It was my senior year of college. Two of my close friends, my lab partner and his wife were about to have their first child. After months of anticipation and two false alarms the day finally arrived. Her membranes ruptured and she was four centimeters dilated. Nervous but excited we were led into labor room two. She and the baby were monitored continuously and she was intermittently examined throughout the day. Six hours later her first stage of labor ended—she was ten centimeters dilated and ready to push.

My reasons for pursuing a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology are numerous. The field offers a unique combination of primary care and a surgical subspecialty. Primary care allows for continuity of care leading to the development of trusting, long-term relationships and the delivery of comprehensive, quality care. In addition to managing patients medically it affords the opportunity for surgical intervention if necessary. Also, as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist I would have the opportunity to care for women of all ages and be part of a dynamic field that is both intellectually challenging and rewarding.

On the monitor I could see another contraction mounting. With a determined voice I said, "You can do it Naniah! Focus, breath, and p-u-s-h. We could clearly see the top of the baby's head. With the next big contraction an episiotomy was cut and shortly after my close friends Carlos and Naniah were presented with their first child—a baby girl. Her cord was clamped and cut. As she let out a strong cry I was overcome with emotion; I could feel my eyes fill with tears. It was a day I would never forget.

There are several reasons I believe I am a strong candidate for your residency program and well-suited for a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology. First, I am confident in my ability to take principal responsibility for management of my patient’s medical problems and successfully execute the daily tasks expected of me as a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Secondly, my work as a Physical Therapist Assistant taught me goals can be accomplished with persistence and determination. These capabilities will get me through difficult surgical procedures and prolonged, complicated deliveries. Thirdly, I believe I possess the mechanical ability, manual dexterity, and leadership qualities critical in a surgical subspecialty. As a teacher for autistic children and a leader of various organizations I learned skills that will enable me to set priorities, delegate responsibilities, and organize activities both in and out of the operating room. Lastly, I am a compassionate person devoted to helping and caring for others. Whether it be an Oncology patient in her final days of life, an infertile couple trying to conceive a child, or an Obstetrical patient who miscarried a desired pregnancy, I can empathize with their situation and make a difference in their lives.

The fundus rose in her abdomen, the cord lengthened, and there was a gush of blood shortly followed by the delivery of the placenta. They massaged her uterus, repaired the episiotomy, and cleaned her up. Snuggled in a blanket with a little pink knitted cap, Gabrielle Marie was gently laid on her mother's chest. Naniah looked exhausted yet content with the small miracle she held in her arms.
My career goals include enrolling in a residency program that will develop my clinical and technical skills, promote patient education and prevention, encourage participation in community service, and concern itself with ethical issues in medicine. Upon successfully completing residency I plan to commit myself to the underserved as part of my National Health Service Corps Scholarship. I have a special interest in helping the indigent in our community and anticipate this being a rewarding time in my life. Furthermore, being a Humanities Scholar has increased my awareness of ethical dilemmas in medicine, an interest I plan to pursue by serving on an ethical committee of a hospital. Ultimately, I hope to establish a shelter for pregnant women and teens to provide them with basic needs, prenatal care, counseling, and support. Despite my many goals I will still find time to enjoy personal interests and spend quality time with my family.

Currently, Carlos is a resident in Internal Medicine, Naniah is a student at the University of Pennsylvania, and Gabrielle is a kindergartner at Saint Bridget’s. It’s hard to believe how quickly time passes; it was only five years ago when we were gathered for the birth of their baby girl. That day strong bonds were formed and memories were created that will undoubtedly continue to last a lifetime.