

Mosmiller Intern Scholarship Student Report

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From September to December of last year, I worked at Petals & Pails, a retail florist located in Ridgeland, Mississippi. The owner, Marian Bowen, also co-owns an event rental business, Eventful, that is run out of the same storefront. Over the course of the semester, I learned about both industries and the importance of the two working hand-in-hand.

At Petals & Pails, I performed almost every job within the shop. I learned how to make shop-to-shop orders without being a part of a wire service within the first two weeks. I also learned about measuring and folding tablecloths, as I inventoried every cloth that Eventful owns. I also learned about the various types of linens used to create the tablecloths and napkins in inventory. I learned how to create designs inside live pumpkins, which is something that I had never done before. I made deliveries to businesses, hospitals, and residences, and I learned how to securely pack floral designs and fresh plants in both company and personal vehicles. Proper mechanics are essential in the floral industry. Overall, I feel that I learned many valuable lessons and expanded my knowledge of both the trade and the materials used in it.

As a host, it is my opinion that Petals & Pails goes above and beyond to give a rounded experience to their employees. The employees that knew more worked more often, but even that was not as important as being a hard worker and a good assistant. Marian Bowen is an excellent boss. She could benefit from delegating more responsibility, but her business is currently too busy to reformat. She was flexible, understanding, and offered constructive criticism on tasks. For teaching, however, she would often hand me over to her head designer, Vicki Biggers. Vicki

has a long history in the floral industry, and in her spare time she often looks for new ideas in design on Pinterest. She is always encouraging and supportive, and would often take the less glamorous jobs while she was waiting on further instruction. I thoroughly enjoyed working there, and continue to work there currently. I honestly cannot imagine a more nurturing environment in the floral industry, at least not one that makes money.

After my experience as an intern with this company, I have more peace of mind in my decision to work within the floral industry. I still have no desire to own my own flower shop, a stance which only became stronger while working at Petals & Pails. My future plans include working at Petals & Pails until my marriage on May 31, 2014, a wedding which will be decorated by Marian and Vicki, and then picking up a job at a florist in Starkville or Columbus, Mississippi for the six months that it will take my fiancé to graduate from Mississippi State University. After that I will work wherever we can both find work, and I plan on setting aside money to travel to South America in five years. The move may be permanent, but that depends on the stability of the region we choose. I would really enjoy working with flower farms or even the florists near those farms. I really enjoy beautiful plants and product, so that's my plan for now. Children may change my future goals, but I will always love horticulture.