

Quotes on "Memories of Reed" board + additional quotes received later
[last edited 220630]

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Reed was truly an exceptional researcher, collaborator, and friend of many, including myself. I met Reed during his first year at UIUC when I was still a Ph.D. student and worked with him for about three years. ... His first opportunity for research in computer science came from working with me. Reed was undoubtedly the most impressive among all of the undergraduates that I interviewed that year. In fact, Reed is the most technically-capable student among the 10+ undergraduates that I have ever worked with. His capabilities are apparent in the many top-tier conference papers he has published, such as the three papers that I co-authored with him. Beyond publications, the code that Reed wrote for these pieces of work was done so well that it paved the path for many tools and datasets in subsequent publications. In fact, my collaborators and I invited Reed to join many other publications of ours, but Reed was often busy with other commitments by then. In all my interactions with Reed, he was always kind, easy to talk to and work with, brilliant, and just all around a wonderful person to have in the room.

Professor Wing Lam, George Mason University
(was PhD candidate at UIUC when he worked with Reed)

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Reed had a really big influence on the cousins. I saw how his peak intelligence served as something for us to brag about, our smart cousin Reed. He influenced the computer science cousins into diving deeper into their passions while giving them advice on how to get there. He influenced my younger brother quickly by being a men's fashion icon to resemble (something I'm eternally grateful for as I wasn't able to do this no matter how hard I tried). He always had a kind word and the best hugs to give. We're going to miss him a lot but he will be in our hearts forever.

Missy Oei, Reed's cousin

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He was one of the most good-natured people I had the privilege of meeting when I started undergrad — a true gentleman, exceptionally bright, and someone with markedly divergent interests and passions among our fellow CS majors.

It was quite clear that being a professor was his vocation — during our many conversations, it was abundantly clear how passionate he was about his research (his publication record leaves no doubt about his success) and how much he cared about teaching and sharing his (vast) knowledge (we were both longtime course assistants). It's quite unfortunate that he wasn't able to live this dream.

Pradyuma Shome
Friend, Tennis, CS @ UIUC

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On the Enneagram personality test, Reed is a pure Five. This makes him an observer in life, one who amasses information and, when comfortable, one who can give back all that information in the form of a treatise. He is the quiet giant in the classroom who will stay against the wall but will rapidly command everyone's interest as soon as he talks, because they know he will have valuable insights... It will not take long before Reed decides to leave the comfort of the wall and take his place as a thoughtful leader of his peers.

Mr. Ben Dillon
Math Co-Chair and Quiz Bowl Coach at St Joe HS

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Reed was an off-the-chart brilliant student that could have excelled at any university not just in this country but anywhere in the world. It was our honor to have Reed as a student at Illinois!

Professor Darko Marinov
UIUC CS and first professor with which Reed did research and published paper

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Dear Reed, Your spirit will always and forever be in our hearts, You are an amazing young man and the bravest person we know.

Love, Aunt Meike and Uncle Bob

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Reed pursued his Passion to the end. He is one of the most selfless athletes I have ever coached. He grew up a lot in our program and being around him for four years made me a better person.

Coach Steve Bender
St. Joseph High School Tennis Coach

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"...what a poised, sharp, kind and wonderful young man Reed was. The loss to the world he would have been able to effect and influence is great."

Melinda and Paul Romanetz
(parents of one of Reed's tennis teammates)

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Reed was obviously a brilliant and exceptional student and researcher. He was also extremely kind and friendly. He was a real team player, always offering help. While I hadn't heard much from him since he started his PhD at UCLA, I expected that soon he would make his name as the new shooting star in descriptive set theory (or whatever field of logic or mathematics he would decide to do his PhD in).

Professor Philipp Hieronymi
Math Professor UIUC

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I will remember many things about Reed - his love of all things Math, his love of Starbucks, his love of being outdoors and enjoying the peacefulness nature gives, his love of gummie candies especially the sour ones, his love of fashion and most of all his love for learning in general. Reed's mind has always been fascinating to me. I describe him as the most intelligent person I know. I will forever miss him and he will always have a place in my heart.

Aunt Grace

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I worked with Reed on a research project in the fall of 2019 at UIUC. He was an extremely bright and smart student, and I always admired his work ethic and intellect. I was struck to find out that he had passed away - I had no idea he was going through something like this. I wish you guys all the best.

Alex Dean UIUC classmate

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Reed took two classes with me: one high-level undergraduate course (Set Theory and Topology) and one advanced graduate course (Descriptive Set Theory). He impressed me and my TA Jenna greatly in the first course with his elegant solutions to the assigned problems and mature presentations. When he asked me if he could take my graduate course, I told him it would be very hard but perhaps he would be able to pull it off; indeed, not only did he pull it off, but he was the best in class, performing better than the PhD and Master's students in it.

Professor Anush Tserunyan -- UIUC Math, now at McGill University
Math & Stats

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I was saddened to learn of Reed's passing. I was Reed's 5th and 6th grade math teacher at St. Anthony de Padua School. I truly enjoyed having Reed as a student. Michael too.

Mrs. Tracy Taelman
Reed's 5th + 6th Grade teacher from St. Anthony de Padua Catholic School South Bend

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So many good memories, from kayaking, trampolining, shooting arrows in your basement. venti and martini and rock band. you were my best friend throughout grade school. we love you reed.

Mary Henderson, classmate from St. Anthony's

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He was super talented but also a wonderful person to interact with.

Professor Jonathan Aldrich
Computer Science Professor CMU (Carnegie Mellon University)
(summer research program 2019 and 2020)

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Reed has never been one to insist on being in the spotlight. Beautiful things rarely ask for attention.

Uncle Jeff

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"I recall fondly Reed's efforts to explain various Euler's Problems to me, despite the certain futility. And I remember that he, at the age of 15, attended the Quantum Physics lecture with us at Notre Dame, concerning the problem of 'Schrodinger's Cat. He was surely the youngest person in attendance"

--Tim Hearnly (family friend)

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Brett Goodrich, Math teacher and Mathletics Director at St. Joe HS writes that they will name their annual math competition the "Reed Oei Math Competition". What an honor!

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What a beautiful mind. Reed was involved in Quiz Bowl, Mathletes, and tennis. For senior superlatives, our class voted him "Best Dressed".

Reed Oei's name, out of nowhere, popped into my head. I thought to see if he was climbing the ranks at Google and already changing Silicon Valley, but I was struck to hear of our world's loss.

I will remember Reed as possessing impressive intelligence, yet he balanced this genius with warmth and humor. Reed would manage following along in our high school classes, with coding on his laptop at an advanced level, with the resulting need to then hide that he was multitasking from LanSchool, all while graciously answering the boundless questions I had regarding classwork, and done in a sincere effort that I might succeed. Let's just say I was learning SOH-CAH-TOA while Reed was lightyears ahead, but he would always come down to earth and was seen by his classmates as an approachable and supportive peer. I think teachers caught on that his laptop screen was on a different topic (that topic being some computer software that he took upon himself to learn, for we had no classes teaching it), but I believe that they brushed it off given his exemplary academic performance and were just as impressed as the rest of us.

Reed is an inspiration to me, and I imagine many others, to fully apply oneself and one's mind.

Grace Horan, Class of 2017 at Saint Joseph High School with Reed
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