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AP Microeconomics Blue 2

3 December 2015

Go Big or Go Home: What Will Be Your Greatness?

In 2006, the entrepreneur Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his innovative work toward helping the impoverished to develop and improve their socio-economic circumstances. As a professor of economics at the University of Chittagong, Yunus began a research project on the concept of micro-credit, defined as the granting of small loans to the unqualified poor on easy conditions. Yunus eventually founded the Grameen Bank, which pioneered this idea by providing small loans to people without collateral. In my opinion, Yunus' contributions are very significant to broader society in that he has worked to enable millions of people to engender their own development and engage in entrepreneurial ventures. Through micro-finance, Yunus has provided an alternative to disadvantaged groups – primarily rural and landless women - who would normally become victims to predatory lending.

In 2015, the environmental engineer Kartik Chandran became a MacArthur winner for his research on the microbial nitrogen cycle and the biological transformation of high-nitrogen wastewater into useful resources. Chandran, in his research, determined that certain microbes can be applied to wastewater to remove nitrogen, extract useful products, and minimize its environmental impact. Chandran has found a way to remove nitrogen from wastewater while minimizing the release of nitrous oxide. In addition to these findings, Chandran has also discovered a means by which methane gas can be transformed into methanol, which is useful in

many industries as fuel. Chandran's contributions to the field of environmental engineering are significant to society in several ways – they help the environment, provide clean and sanitary water, offer a more efficient method of transforming waste into useable fuel, and decrease the prevalence of harmful greenhouse gases such as methane.

Reflecting on my own self, I hope to become very wealthy by developing and utilizing an algorithm for investing in the stock market. In order to reach this goal, I will need to complete my formal education and independently learn how to program effectively in several languages. Since a thorough comprehension of economics is vital to understanding the stock market, I will need to attend a university with an excellent economics department. I will likely double major in economics and mathematics, and obtain degrees in those subject areas. I will need to find an internship at a place such as Goldman Sachs, and go to graduate or professional school for additional education and training in algorithmic trading. If I am successful in the fulfillment of this goal, I will make great contributions to society. By providing venture capital to small businesses, engendering economic growth, and contributing to charity, I will make the world a better place.

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