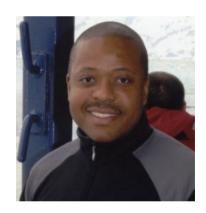
Summer Internships

Meredith Ringel Morris, Microsoft Research Alan Bivens, IBM Research



About Alan



What I do for fun:

- 2 little guys (8 and 10)
- Volleyball league
- Travel
- Collaborative board games
- Numismatist

Education:

B.S. Computer Science University of Alabama



Ph.D. Computer Science

Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute



Career:

- IBM Research 14 years
- IBM Blockchain 3 years
- IBM Public Cloud 0.25 years

Current Role:

Director, Data Services - IBM Public Cloud

Work Activities:

- Drive external offerings
- Lead geographically dispersed teams
- Invention / Research
- Corporate Diversity Initiatives



About Merrie



What I do for fun:

- 2 little kids (9 and 10)
- Getting a puppy in June!
- I geek out about: LEGO, Harry Potter, zombies, Dominion, baking
- I read a novel a week!

Education:

B.S. Computer Science **Brown University**

Ph.D. Computer Science **Stanford University**

Career:

- Microsoft Research 14 years
- Also an Affiliate Professor at Univ. of Washington

Current Role:

- Sr. Principal Researcher and Research Manager of the Ability Team
- Accessibility and HCI research
 - Just got elected to the CHI Academy!

Online:

- http://aka.ms/merrie
- @merrierm (Twitter)



Practical Value of Internship

- Experience
- Improve resume (+ papers)
- Try out potential career alternatives
 - Industry
 - National Laboratory
 - Academia
- Live in a different area
- See different work environments
 - research, product, etc.
- Sharpen your research area at school



Getting Started: Finding An Internship

- Common Intern Hiring Windows
 - November
 - February
- Professors and advisors contacts
- Apply to large national programs (SHPE, NSBE, NACME, etc.)
- Career Center
- Network!
 - Conferences
 - Career fairs
 - Professional meet-ups



Preparing your application materials and yourself

- Get your web page up-to-date –highlight experience
 - Link in a copy of your CV (get critiques)
- Create a LinkedIn page
- Do mock interviews
- Identify at least three references
- Develop and practice an 'elevator pitch'
- If on a visa, know what paperwork is expected



Interview: Putting Your Best Foot Forward

Before the interview

- Ask about the format of the interview
- Research the company/group/personnel

The Interview

- Show motivation and enthusiasm
- Ask clarifying questions
- Ask about particular projects
- Talk through as you answer technical/complicated questions
- Be ready to ask a few questions of each interviewer
- Ask about their decision timeline

After the Interview

- Send thank you notes to the folks that you meet
- Follow up in ~1 month



Interview: Common Questions

- What are your strengths/weakness?
- Tell me about your research?
- What is the largest project you worked on? What was your role?
- Give an example of how you handled a difficult situation
- Puzzle/Brain teaser
- Coding Challenge



Now That You Got the Job, What's Next?

- Before the Start Date
 - Ask what to prepare
 - Agree start/end + any necessary time off
- On the Job
 - Do a good job!
 - Understand expectations and deliverables
 - Keep your supervisor informed of your progress
 - Interact with the people around you (learn the culture)
 - Attend talks and seminars
 - Work independently but don't' be afraid to ask for help
 - Have fun!



Post Internship: What's Next?

- Keep in touch with host, recruiters, etc.
- Ask about the hiring process for full time
- Ask about the potential for returning next year
- Write a paper about the work



Exercises to try back at school



Exercise #1: The Elevator Pitch

Elevator Pitch Requirements:

- Duration should be no more than 60 seconds
- Sections should include
 - Problem area background / motivation
 - Problem statement
 - Technique created / used
 - Results
 - Conclusions

Exercise Activity:

- Form groups of your peers / advisors
- Practice giving elevator pitch
- Group members help critique with a focus on 3 areas
 - Clarity
 - Timeliness
 - Story Completion



Exercise #2: Mock Interviews

- Pair up with one person.
- Play the interviewer and the other the interviewee
- Then switch roles

- Format
 - 5 minute questions
 - 3 minute feedback

