

Essay

To write about myself can be challenging. I sometimes am challenged to articulate my thoughts to paper. That is probably why I am much better at mathematics and science. As a father, I see a lot of myself in my son, Elijah. (Laughing) That is probably a good and bad thing. He is good at math and very intuitive to the world around him. He also likes to have so much fun that sometimes he gets himself into trouble, like me. I also am a husband to the most amazing wife, Gina. She is supportive, loving, and I could not ask for a better woman to call my wife.

My adventures have always been a big part of my life. I grew up on the Front Range in Colorado and remember being young and exploring the world around me. Getting dirty, climbing on everything, skiing in summit county, and jumping off the roof. Now my adventures are more formal and typically require planning and work. Some of my adventures include; climb and skied South Maroon Peak last spring, I was a competitive big mountain athlete in Freeskiing World Tour and Freeride World Qualifer events, I am now an International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association (IFSA) Board of Directors member, and continue to ski and work as an athlete. Those are my extended adventures, but I enjoy the day to day adventures with my family and friends like climbing, biking, skiing, and backpacking. Another adventure that I currently am on is raising my son Elijah. Every day is an adventure to learn, explore, and encourage him to grow into a great man. That adventure certainly is the most rewarding. Looking forward to bigger adventures like backpacking and ski touring with my son.

Passionate about skiing, for me, would be labeled as an understatement. My wife would label it as an obsession. Well that probably is true, and I am grateful for her supporting my passion. Skiing has in a large way led me to where I am today. As an athlete, volunteer, employee, and adventurer; skiing continues to shape my goals and aspirations. One of those goals that I am looking for support from the Adventure Scholarship is to complete my AIARE Pro 1 course, which is a professional level avalanche safety course and certification. With the Pro 1 certification I will be able to build my expertise in avalanche safety and be more effective as a leader in backcountry settings.