



INTERVIEW NOTES: 4953

Donor 4953 came to our interview wearing a crisp, white button down shirt, jeans and brown loafers and a large black wrist watch. He has a beautiful smile and long eyelashes over cool, grey eyes. His nose is on the large side but fits perfectly on his symmetrical face. His light brown hair is short and neat. Even though we were sitting it is easy to see how trim and fit donor 4953 is, I can tell his physique is important to him. Per his narrative profile he does very much resemble the soccer player Thomas Muller, although I think he is better looking.

Born in Bavaria in the South of Germany, donor 4953 was born exactly 12 minutes after his fraternal twin. His twinhood would come up repeatedly throughout our interview and he would often refer to himself as “we” instead of “I”. After their birth donor 4953’s military father was sent to Bosnia for active service during the Bosnian Conflict. Upon his return (when the twins were 3) the family moved to the US and landed in Georgia. Being a military family they moved quite often, from Georgia to Southern California and then to the Central Coast of CA. His father never moved the family onto a military base however; they always lived in neighborhoods outside of base. As a result of the many moves donor 4953 learned how to make new friends on a regular basis.

School is easy for 4953. In the 3rd grade he was *sparked* by an extraordinary teacher who inspired him to work harder. He excelled academically in school, far beyond his brother. During elementary school he and his brother played soccer and other sports avidly. Come middle school their involvement in sports became more competitive and took up more of their spare time. By high school only donor 4953 was still active in sports and the two boys began going their separate ways socially. As a result of his focus on academics 4953 graduated Valedictorian of his high school class. He also held the title of Senior Class President and boasted an all A average until college, where he sheepishly admitted he got one B.

Donor 4953 feels his childhood and family are different than most American family narratives. Having lived in Germany influenced their lifestyle tremendously, they didn’t spend money lavishly, they had no debt and they chose to spend money on things like good food. Donor 4953’s mother was an excellent cook; in fact he remarked doesn’t remember ever having the same meal twice growing up. His mother raised them to be neat and tidy, to always make their beds, values and habits he maintains to this day.

I learned an extraordinarily amount of information about donor 4953 from our interview and his narrative. He loves to talk and share about himself. He also loves a good non sequitur. He would frequently catch himself in the midst of one and re-route himself (comically) back to the topic at hand. I found it very sweet and entertaining. Although his future plans are a little vague, he discussed going into business management, I’m quite confident he can do absolutely anything he sets his mind to.

Interviewer: Anat Avittan

Date: March, 2014



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

DONOR PROFILE: 4953

The past and current personal and family medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test results determine that donor 4953 is eligible and approved for semen donation at The Sperm Bank of California. This profile was prepared in July, 2014.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Identity-Release® Program: **Yes**
- Month/year of birth: **January/1994**
- Education: **BA in Business Administration/Psychology**
- Current occupation: **Transcriptionist**
- Ethnic origin: **German, English**
- Religion: **None**

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Height: **6'2 ¾**
- Weight: **179**
- Hair color: **Light brown**
- Hair type: **Wavy**
- Eye color: **Blue**
- Complexion: **Fair/Rosy**
- Body type: **Medium**
- Blood group/Rh: **O-**
- Baby photo available: **Yes**
- Other distinguishing features: **Larger than average nose (but straight)**

FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

KEY: D donor Ch child F father M mother S sister B brother
 Co cousin A aunt U uncle MGF maternal grandfather MGM maternal grandmother
 PGF paternal grandfather PGM paternal grandmother

Genital/Reproductive: **M: Ovarian cyst 18, treated with surgical removal, resolved.**

Heart: **F: Heart attack at 38, treated with medication, managed. F: Heart murmur (Mitral valve prolapse discovered at time of heart attack) at 38, treated with medication, managed. MGF: Stroke at 68,, treatment unknown, recovered. MGF: Heart attack at 70, treated with medication, ongoing problems until death at 72. MU (Maternal half-uncle): High blood pressure at 30, treated with lifestyle change, exercise, resolved.**

Metabolic/Endocrine: **PGF: Type 2 diabetes at 55, treated with medication, ongoing managed. MA (maternal half-aunt): Hyperthyroidism at 30, treated with medication, managed.**

Muscles/Bones/Joints: **MGM: Osteoarthritis at 55, treated with medication, managed.**

Neurological: **MGF: Dementia at 69 treated with supportive care, ongoing until death hat 69. PU: Dyslexia at 16, no treatment, managed well (college graduate).**

