



SUMMER CAMP AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



In July 2019, I attended a two-week international summer camp at Harvard University in Boston. Participants came from all around the world, and on the very first day, we were assigned to groups based on the tables we sat at — meaning none of us could choose our teammates. Eventually, the camp was divided into five groups, each tasked with the same challenge: to build a robot that could follow a tape-marked track, grab a marshmallow, and place it into a cup using sensors and other technologies.

I was randomly chosen as the leader of my group since none of us knew each other yet. I took the role seriously and worked to make sure everyone contributed and felt included. Over the course of the two weeks, my team and I successfully built a functional robot that met all the requirements of the challenge.

When the competition day arrived, everything went smoothly until the very last task. Due to a small miscalculation, our robot dropped the marshmallow just under a centimeter away from the cup, landing it on the floor. That minor mistake cost us the championship, and we finished in second place.

Despite the result, it was a rich and rewarding experience that helped me strengthen my leadership and communication skills, as well as my ability to adapt under pressure. To my surprise and honor, I was recognized during the award ceremony and received the Best Group Leader award.