

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography

I was born in New York shortly after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. A month later, my parents took me to Greece (where my mom is from) to spend time with my ailing grandfather. I have since been to Greece numerous times in the summer, and my extended family from Greece often visits my immediate family in DC. Due to my heritage and familial visits, I feel deeply proud to be Greek-American, and I am Vice President of the MIT Hellenic Students' Association. I feel fortunate to be able to see a culture as both an "insider" (I'm fluent in Greek) and an "outsider" (I don't look traditionally Greek and have grown up in the US); my experiences in traveling in and around Greece have taught me a lot about the roles of religion, sociopolitical systems, and tradition in society. I hope to be able to travel more after graduation in June to immerse myself in far-reaching cultures (in particular, I want to tour Japan, Turkey, Russia, and/or Israel).

My parents met in graduate school for chemical engineering, and often have a funny language barrier. My mom's Greek accent and my father's Texan style of speech provide endless comedy at home. I have one brother who is course 2 here at MIT (yes, as a course 7 major, I'm the only non-engineer in my family); we are very close, and this is our first time going to school together due to our age difference and our attending different high schools. It's fun and a privilege to be able to call him to meet up for lunch or stop by each other's dorms to catch up. Since I can remember, my brother and I have spent nearly every summer in Greece with our all-male cast of cousins playing beach volleyball and beach soccer. My family is very closely knit and intensely invested in each other's lives. We can also go from 0 to 60 on our volume in 0.001 seconds flat.

My greatest passion in life is healthcare, and I work best in environments where I'm asked to apply what I've learned. I've worked on a range of clinical research internships and UROPs -- from pediatric tumor biology/ultrastructural pathology to drug delivery lipid biochemistry to neonatal medicine to molecular cell biology. For the past 2 summers, I've worked as a Health Assistant at a sleepaway camp for 5th and 6th graders. The work is the most fulfilling and fun employment ever! I am currently applying to Master of Public Health programs and wish to pursue a thesis in epidemiology and which has implications in health policy. After my Masters, I am planning to attend a PhD program or medical school.

For those of you who are into Myers-Briggs personality typing, I'm an ESTP through-and-through!

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17.922 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. IAP Design Seminar
IAP 2013

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