

I've always believed that nothing other than hard work and dedication leads to a satisfying and successful career. These values were instilled in me from a young age as I was told stories of how my dad grew up in North Memphis, how my nana had to bring her calculator to the grocery store, so they didn't go over budget, and how my granddad dropped everything he had in pursuit of his dream, a successful flooring business. Over 30 years later, I have become the beneficiary of this dream and continue to see the hard work that my family puts into their business. I intend to bring this type of commitment to my schooling and into my professional career thereafter.

I started my interest in cybersecurity and computer science as merely as a means to an end. I enjoyed playing games, had built my own computer, and knew there were affluent job opportunities for me down the road. Fast forward to now, I have fallen in love with what computer science represents--something that has a high skill gap in knowledge, but an even higher skill gap in hands-on application. I see computer science as a constant pursuit in an endless pool of knowledge. I love the idea that there is always a new avenue to learn or a new perspective for me to take. I don't feel as though this field, for me, will ever be dull or boring, strictly because of the endless fields to be learned within the bigger field of computer science.

On a more personal note, I was raised in Memphis by two loving parents who taught me the value of faith, family, and hard work. I'm one of four siblings—blessed with one brother and two sisters—and I spent my high school years at Bartlett, where I played four years of varsity golf. I'm a Christian and an active member of Ellendale Baptist Church, where my faith continues to shape the way I live and serve. One of the greatest blessings in my life is my fiancée, Karis. She's not only beautiful, but also incredibly kind and supportive—someone who constantly inspires me to be better. These pieces of my life, though less formal, are a big part of who I am. They fuel my ambition, keep me grounded, and remind me of the people and values I carry with me into every challenge I take on.

