

Catherine Huang – CHS ‘11

Catherine Huang has a bright future ahead of her. This Canton High School graduate of 2011 has accomplished much more than the average 22 year old. While attending Canton High School, Catherine made a point to try out many of the activities that P-CEP has to offer. She participated in swimming, tennis, gymnastics, National Honor Society, and culinary arts. Catherine said that one stand out thing about the Park is that her teachers loved to teach. They were excited about the material they were passing onto the students, which made their classes effective. Some of Catherine’s favorite teachers are Ms. Ludema, AP Calculus BC, Mr. Blakeslee, English, and Mr. Thomas, Interpersonal Communications.

The sheer size of the Park prepared Catherine to attend the University of Michigan. She says walking from school to school and being exposed to such a diversity of students made the transition from high school to college very smooth. While at U of M, Catherine was not afraid to change her major. She began in the School of Engineering, but she decided it was not for her. She then moved to the Ross School of Business, but that also was not the field of study she enjoyed. Finally she ended up in PPE, which is Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

It did not take long for Catherine to begin making an impact on U of M’s campus. She participated in the entrepreneurship club, MPowered, where she held a leadership position. MPowered is well known on campus for the big events that it holds. The world’s largest business pitching competition, 1,000 Pitches, and the world’s largest Hack-a-thon are two of these events. While in a leadership position for MPowered, Catherine played an integral role in making these two events happen.

Catherine’s experiences with MPowered helped her to obtain three great internships. She worked at True Ventures, Flint Mobile startup, and most recently at Google X in California. She worked on top-secret projects at Google X that she was not allowed to tell us about. Additionally, Catherine was chosen as a student speaker at the U of M commencement ceremony. One of the main topics she focused on in her speech was advising the graduates to not forget about the passion that they had as students.

Catherine will soon embark on an eight month travelling fellowship. As one of four chosen Bonderman Fellows, Catherine will receive \$20,000 to travel solo to at least 6 countries in two regions of the world. She will be going to Turkey, Poland, Myanmar, and as

many Asian countries as she can get to in the eight month period. She will be doing data visualization and videographing projects while traveling the world. Catherine is not sure where life will take her after this fellowship. She has a strong interest in international policy, humanitarian work, and technology. She is hoping that her travels will help her determine what she wants to do for the rest of her life.