



Engaging the SAMARITAN instinct in Teaching Computer Software Concepts
UCF Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Niels da Vitoria Lobo, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Phone Numbers: (407) 823-2873
Fax Number: (407) 823-5419

Email Address: niels@eeecs.ucf.edu
Website: <http://proff.eecs.ucf.edu/programming>

Mailing Address:
University of Central Florida
Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
HEC-252
4000 Central Florida Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32816-2362

History: Food Banks usage increases as my 2007-2011 NSF ITEST Project starts

I observe my food bank approach succeed in high school teaching



STUDENTS WHO LEARNED TO PROGRAM



SOME PARENTS



SOME WHO PRESENTED



ENJOYING LUNCH WITH STUDENTS



MORE HAPPY PARENTS

I teach software's complexities and (tedious) details through applications that tap into what I call the Samaritan Instinct (the instinct to help the needy) in students. These applications include Food Bank Management, Federal Disaster Management, and Habitat For Humanity Homebuilder Solar Electrification Management projects.

My premise is that there are students who are naturally drawn to such undertakings and then there are those who do not dare stay uninterested in these discussions for fear of social censure. Due to these two responses, a great majority of otherwise uninterested students attend to and engage in the elaboration of how a computer system must track detail.

Program Sample: Lots of uninteresting detail, but easier when students are motivated by the application

```
#include<stdio.h>
#include<stdlib.h>
int main()
{
    int Quantity[100];
    int Howmany, i;
    printf("Enter the Number of Donations: ");
    scanf("%d",&Howmany);
    for( i = 0; i < Howmany; i++)
    {
        printf("Enter the Quantity of the Donation: ");
        scanf("%d",&Quantity[i]);
    }
    printf("\nREPORT\n");
    for( i = 0; i < Howmany; i++)
    {
        printf("Quantity of the Donation: %d\n",Quantity[i]);
    }
    system("pause");
}
```

Can examine all the necessary quantitative aspects of a problem when the students believe their efforts are relevant

Developed teaching material that uses Federal Disaster Management issues to motivate thinking about distribution of resources, and verification of volunteer personnel efforts.

Habitat For Humanity Homebuilder Solar Electrification Management



Software issues: how to regulate energy consumption based on configuration of panels

Need to identify additional Samaritan projects that lend themselves to software concerns.

I also plan to further employ the Samaritan software approach in high schools, particularly targeted at underrepresented groups.

Additionally, I wish to study how strong the Samaritan Instinct is in youth, and how to harness it to alter learning of challenging software engineering topics in younger teenage years.