CAREERS

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IN THE FUTURE?

IMPACT LABS NIGERIA

The Life of…Joy!

☺

JOY EKUTA

MIT '13

Background

- March 4, 1991 *Abuja, Nigeria*

- 2nd born

- Parents and Siblings

- Moved to US in 1992

- Residencies:
    - Mississippi: 4 years
    - Tennessee: 4 years
    - Ohio: 2 years
    - Connecticut: 4 years
    - Pennsylvania: 4 years
    - Boston: 4 years
    - Durham: 5 weeks

Career Aspirations

- Career Path:
  - Actress, Artist, Chef
  - Doctor: Parents
  - Teacher: Peer Connectors, NHS, Seed, E2, PrEP
  - Engineer: Math + Chem?
  - Brain and Cognitive Scientist
  - Computer Scientist

- Future:
  - Pediatrician with Global Focus
  - Education
  - International Restaurant
  - "Home"

MIT: *The Academic*

o Course 9
o Course 6
o Chem27
o Business School
o Start-Up Class

MIT: *The Fun*

- Music & Dance
    - o Gospel Choir
    - o Rambax
    - o Akcion
    - o Latin Dance
    - o Dance Troupe

- MedLinks

- Baking (*Bites of Joy*)

- Modeling

Mexico

- *Continental Automotives*
  - o *EDR Decoder*
  - o *Stackoverflow*
- *Diiaki*
  - o *Renewable energy sources*
- *Lessons Learned:*
  - o *Ask for help*
  - o *Programming*
  - o *Spanish*
  - o *Cooking "Comida Mexicana"…the actual one*
  - o *Working as a computer scientist is not for me*
  - o *Starting up programs takes a lot of planning and organized people*
    - *Cross-culture planning takes a lot of time and dedication*
  - o *You are an ambassador whatever new place you travel to*

Chile

- *ADHD Research*
  - *EEG Testing*
  - *Developing program to facilitate brain images*

- *Lessons Learned:*
  - *Research is not for me*
  - *Big city for the permanent stay is not for me*
  - *Spanish is a skill to be retained*
  - *Programming is very cross-disciplinary*
  - *We don't know much about the brain*

Jamaica

- *Computer Literacy Program*
  - o *Computer 101/Typing*
  - o *Microsoft Office*
  - o *Email*

- *Dental Volunteer Program*
  - o *Data Collection*
  - o *Crowd Control*
  - o *Shadowing/First-hand experience*

- *Lessons Learned:*
  - o *I can't live in a touristy place*
  - o *I like doing medical work…just not on teeth (but the age group can vary)*
  - o *Teaching will be somewhere in my future*
  - o *Non-profit NGOs are very complicated*
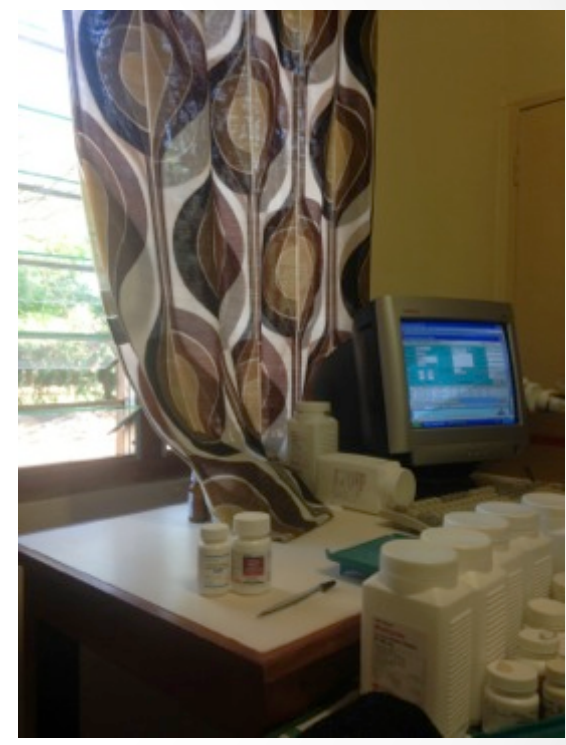
Israel

- *Innovation and Start-ups Workshop*
  - *4 schools*
  - *Leadership, Innovation, Pitching, Presentation*
    - *"Making something out of nothing"*

- *Lessons Learned:*
  - *No direction, is the best direction*
  - *Give people a problem in their community and time to just brain storm and think…and you'll find solutions*
  - *To be successful, you have to go against the grain*
    - *Cultural Bounds*
    - *Gender Bounds*
    - *Race Bounds*

Guatemala

- GPSA Round 1
  - Clinics
  - Schools
  - Mentor/Leader Role
  - Organizational Side
  - Shadowing

