**How do you feel a mentoring experience can have a meaningful impact in your life?**

My parents immigrated from China to the United States a few years before I was born. They grew up during the Cultural Revolution; my dad was born in a poor farming village in the Gansu province and my mom was raised in a large city in the Sichuan province. I, on the other hand, grew up in a middle-class neighborhood in the college town where both of my parents worked. Although these stark differences in upbringings give me a much better cultural perspective, at the same time it can make it difficult for me to look to my parents for advice or guidance when it comes to my college and job search experience. That’s why I believe a mentor would be an invaluable resource for me, as someone who can help shape my future through their wisdom and guidance. Recently I have been thinking about graduate school and weighing the pros and cons as well as the different types of programs (IUG, traditional Masters program, etc.). Having another person, especially one with a wealth of knowledge and experience, to discuss my thoughts with would be incredibly helpful. Beyond advice and guidance, I hope to also make a lifelong friend with whom I can comfortably discuss my further education and career, and in return I can provide fresh perspectives, ideas, and conversations.

**What topics are you most passionate about?**

If someone were to ask my ten-year-old self what my passions were, I would have said “Legos” without even hearing the whole question. 10 years later, although I have (mostly) outgrown Legos, I haven’t outgrown my passion for fixing and building things, using my hands and my creativity. I’m always itching to do hands on work, from simple things like installing Nest smart thermostats in our house to more mechanically challenging tasks like replacing the wheel bearings in our car. In the past few years my interest and focus has shifted towards computers and programming, starting in middle school when I built my first computer with my dad and leading me to where I am now, pursuing a degree in Computer Science at Penn State. At HackPSU in the fall, despite going the full 24 hours without sleeping, I was full of energy and excitement finishing up our Facebook Messenger financial advice chatbot project. Even during difficult projects in my classes, that feeling of finally getting a project to work is second to none and something I’m always looking to replicate. Lately, I’ve been working on an algorithmic trading bot for buying and selling stocks. Although I still have along road ahead of me, there’s nothing quite like creating something and tinkering with it until it works just right. Despite finding myself with less and less free time each semester, every time I visit home and see the Lego X-wings and TIE fighters on display in my room I’m reminded to keep chasing that feeling of accomplishment when a project finally works.

**To help the committee identify a meaningful match, please share your career aspirations in the space provided.**

Lately I’ve found that my career aspirations seem to change by the month. I’m barely halfway through my college education, so I think it’s too early for me to decide on or commit to a single career path. However, a field that keeps drawing back my interest is quantitative finance. Ever since I took an economics class in High School, I’ve been deeply interested in the subject, leading me to pursue concurrent majors in economics and computer science. Although computer science and programming are my primary focuses, I’m most fascinated by the intersection between economics and technology. The intersection between math, computer science, and economics, as well as the mixed in aspects of creating my own models is something I can see myself enjoying for many years. Of course, I’m not set on pursuing this yet and I hope to spend the rest of my time at college exploring as many different fields as possible. Perhaps through the SDA mentorship program I can confirm my interest in quantitative finance, or maybe find out about new fields I would have never thought of before.

**If you have had any internship experience, please share it in the space provided, noting the semester and location.**

Applied Research Lab, PSU | University Park, PA | May 2017 – May 2018

At ARL I performed research in the automation of cybersecurity and penetration testing. I primarily worked in python and linux/bash. The goal of the project is to create tools that are able to better verify the security of computer networks and systems.

JPMorgan Chase | Wilmington, Delaware | June 2018 – August 2018

This summer I will be interning at JPMorgan Chase. I will be working on moving their current services to cloud based solutions. The division I am working in handles all of Chase Bank’s credit card rewards programs.