Michael Peters – Class of 2017

Talk a little about your college experience:
I have a degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY) in Computer Science and ITWS (IT and Web Science). While in school, I started a private tutoring service for Computer Science students. It made it easy to fund my weekly excursions and further, to get better at debugging. I did an internship and a Co-Op for PSU ARL, a defense contractor. The internship was in State College but the Co-Op was for 8 months in Key West Florida (Jan-Aug 2019). Living in Key West was a blast. I went lobster fishing, worked out with powerlifters, and even, flew an airplane! Senior year back at school was a step back from all that. I focused on growing my friend group and really learned the importance of just showing up.

What are you currently doing from a career or education standpoint?
I'm working at Epic Systems in Verona, WI. They make the software used to manage most large hospitals across the United States.

What are some things you like to do in your personal time?
Mountain Biking, Bouldering, Guitar, Programming

How did Saint Joe's impact you?
Saint Joe's taught me how to focus on a goal and execute an effective process to reach it.

What are you passionate about?
Internet data privacy is a big deal to me. In the modern era, it's almost impossible to talk with someone without being monitored by a third party. Big tech sells off personal information, governments tap phones, and even small companies can get hacked exposing everyone's message history. I think that communications companies should be focused on the transfer of data, not it's storage. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, I don't think it's possible to implement something like this with profit in mind. However, it could be possible if people do it for free. To help solve this, I've been working on(with a few friends) a project to allow people to communicate with one another on their own terms and using their own systems.

One of your favorite quotes or Bible verses:
One of my favorites is **Leviticus 20 22:23**
Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you.