

As time goes by, I continually learn more about my family's history. I have attempted to put the small pieces of the puzzle together, but the stories about my grandparents swimming across the Mekong River in order to escape communism is only a small part of the conversation. Thankfully, a local church sponsored my grandparents to immigrate from Vientiane, Laos to Rittman, Ohio granting the refugees a new life to live. It is humbling to hear that the Sisouphanh family is celebrating their 40th anniversary in the United States this year. Through many obstacles, my family managed to buy less than an acre of land that cost around \$12,000 at the time. And at this time my grandfather was only making \$3.75 per hour. This small home of theirs carries numerous memories from four generations. But the thing is, I always wondered how different the house would be laid out if it were built for my family today. How would the architect manage to fit a family of ten into a 1,150 square foot home? How well would our growing family fit in this small home if we moved the walls, windows, and doors to create a new space? Would the space encourage more interaction? Or would it create privacy? How efficient would our everyday routines be with an appropriate and functional space? Growing up in a single family home with increasing numbers certainly influenced me to be spatially aware. Rightfully so, architecture has always been at the back of my mind. I spent time searching for who I wanted to be in this world and somehow my mind always traced back to the idea of innovating and designing. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to receive a higher education, something that my aunts and uncles did not have access to. I am proud to say that I am a first generation college student striving to be the first architect in my family. My grandparents and their motivation to overcome adversity are a huge reason why I continue to strive. This strong quality lies in our DNA.

My eagerness to learn combined with my diligence and excitement to lead aligns with Northeastern University's Master of Architecture program. When beginning my undergraduate studies, I was enrolled at Kent State University. My declared major was architectural studies with concentrations in entrepreneurship and urban design. Throughout this time, my paradigm shifted as I gained a new lens into the field of architecture and design. A year and a half later, I made the difficult decision to transfer to Ashland University while continuing only in entrepreneurship with the addition of business management. Immersing myself in this field allowed me to understand how self-motivation, versatility, and confidence of an entrepreneur plays into everyday life. An entrepreneur is strong minded, innovative, and original, which are some characteristics that are not taught in academia. And an entrepreneur always finds a way to become someone in this world. That is why the field of architecture has circled back to my attention - the connection between innovation and design became apparent to me. I am eager to become someone who designs and creates spaces to help individuals become inspired. My educational background has made it clear that I would like to pursue architecture because it will allow me to use my unique skills for innovation along with the curiosity I hold for design to create experiences and solutions for everyone. The opportunity to further my knowledge at Northeastern University would fulfill my future goals.

I aspire to become an expert in the realm of architecture and I believe that Northeastern University has parallel goals and intentions. With the impressive faculty provided at Northeastern, I am motivated to expand my knowledge and skill set. With the skill set that I have created and the experiences I have encountered, I firmly believe that I have all of the qualities to be successful. Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by those who have faced adversity, rejection, and change. I have seen what it takes to overcome obstacles and I know that I am ready to take on all challenges that this program may bring. With that being said, my past experiences have shaped my life goal of holding a license in architecture and I envision myself in Boston continually reaching for my goals as this city has key resources to achieve it.