"What do you want to be when you grow up, Ike?

I had never really had a consistent answer, as my response changed from "a lawyer" to "an engineer" to "a doctor," but even in those different careers I had a common desire: I wanted to be a leader. I had always had a longing to be the fellow to whom people could look up, the one that called the shots so to speak. However, as I grew and matured so too did my understanding of what it meant to be a leader.

When I was younger, I had a misconception of what it meant to be a leader. As a young child, being a leader meant that I was the boss of my younger brothers. I could tell them what to do, what games we were going to play, and what TV shows we were going to watch. Eventually, however, my underlings stopped completely following their older brother and decided to do what they wanted. Around the same time, I noticed that some of my peers really set the tone for what my friends and I did or said, whereas I struggled to be heard when I spoke. These events (among others) lead me to guess that I was not a leader, and with that insight came disappointment. I ceased trying to guide, interact, or talk to people as much as I used to, and all my relationships, including with my family, deteriorated. Instead, I resentfully watched "cooler," more charismatic people influence those around them and chose to accept that I would never be a "real leader."

When I started high school, my perspective of what it meant to lead changed. I noticed that there were leaders and that there were workers. A leader I defined as one who was recognized with titles and had explicit expectations to fulfill (like mom or dad at home or a teacher, team captain, or club president at school); a worker I defined as an active member who had no recognized rank or title but was nevertheless engaged in hard work. Having convinced myself that I had no potential to lead, I resigned myself to be a worker. At home, school, and other various clubs and communities to which I belonged I began to notice problems, notice that others were not acting appropriately in response to the problem, and took initiative to resolve the issues. To my surprise, others began to follow my lead. I thought I was not a leader, so I focused on being a worker, however, in doing so I became a leader. The faculty advisors for my mentor group advisors acknowledge this and recommended me to be a mentor group captain, a position I previously had declined due to my lack of confidence and misunderstanding of my strengths as a leader, and I accepted. I continued to do what had probably made me a mentor captain in the first place; I continued to reach out to my fellow band mates, freshmen especially.

Others had already expressed their faith in me as a leader, but with time I began to develop confidence in myself. Around the end of my junior year, elections were called for the National Honor Society senior officers. With newfound sell-assurance in my leadership abilities, I realized that I had something to offer. I ran and was elected vice president of the National Honor Society Aquinas Chapter.

Originally the only feeling I associated with leading was self-doubt, but with time, hard work, and assurance from others, my self-distrust evolved into self-motivation, as I became certain that my gifts could guide others to promote their communities. Despite my originally flawed interpretation, I have come to understand the essence of true leadership, and know that

whatever I choose to be when I grow up, it will include being the leader I have always wanted to be.

150 Word Essay: Young and Free Michigan; Powered by Michigan First Credit Union

My mother once told me to always aim for the sun, even if I miss I'll landed on the moon. At first, I did not comprehend, but I came to understand through basketball.
Playing for the first time in eight grade, I lacked real skill. While everyone aced the 2-point shooting drill, I struggled with lay-ups. I always saw practice not as an opportunity to improve but rather the opportunity to display my ineptitude at basketball for my teammates and coaches. I will not claim that my sneakers never touched the court on a typical game day, but starting was impossibility; in more important games, so was playing at all. On a really sour day of practice, I would tearfully lament my situation, often telling myself, "Man, it sucks to suck!" The experience was so daunting that I vowed to never play basketball again. Mom, in her infinite compassion, was aware of the whole affair and sent me to a basketball camp after the season had ended; I obviously had to warm-up to the idea of touching a basketball again. The camp was memorable as I learned useful dribbling and shooting skills and for the first time found enjoyment in playing basketball. I realized then that, had I tried to improve at my old basketball practices as much as I did at camp, I would have shown noticeable improvement. Had I tried my best, I not only would have avoided a painful ordeal, I also would have found the joy of basketball much sooner. It was this experience that caused my mom's words of wisdom to stick in my mind. I may land on the moon, I told myself, but I will never aim for it.

With the above essay Ike did win $1000.00 towards college.

Johns Hopkins University was founded in 1876 on a spirit of exploration and discovery. As a result, students can pursue a multi-dimensional undergraduate experience both in and outside of the classroom. Given the opportunities at Hopkins, please discuss your current interests—academic or extracurricular pursuits, personal passions, summer experiences, etc.—and how you will build upon them here. (300-500 Word limit).

