

# MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

## Introduction

Life is a fascinating journey filled with twists, turns, and unexpected moments. As I look back on my own path, I am reminded of the diverse experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today. This autobiography is more than just a recounting of events; it's a reflection of resilience in the face of adversity, a testament to the strength that emerges from overcoming life's greatest challenges.

My Name is Lydia Lemarimbe and I was born in the small town of Longewan, in Samburu County, Kenya. Longewan is a vibrant and diverse community, nestled amidst the rolling hills and vast savannas that characterize the Samburu landscape. From a young age, I was captivated by the rich cultural traditions of my people, the Samburu, and the way they lived in harmony with the land.

Samburu County, where Longewan is located, is a region known for its stunning natural beauty and resilient pastoralist communities. The Samburu people are renowned for their intricate beadwork, vibrant traditional dress, and deep reverence for their cattle, which are central to their way of life. Growing up in this

environment instilled in me a profound appreciation for my cultural heritage and a deep connection to the land.

My parents, Baraka Salelo and Francis Loishorua, have had a profound influence on the person I am today. They have not only imparted valuable life lessons, but have also been unwavering sources of support and inspiration throughout my journey.

My mother, Baraka, is a formidable businesswoman who owns a small shop in the local market. From a young age, I would accompany her to the bustling marketplace, observing her interactions with customers and learning the intricacies of running a successful enterprise. She taught me the importance of hard work, financial independence, and providing excellent customer service - lessons that have shaped my own aspirations and entrepreneurial mindset.

My father, Francis, is a Reverend and farmer who also runs a small enterprise. He is a deeply spiritual man who placed a strong emphasis on faith, morality, and service to the community. From him, I learned the importance of hard work, integrity, and giving back. He would take me out to the family farm on weekends, where I would help with the planting, harvesting, and tending of the crops. It was

during these times that he would share stories and impart valuable life lessons. He encouraged me to pursue my dreams, but always reminded me to keep my feet firmly grounded in my values and faith.

I am the third child out of eight siblings - three brothers and four sisters. My brothers' names are Lawi, Yusuf, and Dylan, while my sisters are Esteri, Emily, Abigael, and Chloe. Growing up, my siblings were not just family members, but my closest friends. We would spend hours playing together, sharing our dreams and fears, and supporting one another through both the joyous and challenging times.

As the middle child in such a large family, I developed a unique perspective on life. I learned the art of compromise, how to mediate between differing opinions, and the importance of maintaining harmony within the household. Our home was a bustling hub of activity, filled with laughter, playful banter, and the occasional sibling squabble. But through it all, we remained fiercely loyal to one another, creating an unbreakable bond that continues to this day.

My sisters, in particular, hold a special place in my heart. We would often stay up late into the night, huddled together on the porch or in our shared bedroom,

pouring our hearts out to one another. They were my confidants, my champions, and my source of unwavering support. Whether it was celebrating a triumph or comforting each other during a setback, we were there for one another every step of the way.

Our strong familial ties extended beyond our immediate household as well. We were deeply connected to our extended family, including our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. During holidays and special occasions, our home would be filled with the lively chatter, delicious aromas, and joyful energy of our large, close-knit clan. These gatherings were a cherished part of my upbringing, instilling in me a deep appreciation for the importance of family and community.

Looking back, I realize that my siblings and extended family have been the bedrock upon which I have built my life. Their love, guidance, and support have been instrumental in shaping the person I am today. Even as we have grown older and taken on our own unique paths, the bond we share remains unbreakable, a constant source of strength and inspiration.

My primary school experience was a mix of joy and academic excellence. I attended Suguta Primary School for the first three years, immersing myself in the vibrant school community and thriving in the supportive learning environment. The teachers at Suguta Primary were truly dedicated, not only imparting knowledge but also nurturing our creativity and critical thinking skills.

However, after three years, my parents made the decision to transfer me to a neighboring private school, Consolota Primary, for a year. This transition was a significant challenge, as I had to adapt to a new setting and a more rigorous curriculum. But with my natural curiosity and determination, I rose to the occasion, excelling academically and making new friends.

I later returned to Suguta Primary, where I completed my primary education and sat for the KCPE exams in grade 8. The months leading up to the exams were filled with long hours of studying, but also moments of laughter and camaraderie with my classmates. We would quiz each other, share study tips, and encourage one another to do our best.

