"Job Fair" Lab
CSC 300 Fall 2008
Turner

Cal Poly Job Fair
Date: Thursday, 16 October, 2008
Location: Recreation Center
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Informally (and I emphasize this), we'd be interested in Industry's impressions and understandings of the SE Code of Ethics, and ethics for computing professionals in general. See if you can talk to a few reps, you can also do your own work in finding a job! Remember you are bound by the SE Code in this exercise. Professionalism and confidentiality are important. Keep it simple and informal, no pressure at all.

These are suggested questions, paraphrase them and ask them informally, don't read them from a script and don't write down answers. Get impressions. Write down a few notes later about your impressions. Don't worry about identifying who you spoke with, but do try to talk to a variety of industry reps. Make it interesting and fun, no pressure on anyone.

1.   Did you know that Cal Poly CSC and SE graduates are required to take a course dedicated to the ethics of technical design tradeoff analysis (something to this effect, calling CSC 300 a "professional responsibilities" course alone often means little to industry representatives I've spoken to, you might even test that theory).

2.   Do you think a CSC or SE graduate is **more suitable for a job with you** if they've taken a course in the ethics of technical design tradeoffs?

3.   Do you think it is better to take a course dedicated to ethics of technical design tradeoffs than a basic philosophical ethics course for CSC and SE majors? What would be more useful if working for you?

4.   Do you find Cal Poly students who have graduated with degrees in CSC or SE to be more or less well equipped for professional and ethical decisionmaking when you hire them? (Compared to other majors from Cal Poly, or other schools?)

5.   Add your own question here, what do you think is interesting or important about industry coming to Cal Poly to solicit our graduates to take jobs with them?

Again, keep this very friendly and professional, just a few questions of interest, do not push anyone on it, if they prefer not to discuss things, that's OK and be polite and back off. We don't want to quote anyone or pretend these answers represent the official positions of the company, we just want to sample some interesting thoughts and opinions from industry representatives. This might be especially interesting if you meet a Cal Poly grad and ask them how they value the CSC 300 background (and you might want to ask whether it was Turner or Dana who taught them there could be a difference!)

DELIVERABLE: A one page summary of findings. This assignment is an individual one. The class will also have a general discussion about the job fair and these questions (and any other questions or answers you found interesting). Keep your eye out for interesting ethical questions raised by the very act of having a job fair, giving away free stuff, how they try to talk to you, things like that. This lab will be graded based on your ability to think about the ethical issues of computing professionalism that arise from your contacts at the job fair and your ability to communicate and discuss the issues and impressions with your colleagues during the lab discussion.