Brian Petersen Life History

August 11 1995 – September 28, 2011

I was born in the Provo city hospital on August 11, 1995. My family was like any other family. I had three older siblings who all had their own lives. My Dad worked for a WordPerfect at the time as a software engineer. My mother was a stay-at-home-mom who now raised her children with the support of her husband. At the time, we lived in a small home in American Fork. About six-months after I was born, we moved into the current home that we live in now; it is located on Grandview Hill in Provo. We moved from American Fork to Provo because my family needed more room and because my parents wanted to start their own business and wanted the option to work at home. Because of our need or a bigger house, we moved to a much bigger home in Provo. When I was five, I began Preschool. I have quite a few memories of this time. One I remember was around the time of Mother’s Day. All the students in the class painted an outlined portrait of a scenic landscape of mountains. Another memory I remember distinctly was the time I was rocking in my four-legged chair. I accidently leaned back to far and fell on the back of my head. The teacher picked me up and gave me all the attention that I wanted. My friends now tell me that they were jealous of all the attention I received from this moment and began demanding for the attention of the teacher. My teacher sent me home and I am no quite sure of what happened at the school; but I enjoyed my day off from school.

I attended Westridge Elementary for my K-5 grades. I had great teachers at this school and had an awesome time! But, it is just like any other public school. For my 6th and 7th grade school years, I attended a smaller school called The Walden School of Liberal Arts. This school focuses on the Montessori Method of learning (more of a hands on, physical, experience versus more of a lectural style of teaching). I preferred this style to the public school system; namely because I was not limited to the learning pace of others. I was able to learn as fast as a wanted and as much as I wanted. I skipped 8th grade and went straight to high school at Provo High. As a freshman, I took digital Photography I, Computer Programming, Mechanical Drafting, and Beginning Ballroom. I had a great time with these courses and have further developed my skills in the respective areas. As a sophomore, I tried out and was accepted to the Provo High JV Ballroom team. I also took digital Photography II to continue my photography skills, and Spanish I. I also took AP US Government and surprisingly enjoyed this topic. I believe that I enjoyed it so much was because I actually was beginning to become a more critical and analytical thinker. My junior year, my current school grade year, is quite challenging. I am taking IB Physics, AP US History, IB Theory of Knowledge, AP Language/Composition, and IB Biology. It is rigorous but I love learning and understanding new things. So it fits me quite well. With these, I am taking Digital Media I/II and Spanish II. I want to learn more Spanish and keep my skills up with computers! I have found that I enjoy technical things, and photography. These two things have become somewhat of an obsessive passion of mine. These are things that I enjoy to do! As I mentioned before, I was on the PHS JV Ballroom team. I really enjoyed learning how to dance with girls. It’s a useful skill at stake dances and EFY programs. My sophomore year, I was part of the FBLA club. I competed in Desktop Programs, Web Design, Help Desk (technical support), and Network Design all at the state level and placed in Network Design and Help Desk. Because of my placements at the state level, I qualified for the national competition which was held in Orlando, Florida. AJ Payne and I competed at the FBLA 2011 National competition in the Network Design category. Although we did not place, we still had a great time in Orlando. During all this time, I learned to play the piano. I lost my skills that I had once had, but I am beginning to review the things that I have forgotten over the years. As well, in about 4th grade, I tried out for a competitive soccer team and made the Stealth team as a defender. Around 7th grade, I tried out for a new team called Provo United. As a team, we placed 1st place in our region for two consecutive years. After three years, the team dissolved. I am no longer associated with a soccer team, but I continually play with my friends. I read quite a bit of different things, but I usually do not sit down and read a book. To explain this, I will often read short articles, essays, tutorials, and opinionated writings rather than books. But if I had to choose, it would be the *Harry Potter* series, and a *Series of Unfortunate Events*. I love to watch *Smallville* and *24* television series. Currently, my favorite movies are *Startrek XII*, *The Shawshank Redemption, Braveheart, The Dark Knight,* and many other movies. Along with some of these things, I have/had some amazing influential friends over the years. In my younger years, the two that had the most influence on me would be Cierra Stice and Jeffrey Van Buren. But now as I have grown older, all of my friends have a huge impact on how I think and what I do. So far, the important decisions that I have made in life is to continue breathing, eating, living, and continuing a profitable education.

I distinctly remember the different fads that I have grown up with. Pokemon is that one I remember the most. Although I never participated in in myself, many of my friends played it at lunch in elementary school. It was everywhere all over the lunch school tables. Another child fad that I remember is beany babies. These were very popular throughout my younger childhood years. I found this quite interesting that a bear full of beads would be something that many people would want to have and collect. Many people traded the different type of beany babies they had with other students at school in an attempt to have the biggest collection with the ‘best’

beany babies around. An additional childhood fad that I actually participated in was riding scooters and wearing hoodies. I always rode a scooter anywhere I went alone and with my friends. As with the hoody, I remember every friend of mine having a hoody. If they didn’t have a hoody, they wanted one! The last major one that I think worth mentioning is the Rubik’s cube. I remember the day when I bought my first Rubik’s Cube, I was the last of my friends to buy one; yet was still the first one to learn how to solve it. Even to this day, I still remember how solve the Rubik’s cube and have perfected my average solve time to about one minute.

