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*“The engineer has been, and is, a maker of history,”* wrote the iconic American engineer James Kip Finch, a lofty proclamation that inspired my romanticism as an individual searching for an intellectual love. After a winding journey in search for an academic focus, I discovered that engineering is far more than just crunching numbers, research and technical innovation, but a prized position to impact policy, safeguard the environment, and indeed, “make history.” After arriving at my destination, I also learned that it was responsibility as an engineer to be a leader, and work hard toward *engineering* a better future myself, but also a better world for humanity at large. This vision drives my aspiration to join the Massachusetts Institute of Engineering (MIT) graduate engineering program this coming fall, and continue my examination of civil engineering as a member of your community.

A handful of individuals were born knowing what they want to do, while the vast majority spent a considerable segment of their life searching for that passion. I am part of the latter group, and thus dedicated much of my childhood and adolescence experimenting, engaging, and attempting different avenues toward discovering my labor of love. Indeed, every activity I participated in equipped me with a distinct skill-set or talent, and the journey helped shape me into a more consummate and multi-dimensional individual. However, the first avenue I explored was business and management, a dynamic realm that forced me to think innovatively and shape a multicultural perspective. Although I was fascinated by the interactive and fast-paced nature of business, it lacked the intellectual challenge I consider vital. Ultimately, I ventured into the world of engineering, which initially seemed to be rigid, hyper-technical, and premised on independent work. I was wrong on all counts, and before every taking an engineering course or sifting through an introductory textbook, was convinced that I would be an engineer.

Engineering not only encompassed unparalleled opportunity for intellectual challenge and growth, but also bridged technical insight with the qualities I coveted in business management. As an undergraduate at Concordia University in Montreal, I enrolled in a range of engineering courses and developed an understanding of every area, and sub-area. I eventually developed a specific interest in Industrial Engineering, and therefore, am currently pursuing my Bachelors in this field.

My academic program required both academic and hands-on engagement, and I worked on several small scale-projects within the Montreal community. I helmed civil engineering projects at metropolitan retail stores, grocery stores, and manufacturing firms. Each and every one of these projects exposed me to a new dimension of civil engineering, and also enhanced my ability to collaborate with engineers, other professionals, and customers. My senior project was with *Aveos*, a prominent engineering firm, which handles the engine maintenance, repair, and overhaul for *Air Canada*. These collective experiences were ideal supplements to my in-class study, and helped me understand complex civil engineering questions more multi-dimensionally. In addition, the practical ventures furnished me with the foundational skills to

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launch ambitious, larger-scale engineering enterprises, which motivate my pursuit of a graduate degree.

In order to enrich my insight into civil engineering, I took on a number of internships that exposed me to the field on an international scale. In line with my interest in international business, particularly in the Middle East, I worked at BMW's Kuwait offices, which empowered me with the opportunity to participate in the engineering and business handlings of the high-end automobile manufacturer. I subsequently took a position with *Pharos*, a prominent and thriving investment bank based in Egypt, which placed me at the fore of the Middle Eastern investment and capital markets world. Inspired by my growing interest in finance, I then worked for Liquidity House in Kuwait, a vibrant investment bank that services clients throughout the Gulf. Most recently, I completed an internship program within *Gulf Spics'* Engineering, Procurement and Contracting Departments, which gave me access to the oil contracting company's range of functions.

Indeed, after immersing myself on the front lines of the engineering profession, and experiencing a professional life within the sector, I am convinced that the avenue I chose was the ideal one. However, these experiences have also affirmed my desire to be a leader within a corporation, and furthermore, a professional whose expertise propels him into a role of influence. With that aspirations crystallized, a master's degree in industrial engineering is an imperative step toward achieving my professional goals, and intellectual aspiration to master the field of industrial engineering. Without question, MIT provides both the world-class faculty and talented study body that will inspire me both inside and outside of the classroom, as well as the vast learning opportunities that will maximize my understanding of the field.

I now understand that engineers are key not only because they design new products that devise blueprints for intellectual capital, but also serve as policy leaders, influential scholars and visionaries who blaze new avenues for a better life. I plan on closely examining innovative engineering strategies, inside and outside of the classroom, as a graduate student, and immersing myself into the intellectual community that is your department. While many of my future classmates at MIT may claim that they were "born engineers," I am proud to proclaim, as I reflect on my journey thus far, that I *engineered* an intellect and love for engineering that drives my unrelenting passion for the field.