Sight/Sound/Smell: **D: Right eye 20/20, Left eye 20:70**

Skin: **M: Skin cancer (basal cell, ear) at 28, treated with surgical removal, resolved. MGM: Psoriasis at 30, no treatment, ongoing.**

Cancer (see above): **M: Skin cancer (basal cell, ear) at 28, treated with surgical removal, resolved.**

DONOR LAB RESULTS

Chlamydia: **Not Detected**
HIV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
Hepatitis B: **Non-Reactive**
Urinalysis: **Normal**

Gonorrhea: **Not Detected**
CMV total antibody: ***Positive**
Hepatitis C: **Non-Reactive**
Chem panel: **Normal**

Syphilis: **Non-Reactive**
HTLV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
CBC: **Normal**

**CMV IgM is negative/IgG positive. This combination shows a historic CMV exposure and donor is presumed to currently be non-infectious*

GENETIC SCREENING RESULTS: ALL TEST VALUES IN NORMAL RANGE

Genetic screening tests can significantly reduce, but never completely eliminate, the chance that a person is a carrier for a particular disorder.

Cystic Fibrosis: (> 500 mutations) **No mutation detected**
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): **Two copies of SMN1 detected**
Hemoglobinopathies/Thalassemia: **No abnormal hemoglobin detected (including sickle hemoglobin);
No evidence of thalassemia**

DONOR NARRATIVE: 4953

The content of this narrative has not been altered by TSBC staff and therefore reflects original written work of the Donor

Describe your personality: introvert, extrovert, funny, serious, goal-oriented, curious, shy, etc.

I am extremely ambitious and have been so since a young age. I have always been interested in bettering myself and excelling in everything I do; be it athletics, academics or simply putting together a bookshelf. I am also very confident and I am never afraid to convey my opinion, make a comment, ask a question and try something new. One can classify me as very social as well and that quality helps make me an extrovert. Friends have told me they have never seen me unhappy, and it is true that I am consistently smiling or laughing throughout many of my days as I seem to find pleasure and humor in many things. It is easy for me to make people laugh. On the downside I think I talk too much sometimes, but I am very self-aware so I am able to watch out so I do not do that often. If one were to survey how my personality connects with my life in the physical aspect it is obvious I am a perfectionist and neat-freak. I am the type of person who makes his bed every morning, maintains excellent hygiene, and organizes everything alongside keeping things clean. That is not to say I am afraid to get dirty, I enjoy yard work and many other things that can take me out of my comfort zone. Part of the core of who I am is the high amounts of energy I have and the drive to try new things. I am worldly and enjoy exploring new cultures and seeing different parts of the world. My well-developed social skills (which are still, and always will, be developing) enable me to make new friends easily and find ways to connect with wide ranges of individuals. My coaches have always told me I think too much, my overthinking tending to get in the way of simply competing. They were always right, and I have known for a long time that I analyze everything beyond the amount the average person does.

What are your interests and talents?

Among my highest interests are exploring the world and meeting new people. Traveling is definitely very enjoyable for me, but I plan to work in international business in multiple places around the world. I like learning new languages and studying people in relation to their culture and the interconnected interactions of people. The mix of cultures and the interaction of its peoples have come to the forefront of my interests in recent years and demonstrate, in my opinion, the globalization of our planets societies on a cultural level, beyond just the economic and political spheres. I am very good at 1000+ piece jigsaw puzzles and can complete them quite quickly (and enjoy doing so). History has always been a passion of mine and I recall in elementary school I would rent countless biographies from the library and read them for fun. At this same point in my life I would rush home from school to catch the cartoon educational show on the revolutionary war on PBS. Growing up I continued reading history books, including historical fiction. Some of my favorite characters in history are powerful figures in which I admire and set as role models for ambition and perseverance. Some examples are Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Genghis Khan, Peter the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte. I tend to focus on European history and my least favorite history is that of North and South America. One can say I have some athletic talents. I definitely worked hard to achieve what I have in athletics and I grew up playing sports (started soccer at age five), but having height and certain other physical qualities have enabled me to excel. I am also interested in dancing; I have taken Salsa, East Coast Swing, and Line Dancing lessons and hope to continue learning dancing when I get more time again. When I find the time I enjoy going clubbing and to concerts. Although this may perhaps make me look a bit wild, to my defense clubbing can range from the stereotypical clubs in Europe to line dancing in the U.S., concerts I have been to include world renowned DJ Benny Benassi as well as the band U2. A minor talent of mine is the ability to lift individual eyebrows and do the wave with them.

