



**Carnegie
Mellon
University**

Career &
Professional
Development
Center

Summer
Internship
Experience
Fund

Summer 2019

The Summer Internship Experience Fund (SIEF) was awarded to twenty-seven undergraduate students. The following pages include personal essays that detail the unique internship experiences of the 5 freshman, 14 sophomore, and 8 junior recipients of the SIEF.

College of Engineering

Megan Henriksen	2021
Harriet Khang	2022

College of Fine Arts

Sara Frankel	2021
Cassandra Howard	2021
Carley Johnson	2020
Shahzad Khan	2021
Sophia Masterson	2020
Valentino Musumeci-McGinn	2022
Samantha Ozeas	2022
Katie Pyzowski	2021
Sidney Rubinowicz	2022
Huan Zhang	2021

Dietrich College

Isabel Brannan	2021
Lauryn Kim	2021

Mellon College of Science

Andrew Gu	2021
Yeonju Kim	2020
Jennifer Lee	2020
Crystal Liu	2020
Solana Morningstar	2021
Hana Song	2020
Sofia Zayas	2020

Tepper School of Business

Shefali Dahiya	2022
Vinay Gonugondla	2021
Sonali Gupta	2021
Katie Liu	2021
Sunny Su	2021
Kollatat Thanajaro	2021



College of Engineering

Carnegie Mellon University
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MEGAN HENRIKSEN

Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2021
Engineering and Public Policy
Engineering Intern

Michigan Department of Environment
Lansing, MI

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

I am interested in eventually becoming an environmental engineer, likely focused on air quality work. I knew I wanted to have some sort of policy aspect of my work as I am striving towards a double major. This internship felt like the perfect mix of environmental engineering and policy work. I didn't know exactly what sorts of projects I would work on going in, but I ended up getting a good mix of air quality projects, which I was initially interested in, and projects focused on other environmental issues, which helped me get out of my comfort zone.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern, I was tasked with being a project manager on four different projects, as well as, being a collaborator on seven additional projects. This gave me experience leading a team of people on engineering projects and getting experience in various roles as a collaborator. The projects I contributed to ranged from air quality issues to water quality to agriculture. These projects helped me gain experience in Microsoft Excel and database manipulation, as well as, furthering my knowledge of air quality regulations, and wastewater treatment plants.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important thing that I took away from this internship was the valuable project management skills that I developed from working on the various projects I was assigned to lead. Additionally, I also gained work experience and technical skills such as VBA coding.

HARRIET KHANG

Chemical Engineering, 2022
FCC Technology Intern

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

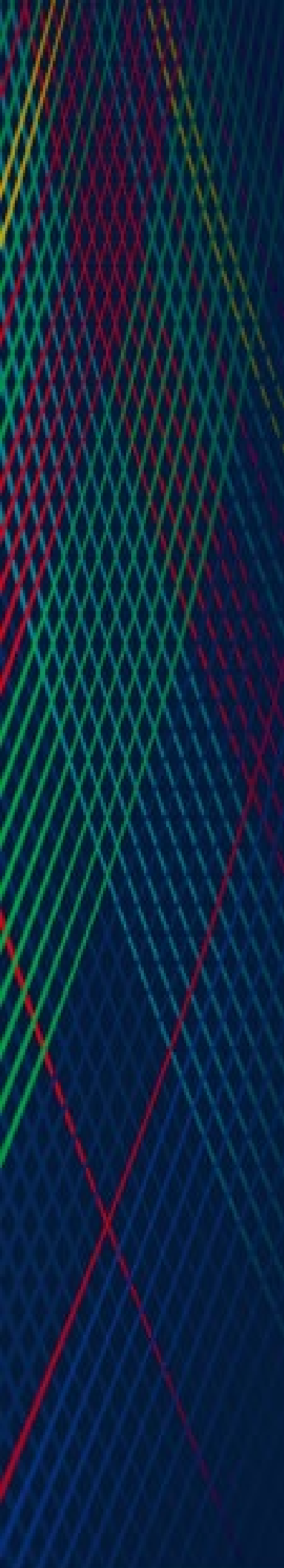
Although I am a chemical engineering major, I have always had interest in computer science. Taking this internship helped me expand my knowledge in the computer science field, specifically in artificial intelligence. My internship gave me the ability to see and understand how and why artificial intelligence is so important in various industries. My internship allowed me to work with computer science on the technical side and the government side of the Federal Communications Commission. This experience provided me with more than a standard coding internship because I was able to learn and navigate the reasoning behind why some of the laws are in place and also why there are basic legislative issues in finding a solution to these problems.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern, I was tasked with analyzing Federal Communications Commission orders. This especially focused on terms of the incentive auction, the C-Band Spectrum, and implementation of 5G. I worked on a research project and proposal that focused on how artificial intelligence is applicable and valuable in the telecommunication industry especially with the application of 5G.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

My internship clarified where I want to focus academically in terms of my interest in computer science/artificial intelligence. I now know what degrees I wish to pursue in my undergraduate studies here at Carnegie Mellon University.



