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ACM Expo Essay

CSCI 3800

**3D Printing and Lockheed Martin**

Last week the Association of Computing Machinery hosted a technology expo for any Computer Science major interested in such an event. Several companies such as IBM and Lockheed Martin came to present new technology and give a speech on their subjects.

The ACM expo, for me, was very exciting. The food, people, and talk was exceptionally fun. Out of the entire event the thing that caught my attention the most was Lockheed Martin. I new before hand that they were going to be the highlight. In the back of the conference room each company had a booth to show what they were currently bringing. I was surprised to see that most of the companies didn't bring anything too awing, besides Lockheed Martin. I could tell that they were very glad to be here.

The booth Lockheed had set up consisted of the newest technology that everyone was interested in these days. The nice part about their booth was being able to test the electronic items they had brought. I was able to try on the new Google-like sunglasses which had a small screen that was placed over your right eye. The screen was able to show you any information that was usually done on a phone. Next to the glasses Lockheed also brought another pair of goggles, of course this version was entirely different. They were more of a virtual reality concept than an information/phone type of device. They had it hooked up to a computer and once on, you were transported into a video game world. Wearing them was pretty fun but you could tell the technology was a little off. There was a good amount of lag when looking around your environment that made it feel choppy like an on line video game connection. The concepts behind the device are awesome but you can tell that they need a few more years to perfect it.

The last item being presented to us was the highlight of the event, the 3D printer! I have seen many of these on line in a ton of different forms and they have also been jaw-dropping. To see one in person performing was great. The version they had brought was actually pretty compact and sleek. It was a small two foot by two foot box with a clear display on top and around the sides to see the process in action. The lady running the booth said that this version was only around three thousand dollars and that some of the bigger one can run up to a million dollars. The device, as a demonstration, was printing small objects such as screws an metal parts. These parts were used to help build other pieces of machinery. Whats nice about these new 3D printers is the fact that you are not limited to just one thing. If given the right design instructions you are able to print off anything from alive tissue, food, and anything else you can think of. Owning a personal one would be dream come true. Sadly I will have to wait until they become cheaper and more available to the general population.

By the time I was done exploring Lockheed Martin's booth it was about time for me to leave for my other classes. I stayed for the 10 minute sideshow Lockheed put on about their goals and why they were at UC Denver and then had to jet. The whole event was great to attend and I was especially glad my schedule worked out allowing me to squeeze it in. Hopefully this will be an event that they hold every year!