Nana Kofi Okae

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EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University   Richmond, VA
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science   *Fall 2024*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, Typescript, HTML, CSS, Node.js
Frameworks & Developer Tools: React.js, Next.js, PostgreSQL, Supabase, Flask, Wordpress
Design Tools & Concepts: Figma, Prototypes, Wireframes, User Research, User-centered design, UX/UI, HCI, Visual Design, UI design, UX design, Mockups, Adobe XD, User interface

WORK EXPERIENCE

Product Engineer   August 2024 - Current
VCU   *Richmond, VA*
- Leading the design and development of the (In)Security Lab research site to visualize historical data with the Mapbox geolocation API.

Product Design Intern   May 2024 - August 2024
Duolingo   *Pittsburgh, PA*
- Led the redesign of the Super Subscription onboarding experience, resulting in improved user engagement and CEO approval for implementation.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with engineering, product, and UX teams to align design solutions with overall product strategy and user experience standards.

Product Design Intern   June 2023 - August 2023
Duolingo   *Pittsburgh, PA*
- Led the design of an innovative hands-free experience for the Duolingo learning app, collaborating closely with a cross-functional team to enhance accessibility.
- Conducted comprehensive internal UX research interviews, identifying critical user pain points and implementing targeted solutions to optimize the learning experience.
- Demonstrated strong critical thinking and adaptability by actively participating in design critiques, effectively incorporating feedback to iteratively improve designs.

Software Engineer Intern   June 2022 - August 2022
Salesforce   *San Francisco, CA*
- Developed an interactive phishing simulation feature, increasing user engagement and knowledge retention.
- Implemented a gamification system to incentivize user participation through agile methodologies, daily stand-ups and sprint demos to ensure timely delivery of project milestones.

PROJECTS

VCU Hacks Website | *Next.js, React.js, Typescript Supabase, Node.js, Tailwind*   Fall 2024
- Leading the design and development of a user-friendly interface for student registrations and submissions.
- Optimized admin dashboard for real-time data tracking and efficient event management.
- Integrated responsive features to enhance accessibility across multiple devices.

DuoSings | *Figma, Prototyping, Visual Hierarchy, Design Systems, UXR, TTS*   Summer 2023
- Developed a hands-free audio-guided singing feature for Duolingo.
- Created a scaffolded learning session to effectively teach learners the lyrics.
- Incorporated Duolingo characters to amplify learner assurance and motivation.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Computer Science Peer Leader @ VCU   Aug 2022 - Present
Virginia Commonwealth University   *Richmond, VA*
- Guide computer science students through academic challenges and career preparation.
- Provide one-on-one mentoring sessions, focusing on course selection, internship applications, and technical interview preparation.