

# Introductory Note

*Writing a “brag sheet” can be hard. Many students are not used to writing this sort of material, are uncomfortable with the idea of praising themselves, and don’t have a clear idea of the sorts of things that should go into a summary of accomplishments. To provide some guidance, I have received permission from a former student who wrote an especially helpful brag sheet that led to a strong letter of recommendation and admission to one of the most prestigious and competitive graduate programs in the country.*

*The student’s brag sheet is presented verbatim. Note that he includes things that are obviously relevant to grad school (research projects) but also less related ones; that allowed me to pick highlights and talk about him as a whole person. He also gave thorough detail in every single section, so that I had plenty to talk about.*

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Below, I have summarized my major accomplishments and activities during my time at Mudd. I find it hard, and slightly awkward, to write a brag sheet for myself, but I have tried my best.

Here are a few adjectives that I believe describe me best: hardworking, dedicated, ambitious, compassionate, rational, amiable, and passionate. I am a friend, brother, son, mentee, mentor, and student. I am heavily involved in extracurricular activities, which has pushed me to try new things, develop my leadership skills, and meet new people. Most of all, I am grateful for the position that I am in, and I hope to use to make an impact on the world around me.

## School Leadership Roles

- **Class of 2017 Honor Board Representative**  
Years: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16

Elected by my classmates to be one of 4 representatives in my freshman and sophomore year. In these first two years, I was a member of the hearing board (for JB cases). In my junior year, I was one of six class representatives. Because I was the most senior member on the honor board (no one else had served for three years), I held many responsibilities: I was an investigator for two cases, I was on the hearing board, and I also served as the advisor/contact for a defendant. I am very proud of the work I completed with the Honor Board, including hosting Honor Board events at dorms. I decided to focus on my other extracurriculars in my senior year, which is why I decided to not run again.

- **Peer Academic Liaison (PAL), Atwood Dorm Representative**  
Years: 2015-16

This leadership position was very different compared to the Honor Board position I held. PALs are responsible for helping underclassmen, freshmen specifically, adjust to academic life at Mudd. Each PAL met with the underclassmen in their dorm individually. In these meetings, I gave advice on classes, tips/tricks I have learned over my time at Mudd, and also took notes on problems students were facing in their classes (i.e. curriculum problems). I would relay these issues to the Deans and department faculty. One of the biggest issues the PALs tackled was Frosh Chemistry, which had just

restructured its curriculum. Many students were struggling and felt that the class lectures did not relate to the homework, among other issues. We worked with the Chemistry faculty by informing them of any complaints we received, and noticed a gradual decline in complaints.

As a PAL, I was also responsible for hosting a dorm-wide event and a school-wide event. I ran the dorm-wide event with the Proctors and Mentors, and I ran the school-wide event with all of the other PALs. The school-wide event was a session advising students on electives and planning out their schedules for the upcoming semesters.

### Community Service

- **Tutor at Uncommon Good**

Years: Summer 2015 – Present

Over the summer of my sophomore year, I was conducting research at Mudd and I felt like I had too much free time. In high school, I tutored underprivileged students for almost three years. I was looking for similar opportunities in the area, when a friend referred me to Uncommon Good. That summer, I tutored three girls in the SAT (reading and math sections), and helped improve their scores. Starting last year, I started tutoring a sixth grader in Math and Science. We have made a lot of progress, and it's a lot of fun teaching him. I really enjoy tutoring because it allows me to give back to the community, and it is a lot of fun getting to know the kids I help. Tutoring is something I hope to pursue post-graduation.

### Extracurriculars

- **Claremont Tamasha Bollywood Dance**

Years: 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17

I am not a great dancer by any means, but I decided to join this Bollywood Dance club upon my friend's insistence. Tamasha is responsible for hosting Sanskriti, which is the largest student-run 5C event. In the past two years, I have performed in four Sanskriti dances. Even though I have messed up on the big stage in previous years, I continue to participate because it's a lot of fun and it pushes me out of my comfort zone.

- **EKTA South Asian Club**

Years: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17

I am less active in this club than most of my other extracurricular activities, but I have found EKTA to be a great resource for meeting other students from similar backgrounds. I have gone to a few of their retreats, and I have also participated in some of their 5C events, which range from political discussions to Bollywood movie screenings.

### Athletics

- **Claremont Braineaters Ultimate Frisbee**

Years: 2013-14, 2015-16, 2016-17

Unlike most of my teammates, I had never played organized Ultimate before college. As a result, I didn't understand many of the offensive and defensive plays we ran as a team. Therefore, I served as a practice player during my freshman year. I didn't make the team my sophomore year because of the influx of talent, so I didn't participate that year. I have made the team the past two years and I have transitioned from being a benchwarmer who played 2-3 points a game, to a consistent rotation player, who plays 8-9 points a game. I have worked very hard for this increased role: I played over the summer with a club team, I watched film to increase my Ultimate IQ, and I practiced throwing Frisbees almost every day over the summer.

Ultimate is one of the most time-consuming commitments I have because we practice two times a week and also have team workouts. In addition, we travel to approximately 5 weekend-long tournaments and also play in the regional and national tournaments. We were Division III National semifinalists in my freshman year, and last year we placed a disappointing 13<sup>th</sup> place. We are hoping to qualify for Nationals again this year.

### Work/Summer Experience

- **VMware Summer Intern (VSAN)**

Years: Summer 2016

I worked on the VSAN team this past summer on a really cool project. Going in, my knowledge of storage products was limited – everything I knew was from File Systems. I was thrown into the world of VSAN and I somehow figured out what was going on (with a lot of help from current employees). I worked on a project focused on emulating the behavior of VSAN. VSAN is expensive to test because of the sheer size of the SAN. This emulator would perform tests on artificially created workloads, which helped reduce test time significantly. It's a useful tool for research and testing, and it is currently being used by the team.

That explanation is vague, so I am more than happy to talk to you about it in person ☺

- **Observational Cooperative Multithreading Research**

Years: Summer 2015

I worked with Prof. O'Neill and Prof. Stone on a project that tested HLE (Hardware Lock Elision) performance on a 48-core machine. Although my results were not good enough to be published, I learned a lot. It was my first serious computer science project, and I coded quite a bit in C. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity, and I had a fantastic time learning more about parallel processing.

### Honors/Awards

- Harvey S. Mudd Academic Scholarship
- Dean's List (every semester)
- National Merit Scholar (high school)