



I have known Master Gordon for over half of my life and she has had a lasting positive impact on me. I started Tae Kwon Do with her at 8 years old, influenced by my brother who started a year before me. I learned self defense, made lifelong friends, and learned social skills. Whether donating old uniforms and sparring gear or getting ice for a bruised friend, I was able to reinforce positive social skills and identify and correct negative ones. My mother enrolled me in martial arts with Master Gordon for the physical training but also because Master Gordon focused on enforcing positive values. Honesty, discipline, tenacity, resilience, confidence, courage are all qualities that I have improved upon throughout my time with Master Gordon. She also informed me of the Gates Millennium Scholarship program and wrote me a letter of recommendation. Along with Master Gordon's recommendation, and my high school engineering teacher and sponsor, I was accepted to the scholarship program and I am now MIT's campus based leader, acting as the voice of my peers to the program's upper administration. It is my hope that Master Gordon will have the freedom to have an even wider scope to make a positive impact on the Raleigh/Durham community and I look forward to being able to come back to practice with my fellow students and friends that I have come to know under her program.

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