*Emily Finley*  
*University Honors Program  
Mock Self-Designed Experience Proposal  
Graphic Communication Design  
6/26/16*

**CHINESE ADOPTION   
PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY**

**THEMATIC AREAS:** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CREATIVITY, LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH  
**START:** JULY 8TH   
**FINISH:** AUGUST 5TH ISH

ABSTRACT

For my Self-Designed Experience I’d like to capture the effects of International Adoption from China through photography. I’ll be using my Nikon D2300, photographing how my subject’s have adjusted to life in the United States. Since International Adoption around the 1980’s was primarily due to China’s only child policy, most adopted children are female. Families did not abandon their sons because they could inherit land and keep the family name alive. Although I’ve researched this topic previously, I’d like to gather more knowledge on the ancestry and culture of China versus the United States. In the States, if someone finds a baby abandoned, it makes the highlight in the national news. But in China around 15 years ago, abandoning perfectly healthy babies was considered common, and somewhat encouraged.

I will compile the photos of my subjects into a creatively bound booklet, highlighting aspects of Chinese culture by incorporating traditional textures, motifs, and colors. This experience is not only meaningful to me, but it is meaningful to the subjects, their family, and those close to them. I have decided to use myself as a subject too, showcasing my drive and reasoning for creating this project. I aim to help those adopted gain insight on the positive aspects of adoption. It’s hard to adjust growing up in a non-biological family in a country that is not your home country, but I’d like to reveal how incredible and generous humanity can be. I find it amazing how strong individuals can be, navigating life despite setbacks and trauma.

TIMELINE (ROUGH)

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| JUNE 26 | PRELIMINARY RESEARCH AND SKETCHES, REACH OUT AND COLLABORATE WITH POTENTIAL SUBJECTS (FINISHED) | JULY 10 | PHOTOGRAPH 4TH SUBJECT LIANNA MCDONALD (PRETTY COOL SHE’S A MAJORETTE FOR MIAMI UNIV.) IN OXFORD, OHIO | JULY 25 | PLUG PHOTOS INTO LAYOUT IN INDESIGN |
| JUNE 29 | REVEAL CONCEPT TO EXPERIENCE ADVISOR (PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSOR) AND ASK SUBJECTS TO START BRAINSTORMING THEIR PASSIONS | JULY 13 | CHECK UP WITH PHOTOGRAPHY PROFESSOR/EXPERIENCE ADVISOR AND COLLECT GRAPHIC DESIGN COMPETITIONS TO ENTER BOOK INTO | JULY 28 | PHOTO RETOUCH’S AND PRINT AND BIND MOCK BOOKLET |
| JULY 1 | PHOTGRAPH 1ST SUBJECT LILY MANIS IN AKRON, OHIO | JULY 14 | REFINEMENTS TO LAYOUT AND SUPPLIES FOR BINDING, REACH OUT TO ADOPTION AGENCY TO GET NOVEL FEATURED | JULY 30 | FEEDBACK FROM EXPERIENCE ADVISOR, FINAL REFINEMENTS |
| JULY 3 | LILY PHOTOGRAPHS 2ND SUBJECT, ME! | JULY 15 | PHOTOGRAPH 5TH SUBJECT CHLOE HEMMINGWAY IN CINCINNATI, OHIO | AUGUST 1 | PRINT AND CREATE 6 COPIES OF BOOKLET, MAIL TO SUBJECTS |
| JULY 8 | FINALIZE LAYOUTS AND PHOTOGRAPH 3RD SUBJECT MEREDITH EICENLAUB IN COLUMBUS, OHIO | JULY 22 | PHOTOGRAPH 6TH AND FINAL SUBJECT, MADDIE BERRY, IN NORTH CANTON, OHIO | AUGUST 2 | MAIL BOOK TO GRAPHIC DESIGN COMPETITION AND ADOPTION AGENCIES, PLACE ON PROFESSIONAL AND HONORS PORTFOLIO |

EXPERIENCE ADVISOR

I would like my experience advisor to by my Photography Professor, Maureen France. I choose Maureen because she has extensive experience in the field of photography. Also, with the freedom of her class and expertise feedback on my work, I have grown as a designer and as a photographer. Going from an amateur photographer to someone who is starting to fall in love with my Nikon is awesome! And it is thanks to DAAP’s course and Prof. Maureen for enabling that to happen!   
  
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THEMATIC AREAS LEARNING OUTCOMES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Engage community of adopted girls from China through personal contact, discussion forums, and national and local adoption groups. This will be ongoing throughout the experience.

(Half the Sky organization is incredible, they have helped out the orphanage I am from so much by renovating and training staff. A viable resource!)  
<http://www.halfthesky.org/?gclid=CjwKEAjwtLO7BRDax4-I4_6G71USJAA6FjN12vE2yuCVTiW1ySTahbKYNwgXfKqAftsyUNgMvA4UkxoCkF_w_wcB>

CREATIVITY: Push my creativity limits by finding outlets to showcase traditional Chinese Culture through the photography, binding of the book, and descriptions. I’d also like to add subtle designs underneath the photos to add depth and dynamic. Again, this will be ongoing since photography itself is a creative field.

(My biggest Graphic Design site inspirations!)

<http://www.thedieline.com/>

<http://behance.com>

LEADERSHIP: Address my leadership skills by reaching out and collaborating with girls adopted from China, encouraging them to be proud of their heritage and the progress we have made since being adopted! I’d also like to, I didn’t mention this before, but volunteer for national/local adoption groups. Since I’ll be reaching out to organizations, I’m going to look for speaking opportunities to express my experience of being a female adopted from China.

(I’d love to contact them about their events and see if I can engage in a leadership position or speaking engagement!)  
<http://www.centralohiofcc.org/>

ONGOING REFLECTION

IDEAS   
-journal

-video diary

-illustration journey

-sketch diary

-interviews! (that would be different and interactive, I could interview each subject after their photo-shoot and get their feedback, this would also prompt them to do some self reflection)  
  
BUDGET

I’m not quiet sure how budgets work yet, I will continue reading on the site. But here are proposed lists of items I could use.

-new Nikon camera lens to enhance professionalism of photography ($100+)  
-book binding materials ($40)

-prints ($50)