



Sketch by Gail Bell

Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates
Robert Balke, Principal

Description of setting and work activities

Open plan office environment in midtown office building. The company offers architectural and interior design services. (TVS provided services to ASC for the Alston Campus Center & McCain Library).

Requirements: An interest or course work in architecture or interior design.

COD 2004 Activities

"I attended a meeting reviewing all aspects of the company and finances and future projects."
 Stacey Badour '07

"I think the most successful aspect [of the observation experience] was seeing what both architects and interior designers do and decided what I want to do the rest of my life, as my career." Christy Boulter '04

KnowledgeStorm

Aida Kenyon, User Experience Expert

"From a broader perspective I work in the Software Development industry. I have worked with the web platform since 1995/1996, developing web-based applications for non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, both domestically and abroad. My role is to ensure that the overall user experience around a product (websites, software application) is a good one. This means creating the best experience for users when they come to a website (once, twice, 15 times), when they get email from that website, when they read newsletters the website sends out, when they get something mailed to them, when they talk to a customer service person, etc. The over-arching experience, regardless of how many different channels the user used (website, store, customer service person, email, etc.) needs to be cohesive, smooth, friendly, and compelling. We want users to continue using our product and services.

As a result, my job ranges from doing very tactical tasks, to more strategic tasks. Throughout a typical work week I will find myself doing anyone of the following things:

- Product testing
- User interviews
- Working on new software releases that require the design of new, or upgrading existing features on our websites (these are big projects for us and involve a lot in and of themselves)
- Maintaining design documentation
- Coordinating and consulting with various co-workers from other departments
- Coordinating and consulting with the programmers who are building and maintaining our websites
- Strategizing with other members of the product development team about what new features, new offerings, where we are heading with our product
- Keeping up to date on industry research about web usability, industry trends, findings from recent studies, etc.

User Experience is a blend of several disciplines (some formal and some informal) including; software design and development, industrial/product design, information design, graphic design, ethnographic studies, information architecture, usability research, and human-computer interface design. Having this job allows me to work in the technology industry for a wide variety of companies. I was an Art History/Studio Art/French major at Agnes Scott. I got my master in Information Design and Technology from Georgia Tech in 1997. Since 1997 I have worked exclusively as a consultant, which has allowed me to do work for companies from all over the world including; ING, the Grammy Awards, the Tony Awards, the U.S. Tennis Open, the Hermitage Museum, Macys.com, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, UPS, IBM, Kodak, Mutual of Omaha, Gateway Computers, and many more. As you can see, even though I work in the computer industry, I've been able to have experiences for a wide range of companies and industries. It can be a very interesting career.

If you are more interested in finding out about my profession, there is a professional group in Atlanta that represents people in my profession called Computer Human Interface - Atlanta (www.chia.org) if you think you are interested in heading in this direction professionally speaking."

COD 2004 Activities

"I talked with Aida a lot about what she did, and what her company is all about. She also discussed the difference in design work on paper versus web. She showed me the programs she used on a regular basis, how they worked, and what she used them for."

Mindy Killen '05

"The most successful part of my observation was all the good advice I got from her. From how much education is needed to different design groups around Atlanta that would be good to get involved with."

Mindy Killen '05

Decatur First Bank

Judy Turner, Founder, President and CEO

Description of setting and work activities

Visit each area of a commercial bank offering all banking services such as customer service, new accounts, tellers, operations, commercial loans, credit and administration.



COD 2004 Activities

“I was shown all the aspects that make up the bank. Not only the president but even behind the tellers.” Catarina Gutierrez ‘06



Student Goals

“To learn more about how a bank is run and if it is for me.”
Catarina Gutierrez ‘06



Preparation Advice

“Read about the career field and prepare to talk and ask questions. Learn about banking; research finance and accounting”
Catarina Gutierrez ‘06



By Hand South

Brenda Leder, Owner

Description of setting and work activities

Observe a contemporary American craft gallery by working with customers, receiving and marking items to sell as well as office work needed to keep business going.

Requirements: Interest in spending a day in a retail setting.

