STONE WERNER

I quickly found my footing.

My internship experience with the Comptroller's office was uniquely transformative. With no prior exposure to mainframe systems — my only reference being what I'd seen in movies — I was initially unsure of what to expect when I was offered a position with the Information Technology team in Mainframe Administration.

I received an engaging introduction to the mainframe, learning how to log on, view and edit data, and submit jobs. Remarkably, within my first week, I was able to implement a change to the production system by adjusting message codes to enhance their retention time. This immediate impact was incredibly rewarding.

In my second week, I collaborated with team members to teach classes on Time Sharing Options and Job Control Language (JCL). This experience reinforced my understanding of the material — creating a cheat sheet for the complex JCL command, COND, proved beneficial to both the students and me.

Rotating through various teams offered a comprehensive view of the mainframe environment.

Working with the Customer Information Control System team, I gained insights into the user experience, observing the flow of franchise tax submissions. My time with the Natural team coincided with a vendor's proof of concept meeting, where I absorbed a wealth of information, culminating in a hands-on session with a senior developer who introduced me to writing Natural code.

Later, I helped compile and submit reports to various vendors, as well as prepare the Quarterly Peak report. This involvement allowed me to understand critical performance metrics. By the end of July, I had the opportunity to leverage my Python skills in a project automating updates from IBM and streamlining the process using JCL.

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I owe the start of my career entirely to the Comptroller's office and its wonderful internship program.

Throughout my internship, I was supported by a welcoming team. However, I realized that this path, while enriching, wasn't the career I had prepared for in school. Recognizing my aspirations, my manager facilitated a connection with the Web Applications team, where I shadowed an engineer. This experience was pivotal; it mirrored the role I had envisioned throughout my Computer Science studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Following my shadowing experience, I began training for the team and soon after was offered a full-time position. This is precisely the type of role I have been seeking since graduation, and I couldn't have been more excited to accept. I have since moved to Austin, and I have been really enjoying my time here.