



SRJC Alumni & Friends

Dusty Bishop has been a computer nerd for his entire life. After graduating from Maria Carrillo, he knew he wanted to pursue a computer science degree and career. “Although I planned to attend University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) straight out of high school, I didn’t want to take out the loans necessary to attend. It made more sense to enroll at Santa Rosa Junior College, especially because I received a Doyle scholarship.”

Like most high school students, Dusty realized SRJC could be a stepping stone to the next phase in his life. “The classes at SRJC were more challenging. Once I started at SRJC, I realized it was much harder than any of the UC’s. The classes I eventually took at UCSB were actually easier than those I completed at SRJC.”



Dusty had always known exactly what he wanted to do with his career. His father was a software programmer so he was raised with a computer in his home from an early age. A good friend from childhood also helped encourage his interest in computer science. As a high school student, and later as an SRJC student, Dusty worked in tech support for Sonic.net, furthering his interest in computer science.

At SRJC, Dusty skipped the Intro to Programming class because of his programming background and experience. He focused on taking the core classes needed for transfer, especially math, physics and computer science classes. With a focus on transferring, Dusty finished the required courses in only 3 semesters. Unfortunately, UCSB didn’t allow for mid-year transfers, so Dusty decided to take additional classes at SRJC.

“Even though I didn’t need this class for transfer, my Comparative Mythology class at SRJC has stuck with me. I tend to come at problems from a logical, scientific approach and the instructor, Cott Hobart, taught me to focus on the ‘why’ instead of the ‘how’. His style of teaching taught me to think about things differently and I approached my other classes, and even certain aspects of my life, from that perspective even today.”

Dusty worked 30-40 hours per week during college to earn income to support himself, but also made time to participate in SRJC activities. Dusty played tennis for SRJC for the legendary tennis coach Izzy Derkos. Although he wasn’t a highly ranked player, Coach Derkos allowed him to travel with the team and gave him the opportunity to develop a camaraderie with the other players.

After transferring to UCSB and completing his B.S. in Computer Science, Dusty went back to work for Sonic.net in programming and networking and later worked remotely for Sonic.net for a few years after he and his fiancé moved back to Orange County.

In 2013, Dusty took on a new challenge – working as a programmer for World of Warcraft. “Working for Blizzard Entertainment, the developer for World of Warcraft, was an amazing experience. I started at Sonic.net when there were only about 30 people working for the company and at Blizzard Entertainment, there were almost 4,000. There were 45 other programmers working on the project and it was very focused and dedicated work.”

Although Dusty found the experience working for one the world’s largest online role-playing game rewarding, he returned to his roots at Sonic.net. “I was used to small companies, wearing many hats and working in a very dynamic environment. At Sonic.net, I have more autonomy and enjoy the faster pace. I feel lucky to work for a company that has welcomed me back.”

As if programming wasn’t an intense mental activity, Dusty studies the Norwegian language for fun. “My great grandmother on my mom’s side was from Norway and came to the United States in the 1800’s. My brother studied abroad during college in Norway and we went to visit him and I was fascinated by the culture and language. I’ve taken Norwegian language classes at Saddleback Community College, read books and had private tutors. One day, I hope to be able to go to Norway for a few months with my wife and son to immerse myself in the language.”