



My name is Jerry Sun and at heart, I'm curious about my surroundings. I wonder why things occur; not just on a surface level, but also the hidden background forces that drive our world. On the outside, I am in love with the beauty of competition and the taste of adrenaline that pushes you to work hard. At this intersection, is where my passion lies.

Throughout high school, I have been an excellent student at Burnaby Mountain Secondary School. At school, I am the founder of the Math and Physics Club and I also dedicate much of my time to community service. I sing at the Nikkei Senior home, assist seniors with technology and volunteer at the food bank. I spend the rest of my spare time pursuing my passions and extracurricular activities.

In my Grade 10 socials class, I conceived the idea of automating the detection of fake news to reduce its pervasive dissemination and received a bronze medal at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. Realizing I needed more professional help to advance my project, I reached out to two eminent professors at the Discourse Processing Lab at Simon Fraser University.

Through our collaboration over the course of the next few months, we almost perfected the fake news detector and last September we published our paper. I am currently working on presenting it at the annual Canadian Conference on Machine Learning in Ottawa. The long and arduous process of research made me realize the virtue of perseverance in scientific work. One "a ha" moment trumps the countless months of uncertainty and stagnation.

I loved my first taste of research and I was transported into the world of academia. Soon, I was working with another mathematics professor, on a proof of Van der Waerden's theorem while also reading on the impacts and intricacies of climate change and geological processes.

My love for the environment took me to the Canadian Geographic Challenge national finals twice, and then to the International Geography Olympiad in Hong Kong, where we won 1<sup>st</sup> place for our poster displaying Canada as a sustainable city.

Aside from academics, I spend my spare time running. In a world filled with distractions, running trains me with the discipline for all other aspects of my life. I run for my school cross-country and track teams. As a result of my constant and challenging training, I also completed the BMO Half-Marathon, a long-term goal of mine.

From travelling 6400 miles across the world to contending against the world's best geography minds, to racing in freezing temperatures, to staying up all night waiting for the results of my science fair project, competition and curiosity have been the two integral pillars of my life.

My hard work and passions have cumulated into my acceptance into many top 10 universities in the United States — Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of California, Berkeley. In the fall, I will be attending Berkeley in a double major in Environmental Science and Computer Science, a place where I hope to explore deeper into my interests.