

CSC 507: Software Engineering
Speaker Reflection
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Last week, our class had the opportunity to hear and learn about Christy's experience thus far working for the Xerox corporation. I had brief knowledge regarding the company and knew that the Xerox brand name is well respected in the software industry. Christy clarified my knowledge about the company and she shared that the Xerox corporation provides business services and digital printing solutions. I was under the impression that a large corporation like Xerox would have a very pressurized work environment. It was a pleasant surprise when Christy said that the company does not make their employees work under a lot of pressure.

It was interesting to hear about how time management and scheduling is like when we're out working in industry. Christy shared that there is nobody who provides reminders to her at work to finish assigned responsibilities. At first, I thought that would be such a relief, but Professor Gero was right when so pointed out that professors provide reminders to students in an academic setting as no one will provide the same at work. I've heard of many situations where hardworking and well-meaning people get laid-off because they might have missed a certain deadline or genuinely forgot an assigned responsibility but were not excused for those.

It was very interesting to learn from Christy that her job profile did not require a lot of coding. She shared a ballpark estimate that during day-to-day work responsibilities she would spend about 2 hours writing code and programming. Professor Gero provided us with her insight that that might not be the case every time and the situation may vary depending upon the type of department the individual is in and the type of company also. Even Christy agreed when Professor Gero mentioned that start-ups usually have longer work hours.

It was a relief to hear that Christy found time for herself after work. She mentioned that she gets to spend time relaxing and sometimes gaming during her time off from work. Of course, she has worked hard and earned herself the work position she presently holds but it was nice to hear about the leisure time she gets too.

Christy provided us with many helpful insights regarding her job application process. It was exciting to hear how she found herself at Xerox. She was actually not very keen on working there and it was not part of her top company preferences. On reflecting about her situation, I realized that it is not realistic to expect to land the dream work profile on the first or even second job itself.

Professor Gero also provided some helpful job application hints which included not interviewing for the company which the person would prefer to work first. Interviewing for companies which are not part of the student's top preferences would help the student familiarize herself/himself to the present job market.

All in all, it was a great experience to hear Christy share about experiences in the software industry. I thank Professor Gero for this opportunity that she made available to us.