

Toa Paorapotangaroa Pita

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Experience

Adjunct Faculty, Brigham Young University - Marriott School of Business,

Provo 2024-2025

- IS 201 - Intro to Information Systems - 1 section, 76 students - Spring 2025
 - Achieved a 4.6/5 on Student Evaluations (The high end for the department for 100-299 classes and higher than the school and university averages for the same range).
 - Delivered lectures to 76 students, covering core topics in data analytics, software development, and project management
 - Taught students how to apply technology tools to solve real-world business problems across multiple domains, including tools like VBA, Excel, SQL, HTML, CSS, and Bootstrap
 - Provided in-class support, demonstrations, and real-world examples to reinforce technical concepts and improve student understanding
- IS 303 - Intro to Programming - 1 section, 72 students - Spring 2024
 - Taught an accelerated course that covered a semester of content in just 1 term. Concepts included: Python, Object Oriented Programming, web scraping (Beautiful Soup), Excel automation (Openpyxl), data cleaning and visualization (Pandas & Matplotlib), SQL databases (Postgres), query tools (PgAdmin 4 and DBeaver), and basic networking concepts (Client/Server Relationship).
 - Emphasized programming best practices such as reading software documentation, documenting code, & following company code standards
 - Wrote and designed exams, homework, and lectures to prepare students for interviews and to build their portfolios with real-world solutions to real-world problems
 - Achieved a 4.6/5 on Student Evaluations (The high end for 300-499 courses in the department, equivalent to the average in this class when taught by full-time faculty, and the BYU average for the course level)

- Consulted on and encouraged students to pursue development projects for their current employers, community, and personal lives
- Provided 1-on-1 tutoring to Alumni to prepare them for technical programming interviews
- Researched the impacts of classroom generative AI use on student development in the CS/IS field

Vice President of Technology, Association for Information Systems - BYU Student Chapter
Provo 2024

- Networked with companies to improve the job placement rate of BYU-IS students.
- Interviewed recruiters to determine skills, certifications, and other requirements in the highest demand in the industry
- Learned cutting-edge in-demand technology and taught a twice-a-month lecture to BYU-IS students to prepare them for industry demands
- Prepared students for certifications and job interviews by teaching skills such as Selenium Web Automation, Containerization with Docker, Amazon EC2 hosting, reverse proxy with NGINX, IDE optimization (code snippets, new query tools, extensions, etc.), version control (git and GitHub), web hosting (Vercel, Railway, Raspberry-pi, etc.), and software installation management (homebrew, chocolatey, apt-get, & docker)
- Overhauled and managed the club website (ais.byu.edu) using the Next.js framework, Vercel Hosting, Git, GitHub, and Scrum methodology
- Automated the onboarding of club members using Google Apps Script
- Recruited students to the IS major by creating flashy projects to show off at major fairs and recruiting events

Full-Stack Developer, Toa Tech Solutions, Provo

2021 - Present

- Design, build, host and maintain apps using various tech stacks including:
 - Next.js/Supabase/Vercel
 - Headless Wordpress/Next.js/Vercel
 - Express.js/PostgreSQL/Heroku
 - Python/Django/MySQL/Linux/NGINX/Docker/On-Premises
 - Python/Django/MySQL/Linux/NGINX/Docker/Amazon EC2
 - HTML/JS/Google Sheets/Google Apps Script

- Automated retrieval & compilation of information from numerous organization spreadsheets to create weekly meeting agendas reducing production time from 1 hour to 2 minutes
- Created, maintained, and updated an onboarding application for new personnel using G-Suite development tools that decreased incomplete on-board processing to 0%
- Provide consulting services for junior freelance developers and entrepreneurs. Historic consults have included setting up a CSP on an ASP.NET full-stack app, some short JS scripting, and hosting on Elastic Beanstalk (<https://careerclimb.biz/>); comparing cloud offerings to recommend a platform that balanced cost, quality, and developer familiarity (DyanmoDB, Amazon S3, Next.js, & AWS Lambda); providing recommendations to select the right developer package on Fivrr; debugging a full-stack app hosted on AWS, and providing feasibility assessments, potential tech stack recommendations, legal considerations, and data storage options.

