

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From my first computer in 1982, an Atari 800, I have had a strange attraction to computing devices. In my professional experiences these last twenty years, I was responsible for special computing skills: data analysis, programming, technical support, and troubleshooting. As I encountered new problems, I learned what I needed to know as I went, piecemeal, on the way by, and I neither probed the depths of Computer Science nor built up my knowledge through a structured curriculum.

Starting last Summer, I began taking classes at UNL in Computer Science. I was thrilled that the business world had prepared me for the classroom, and I was horrified at how many fundamental concepts I had entirely overlooked. So far, returning to school is absolutely the best thing I promised myself I would never do.

To me, Computer Science is a craft with theoretical foundations. It appears that Computer Science is rooted in mathematics and philosophy, married to electrical engineering, and bearing fruit in every possible human endeavor. The ability to apply this craft for the common good is congruent with both my own highest calling and Societies' collective aspirations.

At UNL, I seek to complete my survey of Computer Science and to build a bedrock foundation upon which I can construct the rest of my career.