I realize that life at JHU comprises activities inside and outside the classroom, and it is within those realms that my interests lie. My greatest source of joy in school is physics; I love physics because it has problems demanding from the solver a serious thought process. While being a lengthy, messy ordeal, the satisfaction of ascertaining the correct answer leaves me with an incomparable sense of self-satisfaction. I plan to pursue physics while studying at Johns Hopkins University, knowing that the discipline will either bring fulfillment on an intellectual level as part of my future career or lead to a passion that will.
In addition to academics, I have pursuits that range from physically recreational, to religious, and even to musical. Prior to high school I devoted myself to the martial arts of karate, kick-boxing, and jiu-jitsu for years, but as the location of the center, costs, and scheduling became concerns, I was forced to put my dream of becoming a black-belt on hiatus. I was enamored of the fighting styles, as well as the atmosphere of order and respect found within the dojo's

walls. JHU's Jiu Jitsu Club, Aikido Club, and Taekwondo Club mean that I could easily renew my journey, albeit in a different discipline. I have always been a Roman Catholic since my infant baptism, but it was not until high school that my exercising my faith became a priority in my life. At Brother Rice High School I have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by serving as an altar-server and Eucharistic minister at masses and by attending two Kairos retreats. Meaning "The Lord's Time," Kairos is a time of
students leaving home, school, and all of their worries behind and spending time at a retreat center to reflect on who God is, their lives, and God's role in their lives. I attended as a junior, and more recently this year I was chosen as one of seven student leaders; I felt that God was calling me to use my Kairos background as well as my faith to play a role in promoting healthier relationships between God and my peers. These experiences, among others, have helped me greater profess my identity as a disciple of Christ, and I am certain that I could find solidarity with others at JHU, especially through activities like the Johns Hopkins Catholic Community. Fond of my clarinet, I have been an active musician for over 7 years, the last few spent in my school's bands (Jazz, Concert, and Pep/Precision Drill Team). The euphoria and peace of mind I feel when playing my Vito has not waned in the slightest, and between Johns Hopkins Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Student Symphony (I am torn between my choices), I am sure I could find the opportunity to cultivate my long-lasting passion. To these and all other enterprises at Johns Hopkins University I would bring comradery, a deep sense of direction, and a smile, because I would love every moment I was there.

Honors Essay Questions
To help us determine whether you might thrive in the Honors community, you will respond to one of the posted prompts. Please limit your essay to 500-1000, but not more than 1000 words.

<u>Can economic equality and entrepreneurialism coexist?</u>

Economic equality is defined as an economy that has all of its resources and goods shared equally among the people i.e. all members of the economy have the same amount of capital, so economically they are all equal. Entrepreneurialism is defined as starting new businesses, or getting involved with new ventures or ideas, while assuming the risk for the sake of profit. One could say that these two could coexist, but a closer examination suggests otherwise.
The first reason against their coexistence would be that the improbability of economic equality being fully executed within any economy. Savings would have to be outlawed as with savings lies the possibility for some to have more than others, an economic inequality. The system would require constant redistribution on a monthly, weekly, or even daily basis. The hypothetical redistribution agency would have to have more control than the police to enforce their policy and sniff out any "illegal" savings. It would make the war on drugs seem pale in comparison. To effectively control the finances of millions of people on a daily basis would require a serious amount of government control, too much to be considered constitutional in the US as well as in other countries. Even if such a powerful branch of government existed, the human nature inclining towards pride and greed would always foster within some members of the community the desire to break or change the rules to acquire more goods and resources for themselves, even at the expense of others. Communism was arguably regarded as identifying

with economic equality more than any other type of economy. However, while its creators initially had noble intentions, communism eventually degenerated into an economy where a wealthy minority existed at the expense of the impoverished masses.
The second reason why economic equality and entrepreneurialism would not work together would be that the very essence of entrepreneurialism contradicts economic equality. If, under economic equality, everyone would always be equal financially, what would be the point of "assuming...risk for the sake of profit?" One would gain the same amount whether the quality of his or her work was exceptional or poor. This would kill the incentive to innovate thereby killing entrepreneurialism, and the market would lag as a result. When entrepreneurialism works, many people would benefit; the entrepreneurs would benefit with profits from their successful enterprises, and the consumers would benefit with better products and services at more competitive prices. When that desire to make a profit is attainable, entrepreneurialism and its benefits could exist. As the fictitious character Gordon Geeko once stated, sometimes "greed is good." However, economic inequality is an unavoidable consequence of entrepreneurship; as some business ventures may be more profitable than others, some people may profit more than others. Still, the practicality and benefits of entrepreneurialism outweigh those of economic equality.
Consequentially many nations, such as ours, place a greater focus on entrepreneurialism than on economic equality.
It is for these reasons that economic equality and entrepreneurialism could not fully coexist, either in theory or in practice.

