**What do you enjoy the most about software development**

So far software development is my favorite aspect of Computer Science and the main reason is the sheer amount of programming it involves. I have been programming for the past seven years and I have never grown bored of it. I enjoy building new things, whether it is for enjoyment, education, or to benefit someone else, with just using a keyboard and my mind. For example, I created a mobile app that calculates a user’s carbon footprint.

When I run into problems in programming, no matter how tough it is to solve, the payoff is always worth it. I get this sense of victory and satisfaction from finally figuring it out. It feels like solving a puzzle or beating a new level in a video game. You always learn something new each time you challenge yourself! Even if I am not successful the first time I try creating a program, I keep trying again and again until I get it right. It is also important to me to improve upon my programs so they are more efficient. For instance, if I were to redo the Carbon Footprint tracking application, I would use Angular instead of Android Studio or MIT App Inventor because I found Angular to be more efficient with broader features and capabilities.

Another reason I like programming is that I like to see how things fit together. An example of this was when I learned during this assessment how HTML, CSS, and TypeScript work together to create a website. I was always quite good and really enjoyed Biology for the same reason. I liked learning how the many parts of our body work together to let us function the way we do.

**Describe your ideal career progression, if there were no limitations:**

No matter how my career goals change and shift, I want my work to make a difference in someone’s life. That is why I plan to be a software developer for environmental science. I want to combine my passions for Computer Science with the natural sciences and create something ( be it a website, an app, or a database to store scientific information) that can be used to get us closer to solving some of our greatest environmental issues. If there were no limitations, I would specifically like to work on software that could help track and manage carbon emission for businesses or the government. I particularly enjoy programming that involves calculation.

To get to this goal, I would like to continue networking with those in the field I am interested in and keep gaining their perspectives and sharing my own with them, so I can broaden my view of the world and how things work and incorporate these views in my work so it is more reflexive.

I will also keep trying to gain experience in this field, for example I am applying for this position right now, so I can gain experience in software development and application development. I would like to learn and collaborate with others to build new things and challenge myself. Working in teams in class and in the Game Design Club has been exciting and eye-opening and I learn a lot. I am able to share my strengths and weaknesses with my teammates and they share theirs with mine. Together we have enough strength to complete daunting programs or applications that could be overwhelming for just one person.

Eventually after college I would apply to work at a place that works on environmental issues, like the Environmental Protection Agency. This is one place that I know hires Computer Scientists. There are other places too like Virginia Tech who need Environmental Computer Scientists to help with research data. The NRO is another example. Their Computer Scientists help manage scientific data related to natural disasters and relay them to environmental scientists, so they can solve environmental issues.

**How many semesters do you have left in your degree program at Towson?**

Five