

Dear Dr. Perona,

I hope this letter finds you well. I don't know if you remember me, but I have been a classmate of your son, Matteo, since the second grade. We finished Chandler together, as graduated from St. Francis together, and now we find each other at UC San Diego together. It is crazy for me to see how much he has grown over the years. I still remember the third-grade bike-athon we did together and how he lapped me twice. Nowadays, he has grown a lot stronger and more muscular, and a lot taller as well. Furthermore, we also talked about how we are studying similar topics. I remember he is pursuing a major in data science, and I am pursuing a major in Cognitive Science machine learning as well as a minor in data science.

With regards to machine learning, I remember my father told me about a talk he heard from Suzanne Stathatos regarding the use of machine learning to count salmon populations in Alaska. This is something I have been interested in for quite some time. Marine conservation has been something important to me for a long time. For one, I know how important industries such as fishing and tourism are important to not just Alaska, but other states and countries even around the world. I also am an avid fisherman and diver myself. Being out on the water fishing or diving is a joy for me that I hope everyone gets to experience in their lives. Preserving the world's waters preserves that joy for me and everyone else who feels the same way. Additionally, I have developed a recent passion for machine learning and learning to replicate human processes and systems in code such as deep learning networks and other techniques. Learning that these two worlds of environmentalism and machine learning/data science can unite has been a lingering thought, and I have been most passionate about pursuing such a career ever since

If you know of any opportunities related to Suzanne Stathatos' work, and if maybe you can recommend me for some, I would be most grateful. Thank you so much for your time to read this letter.

Most sincerely,

Daniel Kong