Kevin Lewis Introduction

General Background:

My name is Kevin Lewis. I was born in New Jersey, but I have lived outside Washington DC in Northern Virginia for most of my life and consider myself a Virginian at heart. For my undergraduate degree, I attended the University of Virginia. While the education was top notch, the football program left a lot to be desired so I am not much of a college sports fan. However, this is starting to change as UVA has started to improve.

I am currently a structural engineer working at a civil engineering firm in their transportation department. While I enjoy the work, I found that I always enjoyed working with programs and developing simple code every now energized me and made me more excited for the next day of work. Noticing this in myself, I decided to pursue the interest more seriously which brought me to Oregon State, Go Beavers!

A little more about me, I have recently found a passion for consistent exercise. For the past year, I have tried to exercise 3 to 4 times a week. In the past weeks, this has morphed into exercising in the morning. While it can be rough getting up, I find it easier to get out of bed and ironically fill me with more energy throughout the day. Though I'll be honest, if I don't get enough to eat at lunch it can get a little hit or miss towards the end of the day. I can confirm that Hanger is a real thing.

I was surprised to hear that computer science had a perception problem. From what I've read in the news, there are many new initiatives to introduce computer science into the curriculum at increasingly younger ages. The uptick in interest is probably a result of computer science's increased use in fields outside of programming. Even I as a structural engineer have had to interface with some coding during my which is unusual. However, as we continue to utilize computers in every avenue of life, it is vital that we have at least a basic understanding of how they work. This follows a similar mentality to why we study biology or chemistry in High School. While it isn't incredibly important, those two topics are such basic building blocks for a myriad of other fields, it would significantly hamper a student who had not already built a solid foundation in those topics.

Quick transition into the intro class. They are fundamentally hampered with the dichotomy of creating interest while also teaching the basics of a topic. I enjoyed both 161 and 162, and while they could be frustrating at times, I don't think there are glaring areas where they needed to be improved.

Programming Experience:

I dabbled in programming while working as an engineer, but the only other serious experience I had with computer science was my introduction class I took my freshman year of college. That course was Java based. Besides C++ in the introductory courses, the only other language that I have had any experience with is Visual Basic while developing some spreadsheets while pursuing my graduate degree. I cannot remember which IDE we used for my previous introduction class. At OSU, I used Visual Studio for 161 and XCode for 162.