Bret A. Comnes

444 Park Ridge Place Ashland OR, 97520 (707) 633-4552 bac42@humboldt.edu

Education

Bachelor of Science in Physics

August 2006 - May 2011

Arcata, CA

Humboldt State University (HSU)

 Physics Coursework: Thermodynamics, Analytical Mechanics, Electricity & Magnetism, Quantum Mechanics, Optics, Physics of Stars & Planets, Galaxies & Cosmology, Electronic Instrumentation, Programming for Science

- Mathematics Coursework: Partial Differential Equations, Vector Calculus, Linear Algebra

Research Experience

Undergraduate Research Assistant

May 2009 - September 2011

Arcata, CA

HSU Gravitational Research Laboratory

- Assisted with Professor C.D. Hoyle's research to test the Weak Equivalence Principal and gravitational inverse-square law at sub-millimeter distance scales.
- Responsibilities included research and development of lab instrumentation, custom data acquisition
 and automation applications, electronic circuit design, optical instrumentation and signal processing
 systems for use inside of the experiment's vacuum chamber.
- Managed the scheduling and collaboration tools used to organize the students participating in the project.

Undergraduate Researcher

November 2009

Undergraduate Project at the Arecibo Observatory

Arecibo, Puerto Rico

- Participated as an undergraduate researcher in a funded trip to the Arecibo Observatory to assist with observations for the ALFALFA survey.
- Responsibilities included operating the one of the world's largest radio telescopes, data analysis using IDL and working live on scheduled research equipment.

Publications

"Sub-millimeter Positioning and Sensing for Short-Range Gravity Tests"

2011

 $Proceedings \ of \ the \ 25th \ National \ Conference \ on \ Undergraduate \ Research \ (NCUR)$

Ithaca, NY

 Peer reviewed paper to accompany a presentation given at the 2011 National Conference of Undergraduate Research.

Recent Work Experience

Academic Assistant

January 2009 - May 2011

Humboldt State University

Arcata, CA

- Graded student homework and lab write-ups for an introductory electronics course for ~ 60 undergraduate physics and engineering students.
- Responsibilities included understanding the range of solutions to a given problem, applying a grading rubric to the work, entering grades into a database, managing a course wiki and following privacy guidelines.

Premium Food and Retail Service

June 2009 - September 2011

Arcata Scoop (Premium Organic Ice Creams)

Arcata, CA

Responsibilities included opening and closing of the store, filling customer orders, maintaining a
balanced register, securing cash receipts, training new employees and providing customer service and
information.

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January 12, 2012

Climbing Wall Attendant

HSU Student Recreation Center

Arcata, CA

August 2007 - June 2009

- Attended to the operation and safety of the largest indoor climbing wall in Humboldt County.
- Responsibilities included assessing the safety training and skills of the gym's patrons in order to maintain a safe climbing environment, hardware maintenance and rental management and route setting.

Park Aide Summer 2008

California State Parks

Lake Tahoe, CA

- Issued park day passes and campground permits and provided information and rules to the D.L. Bliss State Park visitors.
- Responsibilities included general rule enforcement; campground management; and the designing, organizing and presentation of the park's Junior Ranger program.

Assistant Electrician

Summers 2002 - 2005

San Rafael, CA

- Marin Shakespeare Company
 - Designed and constructed the outdoor theater lighting and sound systems at Dominican University's 500+ seat Forest Meadows amphitheater.
 - Assisted with set construction, painting and light cue programming.

Skills

Operating Systems, Languages, & Applications

- Proficient: Mathematica, LabVIEW, Windows, Mac OS X
- Knowledgeable: LATEX, Git, Microsoft Office, SolidWorks, Linux
- Familiar: Assembly, C, Matlab, Arduino, VISA/GPIB, Apache, Python, Ruby, HTML/CSS

Lab Skills: Oscilloscopes, function generators, lock-in amplifiers, National Instruments hardware, optical systems, lasers, motion control, instrumentation & part design, PCB & circuit design, capacitive sensors, piezo electric actuators, general workshop equipment.

Miscellaneous: Demonstrated proficiency with public communication skills. Excellent troubleshooting and debugging skills. Adept at learning new languages and application suites. Local and remote collaborative skills. Effective at teaching others.

Interests

Academic: Applied physics, optics, QM, metrology, microscopy, gravity, embedded systems, computer science.

Personal: Rock climbing, bicycles, photography, electronic music, electric bass, radio DJing, web development.

References

• Professor C.D. Hoyle

(707) 826-3235 cdh33@humboldt.edu

• Humboldt State University

(707) 826-5328

• Professor Monty Mola Humboldt State University

mmm67@humboldt.edu

Professor Wes Bliven

(707) 826-5329

Humboldt State University

wwb2@humboldt.edu

Professor David Kornreich

(707) 826-4884 dak24@humboldt.edu

Humboldt State University

(707) 845-9356

• Garrett Nada

Arcata Scoop, Owner

arcatascoop@suddenlink.net