

Alvie and I had it all planned out, we were going to attend McMaster University, obtain our degrees, and succeed in our successive fields. In my mind I had no doubt that he would carry out this plan, because when he wanted something he got it. In many ways I fed of his determination and his refusal to be second best. I had hoped that I could feed of our competition through the rest of my educational career. He was always the more resourceful and active one, and I had wished that I could benefit from his wisdom. I remember sitting on my porch in the summer days talking about topics ranging from religion to society. Those conversations brought out the sage in me, and though I didn't know it then, the ideas I formed then I carried throughout high school.

My desire to win this scholarship is not for the financial benefits, but for the honor in carrying Alvie's name throughout university. I will not only be succeeding for me, but for his memory to. Although Alvie isn't here, his memory and the responsibility would light a fire in me like he always did. The path to success is not straight; actually it's loaded with obstacles that can prevent you from reaching the ultimate goal. I will plummet through these obstacles as I will have the drive of two people, the strength of two men, and the wisdom of two minds.

I plan to go to university for life sciences to try to get closer to my goal in becoming a neurologist. I want to get into this field as the brain has always intrigued me and I think there's still a lot to learn from it. The potential for new discoveries and knowledge from this body part is greater than in any other body part. I also got attracted to neurology as it at times meshes with philosophy. Philosophy has been a great passion of mine and I have been a keen reader on philosophical books from an early age. My final goal is to travel the world and help those in need. Unlike many, I have never wanted to become a doctor for the money or status. I wanted to become a doctor so that I can experience the incomparable feeling that you get when you help someone. That's why I plan to save enough money so I can become a doctor without borders. I already gained experience in this aspect when I volunteered in Nepal this past summer. I visited many hospitals and I got to see the horrendous conditions of their health care. A doctor had to handle more patients in a day than one in Canada handles in a week! By becoming a doctor without borders it will not only benefit the people but it would also benefit me too. I will learn to appreciate life more and get to meet people like me all over the world. I will see things and learn things that I could never experience as a stationary doctor.

Some people measure success with material possessions, but I feel it's the measure of how much you do to how much you wanted to do. I hope I check off all the boxes on my list, and with the help of this scholarship I think I can do it. Winning this scholarship will not only be an educational achievement but also a personal gain. Alvie was one of my closest friends throughout high school. I had the honor to know the Alvie that many didn't see: the wise, intelligent man who had thoughts that were of those ten years his age. I hope you lay your confidence and trust in me, because I will not only carry Alvie's name, but he will carry me.

R.I.P buddy