

Client interviewed with Duke but matriculated at Wharton.

1. My parents were afraid that I would not like wine, so when I was a newborn, they would dip their fingers in a glass of wine and let me lick their fingers. I am proof that this technique works.
2. As my Dad was an expat in the U.S.A, I start learning English when I was 1, but left when I was 3. When I arrived in France, I felt like everyone was speaking another language to make fun of me. From this, I learned how to adapt myself to a new environment.
3. When I was 3, my dad asked me to name my brother. I remember saying "Georges" after my stuffed animal Curious Georges.
4. When I was about 5 years old, I was (and I am still) a big fan of batman. My mom caught me at the edge of an open window of our building, trying to use my "bat-grappling hook" to fly across the street.
5. I joined the drama club at my school when I was 7. I feel it taught me how to express myself and by playing other characters, I feel it helped me see things from a different perspective, something I still carry today.
6. When I was 8, I wanted to be a sculptor like my mom. I created my first sculpture, a deformed man crawling on the ground. I wanted to sell it to start my art career. My mom put it in her gallery and actually sold it, portraying it as a man facing the pressure of the society.
7. Corresponding for two years with a 12 year-old kid from Madagascar, when I was the same age as him, really gave me an appreciation for the difficulties of living in poverty.
8. En route to meet my exchange host family in Maine, at the age of 12, I had to change to terminals at O'Hare airport. When I asked someone how to get where I needed to go, and he said, "go to terminal E." The pronunciation of "E" in English sounds exactly like the letter "I" in French. I spent probably 30 minutes trying to find terminal "I" which did not in fact exist. Eventually, I asked someone else, and she was kind enough to accompany me to terminal E.
9. At 14, I decided to build my first computer. My mom screamed when she noticed I was sawing the computer frame so it would be big enough to fit my power supply.
10. When I was about 15, I was fascinated by history and decided to complete my family tree. With the help of my aunt, I was able to trace it all the way back to the 1100s on my mother's side.
11. In December 2004, I hiked in the jungles of Tanzania with my grandparents, and two guides who were carrying shotguns to protect us.
12. After noticing how women fawned over Patrick Swayze in Dirty Dancing, I took two years of modern dance classes.

13. At the age of 16, my uncle and I went to Mauritania to visit the former village of one of his patients to help improve the medical facility there. Despite, the primitive surroundings, I found 8 to 12-year-old students learning about advanced topics such as AIDS. This experience revealed to me the real potential of this continent.
14. I walked for 10 days in the Sea of Sand in Mauritania, doing dishes in the sand, sleeping outside to admire the sky. Met locals and learned about the way they survive.
15. When I was 18, I climbed the White Glacier in France with my dad and my uncle. Facing extremes temperatures, hiking on very narrow mountain ridge with strong wind really taught me the importance of teamwork, as I could never have survived it alone.
16. Six years ago, I had to dress up as Santa Claus to distribute gifts to my young cousins in Rochester. I had to change my voice, put a pillow under my costume, and wear my grandmother's glasses. Which was a terrible idea, because I could not see a thing and walked into the wall when I had to run outside and "fly my reindeer."
17. As part of my involvement with the study abroad office at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), I built a Tiki bar on the porch, as part of a series of events to host incoming exchange students.
18. At ERAU, I met a pilot at an international event I attended, and was extended the opportunity to serve as copilot for his flight to the Bahamas two days later.
19. On a road trip from Florida to San Francisco in August, our 1974 van broke down a couple miles west of the Death Valley. I had no internet and when I called the towing company, I had no way to describe where I was – it was just desert and cacti. Two hours later, thankfully, the tow truck found us.
20. When I came to Little Rock, AR four years ago, for an internship with [REDACTED], I thought I understood English pretty well at that point. Not over there!
21. On my first solo flight, I only had 14 hours of training. When I was about to land on a narrow runway, a gust of wind pushed my aircraft to the side and one of the wheels landed on the grass, throwing dirt all over the windshield.
22. After I graduated, it was difficult to find a job in the US in aviation as most companies require U.S citizenship. I found my job through a friend I met via Couchsurfing.com, a website where travelers can meet people to host them in the city where they live.
23. When conducting a [REDACTED] customer seminar in Mexico, I did my opening in Spanish to engage our customers. I was quite proud of myself until my Spanish colleague said my strong French accent made it impossible for them to understand me.

24. When Espresso machines became popular, I used to drink their coffee when visiting my friends. I would always choose the gold pods believing they gave me the most energy. I recently realized that the gold pods are decaf. I can testify to the power of the placebo effect!
25. My brother invited me to the soccer opening game of the 2016 Euro Cup. I was not prepared for that much emotion.