When I began this degree program, I had no idea what I wanted to do and had very little knowledge in computer science. I knew I liked computers, math, and solving problems. I started some of the classes and was very nervous as I didn’t care for the hardware aspects. Most of the beginning classes went over hardware basics and other things I wasn’t fond of. I didn’t want to build custom PCs beyond my own and I did not want to run network cables over the world. I was beginning to think this maybe wasn’t for me.

Then I took a class called foundations in application development and it was horrible and wonderful all at once. I realized I really enjoy software development. It included all the things that I mentioned, math, puzzles, and computers. From there I began taking courses that exposed me to as many languages and data types as possible. I took a few classes that required the use of a shared repository for all the students in the class to use to upload their own digital jukebox. That was a great learning experience which allowed me to work with others and see what a team can do together. The jukebox project defiantly showcased my abilities to collaborate within a team environment. Not only did we work together but we were able to offer up constructive criticism and advice in the form of code reviews, being able to participate in effective code reviews is yet another skill I have been able to gain throughout this degree.

In addition to the programming aspects of this degree program I was able to get a lot of experience in agile management and the software development life cycle. I have experience with a variety of roles through agile and have learned what to expect regarding decision making based on team size, time frames, and stakeholders. The agile class also helped me develop and strengthen my communication skills, especially in a team environment.

This application and eportfolio that I have developed is a culmination of my years of study in this field. The zoo animal project demonstrates my abilities to meet goals and follow a plan to achieve my commitments on time. What I like most about the Zoo animal application is that it shows how much I have grown since the beginning of this degree program. This artifact includes many aspects such as the development of a GUI through software development, the integration of SQL commands to use a database, and well-founded data structures that hold everything together. I also made consistent progress and detailed commits to the repository to maintain industry standards. Lastly with this application I was also able to demonstrate by abilities to develop a security mindset. By removing access to the code with a GUI I removed a major design flaw. I believe with a little more work on the login feature this program could be very secure. I have included the Zoo animal application in it’s fullest to better speak for my skills.

Over all this artifact displays my abilities to adapt, learn, and master what I set out to do. Those skills will most certainly help drive me forward in to a career in software development.