

Kendall Nakai

Education

University of California San Diego Graduated 03/2022

Bachelors of Science in Cognitive Science with a specialization in Design and Interaction (HCI)

Minors in Computer Science and Design

Graduate coursework: Information Visualization, Interaction Design Research, Human-Centered Programming, Design at Large

Selected undergraduate coursework: HCI Technical Systems Research, Designing Human-Data Interactions, Human-Centered Programming, Product Design, Prototyping, Research Methods, Advanced Data Structures, Special Topics (Civic Design), Data Science in Practice, Front-End Development Tools, Software Engineering, Statistical Analysis, Behavioral Neuroscience, Learning Memory and Attention

Research Experience

UC San Diego Design Lab, Undergraduate Researcher 01/2021 - 03/2022

Advisor: Professor Philip Guo

- Conducted 32 interviews to find entry-points into design and challenges faced throughout coursework and the process of finding industry jobs
- Created a 50-page guide to the *hidden curriculum* of the major for a department of 3000+ students
- Incorporated feedback from 12 faculty and 450+ online comments from 125+ students
- Synthesized findings to create a scalable methodology for undergraduate mentoring guides [1 2]
- Conducted retrospective survey of 2 years where 68% of individuals *without prompting* mentioned specific actions they planned to take after reading the guide

Temple HCI Lab, Undergraduate Researcher 07/2021 - 03/2022

Advisor: Professor Stephen MacNeil

- Designed workshop templates for interactive digital whiteboard interfaces which enabled 100+ design students in a university course and 30 San Diego residents newcomers at San Diego Design Week to participate in week-long community design solving civic COVID-19 pandemic issues
- Analyzed 100 artifacts created by workshop participants and data collected from whiteboard computation supports to find common and novel usage of the interactive digital whiteboards
- Synthesized findings analysis to explain how workshops using digital whiteboards and interactive templates expand horizons for attention and awareness, activity like design provenance, and how this technology ecosystem impact design space, place, and timing of activities [3 4]

UC San Diego ProtoLab, Undergraduate Researcher 09/2020 - 07/2021

Advisors: Professor Steven Dow, Professor Stephen MacNeil

- Interviewed 10 expert designers in their processes and analyzed problem statements of design students to understand what makes effective problem statement and how to help newcomers
- Created and helped facilitate a design-thinking workshop for ScaleSD to guide 15 non-designers to solve local civic problems using the design process
- Tested auto-feedback interfaces on HCI course of 80 to adaptively scaffold creating problem-statements

Publications

- [1] Kendall Nakai and Philip J. Guo. *Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum of University Computing Majors via Undergraduate-Written Mentoring Guides: A Learner-Centered Design Workflow*. ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research (ICER). 2023
- [2] Kendall Nakai and Philip J. Guo. *Scaling Up Access to the Hidden Curriculum: A Design Methodology for Creating Undergraduate Mentoring Guides* (poster and short paper). ACM Conference on Learning @ Scale (L@S). 2022
- [3] Stephen MacNeil, Ziheng Huang, Kenneth Chen, Zijian Ding, Alexander Yu, Kendall Nakai, and Steven P. Dow. *Freeform Templates: Combining Freeform Curation with Structured Templates*. ACM Conference on Creativity and Cognition (C&C). 2023
- [4] Stephen MacNeil, Kendall Nakai, Kenneth Chen, Avery Hom, and Ziheng Huang. *Online Digital Whiteboards and the New Collaborative Design Landscape*. Currently in Submission.

Work Experience

Microsoft

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Software Engineer | 07/2022 - Present |
| Software Engineer Intern | 06/2021 - 09/2021 |
| Software Engineer Intern (Explore Program) | 06/2020 - 09/2020 |
- Developed rating features using TypeScript, React, Jest, and C# for online meeting surveys so up to 500,000+ participants weekly would provide feedback enabling more productive meetings in Teams
 - Conducted A/B testing, created custom visualization dashboards from piped-in telemetry, and analyzed week-over-week trends to select most effective meeting feedback rating scale
 - Expanded front-end custom sharing features increasing awareness of 39,000+ users in Viva Insights to understand whether types of meetings they were spending the most time in was useful
 - Built an insights dossier serving 15,000+ Microsoft employees to synthesize insights of key tenant data
 - Interviewed 13 platform users, 2 executive representatives, and analyzed 40 focus group findings to determine what insights were of highest priority to streamline the dossier interface to a single page
 - Established a full-stack telemetry audit tool to mitigate security risk error of admins serving 40,000+

ACM UC San Diego, Product Designer 09/2019 - 09/2020

- Created an in-house design system and designed features and visuals for 1100+ membership portal users
- Lead experience design to improve event check-in efficiency and create consistent website engagement
- Spearheaded a designer-developer handoff with Figma and Zeplin for successful product shipment

MathWorks, MATLAB Ambassador and technology workshop instructor 12/2019 - 08/2020

- Taught MATLAB workshops and directly provided 200 students resources in using MATLAB

iD Tech, Programming and design instructor 05/2019 - 08/2019

- Taught object-oriented programming and implementations of GUIs to 30 students
- Introduced Adobe Creative Suite of graphic, sound, and motion design for video game creation

Boeing, Engineering Intern 06/2017 - 08/2017

- Aided in designing interplanetary spacecraft electrical power system, created power and fiscal budget, and utilized NX CAD to model spacecraft design
- Awarded Most Visionary Intern and Best Aerospace Engineering Project

Chick-Fil-A, Food Service Worker 01/2018 - 12/2018

Tennis Anyone, Tennis Coach 12/2017 - 06/2018

Teaching Experience

UC San Diego, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

TA for Dr. Sean Kross

01/2022 - 03/2022

TA for Professor Philip Guo

09/2020 - 12/2020

- Mentored 40 students through the portfolio creation process including user research interviews, prototyping in Figma, user testing wireframes, and a final product case study to showcase for job interviews
- Hosted 20 weekly design seminars reviewing the product design process and critiquing projects
- Guest-taught a lecture on how to turn engineering and non-traditional projects into portfolio case studies

Fellowship

NSF CSGrad4US Fellow (\$159,000 overall)

Awarded 08/2023, Granted 2024 - 2029

Computer and Information Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships

Fellows receive funding each year for three years: \$37,000 stipend and \$16,000 cost-of-education allowance

Outreach and Extracurriculars

ACM UC San Diego, Founding Vice President

01/2020 - 09/2020

- Established a chapter to become UCSD's largest computing community of 1000
- Oversaw team of 8 to host 35 friendship-building events, guided creation of Bit-Byte (Big-Little) program for 96, staff program for 94, and Discord moderation for an online social space of 500
- Lead the foundation of member-experience and forming genuine connections of people who not only code and do professional projects together but cook, write, and play games together, and become friends for life
- Contributed to discussions of diversity, inclusion, improvements, conflict-resolution, and all excitement that comes with creating a student org that hosted 130 events and gained 1000 members in its first year.

IEEE UC San Diego, Professional Development Chair

09/2019 - 09/2020

- Developed and hosted 15 professional development workshops connecting 1500+ students
- Workshops were a fun twist like, *The First Year Survival Guide*, *Career Fair Advice Extravaganza*, *Study Tips N Snacks*, *Resume review workshop*, *Productive Over Thanksgiving (Boba) Break*

UC San Diego, Orientation Leader

05/2019 - 09/2019

SWE UC San Diego (Society of Women Engineers), Events Committee

09/2018 - 06/2019

Hackathons, 15 entered, prizes at 7

2019 - present

Running, Vancouver marathon finisher 26.2 miles

2023