Amelia Elverson
ale44
Operations Research and Information Engineering
Datacard Group
Fall 2014

A. Co-op Work Assignment

I worked in the Supply Chain group, specifically, under the Director of International Purchasing. I worked closely with all of the buyers at Datacard. This department directly influenced manufacturing at Datacard, as we were responsible for purchasing—parts, raw materials, repair parts, supplies, equipment, etc. I worked on a variety of projects; including commodity strategy presentations with the purchasing managers, a rapid prototyping analysis working with the engineering departments, Country of Origin management with the exports department, as well as creating reports in SAP Business Objects software working closely with the IT department. Training for these projects was primarily informal—mostly asking questions via email and in person. I did complete a few formal trainings, which were lecture-style in a class with other colleagues, or as e-lessons. I was encourage to ask questions of my manager and people I was working with, and never received any resistance. The intern program at Datacard does involve a formal mentorship program. I was paired with the VP of Global Supply Chain. We met for an hour a week where we would discuss my current project, a topic of his choosing that was relevant to my career, and I could ask informational interview-type questions. I learned a lot about career development and his career trajectory and was given tons of great career advice.

B. Assessment of Learning Development

Supply Chain falls very closely within ORIE. I used a lot of things I learned in ORIE 3150, especially material requirements planning (MRP) and SQL. Throughout my experience at Datacard, I learned a lot about professional culture. Datacard is a casual environment, which I
really liked. People were friendly and social, which made asking questions much easier. I found it easy to ask people about their role at Datacard and what they liked/disliked about their jobs, which allowed me to start to see where I might fit in the professional world. This position fostered a lot of professional development, especially through the mentorship program. Not only was I able to experience typical day-to-day work, but I was also able to expand my knowledge of career possibilities, and make a lot of valuable connections in my geographic area of choice.

C. Life Outside of Co-op

I was lucky to live 10 minutes away from Datacard, so I was able to live at home, which took care of housing and transportation. Again, due to my unique situation, most of my social activities were with friends from high school and family in the area. I did join the local YMCA where I met a few college-aged people that went to local schools, and I started volunteering again at the food shelf I worked at in high school. This was nice to see familiar faces, as well as meet some new people. Minneapolis has tons of things to do and events going on every weekend, so I would imagine a new person to the area wouldn’t have a hard time. Datacard did have a team building event, volunteer day of service and a holiday caroling group that I took part in, which was a really fun way to meet people at work.

D. Evaluation

I really appreciated the variety of projects that I took part in. I worked with people throughout the organization and saw many different aspects of an international company (many of which I had never even thought of). During my term at Datacard, we went through a rebranding and name-change which was really exciting to be part of. It’s rare that someone (especially an intern) gets to experience such a dynamic time at a company, and it was really interesting to see how the changes were accepted throughout Datacard. There isn’t much I would critique about this position. At the beginning of my term, daily work was limited. I was learning the software systems
and still gaining access to things, which made the days pretty long. It picked up quickly—I think this is pretty typical of most positions.

E. Additional Information

Datacard Group is now called Entrust Datacard. My term took place in Minnetonka, MN. The company is in the process of a move to a brand-new facility in Shakopee, MN as of January 2015.