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I started recognizing numbers and colors when I was 10 months old. As I grew older, Math became my passion and instilled more and more confidence in me. Solving word problems triggered more in-depth analysis. I got used to drawing, visualizing, and evaluating from different perspectives. My parents introduced me to Art at a very young age. Abstract Art allowed me the freedom of expression. I recall spending hours and hours over intricate origami designs and the great sense of accomplishment when the final design would come together.

It wasn't until I attended a STEM program at the local university that I realized Engineering was my true calling. I got introduced to the idea of prototyping, analyzing, designing, and building. This motivated me to take an Engineering design course where I was able to apply the principles of Science, Math, and Art to create bridges with the most efficient strength to weight ratio, bird houses that are just the right fit and race cars designed to maximize speed. I found joy in the challenge introduced by constraints, the sudden illuminations, the modeling needed to solution, and the realization that there is always a better design. The varied materials, power tools, laser cutters, all things digital enhanced my learning process and triggered my curiosity. The clarity and the realization that I could have an impact through engineering came to me a few years back. It was no longer enough to read about centuries of innovation, the progression within society and improvement to lives. I want to be the agent of positive change. I want to shape the future. I aspire to make a difference.

When life takes its toll, I want to reset and rejuvenate in my sanctuary – the basketball court – feel the sense of enjoyment, the sense of calm that is hard to describe. I have been playing basketball for as long as I can remember. I am inherently an introvert, but the sport has allowed me to interact with others and get comfortable with the idea of playing with total strangers. It has taught me about teamwork, collaboration and given me a sense of camaraderie. I spend most of my weekends practicing skills that I need to improve. I understand how time and patience matters and that has led me to persevere, no matter how bad the situation gets

My career aspiration is to go into product design and start my own company. The UF Innovation Academy has provided me with the basis for developing new ideas, accelerating creative thinking, and helping incubate my ideas to reality. I enjoy spaces where I can prototype, collaborate with my peers, design, and create. The Computer Science and Finance double degree will provide me with the skills needed to take a design thinking approach towards product design. It will allow me to apply my artistic skills to create aesthetic products by balancing color, shape, patterns to convey value and enable user appeal. This is fundamental to creating products that have mass appeal. The opportunity to live in an entrepreneurship themed residence hall where I would have the opportunity to immerse myself in innovative technology and start-up spaces, makes it even more appealing.