

# My Most Vivid Memory Concerning Water



## Jacob Duppong

My most vivid memory of water would be me as a young boy blissfully running through the sprinklers on a warm summer day. I remember my own pure enjoyment as I sprinted through the cool water dispersed wildly by the sprinkler head. I particularly enjoyed sharing these special moments with my little brother. I can remember one time in particular when my brother and I were playing with a ball in the yard during a hot summer day. We were overjoyed when the sprinklers popped up out of the ground to provide relief from the hot sun. We ran and splashed around the whole

yard for the entire afternoon. There was no other place that I would rather be on a nice, sunny day than playing with water in the yard. I loved these moments so much it landed me a cover model spot on the North Dakota Water magazine! Now these memories are forever captured for not only me to enjoy, but everyone else as well.

The water industry has played a very important role in my life as it has impacted both me and my family. My father is heavily involved in the water industry, employed with Ferguson Waterworks for more than 20 years. He is involved in everything water: water supply, water storage, water retention, irrigation, storm and sewer water, and treatment plants. He has been an integral part of helping to develop the state's water resources and bring quality water to those across the state in both rural water and municipal settings as one of our nation's top waterworks materials suppliers. My mother has also been involved in the water industry for many years in the form of water education. She started her career with the North Dakota Water Education Foundation as the graphic designer for the North Dakota Water magazine. She helped with numerous water tours held across the state, assisted with preparation for the yearly North Dakota water conventions, and worked with other water groups and people involved with water in North Dakota.

It is safe to say there have been many discussions at our dinner table about water-related issues and the importance of having clean water. One of these conversations has once again been brought up recently. This summer, I will be taking a mission trip offered through my high school to Belize, a small country in Central America, that is a much less fortunate than ours. Our group will be helping with construction work and teaching children. We have been told multiple times we should not drink the water and to use bottled water for everything. This again made me think and thank God for the blessings we have in the United States, and in our own state of North Dakota, of having the benefit of clean, high-quality water for our people to utilize. These experiences have caused me to want to help others who are lacking in resources and expertise to overcome their challenges.

I feel very strongly and am passionate about improving our society and trying to better our world for this generation and the next. Because of this urge, I have decided to pursue a degree in engineering. I hope to someday be able to contribute to society in such ways as bringing clean, high-quality, affordable water to people in need in places that are overlooked by the rest of the society. I believe the happiness I experienced as a young boy running through the sprinkler could be the same joy that those who have been waiting for this important resource would experience if they were to obtain it conveniently and at an affordable rate. I would be honored to play any kind of role in creating a Vivid Water Memory for someone else and pay it forward.