

# EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE 2002 STUDENT PROFILE

## *Lili Shek*

Age: 20  
Junior, Princeton University  
Major: Ecology and  
Evolutionary Biology  
Graduate of The Pingry School,  
Martinsville.  
Resides in Union and Princeton



I came here from China with my mother and father when I was five. We were pretty much a working class family. I didn't know any English, and after preschool the teacher said I should get left back the next year.

To know that I'm not accumulating loans in college is a tremendous weight off my shoulders.

So my mom bought me all these English books and made me read them over the summer, and by the time I got to kindergarten I was reading at a second grade level.

I got a full scholarship to the Pingry School. I was on a swim team that held all their major meets at Princeton's pool, but I'd never actually been to the campus. It wasn't until three weeks before the application deadline that my mom said, "We only live an hour away.

Why don't you check it out?" I just fell in love with the school.

My mom is a medical records technician, and right now she cannot afford to pay a cent for my education. My father died when I was 13. When we got the financial aid letter telling me about my TAG grant and Princeton's grants, my mom was so happy. I want to be a pediatric surgeon, and I'm thinking of pursuing a Ph.D. in evolutionary biology as well, so to know that I'm not accumulating loans in college is a tremendous weight off my shoulders.

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