



What a Guy Who's Still in School Thinks

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What I Done

- Grew up in Olympia
- Came to Evergreen expecting to get a physics background, transfer to UW
- Ended up taking DtoI, CnC, and SOS
- Worked in Scientific Database Lab doing stuff with databases, environmental studies, and data visualization
- CSEMS scholar my senior year
- Spent a summer at OGI doing object-oriented programming research



What I'm Doing

- Working on a Ph.D. in computer science
- Doing a few research projects:
 - Infopipes
 - Traits
 - Software Visualization



How Evergreen Prepared Me

- Undergraduate research experience
- Rigorous classes
- Connected me to research groups at other schools
- Had a great writing class



What I Wish I Done

- Taken more non-CS classes
- Joined the crew team
- Joined the Association of Computing Machinery or IEEE Computer Society earlier



Research Conferences

- Research-oriented career means you get to go to conferences to present your work
- Conferences attended
 - Visualization 2003, Seattle
 - Consortium for Computing in Small Colleges 2003, Ellensburg
 - Object-Oriented Programming, Languages, and Systems '03, Anaheim
 - Consortium for Computing in Small Colleges 2004, Salem
 - European Smalltalk Users Group 2004, Köthen, Germany
 - Object-Oriented Programming, Languages, and Systems 03, Vancouver
 - European Smalltalk Users Group 2005, Brussels, Belgium
 - Object-Oriented Programming, Languages, and Systems 05, San Diego
- Research grants and scholarships generally pay for some or all of these trips
- As a student, you often get very cheap access to talks, panels, workshops, and tutorials



The Deal with Graduate School

Masters

- Money, management
- 2 years, full time, min.
- You-pay

Ph.D.

- Research, teaching
- 4 years, full time, min.
- They-pay

- Pick graduate school based on research group
- Application deadlines typically Dec/Jan
- Take your GRE (possibly GRE subject exam)
- Make sure your “grades” won’t be a problem
- Write a really great essay



Conclusion

- Graduate school isn't for everybody
- Think hard about your career goals
- Take some classes not related to your area of study
- Don't sweat the GRE