything beautiful is challenging, and very often things don't turn out as desired, as with many occasions in life. Frustration is an old friend, and years of experience coached me to accept failures and gather from them determination to improve. Like judging details in oil paintings to decide how they affect the bigger picture, I learned to confront my flaws and analyze them with a critical eye. My patience gradually increased, and my faith in my eventual success was built up. These qualities not only helped me to grow as an artist, but also benefitted me in other aspects as well.

My most prideful quality is my ability to remain calm in any scenario. I'm a very practical and efficient person, therefore I rarely let feelings affect my actions and can perform well under pressure. As we grow up, we face more expectations and experience more failures. I believe a tough heart contributes substantially to good mental health and overall success in life. In addition to family responsibilities, my first responder training and experience also helped me a lot in this aspect. Being an Emergency First Responder of the Canadian Red Cross is my favourite achievement in high school.

One important thing I want to stick to in the future is to experience new things as much as I can. I want to meet many people, live in different countries and discover new interests. I grew up in three countries; I was born in China, went to elementary school in the United States, returned to China for some time and then moved to Canada. Having grown up in different environments alongside people of diverse cultures and status was tremendously rewarding to the development of my character. Undoubtedly, I have seen and interacted with more of the world than most of my peers. People are always influenced by their environment and I felt as if I was leading different lives when I was with different people in different cities. This experience not only shaped me into the open-minded individual today, but also made me passionate about living. I'm always curious about what more possibilities the future holds, therefore my dream is to continuously enrich this experience. I'm grateful to have established myself a comfort zone of leaving comfort zones, and I'm aware this is going to benefit me my entire life.