

## **Monica Crespo, Class of '09**

Thinking about the future is as exciting an adventure as writing a story. I can, as the author of a novel, write whatever ending I desire and make the path for getting there as interesting as I want. I might not be able to tell what will happen around me, but I can say what I plan to do.

Although most kids think they have the whole novel already figured out, as they grow older and wiser, they realize that far from having a complete piece written, they only had a few scribbled papers. If you had asked me ten years ago I probably had a “very clear” idea of how things would be in the future. What I didn’t realize was that in order to make a decision, you need to know the choices. My ignorance and lack of information was the reason I thought I was so sure of how things would turn out.

As the years passed, I got involved in various activities in school and started discovering where my passion laid. In my attempt to try out different things, I ended up participating in Oratory, Science Fair, Math Competitions, and community service, between other activities. High school was a great time for me to explore everything that interested me. I definitely took advantage of all the opportunities I could find and explored the possibilities. One of the most enriching experiences was the MITE<sup>2</sup>S summer program. I spent an entire summer at MIT, where I took Calculus, Chemistry, Physics and Humanities classes. Those six and a half weeks helped me see that going away for college was a possibility.

All these great experiences I had during High School led me to college. I am now a freshman at MIT, a place that offers me a great variety of fields to choose from, giving me the option of finding my passion and following it. As part of my Freshman experience, I took the seminar Career Options in Biomedical Research, where I had the chance of meeting with professionals in the biomedical field and listening to their current research experience, as well as hearing about the academic journey that lead them there. Today, after finishing my first semester in college, I don’t have an answer to all the interrogatives that come up regarding my future. I don’t know exactly which career path I’m going to follow and whether or not biological engineering is the major I will choose, but I have very useful information will help me when the time comes. I have also learned that having some goals is not a binding contract one makes with oneself, but rather a map or idea of what seems right at some moment in time. Goals are not meant to limit us; instead, they are the inspiration and guidance that we need in order to achieve.

I know that many things might change as years pass, but my values and biggest aspirations will not experience significant variations. My focus, determination, and perseverance will continue being key in my life, and will help me acquire the skills necessary to face the circumstances each day brings. As for now, I’m taking each day at time, writing each page without trying to skip a chapter. This will be an interesting journey!