

## Balancing Success in All Areas



“I realized I wanted to serve those who serve,” stated Laura Lu ’10. A recent graduate of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, Laura is headed to medical school at Stanford University—with a scholarship from the United States Navy Medical Corps—to make that dream a reality.

Laura was first inspired to serve through a volunteer opportunity at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that she heard about from Bullis friends and alumnae. Starting her sophomore year at Bullis, she began weekly volunteer work tending to wounded soldiers at the Mologne House, Walter Reed’s outpatient hotel. Her self-described “penchant for medicine,” coupled with the passion and emotion she felt for the soldiers she met through volunteer work, informed Laura’s choice of studies at MIT. This discovery meant she could blend her love of medicine and scientific research with her desire to serve in the military.

Laura was able to hit the ground running at MIT in large part due to her tenacious work ethic, but also due to the academic rigor offered through Bullis’ curriculum. “Bullis provided me with a truly great educational foundation that readied me for MIT,” says Laura. She credits in particular the “phenomenal teaching

techniques” of BC Calculus teacher Matt Zimmer and the advanced content of Emily Bones’ AP Chemistry class—one of Laura’s favorites—for providing that preparation.

As an undergraduate student, Laura joined the fight against cancer as a researcher at the School’s prestigious Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, studying, among other things, MALAT1, a noncoding RNA that is misregulated in metastatic lung cancer. She also helped launch the MIT chapter of an investment education club, Smart Woman Securities, led as the Commander of the Naval ROTC at MIT, Harvard, and Tufts, played on MIT’s lacrosse team, and joined a sorority, all while managing a full course load. During her summers, Laura returned to Walter Reed as a research assistant on various studies at the forefront of medicine and technology, including the use of prosthetics for amputees.

Laura insists that her life is about balance—a skill she developed at Bullis. From 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade, Laura had an abbreviated schedule, attending classes from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., to allow for her competitive gymnastics training. Bullis’ support and willing accommodation of Laura’s pursuits were not lost on her, and in fact further motivated Laura to excel academically: she was named Outstanding Scholar for her graduating class. “With each stage of my life, I have realized the strong Bullis presence that has pushed me to be

better. I think that the flexibility to cater to students who do unconventional things is a great asset of the Bullis community,” admits Laura.

As she conquers the next stage of life, Laura knows she is following her dream. “Once you find something that doesn’t feel like work, you know it’s right.”



At top, Laura Lu’s 2010 yearbook photo. Above right, Lu commissioned as an Ensign (O-1) in the United States Navy’s Medical Corps. Bottom, Lu participated in Naval ROTC summer training, during which she flew a plane, dove in a nuclear submarine, and engaged in field training with U.S. Marines.