Dad and little Shawn getting firewood before winter. Learned my work ethic from him 😊

Name: Shawn Petersen
Email: Shawn.Petersen@wsu.edu
Cougar ID: 011691731
Class: STAT 419
Instructor: Monte J. Shaffer
Date: 08/28/2020

Hello Professor Shaffer,

My name is Shawn Petersen and I currently live and work in Portland, OR. I'm an Electrical Test Engineer at a semiconductor company called, Qorvo. I have worked at Qorvo(formerly Triquint Semiconductor) for over 20 years. I received my degree in Computer Engineering at Portland State University in 2002. I currently develop software and hardware for power amplifier test solutions. I write software daily using C/C++ or Perl for our test solutions to be successful in high volume off-shore production. I've done some simple web development to manage our documents and this included MySQL and PHP integration.

My major at WSU is Data Analytics on the Business Track. I'm doing the degree parttime (2 classes per semester) online via the Global Campus. This will be my second year of the major and truly have enjoyed the learning and overall experience of the first year CS, STAT, and intro to Data Analysis classes. I'm a part-time student since I have a fulltime job, daughter, and wife that keep my spare time occupied with sports and projects.

When I first was looking at Data Analytics as a second degree, this was because of my overall passion for mining data and making educated decisions on the results. At Qorvo semiconductor, we collect millions of data points when we measure the parametric response of the power amplifiers. I would love to mine this data set and predict yield loss trends before they occur in real-time. So during my search for a university, boot camp or learn online only, I came across the program at WSU and liked the curriculum and the idea of a second degree and not a boot camp certificate. Why am I taking STAT 419? First its a requirement and second is my goal to learn more statistics and application of real-world datasets and STAT 419 looks to be this class.

My strengths are in software programming and recently fell in love with Python, after 20 years of a dedicated Perl monk. I have recently joined a local R users group and slowing becoming proficient at R. I've also have been attending, pre COVID, Python, and PyData user groups locally. These have been very useful for contacts and learning real-world applications from user presentations.

When I graduate, planned for Spring 2023, I would like to move into the growing data science team Qorvo is developing and help improve the yields of our products. This yield improvement team is currently data mining defect vision images, parametric data, using data bricks and Python programs to analyze large data sets.

I imported the 125 JOB WORDS and did some Indeed.com crawling. This was fun to see the different fields and the demand for each. I was surprised at the vast opportunities available to students when we finally receive the diploma in hand.

Table 1 below is my ranking of what I envisioned are the top 5 for job demand and what were my top 5 "first-job" dreams. The Indeed.com search as limited to Portland, OR

Table 1

Rank	Job Demand	My Preferences
1	Big Data	Database Management
2	Statistics	Python
3	Data Visualization	Data scientist
4	Business Analyst	Natural Language Processing
5	Data Analyst	Data Wrangling