Dear Diary,

I’m not going to lie.. I’m feeling all kinds of things.

It’s interesting because I feel like I am finally at a point in time where I might be able to get some headway on my initial idea to make coding impact projects in Cali… but it’s *stressing me out*. I think I’m having imposter syndrome over that entire idea… wondering if I’m doing the right thing or if it makes sense for me to continue working on this project even though my life is about to get 100% crazier with school.

In terms of school… I’m also already feeling a bit stressed. Not at all about classes, luckily enough, but actually from the sheer amount of time I am going to need to put into everything. Teaching is scary, but rewarding. Working on a research project is scary, but will be rewarding. Choosing to do a project that is more code heavy rather than theory heavy is scary, but probably a good idea for me. Going to Europe for this conference will really set me out of wack in a lot of ways, but will be good for me in a lot of ways.

I see so much potential in my work and I see how impactful my life can become if I continue down this path… but then I see my friends working at tech companies, making a ton of money, and having a ton of free time, and living seemingly stressless lives… and I’m wondering if I should have done that first??

I know I shouldn’t have. I know that this is the right path for me, at least right now.

I’m so nervous.

I’m trying to constantly tell myself that I deserve to be here and that I am smart and confident and capable of achieving a PhD.

But fuck, am I scared.

I just started talking with the founder of FreeCodeCamp to start possibly collaborating with him on a curriculum that includes social impact projects for Cali.

He seems really interested. But that will mean quite a bit of work on my end.

Is it worth it to do? Why am I doing it? Should I have an answer to that question?

Why am I doing my PhD? I hope this weekend I can put aside some time to answer this question too.

What direction will my research go in? Do I have too many diverging interests to pick one that will ultimately satisfy all of my needs to feel fulfilled with my decision?

Am I stressing out unnecessarily too early on? *(Yes)*

I officially started working on SET for core power yoga today. I’m not sure if it’s the best use of my time, but I guess only time will tell. If anything, at least it will allow me to save $100+ a month (which I should actually probably use on student loans instead). And it will help me meet some of the yogis in the community, so ultimately, it’s probably good for me… I just need to be realistic about where I prioritize my time as I get busier.

I’m not going to lie though, when I put aside all of the imposter syndrome, fear, and stress…

**I think I’m unstoppable.**

I have *a lot* going for me right now.

One of the many many things that I’ve learned about myself in this last year is that I can’t go small. I need to be working on things that are fulfilling and impactful. That’s exactly what I’m doing. One caveat of this kind of work unfortunately means that my work might be a bit more stressful than casual work. It also means that I will have much less free time. It also means I’ll have difficulty separating my work from my life.

But to me, I can’t imagine my life any other way.

I need my work to be my life because I need to feel passionately about what I am working on.

It’s crazy to think how far I’ve come in the last year. Seriously, it’s fucking incredible how far I’ve come in the last year. *Especially* in the last two years.

I’m going to go get some coffee and try to not think about how I shouldn’t be spending $5 on starbucks coffee anymore and then prep to teach (how cool!!!). So I guess I’ll write more later.

Depending on if I decide to smoke or not tonight (I’m hoping that I decide not to so that I stick to my schedule, but also it could be a good way to force some relaxation tonight…) I might write some more of my thoughts, nerves, anxieties, feelings, emotions, etc. later.

Until I return.