

## Internship Experiences

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### *Kari Jennings on her internship experience*

I spent the summer of 2005 as an actuarial intern with Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Hewitt is a large consulting firm in the northwest suburbs of Chicago offering both pension and health management actuarial services to its clients. I was placed in the health management department where I spent the summer learning the ins and outs of the modern health care world and the role an actuary plays in that world. Rather than dealing with retirement benefits as a pension actuary would, health management actuaries at Hewitt deal with medical, dental, and prescription drug benefits. With the recent introduction of Medicare Part D, there was plenty of extra work to be done. As a result, I was able to take part in a variety of numerous projects. My largest projects dealt with pricing new medical and dental plan designs and comparing the effects of making certain changes to the existing plans. This was done by entering plan designs into Hewitt's pricing model in order to compute the relative value of the new plan design to the old. I also took part in FAS 106 work, as well as many one-time smaller projects. Two of the shorter-term projects I found particularly interesting were an analysis of a client's Disease Management Program as well as a cost analysis of another client's implementation of a sabbatical program. As all of the work to be done required the use of Excel, I exercised my Excel skills daily, expanding my knowledge of the program's capabilities. My internship experience at Hewitt proved to be extremely valuable because of the nature of the work I was given: it was challenging and significant to the firm. In addition to the projects I took part in, I was able to sit in on several conference calls with clients as well as weekly meetings with the health management team, both of which enhanced my experience and gave me a true taste of what working for an actuarial consulting firm would be like. Even as an intern, it was evident to me how much Hewitt valued their employees; as a result, I will be returning to Hewitt to begin full time work as an actuarial student in the health management department in August of 2006.

### *Nathan Pappas on his internship experience*

During the summer of 2006, I interned with the U.S. Department of Energy at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, TN. I worked in the Materials Science and Technology Division with the Diffraction and Thermophysical Properties Group under Dr. Thomas Watkins. I was a pre-service teacher (PST) intern at ORNL. The PST internship gives pre-service teachers the opportunity to conduct research at a national laboratory. I learned about the internship through a flyer on Dr. Stump's door here at BSU two years ago. The research projects that I worked on was to calculate the amount of retained austenite present post magnetic processing using x-ray diffraction in steel samples and to modify a residual stress computer program to accept xml data files. The retained austenite project dealt with the calculation of retained austenite and determining the effect of magnetic processing on the amount of retained austenite. The second project was to help ORNL update their aging x-ray diffractometers by allowing the stress program accept data files from various diffractometers. This internship is a great experience because it gives education majors a chance to do hands on research in a national laboratory. Since ORNL is the nations largest national laboratory, the PST interns get the chance to tour the different divisions in the lab every week to learn all about the work the lab is currently doing. The internship is a great opportunity and I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. I highly recommend other mathematics/science education majors to apply in the future.