- Lessons Learned
  - International help can do more harm than good
    - Over-filled classrooms
    - Teaching some things English but losing K'iche/Mam
  - The importance of preserving/maintaining old cutlures

Zambia

- *Pratt Pouch Project*
  - o *PMTCT Project*
  - o *5 clinics, No contacts*
  - o *Deliverables: How are we distributing in this country? Who will be central to the project? How will information be collected and get back to us? Who do we need to train?*

- *Lessons Learned*
  - o *I have the ability to go into a country with no contacts and make them*
  - o *If you're in a dialect heavy…just focus and pick on one to learn*
  - o *Learning when to say no, and when to say yes*

St. Vincent

- GPSA Round 2
  - Clinics
  - Schools
  - Mentor
  - Data Collection

- Lessons Learned:
  - In cases of emergencies, there's not always a way to get help

Where to?

- Finish working with DHT

- Next Year: ???

- Medical School
  - Focus on Global Health/Education

- Family
  - MY FIVE KIDS :D

- Future Future
  - Starting my "home"
  - Starting my "International Restaurant"
  - Finding something else I enjoy

Questions?

joyekuta@gmail.com

OUR STORIES

UniLag '10
MIT SM '15
PhD '17

OUR STORIES

Harvard '12
LSE MSc '13

McKinsey&Company

"SMART" GOALS

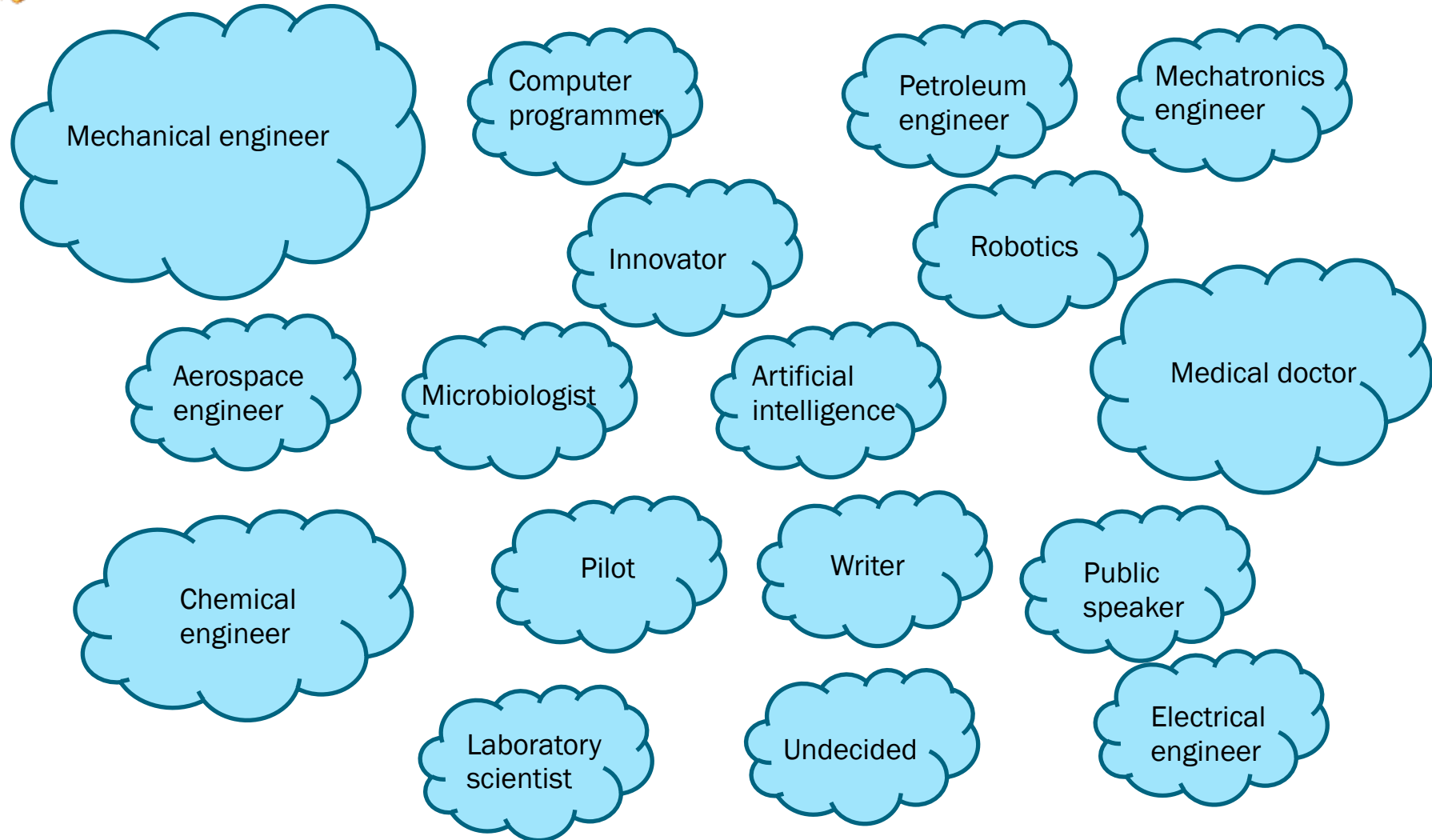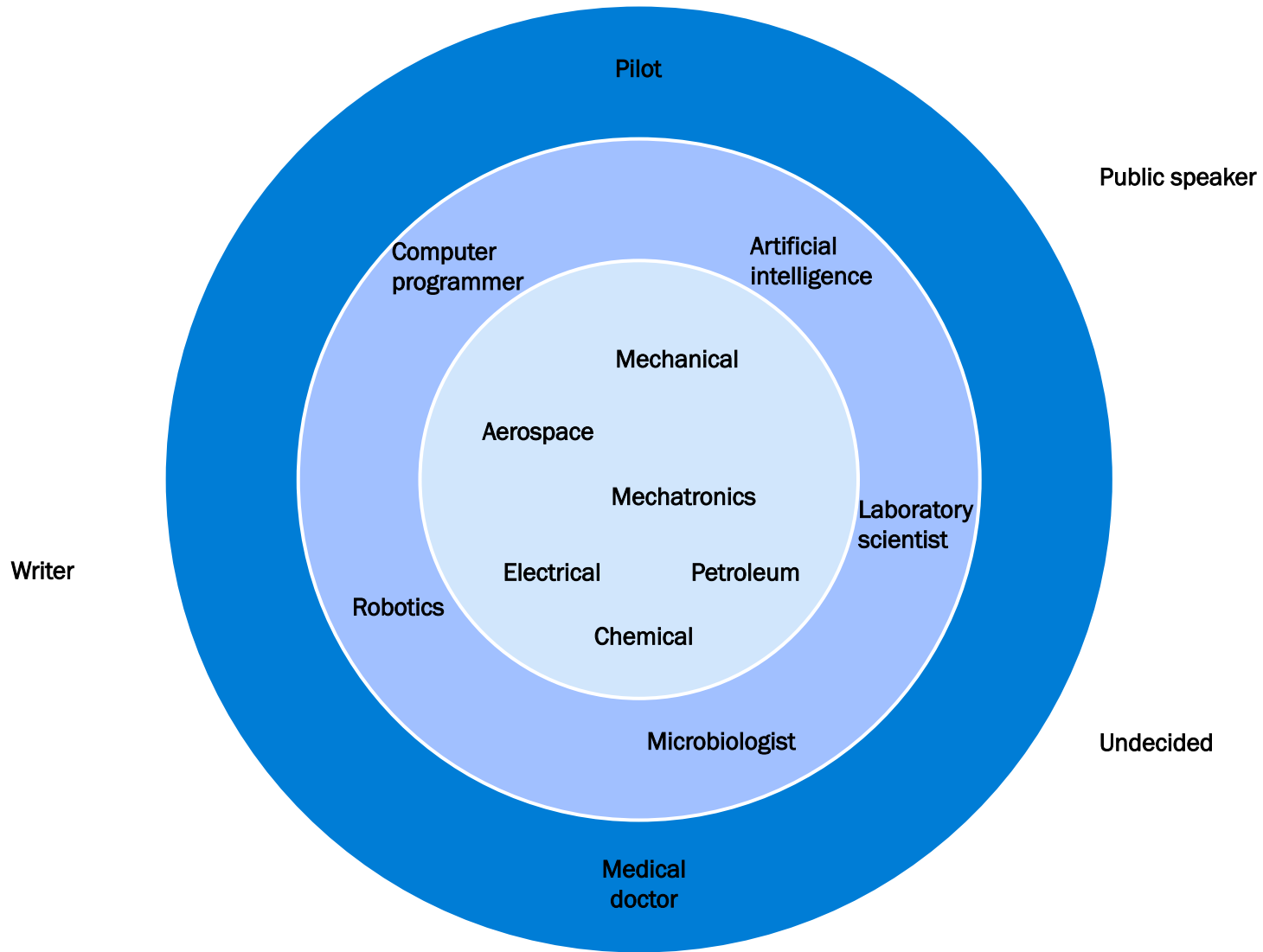|	
S	Specific--identify your goal clearly and specifically
M	Measureable--Include clear criteria to determine progress and accomplishment
A	Attainable--the goal should have a 50 percent or greater chance of success
R	Relevant--the goal is important and relevant to you
T	Time bound--commit to a specific timeframe

Short-term goals: achieve in one year or less.

