

I am really passionate about **mentorship** because I know that CS can feel isolating. Neither of my parents are engineers: my dad never went to college while my mom works as an accountant. When applying to college, I choose Math & CS as my major because I loved math but knew CS would make me employable too. I was overwhelmed my first semester when I met so many brilliant students who already had internship and research experience. For context, I worked 40 hours a week as a janitor the summer before college. It was not until my sophomore year when I found a great mentor in Professor Solomonik that I finally felt like I belonged.

For multiple semesters, I've taught the first two courses in the CS sequence at UIUC: Introduction to Computer Science and Software Design Studio. I remember vividly my first code review for Software Design Studio: as an icebreaker, the TA asked what everyone's favorite coding language was. My first thought was "You all know multiple coding languages?" I joined that course staff the following semester with the goal of making sure all my students always felt like they could succeed in the class. I really enjoyed teaching that course since I led a group of 6 students and guided them through the joys and frustrations of longer-term programming projects. I eventually grew into a leadership role involving onboarding new course staff and interviewing candidates. I am excited to teach in graduate school and continue to share my experiences.