

Benjamin West

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Education

Bachelor of Arts

Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

Graduation: May 2020

Major: Computer Science

GPA: 3.43/4.0

Awards: Dean's List, President's Scholarship, Bailey Environmental Scholarship, Jackson Scholarship

Study Abroad

Vina Del Mar, Chile

July 2018 – December 2018

Related Experience

Engineering Analyst

Securian Financial, Saint Paul, MN

September 2020 – December 2021

- Developed, maintained, and supported internal and external facing enterprise applications related to Group Life Insurance
- Worked in a team/agile scrum environment to drive projects through the software development life cycle
- Utilized Jira as a platform to plan sprints, track progress, manage releases and reference during SCRUM ceremonies
- Collaborated across multiple teams and business units to engineer and test various software projects
- Engaged stakeholders in bi-weekly ceremonies by presenting work that was considered *done*
- Primarily programmed within the Java Spring Boot framework, passing data from back-end databases to front-end .jsp files
- Partnered with UX/UI consultants to analyze usability test results, clarify potential tasks, and create user stories
- Delivered code from localdev, to qa, to production utilizing CI/CD tools such as Github Actions and Jenkins
- Enhanced systems to create RESTful web-service calls in order to integrate software with third-party API's
- Ran SQL queries using MySQL to interact with the databases, typically to resolve a bug in the code base
- Monitored web applications on AWS and restart instances of apps after receiving notification of crashing
- Performed accessibility tests on webpages and introduced necessary tags in the code in order to meet client requirements
- Assisted Business Analysts with resolving and triaging support tickets submitted by clients, admin, or other teams
- Applied data analytics to the front-end webflow which successfully produced metrics that tracked enrollment completion
- Trained and mentored an intern to be able to successfully contribute to the code base and communicate with the team
- Implemented and styled front-end components by referring to and complying with an internal design-style guide
- Assessed SonarQube to monitor code health, track bugs, and resolve security vulnerabilities to minimize technical debt

Additional Experience

Sea Kayak Guide

Adventure-Sixty North, Seward, AK

May 2022 - September 2022

- Lead guests from all around the world on kayaking trips in and near Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska
- Consistently maintained a positive attitude while hosting a diverse set of guests with a wide range of personalities
- Ensured that all guests were aware of risks by providing a safety talk and extensive gear in case of emergencies
- Provide guests with interpretative knowledge about local wildlife, area history, natural landscape, and more

Ski Instructor + Support Staff

Ski and Ride School, Winter Park, CO

December 2021 - April 2022

- Taught ski lessons to all people of all ages and skill levels, translating to Spanish when necessary
- Utilized a radio to communicate with supervisors/staff and the software Flaik to keep track of students, instructors
- Operated snowmobile to help with morning set-up, keep up with daily maintenance, and provide rides for children

Sustainability Representative

Saint John's Senate, Saint John's University, MN

January 2019 – May 2019

- Served as a liaison between the student body and the school administration, addressing student and staff concerns and ideas
- Chaired a sustainability committee built up of passionate student leaders from around campus
- Implemented sustainability initiatives on campus by working with residential life, dining services, etc.
- Planned, organized, and facilitated the school's spring sustainability fair, which brought in over 500 students

Lead Fly Fishing Guide

Sasquatch Fly Fishing Adventures, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

May 2018 – May 2020 (Summers)

- Lead clients from around the world on fly fishing excursions in the Rocky Mountains
- Assisted working in the fly shop by answering calls, booking trips and selling retail gear

Related Coursework

GIS Project – ENVR311

Spring 2018

Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

- Learned and utilized ArcView and ArcMap by completing graded tutorials and exercises throughout the semester
- Applied GIS theories and principles to all assignments, projects, and tests including an individual client project

Capstone: Machine Learning Methods That Detect Wildfires

Spring 2020

Saint John's University, MN

- Studied how machine learning methods and geospatial data can detect wildfires over the course of a semester
- Wrote a scholarly, state of the field paper and presented my topic throughout the semester

Agile Software Project – CS330

Fall 2019

Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

- Practiced agile and SCRUM methodologies while developing an app with a team of seven students
- Created a calendar sharing and events app using Java, HTML, CSS, Firebase and GitHub

Sustainable Urban Planning – ENVR300R

Fall 2019

Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

Related Tech Skills: Esri ArcGIS, SQL, Java, GitHub, Jira, Microsoft Teams, REST API, GitBash, Microsoft Office, DevOps

Personality Types: Myers-Briggs: ESTP DiSC: (Di) / Results Oriented

Activities/Interests: Fly Fishing, Soccer, Acoustic Guitar, Sea Kayaking, Fly Tying

Publications: Routledge Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment Ch. 17 - NEPA