A Son's Love: Ike's Mothers Day Letter to me.

On Mother's Day weekend, 2014, Ike asked me "mom did you see a letter in your laptop". I was busy with my EMBA homework/papers that were due that weekend. "No I replied but I will look for it later" I replied. Later that weekend I was celebrated by my children and Chris to a beautiful outing, with flowers, gifts and cards. I had a beautiful mother's day celebration. Somehow I completely forgot to look for the letter Ike told me about that was in my laptop; it fell out of my radar and I never looked for it.
About 6 months after Ike transformed I was feeling like maybe I was not the best mother I could have been to him. I was tormented by the games, some of his school activities that he was involved in that I have missed going to due to work. Especially the last "band concert" I wanted to go so badly but I could not find anyone to work for me so I missed it. I would cry so bitterly wondering how Ike felt about it all. I felt him comforting me saying "*Mom we are put on this earth to do our part as designed by God. Mom you were doing your part and I was doing my part. Mom you came to the things God wanted you to come to. The ones He did not think you need to come; you did not; and Mom that's really OK. You are the best mom I could have asked for. You showed me God and that's the most important thing God wanted you to do as my mother. Mom if I ever had a choice you will be my mom any day"* I could see Ike smiling his signature smile as he said the last sentence.

I know Ike is right but I was not comforted. For about 1 week or 2, I was feeling very inadequate as a mother and that further broke my heart deepening my sadness.
Searching for another document in my laptop I pulled up all my files and I saw a file titled “Dear Mom”. I don’t remember writing a letter to my mother, I thought. I eagerly clicked on it. There it was Ike’s mother’s day letter to me that fell off my radar. I read the most beautiful love letter I have ever received with tear filled eyes.

Dear Mom,

If I Could give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes, then only then would you realize how special you are to me.

Anyone can take your eye but it takes someone special to take your heart.

When I say I love you please believe; It’s true. When I say forever, know I’ll never leave you.

When I think of those I know and love I can’t think of one you don’t tower above. You are better by far than all the rest these, four words say it all, ’’Mom you’re the best’’.

Mom is such a special word the loveliest I ‘ve ever heard. A toast to you; Above all the rest Mom, you’re so special you are simply the best.

Thank you my dear mother for a life of you thank you for teaching me many of the things I do. Thank you Thank you my dear mother for all the times we’ve shared. And thank you for the times you’ve shown to me your care. Thank you for being you in all the things you do and say. It’s in my love I sing to you this song today. I’m sending you a hug; And a kiss upon the cheek. I pray it will bless you when you are feeling weak. I love you mom.

You cared for me when I was small. You did your best and gave me your all. Now that I am grown this is forever true. Dearest Mother. I love you.

God made a wonderful mother. A mother that never grows old. He made her smile of the sunshine, and He molded her heart of pure gold. In her eyes He placed bright shining stars, in her cheeks fair roses you see. God made that wonderful mother. And he gave that dear mother to me.

For as long as remember…You were always by my side, to give me support, confidence, and help. For as long as I remember…you were always the person I looked up to; so strong, so sensitive, so pretty. For as long as I can remember…you always provided stability within our family, Full of laughter, full of tears, full of love. For as long as I can remember… And still today , you are everything a mother should be. Whatever I have become is because of you…and I thank you for our relationship.

For all you do you do with love you are so special a gift from above with all my heart I want to say I love you mom; happy mother's day.

Ike
5/8/2014

Thinking about it now; I am not quite sure that it was all because I was busy that I forgot to look for the letter while Ike was alive. I think I found and read the letter when it was meant for me to find and read it. Reading the letter comforted me so much and all my insecurities regarding being a good mother to Ike were all washed away by the ocean of Ike's great love for me.

-Dr Indira Onwuzurike (mom)

Write an answer of 150 words or less to each of the following questions:
1
In which of your accomplishments during high school do you take the greatest pride? (Choose no more than three, and be specific.)

