

Sam Johnson
ChemE 3010
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Michelle Dinsmoor earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1998 from Cornell University. She left school for a semester to work as a co-op intern with Intel in Portland. While at school, she played the flute in the marching band, worked at the Statler, and was a TA for ChemE 1120.

Upon graduating, Michelle accepted a full-time job offer in Intel's manufacturing group. She admitted to having little interest in semi-conductors during her school years and co-op experience, but she liked the Portland location, felt that her work was valued at Intel, and had worked with great people during her co-op rotations. Intel is a leading manufacturer of computer chips, networking, and communications products. The company employs 107,000 people worldwide and generates \$50 billion in revenue each year.

Michelle's first assignment with Intel was working in a factory that finished processing silicon wafers before they were shipped to customers. She described how several stages of process scale-up operated simultaneously in the same factory (from small scale technology development and pilot plants to high volume manufacturing). She also showed us a video that emphasized the importance of clean operations and safety in the factory, as well as Intel's positive and community-oriented company culture.

She described several typical jobs that ChemEs could hold at Intel, and elaborated on her own experience working with etching projects as a process engineer. She emphasized the concept of "owning" a process or type of equipment as a process engineer, which entails a high degree of accountability and responsibility. A typical process engineer monitors process control and performance, responds to defects (and identifies their root causes), and anticipates problems that could potentially cause defects. According to Michelle, successful process engineers ~~can~~ adjust their priorities quickly and willingly, ~~can~~ work well in teams, and ~~can~~ see the big picture.

Michelle outlined her career progression and things she had liked and disliked about her different jobs. She became an expert in her process engineering work in the etching department, and then began-became a project management ~~role~~. She liked ~~the~~ project management ~~role~~ because it allowed her to gain leadership experience while staying close to technical work. She had also decided that she did not want to purely manage people, so the project management role was a good fit. Things she liked about her Intel experiences included getting to see the results of her work, working with a young workforce for a company with great benefits, and life outside of work in Portland. Things she did not like included being "on-call," and getting bored ~~only~~ focusing on only the same project. Because her work was respected and she was known as someone who could get things done, she earned the opportunity to design her "dream job" as a project engineer and manager, working with factory logistics. This job allowed her to work part time and spend more time with her family.

Michelle finished her presentation by giving some career advice. She emphasized that flexibility for work/life balance is earned by excellent work and by building a good reputation. She mentioned that staying close to the core business (where the money is made) in a company can lead to better job security, which was important to her as a mother. She also stressed the importance of time and priority management.

I enjoyed Michelle's presentation. She answered questions well, and inspired me to think about a future in the computer/tech industry, which like consulting, was a field I had not previously considered.

Reviewed by McKenzie Hubert

Excellent memo!