

Helix Summer Science Institute
Posted May 29, 2015

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I'm not really sure why I like science.

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I...

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I think it has something to do with the fact that while I really do like the arts,

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science is much more concrete; and while there are still tons of questions we haven't answered,

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it's something I can definitely understand if someone explains it to me.

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Yes, we have discovered many things, but there are still many more things to discover.

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Knowing that, it's somewhat of a mystery to me.

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I think it started when I was really little and when I would, like, go in my backyard

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and find bugs and caterpillars and stuff, and spend all day playing with them,

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and then it just kept growing.

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I just like understanding how we as humans work. Like,

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I want to kind of be a part of the effort to learn more about ourselves.

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For me, I'm not really sure what I want to go into yet.

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But I chose to do this program so I could get, you know, a taste to see what it would be like

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and I really think what it's done is it's given me a good idea of, you know,

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what it would be like and it's really actually motivated me into maybe going into the sciences because

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I... I used to think it would be exciting but maybe at the same time be very boring

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and this has just proved to me that the sciences can be really fun

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I think it's opened me up, personally, to the research field of science, which I had

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never really considered before.

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I always thought about taking a career that was, like, at the front lines, like a doctor

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or a medic or something.

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Initially I thought it was going to be really, really intense, but the first couple days

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was more getting to know the techniques and equipment in the lab.

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Overall, I think it was manageable while also being challenging.

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The environment, it was a really interactive one, and you really felt like you could involve

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yourself in everything.

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It wasn't just theoretical, it was very hands on.

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I expected it to be simply classroom learning, like lectures all day, and when I got here

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it was also actual lab work.

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It still managed to be fun, like a summer camp would be

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Here at helix, I was expecting more of a classroom setting.

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I wasn't really expecting to make any friends, but, um... it just came along.

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It's very intimate because there are small groups, so it's very easy to get to know everyone.

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You know, you're constantly around them, and you work well in, um,

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you work well in teams together because you're constantly having to work with them.

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Not only did I, like, see other professors and students,

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but I also made friends with people in my class, who,

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who not only were interested in what I was interested in,

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like the course that I'm in now,

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but they also had their own fields of interest, and so they were able to teach me about what they knew.

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The helix experience has definitely motivated me to continue exploring science.

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In one word...

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I would say it's intriguing, because it's very different to what I expected

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and actually pleasantly surprised me.

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I learned a lot in the space of only four days.

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Refreshing, because one of the main things that my teacher was trying to, like,

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impart to us was that everything in science is not...like the boundaries are really thin.

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You have to challenge everything with a critical mind.

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I would pick... eye-opening.

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That's my word. [laughs]