CMPSC 580
Junior Seminar
Spring 2019

Assignment 1
Assessing Your Interests
Due: Tuesday, 15th January 2019

Summary

The goal of this assignment is to help you identify where your interests lie in the area of computer science and then to get you started thinking about how you can combine those interests into a senior project proposal that will be exciting and rewarding.

What to do

You are invited to take a serious look at your past experiences in computer science and think about how you want to spend the next year and a half. Think about why you chose to major in computer science. What would you like to be able to say about your accomplishments at the end of four years? What do you imagine telling a potential employer about what you have learned and what you have done with that knowledge?

This assignment has two different components: *written* and *presentation*

1. **Written**: Take the "Survey of Interests" which has been provided as a Google form at the below link:

    https://goo.gl/forms/duBvQVFRjh8jypJk1

    To complete this part, you are invited to sit down with another member of the class and go through the questions together – interview each other. Help each other think though the meanings of the questions about your interests and then think of thoughtful and meaningful answers to describe an interest-area in your field of study. When describing your interests, think back to classes that you and your peer have perhaps shared together in which you both remember an "aha!!" moment that was experienced after a late night in a labs. Perhaps your interests may be found in the ideas of a famous writer that you have studied, or were made known to you by completing and assignment or a project that gave you great satisfaction and keen excitement.

    Use your inspiring moments to guide your answers in the Google form and submit them before the beginning of class on Thursday. Be prepared to share your experiences in a "lightning-talk" presentation.

2. **Presentation**: Prepare a short (two-minute) "lightning talk" for Thursday in which you briefly describe some aspect of computer science that *deeply* interests you. Try to articulate

why it interests you. Explain what more you would like to learn about this area and, if you can, try to imagine how you might be able to do this through the senior project you complete next year.

Prepare at least three slides (in the software of your choice) to show on the projector screen as you give your lightning talk. It need not be complex or formatted in any particular way. However, it should include your name, the date, your topic, and something to help focus the viewer's attention on the topic you've chosen.