Charles Hwang

Christie Asif, Meg Seth

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There are several different occupations I have considered since around middle school. I first thought about becoming a traffic designer or road architect in middle school; I remember unearthing old Brio trains tracks and Legos one boring summer day and becoming obsessed overnight, constructing the San Francisco Bay Area in the living room. I became so attached that I was devastated when the carpet had to be cleaned one day, and had to rebuild in my own room. I often asked my mom for a pen at restaurants so I could draw intricate street intersections on a paper napkin while waiting for or after finishing dinner, keeping me occupied for hours. However, over time, I realized all of the different variables involved in traffic design, most of which I were not interested in, and the amount of responsibility and liability that came with the position. I did take an Architectural Design class during my junior year of high school and found it to be satisfying but much different than my passion in middle school. While I was interested in the operation of roads in middle school, the class used pencil-and-paper and computer software like AutoCAD to draw designs of objects and buildings with pinpoint precision.

Another occupation I had considered was becoming a mathematics teacher, specifically a calculus teacher. When I took AP Calculus BC during my senior year of high school, my teacher was very laid back, yet extremely effective in teaching the material (at least to me), which had inspired me to think about teaching as a career. I had enrolled in classes at Loyola as a mathematics major but did not consider the requirements for teaching. Over time, I realized the

amount of academic degree requirements and public certification as well as low salary and need for selflessness made it a poor fit for me.

A third occupation I am considering, and have done my occupational project on, is becoming a data scientist. Through the Predictive Analytics course that I took during the Fall 2019 semester and the Nonparametric Statistical Methods course that I am currently enrolled in, I worked on assignments and projects relating to the field of data science. Additionally, I have applied to many data science graduate programs as part of this interest. One drawback that I foresee is precisely one of the benefits that the field sees today: the high demand and high average salary for data scientists means that companies will often only have the budget to hire a few at once. Because of this, the role of data scientist at many companies has evolved into a "do-it-all" position where the person is expected to know, answer, explain, and interpret everything relating to data, even if it is not related to their official position title or job description.