Interns Rise to the Challenge in Presentation Competition

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Not to be outdone by last year’s winners, a trio of summer interns proved their worth in a recent presentation contest before the executive leadership team.

Angela Askins, Yue Li and Miles Bailey all tied for first at the presentation competition held Aug. 14 in San Jose. The interns’ enthusiasm “reminded us why we are inspired to come into the industry,” said CEO Abhi Taiwalkar following the presentations.

Sixty interns worked at various U.S. locations during the summer, according to Natasha Young, manager of the U.S. college program. Of that total, 41 volunteered to participate in the presentation contest, she said. The annual contest focuses on the projects the students work on and results they achieve during their internships at LSI.

The finalists said they were more excited than nervous about presenting to the executive leadership team.

“My excitement heavily outweighed any nervousness,” noted Bailey, whose presentation was titled “Identifying and Mitigating Qualification and Reliability Risk.”

Askins’ presentation focused on a Nuevo InterConnect (NIC) verification project, while Li spoke about “Correcting Errors in Flash Memory: How does it work?”

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Askins was assigned to build a test environment for two of the new blocks in the Peripheral Component Interconnect Express (PCIE) core. She said she learned a lot about the technology that’s involved with her work and also benefited from mentoring relationships she developed with people such as Coralin Gauvin, an IC design engineer.

"But the most exciting thing was that no matter how much I learn about a topic, I will always have more to go after," said Askins, who worked in the RAID Storage Division. "This way I will always have something new to do."

Askins is pursuing a degree in computer engineering at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where she is a senior.

Li, an intern in Flash Channel Architecture in the Flash Components Division, will complete his Ph.D. work in computer science next year at Texas A&M University. In addition to LSI, his job search will include the fields of academia and industrial research and development, he said.

"I've been working on developing and evaluating new error-correcting and DSP algorithms for flash memory controllers," he said, adding that "real-world experience" has been the most valuable part of his internship.

"I think real-world experience is very important. It helps me gain a practical understanding on my Ph.D. research," he said.

Li pointed out that research and development in industry require lots of experiments and work that may be considered tedious in academia, but that work is important in determining whether a proposed method is practical for production purposes.

Like Li, Bailey has found practical experience to be invaluable.

"Employment in the ‘real world’ is not always a terrifying place," Bailey said. "Having a place of employment that continually strives to get ahead, be innovative and be the first in the industry with the newest technologies truly helps give meaning to everyday work as we are continually shaping the future of storage and networking development."

Bailey said that working for LSI has given him the opportunity to explore a new industry as it relates to his studies. He’s currently seeking two bachelor’s degrees at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania—one in industrial engineering and the other in integrated business and engineering finance.

The college senior, who worked in Corporate Quality and Programs, has gained other insights as the result of his internship.

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The college senior, who worked in Corporate Quality and Programs, has gained other insights as the result of his internship.

“By working with different program managers across all LSI business units, I have come to understand the close, personal connection that LSI employees have with their products that ultimately drives the passion behind the organization,” he said.

Prior to his internship, Bailey aspired to get a job in systems engineering in the energy field.

“However, my experience at LSI has truly broadened my employment spectrum by providing me access to an industry that better complements my skills and my continual desire to learn,” he said. “After graduation, I hope to build upon the foundation that I have fashioned here with LSI and continue to pursue a job in the semiconductor industry.”

Young said the experiences that Bailey, Askins and Yi have had at LSI are typical of those of other interns. She added that the program has especially benefited from the strong support of the leadership team and managers across the company.

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