The most successful aspect of the sponsoring experience:
"It was sharing my experience with Ms. Tran"

Brenda Leder, 2004



Rosita Smith, Business Development Manager

Description of setting and work activities

Conservative office setting with a high level of interaction with the business community. Most of the day is spent on the telephone or interacting with prospects via the internet.

Requirements: Would prefer a student with interest in economics or related area.



Preparation Advice from the Sponsor

1. Review the Chamber's web site: www.metroatlantachamber.com to become familiar with the organization.
2. Review sponsor's resume for information about her current responsibility and job history.
3. Visit any major bookstore to purchase (or visit campus library) and review recent editions of the Atlanta Business Chronicle for an overview of Atlanta's business community and its current developments.
4. Visit the following site for information about specific occupations: <http://www.collegeboard.com/apps/careers/sections/0,3479,5,00.html>
5. Some useful articles, if first experience in an office setting: What I Didn't Expect when I entered the Workforce, Checklist for Success in Your First Job, Office Politics, and Assertive Skills for Women at <http://www.seekingsuccess.com/articles.php3>
6. Begin jotting down any questions or concerns that you have about career selection, working, etc.

Michelin Tire Corporation

Mary Horne, Business Financial Manager

"I do this because I'm so proud to be a graduate from ASC. I like showing my pride with the student and my colleagues." Mary Horne, 2003

Description of setting and work activities

Observe a manufacturing facility, tire production environment where sponsor manages reporting of financial activity, serves as a liaison between North America and parent company, promotes financial awareness among colleagues through special projects and teams.

Requirements: An interest in business and an interest in diverse cultures and language.

COD 2003 Activities

"Mock interview with a human resource man; sat in on multiple meetings and multiple departments; lots of one-on-one conversations." Alison Asmussen '03

COD 2002 Activities

"I was able to talk informally to my sponsor about the structure of the company, her job, her previous jobs, her educational experience. Then, I was able to sit in on a meeting with some of the executives. After that I met many of her coworkers and had informative conversations with them." Jessica Ortman '04

Impact of the Observation Day

"I was excited to see and hear French being used around the office – reaffirmed that the combination of my two majors (French and Business/Economics) can work together." Alison Asmussen '03

"I am much more excited to go find a job. I am really much more interested in looking into many more career opportunities that I was previously." Jessica Ortman '04

"I really enjoyed the personal attention she gave to me – she really made an effort to make me feel comfortable." Alison Asmussen '03, 2003



Preparation Advice from the Sponsor

"... that students are open to the experience so that the time is well spent on questions, comments and interactions." Mary Horne, 2003

Safeco Insurance, Inc.

Fil Vizon, Business Development Manager

Description of setting and work activities

The sales and community center's primary focus is to develop diverse agents to market their products in metro Atlanta. There is also a community outreach role, mainly to build strong neighborhoods and brand awareness. Safeco wants to be known as a community partner and in that vein much of their work includes supporting non-profits, government agencies, and neighborhood associations. They offer free seminars to the general public with topics ranging from retirement planning to yoga. This business model is unique and if successful it will be replicated in other metro areas around the country.

Requirements: An interest in community outreach and how corporations use philanthropy to achieve business objectives.



"I would say that the most successful aspect was the sponsor himself, he helped me and engaged a lot in my interest."

Catarina Gutierrez '06

COD 2004 Activities

"I did a ton in one day! We went to four different community sites, so we moved around Atlanta a ton. But I got to see what goes on behind the scenes of a local community sponsor." Catarina Gutierrez '06



"I wanted to come out of the experience with a little more knowledge about work in the community and corporate structure"

Catarina Gutierrez '06

Impact of the Observation Day

"It made me want to be more involved with locals and help others beside myself."

