Hello and welcome again to my website! (h2)

I’m super excited you have decided to come here to explore who I am, what I do, and what I hope to do in the future. (h4)

Who am I?

I’m a learner

Currently, I’m a student at the University of Virginia studying Computer Science and Psychology. With that combo, I’ll be programming the robots that take over the world, at least according to my sister. Regardless of what I do in the future, I’ll always be learning. Right now, it’s when I’m in class listening to a professor lecture about how the cloud works or how our brains process information. In the future, it’ll be learning job skills from my managers and mentors and working with them to solve problems. I’m looking forward to starting my job at Amazon Herndon this coming July and excited to see what new things I’ll learn there.

I’m a teacher

While most of my time as a student is focused on learning and studying, I also spend time every week as a teaching assistant and coach.

I help teach CS 2110, which is the second computer science course students take at UVA and focuses on Java, Object Oriented Programming, Data Structures, and some software development methods. Since my favorite programming language is Java, teaching this course felt natural for me to do. I’ve also taken the role of a Head Lab Teaching Assistant where I give a quick lecture at the beginning of every lab section explaining the concepts students will use in the lab and also a summary at the end of lab going over solutions and making sure students understand how to solve the lab if they hadn’t already. I really enjoy this job because I can explain concepts to students in a different way to help them understand better and also clear up any confusions they may have from regular lectures. Also, through giving these lectures, I become much more comfortable presenting and talking in front of large groups of people and thinking quickly when students ask questions.

I also coach UVA’s Wushu Club. If you don’t know what Wushu is, it’s a performance-based Chinese martial art that emphasizes flying jumps and large sweeping motions (click here to see my performances and competitions). I had started Wushu when I was in around third grade, but took a break after middle school due to knee issues. I wanted to continue training in college, so I joined the club. As one of the most experienced members in the club, it has become my job to help lead practices, teach forms and weapons, and to choreograph performances. Often times, I hadn’t learned a form that someone wants to learn, so I’ve had to quickly learn a wide variety of weapons and styles to be able to teach them to my friends. While it’s tiring and I’m not able to practice on my own as much, it’s been really fun learning so many styles and transferring that knowledge.

I’m a programmer

My story of how I got into programming and computer science is a classic one. I enjoyed math in elementary and middle school and figured to try programming in high school and enjoyed it ever since. I’ve always seen programming as the logical next step for math. Like math, it takes previously learned ideas and concepts (algorithms, data structures, etc.) and applies them to new problems. Unlike math, programming can often show whether a solution is correct or not and often seeing an issue can indicate where the problem is hiding.

Throughout college, I’ve been able to learn about many different fields of computer science, including game and web development, databases, and machine learning. I’ve also been fortunate enough to have had an internship every summer after my first year where I applied what I’ve learned to do real work for the companies that I worked for. Learning so much these past few years has made me excited to see where my career will go and what new skills I’ll pick up from my future mentors and coworkers. Check out some of the projects I’ve worked on here.

I’m a performing artist/athlete

As I mentioned above, I’ve been doing Wushu since third grade and I’ve always enjoyed performing in front of others. It’s exciting to wow a crowd with flashy weapons and high-flying jumps. As a choreographer and organizer for my club, I try to ensure that our performances are as high-energy and exciting as possible. Check out some of our pictures and performances here.

During my break from Wushu in middle and high school, I played tennis for a few years until I didn’t make the cut for my high school’s tennis team. However, another athletic opportunity presented itself. At the (rather forceful) pushing of two friends, I joined my high school’s cheerleading team. This was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. It was the first time I became part of a tight-knit family that depended on and trusted one another. It was the first time I became a leader. It was the first time I was pushed far outside my comfort zone and forced to confront my fears and learn quickly. Through cheer I’ve made so many close friends and learned both how to work on a team and how to be an effective leader and mentor. I overcame my fear of flipping to learn how to tumble. While I have few regrets from my time in high school, my biggest regret was not joining cheer sooner. Check out some of our performances here.

I’m a traveler

My family loves travelling and hiking. When I was younger, we’d travel around the US to national parks to hike on their trails and see their breathtaking views and outlooks. More recently, after I went to college, they’ve started taking me to other countries and seeing other cultures. We went to Europe for the first time in the summer of 2018 before my internship. And since my dad loves taking pictures, we always come back from every trip with hundreds of pictures. Check them out!

I’m a nerd

I’m a huge Star Wars fan. I’ve been one ever since my dad gave me my first Lego Star Wars set when I was around 6 years old. Since then my collection has grown. I played the Lego Star Wars games on the Wii where I learned what happened in the first 6 movies and the Clone Wars TV show. I watched all the movies, both Clone Wars TV shows, and every TV series since. I watch a number of YouTubers who cover every new Star Wars comic, book, or game that comes out and explains the new additions to the lore as well as what happened in the old expanded universe (now called Legends). I play a mobile game called Star Wars Galaxy of Heroes where I can collect, upgrade, and battle with characters from variety of areas from the movies to old games to the TV series. I even got a Disney+ subscription just to watch Star Wars. Star Wars has become a part of my identity. Anyone who has seen my room or my desk can easily tell how big of a fan I am.

Before you ask, here’s my answer to the important questions for every Star Wars fan

* Favorite Character? Can’t really pick one, but I’d say my favorites would be Captain Rex, Ahsoka, and Anakin. I was first introduced through the 2008 Clone Wars show, so I’m very biased there.
* Favorite Ship? X-wing. I have a special connection with it since it was my first Star Wars Lego set
* Color of Lightsaber? I want a red lightsaber because red is my favorite color but since colors actually have meaning, I’d realistically end up with either a blue or yellow one.
* Jedi or Sith? Grey Jedi. I want to be mostly light but also be able to use dark side abilities because they’re cool. I don’t like being on such extremes like the Jedi and Sith.

I’m a gamer

Since I was little, I’ve always been restless. I’d rather be playing with my Legos and coming up with adventures for my characters to embark on than sit on the couch and read a book. I’d rather be practicing sports like Wushu or tennis than practicing violin. Likewise, I’d rather be thinking and interacting with a game than mindlessly watching a TV show on the couch.

I’ve been playing games since I got a Nintendo Gamecube many years ago to play Super Smash Bros Melee with my neighbor. I’ve been loyal to Nintendo since, getting a Wii where I played the new Smash Bros Brawl game, Mario Kart Wii, and the Lego Star Wars games. I also would play the Tanks game on Wii Play with my sister when she’d come back from medical school. I also played MMORPGs like Runescape and a little bit of Maplestory with my friends in around 4th to 6th grades. My best friend in elementary and middle school also introduced me to the Halo franchise, which I’ve been interested in ever since. However, I didn’t play these games all that often once I went to middle and high school since I had more homework to do and also discovered the Internet and YouTube and all the cool Star Wars videos I could watch there.

Everything changed when I went to college and won a Nintendo Switch from HooHacks 2018. I’ve since bought a many more games than I had when I was younger: Breath of the Wild, Mario Odyssey, Smash Bros Ultimate, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Pokemon Sword, Let’s Go Eevee, and more. Even better is that my friends also have switches with similar games, so we can often play together on multiplayer games or connect through local wireless connections. I’ve also brought my Switch with me when travelling to entertain me on long flights or at night before bed.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me! If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me here and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Further, I am also willing to admit I am more a web developer rather than a web designer; if you have any critiques about how my site is laid out or works, feel free to contact me there as well.