

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

ALEXANDROS IS MY NAME

Alexander Mahylis

It is November 1, 1988, and my mother is in labor. She wants to name me Alexander, after the famous Greek conqueror; my father prefers **Benjamin**, the quintessential American scientist/diplomat. You know who won.

Since then, I have noticed some parallels in the direction of my life so far and that of **Alexander the Great**; of course, this is quite a pretentious claim, so let me clarify. My pursuits and successes thus far have come on a significantly smaller

ETYMOLOGY:

Αλεξανδρος is from Αλεξω = defend, fend, protect; and Ανδρας = man; i.e., defender of man, fend for mankind

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scale than Alexander's, whose legendary achievements border on the **mythical**.

Nonetheless, Alexander came **first** in the class being taught by the great philosopher

Aristotle, while training his horse **Bucephalus**; I, too, graduated **first** in a class of 530 students from Upper Arlington HS, while juggling two varsity sports and serving as the president of two clubs.

Alexander the Great was not one to rest on the laurels of his past success, as evidenced by his rapid fire conquest of an empire that eventually spanned over 5,000 miles from East to West in 8 years. I am enrolled at the **University of**

Chicago on an academic scholarship. I plan to double major and/or graduate with bachelors and graduates degrees in 8 years.

I plan to do as Alexander the Great did when he embarked on his expeditions into what was then the **unknown**. I, too, want to probe the **edge of human understanding** and then **stride boldly** out into the unknown. This is where I hope to be most similar to Alexander, as I feel that what makes him most remarkable was his **fearless desire** to conquer the what lay covered in mystery's shroud.

Shakespeare once wrote, "What's in a name, that which we call a rose by any other would smell as sweet?" Perhaps this is true, but a man of the great Greek's caliber, and of the caliber I one day hope to attain, could only be named **Alexander**.

