



Book Excerpts

"While pursuing my master's degree, I worked part-time as a quality engineer for a medical device company; managing two lives - one as a student and one as a professional - was difficult. This was especially true when managing my time. There were sleepless nights and many cups of coffee juggling my work, school assignments, and tests. However, it felt fantastic to learn a new concept in the classroom one day and then apply that knowledge the very next day at work." - Nikita Angane

"To stay focused and confident, there will be times when you have to ignore the negative things people say to you. A male student once said, "I can't believe you're ahead of me [in rank]; you don't even take advanced math." I felt surprised and angry that he thought he was better than me just because he was a boy. At the same time, I was proud of myself and what I had accomplished in math and at school, so those negative feelings did not linger. Others may judge your academic abilities based on your gender. Learning to use negative comments to motivate yourself to succeed is important. You have to rise above them." - Selina Webb

"As a child, I was a keen observer, always eager to learn and ready with a series of questions to satisfy my thirst for knowledge. But, growing up in a male-dominated society with a government that ignored our most basic human rights, I did not have the stability and confidence to build a proper foundation for the future. However, I had a solid and secure family environment. I was fortunate to have parents who put education above everything else, a rare privilege for a young girl in Iran." - Fatemeh Razjouyan

"During my 8-week trip back from the North Pole, I discovered my dad had passed away. He was my hero and encouraged me to go to the Arctic for the first time. I still had three weeks left on my trip when I received the sad news. My dad struggled with health complications throughout his life, but this was sudden. A large part of me wanted to get off the ship and go home, but I stayed. I always promised him if anything happened, I would finish whatever I was doing, no matter how crazy it seemed. He encouraged my crazy ideas, and my life is richer and fuller because of it. I honored his lifelong, unending support for me by staying on the ship. When I returned from the trip, I was awarded the US Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal. What an honor for my hard work!" - Christina Goethel