Lucas Gsellman Akron Hockey 2012-2017.

I graduated in 2017 Suma Cum Laude from the Engineering and Honor Colleges with a Bachelors in Biomedical Engineering (Bio-Mechanics) with a cumulative GPA of 3.97

I grew up 20 minutes from Akron and my dad has coached in the Akron/Cleveland area since before I was born. I learned to skate at 3 and started playing competitively at 6. I grew up playing hockey in the CSHL (Cleveland Suburban Hockey League) and various AAA programs like the Cleveland Barons, Pittsburgh Hornets , and Youngstown Phantoms. After high school, I took time off of school to play junior hockey. I started at the Rochester Stars (New York) and ended up with the Green Mountain Glades (Vermont).  Both are tier II Junior A teams in the EJHL (Eastern Junior Hockey League). After trying out for some Canadian junior teams I decided junior hockey wasn't for me and ended up returning home and going to Akron. I stumbled upon the UA ice hockey team and got in with the biomedical engineering department. I also found that the University of Akron's campus was nicer than many of the Ivy League East Coast schools I had visited and a fraction of the cost. I got more and more involved on campus with undergraduate research, design teams, and the hockey team.

 During my 5 years with Akron hockey I served as treasurer and captain. We went through many trials including coaching changes, losing players, and financial issues, but those who stuck with it have some of their greatest memories with the team. I am proud to be one of the core group of guys that went through the tough years to set the foundation for an up and coming program.

Outside of hockey, I got married while in college. The whole team came to the wedding. My best friend in college was one of the guys from the team and was a groomsman at my wedding.

I received a number of awards while in college:

Dean’s List, Presidents List, Outstanding Biomedical Engineering Student Scholarship, the Akron Council of Engineering and Scientific Societies Scholarship, College of Engineering Trajectory Award, honorable mention for the national Goldwater Scholarship, and I was the commencement speaker for the college of engineering.

I participated in significant research as an undergraduate and presented work at two scientific conferences in 2015, and was published as a co-author in a peer-reviewed journal article in 2016.

My co-op included work for medical companies in Indiana, Florida, and Michigan. My final co-op was in surgical robotics R&D at Stryker Corporation’s world headquarters in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I accepted a job offer from them even before starting my senior year.

Akron was the best choice for me because it allowed me to stay at home and save money, while still allowing for many opportunities to excel for those who would take advantage of them. Through scholarships and working while in school I was able to graduate with next to no student loan debt, as did others on the hockey team.