Learning Plan: Update 1

Dear Dr. Whitney,

Thank you for agreeing to be my faculty mentor on the UROP project, I am very excited to learn more about the electronic recycling industry and make a real impact on a current company. I agree, before going to RECYCLA, I will have to learn a lot. I have tried to be realistic about the amount I can accomplish each week given my course load and work schedule. Thus, I will not be doing any work on this project during the week before finals and finals week. To compensate, I have assigned extra hours to spring break. When I began making a learning plan week by week, it began to seem a little ridiculous to plan out the readings and schedule when I am not even sure what will be relevant. Therefore, I have made a list of major learning topics that I believe will be necessary to have a grasp of before going to Chile. Obviously, as time goes on and I see what is relevant, this list will change.

- 1. Model factories as linear graphs: 15.066J Networks Lecture
- 2. Queuing theory
- 3. Case studies of factory modeling
- 4. Personally disassemble a cell phone and other electronic equipment
- 5. Unsoldering process
- 6. Safety while disassembling electronic equipment
- 7. Tooling used in the recycling process
- 8. The layout of other electronics recycling facilities

In addition, I made a calendar highlighting important dates in the next few weeks for funding options (just in case the UROP office does not pull through) and I have marked the weeks in which I will send you an update on my progress. I expect to fill out this calendar with the tasks that I have accomplished during the week.

Today, I after browsing through the OCW notes by Professor Gershwin, I emailed him for more information about a specific lecture topic. He has introduced me to Professor Gutowski who is involved in a recycling project with the Environmentally Benign Manufacturing group at MIT. I hope to meet with him before spring break to learn more about his research. In addition, I have asked Mr. Nilo (CEO of RECYCLA) for photos and video of the recycling plant. I have received confirmation from Com-Cycle that I can tour their plant in Melbourne, FL and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has offered to speak with me over the phone and they have sent me a list of recycling companies in Florida.

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Thank you,

Liz Theurer

Beginning of the Project: Massachusetts

March 2

- Contacted Mr. Nilo
- Contacted the PSC about funding

March 9

- Searched for a professor to supervise my UROP
- Contacted several recycling plants in Florida and the Florida Department of Envrionmental Protection

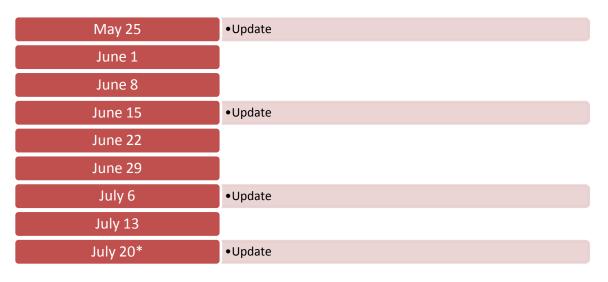
March 16

- Confirmation of a tour of a recycling facility
- Phone confrence scheduled
- Dr. Whitney has agreed to be my UROP supervisor
- Contacted Environmentally Benign Manufacturing group
- Conducted brief background research on electronic recycling

Spring Break to Finals Week: Massachusetts

| March 23 | Spring Break |
|----------|---|
| March 30 | •Eleoranta Fellowship Application due (April 3) |
| April 6 | •Update |
| April 13 | •Turn in UROP Proposal (April 17) |
| April 20 | |
| April 27 | •Update |
| May 4 | |
| May 11 | •Week before Finals |
| May 18 | •Week of Finals |

Summer Break: Germany



^{*} I plan to take a tour of a German electronic waste recycling company while I am in Germany. Germans are famous for their dedication for recycling, so I imagine their facilities will be heavily used. I have not determined which company yet.

Plan of Action: Chile

