Vardit Cohen

My love and interest in logic have developed in me since I was a little girl. While most of the kindergarten kids found interest in dolls or nap times I consistently found interest in cubes and numbers; in elementary school I couldn’t wait for math class to start and would count the minutes until history class was over; in middle school I would always bag my older sister to tell me logic riddles and wouldn’t quit until I figured out their answer; throughout my high school career I have always pursued the highest math level offered and would enjoy programming and exploring languages on my free time. I am Vardit Cohen, an 18 year old freshman and a proud math and computer geek.

I was born and raised in Haifa, Israel where technology was a very hot topic that caught the eyes of many. When I was 15 I took my first tour in Google offices and was determined to grow up, pursue my degree in Computer Science and eventually work for a big industry such as Google. However, when I moved to the United States I developed a new interest in different fields of computing, other than programming. My aunt and uncle are both Computer Science professors (in Brown and Brandies) and throughout many conversations with them regarding artificial intelligent, complex theories and algorithms, compilers, etc I found out just how much I don’t know about the research branch of computer science. As much as I was interested in programming, I suddenly considered an alternative field of computing: research. The Byrne Seminar I took for my first semester in Rutgers with Professor Venugopal farther increased that interest in the research field as we were presented with many different fascinating research opportunities related to the computing field.

As a second semester freshman in the school I don’t feel as if I know much about the research branch of computer science just yet, but I am very interested and motivated to find out. The Information Retrieval and Interaction System project was recommended to me by a peer and immediately caught my attention. I feel like I would be perfect for the project because as I previously mentioned I am extremely interested in exploring the different fields of computing and finding out what research is all about; with that I am also very interested in the way information is being retrieved and would enjoy the programming aspect of the project. I define myself as a people person and would enjoy the company of other graduate and undergraduate students. This project seems both as a great opportunity for me to learn and absorb a lot about conducting researched, labs, experiments etc but it is also an opportunity for me to help and bring a lot to the team. I am deeply interested and intrigued by logic and would happily spend full days without sleep simply in order to successfully solve a difficult problem or design a successful algorithm, and while attempting to do so I would be motivated to observe said solution and to see if it indeed is the most successful one.

The project sounds extremely interesting to me and I would love to dedicate my sophomore year to it, that is if you are willing to dedicate the year to working with me!