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12th Annual NOAA-CREST Day

The 12th Annual NOAA-CREST Day was on Tuesday April 16th and it was very interesting to say the least. When I arrived at Steiman Hall around 10:05, there were several people already there. I registered and started walking around and looking at the beautiful posters made by the City College Students. I talked to a few students about their posters, took a few pictures and asked them a few questions such as what software did you use or what algorithm did you use for that specific work? One quick remark I made was or at least the people I talked to, they did not create any algorithms, they just used particular software to generate what they wanted.

Around 11: 30 we went for lunch which I didn’t like by the way, they gave me tuna; I saw that when I get to the table I would prefer chicken. After lunch, it was time to the main event at the auditorium. The first speaker was Dr Ernest McDuffie who delivered the keynote address. He talked about national Cybersecurity Education (NICE). One of the things he mentioned was how in the past cybersecurity was not something you found in school’s curriculum except computer science but now it is a separate part of a lot of schools. He talked about several of agencies that you can work for if you have a cybersecurity Education. It is a growing field as of now. There were a few more speakers after that, including two students in which one of them Juan Mejia attended Citytech.

Overall, it was a life learning experience to be able to talk and listen to fellow students and learned from people who have been in Education field for over a quarter of century in some cases.

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IEEE Amateur Radio

While we may not know much about Amateur Radio like we do for the latest cell phones such as I-phone or Samsung galaxy, and windows phone, it is very important.

Amateur radio was invented by Marconi and Loomis. They are commonly known as ham operators or plugs. In order for them to operate over a certain frequency, they needed to get a license.

Amateur radio is very useful during natural or any kind of events that affect the phone system. The main reason or the only reason it’s called amateur radio is because they don’t do it for any kind of profit but they do act like professional. Talking about doing it for no profits that where volunteerism comes. In the case of natural disaster, amateur radios are used for non-profit organization like FEMA, SATERN and ARES.

While Cell Phones are not good tools for broadcasting, CB radios are perfect for broadcasting. The main advantage of CB radio is that it doesn’t require an infrastructure, therefore it is not risky during emergency or natural disaster; they are reliable. During the hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Red cross saved several people using CB radios. In an effort to meet the other HAMS in the world, to get to know each other, there is a day known as field day. In order to get a license for CB radio one just has to study and take an exam. 73! Yes it is part of numerical code for CB radio, it means goodbye.