Sofia Margulis

The City College of New York

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Prof. Pamela Stemberg

160 Convent Avenue

New York, NY 10031

Dear Professor Stemberg,

I would like to formally introduce myself as I will be attending your class this semester. My name is Sofia Margulis, and I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. I entered City College as a junior as I had previously received my associate’s degree in biochemistry from Montgomery College, located in Rockville, Maryland. After receiving my associate’s degree, I had taken a break from my studies to move to New York and care for a family member. I am thrilled to be back in school and on track to graduate.

“Go and become a doctor so you can treat us,” was a common phrase said to me by my grandparents who immigrated from the Soviet Union. This was the American dream for them. I did not share an interest in their dream. I did not put much thought into the career path I wanted to pursue until my grandmother had passed away and I took over the care of my disabled mother. My mother was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and cannot independently care for herself. Initially, I did not understand the struggles she faced when attempting to accomplish her daily tasks. Over time I learned her strengths and weaknesses which intrigued me to further research on how I could help improve her motor skills and additional physical challenges she struggled with.

The biomedical engineering field plays an important role in the medical equipment used for disabled individuals. It piqued my interest when I had begun to research all the equipment, devices, tools, and such which are used to aid disabled people in accomplishing daily tasks and even improve one’s ability to complete a task. For an individual to be able to engineer devices or tools to improve an individual’s life is impressive, to say the least. Engineering requires a curious mind and a problem-solving approach which are my strong suits. I had to exercise both these skills when I had explored the different options on how to improve my mother’s quality of life as a disabled individual.

Another individual in my life who introduced me to the world of engineering was a relative who works for the United States Army Research Laboratory. I had the opportunity to visit on multiple occasions and experience the incredible technological advances and innovations in pursuit of creating a powerful army suited for modern conflict. During my visits, I had learnt and saw the application of robotics, bio-materials, AI, and much more. It opened my mind to the opportunities one has to create an impact within many different areas of the engineering field. Since then, I have only wanted to work in a career path where I can explore these opportunities and specifically within the technological field. This led me to gain interest in becoming an engineer!

Like most college students I needed a job to support myself while attending college. I was in search of a job that would be flexible with my school schedule and understanding of the excruciating curriculum of an engineering student. I had found a job as a customer service representative which turned out to be a better learning experience than I expected it to be. I had learned how important effective communication is with your team members and customers as well! This job opportunity allowed me to exercise my skills in improving the company which would simultaneously improve customer experience! These skills are necessary for an engineer to have and I have had the opportunity to improve them throughout my work experience.

I envision myself in the biomedical engineering field working with prosthetic's to help improve the daily lives of individuals in need. I would like to work with a team in advancing the technology of prosthetic's so that individuals who are in need of prosthetic limbs, whether they are born without limbs or lost their limbs due to unfortunate circumstances, have the opportunity to live a life with less challenges. Prosthetic's have advanced significantly over the years and engineers are working towards creating prosthetic's that can be attached to the nerves in our bodies so they can as closely mimic the movement of a natural limb. I am excited to be part of the future of advancing technology and improving the lives of many individuals long term!

Sincerely,

Sofia Margulis