Becoming a Computer Scientist

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Everyone must make the decision to develop their skills for their professional field. For Alexander Lawrence Benedict, it was computer science. Alexander Benedict, born in Rochester NY, moved to Puerto Rico at the age of four and spent 14 years living there. **Based on his leadership, knowledge, and experience, Alexander is a desirable member for the computer science workforce.**  During his adolescence years, Alexander contributed to the community.

While living in Puerto Rico, Alexander was an active part of the community. When the 2010 Haiti disaster occurred, Alexander sprang into action. From 2010 to 2014, Alexander aided in rebuilding homes and churches in Haiti. In addition, he spent countless hours creating fundraisers that would go towards reconstructing the impacted towns of Haiti. While fundraising, he still contributed to the Puerto Rico community by leading a team to clean up beaches. From his volunteer work, he earned many strong leadership characteristics: passion, dedication, and patience, **which he uses during his time at Binghamton University.**

After 14 years living abroad, Alexander returned to the United States of America being proficient in both English and Spanish. Alexander enlisted in the computer engineering degree, at Binghamton University, and became knowledgeable in hardware**. In classes, such as Intro to Engineering Analysis, he reassembled many household appliances to improve their efficiency.** Eventually, Alexander came to the decision to switch to Computer Science. Switching degrees opened the possibility to create hardware and software projects. Since switching majors, Alexander became fluent in Java, C, C++, and Assembly. Being knowledgeable in Java and C++ increases Alexander’s job opportunities. In Bouwkamps (2016) summary article reviewing the nine most in demand programing languages, Java and C++ are highly in demand. “Java has staying power since it has long-term compatibility, which makes sure older applications continue to work now into the future. It’s not going anywhere anytime soon and is used to power company websites like LinkedIn.com, Netflix.com and Amazon.com.”. Bouwkamps also mentions that many popular applications were written with C++. “The list includes Adobe and Microsoft applications, MongoDB databases, large portions of Mac OS/X and is the best language to learn for performance-critical applications such as “twitch” game development or audio/video processing.” (ARTICLE CITATION?) Alexander’s multi language skills make him a desirable asset to many companies. Alexander gained his knowledge from his experiences.

At Binghamton University, Alexander competed in two hackathons; he successfully completed the competitions using his intellect and leadership skills. Alexander’s first hackathon was in the fall of 2016. Alexander and his partner created a grocery tracking app; the user could add or delete current grocery’s, and generate a separate list of what was needed. Alexander oversaw the planning and development of the project; with all his efforts, the app was a success. Alexander created a website to connect employers and applicants in his second hackathon. Applicants would write a short biography, and list their skills; employers would modify their search criteria and connect with potential applicants. In his Sophomore Design course, Alexander programmed a rover to solve itself out of a maze using a light sensor; the rover could go to x, y coordinates using binary numbers. Switches surrounding the rover would project the coordinated path. A remarkable project of his, is his work on piezo electric crystals. Potentially the crystal could charge a person’s electronics. The crystal is modeled in Solid Edge, modified to fit in a shoe sole; with ever step an electric charge is generate, As a person walks there will be some electric charge which could, in the future, charge a device. Alexander has many great qualities that makes him suitable for the work force.

Dedication, strong leadership characteristics, and accomplishments shaped Alexander to be the strong and well-rounded student that he is. This is on par for what is necessary to be successful in society today. Alexander has proven time after time that he is capable of being able to take the initiative and complete his goals. This is seen in the several projects he has created; from an Android app to working on a crystal that will generate electricity with every footstep taken. It is also seen from the numerous hours he has dedicated to improving his community. Alexanders intelligence aided him in gaining his skills, which he used to contribute to society.

http://www.codingdojo.com/blog/9-most-in-demand-programming-languages-of-2016/