

Like many people, my career progression has been far and away from straightforward. I have switched roles, industries, and countries to pursue the ethereal “success” that seemingly evolved with each new career step. What I have come to realize over time is that fulfillment resides in this process, the ritual of imagining, strategizing, reflecting, learning, evolving, and sharing of insights that enables transformative growth. People are evergreen works in progress, continuously curating their careers based on new knowledge, interests, and experiences influencing them. In our current world of readily accessible information, I have contemplated the benefit of a career resource that links people to mentorship and support, personalized to their blossoming ambitions.

This musing inspired me to understand, in my past role at Pro Aire Design Consulting, how empathy synergies with growth. While working in experience design and operations at the company, I saw time and time again that people possess an amazing ability to overcome challenges when action is prioritized over rumination, worry, and self-doubt. The best way I have found to actualize this ability is by investing in employee empowerment and improving key skills bound to employees’ future career goals. Within this mindset, my short-term is to learn effective communication, persuasion, and building coalition skills at Stern. This will allow me to move up the leadership ladder while simultaneously bringing tangible, measurable value to a company that is rooted in the care and enablement of employees. Achieving this short-term growth will impact my long-term goal of creating a company that helps students and the unemployed receive career counseling through an app. My current role at Merck puts me in the opportune position to run an internal consultancy that involves social community building, and continuous learning through the future of design. I am constantly working on deliverables that imagine how technological and human networks can work in tandem to improve the future. I am also learning the many ways to identify a person’s needs and wants, their motivation for life, and how that data can translate into a product. I hope that the Stern MBA program will teach me the technical skillset to translate data in a meaningful way, and the entrepreneurial skill to apply the new knowledge to create value for society and sustainable business.

Through a part-time program at Stern, I will have the opportunity to share and test my knowledge and skillset of building community and encouraging engagement even when people have limited time to spare. I am hungry to learn, apply, and repeat the process as often as needed

to grow in the tech and entrepreneurship field. My aim is not only to achieve success in my current and upcoming objectives at Merck but also to augment my aspirations of establishing profitable ventures, both for-profit and non-profit, that focus on creating impactful experiences to uplift the future of today's youth.



The Person

Some people are naturally high on life: my maternal grandma is such a person. This photo constantly reminds me to have a lust for living, and to pay attention to details. In times when I have had the good fortune to be surrounded by exuberance, colors, and happiness, my

actual mood may differ. Several lessons from my grandma remind me to balance my mood with active mindfulness, such as her regular reminder “not to sweat the small stuff because it is all small stuff.’ She instructs me not to worry about anything because ‘at the end everything will be ok; and if it is not ok, it is not the end.’ She reminds me, ‘Be present, experience life because you only have one!’



The Place

As I navigated health issues, I came to reflect on the fact that suffering is mindset driven and the payoff of coping with it is always worth it! Ice-climbing prepares me emotionally for the

uncertainty of adventure in that I will never know what the ice might be like that day (be it thick, brittle, or delicate), yet I can still enjoy the process. The tools used for climbing become one with the body and limbs, flowing in a rhythmic and fluid movement, forcing me to be present and imagine the immediate next achievable step. Climbing gives me peace while reminding me that ‘I can do this!’ I can face my fears, and the discomfort to get to the top of the cliff face by working through them one step at a time, and when I get to the end, there is the most beautiful view waiting for me.



The Thing

My travels have led me to excellent restaurants that have allowed me to try some of the most inventive dishes. However, it also left me feeling that I didn't get enough of this one dish, so I started cooking to replicate what I tasted, saw, and smelled just to relive that moment of euphoria. Yet now, cooking has become my obsession, my recharge when I have had a trying day, and a model to help me grow. I cook to see if I can replicate a dish without knowing the recipe and see how close I can get to the original. Once I have achieved that goal, I cook with limitations of budget, ingredients, and time to see if it is feasible to create at scale, and I ponder on how I can bring those dishes to the masses who are limited by time and budget.