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Class of 2022 Computer Engineering



Traveling to Senegal during my second year was the highlight of the year. I engaged and interacted with people who I never thought I would meet in my life. I rubbed shoulders with the giants in Africa and beyond. I took part in the State of Education Conference in Dakar, Senegal. It was an incredible experience full of learning and engaging with both students and amazing people with Africa at heart. I met students from universities in Senegal and those from Nigeria and Niger, who are great leaders in the making, telling the story of how Africa can solve her problems. The best part about the conference was the student summit breakout rooms, where we deliberated on Africa's problems and devised ways to solve these problems even in our capacity as young people. I understood how important it was to Africa for the youth to develop solutions that solve Africa's problems, how necessary it is for Africa to impact its own change, and how much responsibility rests on our shoulders as young people to transform Africa into what we envision it to be. Learning about leadership and how it synthesizes into our values, rights, ethics, and societies is one other thing that changed the way I see myself as a person and as a leader. I have been able to see beyond the thin line that exists between these character traits and also bring them together. I have learned how to be both ethical and effective as a leader through the Ashesi Leadership Seminar series. It is courses like this through which I, being an engineering student, can stop thinking about numbers and start thinking about ways to contribute to humanity in this unique way as a leader. Through these seminar series, I have gained many leadership skills and understanding, which I am hoping to put into practice soon.

During my second year, my favorite course was Data Structures and Algorithms, mainly because it helped me realize that I am interested in computer science far more than I was in engineering. With that interest, I applied for the Google Africa Developers' Scholarship Program to dive deeper into computer science over the summer since I could not find an internship. I was amazed at how much I was able to learn over a short time. Since the GADS program was online, I was able to teach myself to be organized and be responsible for my own growth and skill development. I had to learn how to be disciplined enough to know when to play and when to work, which translated to my studies at Ashesi since my first semester of third year also came online. Remote learning was something I had never thought I would be able to pull through when it first happened in my second semester due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, even with the setback of having to learn from home and go the extra mile to learn further and understand, through it all I was always able to remind myself where I wanted to get to, whom I aspired to be in life and that gave me the strength to soldier on. I did not want to let myself down. Online learning is difficult and I knew I had to re-strategize almost weekly to come out victorious and that is what I did. I was always reflecting on how I can make the experience better and worthwhile and one thing that worked miraculously was keeping a journal in which I kept on encouraging myself to continue working and pressing on even beyond the challenges.

For now, my career goals are a bit more defined than they were when I was in my first year. I want to venture into software engineering because it is a field of interest that I discovered on my own, and whenever I sit behind my computer programming, I lose track of time doing what I love the most. Also, even as much as I want to become an amazing software engineer, I have initiated a plan to launch My Vision Initiative, an organization that I founded to empower teenage girls to reduce teenage pregnancy in Zimbabwe. Overall, coming back home and studying online has been more of an eye-opening experience than a daunting one. I have discovered myself more and better developed myself as a person and as a leader of an organization. Thank you to the donors who made this scholarship possible; I would not have found out this much about myself if I had not been able to get out there and discover what the world has to offer due to the scholarship.