

## Personal Statement

What matters most to me is contributing to my community. I take great pleasure in improving the lives of the people around me – whether it is on a local or global scale. It is my duty to use my knowledge and abilities to help society in whatever fashion I’m most capable.

One of the best ways I am able to contribute to my community is through the healthcare industry. Healthcare became important to me during the summer of 1999. I was finishing my engineering degree at U.C. Berkeley while working part-time in the Sales Training department at Élan Pharmaceuticals. My group had been training a class of newly hired sales representatives for the past few weeks. On the last day of training, the vice-president of our group, Francine, came in to meet the four new employees. One of them asked Francine why she worked so hard, observing that she seemed to be the first in the office in the morning and the last out at night. Her response was that when she retired, she wanted to leave a legacy – to have led the company in finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. The rest of the company’s drug portfolio had been developed solely to fund the Alzheimer’s research. When she retired, she wanted the satisfaction of knowing that her work had possibly saved the lives of her parents and friends. She confessed that this “Legacy Factor” was what inspired her. It inspired me as well.

The healthcare industry gives me the opportunity to improve the quality of life for people all over the world. Even while working as a Training Coordinator at Élan, I felt, as Francine did, that I was contributing to finding the cure for Alzheimer’s. Everyone in the company felt similarly; we were all doing our part so that the company could continue its research.

My work at Bayer during the past five years has been equally gratifying – I’m helping the company make a product that treats hemophilia and allows our customers to lead better lives. Earlier this year, I led a project team to implement a last-minute process change that allowed Bayer to manufacture and launch our next-generation treatment for hemophilia and get it to patients sooner.

On the local level, I coordinate after-school programs for teenagers in the Bay Area. I was inspired to do this by my own experience as a youth. When I was in junior high, I used to go to the Boys & Girls Club in Healdsburg, CA, where two older teens organized and refereed gaming events for local children. Every Saturday, for nearly a year, I went to the club and had a great time playing games with a new collection of friends. I felt it was an excellent way to meet people and an important creative outlet. In July 2000, hoping to recreate the great experience I had growing up, I co-founded a similar after-school program for teenagers through a local gaming store in Santa Rosa, CA. The program is designed to encourage imaginative learning among Bay Area high school students. During the past five years, we have had had a significant positive impact on the community. The program has attracted nearly 100 students and I have organized similar events at facilities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Providing a public venue where teens can productively interact, learn, and be creative with their peers gives me great satisfaction and provides a valuable service to the community.

I also make an effort to stay active in the university community. I am the primary intern recruiter within my organization, and I’m eager to give back to the university by providing internship opportunities for students. Last summer, I organized an effort to rescue Bayer’s recruiting of engineering interns after the sudden departure of the

Internship Coordinator in Human Resources. I worked with U.C. Berkeley's On-Campus Recruiting Center and helped the company recruit 21 interns, including two in Process Engineering. Currently, I'm working closely with the new Internship Coordinator to expand the entire intern program for summer 2006. This summer, we are planning to have at least 40 interns, and I am personally recruiting four interns for the Process Engineering group. I am also working with Human Resources to get Bayer representation at more university career fairs, including events at my alma maters, U.C. Berkeley and Stanford. Strengthening my company's relationship with local universities is one of the ways I give back to my community that I am most passionate about.

I want to further my education so that I can become a more effective contributor to both my community and my company. In Emerson's eulogy of Thoreau, he criticized his late friend for wasting his time picking huckleberries when he had the intellectual capacity to reengineer society. I know that I am capable of greater things, and I know that the skills I will gain at law school will help me give the utmost of myself to society.