<My childhood, when I could learn about the wide world>

When I was in the 3rd grade in elementary school, I had chance to visit the United States for one year since my father went to the US as an Industrial Engineering visiting professor. My parents wanted to show me the wide world and helped me to dream big. As I visited a myriad of places in the US with my parents, there were so many rich people and big buildings in certain places of the US whereas there were many others in other parts who were suffering pain and needed help. Especially, I could see a lot of people who did not have place to stay or food to eat. Even though I was very young at that time, these scenes left a big impression on me, and I promised myself to be a person that can give help to those people in the future. The experiences I had while visiting US when I was young taught me about the wide world.

< My school days with creative ideas and challenging spirit>

After my memory that I had when I was young, I have grown up thinking that I should be a person who can help others, not just for my success. I decided to do this through the use of technology and became interested in inventions and innovation. When I was in high school, I got a gold prize in ‘National Youth Inventions Idea contest’ by proposing ‘Automatic Ultraviolet Sterilization Bed’ for people who are suffering skin ailment problems. In the process of contest, I wanted to verify the feasibility of my idea and I submitted patent application after producing a protype. Further, when I was in university, I participated ‘Samsung Tomorrow Solutions’ which is a contest for students to find social issues and inconveniences of humans and present creative ideas to solve them. My team had the question, that “How it will be afraid to people who can’t see when they walk across the crosswalk even it is very dangerous who can see?” Therefore, our team proposed a project that enables visually impaired people to cross the crosswalk safely by linking their smartphones with beacon devices. Our team conducted the project for 4 months, and during the project period there was a time when there was a disagreement among the team members about how to proceed with the idea. Teammates were solely arguing their own opinions and a crack began to form in the team. As the team leader, I had to hold the team together and had the responsibility of guiding my team in the right path. I tried to mediate the team and suggested that instead of thinking about solutions from our perspective, we need to visit the people who will use this service in person and hear about their inconveniences from their perspective. Therefore, we went to various places where we could find blind people and listen to their experiences. However, they were not favorable to us at first because many people came to hear their opinions, but every time it was just for interviews, simple university assignments, or political campaigns. Nevertheless, we visited them countless times and tried to show and explain our app functions that was developed to address their inconveniences. As a result, blind people who were half-confident at first liked our idea and app, and said they wanted to be the first to use the application when it actually comes out. Solving various problems and efforts to make a better and safe system to blind people for 4 months, our team got chosen by Samsung as one of the final 8 teams among the 1,250 teams that participated in the contest, receiving $10,000 and the excellence award. Also, in recognition of all my efforts, I received ‘The 77th Hanyang University Anniversary Achievement Award’ from the president of Hanyang University and ‘Seoul Citizen Award (creative science and arts division)’ from Seoul mayor Park Won-Soon.

<My goal to make a better world for humans by studying about Big Data>

In 2014, I attended West Lafayette High School in Indiana for one year since my father went to Purdue University for Industrial Engineering visiting professor. It was a quite short time, but I met many friends, played soccer on the varsity team and made many good memories. Though I knew that I was going to attend university in Korea, my father and I talked about the possibility of coming back to the US for my graduate studies. As I studied as an undergraduate, I had interest in studying about making predicting models using statistics and data analysis. With that interest, I wrote my undergraduate thesis titled ‘A study on the prediction of the delisting of KOSDAQ-listed companies based on machine learning’ and won 4th place in undergraduate dissertation competition. The reason why I wrote my thesis on this topic was since the delisting of a company can cause huge economic damage to many people, I thought predicting accurately and evaluating risks about delisting of a company is very important and is one of the key challenges. Especially, since minimizing losses is a very important as much as generating returns from investments, I thought people could minimize the loss just by not investing in a company that is likely to be delisted.

During my graduate studies, I want to proceed study more about analyzing data with classifying the constraints of various existing problems, study about efficient risk assessment methods including real-life constraints and evaluate accelerated life of a product. Also, in extension of my undergraduate thesis, I want to develop an advanced strategy and plan to increase the performance of predictive models by enhancing the extracting process and analysis model of the data set using statistics and machine learning methods. My ultimate goal is to become a CEO of an international company who can dedicate toward improving the lives of humankind and contribute to our society.