I have been privileged with the opportunity to go on many and adventurous vacations. I was able to go to Virginia to two weeks. There I was able to go to many historic sites such as Jamestown and other colonial towns. It was fun to learn more about the colonies by actually visiting them. I also went on a cruise of the Southern-Caribbean Sea. On that cruise, we visited Haiti, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Cozumel Mexico, Cayman Islands, and Dominica Republic. Along with these I’ve visited Oceanside, San Francisco, and San Diego of California many different times. I’ve also been to Las Vegas twice. My first time was with my family. I was amazed at the many buildings and the detailed artwork located in the buildings. The second time was while I was a member of the PHS JV Ballroom team. As a team we went to Las Vegas to perform at various schools, conventions, and group events. As a part of this trip, we visited the Adventure Dome. I love that place! On simpler terms, I was able to drive to Paris, Idaho and admire the undeveloped nature that it presents. Finally, I have travelled to Florida several times. My first time was when I was a little youngling. The only thing I remember was the ‘giant golf-ball’. Another reason I went was because that was the year that FBLA Nationals was being held in Orlando, Florida. I qualified to compete in this competition and had great time competing.

To be able to buy things that I want and have the money to go on dates with cute girls, I have to work to earn my cash. Since I was about eight, I’ve taken care of several lawns in my neighborhood to make some money. To make this money, I mowed the lawn, weeded, trimmed, edged, planted, pruned trees and bushes, raked leaves, and cleaned the gutters of the house. Around this time as well, every Saturday I would run a lemonade/soda stand. I would make about $25.00 – $40.00 each time I did this. To me at this time, that was great! Over the years, I have become a technical guru on anything electrical; namely computer devices, cell phones, iPods, car audio systems, etc. With my newly developed skills, I have been able to free-lance and work on several different projects for various different people. Some jobs that I have done include website developer and designer, web server setup/configuration/maintenance, photography jobs, computer problem diagnostic/fix, network security auditing and test penetration, and many other different things. Currently I am applying for different places but I have a job as a Systems Administrator at Complete Restoration based in North Orem. I also work for my parents business Petesoft. For this company I do all the busy and boring work. Such as programming scripts, computer fixing, computer setup, etc. Aside for working for other people, I have just started my own online business. With it, I will make money by the ads that are in place on the website. If it becomes successful and works, I plan to release a new website comparable to it hopefully about every month. If all of these released website work as designed, I will have a source of passive income that would require very little work in order to maintain them. So as until now, I have had a great time with work. It is actually something I now enjoy doing because it gives me something to do and also because I am constantly learning new things about the world.

As mentioned previously, I need money to go on dates with cute girls. Having a social life as a teenager is currently my life! And I must say that it is awesome! Without all my friends I do not know what the purpose of living would be. I would have no drive or encouragement to do things in life. Having friends is at the core of who I am and what I want to be. Friends are the ones who influence what I do, think, and behave. People may ask me what I like to do, and I will respond “I love anything as long as I am with my friends just having a great time!” This may appear to be an easy out answer, but it is true. I will enjoy my time if I am with my friends guaranteed (girls are defiantly preferred).

I hold religious beliefs that are common among the general Utah population. I am a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). With my personal beliefs, I attend a three hour block of church meetings weekly on Sunday; with various activities throughout the week.

Whose better to socialize and to share religious ideals with than your family? I feel impelled to say no other social unit in the world! In my family, I have four brothers, no sisters; three of which are older, whose names are Eric, Jason and Spencer, and one younger whose name is Nathan. Eric and I are both tech gurus who enjoy the latest technological advancements. Jason and I both like to play lacrosse and wrestle with each other. Spencer and I both like to dance ballroom with the ladies. Nathan and I both enjoy playing soccer. I do not know or have a relationship with my mother’s side of the family. But with my father’s side of the family, we monthly get together to have a family dinner all with each other. I enjoy talking with my grandparents and just talking. My relationship with either one of my parents is principally the same. With my parents I share similar ideals and ethics. Since my parents run their own computer programming business, I also have commonalities that come with working with them. I share skills with my parents which closely connect me with them close than with any other persons that I know of. With my family as a whole, we all share the same religious views. It’s a blessing to me to have such great relationships with my family and friends.

