Personal Essay

My intended major is film, television and digital media with a focus on animation and story art. Many of my earliest memories were of times I spent drawing and I knew from an early age my passion was art. Throughout my life, I have explored many mediums and forms of art from drawing and painting to composing original piano music and photography, but my artistic interests became focused in the realm of cinema when I recognized the incredible potential to inspire genuine emotional response through animation. For me, art has evolved from an outlet of creative expression into a language with which I can communicate and emotionally connect with others. In contrast to the very outgoing social personality I have today, as a young child I was very introverted and tended to retreat into my own world as a result of having been the victim of bullying throughout my elementary and junior high school years. Feeling isolated from my peers, art became my focus while my character creations offered a kind of companionship in an imaginary world I envisioned. I realized I had found my source of fulfillment and joy in the creative art process and I believe this is what helped me remain positive through adversity and shaped the person I am today. It enabled me to view everything in life as an opportunity for art and to retain the youthful ability to see magic and possibility when viewing the world. In addition to my interest in art, I had a great affinity for reading, which provided endless opportunities to envision and draw new characters and worlds. Fueled with this passion for visual storytelling, my first experiments with character movement were flipbooks. People, animals, and even ordinary objects like hair clips or alarm clocks took on wild personalities and
became the stars in their own animated sequences. Attributing human emotions to my character creations helped me develop a heightened sense of empathy and compassion, which have become defining elements of my own character. I continued my studies of expression through acting classes in high school and then performing in several theater troupes, including the Belles of Bedlam and the Renaissance Entertainers Guild. In 2006 I created Suspended Reality, my own theatrical performance and aerial acrobatics company, which has allowed me to further explore my visual storytelling abilities and character creation while gaining additional acting experience I apply to my animation studies. Having dedicated myself to pursuing my career through higher education, I recently participated in the WLACCD art show. The experience helped me form connections within the art community while giving me the opportunity to share my work and view the inspirational works of my peers. I am consistently amazed at the power of art and look forward to continuing my education and exploration in this field. I am thankful that I discovered my passion for art at a young age and was able to develop as a person through the experiences it brought to my life.