



CHRIS ADAMS

B.A. COMMUNICATION '10

It's hard to have a conversation and not hear the words "Google" or "Uber" at some point. The companies and their game-changing services have become part of daily life.

Did you Google the new flight time? I'll call an Uber.

However, to CI Alumni & Friends Association Member Chris Adams, the connection runs deeper than finding information or getting a ride. He has worked for both companies in a corporate capacity.

"Getting hired into Google's recruiting organization in 2013 was a milestone for me and allowed me to branch out into the tech industry," says Adams. "It was a long road prior to that, as I worked various jobs that were not fulfilling. Everything in life is a learning experience, though."

One of the things Adams learned early on was the power of networking.

"The key to success is being able to build and nourish relationships with people you meet along the way," he says. "Always seek out mentors. I had a few in the years leading up to Google, and they were very helpful in making decisions, personally and professionally."

After just two years at Google, Adams left for Uber and the opportunity to help build the rapidly growing startup. Uber grew to 10 times its size and scaled its engineering teams from 500-2,000 employees during his first year alone.

Today, Adams functions as Uber's Senior Technical Recruiting Manager. He and his staff hire software engineers and technology leaders, including some working on driverless technology. Most of his hires support U.S. engineering efforts, but he also has helped place employees in the company's Amsterdam office.

"Working in Silicon Valley is fantastic and I enjoy the fast pace," says Adams. "Besides, complacency leads to failure. You have to keep moving and always stay hungry."

Adams keeps the momentum going when he's out of the office, too.

"I still skateboard like I'm 16," he says. "I think everyone needs an outlet, and skateboarding is mine."

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