

My Life... My Goals.

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College Application Essay

Including attachments

Ute Creek Secondary Academy

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“Educate the child; raise him/her without biases of any kind. Teach him/her to trust in others, but to rely on self. Instill in him/her a sense of humor and the ability to enjoy life.”

These are the words of my father, known only to me as California Cryobank Donor 1058. I am a product of anonymous donor insemination (DI). Having been born under such circumstances, I have always wondered about my father, and have hoped that I could someday meet him and/or any of my half-siblings. I know, however, that this is unlikely, and I have come to accept that this may never happen. But with the underlying hope that it will-as well as knowing that there must be others with the same curiosities as my own- in September 2000, at the age of 10, I decided to start the Donor Sibling Registry ([www.donorsiblingregistry.com](http://www.donorsiblingregistry.com)). In its first couple of years the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) attracted only a handful of members. Thanks to media exposure on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, Good Morning America, The John Walsh Show, FoxNews.com, the BBC and other newspapers & websites around the world, it has transformed into a web database that serves thousands of people internationally all with similar hopes and circumstances to mine. So far, we have helped to connect over 325 DI offspring with their half-siblings. In addition to this aspect of my background, I would like to introduce who I am, a little about my life, and what my academic goals are.

Though I am only 13, my biggest dream is being accepted into the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EN) Aerospace Engineering Program (EN-ASEN). This is has been my dream as far back as my memory stretches. I have worked, and will continue to work very hard to be successful in the math and science areas of study to complete this goal. In December, 2003 I received a letter from Barbra L. Schneider, PhD, Executive Director of Admissions, stating that I was identified as an “outstanding student” when I participated in the Engineering Honors Institute. That letter was a wonderful acknowledgement of all that I learned

and how hard I worked during the Institute's program, which also helped to confirm my goal to be an engineer. It provided me with an opportunity to see all facets of engineering, within which aerospace continues to stand out. The program was very motivating, and it was one of the greater learning experiences of my life. As an 11 year old student, I enrolled in College Algebra (Math 1011). I look at the C that I received not as a failure, but as a learning opportunity and experience, especially for a then 12 year old.

Since January of 2003, my weekly mentorship meetings with Charbel Farhat, Chair and Director, Aerospace Engineering Sciences Dept. & Director for Aerospace Structures, CU Boulder, have provided for me a fantastic academic opportunity. Being mentored by one of the best in the field has been an outstanding experience. Along with my educational and academic goals, I have had to work harder in areas that come naturally to most college students. Acceptance of a young student in classrooms and other adult events is not typical. I am pushing my way into this "adult" atmosphere, before being an adult, and I find it very exciting. My experiences and sense of commitment are atypical for one of my chronological age. Not having a driver's license with a 40+ mile commute everyday has forced me to learn to use the public transportation system. All though not my 1<sup>st</sup> choice of transportation, learning to use the bus system has helped me to better appreciate my community. As an employee of four years at the Once Again Bookstore in Nederland, CO, I have also mastered the social skills necessary to be successful in a service related job. I have also traveled quite a bit, during which I have been able to use my social skills at a level that few my age have had the opportunity to experience. My life up until now, though short, has been a wonderful one, filled with opportunities that I am so grateful for. Acceptance to the University of Colorado will allow me to someday be an Aerospace Engineer, my ultimate goal in life.