

## **INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATIONS**

Awesome Students Doing Amazing Things



MOHIT ATHWANI
Home Country: India

Major: M.S. in Computer Science

EMPLOYED BY:

ASML

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Mohit came to the U.S. looking to be challenged in his field of study. "I wanted to expand my understanding to the lowest level intricacies of computers." He chose to study in the U.S. because, "So much is happening here! There are so many new technologies and start-ups in the IT industry."

During his time as a Chico State student, Mohit fell in love with the community of Chico, stating, "People are just so friendly." He also has fond memories of sitting on the benches along Chico Creek doing his homework, occasionally dipping his feet in the calming water flow.

During his first semester, Mohit landed an on-campus job, as a web developer. Eventually, he went on to be a teaching assistant and participated in the Computer Science honor society called Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE). His participation in UPE allowed him to mingle with professionals in his field of study, which he notes as invaluable experiences.

In the Computer Science field, "All they want are fundamentals and basics. If you don't know the basics, they will not hire you," says Mohit. He credits his professors with thoroughly teaching these concepts and providing him with a very strong foundation. Due to this strong foundation, he could approach job interviews with confidence.

Before he came to the U.S., his father said, "I'm not paying for you to go to the U.S. to get a piece of paper. I'm paying for you to go there to learn! Knowledge is what will land you a job."

Mohit took his father's words to heart and his hard work has paid off.