Catarina Gutierrez '06

Preparation Advice

"Write up your own questions; wear comfortable shoes" Catarina Gutierrez '06

WSB TV

Kimberley Kennedy, Show Host

COD Activities 2004

"I went into the Channel 2 studio and watched Monica Kaufman and Richard Belcher do the Evening News. I ate dinner with Ms. Kennedy. She gave me a tour of the building. I got to read the script for her show Hot Topics, watched the taping of Hot Topics, and observed the technicians in the control room." Courtney Ware '06

Student Goals

"I hoped to learn as much as I could about TV broadcasting and how my English Creative Writing major would help me. I wanted to have fun. I wanted to create some contacts for future internships." Courtney Ware '06

"I learned a lot about behind-the-scenes TV broadcasting." Courtney Ware '06

Fulton County Daily Report

Rachel Ramos, Reporter

COD 2004 Activities

"My sponsor and I walked to the Capitol Building and observed the Senators and representatives vote on bills. My sponsor, a reporter, took notes on what passed and took statements from lobbyists. We also attended two congressional meetings." Courtney Ware '06

Student Goals

"I wanted to learn as much as I could about what reporters do. I wanted to meet many people in the journalism business. I wanted to impress my sponsor." Courtney Ware '06

Brenau University

Debra Dobkins, Director of Writing Center and Assistant Professor of English

On the most successful aspect of the sponsoring experience: *"Simply meeting ASC women"*
Debra Dobkins, 2004

Description of setting and work activities

Attend classes (English literature), participate in student conferences, and attend committee meetings.

Requirements: English major preferred.

"I found it interesting to see college from a faculty, rather than a student, perspective."
Heather Veal '06

COD 2004 Activities

"I visited two English classes, attended a learning styles committee meeting and an English department faculty meeting, and talked to English professors." Heather Veal '06



City of Decatur

Peggy Merriss, City Manager

Description of setting and work activities

The City Manager supervises and manages the daily operations of the City of Decatur.



"It was reenergizing to meet with and hear expectations and experiences of new talent."

Peggy Merriss, 2004



COD 2004 Activities

"I learned a lot about what is going on in Decatur and ways that the government is trying to improve the city. I was able to sit on a variety of meetings, met the mayor of Decatur, and looked over current development programs."

Tiffany Miller '04

Student Goals

"I have been debating about a career in government and wanted to find out exactly what it is that people in local government do on a day to day basis."

Tiffany Miller '04



DeKalb County Solicitor General

Guy Antinozzi, Special Investigator

Description of setting and work activities

Law enforcement and criminal prosecution of domestic violence defendants.

COD 2004 Activities

"I met with everyone in the office; sat in on a meeting with a client/victim; followed the victim and advocate all day with various court proceedings." Terica Black '06

"Talking to lawyers, advocates, investigators, sitting in on jury pleas, reading about victims and the actions taken to help them." Alaina Jones '04

"The best part was the contact I had with the victim – that realness."

Terica Black '06

"The most successful aspect of my observation experience was getting to sit in on an actual case."

Alaina Jones '04

Wilson, Morton & Downs, LLC

Bryan Downs, Partner

Description of setting and work activities

Oversee a small firm of seven attorneys with court appearances, client meetings, legal research, drafting letters and briefs.



COD 2004 Activities:

"I interviewed all of the lawyers in the firm that were present that day. I also went to the courthouse with one of the attorneys, where I saw the courthouse, met a law clerk, and watched a murder trial."

Erin Eastvedt '06



Impact of the Observation Day

"The career observation day made me more interested in law and confirmed my belief that I would enjoy the legal profession."

Erin Eastvedt '06

Catholic Social Services

Susan Colussy, Director

Description of setting and work activities

Catholic Social Services is a law office for low-income aliens with immigration problems. They handle applications for asylum, domestic violence, family reunification, NACARA, naturalization and also defend people in removal. They also represent the children held by USICE.

Requirements: Students interested in international affairs, human rights, social sciences and languages.

