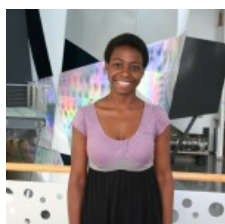


Mandela Magnidjem



Mandela Magnidjem, LeMoyne-Owen College, Computer Science, [InVest](#)

Things

Posted on [August 4, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

There are a lot of things I liked about the program, such as the fact that had extracurricular activities to reduce our stress levels. I also loved learning about emerging technologies that I would have never heard of or believed in outside of the program. The main thing I would change is the structure of the classes we took in the beginning of the program.

So this is our last week here. It's intense, and the V-Volcano is doing what it wants to do, and I am not always in agreement with it. I have until 2pm today to fix it, so bye!

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BACK FROM "THE FURTHER"

Posted on [July 29, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

No, I actually wasn't in "the further" as defined by the movie "Insidious", but I was in a place where I lost contact with the human world as we know it, a place called "the lab". I told my family that I may not return from "the lab" for a couple of weeks, except for the times when I absolutely had to sleep, and when I had to participate in social and academic rituals for my mental and spiritual sanity. Some rituals in which I partook were paintballing, canoeing, scavenger hunting, and talent showing, all of which put my life at high risks of injury. On Tuesday and Thursday the other "lab travelers" and I listened to the teachings of those who answered all of our questions concerning graduate school. On Wednesday we went to Des moines to visit "The Principal" (financial group) and the science center in which we looked into the eyes of the plastinates.

At the end of these activities, I dived back deeper and deeper into "the lab" in quest for answers. I searched for solutions to that which has been haunting me and driving me closer to insanity everyday. Unfortunately my efforts have yet to be rewarded, but I have made equally important discoveries along the way, alongside my team members. We have solved the mystery of the way-point crashes, and I have found a few puzzle pieces. However the most challenging piece of the puzzle has yet to be found, and to find it I will have to master the implementation of the mouse listeners in order to transform ordinary text panels into clickable hyperlinks. If anyone has any clue that will bring me to the light and help me escape from "the lab", please, please, tell me. It may seem at first as if I am not listening, but I can hear you in my subconscious.

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Tardy Blog

Posted on [July 19, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

Yesterday was a regular hot day. We stayed in the lab all the day, except for

when we went to lunch. I am still working on the GUI. It doesn't want to do what I tell it to do, and I'm not giving up. No machine will get the best of me! On a more gentle note, I spoke with my family and friends in Memphis during the entire evening. I had a very good laugh. OK. Bye bye.

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La schizoïde du 21ème siècle.

Posted on [July 15, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

J'ai décidée que les seules personnes qui pourront lire ce message seront ceux de ma famille, et ceux qui voudront prendre le temps de traduire. Aujourd'hui a été une journée assez longue. La présentation de midi était bizarre. Je n'ai aucun autre mot pour la décrire. J'ai passée la journée entiere a essayer de mieu comprendre les fonctions de Java. Mes efforts ont quand même été bien payés, car j'ai pu complètement changer le model du GUI, même comme ça peut toujours être amélioré. J'ai eu une brève conversation avec Eliot. Je pense que j'ai été un peu muete. Mes équipiers semblent avoir des difficultés a importer le model du lahar dans le volcan. Je verrai demain si je pourrai être d'assistance. Si non le soir etait mieu au debut. Nous sommes allés a Fuji Steak House, et le diner etait rigolo et delicieux. Malheureusement la joie a disparut quand une de mes camarades a eu un mauvais tours d'évènements. Je me sens totalement inutile. Ma famille me manque beaucoup et je suis prête a rentrer. Mes sentiments envers les autres deviennent de plus en plus détachés, et ce n'est pas leurs fautes. C'est tout simplement le fait que je suis de mauvaise humeur ces derniers temps.

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The past two days have been...

Posted on [July 13, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

Monday is pretty vague in my memory. I only remember being angry at the GUI that I'm working on because it was acting stupid. Yesterday I woke up at 5 am, so I was very sleepy the entire day. The luncheon lecture was really fun, and it only confirmed that nothing can keep you from reaching your goal. I fixed all the things that frustrated me with the GUI on Monday, and I was out of the lab by 6 pm. I went to sleep yesterday at 7pm and woke up at 7 this morning, so I feel well-rested and ready to battle some more with the GUI.

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Ethics Homework

Posted on [July 11, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

Chapter 4

- As I read this chapter one question that I repeated to myself was: why should I care? Really, I didn't understand the point that the author was trying to make at first. The word 'praxis' kept appearing but was never fully explained, and was not tied to the other sections in a way that I could understand. The author said praxis was "a commitment to human well-being, the search of truth, and respect for others" (section Page 108). When I searched for definitions of the word, I came across custom, or the practical side of a profession. Things clicked a little after that, and the rest was guesswork. I suppose that this chapter is explaining the different ethics that engineers should take into account and the things they should practice doing (praxis) in order to design products that will be accessible and usable to a wide variety of users (social justice).