Long-term goals: achieve in one to five years.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STUDY 'ENGINEERING'?

Engineering is the **application** of scientific principles to societal problems

Types of engineering

Aeronautical

Biomedical

Mechanical

Chemical

Civil

Sustainability Design

Electrical and Electronics

Systems

Biomechanical

Photonics

Computer software

Computer hardware

Nuclear

Mineral

Agricultural

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ENGINEERING DEGREE?

NON-ENGINEERING: TYPES OF FIELDS TO EXPLORE

- Business
- Computing
- Counseling
- Design
- Education
- Engineering
- Entertainment
- Food & Hospitality
- Forestry
- Healthcare - Allied

- Healthcare - Nursing
- Healthcare - Practitioners
- Installation
- Legal
- Management
- Math & Science
- Office
- Personal
- Production

- Safety
- Sales
- Transportation

Engineering builds problem-solving mentality that is valued in other fields

HOW DO I SELECT A CAREER PATH?

Approach 1
"I will go to school, study X, and then see what good jobs are available to me"

Approach 2
"I would like to achieve X with my career. This requires X degree, Y professional license, and Z skills I can begin building skills while pursuing the required education"

- Start with the end in mind and work backwards
  - There is rarely only one course that will get you to your goal
  - Study what interests you and what you can excel at
  - Don't focus on names/labels

The best match occurs when your skills/ interests align with society's needs.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Personal preferences

- What am I good at?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- What personal limitations/aspirations do I have (location/lifestyle/salary)?

Other factors

- What is the current demand for this field?
- If the demand is low or entry is difficult, are you comfortable with risk? What qualifications are required to enter the field?
- Will it require additional education or training?
- How will selecting this option affect you and others in your life?
- Gather advice from friends, colleagues and family members. Consider potential outcomes and barriers for each of your final options.

Challenges

- List barriers that you think could be a challenge and find solutions.
  - This is important so that you can come up with a contingency plan
  - You can't predict everything, but this definitely helps in shaping your critical thinking skills for every situation!

"I want to know if there is any point in pursuing as specialized of a career as AI with the purpose of making Nigeria a better place. I want to know if Nigeria is ready for it."

SKILLS-BUILDING: LEARN ON YOUR OWN!

Public speaking

Programming (e.g., Codecademy)

Languages (e.g., Duolingo)

Some skills will make you more marketable based on your desired path. Without them, your schooling may be less relevant!

There are plenty of free apps/online resources available that make it easy to learn on your own

TRAINING

What?	• What level of training is required in my field? Is formal education or work experience more important?
	• Will additional credentials make me a more distinctive candidate? Are there skills that I can learn outside of school?
When?	• Should I pursue all schooling sequentially?
	• When is it valuable to work instead?
	• How valuable are volunteer/unpaid opportunities?
Where?	• Should I pursue higher education in my home country or abroad?
	• How do I identify which universities to apply to?
	• Which qualifications are required to apply to foreign universities?
How?	• What is the cost of attending school in Nigeria vs overseas?
	• What resources exist to reduce this burden?

STUDYING OVERSEAS: FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- School in Nigeria vs US/UK/Europe/Asia:
  - Length/declaring focus early
  - British system vs other
  - Technical vs liberal arts
  - How to select a school
  - Exam reqs
  - Cultural considerations (language, etc.)

CAREER ACTION PLAN

- Write down your action steps so you can check them off as you complete them.

- Note any actions that need to be completed to help you reach your goals. Prioritize the actions according to deadlines and importance whether your goal is to search for a job, something after NYSC, or to apply to graduate school.

- Be realistic about expectations and timelines. Don't try to take on more than you can reasonably manage.

- Be specific and do your homework. Understand exactly what steps will be required to achieve each goal.

- Ask questions!!

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER!

- Keep taking steps, even if they are sometimes small.

- Reward yourself as you complete the steps.

- Amend your career action plan as needed if your goals and priorities change.

- Choosing a major does not limit you to only one career choice.

- Choosing a career does not limit you to only one major.

- Graduate work does not have to be in the same area as an undergraduate degree.

- It is okay to change your mind.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Inspirational Videos of what young people are doing all over the world
  - http://www.shatterbox.com/videos/popular

- How to Choose a Career Path
  - http://www.wikihow.com/Choose-the-Right-Career

- Science Careers Advice
  - http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/career-advice

- Lists of Different Careers/Expected Salary/Data
  - http://www.rileyguide.com/careers/