

Evariste Somé



Evariste Somé (he/him/his) is a fourth year PhD student in TCP-Computer Science. I got to meet Somé through the Computer Science Graduate Student Association (CSGSA), as he is currently one of our Graduate Committee representatives. Somé has a contagious optimism and joy for life and love for others that I encourage you to see for yourself by getting to know him.

What is your path to CU Boulder?

Somé originally came to the United States to study Computer Science, but at some point he wanted to expand his horizons, and attained a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. After his Master's degree, he got a position to teach as an adjunct instructor, and in teaching, discovered that he wanted to continue learning in the research and classroom setting. He decided to apply for PhD programs, but wanted something that was interdisciplinary and not Electrical Engineering on its own. In this, he started looking at Telecommunications programs among others, and decided to attend CU. Somé shared that he was recently reflecting on his childhood in Africa, using boxes to make phones out of boxes for him and his friends to talk to each other as a game, and for him to be pursuing a PhD at CU now feels like a dream come true.

How would you explain your research to a ten-year-old?

"My current research is using multiple antennas for telecommunication." Why multiple antennas? Somé suggests you think about a highway with two lanes. Fewer cars can travel on it than a highway with four lanes, and a similar idea follows for using multiple antennas to receive and transmit information.

If you could make sure everybody in the world knew one thing, what would it be?

"Get to know each other." Somé keenly observes that most of the crazy things in the world today are based largely on ignorance. It's not related to whether someone has a PhD or not; *"you can have multiple PhDs and still be ignorant."* Somé is always curious to know and learn about other people, as he believes the better you get to know them, the more you will respect them. His interest in getting to know other

people leads him to get involved in a variety of spaces, such as the CSGSA. Somé has entered into many spaces where he has been the only Black man and is very curious to understand how people receive him, why, and engage with them.

What are some of your hobbies?

Somé uses musical instruments to relax, such as the harmonica, flute, and piano. When he wants to get out of the house, he like to hike locally in Boulder and can often be found at Green Mountain or Sanitas. He loves being out there and has found some community of other frequent hikers to these spots, noting that they have come to recognize each other on hikes and notice when someone isn't around for a bit. Somé also loves to cook, often making traditional African dishes or learning how to make breads and cakes from YouTube videos. Somé also loves to play soccer and practiced Tae Kwon Do for 19 years, competing internationally! He still does both on occasion just to stay in shape, but generally just loves playing sports. In the pandemic, he has played soccer with his neighbor's children on occasion.

What are three improbable facts about you?

Those who know Somé know he loves to smile! When he speaks, he enjoys gesticulating, and whenever he has a mental blockage, feels like he needs to get his body moving to get the thoughts flowing again. Finally, Somé is always curious! He loves asking questions when he feels like the person he's talking to is open to engaging. He loves asking these questions to better appreciate whoever it is he is talking to.

Icebreaker suggestions

Somé recommends just talking to him! He's flexible and happy to talk about most anything, as he loves getting to know people on a deeper level. If you want a concrete question, you can ask about his COVID-19 life, his research, or family.

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