COD 2004 Activities

“Visit to immigration court, sitting in on legal consultations, translated Spanish/English letters, consultation with domestic violence victim.” Erin Lemon ’06

COD 2002 Activities

“Informational interviews with the sponsor and one of her staff members. I observed the sponsor meeting with clients and also received a tour of the organization. I also helped with filing and small tasks in the office.” Kristen Parks ’05

Student Goals

“I wanted to explore ways, in which to apply my Spanish proficiency and interests to actual careers.” Sofia Becerra-Licha ’04



Preparation Advice

“Check out the organization’s website: <http://www.cssatlanta.com>. The sponsor is a lawyer, so research on the profession rather than just general social work.” Sofia Becerra-Licha ’04

“Read up on immigration process (requirements, forms, etc.) so you understand what is going on.” Kristen Parks ’05

Impact of the Observation Day

“It solidified my desire to work as an immigration attorney. It showed me, however, how much broader an area it is than I previously thought.” Erin Lemon ’06

DeKalb History Center

Sue Ellen Owens, Executive Director

Description of setting and work activities

The DeKalb History Center operates a six-room museum and a research library along with a special events facility at the old courthouse on the Decatur square. Student would be involved in all aspects of the operation in order to learn the processes of working in a small non-profit organization. Tours are conducted in the museum', special programming is offered related to their mission of sharing the community's history.

Requirements: Prefer a history major or emphasis/interest in local history, and an interest in marketing and special events is also acceptable.



COD 2004 Activities

"I visited cemetery to oversee restoration; led a museum tour for elementary school class; catalogued museum artifacts for future use; visited a bank to personally say thank you for a donation" Ashley Oscarson '07



"I am now more seriously considering museum work. It's something I've always been vaguely interested in, but now I know that I enjoy this type of work." Ashley Oscarson '07



Preparation Advice

"Since the history center specializes in local history, reading up on the history of Atlanta, DeKalb especially, would be helpful."

Ashley Oscarson '07



The Centers for Disease Control

Dr. Lillian Lin, Mathematical Statistician

"This has always been a delight"
Dr. Lillian Lin

Description of setting and work activities

Observe sponsor in her position where she provides statistical collaboration on research projects in the division of HIV/AIDS prevention. Manages over 10 post-graduate trained statisticians. Analyzes data, and meets with scientific collaborators.

Requirements: Mathematics or related field. An interest in public health is preferred.

COD 2003 Activities

"I attended board meetings and conference calls." Andrea Zaplatynski '04

COD 2002 Activities

"I attended several meetings with my sponsor; had a chance to interview several of her colleagues; interview with the sponsor." Anju Bhandari '05



Preparation Advice

"You should be ready to answer questions like: why did you choose this particular field; what do you expect to learn from this day, etc. I recommend to research the company prior to the observation day." Anju Bhandari '05

Peachtree-Piedmont Associates

Dr. Lynn Ezell, Pathologist

Description of setting and work activities

The observation will take place in the department of pathology at Piedmont Hospital, which provides clinical laboratory work (analysis of blood, body fluids, urine, etc.) and anatomic pathology (evaluation of specimens removed at surgery-mastectomy, colectomy, hysterectomy, biopsy specimens, etc.). The pathologist is responsible for signing out surgical pathology cases. They also manage 120 employees in the clinical laboratory. The sponsor is the vice-chairman of the department and also has administrative responsibilities.

Requirements: Prefer pre-med or science major.

COD 2004 Activities

"I watched the dissection of organs in gross anatomy lab, went to a tumor conference, visited the morgue, observed pathologists and pathology assistants."

Gwendolyn Shearer '07

COD 2003 Activities

"I spent most of my time in the anatomy lab watching and talking with the pathology assistants and lab techs as they prepared various organs and tissues for microscopy and dictated reports on each item as they worked. I had lunch with Dr. Ezell and another pathologist and spent some time in her office talking with her about her take on the field and reviewing slides."

Maggie Hatcher '03

"The gross anatomy lab is awesome! Very interesting and very neat to watch. I learned a lot!"

Gwendolyn Shearer '07

Student Goals

"To see if pathology is something I want to do" Gwendolyn Shearer '07

"I wanted to find out what pathology is all about – how pathologists spend their time, how they fit into the hospital as a whole, what kinds of people are drawn to pathology, etc. I also wanted to learn how a private hospital differs from a public hospital and how motherhood and doctorhood go hand in hand."

Maggie Hatcher '03

"The time I spent in the lab was incredible – I got to see and touch a menagerie of human innards (a lung, a uterus, a colon, the top of a femur, breast tissue, fibroid tumors, a uterine polyp, rectal polyps, a gall bladder) That was fantastic."

