Career Opportunities for MS

Vasanthi Holtcamp, Microsoft
Rebecca Schultz, Google
Vasanthi’s Background

- Group Program Manager in TV Services division of MSN at Microsoft
- Master's degree in Mathematics
- Second Master's degree in Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Teaching assistant while in graduate school
- Stint as research associate at Argonne National Labs in Chicago.
- 18 years of experience in the software industry writing software code and later managing development organizations.
- Management positions at: PriceWaterhouse, Informix, Macromedia, Microsoft
- Mother of 2 children – 15 & 11
Rebecca’s Background

• BS Computer Engineering from Brown University, ‘02
• MS Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, ‘04
• Spent one additional year at Stanford researching supercomputer architectures and contemplating a PhD
• Joined Google in September of ‘05
Work Experience: Rebecca

• Performance Engineer in Google’s Platforms Group
• 5 internships
  – Lucent
  – Microsoft (twice)
  – Network Appliance
  – NVIDIA
Women in Engineering – Career Ops

- Test Engineer
- Dev. Engineer
  - UI engineer
- User Interface designer
- Product Manager
- Program Manager
- Development Manager
- Researcher
Breaking the mold

- Breaking not technically passionate stereotype
- Asking about number of women at a company and in management rolls
- Evaluate the feel of the corporate culture
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, you are evaluating the company too
What to do now

• Find a Mentor
  – Provide useful perspective
• Get an internship
  – Try out a corporate culture, job type, industry
• Complete a project
  – Will make you a more interesting candidate
Find a Mentor

• Look for a person you feel comfortable with
• Internship mentor, manager
• Friend or relative in a hiring position at a company of choice.
• Use mentoring organization (CRA-W, Mentornet, etc)
Get an Internship

- Use university recruiting, job fairs
- Start looking early, some companies will take sophomores
- Take a summer or campus job doing related work for a small, local company
Internship Experiences

• Try out a corporate culture, job role, company size, industry, manager, group...
• Find potential mentors or networking contacts
Complete a project

• Interviewers will look for completed projects
• Work with local non-profit or such to get a project
• Sign-up with advisor for project
• Do research and write a white paper on a subject of interest
• Get a website with your projects, credentials and blog about what you are passionate about.
Finding Industry Jobs

• Plug into university on campus recruiting
• Make contact with HR departments within companies of choice and get your resume into the right hands
• Network with friends, colleagues in industry
• Early startups with high risk are good avenues to get larger areas of responsibility
• Interview skills are very important.
• Demonstrate good communication skills in addition to technical savvy
Would you have invested?

Microsoft Corporation, 1978