Head Teaching Assistant, Brigham Young University

2022 - 2025

- IS 303 - Introduction to Programming - 6 Sections, 405 Students - Winter 22 - Winter 25
 - Provided one-on-one tutoring & debugging for students studying JavaScript, Python, Node.js, Express.js, PostgreSQL, Django, Excel Automation, Pandas Dataframes, BeautifulSoup web scraping, Heroku Hosting, Elastic Beanstalk hosting, Docker, VS Code, Amazon Cloud9, Amazon Learner Labs, SQLite, & Linux Bash
 - Rewrote exams and prepared exam reviews
 - Managed the TA team to deliver timely grades and personalized feedback to students
 - Handled grading disputes, unprofessional student conduct, and de-escalated student/TA confrontations
 - Taught lectures in the professor's absence
- IS 415 - Introduction to Machine Learning in Python - 4 Sections - 224 Students - Fall 23
 - Taught basic statistics, Python, modeling concepts, pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, scikit-learn, storytelling with data, & tableau in one-on-one sessions with students
- IS 403 - Business Programming - 8 Sections - 448 Students - Fall 23, Fall 24
 - Developed software for grading, managed 32 TAs, and handled grading disputes for 2 term projects that span 4 different classes (Database Management, Fullstack Development, Data Communications, and Analytics & Machine Learning)

- Provided one-on-one tutoring, debugging, and software documentation for students studying JavaScript, Node.js, Express.js, PostgreSQL, and web hosting
- All of the same responsibilities as listed in the IS 303 job above
- IS 404 - Data Communications - 4 Sections - 224 Students - Fall 24
 - Taught OSI model, web hosting, and content for the AWS Cloud Practitioner certification in one-on-one settings
 - Provided timely, personalized feedback and grades
 - Led exam reviews

Software Engineer Intern, Saolelei, Provo

2023

- Designed and normalized a MySQL Database
- Built proof-of-concept Full-Stack Apps using C#/ASP.NET, React/Express.js, and Python/Django
- Consulted and carried out the transition from Drupal hosted by a PaaS provider to WordPress on AWS Infrastructure (Amazon Lightsail) which cut hosting costs in half
- Advised on current privacy laws including GDPR
- Automated the update of 100 static HTML pages to match the new marketing plan & added dynamic content restrictions for subscribers using Selenium Browser Automation in Python.
- Ported over all existing software & configured new software for customer payment gateway using the Stripe Plugin

Education

Master of Information Systems Management, Brigham Young University - 2025

Bachelor of Science in Information Systems, Brigham Young University - 2025

Citizenship

Peer Mentor, Association for Information Systems (BYU Student Chapter)

2021 - 2025

- Provide tutoring services for classes including
 - IS 201 - Introduction to Information Systems
 - VBA, SQL, HTML, & Bootstrap
 - BAP 115 - Excel and Introduction to Technology
 - Excel Formulas and Functions

- FIN 201 - Principles of Finance
 - Drilled and explained formulas as NPV, TVM, & EBIT(DA)
 - IS 414 - Information Systems Security & Controls
 - Explained password cracking, SQL injection, XSS, defensive coding strategies, linux shell, and forensics
 - IS 413 - Enterprise Application Development
 - Debugged ASP.NET applications and explained core concepts of MVC
 - IS 455 - Predictive Data Analytics
 - Explained overarching concepts about the ML pipeline (Input/Split/Train/Score)
 - Explained principles of web scraping
 - IS 402 - Database Systems
 - Debugged queries and explained subqueries
 - IS 531 - Enterprise Infrastructure
 - Docker, Terraform, Cloud Formation, Amazon EC2, RDS, ECS, Subnets, VPCs, S3s, Security Groups, & NGINX reverse proxy.
- Advised 4 students through the IS Jr Core experience including answering questions about internship applications, MISM program applications, and MISM tracks.

Information Systems and Global Supply Chain Europe Study Abroad 2023

- Met with companies around the world to represent BYU's Marriott School of Business and learn about cultural differences that impact business operations overseas
- Analyzed the impact of the 4th industrial revolution on businesses across Europe

New Student Orientation(NSO) Y-Group Leader, Brigham Young University 2022

- Familiarizing students with campus resources such as student mentors, first-year peer mentors, academic advisement, career centers, etc.
- Providing a welcoming atmosphere for new students
- Facilitating conversations and allaying new student fears

Founding Member, Asian and Pacific Islander Network 2022

- Mentored members of the network as they pursued technical majors and attended events

Member, BYU Competitive Programming Association 2021

Member, Pacific Islanders Club 2019 - 2020

Member, Brigham Young University Chinese Association 2019 - 2020

Member, Chinese Students and Scholars Society 2019 - 2020

Awards

J. Owen Cherrington Graduate Award 2025

- One of the 8 highest awards given to graduate students in the Information Systems department. Awarded to students who are examples of hard work and selfless service. Students are nominated by faculty members because they exemplify helpfulness and kindness to their fellow core students, even in a stressful and competitive environment.
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J. Owen Cherrington Scholar, Marriott School of Business 2023

- The highest honor awarded to undergraduate students in the Information Systems Department. Awarded for the same attributes as the graduate award. Students are nominated by faculty members and peers.

Alumni Choice Award - Excellence, Marriott School of Business 2022

- IS students nominated fellow IS classmates who exemplified the Marriott School Values. An alumni awards committee reviewed all the submissions.

Certifications

Professional Scrum Master I, scrum.org 2023