Introduction:

I first sought out ISRDI by accident: I was first looking for a part time job, hoping to get involved with research. I saw an opportunity looking for interns that knew python doing research support work, and applied. I ended up getting an interview, and from there, crushed it. I was originally only supposed to stay for a semester, but ended up getting an offer to go full time over the summer until school started back up in the fall. I fell in love with the place, and found its values aligned deeply with mine of trying to support data driven research. I asked if I could stay on, and have been there since.

Learning Journal:

Personal Growth Moment 1: 6/3/23

Starting to use SQLAlchemy for this new ORM project. I've never used SQL before, so we'll see how this goes. I know I need to learn it and use it in my work, and I've wanted to for a while and haven't had a chance. This seems pretty simple so far, but I'll keep an eye out for any big changes or difficulties that arise.

Personal Growth Moment 2: 10/2/23

I finally learned how to use Rust! By no means am I an expert, but I'm starting to get it. I hate the way it works, but this seems cool. I'm feeling like I could use this in the future. I still haven't picked up C at all, so I feel like this could suit as a replacement.

Personal Growth Moment 3: 1/25/23

I'm starting to get to work on HLink with Riley a little, and that's pretty cool. I like this a lot. It uses machine learning in the background to help do research, which is a cool idea. I'm hoping I can work on this more in the future, but I'll 100% put this on my resume. PySpark has popped up in a few job requirements, so I can say I have experience in that now.

Personal Growth Moment 4: 2/15/23

Officially a Rust Developer. Pushed two scripts to production, and they're lightning fast. Faster than what we were previously using, and I think Colin was surprised by how fast I got them to work. They iter through a file, search the line, and pop out to Polars faster than Perl used to be able to process the file in general!

Personal Growth Moment 5: 3/26/23

Received news I will not be getting a full-time offer to join the staff post-graduation. I'm sad, but I get it. No slight against me, as they just didn't have the budget to expand staff, but it still hurts. I fell in love with this job, and found myself excited to come into work every day. Time to finish out, and learn from that experience. I still have a month left here, and need to continue to work in order to build my portfolio and keep these bridges incase an opportunity ever arises again.