As a child I was raised by a single mom and it was exceptionally difficult for both me and my mom. My father died of a heart attack when my mom is still pregnant and this event struck her hard because not only does the responsibility of supporting the family fell upon her but she is also unemployed. That was an exceptionally difficult time and we’re blessed to be surrounded by wonderful friends and family that had helped us through it. However, I also grew up pretty lonely because I don’t have any brothers and sisters and my mom had to work long hours to support the family. Fortunately, I think I turned out alright after all, without major issues because I understand that I have to be strong not only for myself but also for my mom because I just can’t bear putting her through something like that again.

 As a first generation college student stepping foot into college, I am not only motivated by personal goals and aspirations but to also fulfill my mother’s hopes for me. She is vicariously living through me in the hope that my accomplishment will compensate for all the opportunities she had lost. In addition to that, my background as a Malaysian immigrant can further diversify the campus as I am fluent in English, Malay, Spanish Hakka, Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese.

 Ever since a child I’ve always felt like my life is lacking something and that something has to be done to fill it. I began to slowly fill the gap after I joined the Global Studies and World Languages Academy at Tallwood High School. This decision not only benefited me academically but it also made me realize that good things in life come from hard work and taking initiative. With that lesson learned I finally broke comfort zone and took part in numerous leadership positions such as Secretary General or president of the William and Mary Model United Nation club and Vice President for Asian Culture Society.

 Although there are thousands of excellent applicants applying for SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry College, I believe I am the best candidate based on my determination, passion and interest. Since freshmen year to the end of my senior year, I’ve been taking 8 classes which shows my determination and my background as a first generation college student will further motivate me to perform better over others in college. In addition to that, I am also multi lingual as I am fluent in English, Mandarin, Hakka and Cantonese Chinese which can further diversify the college campus.

This part is like an idea…

After my acceptance into the Global Studies and World Languages Academy I became more proactive and started to get involved in numerous volunteer services such as feeding the homeless, prom for the disabled, First Landing state park and etc. However, one of the most memorable of them all was probably my experience in First Landing State park because as I was given the opportunity to not only give back to the community but gain a significant amount of knowledge and have fun at the same time. My experience at First Landing state park further strengthens my passion and love for nature and I instantaneously know that I want to pursue a career in the environmental field.

As a child, I have to admit that I’m pretty spoiled but that was only because my mom had to work long hours to support me as my father died of a heart attack when my mom is pregnant. As a hard working single mom she’s sort of living vicariously through. This has motivated to work hard and strive for a better future in hopes I can succeed in life and meet her expectations.