

kabren f levinson

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PROFILE

I am a geek. According to Wikipedia, a geek is “one who is primarily motivated by passion.” So far in life, I have engaged in multiple artistic, political, social, and technological pursuits. I am currently a freshman at Bard College.

EXPERIENCE

Bard College Student Server (Fall 2008 - present)

I design websites for clubs at Bard. <http://student.bard.edu>

Intern, MIT Media Lab (May 2006 - Aug. 2006, June 2007 - Sep. 2007)

I worked with the Computing Culture group directed by Christopher Csikszentmihály. During my first summer, I developed daughterboards for an open source micro-controller project, the Number Six, and added content to the project’s website, <http://six.media.mit.edu>

Throughout my second summer with compcult, I worked with the director on several of his projects. We successfully launched a home-built robotic kayak twice. I developed ground control software in Python for the vehicle; I began to redesign the user interface and worked to create map generation code.

Founder/Host and Producer, Nerd News Radio Podcast (July 2005 - present)

Nerd News Radio is a podcast about science, technology, and anything nerdy. Episodes are usually released once a week. Nerd News Radio is a member of the Teen Podcasters Network. You can find NNR at www.nerdnewsradio.com

EDUCATION

Bard College (2008 - present)

I’m currently a freshman at Bard College in Annandale-On-Hudson, New York.

Cambridge School of Weston High School (2004 - 2008)

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at CSW. Starting off as a quiet, unassuming freshman, I developed into a technology autodidact, artistic virtuoso, and social and political conduit. (See “Gryphon’s Eye”). (See “tech@csw”).

CONFERENCES

South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive 2009 (March 13-17, 2009)

Hawaii International Conference on Education (January 4-7, 2009)

PodCamp Boston 3 (July 19-20, 2008)

I led a session on Academic Technology at PodCamp Boston 3. I was delighted to be invited back to speak at the conference. I showcased my Academic Technology program.

PodCamp Boston 2 (October 26-28, 2007)

I led a session on Teen Podcasting at PodCamp Boston. I was the first teen to speak at PodCamp. The session ended up being a discussion on teens, new media, and education.

PROJECTS

tech@csw - Cambridge School of Weston Technology Program

For my senior capstone project, I created an Educational Technology program at my high school. I began working on this project in January with the assistant head of the school, Dan Coleman. The project had three main components; a Technology Strategy Team, an EduTech Squad, and a series of student-led courses. I have presented this project so far at two conferences.

WRITING

These works are not published in any journals or official publications, unless otherwise noted. I have supplied when and where this work was created (for school, or on my own time). You can find copies of these essays at <http://kabrenlevinson.com/essays.html>. Enjoy.

“Free Will” - Fall 2008 - Intro to Philosophy, Bard College

“The Apprehensive” - Fall 2008 - First Year Seminar, Bard College

“Life is But A Dream” - Fall 2008 - First Year Seminar, Bard College

“Obedience” - Fall 2008 - Intro to philosophy, Bard College

“Thought Crime” - Fall 2008, First Year Seminar, Bard College

“Why do we speak?” - Summer 2008 - Language and Thinking, Bard College

“Tubes” - Spring 2007/Expository Writing II, CSW

PHOTOGRAPHY

I first became fascinated with photography in 8th grade, when I adopted my father’s Nikon FA, an interchangeable lens, 35mm, SLR film camera. Today I shoot with a Nikon D300. My photos can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/kabren/

DESIGN

Nerd News Radio Podcast Website (July 2005, updated July 2007)

My latest design of this website, www.nerdnewsradio.com, represents years of work. I began my podcast website with no knowledge of web design, and over 3 years later have (almost) mastered my own design for the website.

kabrenlevinson.com - Homepage/Blog Design (2007, updated December 2008)

The designs of both my homepage and blog also represent years of work. My homepage and blog alike are collaborative and ongoing works.

Gryphon’s Eye - Layout, Design, and Photography (September 2006 - June 2008)

For two years, I was in charge of the design/layout of my high school paper. I also served as staff photographer. The second issue can be found here in PDF format:

<http://kabrenlevinson.com/files/gryph2.pdf>

MUSIC

Cello (1996 - present)

I studied cello with Emmanuel Feldman at the New England Conservatory for Music for seven years. In addition, I was engaged in several orchestras, chamber groups, and classical theory courses. You can find a sample of my music at <http://kabrenlevinson.com/files/music.zip>

Bass Guitar (1999 - present)

I began taking private bass lessons at a local guitar shop, but later moved on to taking classes at the NEC Jazz Department, led by David Zoffer. I took lessons with Wes Wirth, and participated in jazz ensembles and jazz theory courses.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/SOCIAL ACTION

Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged (2002 - 2003, 2004 - 2008)

For five years, I played cello for residents on Sunday mornings at the Hebrew Rehab. When I began to play, the audience grew, ranging from five to thirty-five residents. In June 2007, I received a volunteer award.

Teen Organizing at Temple Israel (September 2006 - 2008)

I was a part of a Focus on Youth campaign at Temple Israel Boston. I primarily worked with other Teens at TI who were also organizing around youth. We had two major actions; one on Nov. 29th, 2007, which was a combined action with two other organizing groups at TI, and another on March 4th, 2008, which was an action focused solely on youth. At TI, I learned how to organize.

LANGUAGES

Computer Programming

Python, Objective-C (elementary knowledge), CSS and HTML

Classical

Ancient Greek (basic knowledge), French