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Information Regarding Summer Internships

Connie Schnitz

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Connie Schnitz

10 October 1990

Dr. Fred Williams, Dr. Robert McGlinn

Information Regarding Summer Internships

During the summer of 1989, I was employed as a computer
programming intern for the Corporate Computer Assisted Tax
Services (CCATS) department at Price Waterhouse. I didn't
have one specific project to complete during my internship,
but rather a few smaller projects over the course of the
summer.

At first, I was given time to become familiar with the
company and a new programming language, Revelation R/Basic.
I learned the language through self-instruction of manuals
and example programs. After a week or so, I was given an
assignment that consisted of writing utility programs to be
used in the Tax Management System software package. These
programs were not long or difficult, but they were mainly
programs that were useful, yet simple enough to increase my
confidence with a new language.

After this period (about 2 weeks), I moved on the most
time-consuming project of the summer. I would receive test
problem reports (TPRs) from the testing department that
would contain errors in the output or running of the
program. I obtained the group of programs that were
responsible for this type of error, and start debugging
until I located the error. This was extremely difficult for

me, as a typical program was completely undocumented, 15-20 pages long, and incorporated with up to 20-30 other programs. This made hand-tracing impossible, and the only way to locate bugs was through break statements, variable watches, and output statements. Maintaining another programmer's code was also difficult, especially without documentation, and the majority of my time was spent dealing with this problem. After the error was identified and corrected, program change request forms were filled out, and management would have to approve the change before the updated program was put out on the network. This project consisted of about twelve TPRs and took approximately six to seven weeks.

The last two weeks were spent working on screen images for State Forms. These were laser printed State Tax forms that resembled the actual states' forms as much as possible. I worked on a team that used FMPAINT software to draw the screens and include the correct field positions, instructions and field length of the appropriate form. This wasn't difficult work, but rather very detailed and monotonous.

These were the main projects that I performed, though there were many times when help was needed with the distribution of releases and updates of software. This included copying updates to disks and organizing mailings to customers.

This past summer I worked as a Summer Development student for Amoco Corporation. This experience was much different that Price Waterhouse, as I had two specific projects to complete rather than many smaller ones. The work was also less technical, as my programs mainly concerned the database and informations systems.

At first, I was assigned the project of writing an ordering system to be used internally at the Research Center. This included design, development and implementation phases of the software engineering cycle. I went over the specs with my supervisor, and designed the system from this. When my design was completed, I once again met with my supervisor to get his input, and this process continued until the specs were satisfactory to both of us. I started programming the system, and as each part was completed, I ran tests and corrected any problems that occurred. Once a portion was finished, I would give a demonstration to the supervisor and staff members to acquire their feedback. Once a major portion of the system was finished, I would run a demonstration for the clients involved to get their responses and opinions. This was very interesting, as I was able to see part of the 'big picture' of software development. As this project was drawing to an end (about 1 1/2 months later), I was moved to a higher priority job on a development team.

My second project involved maintenance of a system that was already in use. This was much different than my first

project and offered experience of yet another phase of the software cycle. Working as part of a team was another change for me since I am usually required to write programs on my own, but I really enjoyed the interaction and support of the other team members.

On this project, I was required to write a reporting program that would utilize new enhancements that were added to the existing system. Since any additions or changes that I made would directly affect the users, I needed to run extensive tests of every detail of my new program. This was another new experience, since it was surprising for me to see how a small reporting program can affect many other parts of a system.

These two projects were great complements of each other, as one dealt with the beginning stages of a system on which I basically worked alone, and the other was dealing with a system already in use, in which a team implemented the objectives needed. This gave me exposure to different aspects of the computer science field, and this fact alone explains how valuable an internship can be. I am sure the experience will definitely benefit to me as I look for permanent employment.

The enclosed materials consist of my job description from the senior manager and an evaluation from another manager from Price Waterhouse, along with an evaluation from my supervisor at Amoco Corporation. I have also enclosed a video tape of the presentation I gave to the ACM chapter on October 8. A copy of a program from a TPR is not included, since I may have only changed 15 lines in a 20 page program. I could not include any code from Amoco due to confidentiality agreements. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, feel free to contact me at any time.