Maggie Hatcher '03

Reagin Optometric Group

Dr. Wallis Reagin, Optometrist

Description of setting and work activities

Observe what takes place in an optometry office; observe receptionist activities.

Requirements: Enjoys working with people and easy to get along with.



COD 2004 Activities

"I sat in on the Dr's meeting with a patient, observed the cutting of lenses for eyeglasses, I learned about the different instrumentation used, observed a patient being given an eye glass prescription and the tests they went through." Sylvia Ukonga '05



"I got to see kind of the history of optometry and see how glasses are made from check up to the actual glasses and to check out."

Kim Lichtveld '04

"Dr. Tom Reagin was most helpful. He talked to me for a while before and at the end of the day about questions I had. Then we sat in with a patient. After the patient left, he went over his whole report, and expressed all that there was to know about the patient (including past experiences with the same patient, which was very impressive). More that anything I appreciate the time they took to help me understand. They are not in the business for the money. They are there to help people see better. That's something that really touched me."

Jveria Shahid '03

Preparation Advice

"Read about the eye, how other diseases can be detected from the eye, common eye instrumentation" Sylvia Ukonga '05

"Don't be surprised if asked to identify diseases based on pictures and slides of the eyes!" Michelle Nguyen '06

"There is a lot of down time when you are not allowed to go in with the doctor so bring some work or a book." Kim Lichtveld '04

"Definitely review anatomy of the eye; know layers of eye tissue; know basic terminology of common diseases: cataracts, glaucoma, etc." Jveria Shahid '03

Dr. Hugh Spruell
Internist

"I was able to discuss with the student her desires for the future and try to help her with options in medicine." Dr. Spruell, 2003

Description of setting and work activities

Observe physician in his private practice.

Requirements: Prefer someone with an interest in medicine.

COD 2003 Activities

"I learned how to take blood pressure. Observed as Dr. Spruell examined each patient and asked questions." Abena Frempong '06

COD 2002 Activities

"I was a "physician" for a day and did everything Dr. Spruell directed for me to do. These including physician-patient interaction, treatment, and the paperwork involved." Cindy Zheng '04

COD 2001 Activities

"I observed Dr. Spruell examining his patients, he showed me the different problems they had in their X-rays and explained the characteristics of the different diseases. He also let me listen to a normal heart-beating." Carina Fernandez-Golarz '03

"The whole experience was very successful. Dr. Spruell was always willing to answer questions, explain all that he was doing and discuss any aspect of medicine I was interested in."

Carina Fernandez-Golarz '03

"I got to learn so much within a very short time and I was surprised. He had a lot of patience with me and explained the case of every patient to me. I got to learn how to take blood pressure and that was really interesting. I was finally able to get the mystery of how blood pressure is read."

Abena Frempong '06

"The most successful aspect was getting to see the business aspect of having your own medical practice."

Zachanta Floyd '03

Impact of the Observation Day

"My career plans were reinforced because I was really interested and curious about everything that went on in the clinic." Abena Frempong '06

"I got a "sneak preview" of my career plans and I am both impressed by it and more determined to pursue my goals." Cindy Zheng '04

"Dr. Spruell really encouraged me. He didn't sugarcoat anything, he told me the good and the bad things to be ready for in this career." Zachanta Floyd '03

Preparation Advice

"I would recommend courses in the biology department, research about the medical profession, and also to have a lot of questions before they contact the sponsor. Since this is a one day experience, if you forget something, you don't have the opportunity to ask the following day." Carina Fernandez-Golarz '03

"Find out exactly what field of study your sponsor works in (e.g. Dr. Spruell is in Rheumatology)."

Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta

Melissa Lawson, Development Manager

Description of setting and work activities

LVA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to teach adults who read below the 5th grade level how to read. Work activities will include special events planning, assistance with literacy program management and implementation of the organizations fundraising initiatives.



“I was delightfully surprised at how comfortable and welcome the staff at LVA made me feel. It gave me confidence to ask lots of questions.”

