

## **TBP Personal Statement**

My friends all know me as a math geek. I have been known to make obscure math jests, or say things such as “Q.E.D., formally proven,” after making a point to someone. I’ve been caught watching real analysis videos, and reading a book on “mathemagics.” Most people, myself included, would hate spending their time simply solving repetitious calculus problems. But I feel that there is more of an inherent beauty in mathematical proofs, to spend time formulating ideas that one can say with absolute certainty is true. For me, my satisfaction is driven by my need for discovery and innovation. It is extremely satisfying to spend an hour on a proof and finally find that little bit of ingenuity needed to solve it. While I am not truly advanced enough in mathematics to come up with innovative ideas, the concepts force me to think abstractly and more creatively so that one day I might be able to.

But aside from math, I immensely enjoy playing tennis and running. I started running the summer after high school as a way to lose weight. But after running for about a month, there was a growing urge to see how long I could run for without stopping. Today, I continue running so that one day I can run a half-marathon. I’ve played tennis for almost 5 years now. I got close to my best friend after hitting with him almost every day one year when we decided to try out for our school’s tennis team. Whenever I’m not doing math, I can be found watching random tennis videos of Stosur’s kick serve or Federer’s incredible touch. But I truly got a new perspective on tennis this past summer when I watched the US Open live. Even though I had watched tennis for a number of years, seeing these players live and at their best form is extremely invigorating and awe-inspiring.

I want to join Tau Beta Pi primarily as a way to meet new, intelligent, different people. Although I am a part of some student orgs, they often focus on one thing so I don’t get to meet a lot of new people who have academic interests different from mine. Although I am a CS major, I like to discuss and engage people on a variety of subjects, such as new innovations in world health of nanotechnology. Through my initiation in TBP, I also signed up to be a tutor at the IDEA study lab, and have immensely enjoyed being able to teach others. I would very much like to be able to continue this in other ways, including high school outreach. Because of Tau Beta Pi’s commitment to the community at large, I feel that I can gain a lot by becoming an active member and contributing to TBP outreach programs.

I would also very much like to encourage an entrepreneurship sector within Tau Beta Pi. This past October, I went to Startup school, an event held by Y Combinator, which convinced me to one day make my own startup. TBP has a lot of bright people with creative ideas as well, and to be able to foster new innovative ideas within the organization would be only natural. I would very much like to encourage this even though it is not the primary focus of the organization, via some small workshops enlightening people on startup culture or receiving funds to promote student innovation. I’ve had experience in the past with receiving grants and funding and would very much like to be a part of such activities.