What are some of your goals and ambitions in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

I have an unbelievable amount of goals. My longest standing goal is to live to the age of 106 so I will have lived in three centuries. That is partly why I maintain a healthy lifestyle. Professionally my goals include working up the management ladder to an executive position in a large multi-national firm. I wish to become fluent in Mandarin for now, but I am sure one or two other languages will be added on as the years pass (I am learning Korean this upcoming summer). On my list of things to learn are how to ride a motorcycle, sailing, kickboxing and a CS language like Java. Also I want to climb at least one of the tallest mountains of the world, visit some of the most famous landmarks, or “wonders”, of the world, hold a baby monkey, pet an elephant, and watch the wild life on the African safari.

In 5 years I see myself working in Hong Kong or London in consulting or marketing for an international firm of either a German or English speaking country. I see myself in stylish suits eating good food, working hard but enjoying life. In 10 years I see a more aged face, one with a look of solid confidence and expertise gained through vast amounts of experience. I will still be wearing nice suits, but in a more relaxed way as I stand in a high level management position in a large firm. At this point I would like to have found the woman I love and if I have not already married her, would in the near future. I would also slowly consider a more permanent place to live such as Germany or another location I have enjoyed more so than others. I eventually want two to four children, and it would not bother me in the least if fate would bring me four boys or four girls. I look forward to raising my children in the future and I can say it is a goal of mine to raise them properly as my father did not do this to me. I want to be present in their lives and teach them the many things I have learned in life.

Materialistically it is my goal to have a few residences around the world and currently it is a dream of mine to have a property in South Africa or Italy where I will retire to vineyards and beautiful tree-lined gardens.

Athletically I used to want to be a professional soccer player and an Olympian. As I write this I am just turned 20 and it is probably too late to be able to pursue these goals. I am not fully deterred though as I have switched from Track and Field to Rowing and it is statistically proven that many walk-on college rowers make it to the Olympics. It will always be a goal of mine to maintain higher than average physical shape, no matter my age. I will always be in shape and see myself as the man who will be able to go on a run at will at age 30 or 65.

By the time I am too old to move anymore I will have walked and run on every continent, seen most countries of the world and be satisfied with my experience of the world in the truest sense. I want to make a vast amount of money like so many others of the world, but my dream would be to retire somewhere in my 40's and use my somewhat young body for philanthropic activities that actually have an impact. However cliché it sounds, working hands on in third world countries, e.g. in Africa, building houses or crucial irrigation and water systems is a goal of mine. The money I would make would support these endeavors as the most valuable asset in this world, time, would be all mine to give without the worry of money. When I die I hope to achieve the most important goal that I have: to have a positive and pronounced impact on this world. I want to be remembered, I want my name somewhere in the history books to say the world, or this part of the world is this way because I believed and worked for it to be that way.

How would you describe your skills and interests in the following areas?

Math: I am proficient in math but no genius. I never had trouble with math growing up, placing in advanced classes and taking AP Calculus in high school. Until I came to college I practically rarely studied for math and it came to me quite easily. Naturally in a competitive and higher intensity university atmosphere it became necessary to study for me. I am not a math enthusiast but see its practicality and importance.

Mechanical: My mechanical abilities are mediocre as I do not do many mechanical things. It may be my lack of experience and practice in this area that adds to my deficit.

Athletic: I love athletics. I am extremely athletic and enjoy watching soccer (European teams). I also enjoy watching the Summer Olympics and the World Cup. I was a high school track and field star and still hold some records at my high school. I did a total of four sports in high school including Cross Country, Soccer, Track and Field, and Football. I have continuously done sports since the age of five. I have good ball-control in soccer and enjoy playing indoor soccer when I have time. My original plan was to walk-on for the decathlon at my university but when I was not given a tryout I turned to rowing and plan to continue rowing in the future. I am very proud of my athletic achievements and I believe I deserve to be because I have some natural abilities but I have put countless hours of literal blood, sweat and tears into my athletic career. I have sprinted and passed out after crossing the finish line, cried in frustration and also in joy, and made some of my best friends through athletics. I have great jumping ability and speed. I am also quick for my height. If understandable, my 40yd dash time (a common American standard) was 4.50 which is as fast as many NFL players (not referring to linemen).

