I'm a part of the Interaction Lab under Professor Maja Matarić. The Interaction Lab researches about Socially Assistive Robotics (SAR). I worked with my PhD student mentor, Jessica Lupanow. Her project focuses on teaching children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) about empathy.

Some children with ASD struggle with empathetic behaviors, which are often comprised of three factors: the perspective of others, identifying and distinguishing emotions, and having a shared affective response. My lab partner and I worked to create a web-based survey to measure the child's perspective-taking ability in real-time.

The objective of Professor Matarić's Interaction Lab focuses on developing computational principles and techniques to enable SAR systems for human interaction. The goal of SAR is to improve health and wellness, learning, and autonomy for stroke patients, older adults, children with special needs, and more.

How It Works

Survey HTML

Data through Flask

IPal react and survey updated

How This Relates to Your STEM Coursework

My experience with JavaScript that I learned from AP Computer Science Principles last year helped me since I already knew the basics. I used my previous knowledge and learned how JavaScript could be used to make webpages interactive. I will definitely use my website making skills to produce and create more websites in the future.

Advice for Future SHINE Students

My advice to future SHINE students is that the "Imposter Syndrome" is a very real thing. It doesn't matter what level you're at or how much prior knowledge of your lab you already know. Remember that everyone at SHINE is there for the same reason: to learn. You are also there for a reason. Your SHINE experience depends on you and how you want to make the most out of it. Don't forget that you have your mentors and peers to help you get along the way!

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to Dr. Katie Mills and Dr. Megan Herold for organizing such an amazing program, Professor Dr. Maja Matarić for opening up her lab to me and providing such knowledgeable advice, my wonderful PhD mentor Jessica Lupanow along with PhD mentors Tom Groechel and Chris Birmingham, my lab partner Josh Huang, and of course, my parents for their continuous support.