**Journal #1 7/6/15**

All star code was recommended to me by a close friend of mine who suggested that I take part in the program to experience the awesomeness of All Star Code. Simply from his actions, he has illustrated to me his amazing leadership skills, ability to think and gather people up, and generally design, as well as having the concrete and basic skills to be an awesome programmer in the future. He suggested it would be wonderful, awesome, and LIT if I attended All Star Code 2 for the summer. In the place of other activities, I had hoped to go to MITES for the Summer, however I never really got that application in time to do be accepted or anything. In addition, other summer programs at colleges and such were absolutely vague in what you would be doing. There was no intense focus on being the ‘BEST’ of anything, simply just take classes in the Summer. Having absolutely zero goals and low expectations in a summer program would be absolutely hurtful to take part in.

I hope I can be able to be an awesome (THE BEST) designer, and I hope I can have enough skills to efficiently take part in creating awesome programs, something i’ve been struggling with for a while. It’s not that I didn’t want to, but that I didn’t have to solely focus on programming and intensely learning about everything I desired to. I might be afraid of my capability to befriend as many people as I can; although i’m not as shy as i was, i’m still pretty shy.

**Journal #2 7/7/15**

**What does “Celebrate Failure: Fail Often, Succeed Sooner” mean to you? Why is it important in computer science and technology?**

Celebrating failure means that to succeed you have to fail. In school, there’s an entire notion that if you don’t understand something-- then it’s your fault. Rarely is blame focused on the teacher, but most often the student. Although I don’t particularly have this issue, it hurts me too see when peers are left behind because teachers and schools don’t care about them. In tech, when we promote failure we also promote a manner for which to improve and learn off of that failure. Succeeding Sooner most only derive from the fact that we MUST ask for help and thus be willing to admit our mistakes. Teachers, in lots of public schools, fail to admit what’s wrong with their teaching. Even if a teacher is proved to be incorrect, he/she will never admit it. Being comfortable failing and dealing with our mistakes must be necessary to succeed and generally ‘work’ in the future. To fail, means to ask for help. ANd without asking for help, one gets nowhere.

**Journal #3 7/9/15**

**What is artificial intelligence? GIve an example of AI in an app, phone, car, subway system, etc. that you see everyday. How does it work?**

Artificial intelligence is AI that is able to think on its own. It’s basically software that can make logical decisions for itself. AI that we see everyday is typically found in a lot of games people play. Some games specifically, adapt to how a player plays and notices his movements and can make it harder. In one case, in Metal Gear Solid: the soldiers whom you fight against are extremely nimble and aware of their surroundings. If you make the small mistake of just taking one out, the other soldiers will react by checking if the person is all right through a call. If the soldier isn’t alright, his friends will come and check on him, thus rendering your mission troublesome. However, there is a way around the AI as long as you adapt to the soldiers.

**Journal #4 7/13/15:**

**DId a site visit or speaker last week inspire you in any way? Did it empower you? Why or why not?**

Last week when we heard Avi Flombaum speak and visit his brainchild, “Flatiron School” I was encaptured on his philosophy and beliefs. Strangely to me, he believed in going 100% on something and FINDING passion about that something. Instead of the cliche of going for the passion one desires and STAYING with that your entire life. It was refreshing to see how Avi can become passionate about such boring things that otherwise people wouldn’t find interest in. It gives me some kind of hope of that life changing experience that he hopes people have when they take part in his program.

In addition, during Goldman Sachs I spoke with a guy who was an engineer, unfortunately I don’t remember his name and he didn’t have a business card when I was with him. But he was an absolutely amazing person, he went to MIT studied engineering and THEN later switched to the software side of things. From what he spoke about of college, I was interested about the college environments where a person can interact with different people from different colleges if he/she desires to do so. Even more, he spoke about his experience with Goldman Sachs and how he got A LOT of benefits and a desirable amount of money from his job. He so spoke about having to WORK for that money, often staying after required pay time slots during extreme projects. Although, I would not EVER do that since it equates to being taken advantage of, I do respect his drive and wish to do more and be passionate.

