

INTERNING AND NETWORKING: MY THOUGHTS

Physics Career Seminar

November 4, 2015

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Advice is from my experience only!

Outline

- Inprentus internship experience
- Networking – my story

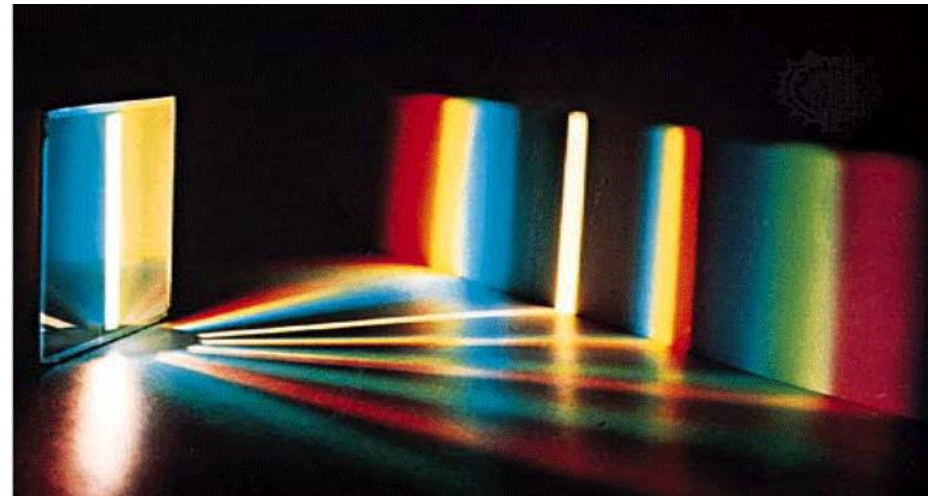
Background

- Texas Instruments (TI) – Digital Micromirror Device
- Advised to intern at TI
- Interviewed for TI internship, then rejected!
- Advised to intern (just not at TI, apparently)
- Inprentus internship post on Graduate Student Blog



Inprentus

- Startup company in Research Park
- Found in 2012 by Peter Abbamonte
- *Ultra-high resolving power, blazed diffraction gratings for x-ray and extreme ultraviolet light*
- Technical team: Peter and 3 engineers
- Project: Upgrade resolving power test



Internship during PhD – benefits to consider

- Potential job offer
- Strengthen or broaden skill set
- Helps getting a job
 - Adds industry experience, short-term project, and references to resume
- Trial period
- Break from PhD program

Internship during PhD – difficulties to consider

- Time away from research (part-time or full-time)
 - Pause on research project – discuss with advisor
 - Likely delays graduation
- Transition *back* to research
- Balancing research and internship (part-time)
- Fast(er)-paced environment
- Team environment

When to intern

- Roughly 1 year from anticipated graduation
 - Companies recruit through internships
- Decent stopping point in research project



Internship opportunities

- Physics Graduate Student Blog
 - physics.illinois.edu/grad/posts.asp
- Company websites
- Research Park website
 - researchpark.illinois.edu/careers
- Inprentus is hiring



Inprentus



- Great team with diverse backgrounds
- Research project turning into company – exciting!
- Ability to make an impact

Opportunities

- Two intern positions for Spring 2016 – one pre-masters, one pre-PhD
- Hiring two scientists and two engineers over next 18 months
- Interested? Send CV and cover letter to info@inprentus.com