Musical, artistic, creative: I count myself as a creative individual and prefer to demonstrate it rather than explain it. I am not very artistic although I use to draw and took drawing lessons briefly, there simply was never time to develop any artistic skills. I played guitar for two years and dually enjoyed it and became frustrated with my slow learning.

Language (what languages besides English do you speak?): I speak German fluently. I learned Spanish for three years but am not fluent. I learned a little Estonian while studying there.

Writing: I have always performed very well in English classes in writing. I also enjoy writing and used to write stories and even once considered writing a book. I understand the multiple applications of writing and find myself well aware how to write professional letters, scholarship essays, email correspondences to particular people, and resumes.

Literature: I have read many significant literary works and plan to read other words, including from particular cultures such as Germany. While I enjoy reading some works, I can get bored with others, no matter how well-known and popular. I am very capable of understanding and comprehending high level vocabulary and themes in literature.

Science: Science has been my least favorite subject since biology class bored me in high school and I suffered excruciatingly in my AP Physics class in pursuit of an A. If I apply myself I can excel in science and recently my interest in science has been spurred through the Psychology courses I am in.

On a deserted island your one book, one movie and one album would be...

Movie: Love Actually

Book: Genghis: Birth of an Empire, by Conn Iggulden

Album: The Essential Michael Jackson (Compilation Album)

What are some of your reasons for becoming a sperm donor?

Alongside a way to earn some money to pay for college I see the value in helping people unable to have children. I know for a fact that countless parents in the world mistreat their children and are not good parents and I have a strong belief that sperm donor programs are sought out by the people who highly desire to have children, and this desire is what fuels more healthy parenting and a greater possibility of a parent or parents who will bring up a child in this world with love and care.

Did you choose to be an Identity-Release® Program donor?

Yes No

Why did you make this choice?

I will be honest and say it was a difficult decision for me, and I believe it was so because I am still young and have much to learn about both myself and this world. But I decided to mark yes because I know when I am older and I consider that there are people out there who would value contact or information about myself in order to understand themselves and get closure in their lives, that I would be tormented by the fact that had I said no and later changed my mind, there would be no going back. By choosing to be an Identity-Release donor I place the decision of my interaction with any children born to the future me. The earliest possible contact that could be made would be in my 40's and at that point in my life I will be able to handle such circumstances maturely and with a better understanding of family. I have little else to say than that the person who I become as the years go by will heavily determine how I handle this decision. It is possible that I will be more than happy to meet and provide information to someone from the program, but it is also likely that I will feel the need to limit interaction to the bare minimum.

Is there anything else you would like to share with participating families and offspring?

Growing up I had a very caring mother who was also very strong and firm. She would protect me from everything and even as I live far away in college I believe she still thinks I am her 14 year old boy. I recall moments where I would try to convince her not to confront the teacher who said something mean to me or wanted me to do something that she did not believe was right in her opinion for my education and how it seemed she barely heard my pleads not to get involved. She always did though. And looking back I am happy she did, however embarrassed I may have been, she raised me where I knew she cared about me in the most blatant sense such as asking me to kiss her goodbye before I went to school or when she would punish me or tell me some boring, hard-to-understand German saying.

My dad on the other hand never gave me the impression he cared. He had many opportunities to spend time with my brother and I but rarely did. Something I will never let go is how after retiring from the military and having no job and plenty of time he did not show up to my League Final track and field meet my senior year of high school. I had asked him to come, still maintain some sliver of hope even after years of his absence and my attempts at having him come to my athletic events. But this meet was different. He had time, he lived only an hour drive away and it was the biggest meet of my life up until that point. I was poised to qualify for CIF in every single one of my events, set all-time best marks and get first in all of my events. I showed, he did not

This last statement about my parents that I communicate is to provide some insight into my emotional side. I have tended to hold in and hide my emotions and be the strong man that society stereotypes. But reality has it that I have and will always be saddened at the lack of attention I received from one parent. What I lastly want participating families and offspring to know is that no matter how many parents you have growing up all that counts is that you always care for each other. To offspring I convey to you that you can succeed and have dreams and goals no matter what type of life you are brought up in and should let no emotional barriers or hardships get in your way, but instead use it as strength to fuel success in your life in order to one day pass on what I now pass to you: the goal of educating others and giving others care, support, and love. To participating families, specifically parents, I trust and believe you all fully capable of becoming that mother or father who your child will remember and look back at and smile as I do now when I think of my mother.

I actually have one final thing to say to everyone: enjoy life and do what makes you happy, never do something that will make you worse off.