

College Statement of Purpose

William Shakespeare once wrote, "The eyes are the window to your soul." At first glance my eyes may appear to you as common hazel brown eyes, but look deeper, through their color, through their structure, to their perception. There you will see that these are no common eyes. They do not look at the world with a singular vision. They look at the world with infinite wonder. My eyes are the eyes of an engineer.

I have known from a very young age that my perception was different. I can remember a time when sprawled across the hard tile floor of my kitchen, I laid an assortment of cans, tubes, boxes, bottles and springs. As my mother walked by and glanced at my assortment of mechanical components she asked, "What are you doing with all this junk?" That she only saw a pile of junk made me indignant. My four year old eyes envisioned a robot capable of washing the dishes and cleaning the house. I used my vision to configure and manufacture a physical structure that resembled my robot, but sadly it was only a tin-man without a heart. I had not yet mastered the internal components that I needed to make my vision a reality.

As I grew older my eyes would widen with the introduction into the world of lego first robotics. Here were the first tools that I was ever given that could enable my robotic dreams to come to life. As I built the next generation of my robot out of these tiny legos, I was not only able to give it a heart with a drive system, but a brain that I could program to move and complete tasks. It was such a thrill to spend hours with my teammates trying to optimize our robots maneuverability, through programming and design. As team captain, I helped guide my team to win the coveted champion's award, 6 first place trophies, and five invitations to the state tournament. One of my proudest achievements as team captain, was when my team received the award for outstanding robot design.

Robotics helped widened my vision, but it had not yet widened my perception. That occurred the Thanksgiving that my parents decided to take us to France. As silly as it might seem, the trip came right in the middle of the lego robotic tournament season, and I was very preoccupied with trying to get into the state competition. On tour my thoughts kept wondering to robotics. I wasn't excited by the many historical landmarks, but the tour did let us bypass the long lines to elevators of the Eiffel Tower. It is strange, but the feeling of exhilaration as the elevator began its ascent to the top of the Eiffel Tower, is still with me. I was mesmerized that the elevator seemed not to be ascending straight upwards, but instead it was ascending at a curve. In such a small moment I experienced first hand the infinite possibilities of engineering at work. I had the thought that engineering had no boundaries except the imagination. There was the vision I needed to look beyond the conventional. Millions of people reach the observation platform of the Eiffel Tower to look out over Paris with the eyes of a tourist, but I knew that I looked out with the eyes of an Engineer.

I returned to robotics and made the state competition once again that year, but somehow the state competition looked different, it looked just a little smaller. As these experiences helped me crack open the window to my view of real engineering, they left me wanting to throw that window wide open. Last summer I received an opportunity to do just that, by participating in a personal mentorship with Eric Park, of QPeak Inc. In the first summer of a two year mentorship, my partner and I have begun the processes for the developmental of a personal tracking device that is smaller, lighter weight and disposable, unlike anything now on the market. We have plans for seeing our product through development and marketing. It is an exciting experience that has left my eyes yearning for more.

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