

VTDI Interns Reflections – May 31, 2013

Our internship at Fiscal Services Limited (F.S.L.) began on February 3, 2013 with an orientation session. That is where our earliest impressions of the company were formed and we guess the saying is true “The first impression is lasting”. We did not know what to expect, but we could not have been given a better first introduction. When we arrived for our 1:00 pm session everything was prepared and awaiting our arrival. We were greeted by Mrs Duncan-Reid who was just all smiles and very welcoming, that quickly alleviated any discomfort we felt.

We were further impressed with the big ado being placed on our coming on board the FSL team as interns.

We were introduced to our mentors - Jevon Davis/Jerome Campbell, Kaydean Grant/Karen Bailey and Christopher Panther/Natalie Allen. Not knowing what to expect and hoping that we would be able to apply what we had learned at school, we stepped into the unknown. Our mentors quickly showed us to our work stations and got busy settling us in and ensuring that we had the tools we needed to do our jobs. They ensured that our machines were made available and ready with the software needed and gave us literature to read in order for us to better understand the tasks we were to undertake.

Our mentors showed themselves to be knowledgeable and were not hesitant to guide us. They were always willing to advise and teach us, and not inclined to show off what they know.

We do not believe that we could have each been assigned to more appropriate mentors.

Generally, the staff - both management and their subordinates, were always friendly toward us and willing to offer assistance. Christopher remembers asking Michelle in the BSS department to which he was assigned, where he could get a sharpener and she readily, did not point him to the location of a sharpener, but instead went out of the office and returned with a brand new pencil – sharpened, and a pen. That had a profound impression on him.

We found the interaction/relationship which exists between staff members to be outstanding. It was almost impossible to distinguish between supervisor and subordinates, because of the existing teamwork culture. At first I – Christopher Panther, was pleasantly taken aback by the comradery and family like atmosphere which existed among staff members. I wondered if it was genuine, and am happy to report that after three (3) months the synergy was still there and nothing had happened to suggest that it was not. In fact, and this is to the distinct credit of the ladies employed to Fiscal Services Limited; I must say that FSL is the only place I have been to work with so many women and have found no hint of divisiveness.

As interns we were never made to feel like outsiders. We were afforded many of the privileges enjoyed by regular members of staff, for example:

- We were able to utilize the services of the staff bus
- We shared in the subsidized lunch program
- We were able to eat with and among the regular staff

Between Mrs Duncan-Reid and our mentors we were made to understand the compensation package/stipend – which we found most welcoming as it helped to offset some of our financial costs, allowing us to better concentrate on our tasks - and ensured that we submitted our time sheets on time. This interest in our personal welfare did not go un-noticed or un-appreciated.

The physical environment at FSL is something to talk about. It was always clean: the outside grounds, office spaces and even the restrooms. The ancillary staff seemed to work on a well-executed program. They kept the place clean and still managed not to get in anybody's way. If there was one chewing gum wrapper left in a bin at the end of the day, it would not be found there the following morning. The office spaces are welcomingly spacious and organized. The consensus among the VTDI interns is that we felt safe and at home at FSL.

The place got 'muy frio'/very cold at times and we had to adjust to seeing people walking around in sweaters, wind-breakers and the like. Of necessity, we quickly adapted to the culture. We would welcome lunch time on some days, just to be able to go out into the sunlight to warm up; still we prefer to contend with the cold than unbearable heat.

We also want to mention in our reflection the flexibility extended to us with respect to our working hours. On some days, we needed to leave school to attend work at FSL and on other days we would leave FSL at some point during the work day to go attend classes at the VTDI. The FSL family never made this an issue. Instead they would enquire about when our exams were due so they could best accommodate us in that regard. It is our combined belief that the internship program administered at the Fiscal Service Limited is geared toward the success of the interns and we are thankful that it was, for us in our cohort, a success. We were allowed to utilize the things we learned in several of our courses at school e.g. Programming and Research and to learn new things.

Internship at Fiscal Services Limited is, in our opinion - and based on feedback received from our peers doing internship at other companies, 'the bomb'. Other companies would do well in emulating the internship program at Fiscal Services Limited.

From grateful interns:

Christopher Panther

Kaydean Grant

Jevon Davis