Math Alumni & Their Careers!

Here are a few...

-Keene:
  (Math B.S.)
  “I recently finished student teaching at my old high school and waiting on word about being hired there; I know I'm guaranteed a job somewhere in the district (Aldine ISD), but I wanna work at Aldine Sr...kinda a trip working alongside your old high school teachers, but I've made some awesome friends there! Who knew I'd be close friends with old teachers one day?!?”

-Malik:
  (Math; Minor: Cosc)
  “Actually Tai, there was an email you sent us about an employer who came to campus last semester, Fairfield Industries. I'm currently working for them! Thanks for giving us the info, it really helps!! :)”

-Mosely:
  (Math B.S.; Minor: Education)
  “I’m teaching AP Statistics (High School) in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.”

-Paz:
  (Math; Minor: Mexican American Studies)
  “I am currently teaching Algebra 1 at Chavez High School here in Houston. I am also in the Alternative Certification Program and taking the required courses at St. Thomas.”

-Bruns:
  (Math B.S.)
  “I got a summer job off of the UH job boards at Reliant doing retail pricing. Then when I graduated I used that as my experience to get an analyst position at Direct [Direct Energy as a Pricing & Structuring Analyst. I am down on the trading floor and my job is to develop energy cost profiles for clients. It is like being an Actuary for the energy market. It took me five months to land, but the effort finally paid off. There are two people on the floor that have MS Applied math from UH from a couple years ago, and the person I replaced was UH Applied Math (I believe). Lots of economist degrees in my group as well]. I worked non-stop building great analytic models and finally got my shot at trading. I did well in real-time trading and was recently promoted to spec (commodities) trading this February. Haha, my math background was instrumental. I use statistics and probability models for 12 hours a day. It's hard to turn the brain off at the end of the day.” (Current position: NE/NY Short Term Trader at Direct Energy)

-Medina:
  (Math)
  “…I’m a Geophysical Seismic Pre-Processor at a Seismic Ventures Inc. in Stafford. I do data input and preliminary analysis on seismic data. Basically I look at squiggly lines and map the layers of earth to find places to drill and sell the processed data. For more information, go to: www.seismicventures.com. Having the math background, with a little computer science, helps you on this field because of the major's emphasis on the broad and fundamental. If you are not capable of looking at the big picture, it will always be harder to find the proper solution. If you
have anymore questions please email me at a_medina@seismicventures.com.”

-Bui:
(Math)
“Hi, I got a job at an engineering firm as a Control Systems engineer in the oil and gas industry.”

-Mela:
(Math; Minor: Education)
“Teaching math at Lamar High school.”

-Cucco:
(Math; Minor: Cosc)
“I was hired as a Consultant at CampbellWilson in Dallas TX. www.CampbellWilson.com I'm primarily doing database management, application development, and other projects that involve data manipulation. I am enjoying it. My favorite things are having problems to solve, a license to solve them in a creative manner, and computer programming. This job is just what I was hoping for.

I had been applying to some jobs in the DFW area through Monster and CareerBuilder, but I never would have looked for this job since it is in the healthcare industry. A headhunter contacted me after seeing my resume, told me about the company and set up the interview time.

For the hiring process, I had three interviews with who would become my manager, and the two people on her team. They asked me a few questions about my past experiences, school, work etc., but they were primarily concerned with my ability to learn new things and adapt to changing environments. I feel that being exposed to so many different concepts through learning Math & Comp Sci has greatly shortened my learning curve, which was one of my big selling points. Another great thing about the company is this: the founding partner, Manie Campbell, is also a UH grad =)”

-Haygood:
(Math B.A.; Minor: Education)
“…Teaching at La Porte High School - 9th and 10th grade math and 12th grade science.”

-Logan:
(Math)
“I am working in Sugar Land at Fairfield Industries as a geophysical analyst. I found the company through the Texas Career Fair because they hire primarily math and physics majors. The geophysical industry is usually unknown to undergrads but is a great option since it is math, physics and computer science related.”

-N. Tran:
(Math B.A. Minor: Business HR Management)
“…I originally got into the energy industry in '09 where the recession was at it's lowest and no one was hiring. So I decided to take a job as a receptionist for a small energy consulting company to work my way up. The owner of the company said because I have a math degree, she
choose me over all the other candidates; knowing that math will help me think and solve problems in a more pragmatic and logical way, especially in this industry (even as a receptionist, they wanted something who could think for themselves).

Same with my current position (Senior Account Manager at Atlas Commodities, LLC); my superiors, each, have discussed how they like the fact that I studied mathematics in college, they are confident in my analytically thinking abilities. I use math everyday at work. Some of my responsibilities require outside of the box thinking yet still being able to systemically organize new procedures. Another responsibility is to organize large amounts of data and make sense of it; using excel and reading graphs and charts. I'm picking up a lot of computer skills: logic thinking, writing/creating formulas, how programs work; and applying it to my responsibilities.

I have talked to my colleagues about the different degrees we have. It seems that most of them do not utilize the knowledge/skills they learned in college. Luckily I can say I have and do, since math is in everything. And I truly believe that."

-L. Ha:
(Math)
“\textup{I graduated with a Math degree in December 2007 and got hired as a math teacher at Scarborough High School in January 2008. I taught math for 2.5 years, but decided to pursue a new career in 2010 because teaching did not work out for me. The economy in 2010 was really bad; therefore, it was really hard for me to find another job. As a result, I went back to school to do Master of Business Administration Specializing in Accountancy. I am graduating this April and am currently seeking an Accounting Position. I was able to do well in Accounting because of my math background. I still love numbers and math.”}

-A. Sameei:
(Math B.S. \& M.A., Finance M.S.)
“My degree in Math is the driving factor that lead to my ability to become a trader (Trader at EP ENERGY). More often than not companies need quantitative thinkers…especially in analytical role (i.e.risk quant analysts, traders, marketing, etc…). The biggest hurdle for math graduates is learning the fundamentals of the underlying business in order to properly apply meaningful analysis. Once you’ve reached a point where you are comfortable with the business model then sky is the limit for math graduates, in my opinion.”