

Example 2 (2014)

My mother had a true passion for cooking. I liken watching her in the kitchen to a dancer gracefully soaring across the floor of a dance studio. The passion, like fire, flickered in her eyes and each movement was done with such poise and such purpose that you could not help but just stare in complete awe at the marvel of it all. She would usually sing softly or hum as she floated throughout the kitchen and smiled often because, for her, life at the moment was bliss. She and the food had this incredible connection and they “understood” one another. I think that is what made her cooking so wonderful because as you ate each savory bite you could taste the love, passion, and heart behind it all. The passion itself was an eclectic combination of her identity as a mother, a food enthusiast, and of course, a cook too.

My passion for audiology is similar. First, on a very basic level, I am an avid lover of learning and I plan to, in a sense, remain a “student” forever. Audiology is a field driven by technology, which, as we all know, changes on a daily basis. I am very much looking forward to the fact that as a working audiologist I will be required to take CEU classes each year to continue to develop my expertise in the field and offer my patients the most accurate information available.

Secondly, I am an artist, a singer at heart. Music, in many ways, is the language of my heart and often when nothing else in life seems to make sense, I turn to music and find instant solace. Because I have a personal and emotional relationship with sound via music, I feel that I can better relate to individuals with hearing loss since I myself know how detrimental it would be if I lost the ability to hear and how desperate I would be to correct or gain that ability back.

Finally, my partner was born deaf in his right ear. I have often heard that when an individual has hearing loss, their loved ones share in this hearing loss as well. I found this to be quite true after now dating him for nearly two years: I have seen him struggle, particularly in situations where noise is present (e.g.-restaurants, malls, bars, etc.), and have come to realize how difficult these kinds of environments can be for him. It is our most basic human need to understand and be understood and if that need cannot be accomplished, a breakdown occurs. As he puts it, “I feel like I’m missing so much of the world around me.” Dating him helps me feel that I now have a personal investment to help people like him manage and maybe even regain some aspect of their hearing loss.

As there were few courses offered at the undergraduate level exposing students to audiology, I began seeking out an internship while enrolled in classes this year so that I could gain more insight in the field of audiology itself. For the last seven months, I have been interning with an audiologist in her own private practice. Each day I walk in, she has a patient file on the desk and tells me to, after examining the patient’s history, current and past audiograms, and other pertinent file information, hypothesize what type of loss the patient has and why. I have truly fallen in love with this aspect of “puzzle-solving” because it sets the stage for what to expect in a clinical setting. Sometimes, the pieces fit together perfectly and reveal a very clear diagnosis; however, I have come to realize that in a clinical setting, many factors far beyond the scope of textbook logic often play a much greater role in revealing the final diagnosis. Clinicians deal

with people and people are unpredictable. That said, I believe this ability to exist in the present and think on my feet will give me an edge as a prospective audiology student.

Though I realize my interests within the field of Audiology may change over the course of my doctoral program, I currently have a strong interest in cochlear implants and in the medical aspect of the field at large. I think it would be amazing to be a part of team capable of giving an individual the ability to hear, often for the very first time. I have watched several videos on YouTube when an individual first has their implant turned on and find that I get emotional at the momentous occasion. I cannot help but smile as I consider what an honor it would be to someday carry this same impact into a medical facility or a clinic, where I dedicate each day of my life to helping others live theirs.