Hershel Thomas
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Objective

Competitive Rubik's Cube Speed Solver brings an algorithmic, yet colorful, approach to Programming and Logic Solving

Education

B.S in Computer Science from UMD expected in 2027

Graduated Ida Crown Jewish Academy (High School): June 2022

GPA – 4.43; ACT – 34

Relevant Coursework

- Java SE 8 Adult Certification Class
  - Adult class to change career paths, but joined as Sophmore to delve deeper into Java/programming
- AP Computer Science A (Java)
  - 5/5 on AP CS A Exam
- To delve deeper into Java, I read "Objects First with Java: A Practical Introduction Using BlueJ, 6th edition"
- Swift Programming (IOS/Apple Development)
  - Programmed and designed a fully functional War Card Game IOS App. Equipped with a User Interface, Classes, Structs, and Functions.
- Self-taught in Python
  - Currently working on large RolePlaying/text based/open-world Python Adventure Game
  - Uses advanced methods like Classes, Hash Maps, Dictionaries, and multiple files
  - Developed a system for the text-based engine to understand Natural language conversation, as if talking to a person
- Calculus I and Calculus II
- Linear-Algebra

Skills

- 3 years of strong Java Programing and Core-Knowledge building
- Entry Level Python Programmer (Java Skills easily translate over)
- Basic servo, motor, gear, and camera programming in C++ for robotics
- Beta-Tester for GitHub Copilot, an AI Programming Assist
- GitHub repository building
- Captain of a Robotics Team.
  - Central focus on the programming and application of the autonomous robot
- Captain of the Math Team
  - Coordinator of Math Growth. Led Practices and inspired teammates to delve deeper into math.

Experience

As Captain of the robotic team, I was responsible for the many steps and processes along the way of the creation of a fully autonomous robot. By leading the planning committee for design and functionality, and teaching other students how to program the robot in C++, I acquired the experience needed to manage a unique set of individuals to form a team.

I learned the importance of stepping up while managing the robotics team when I came to the conclusion the robot needed a way of vision in order to deal with the environment. I spent many hours with the team and at home programming a Camera in C++ to locate objects in space and trigger the robot to react accordingly to the color and distance of objects, as well as the change in terrain. Easily programmable to switch what color and size object was needed for a specific task.

Throughout the year, I would meet with the team to boost morale by cracking jokes and making math puns. I learned it was not only important to teach higher-level math to my teammates, but also important to create a team that wants to be there and work towards a common goal. By proactively working on increasing the spirit of the team, I was able to lead our ICJA Math team to a **first place victory** in the team math competition.

Honors, Awards & Activities

- National Honor Society
- Illinois State Scholar
- Mathletes Team Competition First Place
- Mathletes Individual Competition Finalist (3rd Place)
- AP Scholar with Distinction (Score of 3.5 or more on all AP Exams: Exams out of 5)
- Chesed Society Award (Students at ICJA with 250+ Chesed Hours)