

I believe that I am the builder of a new future. I want to major in Development Studies so I can later apply my knowledge of developing societies and their dynamics to real circumstances. I believe that education starts in the classroom, but it is the student's responsibility to use this knowledge to improve the world. Specifically, I would like to improve women's rights in developing countries. During Spring 2008, I produced and directed the play "Vagina Monologues" for Women's History Month at San Diego Mesa College. What began as a novel interest in feminist politics and issues soon evolved into a determination to improve the rights of women everywhere. The play drew in over \$1,500 in three showings, and the money was donated to the Center for Community Solutions, a health/crisis center for homeless and abused women. I connected deeply to this project because it used performance, satire, and prose to communicate a fundamental message: women are unique, ambitious, resilient, and innovative. This is when I knew that each woman has a right to feel passionate about something in her life; and yet, this basic privilege is denied of so many. Women in developing countries are abused, neglected, and dying prematurely by the inadequacies of the state. Most developing countries have a low Human Development Index due to the lack of education provided for women and girls; this is one of the leading causes of underdevelopment in the world. I feel strongly about women's rights because I myself intend to pioneer an ambitious path through life. I am the first of my family to go to college. I have not only paid for college myself, but I have worked two jobs or more, in addition to extracurricular activities, every semester. Each leadership role I have fulfilled – Senator for the Associated Student Government, Captain of the Cross Country Team, Treasurer of the Honors Club, and Team Leader for Volunteer San Diego – have all taught me that I have the integrity, commitment, and strong work ethic to really obtain the goals that I want. Pursuing Development Studies at University of California, Berkeley, will equip me for my future goals: I want to obtain a Master's in Journalism or Law; I want to become a published and influential writer; and I would like to inspire other women to live and pursue their

dreams. The world that we create is only as good as the example that we set through our own lives –
this is a tenet that I live by.