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The Beginning

When I was about 9 years old my father went through his so called “Mid-life Crisis.” For many years my dad has always been interested in cars; racing, fixing, or just being around them. So to help my dad through this situation, he decided to buy a sprint car, and race it. So for about 6 years I was around racing and cars almost non-stop. I was in heaven, watching my dad work on a race car, wondering how everything worked, and probably burning his ear off with question after question. Of course as I got older, he would include me in more “prepping” for the big Sunday race. Being around that race car for six years help me build a passion for the engineering behind automotives. Also, my dad is a very hands-on type of guy, so anything he wanted done he would do himself. This definitely has grown on me, even though I don’t have the abilities and time that my dad does, I believed that going into Mechanical Engineering will help me be more like him. He is not a Mechanical Engineer, but his interest in engineering his own problems and solving them has been the biggest inspiration on my decision to stay in this career path.

The story

Throughout much of my life I have been around engineering, without even realizing it. Since starting the mechanical engineering program at Purdue, I have seen engineering in everything. While at Purdue, I plan on getting my BSME in Mechanical Engineering. I would definitely love to study a semester abroad in Spain. Over the course of my high school, I took four years of honors Spanish, and would like to continue my fluency over the course of my degree. Going to Purdue has helped me see that engineering isn’t just talking out a problem with other engineers, and saying “we’re done,” but it is having a group of leaders working out every possible angle, taking in other’s ideas, and being an universal listener.

My first job was a Great America Six Flags. I sure it is hard to see the correspondence to engineering. Well, it didn’t have much benefit to my actual learning of engineering, but it definitely help become a global leader. While I worked there people from all over the world walk through the theme park daily, and I get to witness how the interact with others, and different situations. Also, during the two summers I worked there, Six Flags did a summer interim type job for many people around the world. So when I worked there, I worked with people from South Africa, Columbia, France, and England. Meeting these people was probably the most eye opening event to other cultures in my life. Talking to these people about their lives back in their homeland was incredible. It was amazing to see how different cultures live. Also, it helped me understand that people come from different worlds, and helped me adjust to them, and make them feel welcomed. The few that I got to know pretty well, they eventually taught me some of their language, as in I learned the alphabet from South Africa, I also learned the difference

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between words in Columbia's Spanish and the Spanish I learned. This wonderful experience has helped me adapt to people from all over.

Over the past summer I worked for Abbott Molecular Inc., as an Interim. While I was there I was a data entry worker that would enter data from studies that Abbott was conducting for different products. Working for Abbott wasn't just about entering numbers into a computer though, I got to see many of their technological devices that required years of engineering. Also most of the interims there while I worked there were also engineers of different backgrounds. I got many great hours of experience over the summer by working with many different cultural people. I worked with people from Germany, got to understand the difficulties behind a company restricted with the government. Most importantly, I got the experience that every first interim should have, and that is deadlines. This internship definitely opened my eyes to a different work style from my past jobs. It was a summer full of diverse thinking with different engineers, different cultures, and a different world than what I thought I would be working in.

How it ends

The work style I thought I would be working in was a lab type job with hands-on experience. Getting my hands dirty, and trying different solutions to improve something. What has happened in my past jobs has helped me develop the interest in engineering even more. As my career gets started my goals become closer and closer to success. Ever since I wanted to be an engineer, I have always wanted to work for an automotive company, and help develop a fuel efficient engine, or an aerodynamic car, or the next Corvette. These have been in the back of my head since my acceptance to Purdue. Once I graduate, I understand that this probably won't happen right away, but I want to help make this world safer to the environment in some way. And as I said before, I would like to help the world therefore traveling the world would be a great addition to the job building on my global experience. My life has been around the automotive engineering ingenuity, and I would not want my life to move away from the field that could help change this world forever.