

Funny enough, I don't really think of how I ended up here anymore. I've only been here for two weeks and it seems fairly...normal—normal enough for me to stop thinking about who I used to be.

I never really thought I'd end up at UW. If you asked me six months ago what college I saw myself at UW wouldn't have broken the top five on my list of nine colleges. And the Honors program? My advisor told me I might as well apply, so I did.

Hearing back from the schools I applied too took me on a roller coaster of emotions that pulled me to elation, down to despair, and back up again to hope. It was difficult, after trying to appeal those colleges that waitlisted me with all that I had, to hear that they still didn't see me as one of the students in their Class of 2020. But now that I think about the desperation I felt at being rejected and waitlisted by college after college, it seems trivial, insignificant, and a lot of energy wasted.

The reason that I can now dismiss one of the most emotionally traumatic experiences being that I am happy here. I don't have to lie to myself, but I can truly say that I'm in the right place. I always took the UW for granted; it being the state school that was closest to me. As it became apparent that it would be my primary option for secondary education, I started to take a closer look at UW and what it could offer me (it was always daunting simply looking at how large the school was).

I started to see that the enormity of the student population and the school itself, which I originally viewed as something unappealing, offered numerous and incredible opportunities beyond my wildest Island dreams.

Now that I can see what UW and Honors can offer me, I'm incredibly overwhelmed. Applying to college I didn't know what I wanted to major in, and I still don't. Seeing all the amazing options each more appealing than the next is pretty amazing, and I'm waiting for that right one to pop out at me. If I was forced to choose a major right now, I would tell you Sustainable Energy and Resources, which I would promptly need to go talk to advisors to go figure out how to get there.

I guess the biggest thing that I want to accomplish and take away from my time at UW is an answer to the question: "What can I do to save the world?" Now, "save the world" is a very, very broad term, but I think that if I can figure out my niche and start working and solving the real-world problems that best fit my training, I'll be fulfilling my duty as a human being. Why I say sustainable energy is because I believe that climate change and our need to fuel our ever increasing human race are directly bound to each other, and if not addressed will be the end to us all. So I guess if I leave UW with the preparation and knowledge to begin combatting any one of the world's paramount issues my time here will be a success.

What next though? Who knows. Maybe I'll intern at the Seattle Foundation, work in a Lab, play in the MLS, travel the world and meet many wonderful people, or start a family. In any of these outcomes I promise I will do my best to consciously solve problems—smaller ones, larger ones, really any that I can. One of my life goals, I wouldn't call it being famous, is to have people recognize what I am doing for the world, and take it upon themselves to do even better than me—that's how we all can save the world.