

# Tomasz Mozolewski MS in Computer Science 2003

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## My studies at UMSL

I came to UMSL as graduate student from Poland. I've always wanted to study in US and when opportunity presented itself I've jumped at it. Not knowing where I was going, I've set off to study in America. While UMSL was an accidental choice, I've never regretted it. I've learned a lot, met amazing people and even got my first job thanks to connections I've made at school. I've also worked on implementing statistical models for cancer research as graduate assistant. Having my plate full with work and classes, I still found time to have fun with friends and participate in school trips to theater, paintball and many others.

## My work and life

After graduating UMSL, I've started working at Citimortgage as systems admin. While it wasn't a job of my dreams (I wanted to be a programmer), I've still done my best. Noticing a lot of manual work, I've decided to write scripts and automate it (basically get as close to programming as I could).

Troubleshooting and helping developers find and fix bugs was another of my favorite past times, that eventually led to reputation of very knowledgeable person. When I applied for programmer opening nobody doubted that I could do it and do it well. Few years later I've moved to design and eventually management position. During my career at Citi I've learned a lot of new things. That's the fun part about CS, new things are developed constantly, so when you leave school, you don't stop learning. As much as I enjoyed my employment at Citi, I was looking for something more exciting. That's when Riot Games came along and offered me position of Software Engineer on one of their development teams. Playing video games while writing code for 100 million players worldwide was just too good to refuse. I've jumped at the opportunity and it's been a wild ride ever since. Speed and scale was so much larger, new type of problems and much faster pace of development and changes were a big surprise, but I love it. Working doing something you're passionate about is the best way to work. While work is rewarding, believe it or not I do like doing other things that don't involve computers like flying an airplane (I've earned private pilot license), scuba diving, skiing and sailing.

## Message to UMSL students

College is not just about getting a degree - it's important and the primary goal of attending college, but there is so much more you get. Knowledge and experience you'll gain beyond what's in the books, friendships that'll last a lifetime and different perspective that change the way you look at the world and yourself. Keep your eye open for opportunities and spend as much time as you can with other students - you'll learn from them even more than from books and professors. Don't be afraid to try something new, work on side projects and get an internship in your field. University will provide a very good base, it's up to you what you'll do with it.