

Meg Dickey-Kurdziolek

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science - Human Computer Interaction (HCI), Virginia Tech - Aug. 5, 2011
GPA: 3.84/4.0

Masters Computer Science - HCI, Virginia Tech - May 15, 2007
GPA: 3.83/4.0

Bachelors Computer Science, Minor Mathematics, Virginia Tech - May 13, 2005
Overall GPA: 3.45/4.0, In Major GPA: 3.55/4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

Owner, Margaret Kurdziolek, LLC, Pittsburgh, PA **June 2015 - present**

- Worked with clients to conduct user research and create user-centered product designs
- Client example - AE Dreams, UX Researcher
 - Led all research efforts in evaluating product value of Turtle Mail - a wireless mailbox for children
 - Designed and prototyped all Turtle Mail web app functionality and features
 - Conducted multiple rounds of customer interviews, usability studies, and product “play studies”
- Client example - Conversant Labs, UX Lead
 - Led all research and design efforts in building TinCan.ai - a web-based tool for wire framing Voice UIs
 - Conducted in-depth studies with expert VUI designers, and categorized patterns of design practice
 - Conducted multiple rounds of usability studies and interviews with Amazon Echo skill developers
 - Ultimately oversaw all graphic and design considerations for TinCan.ai

Senior UX Researcher, MSA, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA **Jan 2017 - June 2017**

- Led multi-disciplinary product team through design studio exercises to articulate the requirements of a new, consumer facing, mobile app
- Created multiple iterations of wireframes and prototypes
- Conducted multiple rounds of user research, including user interviews, diary studies, and usability studies

Senior UX Designer, Weather Underground, San Francisco, CA **Aug 2013 - May 2015**

- Conducted in-house and remote user studies. Methods included participant interviews, think-aloud sessions, diary studies, guerrilla testing, and A/B testing
- Designed and wire-framed new products and feature enhancements
- Followed a short-cycle, agile based method of design and development

Data & Research Scientist, Education Elements, San Carlos, CA **Feb 2012 - Jun 2013**

- Designed visualizations and interaction methods for teachers and principals to explore student data
- Conducted user studies, interviews, and contextual inquiries at client school sites
- Managed the Data and Quality team

(WORK EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED)

Graduate Researcher, Scaling-Up SimCalc Project, Blacksburg, VA **Sep 2005 - Aug 2011**

With Center for HCI @ Virginia Tech & SRI International (Palo Alto, CA)

- Conducted and analyzed 95 interviews and five weeks of field-study observations to provide qualitative supplementation to a large-scale quantitative study
- Identified mitigating factors that influence how SimCalc MathWorlds technology was used in the classrooms and how that impacted statistical results of the study
- Crafted design improvements to SimCalc MathWorlds that would increase usage of the product

Software Engineering Research Intern, Google, Mountain View, CA **Jun 2010 - Aug 2010**

- Investigated the teacher development of educational apps as a use case for the App Inventor for Android platform

SKILLS

Methods: A/B testing, case studies, contextual inquiries, diary studies, ethnographies, guerrilla testing, heuristic evaluations, interviews, surveys, usability testing

Applications:

- Research: Google Optimize, HyperResearch, InqScribe, NVivo, Optimizely, SurveyGizmo, SurveyMonkey
- Wireframing & Design: Axure, Balsamiq, InVision, OmniGraffle, Sketch

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Dickey-Kurdziolek, M. (2018, Jan 4). Discovery on a Budget. (3 part series) A List Apart.
- Dickey-Kurdziolek, M. (2016, Jul 26). Resurrecting Dead Personas. A List Apart.
- Dickey-Kurdziolek, M. (2015, Jun 6). Crafting a Design Persona. A List Apart.
- Dickey-Kurdziolek, M., Tatar, D., and Harrison, S. (2012) Framespaces: Framing of Frameworks, Designing Interactive Systems (DIS), Jun 11-15, New Castle, UK.
- Dickey-Kurdziolek, M., Schaefer, M., Tatar, D., Renga, I. (2010) Lessons From ThoughtSwap-ing: Increasing Participants' Coordinative Agency in Facilitated Discussion, CSCW, Feb 6-10, Savannah, GA.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2006-2009
- Editor, A List Apart, July 2017 - present
- Organizer of World IA Day-Pittsburgh conference, 2017
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Member 2007-present