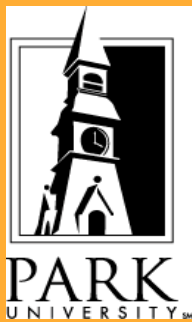


CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Park Alum Success Story
- Student Accomplishments
- Computer Science Professor
- Perceptive Software
- Summer Jobs & Internships



Check out Nick's work on his website:
www.nkreeger.com



www.songbirdnest.com

Career Center News

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Park Alum Takes Skills to the Golden State by: Nia Vaitai



If you haven't realized the importance of an internship or networking, maybe this story will open your eyes and ears to it. Nick Kreeger is an alumni of Park University who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems with an emphasis in software engineering in August 2007. Kreeger is now living in San Francisco, CA and working for a software development company called Songbird. Kreeger's story started a few years ago when he was just a sophomore.

As Kreeger started his sophomore year, he was adamant about finding a part time job or internship. Through the Career Development Center, Kreeger received information regarding an internship with the National Golf Club. He applied for the position and for the next 2-years found a nice place to call home.

"It was a good experience to go along with my classes," says Kreeger.

While interning at the National, Kreeger networked his way through his first job at Modern Media, the advertising company for the National. It wasn't just the internship and networking that got Kreeger going, his hard work and determination gave him the extra boost to succeed. While in school, Kreeger worked on a Mac web browser called, "Camino". This volunteer-based project became known in Mozilla and was the first of many that Kreeger would take part in. Last summer, Kreeger worked with a mentor, David Bienvenue, from Mozilla on a Google project. Having a mentor living down the street is a rare occasion, but for Kreeger, this was the case. Through networking in open-source, Kreeger was able to obtain his current position as a Software Engineer at Songbird. Now living along the Pacific Coast, Kreeger is finding life in California to be more than perfect.

"I like the technical opportunities here in California," he says. "I love the city, the environment is great, and the people are nice too."

"I advise students to network around; there are lots of opportunities. So get involved and sharpen your technical skills."

Networking and the importance of getting an internship aren't theories of succeeding, they're necessities. Take it from a student who knows a thing or two about it. Kreeger just testified and so are we!

Nick Kreeger's Accomplishments

- Since May 2005, has contributed to Camino, an open-source Mac web browser. Contributions include implementing fixes and features such as in-page RSS news feed detection and improvements to the download manager. Contribution has benefited the Mac users around the world.
- September 2005, helped pack radios for Hurricane Katrina service work, sponsored by ACM student club.
- November 2005, team obtained 1st place in the Northwestern Missouri sub-regional ACM programming contest.
- April 2006, team obtained 7th place in the Western Missouri CCSC programming contest.
- April 2006, presented a student poster in CCSC (Consortium of Computing in Sciences in Colleges).
- April 2006, made a presentation entitled, "Traverse Ping" in the first "Creative art and research symposium" at Park University.
- May 2006, team obtained 1st place in Cerner's Software Lifecycle competition.
- May 2006, participated in the Squeak programming workshop level I hosted by the ACM student club for Parkville community students.
- November 2006, obtained 2nd place in the Northwestern Missouri sub-regional ACM programming contest.
- September 2006, as part of an ACM student club service projects, participated in building houses for Habitat for Humanity.
- November 2006, participated in the Squeak programming workshop level II hosted by the ACM student club for Parkville community students.
- Fall 2006, mentored 2 FIRST League Lego teams, On January 2007, one of the two teams, "Nanobot Builder", took 2nd place in the final performance competitions hosted by Park University.
- February 2007, presented a poster entitled "Service learning in Robotic Programming" in Conference in Applied Learning in Higher Education at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO.
- January 2007, released "Correo"-a new mail client for OS X to benefit Mac users worldwide.

Wen Hsin, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Information and Computer Science by: Shakir Valiyev

Other Companies to Keep in Mind

- Garmin (they produce innovate products)
- Fishnet Security (they are a top notch security company)
- Cerner (a good company for students who are fresh out of college)

Why did you choose to be a professor at Park University?

Smaller class size. I get to know the students better. In my undergraduate and graduate studies, I was at big schools. It is very difficult for a teacher to know every student well in a class size of 80+ students. I also like the academic freedom. I can perform studies or projects that I deem useful to the society. I can be creative with the student projects depending on their abilities and interests. I enjoy watching students grow to be useful citizens in their communities.

What are the best aspects and the most challenging aspects about having a career in the computer science field?

Computer science is an ever-changing field. You need to constantly get yourself up to date. Otherwise, you are outdated very fast.

What would your advice be to our computer science students who will be entering the job market?

Be active outside of the regular classroom. These days, a lot of employers do not just look for students with a suitable GPA. They want to know what projects you have done or how you have applied yourself in college. Thus, doing a computer science project outside the regular classroom can help you interview and obtain a job.

Additionally, I would encourage students to participate in computer science related activities. There are a lot of opportunities for students to participate locally. For example, (1) annual ACM programming contest, (2) annual CCSC programming and webpage contests, and student poster presentation, (3) annual undergraduate research and creative art symposium at Park University, and (4) RAVE competition for wireless mobile phone application. I

would also encourage students to perform a computer science civic service or service learning project if possible. You will not only feel good for helping others, but also learn from the experience when you help others. Additionally, try studying abroad so you can broaden your world view. This is much needed for being a global citizen.



Perceptive Software

Perceptive Software creates innovative document imaging, document management and workflow software solution for organizations in a broad range of industries worldwide. Founded in 1988, the company's unique approach to product development and services produces cost-effective solutions that leverage an organization's existing technology investments.

For more information about Perceptive Software, visit there website:
www.imagenow.com

Looking for a Summer Job or Internship???

Don't wait any longer. Deadlines are approaching and summer will be here before you know it. Log onto our job database and find our current list of part-time, full-time, and internships at www.park.edu/career.

- Steps:
1. Find a position that interests you
 2. Send us your resume for review
 2. Apply for the position you're seeking
 3. Research the company and be prepared for the interview process