When the results were finally announced, I was overjoyed to have scored an impressive 352 marks. This achievement was a testament to the hard work and dedication I had poured into my studies, but also to the support and guidance of my teachers, parents, and peers. The recognition and praise I received fueled my passion for learning and my desire to continue achieving excellence.

Throughout my time at Suguta Primary, I made countless friends and was awarded numerous accolades for my academic performance. I particularly excelled in subjects like mathematics, science, and English, often finding myself at the top of the class. These accomplishments not only boosted my confidence, but also reinforced my belief in the power of education to transform lives.

The primary school years laid a strong foundation for my academic journey, instilling in me a love of learning and a drive to continuously expand my knowledge and skills. The experiences I had, both in the classroom and on the playground, have remained with me, shaping my character and serving as a source of inspiration as I navigate the next chapter of my life.

After completing primary school, I was overjoyed to receive a sponsored scholarship to attend Kisima Mixed Secondary School. This opportunity not only allowed me to continue my education without placing a financial burden on my family, but it also opened up a world of new experiences and opportunities.

The moment I received the news of the scholarship, I was filled with a mix of excitement and gratitude. I knew that this chance would pave the way for a brighter future, not just for myself, but for my entire family. Education had always been a top priority in our household, and this scholarship was a testament to the sacrifices my parents had made to ensure that their children had access to quality learning.

Upon arriving at Kisima Mixed Secondary, I was immediately struck by the diversity of the student body. Students hailed from various backgrounds, cultures, and socioeconomic statuses, and this exposure to different perspectives and experiences proved to be invaluable. It was in this vibrant and inclusive environment that I truly blossomed, both academically and personally.

At Kisima, I had the opportunity to explore a wide range of extracurricular activities, from board games and chess to Scrabble competitions. These pursuits not only honed my critical thinking and strategic skills, but also allowed me to forge lasting friendships with my classmates. The camaraderie and support I found within these communities was truly heartwarming, and I relished the chance to work collaboratively towards shared goals.

My sponsor, Valentine Franchi, played a pivotal role during this transformative time in my life. Beyond providing the financial support that made my education at Kisima possible, she also became a mentor and confidante. Through our regular correspondence, I shared the details of my family, my culture, and my academic journey, and she, in turn, offered encouragement, advice, and a listening ear whenever I needed it.

The Kisima experience not only expanded my academic horizons but also deepened my understanding of the world beyond my immediate community. It was during this time that I began to truly appreciate the power of education to open doors and create opportunities for personal and professional growth. This realization fueled my passion for learning and solidified my determination to make the most of the incredible gift that had been bestowed upon me.

It was during my time at Kisima that my passion for technology started to blossom. In form 3, I participated in the school's science congress, where I had the chance to delve into the field of computer science. This experience ignited a spark within me, and I became determined to pursue a degree in this dynamic and ever-evolving field.

Prior to the science congress, I had only a cursory understanding of computer science, but as I immersed myself in the project, I was captivated by the endless



possibilities it offered. I was fascinated by the way technology could be harnessed to solve complex problems, streamline processes, and enhance the human experience. The hands-on nature of the project, where I had the opportunity to build and program a prototype, further piqued my curiosity and solidified my growing interest in the field.

During the congress, I had the chance to present my work to a panel of esteemed judges and my fellow students. The experience of sharing my project, fielding questions, and engaging in thoughtful discussions ignited a newfound confidence within me. I realized that I not only possessed the technical skills required to excel in computer science, but also the ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with others – skills that would prove invaluable in the years to come.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback I received from the judges and my peers further fueled my passion for technology. I was particularly inspired by the way my project had the potential to make a tangible impact on people's lives, whether it was through streamlining a process or enhancing user experience. This realization solidified my desire to pursue a career in this field, where I could combine my analytical mind, creative problem-solving abilities, and genuine desire to make a difference.

As I delved deeper into the world of computer science, I began to appreciate the incredible pace of innovation and the seemingly limitless potential of technology. I marveled at the way new breakthroughs were constantly shifting the landscape, and I knew that pursuing a degree in this field would provide me with the knowledge and skills to stay at the forefront of these exciting developments.

The science congress experience at Kisima proved to be a pivotal moment in my life, igniting a passion that would ultimately shape the trajectory of my academic and professional journey. It was a testament to the power of education to inspire and empower young minds, and I was grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it.

After completing primary school, I was awarded a sponsored scholarship to attend Kisima Mixed Secondary School. I was elated at the opportunity, as it meant I could continue my education without placing a financial burden on my family. The news of the scholarship was a testament to my hard work and academic excellence, and it filled me with immense gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose.

