

VERONICA MEDRANO

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Portfolio: <https://vnoelifant.github.io/>

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, MS IN ROBOTICS (MSR)

Evanston, IL

Relevant Course Topics

September 2018 – Present

Robotic Manipulation, Mechatronics, Embedded Systems in Robotics, Computer Vision, AI, Machine Learning, Deep Learning

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, BS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

College Station, TX

September 2008 – December 2013

SKILLS/TOOLS

- Python, Ubuntu Linux, Robot Operating System (ROS), OpenCV, Rviz, Gazebo, Git/Github, Sentiment Analysis, Scikit-learn, NLTK, Watson APIs, Bash/Batch, C/C++, V-REP, Javascript/Node.js, SQL, SPARQL/DBPedia, OpenCyc, RDFS/OWL, XML, SoapUI, Gherkin, Flask, Awk/Grep, Django, R, Embedded Programming (PIC, Raspberry Pi, Arduino), MATLAB/Simulink, Mathematica, LaTeX, VisualStudio

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HARRIS CORPORATION, GEOSPATIAL SYSTEMS

Clifton, NJ

Software Systems Engineer

April 2017 – April 2018

- Developed test data generation scripts and SoapUI mock web service responses to verify display software for GPS OCX (Global Positioning System Next Generation Operation Control System)
- Wrote Gherkin-based human readable test procedures and associated Python code under a BDD (Behavior-driven development) framework to facilitate implementation of automated test procedures
- Led 6 software engineers in successful completion of integration and test phase under tight schedule; assisted with debugging in the Front-End (User Interface) and Back-End (server/database)
- Wrote Python program to extract time stamps dynamically and compute statistical results on them to verify a critical customer requirement.; program used as a portable solution across multiple software environments

BOEING SATELLITE SYSTEMS

El Segundo, CA

Lead Systems Engineer, Integration and Test Engineer

April 2017 – April 2018

- Awarded for leading team of approximately 30 multi-discipline engineers to execute a Technical Design Review within schedule and budget for a closed area program
- Accomplished quick turnaround of delivering system test updates for critical milestone; received recognition award
- Led Intelsat 35e payload engineering test team in closure of unit integration test phase
- Executed and debugged critical software-driven payload in-orbit and ground system tests for Mexsat-Morelos 3 satellite
- Tested various Mexsat terminal-types in fast-paced, on the field and testbed environments at customer sites in Mexico
- Developed Aeronautical Operations Plan for the Mexican Air Force, outlining logistics and efficient flight paths in preparation for Mexsat satellite terminal testing in Mexico
- Managed effort to fix defects on Mexsat terminal SIM cards, saving the program valuable time and resources
- Developed communications link budgets and worst-case analyses for multiple satellites, resulting in award for exceptional performance

L-3, MISSION INTEGRATION DIVISION

Greenville, TX

Co-op Electrical Design Engineer

January 2012 – August 2012

- Collaborated with a team of eight engineers to design the lighting system of a special mission aircraft

PROJECTS

TJBOT: A CARING ROBOT, MSR PROGRAM

Evanston, IL

Graduate Student Researcher

January 2019 – Present

- Building a caring, emotionally intelligent robot using IBM's TJBOT and Watson services
- Developing Node.js application to interface with the following Watson services: Speech to Text, Text to Speech, Tone Analyzer, Watson Assistant (conversation building tool), Visual Recognition

COMPUTER VISION: ANALYZING HUMAN EMOTIONS

Evanston, IL

Graduate Student Researcher

January 2019 – Present

- Conducting literature survey investigating the impact of multi-modal (facial, audio, body gestures) systems on human emotion recognition

SAWYER, THE ARTIST, MSR PROGRAM

Evanston, IL

Graduate Student Researcher

December 2018

- Programmed Sawyer the Robot to detect and draw faces using ROS; team awarded first place in Robotics competition
- Developed the face detection algorithm using Python and Haar Classifiers in OpenCV

PREDICTING MENTAL DISORDERS IN TWEETS, MSR PROGRAM

Evanston, IL

Graduate Student Researcher

December 2018

- Developed Python program to predict mental disorders in tweets
- Cleaned tweets using NLTK module and extracted tweet features using Bag of Words, TF-IDF and word2vec methods
- Ran features and Naive Bayes machine learning classifier through SciKit Learn Pipeline module

TRACKING OBJECTS USING ROS AND PYTHON, MSR HACKATHON

Evanston, IL

Graduate Student Researcher

September 2018

- Programmed a webcam mounted on a servo motors to track the motion of a ball using ROS, Python, and OpenCV

MINI ROBOT CAR WITH PYTHON AND RASPBERRY PI

Los Angeles, CA

Hobbyist

May 2015-July 2015

- Built and tested robot using Python and Raspberry Pi
- Implemented user control functionality by running device via keyboard and mobile device

HONORS

- Sawyer, The Artist awarded first place in Northwestern robot manipulation competition *December 2018*
- Boeing NSP Recognition Award for Successful ECP-086 Technical Design Review *January 2017*
- Boeing NSP Recognition Award for Quick Turnaround of System Test Updates for Upcoming Critical Milestone *January 2017*
- Boeing Recognition Program Certificate for Spacecraft Redundancy Management *February 2016*
- Research on Growth and Characterization of Synthetic Diamond Research published in National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network Research Experience for Undergraduates (NNIN REU) Journal *August 2013*
- 2nd place for research on transparent batteries, Texas A&M AggieE-Engineering Project Showcase *April 2013*

ACTIVITIES/INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Volunteering

- Led Robotics team in demoing Sawyer, The Artist project to high school and middle school girls at Northwestern Career Day for Girls on February 23, 2019
- Chicago Cares: Serve meals to homeless at St Paul's Church; entertain children in homeless shelter
- New York Cares: Delivered meals to homeless and disabled, motivated children to prepare for Special Olympics
- Reading to Kids Volunteer, Los Angeles: read to Kindergarten students in Los Angeles
- School on Wheels, Los Angeles: tutored homeless child
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Brazos Valley: Big Sister during college
- **The Green Program in Iceland (Summer 2013)**
- Conducted experiential hands on site visitations to renewable energy facilities
- Collaborated with diverse capstone team to design autonomous control system that would decrease the risk of electrocution from solar panels

The Arts

- Writing poetry and performing at open mics; playing piano-ten years of classical training