

PART ONE

Leaving my family and starting my own journey at college has definitely been a monumental moment in my life. Coming to university during a global pandemic has made my life personally and academically challenging. I have no in-person classes, so every quiz, assignment and exam is done electronically. Starting my first year of secondary education all through my laptop with no face to face interaction with my classmates and instructors has definitely been difficult for me. With no scheduled classes, I have to be responsible for all of my school work. Thus, forcing me to become ten times more organized and punctual than I had been anticipating. The self isolation has been tough, not getting to see as many people as I normally would. The habit of putting on a face mask everytime I leave my dorm has been embedded in my brain. Some positives of online learning is I can complete all of my school work on my own time. With no scheduled meetings I have the freedom to work wherever and whenever is most convenient for me. I am able to pick up any shift from work with no school interference. I am able to wake up whenever and work out whenever. I also have the freedom to go home whenever I want and visit my family. All the while social distancing and mask wearing, of course. With the vaccine out, I am excited to see what the future holds and hopefully get some in person classes soon!

PART TWO

My mother is an ancestor I am choosing to write about. My mom is a very caring, loving and kind person and I am very close to her. A defining moment in my mom's life was when she transferred from her local community college to Stepehn F. Austin. My mom had dreamed of going to a four year university to get a degree in education since she was little. Growing up, her family did not have a lot of money, so she was very unsure of her future. She worked copious amounts of hours babysitting trying to save up enough money not only for school, but for spending money so she could go out with her friends. She had to make many sacrifices, choosing work over her friends or family. She worked so hard throughout highschool, but she knew she had not saved up enough money to go straight into a four year university. She attended community college for her first two years of secondary education, all the while working a full time job. When she had saved up enough, she transferred. When she got to Stephen F. Austin she knew that all of her hard work had paid off. Through Stephen F. Austin my mom made lifelong friends and connections to help her carry out her dream of becoming a teacher. My mom went on to teach first grade for about five years until she had me. My mom now works as a substitute teacher, getting to choose her work days and have a flexible schedule. My mom's hard work and dedication to her education inspires me everyday.