"WARRIOR OF THE WEEK for the week of September 30, is Ike Onwuzurike. Ike runs Track, is involved with Quiz Bowl, DECA, BEAM&R, and Christ Child. He is an NHS member, an altar server and Eucharistic Minister at our school Masses and also a semifinalist in the 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Ike as he continues in this competition and for Warrior of the Week!"
While I was not the only recipient of this award, classmates, teachers, and even the principal, recognized my actions outside the classroom as a benefit to the school**,** and welcomed my efforts in the extracurriculars I pursued, even though I was not necessarily a star in all of them. Awarded for being myself, I consider the ultimate act of acceptance by my community.

2.
Name one book that you read during the past year that you recommend. Why?

The Devil's Double remains my favorite text. I first learned of it from watching the movie. The author, Latif Yahia, tells a compelling narrative of the life he lived before, while, and after he served Uday Hussein as his fiday, or bullet-catcher. The luxurious, depraved lifestyle of "Black Prince" Uday was like a car-crash: something that should not occur, but did and it captivated my attention. I was, and still am, so enthralled by Latif's story because it is factual, yet reads like fiction. The protagonist, Latif, was by no means perfect, but his questionable actions, such as debauching himself to survive, often cause me to ask myself if I, in his position, would have done something of that nature. I continued reading his story in the sequel, The Black Hole, but I knew that sooner or later I would again read The Devil's Double.

3.
If you had the opportunity to have a conversation with an important figure, either contemporary or historical, whom would you choose? Why?

If I could choose, I would talk to Ironman racer Dick Hoyt. While his athletic career is commendable, it is not my main interest. My fascination lies more in his determination to provide his quadriplegic son Rick the opportunity to enjoy life, going to great lengths to provide a happy childhood, and going to even greater lengths by racing in over 1000 races, pushing Rick along each one of them. The fortitude to overcome the obstacles of racing came not solely from superhuman willpower, but from love in its purest form. I believe there exists great power in love. Talking to Hoyt about his love, I want to understand how I can love others through actions as bold as these, so that I can live practically, not just for my future son or daughter, but for anyone in my life who needs my support.

4.
Why have you chosen to study the academic discipline associated with the scholarship program you are seeking? You may include comments about both your academic interests and your professional/career goals.

While the principle of hard work continues to guide my life, I am not geared for working mindlessly, I must cogitate. I love physics because its problems demand a serious thought process. While figuring out a typical problem is usually a lengthy, messy ordeal, I find an incomparable sense of self-satisfaction once I ascertain the correct answer; as lame as it sounds, times like these are when I feel most alive. The humbling moments of failing to correctly solve a problem on my first try, or couple of tries, pales in comparison to the euphoria when I finally have my eureka-moment, when the math finally makes sense, when the concept finally clicks.
I plan to pursue physics while studying at Washington University, knowing that the discipline will bring me fulfillment on an intellectual level and lead me to a career that will do the same.

5.
In 150 words or less, report any scores, test results, or competition results of interest. For example, tell us your scores on the AHSME and AIME exams, the results of competitions such as the physics or chemistry Olympiad, your national chess or bridge ratings, etc.

Curious about business my freshman year, I joined DECA, the international educational business organization, through our school's chapter with no idea of what to expect. I decided to compete, but unfortunately I was among the few who did not qualify for the State-level competition. Nevertheless, I participated as an alternate and vowed to return the following year. I chose to do a team event with a partner my sophomore year, and we managed to qualify for States. My junior year, we devoted ourselves to independent research and role plays, and that year we qualified to compete on the international level, the only students from our school to do so in 2013 and the only juniors to ever to do so in our chapter's history, all with no formal business preparation. I learned that success is not determined from where one begins, but by how far one is willing to go.

Complete one original essay of approximately 750 words on the topic for the scholarship program for which you are applying.
Within one of the disciplines listed (Mathematics, Physics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Environmental Earth Sciences), describe a scientific reading or research project in which you have recently been engaged or that you would like to undertake. (If you choose to discuss a large research project in which you participated, do so in a manner that will permit the Compton Committee to assess your own contributions.) If applying for the Fossett Pathfinder Fellowship, you should focus your essay on environmental sustainability.

***Note**: I had no idea how to write this, so I worked with what I knew (that's why this essay is similar to a lab report); this is a rough outline, as I have not put in all of the details because I don't know what I need and what I don't to satisfy the 750 word count. Please take some consideration when reading this and feel free to fill the gaps of knowledge that will be apparent as you read this by explain the small concepts I need to know. I won't get too specific when I write about it, but I don't want to sound like I have no idea of what I'm talking about when I should have an idea to the reader. The **bolded** statements are my ways of directly addressing you. I am completely open to questions, critique, and concerns, as this is hands-down the toughest essay I have ever had to write.

