**Nick Fracaro**

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Value or Belief: I value and believe that hard work and dedication are the most important values that anyone can hold. Even if you are not necessarily great at a subject or project, showing hard work and a willingness to learn from mistakes or failures and pushing forward can teach you more than any class room. A great example of this is from both school and work. At school I took part in a research project with Dr. Perry that was a major learning opportunity for me, especially with using Python and doing object-oriented programming. I was tasked with researching and writing a project that used python and the encryption library NaCL. I was very amateur at python at the time and struggled in many aspects trying to create the program. However I pushed through and sought out help whenever I needed to. From that and my trial and error I was able to learn so much about programming and everything that came with it and the work that goes into a major research project. The other example is from work. I have been working for Menards for almost a year now. In that time I have received three promotions and was able to accept two of them. I had only been with the company for not even a full year and with no prior manager or leadership experience, I was promoted to 2nd assistant Wall-coverings Manager. From there I hope to promote again in the near future but I have to work hard and truly apply myself to make sure that I can do it again. Which is what my previous managers saw, and is where I am today.

Interests: I am most interested in projects, big or small, learning, and things related to cyber security. Recently I have been trying to learn more about programming in python, C++, Java, and assembly to better understand Malware. I’ve also been interested in cloud engineering and or cloud security engineering. I took Cloud Computing with Dr. Ayyash last semester and seeing everything with AWS and Azure really sparked my interest in that field. I also love projects. I enjoy having something to work on over time and being able to help bring it to life. At Menards I was on the Plan-O-Gram team and we were tasked with taking plans for sales floor isles and displays from General Office, and set them up the way they want them designed. These sometimes would take a extended periods of time to work on, and in many cases we had to figure out how to implement things our own way, that also still works with the Plan-O-Gram.

Career: The best way to describe what I want to do for a career is that it changes all the time. Like I said before I am interested in malware, but I’m also interested in cloud or security engineering. I’m also interested in hacking or networking. However I think what stands out the most to me is wanting to become a Malware Researcher. I love programming and seeing how things work, not to mention the research aspects. However I don’t feel like I want to jump into that right away. I want to learn the cloud and Docker and become a cloud engineer or specialize in security aspects of that and become an AWS or Azure security engineer. This could change in a day but these tend to be the things that stand out. I don’t see myself being tied down to one things all my life but I also want to hone my skills in that before I move on.

Hope to learn from this course: I hope to learn many of the skills needed when working on an Object-Oriented project but I also hope to learn more about working in Git and how I can use that to work with other people. I also hope to better learn Java and the syntax/code that goes in to creating object-oriented programs. I am looking forward to this class and everything that you have to offer to better learn Java and Object-Oriented programming in general.