

**Stanford University Undergraduate Application****Question & Answer:**

**Of the activities, interests, and experiences listed above (on the extracurricular and personal activities list), which is the most meaningful to you and why?**

Last fall, I discovered another world behind the lens of a camera. Photography quickly became my passion. I love the process: I love the product. I love the portraits of my friends and family, the people I cherish. Shooting is mysterious; until a roll has been processed, it is impossible to know what treasures will appear. I enjoy poring over contact sheets, choosing the images that I think best represent the subject and the art form. Finally, printing, choosing an exposure time, exposing paper, and waiting over the cool chemicals until the image appears and darkens is wonderful. I spend hours in the darkroom, never running out of things to do. It is enthralling to preserve a moment of laughter or loneliness, of a smile or tear that only film can capture. The sudden permanence that a photograph lends to an instant has made the darkroom my favorite place.