At Kisima, I was immediately struck by the diversity of the student body. Hailing from various parts of the country, my classmates brought with them a rich tapestry of cultures, perspectives, and experiences. This exposure to new and vibrant ways

of life was truly eye-opening, and it challenged me to broaden my own horizons and embrace the beauty of our differences.

Eager to make the most of this opportunity, I dove headfirst into the vibrant extracurricular life at Kisima. I explored new interests and hobbies, such as board games, chess, and Scrabble, finding joy and camaraderie in these shared pursuits. The collaborative nature of these activities allowed me to forge lasting friendships with my peers, as we worked together towards common goals and celebrated each other's successes.

Beyond the classroom, I even had the chance to participate in various competitions, where I could showcase my skills and talents. These experiences were not only thrilling, but they also instilled in me a deeper sense of confidence and self-belief. The act of competing against talented students from across the country pushed me to refine my abilities and think more strategically, traits that would serve me well in the years to come.

Throughout my time at Kisima, I was constantly in awe of the wealth of opportunities that had been made available to me. The campus was a hub of intellectual stimulation, where I could engage in thought-provoking discussions, attend enriching workshops, and learn from brilliant educators. This environment

nurtured my curiosity and fueled my desire to explore the world beyond the confines of my own community.

As I look back on my Kisima experience, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride. The scholarship that had been entrusted to me was not just a means to an end, but a transformative gift that opened doors to endless possibilities. It was here that I truly blossomed, both academically and personally, laying the groundwork for the next chapter of my life.

The campus experience at Dedan Kimathi University was truly transformative, as I immersed myself in the vibrant tech community. From the moment I stepped onto the campus, I was struck by the palpable energy and enthusiasm that permeated the air. The hallways buzzed with the chatter of students engaged in lively discussions, the hum of computer labs abuzz with creativity, and the camaraderie of like-minded individuals united by their passion for innovation.

Eager to fully immerse myself in this stimulating environment, I wasted no time in joining the Google Developers Club and the Microsoft Ambassadors program.

These communities provided me with a platform to collaborate with fellow tech enthusiasts, attend thought-provoking workshops, and participate in exciting

hackathons. The opportunity to work alongside individuals who shared my thirst for knowledge and desire to push the boundaries of technology was truly inspiring. Through these organizations, I was exposed to the latest advancements in the field, exploring cutting-edge topics such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cloud computing. The hands-on nature of the workshops and hackathons allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge in practical settings, honing my problem-solving skills and cultivating a deeper understanding of the real-world applications of computer science.

Beyond the academic realm, these extracurricular activities also provided me with invaluable networking opportunities. I had the chance to connect with industry leaders, renowned professors, and pioneering entrepreneurs, who generously shared their insights and expertise. These interactions not only broadened my perspective but also opened up new avenues for personal and professional growth.

As I dove deeper into the vibrant tech ecosystem at Dedan Kimathi, I found myself constantly inspired and challenged. The campus environment fostered a culture of innovation and collaboration, where students were encouraged to think critically, take calculated risks, and pursue their passions without fear of failure. This ethos resonated profoundly with me, and it fueled my determination to make the most of

this transformative experience. As I progressed through my studies at Dedan Kimathi University, I became increasingly fascinated by the intersection of technology and human behavior. The ability of technology to enhance and empower the human experience captivated me, and I found myself drawn to exploring the ways in which digital solutions could positively impact people's lives.

In my final year, I decided to take on the challenge of creating a facial makeup recommendation system based on skin tone analysis as my final year project. This ambitious undertaking allowed me to combine my love for technology with my deep interest in the science of beauty and self-expression.

Through extensive research and experimentation, I developed a sophisticated algorithm that could analyze a user's facial features and skin tone, and then provide personalized recommendations for makeup products and application techniques. I was driven by the desire to create a tool that could help individuals feel more confident and empowered in their appearance, breaking down the barriers of one-size-fits-all beauty standards.

The process of designing and implementing this project was both exhilarating and demanding. I immersed myself in the latest advancements in computer vision, machine learning, and user experience design, constantly pushing the boundaries

of what was possible. Along the way, I collaborated with experts in the fields of cosmetology and dermatology, drawing upon their expertise to refine and enhance my system.

