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# College Statement of Purpose

William Shakespeare once wrote that "the eyes are the window to your soul". At first glance my eyes may appear to be common hazel brown eyes, but if you were to somehow look deeper: past their color and structure to what they perceive, you would 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.

From a young age, I have known that I saw the world differently. For example, I remember my mother walking by as I sprawled across the kitchen floor, amid an assortment of cans, tubes, boxes, bottles and springs. As she 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 my introduction into the world of First LEGO robotics. These first tools could facilitate fruition of my robotic dreams. 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. I felt thrilled to spend hours programming and designing with my teammates, optimizing our robots' maneuverability. As team captain, I guided my team to win the coveted champion's award, six first place trophies, and five invitations to the state tournament. One of my proudest achievements as team captain was my team receiving the award for outstanding robot design.

Robotics widened my vision, but it had not yet widened my perception. That occurred the Thanksgiving that my parents decided to take us to France. The trip came right in the middle of the LEGO robotic tournament season, and so, I was preoccupied with getting into the state competition. On tour my thoughts kept wondering to robotics. The many historical landmarks didn't excite me, but the tour did let us bypass the long lines at the Eiffel Tower. 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 that moment I witnessed evidence of engineering's infinite possibility. I was struck by the thought that engineering had no boundaries, except the imagination. This realization extended my vision 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.

When I returned, my robotics team again made state competition. Yet, this time it looked different—just a little smaller. These experiences gave me a glimpse into real engineering, and they left me wanting the full view. Last summer, my personal mentorship with Eric Park of Q-Peak, Inc. afforded me the opportunity to do just that. In the first summer of a two-year mentorship, my partner and I began the developmental phase for an innovative product: a personal tracking device that is disposable, and smaller and lighter in weight than existing models. We plan to see our product through development and marketing. This exciting experience has left my eyes yearning for more, still, and I look forward to the sights that I will see.

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