Jonathan Kenney

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Passions Reflection

 My greatest passion has always been for new ideas. Getting enthralled in simply thinking about different concepts can entertain me for hours on end. As a kid, I would spend ubiquitous time simply daydreaming about my many farfetched ideas. As time went on this developed into a love of technology because that is where I see myself most being able to fulfil this passion. I took an interest in all sorts of topics in high school; the robotics team especially helped me get involved and acquainted with various aspects and skills in the STEM world. My love for video games and software then lead me to decide Computer Science had to be the path for me. I love the concept of making things in a digital world that we can apply to every aspect of life here. It took a while to get started, but with help from my amazing mentors on the robotics team I was able to dive in and get started. My school did not house much of a technology program, so the team was integral to fostering and growing my love for programming and computers. As I say in my bio, I have grown particularly interested in the fields of virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

 This passion is important to me for multiple reasons. Primarily, it helps to channel that “inventor” side that has stuck with me since I was a kid. But creating programs and working with computers is a lot more to me than just a job I hope to have. It is not the easiest thing to explain; it is like an insatiable hunger to know more about something that the world as a whole is still unveiling. I can imagine this is how the early chemists and physicists felt when the pieces started to connect. Not that I would try diminish the current importance of those fields, but working with something still being extrapolated and discovered is enticing. Additionally, I hope to be able to use the knowledge I gain about technology to create pragmatic solutions to real world issues as well as spread passion for technology to the next generation who will continue to supersede us in expanding humanities limits. As much as I confess to loving technology and learning about it, that passion and knowledge means nothing if it is not backed up with a desire for change. Ultimately, engineers and scientists have the distinct pleasure of knowing what they do has real changes to help people in the current and the long term.

 Looking forward, I hope to expand this passion by looking into different applications. For instance, working with groups like UC Sustainability to develop a software solution to a problem would be a perfect way for me to mesh my passion for computers with that of sustainability. And this is just one possibility, as I move on into graduate school I hope I am able to do research on projects – whether it is robotics, programs, or something completely different – that I can take pride in and know that the impact goes beyond myself. I regrettably have never been very good at the more traditional forms of service, but that is why I realize the need to try that much harder to make sure I am doing more than my share to help the world solve the hard problems as we continue to move on. Computers and software are needed everywhere now; it should not be too difficult to find a way to plug in and help out, and this excites me for the possibilities the future holds.