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PEARC18 Conference

The 2018 PEARC conference was a success and a very informative experience. PEARC18 was held in Pittsburg, PA from July 22-26, 2018. The day started off with an opening student program where I was informed about different job areas and safety. Ricardo Gonzales was the host and he first introduced all the committee members that made PEARC18 happen. The first speaker was an FBI agent that is now relocated in Pittsburg, PA where she has been for the past six years. She talked about being a special agent and getting a job in the FBI force as a computer scientist major or even a science major in general. Once she finished her presentation Gonzales allowed her to talk about the safety rules for the city of Pittsburg. The agents main point was that you should never go anywhere alone and use your common sense when going places. Then Michael Becich a pathology professor presented his presentation and talked about what his job is and a little about cancer. Becich's pacific job is to teach students how to collect tissue samples from individuals to test and figure out that individuals diagnose within 10-15 mins of the doctor giving them the tissue.

As the second day began it started off with an early breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Once breakfast was over the tutorials began and I participated in the Introduction to Python 3 and Jupyter Notebooks. The speaker was Mr. Steve Lantz who allowed everyone to download Anaconda the python software that was being used the first couple minutes of the tutorial. Lantz then talked about the syntax of Python three and how it was only a little bit different from Python two. He recommended people to use it because of the simple syntax that is has and how easy it is for beginners to use. Once Lantz's session was over I attended the "I Learned Python, Now What: Python 102 for Scientific Computing and Data Analysis" Tutorial that was also about python and its syntax, presented by Ashwin Srinath and Jeff Denton. This tutorial taught people what to do once they finished learning how to use python and the different effects it has on individuals once they begin coding with it. Srinath and Denton gave different examples and presented us with a website that could help with the start of using the programming language python. Later, that day came the student mentor dinner where I met my wonderful mentor by the name od Barry Moore II. We talked the whole two hours of dinner about anything we could think of and I really enjoyed it.

The third day began with an early breakfast at the same time as before but this time tables were set up on the second-floor lobby where food was served. These tables where for different companies who wanted to network with students and other people that came to the conference. There were companies like intel, cloud computing, dell, etc. that I had the opportunity to talk to and get some interesting information from. Once 8:00 a.m. came around it was time for me to go and volunteer which was a great. I had the opportunity to help people, who had posters to present, locate the stands where their poster would be presented at and put there poster up. This time gave me a chance to talk to people before hand a little about there posters before anyone else which was fun. At 10:30 a.m. there was the student modeling challenge that I attended and was apart of. Each group had to pick out of the five different projects and determine which one they wanted to do. All the groups were made up of four teammates who helped one another code

and figure out how to solve their problem. We only had a few hours to complete the projects which made everything a bit more difficult and frustrating along the way. Once the time was up the groups had to do a practice demonstration for the actual presentation the next day. The last thing of that day was the poster session where individuals talked about their research and tried to win the judges over with their projects, so they could win. It was very interesting and informative to me and others.

On the fourth day I woke up to a terrible message that stated two of my teammates were sick and this day was presentation day. It was left to me and my remaining partner to try and finish our project the morning of presentation. We had no time to even eat breakfast from working hard to finish our project before we had no time left. This was an intense morning, but we ended up getting it finished before presentations. One quote from the day before gave me hope which was "If we had more time and money then we could finish up with our project" and with this we added it to our project. The time for presentations came and we decided to go first sense we believed that we would do great even though we were two partners short. At the end we were congratulated for our hard work and dedication to our project which was very exciting to me and taught me to never give up no matter what the situation.

The fifth day came, and the conference began to slow down, it was time for the conference to end and some awards to be passed out. Breakfast was early as usual but most of the events had ended and the only thing left was the awards banquet. It began at 12:00 p.m. and started with an introduction speaker who introduced the people who made PEARC18 happen. The speaker then started announcing the different awards that would be given out. Once he finished the awards were given out and pictures were taken, then the PEARC18 conference was officially over. The last thing we had to do was the SGCI hackathon that took place throughout the night until the next day. It started with a meeting after the awards banquet informing us about what would be going on. The schedule for the day and night was given and at 7:00 p.m. the hackathon began. It was very exciting and difficult at times because it was a challenge that needed to be solved before the twenty-four hours was up. My group project came from SimCCS Gateway and it was about building mapping functionality so that people could see where CO_2 would be transmitted across the world. On the schedule we had some breaks and fun activities during those breaks to keep us awake and active. As the next day came it was time to present and get awarded for the twitter events we had during the breaks. Overall the hackathon was a success and I really enjoyed it, the activities and the food.

In conclusion, the PEARC18 conference was a success and so was the SGCI Hackathon. I enjoyed myself in Pittsburgh, PA while being able to meet new people, network, and challenge myself with different obstacles. It allowed me to engage in many exciting activities and I would encourage others to attend the upcoming PEARC19 conference to gain experience and friends as I have. I would not recommend traveling by car because tight spaces for long periods of hours do not fit well with me. Overall this was a trip I will not be able to forget and I have learned so much from it.