I have ancestors from both the east and the west. My father, James Russell Petersen, was born on the 29th of October, 1963 in Murray, Utah. His father, Ray Alvin Petersen, was born on the 24th of January, 1933, and grew up in Ferron, Utah. My father’s mother, Norene Crossely, was born on the 21st of May, 1941 in St. Charles, Idaho. My mother, Elizabeth Ann Ramsey, was born on the 29th of March, 1962, in Salisbury, Maryland. Her father, Robert Dean Ramsey, was born on the 5th of January, 1931 in Roanoke, Virginia. Her biological mother, Norma Mayes, was born on the 31st of December, 1940 in Clearwater, Florida.

For the majority of my life, I have lived in Provo, Utah. It can often be characterized as college town because of all the students who live in this area. The two growing universities, BYU and UVU, are the reason for the amount of students in the Provo-Orem metropolitan area. The size population of Provo is about 115,000 people. The main buildings in the Provo area would be UVU, BYU, New Skin, Novell, and the Provo City Center. Economically, Provo has a lot of growing potential. Utah Valley being recently called the next “Silicon City”, it shows the amount of possibility this area has for economic growth. Every year the Stadium of Fire, an event part of the annual Freedom Festival, is a reoccurring important even and celebration in Provo city. Another annual celebration Provo holds is the lationamericano appreciation event.

I have been able to witness several unfortunate world events. On 9/11/2011, I remember watching the news early in the morning and hearing about an airplane flying into one of the twin towers. But because of my young age, I didn’t think much of it. After coming home from school, I remember watching the clips of the other airplanes flying into the towers and it eventually collapsing to the ground. The next year in 2002, I recall the space shuttle *Columbia* burning and eventually exploding upon reentry into the atmosphere killing all 7 astronauts. In 2003, I remember the Supreme Court upholding the right of affirmative action in higher education in a questionable court case. In 2004, I remember watching the news and hearing about the Kerry and Bush presidential election. I actually watched Bush’s inauguration speech upon his accepted position as the president. That was also the same year the enormous tsunami hit parts of Asia, totaling in about 200,000 deaths. In 2005, I remember doing projects and service at DI to help the people affected my Hurricane Katrina. I remember seeing all the damage that was done by the hurricane in the New Orleans area. Jumping straight to 2008, I remember the contention that was present in California about this time. The people of California voted for Proposition 8, which overturned their Supreme Court decision that said same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. I also remember the presidential campaigning and election which was happening at this time. In 2009, I remember reading about the Australia has had its worst wildfires in history killing 100 people and destroying about 900 homes. In 2010 I remember the 7.0 earthquake that cause a great havoc in Haiti. I did about 30 hours of service for a relief project. In conjunction with this earthquake, this is when the 8.0 earthquake in Chile occurred; a sad account for these two counties. This current year, 2011, I recall the earthquake that hit China/Japan area. This earthquake directly caused the Japan nuclear power plant melt downs. I also remember the massive amount of panic in the Japanese population caused by the fear of radiation. I am also following up in the upcoming 2012 presidential election. I want to remain up to date with all the current news in the political things of the USA.

I personally believe that I consist of an unusual combination of traits that make me unique. I have many activates and talents that I like to do in my own free time. My most prominent and developed talent would have to be photography. It is quite an obsession of mine, but I love to capture interesting pictures that stir up the human imagination. In relation to photography, I love to film short movies. I have not done this for a while, but I would love to begin doing it again. I am amazing with computers even though many people do not know this. But that does not stop me from continuing to progress with skills in this area. Another thing I like to do is participate in ballroom dancing and soccer.

I possess two characteristics which may appear to contradict one another. My first characteristic is that I am an extremely hard worker and will do everything no matter what to get all the work done. Although I am a hard worker, I am probably the biggest procrastinator that you will ever meet. I am patient when I can see the purpose of my patience, but if I cannot see a true reason of why I must wait, I become very anxious about the cause. I like to think of myself as care-free and relaxed, but a truer more correct word would be apathetic. I will do what I am supposed to do because it’s the right thing, but I do many things without emotion or passion. My last self-characterization would be that I am a seeker of knowledge. I personally love to learn a little about everything and to be well learned. It’s almost of an obsession of mine to continue to learn about new things all the time.

Lastly, there are quite a few things that I would like to accomplish in my life. As a general outline, I would like to serve a full and honorable mission for my church for two years of my life. I want to continue my education beyond high school and attend a good college university. I do not know that I want to study in college, but it will most likely be technically

minded and have something to do with the newer technology emerging from the minds of the latest scientists. Sometime during the mess of trying to graduate college and finding a job, I want to find someone who I can always be with and never be sad. I will want to find a girl who I want to marry and who wants to marry me and have a family. I want to raise a family because that is what the true joy in life is. A dream of mine is to one day travel many of the counties of Europe. I am fascinated by the world, but I am drawn the Europe are more strongly. My dream can be summarized by saying that I want to be successful in life and live it to the fullest.   
 This is only the beginning of a long and exciting life! I can’t wait to continue this path of life which is exciting and worth living. I want to be ready for all the bumps in the road, and I can with careful planning. I will enjoy life and live in the moment. For what other purpose is there to live for?