Knowing she would be facing a tough job market when she graduated in May 2010, Liz was eager to take the leap and try out our first ever internship placement at a software company.

MetaComet Systems is one of a small group of software houses located in the Pioneer Valley. President and CEO Dave Marlin says “We pay less than they do in the eastern part of the state, but overhead and the cost of living are so much lower, and the working conditions so much more sane, that we’re able to attract good people.” And Westfield State is happy to contribute to the cause through a technical writing internship.

Although Liz served as Editor-in-Chief of *Persona* in 2010, and took many creative writing classes, she knows that getting a job will call on her writing skills in a different way. She was thrilled to get experience in the software industry and add technical writing to her resume.

Internships provide the chance to practice communication in real world situations where effective feedback can make the difference between a good day at work or a terrible one. As she settled into her assigned tasks at MetaComet, Liz realized her work could be more gratifying if she had more writing assignments mixed in with her research tasks. In raising this issue with Prof. Filas and Mr. Marlin, Liz was able to tune her internship to be much more useful and inspiring. Her input also led to a more systematic review process for her work, which she found extremely helpful.

Now, as Liz applies for jobs in Eastern Mass., she will be able to draw on her organizational insights and industry-specific knowledge acquired at MetaComet—advantages she just could not get except through an internship.