1. Beginning

a. I do not believe I have had any experience in conducting scientific research, at least not formally, but I do have an ideal project in mind that I would love to do should the opportunity arise.

b. While there are many interesting topics within the discipline of physics such as string theory, I am mainly fascinated by energy conversion, from kinetic to electrical; I like to see how movement can generate the power used to run many of the objects on which we rely on a daily basis such as phones and televisions.

i. Seeing the concept in action, I know that it is feasible. Once can simply look to self-winding watches, wind turbines, and sOccket, a soccer ball that after being played with for 30 minutes, can power an LED light for over 3 hours. The clever idea of sOccket's is great for the impoverished children in Africa, who for the most part all love and play soccer and often times lack electrical lighting in their homes, but it is not suited for Americans; many of us have electricity in our homes so the need to move a ball around, soccer or otherwise, for a relatively small amount of energy is miniscule.

c. I began to wonder what it is that we Americans often put into motion that we could easily and practically use to generate electricity, and eventually the idea came to me: cars.

2. Beef

. Break it down like a lab

. objective (Use above statement): I would use my curiosity of energy conversion to see how much energy could be stored if the kinetic energy was garnered from moving wheels on cars.

i. set-up:

1. The research would take place in a car manufacturing lab and on a preset route through a city.
2. A GPS unit along with its corresponding software would also be used to determine the experimental distance traveled.
3. I would require a team of engineers to develop for us the experimental hardware to convert the energy from the moving wheels and the four batteries (identical) to store it; the way this is set up, only one battery will be charged at a time. Since the amount of energy that could be generated has yet to be determined, the experimental battery would be designed to hold 12 volts, as much as a typical emergency car jump starter.
4. I would also require a car; the make and model would be a 2013 Toyota Camry, as its popularity would more clearly produce more practical results than, say, a Smart Car.

ii. procedure

1. The battery, drained of electricity (**Mr. Barnes, I need help understanding how to drain this battery and how to explain to the reader that I have an idea of what they are talking about**), would be placed in the car, with the wires connected to the mechanisms at the axles.
2. I would have a route set, with the trip starting from the car's ignition to parking.
3. I would drive as I would normally drive, allowing the GPS to record the distance traveled.
4. After parking, I would drain the battery (**see above bolded comment**), measuring the amount of electricity in the battery.
5. I would conduct 4 more trials.
6. I would then repeat this process all over again once more for each of the other 3 batteries; the batteries would be labeled Battery A, Battery B, Battery C, and Battery D.

iii. observations & data

1. A table & graph of data would be created showing for each trial the experimental distance traveled, and the electrical energy generated for a particular battery.

2. For the graph, the x-axis would represent the distance the experimental distance traveled and the y-axis would represent the electricity generated.
3. After plotting each trial as a point on the graph, I would draw a line indicating any apparent trends.
4. After doing this for each of the Batteries, I would make a graph combining all of the batteries' trials; therefore, this graph would have 20 plotted-points. Again I would draw a line for any trends.
5. I would then take out the extremes of the data and take the mean to find a reliable measurement of electricity.

iv. Analysis & Error analysis

1. There are significant factors that could have reduced the accuracy of the results. Pre-emptive moves were made to reduce error, such as using the same driver, same car, same route as well as others.
2. The charge weakening/varying with every cycle: While this was inevitable, this was somewhat reduced by only having any particular battery charged five times total; this may have reduced the total electricity saved in the batteries. Working with four batteries more or less spread the error out.
3. Since this took place over more than one day, the variance in temperatures could have affected (**.....either the charging or the draining of the battery. I'm still unclear as to <u>exactly</u> what is affected and <u>exactly</u> how**). The best way to reduce that would be to have done the (**driving?/draining?)** over days that had a constant climate.
4. Excess friction may have caused much of the kinetic energy to be converted into thermal, not electrical. Friction could be reduced by making the surface of the moving materials (the axles, the electricity generator(s)) have a lower coefficient of friction by either changing the composite material or by applying a lubricant.
5. **Do you know any other *Important* factor I may have missed?**

v. Conclusion

1. With the information gathered, I believe I would have accomplished the goal of the research.

vi. Implications and applications

1. While it is unknown what exactly the battery would have capacity to power, I am optimistic that the electricity produced would be negligible enough to power more than an LED flashlight.

Above is a research proposal of Ike's