*Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the University of Washington. (Max. 300)*

At the age of 12, I was enrolled in a sports club, from which my love for sports blossomed.

In the club, I met a lot of new and interesting people, all of whom taught me valuable life lessons. From the underprivileged girl with a single mom, for example, I learned to be grateful and to find support from the people around me. And from my coaches and teammates, I learned to believe in myself and accept criticism. However, I believe the biggest lesson I took home from that sports club came from the tiniest source (quite literally).

From Michael, the 3-year-old boy who loved wandering about the children’s playground, I learned to enjoy life and embrace simplicity.

As a toddler who had not yet been exposed to the reality of life, Michael approached everything with enthusiasm and imagination; he touched the overthinking teenager in me. Michael reminded me that life is simply a rollercoaster; you either go up, or down, and even those highs and lows are only relative to how far we’ve come. Every Thursday as we ventured through the vast land of pirate ships and ball pits, my anxiety and worry, whether it be for school or university applications, would be washed away.

At the University of Washington, I wish to find a diverse community from the vast student body where I can share the lessons Michael has allowed me to see. I want to step into the University of Washington as somebody with a new outlook on life, and leave as somebody who has left a significant mark on my peers. I want to be to them who Michael was to me; somebody they could find comfort in in a world that might have been unfair to them.