Gabriel Brown

Significant Events Lifeline

Honors 1010

1. November 2007: Cancún, Mexico vacation

This was my first trip outside of the US. We flew into Mexico with my aunt, uncle, and cousins. While in Mexico, we stayed at an all-inclusive resort right on the beach. We spent many days at the pool, but made forays into the local area to see various Mayan ruins and visit local towns. One of the days, we took a ferry to an island where we swam with both a shark and several dolphins. This was my first time being totally exposed and immersed in another culture and, as a result, left significant marks upon me. I tend to view people who come to the US from foreign countries or are part of for foreign cultures. I learned to view issues from multiple perspectives and to appreciate the opportunities that are made available to me on a daily basis.

1. February 2010: Papaw’s Death

The death of my grandfather was the first “real,” personal encounter I had ever had with death. His health had been steadily declining over the three previous years, so it was not a great surprise to anyone in the family. Again, my outlook and perspective on life was altered in ways I shall probably never be able to fully explain or understand myself. I marked this experience as negative on my timeline, but there is also a positive side. This experience helped me discover an inner strength and resourcefulness, a sort of drive, that I was not aware previously being in possession of regarding any other circumstance. This continues to be a part of me, having been further honed by other experiences and encounters with death and loss.

1. 2011: Hosler Mentorship Program

The Hosler Mentorship Program provided mentorship/shadowing opportunities with physicians and other professionals for students in my high school and one other. By this time, I had already decided to pursue a career as a physician, but I had not yet had the opportunity to actually see what it was like with my own eyes. My shadowing experience was an amazing opportunity for this. Shadowing a family practice physician allowed me to see things that I had never thought of and to better understand the doctor-patient relationship. Even though I was able to see how difficult and consuming the career is, I was also able to get a sense of the great rewards and decide that it really is the career for me.

1. September 2012: Dual Admissions Program with guidance counselor

My guidance counselor, knowing that I was undertaking the college search like many of my classmates, made me aware of the Connections DAP program here at UC. Previous to this, I had not even considered UC as a potential choice for me. This brief conversation (he literally dropped some papers in my lap, summed them up, then left) led me to explore the possibility and ultimately lead to my applying to the university. The program itself greatly relieves a stress faced by many students who wish to pursue medicine (applying to medical school) and allows its members to explore and expand their interests further. Already, the other students in the program in my class have begun forging strong bonds that we will keep throughout the experience.

1. May 26th, 2013: High School Graduation

High school graduation was especially important to me. I was one of six valedictorians in my class, but among them I was ranked first. Consequently, the responsibilities of working with the principal and other administrators to prepare for graduation often fell to me. I was already doing some of this as the class president. This experience though, especially preparing my speech, required me to really reflect on thirteen years of my life, nearly two-thirds of it, and examine it in detail. I came to realize just how far I had come and how much I had developed along with my classmates. I realized how powerful the bonds of friendship can be and the success that comes with hard work and dedication. I recognized a number of individuals that had impacted me greater than they will ever know, even with brief conversations as we headed out the door or rushed from one place to another or in between answering phones. Most of all, I realized that, as individualized as personal change is, it is heavily dependent on interactions with others.

1. August 18th, 2013: Baptism

Choosing to be baptized after being raised among the same group of Christians for eighteen years was a huge step. I had always balked before at the level of commitment and dedication it required; I’ll admit that I was even frightened by it to a certain extent. However, finally deciding to take the step was a huge relief. I felt prepared and supported to pursue my goals and dreams in life, including my education here at UC. This experience was truly a symbol of my personal growth and development and marked the beginning of new and greater growth, something I know will be fostered in the UC community and Honors Program. Above all, I learned that commitment, whether gradual or sudden, is a powerful and binding idea, but one that will lead to further and greater successes.