The feedback I received from users who tested my facial makeup recommendation system was truly gratifying. Many expressed their appreciation for the way the tool helped them discover makeup products that complemented their unique features, allowing them to feel more comfortable and beautiful in their own skin. This positive response reinforced my belief in the power of technology to empower and uplift individuals, and it fueled my determination to continue exploring this dynamic intersection.

Through this final year project, I not only showcased my technical prowess, but also demonstrated my ability to think critically, creatively, and empathetically. The experience of bringing this concept to life allowed me to hone my problem-solving skills, strengthen my communication abilities, and develop a deeper understanding of the importance of user-centered design.

As I look back on this pivotal moment in my academic journey, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. The facial makeup recommendation system not only served as the culmination of my studies, but also as a testament to my

passion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to using technology to make a positive impact on people's lives.

Now, as I prepare to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and excitement for the future.

The journey that has led me to this momentous milestone has been marked by both triumphs and challenges, but through it all, I have remained steadfast in my determination to succeed.

The past four years at Dedan Kimathi University have been a whirlwind of academic rigor, personal growth, and profound self-discovery. There have been times when the workload felt overwhelming, the concepts elusive, and the path forward unclear. But it is during these moments of adversity that I have drawn upon the unwavering support and guidance of my family, mentors, and peers.

My parents, Baraka and Francis, have been a constant source of encouragement and strength, reminding me of the values they instilled in me from a young age – the importance of hard work, resilience, and staying true to my principles. Their unwavering belief in my abilities has been a profound source of motivation, pushing me to push past my own self-doubts and reach for the stars.

Beyond my family, I have also been fortunate to have the support of incredible mentors and role models throughout my academic journey. From my dedicated



professors at Dedan Kimathi, who have challenged me to think critically and innovate boldly, to the inspiring leaders within the tech community I have had the privilege of engaging with, these individuals have played a pivotal role in shaping my vision and honing my skills.

Through their mentorship and the vibrant, collaborative environment fostered at the university, I have grown not only as a computer scientist, but also as a well-rounded individual. I have learned to navigate complex challenges, work effectively in diverse teams, and communicate my ideas with clarity and confidence. These invaluable lessons have not only prepared me for the professional world, but have also instilled in me a deep sense of purpose and a genuine desire to make a positive impact.

As I now stand on the precipice of this new chapter, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement. The obstacles I have overcome, the knowledge I have acquired, and the relationships I have forged have all contributed to the person I have become – a resilient, innovative, and socially conscious computer scientist, ready to take on the world.

With my degree in hand, I am eager to embark on the next phase of my journey, where I can put my skills and passions to work, solving real-world problems and

empowering others through the transformative power of technology. The future may hold challenges, but I am confident that with the unwavering support of my loved ones and the grit I have cultivated, I will continue to grow, adapt, and make a meaningful difference in the world.

As I look ahead, I am eager to put my skills and knowledge to use, to continue learning and growing, and to make a positive impact in the world. My experiences have taught me the value of hard work, resilience, and the importance of staying true to one's values. I am confident that with these qualities, I can forge a successful and fulfilling career, while also giving back to my community and inspiring others to chase their dreams.

The journey that has led me to this point has been a testament to the power of perseverance and the transformative nature of education. From my humble

beginnings in Longewan, to the academic achievements that have opened doors to incredible opportunities, I have learned that with dedication and a steadfast commitment to one's goals, anything is possible.

As I step out into the world, armed with my computer science degree, I am acutely aware of the responsibility that comes with wielding such valuable knowledge and skills. Technology has the power to revolutionize the way we live, work, and interact with one another, and I am determined to harness this potential in service of the greater good.

Whether it is through developing innovative solutions to societal challenges, championing diversity and inclusivity in the tech industry, or mentoring the next generation of computer scientists, I am committed to using my expertise to make a tangible difference. By giving back to my community and inspiring others to pursue their passions, I hope to pay forward the immeasurable support and guidance that has propelled me to this point in my journey.

Moreover, I am eager to continue expanding my own horizons, to remain a lifelong learner, and to stay at the forefront of the ever-evolving landscape of technology. The field of computer science is one of constant change and breakthrough, and I am excited to be a part of this dynamic ecosystem, contributing my unique

perspective and collaborating with like-minded individuals to push the boundaries of what is possible.

As I embark on this next chapter, I am filled with a deep sense of purpose and a profound belief in the transformative power of technology. With my unwavering determination, my steadfast values, and my unwavering commitment to making a positive impact, I am confident that I can forge a career that is not only successful, but also truly meaningful and fulfilling.