Summer Internships
Meredith Ringel Morris, Microsoft Research
Alan Bivens, IBM Research
About Alan

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

What I do for fun:
• 2 little guys (8 and 10)
• Volleyball league
• Travel
• Collaborative board games
• Numismatist
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/weaknesses?
- 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