Some individuals have a clear vision for themselves early on in life. However, it may take other individuals years to create a vision for themselves. Christina knew early on that she wanted to be a teacher, and has taken strides to obtain that goal. As a Human Development Major, Education minor with a concentration in Sociology, Christina aims to change children’s lives through science. Christina is an engaged member of the Indian International Student Union and often spends time practicing for their various performances. In addition, she works at the Newman House, a Catholic church on campus. Christina is also a mentor for Student Support Services (SSS), which is especially rewarding for her. Everyone’s journey through college and life is different, as they come to college with multiple perspectives, life experiences and motivations. Often, this means that each person has to overcome various internal and external struggles along their journey. Christina was able to overcome her personal struggles while at Binghamton University through the support of her friends, family and SSS staff.

At the age of twelve, Christina’s father passed away. Adjusting to life without her father was extremely difficult for her, and her family. The pain of losing her father never ceased, and was amplified when she entered college. Homesickness is something that many students experience when moving away from home for the first time. In addition to being homesick, Christina was often reminded of the memories she would not be able to share with her father. Often, seeing friends with their families made her reflect upon this, draining her mentally and emotionally. This also made her realize how difficult it was growing up in a single parent household.

What helped Christina overcome that difficult time was accepting her own situation for what it was. Due to this, Christina became more motivated and began to take advantage of her college experience in order to make her mother proud. In addition, SSS allowed Christina to form a base of support on campus where she was able to connect with staff. Whenever Christina felt overwhelmed, she would vent her feelings to SSS staff and friends. Through talking to friends, family and SSS staff, Christina was able to process her thoughts and emotions about the passing of her father.

Christina plans on attending graduate school to obtain a degree in Education, specifically Childhood Education. Currently, as the Lesson Coordinator for BU Science, Christina creates lessons plans for members to teach to elementary school children. Christina is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi Leadership Society, Phi Eta Sigma and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. Last summer Christina had the privilege to study abroad in the Peru Service Learning trip, which was a rewarding experience. Lastly, Christina enjoys photography, and has a Facebook profile to display the work she has been hired for.

Please congratulate Christina for being selected as our third Student Spotlight award. Congratulations Christina!