

In my life, my passions and my drive to learn have come from many different places and people, but they haven't been influenced as strongly as they have been by my parents. Growing up, my family has always had a high regard for education, by making sure I stay fascinated with the world, and eager to learn. Growing up through preschool and elementary, they helped foster my passion for reading, supplying me with ample books and material that began broadening my view of the world, and expanding my vocabulary and oratorical skills. At home, I began to take an interest in music. Often hearing my dad sing, play the alto saxophone, and the guitar around the house influenced me to begin singing and playing the clarinet. I began singing in our school's choir and playing in the band, where I switched to the trumpet, an instrument I still pursue and love playing today.

When an opportunity to go to New York to participate in a Model United Nations came upon me in 2012, my parents encouraged me to take a big step and go. Partaking in the UN was an unforgettable experience, where I worked with youth from around world to create answers to some of the biggest problems in the world through writing and voting on resolution papers, which were sent to the actual UN assembly. The experience sparked an interest for me in international organizations such as the UN that make a difference in the world through diplomacy.

My mother was always passionate about changing lives and educating children, as she saw it as a key for empowering individuals and bringing out the best in them. Before I was born she traveled to Kenya to teach English in a school in Nairobi for two years. The stories she told me of her time with the children of the community and the beauty of the land captivated me. In 2015 my mother helped me book a trip to Kenya with an organization called Me to We to build a classroom in a rural town outside of Nairobi. The trip took lots of preparation and fundraising that would not have been possible without my mother and my supportive family. The trip was a paradigm shift for me, as I entered a completely different world, and immersed myself in a new culture. After that trip, I knew helping others and making change in the world was what I had to do with my life.

About a month ago, I was accepted to the University of British Columbia to take International Economics this fall, a program I am excited to involve myself in. I am also thrilled to go to UBC because of the strong music programs, orchestras, and choirs they have. I hope that my studies will prepare me for a career in the financial sector of charities or international organizations that are making the world a better place. My parents have always been there to help me find my place in the world, and their relentless support has helped me experience life changing events. My passions and education goals have been influenced strongly by my parents, and their love and encouragement has carried me towards my goals and pushed me to pursue my dreams.