Chapter 5

- This chapter was a demonstration of praxis and social justice, as spoken of in the previous chapter. It listed ten case studies in which driven engineers or even non-engineers made an impact in their field by sticking to what they believed was right. I found this chapter to be a little controversial because it encouraged the reader to be a change agent, but it went on to say that fighting for a cause can lead to bankruptcy, unemployment, and lawsuits (page 133, last paragraph). I guessed the author fixed this with the following case studies. The last one for example showed the success of over ten thousand engineers working at Boeing, after they organized a strike against the company's decision to reduce health benefits. Their concerns were heard after five months of the company losing 11% of their profit.

The article

- I found it interesting that the children in the control group also developed a bias, simply because they were divided in two groups, although the teacher never drew a line between the two groups. This article made me realize that adults say or do a lot of things, intentionally or not, that make children group people or things. I've never experienced racism to a point where I was strongly moved, but I have personally experienced sexism, and I think it sometimes affects me even today. In Cameroon, children are taught from a very young age, in school and at home, that men are physically stronger than women. They are also taught that men are the leaders of a household, and every decision they make is final. The girls are told that their role is to take care of the home and the people in it. Some customs do not even allow girls to go to school; they are instead forced to do labor in the home, or in farms. Additionally men and women do not have an equal salary. My parents are a good example of this: my dad told me that his duty is to provide financially, and my mother's job is to take care of the house. I never thought much of it until I came here and I saw that men and women had equal rights, and it wasn't scandalous for a woman to drive a truck as it wasn't scandalous for a man to cook. But I've also realized that my parents didn't want the same fate for me, and they raised me to make myself equal to men, as well as independent of them.

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Bad Jokes

Posted on [July 8, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

Today's ethic class was OK for the first hour, but everything went over my head after that, especially the engineering puns. I won't even get into that. We had journal club outside, and I thought it was awesome despite the heat. We took group photos today (they look nice). Uhhhhh what else. Well for those who didn't know, you can now reach me by any means on my cell phone. Oh yea!, I have probably completed 80% of my main goals for the volcano's GUI. I would say 90% if it didn't have flaws, but I know I can fix them by the end of next week, and also add a few extra things. On a final note, the canoe trip is tomorrow, and I know I will have a great time whether or not I get motion sickness. Yipeeeeeee!!!

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Pressure Build-Up

Posted on [July 6, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

As time goes by I am getting more and more nervous about finishing the project. I did however make another major improvement today, and it will set the trail for even another major improvement, so that's awesome. I'm just glad that we have less classes now, so I get to put all of my focus on the GUI thingy.

Today we first gave our OpenGL presentations, then we gave our mid-project oral presentations. They both went well, but I definitely know where we could use some improvement for our final project oral presentations.

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Stop texting me!

Posted on [July 5, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

My phone hasn't been working normally ever since we came back from John Deere, so I can only receive calls. I can't read or send messages, and I call anybody. This shouldn't be a problem by Thursday, but until then I want everybody to know that sending me text messages will be a vain attempt. On that note, thanks Ramy for putting aside everything to take me to my bank in Des Moines.

Today we had a really nice luncheon lecture. We learned about some of the ways engineers determine designs, and how they prepare prototypes and test them on people.

I made small progress with the VVolcano today, then like magic the progress disappeared. At least I think I know from where to go tomorrow. If not, then tears.

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Ethics

Posted on [July 5, 2011](#) by [Dela](#)

Mattel Toy Corp:

- I don't think that this company think that they were doing something wrong in the first place. In the article I read the company denies that it violated a 30 yr old law that prohibits the manufacturing of children's toys with more than .06% lead (<http://money.cnn.com/2009/06/05/news/companies/cpsc/>). I just think that they obviously need to fire the company's legal team, because it is responsible for knowing this kind of information. I think they did the right thing by accepting the financial penalty and by recalling the toys. So in all, they didn't know they were doing anything wrong (I hope) so it's not like they felt any cognitive dissonance or anything.

Space Shuttle Challenger

- So many people did so many things wrong in this case. The explosion was reportedly caused by the cold weather affecting the solid rocket boosters. Also, it was known a year before launch that the design of the solid rocket boosters was faulty. So the engineers were at fault for that, and the decision makers were definitely at fault for ignoring the concerns of the engineers. http://www.aerospaceguide.net/spaceshuttle/challenger_disaster.html. I understand that one gets impatient after so many delays (I was impatient reading the number of delays), but with a situation that involved seven people flying into a titanic ship into high altitudes at twice the speed of sound (or any situation if which people lives are at stake), I think it would have been best to ensure that the spaceship was fully functional and the travelling conditions were good.

Norma Couvertier

- I don't feel like this article provided a lot of details as to the importance of the research that was being conducted. I just know that she was affiliated for research with a foundation that provides treatment for people with substance use disorders, and so falsifying urine monitoring and alcohol breathalyzer tests was a violation, especially since it could have impacted the results of the study. I think it is fair that she will not be able to serve in advisory committees for the U.S. Public Health Service.

Video Response

- Okayyyy? Although I am one who believes in speaking your mind with the condition that you are speaking the truth, I also think that some comments can be deemed as unnecessary, such as the one that the man made in the report about sheikhs. Such comments should be saved to crack jokes at a boring meeting when positive that it will offend nobody. Citizens of some countries are deprived of any rights to speak against anything that's government, and they are greatly oppressed for doing so. I am firmly against this, so I don't think sensitivity training is necessary, and I couldn't help but think that it was another of those jobs that was invented only to give someone a job (oops, that was insensitive).

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