Charleen Wilcox '07



DeKalb Rape Crisis Center

Virginia Vaughan, Executive Director

Description of setting and work activities

Day to day running of full service rape crisis center which includes; telephone counseling, staff meetings, planning and financial work. Student can observe volunteer coordinator and prevention coordinator, victim advocate and talk with three therapists.

Requirements: Prefer student interested in social sciences and women's issues or non-profit work and management.



COD 2004 Activities

"I went to Renfroe Middle School with the Prevention Coordinator and observed her talking to two classes about the different types of violence that can be manifested in what were once considered healthy romantic relationships. I also attended a staff meeting where all of the staff members spoke about their plans concerning volunteer training, changes in their website, and making more people aware of gender roles and how they contribute to a society that values patriarchal control." Kherra Bennett '06



Student Goals

"I wanted to learn as much as possible about the counseling aspect at this site and envision myself helping women gain control of their lives and move beyond the hurt and pain of being raped."

Kherra Bennett '06

Griffin-Spalding County Schools

Debby Daniel-Bryant, Preschool Supervisor/Psychologist

*"Co-workers enjoy sharing their work. Shadow students gain insight into what they want or do not want to do."
"I think the program benefits everyone, and I personally enjoy having ASC students to show off to my peers!"
Debby Daniel-Bryant, 1995*

Description of setting and work activities

Observation of special education preschoolers, assessments of the same; attend educational planning meeting with parents.

Requirements: Interest in special education and/or psychology preferred.

COD 2004 Activities

"Observed a special education pre-school class; sat through two meetings pertaining to transition from pre-k speech program to grade school speech." Jennifer Chapman '07

"Observed two classrooms, observed an assessment of an autistic child, observed an assessment of a Downs syndrome child, sat in on a meeting to discuss the transition of a child with CP to the school environment." Christy Powers '07

Student Goals

"I wanted to get a first-hand experience of working with special needs children on a day to day basis; to keep an open mind; to learn just as much as possible about how school systems managed facilities for special needs children"
Christy Powers '07

Preparation Advice

"I would recommend taking Psychology 121 (general psychology) and just read about the different mental disabilities and/or deafness."
Jennifer Chapman '07

"Find out, specifically, the structure of how the Griffin County school system works with special needs children." Christy Powers '07



Dr. Betty Scott Noble

Psychologist

Description of setting and work activities

Dr. Noble sees clients (children & adolescents) on a daily basis for psychological evaluations to determine learning disabilities; gifted; attention deficit hyperactive disorder; children of divorce—individual and group counseling; adult individual counseling; couple counseling; women's support group; parenting groups, etc.

Students can meet with Dr. Noble to discuss the work that a psychologist does. They may watch videos of Dr. Noble using a specific therapy technique with clients. They may look at materials in the office that are resources for Dr. Noble. The confidential nature of this job does not permit the opportunity to directly observe Dr. Noble working.

COD 2002 Activities

"The other observant and I met with Dr. Noble for an hour of questions. We then studied the many handouts on testing, education, therapy, and other subjects she handled. Afterwards, we watched several videos – two of Dr. Noble with young children demonstrating NLP and one about testing and intelligence." Sofia Becerra-Licha '04

Most successful aspect

"I think speaking with Dr. Noble was definitely the most successful and helpful part – it was just what I needed." Sofia Becerra-Licha '04

"Probably the informational interview because I really gained some valuable information. Another successful aspect was the viewing of the videos because I actually got to see some techniques that Dr. Noble talked about, in action." Rosemary Dixon '04

Student Goals

"To understand what a psychotherapist typically does and to learn what experiences/education is most helpful. Basically, to not have this occupation be an abstract entry in a dictionary." Sofia Becerra-Licha '04

Impact of the Observation Day

"The observation day made me feel better about having so many interests and not being dead-set on one specific path – talking with Dr. Noble gave me ideas on how to incorporate and juggle various areas (as she does)."

Sofia Becerra-Licha '04



Preparation Advice

"Research the field of school psychology before going to the observation. Have interview questions ready prior to the observation." Rosemary Dixon '04

"Dr. Noble's biography is on the Psychotherapy Guild's website: <http://www.psychotherapyguild.com/Directory/noble.htm>" Sofia Becerra-Licha '04