My networking goal

**To get my resume in the hiring
manager's hands**

Alternative to networking: getting lost in the system

No one ever looked at it

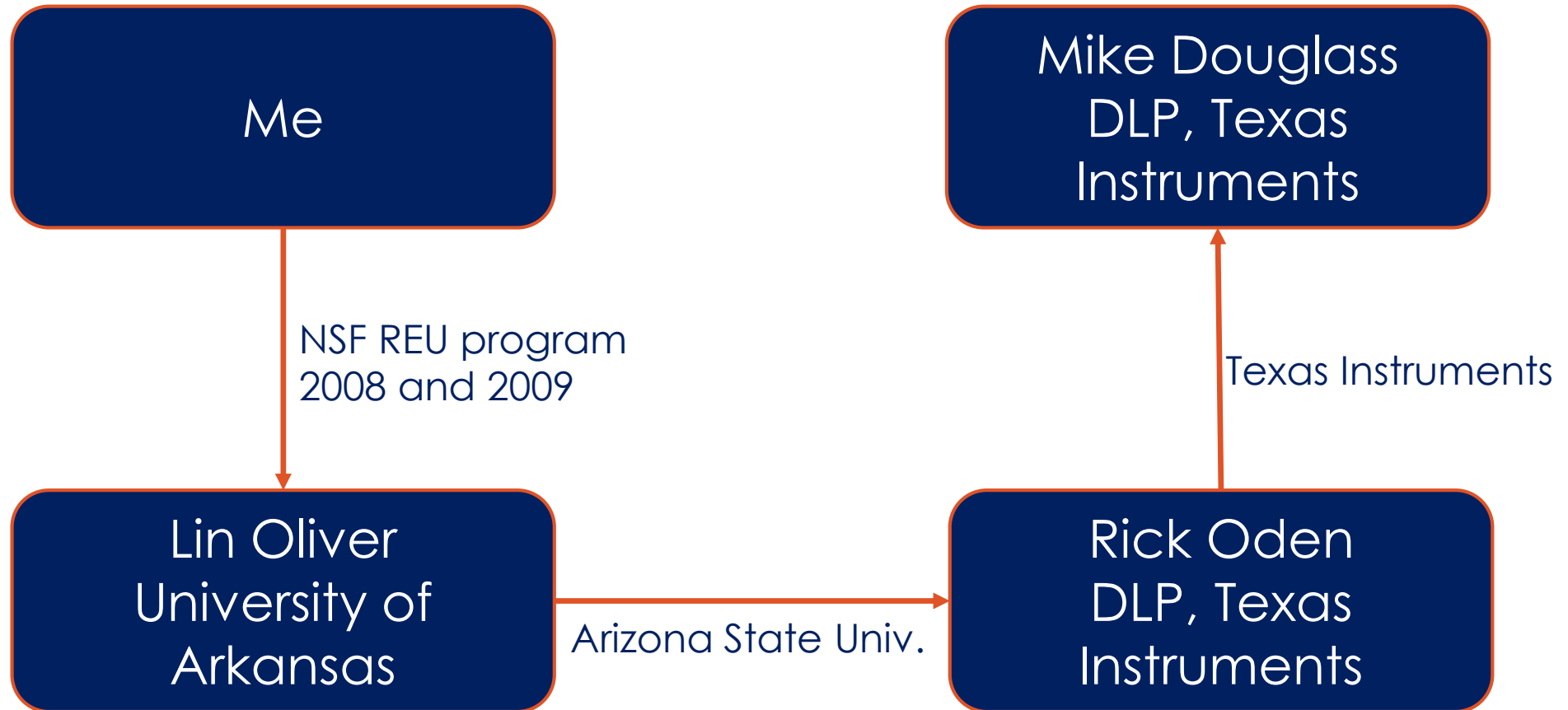
Interview thanks
to networking

<u>Job title</u>	<u>Job status</u>	<u>Submission status</u>
Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineering Intern	Open	Resume Received
Packaging Engineer Intern	Closed	Not Selected for this position
QUALITY ENGINEER INTERN	Closed	Not Selected for this position
DLP Products Quality and		Not Selected for this position
MEMS Characterization Engineering Intern		Not Selected for this position
DLP Product Engineer Intern	Closed	Not Selected for this position
Semiconductor Manufacturing Engineer Intern - Maine	Closed	Not Selected for this position
MEMS Characterization Engineer		Not Selected for this position
Engineer		Offer Accepted

Lost in the system!

Got the interview (and then job) thanks to networking

My connections



My networking timeline – 20 months

January – February 2014

Introduction, informational interview, advised to intern

July 2014

Looking for internships, resume sent

November 2014

Recommendation request for internship

December 2014 – January 2015

Internship interview with Mike Douglass, rejection follow-up

August 2015

Recommendation requests for job, interview, offer

Persistence pays off

Aug 30

Hi Rick,

I had a phone interview with Armando and Jack this last Friday morning. The interview went really well and the position seems like a good fit. They mentioned having me visit the facilities and meet other members of the team soon.

Thank you again for your recommendation.

Taylor

9:46 PM

Aug 31

Taylor -

Your enthusiasm and persistence are not overlooked in this situation and I am glad that you have this to bring to what we do in DLP. Give me a heads-up when you come out and we can touch base...

Regards -

Rick

8:12 AM

Other ways to network

Hey Renee -

Hope things are going well for you.....

I recruited at Illinois a few weeks ago and met Taylor Byrum. He is getting a PhD in Physics and he came to the career fair specifically to talk to me about your job post RES-0717619. He was a very personable guy and seemed very very interested in what he called 'experimental characterization'.

To be honest, I would be all about hiring him myself ...if I still managed the epitaxy team.

Anyway, check out his resume and ping me if you have questions...

Jen



Career fair contact – successful networking

Other ways to network

- Career fairs
 - A specific job posting helps
- LinkedIn
- Physics PhD job placement list – see Lance Cooper
- Careers seminar speakers

My networking advice

- Start early
 - Early = way before you start asking for recommendations
 - Informational interviews
- Build and maintain relationships
- Use favors wisely
 - Be selective with favors and patient
 - Understand bridges could be burned
- Be personable

Thanks