CSC151 2010S, Class 02: Course Planning

Overview

- About the alums.
- Choosing hosts.
- Admin.
- About the course (revisited).
- A strategy for hosting alums.
- Other course details.
- Resume review.

Admin

- I don’t seem to have received paragraphs on Dr. Wittie from all of you. Please send them ASAP.
- Please encourage your friends to come to these talks, even if they don’t register.
- For folks who visit in person, I may try to set up dinners. Hosts will be expected to try to get a list of interested students.
- Sorry for disorganization. A large and unexpected administrative task hit two weeks before classes started, took me about 40 hours, and I’m still not caught up.
- I’m working to get my notes on Lea Wittie’s visit into an EBoard. (I need to check them over and have her approve them.)
- Tomorrow’s CS Table: Turing on AI
- Next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.: Art and Technology talk in JRC 101.
- Next Thursday’s CS Extra (tentative): Matt Atherton ’95.

About the course (revisited)

Goals

- Goal one: Give CS students a view of what is available to computer science students
- Goal two: Give focused advice on things like resumes and the job hunt
- Goal three: Network

Format

- Weekly alumni visits
  - Some in person (+ chances to talk outside of class)
  - Many via Skype
- Hosted by students (in and outside of the class)
Work

- Show up
- Host when you volunteered (or were volunteered)
- Send a followup after hosting
- Write a reflective paragraph
- Ask good questions

Optional (but good)

- If the alum says something interesting or does something that you’re interested in, send a followup email to the alum, whether or not you hosted

About the alums

Ian Lunderskov ’08 [Sept 12]

- Chicagoland, Ruby stuff
- Consulting
- Varied path
- In person
- Hosts: Khoa and Kuestin

Sam Tape ’09 [Sept. 19]

- Online solutions for emergency health care, Minn./St. Paul
- The "SAT for Health Care Professionals"
- In person
- [Walker students here]
- Hosts: Chike and Erik

Jordan Shkolnick ’11 (unconfirmed) [Sept. 26]

- Microsoft, Testing
- Hosts: Martin and Chike

Tony Stubblebine ’00 [Oct. 10]

- Long and varied career
- Currently at Lift
- Hosts: Martin and Khoa

Eryn O’Neill ’07 [Oct. 17]

- Outspoken, wants Grinnell CS to think more broadly about jobs
- In person
- Hosts: Dilan and Chike
Jim Finnessey ’04 [Oct. 31]
- Mid-level manager
- Hosts: Martin and Kuestin

Shitanshu Aggarwal ’11 [Nov. 7]
- Amazon
- Hosts: Erik and Jennelle

Atul Gupta ’88 [Nov. 14]
- Trustee
- Runs big consulting company in Des Moines
- Very outspoken about why Grinnell students come to work with the wrong attitude
- In person
- [Walker students here]
- Hosts: Jennelle and Erik

Heather Whisenhunt ’08 [Nov. 21]
- At HP. Well-established tech company.
- Sideways mobility
- Hosts: Shaun and Kuestin

Erik Hanson ’98 (unconfirmed) [Dec. 5]
- In person
- [Walker students here]
- Hosts: Spencer and Shawn

Maybe one more [Dec. 12]
- Hosts: Jordan and Shaun
- [Walker students here]

A strategy for hosting alums
- Send early email (ideally two weeks in advance)
- Identify/obtain/negotiate
  - Short biography (usually about current job)
  - Topic for the alum to discuss/focus on. For example, 2 of the 3
    - 20 or so "Here’s my life story"
    - 20 or so focused "Here’s something important I know that you should know, too"
    - 20 or so focused "Here’s what we do when hiring"/"Here’s what we look for in
resumes"/"Here’s how I formed a network"
  ○ Other activities/readings
  ● Be ready to provide additional information
    ○ What kinds of things the class has heard about
    ○ What kinds of things the class wants to hear about
    ○ ...

Help for the hosts: What do you want out of this course (from the alums)?

  ● Obvious, but not likely: A job or internship
  ● Not so obvious, but possible: A mentor
  ● A good sense of how to start a career path, particularly since we don’t know much when we’re starting out.
  ● Learn from their mistakes.
    ○ (I want to know how you screwed up so that I don’t screw up in the same way.)
    ○ ("We know many people hit stumbling blocks and learn from them, so please share yours if you are comfortable doing so.")
  ● What skills are useful in your industry?
  ● What kinds of things should I be doing outside of class?
  ● Mentorship-style advice. When you mentor people, what kind of advice do you give? What have you learned from your mentors?
  ● What’s it like working at your company?

Other course details

  ● Please encourage more students to show up (and maybe to register). Make it worth my (uncompensated) time.

Resume review

  ● Things we debated (which have been phrased as questions for alums)
    ○ What are your thoughts on GPA? What if it’s high?
    ○ When someone says that they are "proficient" in a programming language, what do you expect?
    ○ What links, if any, do you follow?

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