

MLK Design Seminar  
17.922 IAP13  
Assignment 3 – Autobiography  
M.I.T. Student

I was raised in a small town in South Dakota. My father is from the Middle East, and my mother is from Mexico, so my household was always unique. Though my parents are both bilingual, they did not want to teach my little brother or myself another language for fear of messing up our English. Because of this, I know household terms in both Arabic and Spanish, and understand both much more than I can speak. (I like to think of myself like a two year old, learning how to talk.) I do really enjoying going back home, as I get to see my family and eat delicious Middle Eastern and Mexican foods.

My dad is a math professor at a local state university, and I've always liked math. My mom has a degree in science education; many people say that I was destined to end up at a school like this. In 2002, my dad received a Fulbright to teach at the University of Jordan, so I spent my 7th grade in the country of Jordan. I believe that this was a huge influence on my life, as I was able to experience life in a third world country, and was able to see what things are like outside of the United States. This was definitely an eye opening experience, and I still reflect upon that experience to this day.

Ever since I was little, I have been a fan of the fine arts. My parents would take me to see orchestra concerts, which led to me playing the cello for 10 years. Additionally, I sang in the school choir. When I came to MIT, I knew I wanted to do an extra curricular musical activity, so I tried out and was fortunate enough to get into the Chorallaries of MIT. (We sing the Engineer's Drinking Song.) The Chorallaries has been a big part of my life for the last 3.5 years, and I am so grateful for all of the friends I have made because of the group. I also was a counselor for Camp Kesem, a camp for kids whose parents have/had cancer. It is one of the best life experiences that I have ever experienced, and I was able to meet kids who are so strong, and so able to deal with the troubles in their lives. These kids are some of the people I look up to, as they are able to still keep a smile on, no matter what is going on at their home.

My parents have always pushed me to do my best, which ended up pushing me to do my best, and I have always tried my hardest at whatever I have done. When I was in high school, I definitely was determined to get into a great engineering school, and did my best, and was lucky enough to get into MIT. Now I am a senior in Course 20 (Biological Engineering) and though it is difficult, I'm really interested in some aspects of it. I believe that graduate school might be in my future, but I'm not sure if I want to try other things first. I am thankful for what my parents did for me, and I feel very grateful for everything that I have experienced so far. I believe that all of these things made me the person I am today.

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