

2008/09 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Honorable Mention



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Animation
Sophomore
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As a child, I never appreciated life as much as I do now. I never knew I would become a person who loves to draw to create, and to brainstorm. I never knew that I would be the first in my family to go to college. I never knew how lucky I was. When I was about eight or nine, I remember digging through my dad's old, rusty chest in the garage, where he kept all of his papers, clothes, and accessories that he used during his Marine days. And I remember one key thing. It was a drawing that my dad drew during a night of training. He drew people around him having a good time, and he captured the moment so well. After I saw that drawing, I felt compelled to be just like him. I wanted to be able to capture the moment.

My dad stopped drawing years and years ago, but I stuck with it. I was determined to become a true artist and an art appreciator. Every day, I would practice on my own. During elementary school, I would doodle on my papers and in my notebook; I felt something inside me starting to bloom into something unique and beautiful.



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STEVIE LEWIS

Animation



He encouraged me to draw early on, not knowing it would become a hobby of mine. But I knew what my passion was, and I knew where I was headed in life. I wanted my dad to be proud of me, the artist, not the me who liked to read or play piano. I excelled throughout elementary school and junior high, graduating valedictorian of my class. But, my gut told me that my father still wanted me to be a lawyer or doctor. Even still, he continues to be my inspiration.



Once I got older, I realized how much art has taught me. It has shaped my personality and my interests, and I have become much more open-minded to many other things in life, which include politics, health and environmental issues, family, and more. My passion has been, and always will be, drawing. My dream is to become a successful female in the career of animation, a male-dominated field. In college I study rigorously, spending almost every moment with my nose in a sketchbook.



I always think about the future. Knowing that I will be working in the animation industry in less than three years inspires me to work hard and improve constantly. But the future isn't just about me. When I was a child, I loved watching Saturday morning cartoons and animated Disney movies. I began to collect all the Disney children's books and VHS tapes. Now I volunteer as much as possible because I love interacting with children and enlightening them about the arts. When I volunteered at an arts and crafts booth during World AIDS Day at my college, I was able to work with young children. It was incredibly inspiring; their developing minds are an abundance of creativity. I want to give back to my community by helping children learn more about art, which will eventually teach them principles of diversity, creativity, study skills, and change. It is essential that our generation constantly alerts younger ones about our changing society. Learning is the only thing that will bring our worlds and our cultures forward. If I do become an animator, I hope I can inspire children to follow their dreams, because that is the most important aspect of life.