Price Waterhouse

August 3, 1989

Mr. R.J. McGlinn
Department of Computer Science
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901

RE: Summer Assignment of Connie Schnitz

As an intern this summer, Connie Schnitz worked on a
variety of projects under the direction of three Price
Waterhouse managers. She programmed in Revelation R/Basic,
writing utility programs to be used in our Tax Management
System software package. She also analyzed test problem
reports and debugged and corrected the appropriate
programs. Other projects included creating screen images
for State Forms and assisting in the distribution of
releases and updates of software.

If you have any questions regarding Connie's internship
responsibilities, please feel free to call me at
(312) 419-1565.

Very truly yours,

Daniel S. Hamilton

To · Files

From/Location Liz Betts

Date August 4, 1989

Re Performance Evaluation for Connie Schnitz

Connie Schnitz performed approximately 40 hours of work for me. Her assignment was to fix the HOLD queue, a subsystem of the TMS report printing facility.

Although Chris Elvart was her main contact, I have reviewed her work and found it to be well-documented, organized and easy to follow. With a little direction, she was able to wade through the various report programs and determine where the problems were. These programs are not very clearly documented, and for someone who is not accustomed to maintaining source code written by others, Connie did a commendable job.

August 14, 1990

Mr. Robert McGlinn
Academic Advisor, Computer Science
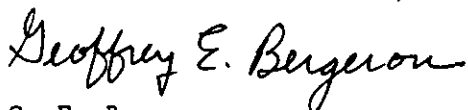Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Mr. McGlinn:

Enclosed please find a copy of the evaluation for Ms. Connie Schnitz,
who has recently completed her internship with the Information and
Computer Services division of Amoco Corporation at Amoco Research Center
in Naperville, Illinois. Connie requested that I send you a copy as a
part of your requirements for her completing her degree.

It was a true pleasure having Connie as a summer development student.
She is an exceptional talent for her level in school. She fit in very
nicely with my staff and worked as a productive member of two project
teams. Her skills are very good in PL/1 and she works well with many
different personality types. She will be a great asset to any company
that hires her. In fact, I am forwarding her evaluation and resume to
our recruiting staff in our General Office in Chicago with a suggestion
that they talk to her as part of our normal recruiting effort.

Again, Connie was an excellent representative for your department and
school during her time here.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey E. Bergeron

G. E. Bergeron
Supervisor
Major Systems and Data Base Administration
Information and Computer Services
Amoco Research Center
Naperville, Illinois

GEB/jkm

90226NAP0012

SUMMER EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Name: _Connie Schnitz_ Company: _100_ Dates employed: _5/20 - 8/15/90_

Position: _PROGRAMMER_

How would employee compare with other employees in the same discipline that you have known over the years?
(Circle appropriate choice)

(Top 10%)   Upper 25%   Average   Below Average

Please rate employee on each of the following points by placing an "X" on the appropriate point of the continuum.

Productivity
| X |
Outstanding   Below average

Technical ability
| X |
Outstanding   Below average

Working with people
| X |
Outstanding   Below average

Creative ability
| X |
Outstanding   Below average

Outline noteworthy strengths or weaknesses: _CONNIE IS AN OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SUCH. SHE HAS VERY GOOD TECHNICAL SKILLS OVERALL AND WORKS WELL AS A TEAM MEMBER. SHE HAS VERY GOOD PEOPLE SKILLS._

Student's comments: _See attached sheet_

Supervisor's signature: _Geoffrey E. Berguon_ Date: _8/1/90_

Position: _Supervisor, Major Systems / Data base Admin_

Company and Division: _I & CS Amoco Corp_

Student's signature: _Connie J. Schnitz_ Date: _08/01/90_

SUMMER EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Name: _Connie Schnitz_

Please rate summer employee on the following attributes:

	Not observed	Poor	Below Average	Average	Very Good	Outstanding
Judgment					X	
Initiative						X
Personality						X
Cooperativeness						X
Maturity (for age)					X	
Communication (oral)					X	
Communication (written)	X					
Dependability					X	
Creativeness					X	
Quality of Work						X
Quantity of Work						X
Leadership					X	
Future Potential						X

Above rating is compared to: Typical BS interviewing for full
time position __X__

Typical Summer Professional
Employee _____

Remarks: _If Connie cannot be hired for Naperville,
she should be recruited for Chicago G.O._

Date: __7/25/90__   Signature: _Geoffrey E. Bergeron_