Soft-spoken software scientist

Jeff Jagoda (ACA 2004, Carnegie Mellon 2008) is a software engineer with IBM.

"For the past year I have been leading the development of a new wiki project for IBM (think of a "stone-soup" project like Wikipedia, where lots of people contribute). I have presented our new technology at a couple of public conferences and I work daily with team members spread across the globe in places like Shanghai, Toronto, Austin, and San Francicso. I help out with campus recruiting for IBM at UNC Chapel Hill and am part of a student mentoring program at NC State where I talk with students about possible career paths and help them prepare to apply for jobs. In my "free time" I am working on a Master's degree in computer science at UNC Chapel Hill and am partnering with a UNC alum to start a company that makes appointment management software."

"I cannot deny that my journey began at ACA," Jeff says with a grin.

"If it were not for exceptional teachers like Tim Barnett and Jo Lynn Goffin who were willing to come alongside me and help me explore the things I was interested in (and perhaps a couple of things I was initially not interested in) beyond the classroom I would likely not be where I am today. By regularly meeting with me after school to talk about material beyond the curriculum, letting me sit in and participate in senior-level classes as a freshman, and helping me to construct my own independent study curriculum as a senior, I was able to gain an exceptional education that has been the foundation of everything I have done since.

"After leaving ACA, my education allowed me to push the limits of what I thought I could achieve. I went on to graduate a semester early with honors from Carnegie Mellon University, where I majored in computer science and minored in business administration and physics. I also spent my college summers working alongside industry experts at internships with companies like Red Hat and IBM."