

Bio for David W-K

Hello everyone. My name is David and I am a rising junior at Mary Washington. My family history and racial heritage is central to my character and plays a large role in my decision to pursue a degree in International Affairs. I moved to Arlington, VA from Washington D.C. when I was four. I attended high school at H-B Woodlawn, a very small school with only 80 kids in my graduating class. Being consciously aware of my identity and an ability to make lifelong friends anywhere I travel has truly enriched my life. The roots and branches of my family tree stretch from New Zealand to Eastern Europe to North Africa. I do not have just one identity, but several. While this might seem like a source of confusion, I find it helps me be flexible and adapt to cross-cultural settings and groups.

Born in Egypt, my Muslim father immigrated to Washington, D.C. at the age of 21, where he met my Jewish-Christian mother. My father and I have returned to Egypt multiple times so that I can have a relationship with my extended but distant family. I feel fortunate to experience Egyptian culture, observe the lifestyles, and witness their struggles, which have been many and severe (including multiple uprisings or revolutions since 2011). My relatives are resilient and have overcome so much. I am astounded by the adversity they have faced, as their struggle is an integral part of my identity and my ultimate goal of joining the Foreign Service.