***Describe an aspect of your identity and how this has shaped your life experiences or impacted your daily interactions with others? (200-250 words)***

The kebaya—a piece of long-sleeved lace tunic—is worn as a symbol of beauty and empowerment in the fundamental practices of the Javanese culture. A woman dressed in such attire is pictured in the massive painting which hangs on the plain walls of my living room. As such I understood, as a young naïve girl, that we were alike in our roots.

Nevertheless, my mother soon revealed *her* story, with no mention of a culture I was accustomed to. While the Javanese in me had not left, I gained two names since then: Malay and Acehnese. The three ethnicities began forming my unique identity: an Indonesian.

It was a similar duality which followed me throughout the course of my life. Upon discovering my passion in biology and chemistry, I had guided my path to pursue pharmacy. Meanwhile, I dealt with the assumption that it meant sacrificing my long-time ambition of following in my father’s footsteps to become an entrepreneur.

At UNC however, I am given the opportunity to simultaneously thrive in both pursuits: with a chemistry major (biochemistry track) and an entrepreneurship minor. As I navigate from “Macromolecular Structure and Metabolism” to “Constructing Your Own Venture”, I could gain necessary preparation prior to establishing and managing a pharmaceutical company. As do my ethnic background, my interests deserve sufficient recognition and exploration, despite clear distinctions between one another.