**Journal #5 7/14/15:**

**What does “A Rising TIde Lifts All Boats” men to you? Why is it important in computer science and technology? Where else might it be important?**

A rising tide lifting all boats means that one thing, a tide in this example, has the immense capacity to affect all other things in that body of water or ocean. Essentially, it may equate to that one mistake affects all of the things that also live in that ecosystem. IN computer science, it means that ONE syntax error has the capacity to stop all of your code from working and thus one must pay A LOT of attention to it. In other scenarios of life, it means that essentially not paying attention to ONE issue that affects the earth has the ability to change everything, how broad that may seem. An example of this is pertaining to the environment and how if something bad happens to the environment all industries will be affected.\

**Journal #5 7/16/15:**

**Why is it hard for a computer to make art or music like a human? Do you think computers will ever be creative?**

Computers will be as creative as the human using one will be. Computers can produce ALL type of sounds from all types of different instruments so the capacity for a computer to create music is very high. The creativeness will always lie in the human operator as compared to the capacity to create a program and make errors. However, computers struggle to hit those VERY specific notes that a human singer or player will be able to reach, so it is a type of struggle to make some music programs. An example, is GarageBand on Macs where one can create music through coding.

**Journal #6 7/27/15:**

**How do you think most apps make money? What are various ways technology companies make money? Give examples. If you use something for free, it must be making money somehow, right?**

Most apps make money using ad revenue of some sort. EIther that or using a method of sponsorship to support an app developer and/or his/her team. In this case, ads provide a means to get money but may also be obstructive to a user. Free games like 8 ball pool have TONS of adds in their games which make it obstructive but people continue to play. Another source of revenue may be in-app purchases that allows a user to spend ENORMOUS amounts of money on simple, silly things. Usually the set-up for in app purchases are either for skins or to speed up a waiting time to play a game.

A simple app idea to make money? A game that has ads, but not as obtrusive but sort of intuitive. Like if you die or fail, there’s an option to skip the ad but also to view on. So it lies on the user choice. But there’s also an incentive because it would, say, give you some coins which allow you to purchase other items like a skin, per se.

**Journal #7 7/28/15:**

**What does “do or do not, there’s no try” mean to you? WHy i it important in computr science and technology? Where else might it be important beyond these areas?**

The phrase means that there’s no ‘trying’ and only just doing and succeeding or failing. One cannot simply try and be content what he/she has done. In computer science it also means that Yoda said that.

**Journal #8 7/30/15**

**Name an app on your phone (or on the web) that you think must use a database, how do you know? Describe an algorithm this app uses. Bonus points for pseudocode!**

Spotify is one of the apps on my phone that most likely uses LARGE databases. This is due to Spotify’s nature, where it is a music streaming service -- thus it must have a database of music to stream to the user. In addition, with the use of user accounts, that’s another database Spotify uses. An algorithm Spotify uses is I DONT KNOWWWWWWWWWWW. But probably something with music.

Journal #9 8/3/15

I kinda wished we learned mobile app development and applied meteor more. Our introduction to meteor was half-assed at most although we tried our best I barely grasped an understanding of how to use it. All of the stuff with html and javascript confused me with meteor.

I really want to program my idea in Swift, so that it can actually be an app that people can use for demo day and I REALLY want to make it beautiful.

Journal #10 8/4/15

I think it stems from the idea and old saying: If you give a man a fire he’s warm for a day, if you set a man on fire he’s warm for the rest of his life. In this saying, it teaches us that the SKILL of knowing how to start something and/or do something is much more powerful long term. Sure, it may be a bit harder but it’s important to KNOW the process so that you can continually learn stuff.

Journal #11 8/11/15

What does “A path with no obstacles leads nowhere.” mean to you? Why is it important in computer science and technology? Where else might it be important beyond these areas?

The quote means that if you don’t challenge yourself you won’t improve or generally get better in your life. In computer science, it would mean that if you continually use the SAME resources you’d be only intelligent in that but in other areas you won’t succeed because you haven’t experimented nor have you failed.

It also is relevant when you’re trying to be a better person, improve yourself, or even when you talk to a girl! If you don’t challenge yourself, fail or get rejected -- you won’t learn from your mistakes and therefore you won’t become a better person.

Journal #12 8/12/15

Celebrating failure and collaborating while asking questions.Beforehand, I had an idea of just competition which was detrimental to myself and others if it continued in the future. Being able to collaborate and work together to create a final project was essential to succeed. ASC changed the way I view other people and my toleration of them when they need help. Since I realized that I was constantly in that position, it made me understand that it’s fine.