After college, I'm interested in either becoming a software engineer or a researcher in some subfield of computer science. Because I'm unsure which of these two paths is the one I want to take, any experience I can get in either is valuable to me, especially up-close and personal in research like this. No matter which I do, I'm likely to pursue some sort of graduate degree.

The idea of doing research on recommendation technologies appeals to me. Those are something I've always wondered about and been fascinated by whenever I encounter them in everyday life, whether on Spotify or OKCupid. I have done some small amount of independent reading about them, but I crave more in depth study of the sort I would get as a Social Computing Extern.

Also, I'm refreshed by your apparent focus on user-experience design. I've long believed that making a product pleasing for the consumer to use rather than simply functional is extremely important. During my time at the Carleton Summer Computer Science Institute, I especially enjoyed the class I took on human-computer interaction. I love to imagine the things that I create fulfilling the needs of the people who use them.