College of Fine Arts

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SARA FRANKEL

Viola Performance, 2021
Chamber Musician

Castleman Quartet
Miami, FL

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

Working with the Castleman Quartet Program this summer gave me the invaluable experience of being a full-time soloist and chamber musician in a professional setting. Having played viola for ten hours every day of the festival, I feel more competent and strong as a performance musician. In a matter of seven weeks, I was able to perform two full quartets and one full solo sonata totaling an hour and a half of repertoire. Not only do I feel stronger as a player and individual, but I gained valuable contacts and expanded my network. Due to the amazing skills I gained provided through my internship, I was able to hone my craft, receive one-on-one coaching, and create a professional network of contacts with musicians from all over the country.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As a member of the Castleman Quartet Program, I was placed in many leadership positions in the sense that I had to lead my peers in my interpretation of the music. I had to have leadership skills to lead and be an active participant for rehearsals with peers, collaborative musicians, and faculty. My internship helped me gain extensive leadership, collaboration, and team-building skills.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

One of the most important aspects that I took away from this internship, is the ability to organize myself in order to learn demanding repertoire in a short amount of time. The ability to practice efficiently is a skill that I am so grateful to have mastered this summer. This internship helped my anxiety, by educating me on tools to use in performance and in a professional setting.

CASSANDRA HOWARD

Architecture, 2021
Research Intern

Carnegie Museum of Art Heinz Architectural Center
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

In my internship, I focused primarily on two tasks: preparing a booklet of background research and planning the layout of the same exhibition. Both tasks were unfamiliar to me, and therefore provided great learning opportunities for myself in collaboration with my mentors at the museum. This internship broadened my perspective on pursuing a career as a curator of an art museum. This experience will help guide me academically and professionally now that I have such a tailored set of design skills and experience.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

I worked closely with the Curator of the Heinz Architectural Center to develop a research guide and a detailed plan of the exhibition. The research guide focused on background information about each architect and project, which was gathered into one guide for everyone at the museum to access. This research will hopefully help to create an exhibition guide that will be produced for museum visitors. Using SketchUp, I worked closely with the Exhibition Designer to develop the layout of each piece within the space, as well as, primary ideas about installation and visitor experience.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Process! Working on the same two tasks throughout the summer entailed a greater process between the curator, exhibition designer, and myself. Weekly-to-daily reviews, at conceptual-to-detailed scales, set a structure of work and collaboration that was new to me. It was great to become really invested and focused on these two projects.

CARLEY JOHNSON

Dramaturgy, 2020
Dramaturgy Intern

Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Santa Cruz, CA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

I aspire to be a resident dramaturg working in California, so I was very fortunate to spend another summer exactly where I wanted to be. I made great connections with artists in Santa Cruz, and got to learn from people with professional experience. I am knowledgeable of the industry that I will one day be working in due to my experience as an intern. My network of professional contacts from my summer internship provided me with insight into what the industry is like and how to be successful in the industry.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern at Santa Cruz Shakespeare, I attended all rehearsals, production meetings, tech rehearsals, and shows. I supported the head dramaturg with supplemental research relating to the production we were working on and I also provided creative input and feedback. I also helped with stage production, sectionals with artists, and feedback sessions with stage management.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important factor that enables success in production, performance, or stage artistry is finding people that are smart, passionate, creative and artistic. I learned what it's like to work in professional theatre, and also, I now understand how different college-level theatre is in comparison to professional union productions. This experience has prepared me for the real world after college and provided me with resources for my future professional career.

SHAHZAD KHAN

Drama: Stage and Production Management, 2021
Stage Management Intern

Williamstown Theatre Festival
Williamstown, MA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

Throughout the summer, I was able to work as an assistant stage manager alongside Broadway and Off-Broadway: Directors, Production Stage Managers, Designers, and Playwrights. My internship provided me with an opportunity to network and show off my talents to some big names in the industry. This opportunity was made possible without joining a union, which would be required in all professional theatre stage management roles. I gained knowledge, new skills, and industry insight that isn't accessible unless in a professional setting. This internship gave me experience working with new-works that have never been produced before, which was incredible.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern, I was responsible for two different new-work plays and also a reading as an assistant stage manager. Leading these projects, I was in charge of: pagination/upkeep of the script (it would change every single day in rehearsal), creation of all backstage paperwork needed to run and tech the show. When it came to our technical rehearsals I was the primary supervisor for our backstage run crew, which greatly contributed to my delegating and leadership skills.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

One of the most important skills I gained from this internship was the attitude and temperament needed of a stage manager working on a professional Broadway level. In rehearsals, the process can easily become overwhelming, but the exhilaration and the product that comes out of it makes it all worth it. This internship makes me feel much more confident in my abilities to work in my field on a professional level.

SOPHIA MASTERSON

Vocal Performance, 2020
Opera Institute Studio Artist

Opera in the Ozarks
Eureka Springs, AR

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

As a young performer it is very important to travel to new places around the country, meet new people, and make professional connections. My career goal is to perform for the rest of my life, and Opera in the Ozarks helped me make my dream a clearer reality by showing me a more direct path. Being a member of this company I was able to experience how a real opera house functions and survives day to day. I also witnessed first hand how extremely collaborative opera can be on a professional level. The technicians, directors, conductors, and performers all must work together to create memorable and high-quality performance art.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

A big part of a young artist program like *Opera in the Ozarks* is coming to the program prepared. I was in four productions, three major operas, and one traveling children's opera. The amount of productions and time we were given did not leave much time to 'learn' your part. Being prepared is a must. If your music was not learned and you were not open to any corrections it affected the entire show, so preparation, practice, and discipline were really important.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The biggest take away from this internship is that it gave me a "real world" experience of how an opera company works. You can't learn how professional houses work in a classroom, you have to go and experience it firsthand for the best result. The SIEF is what made this a possibility for me, and now I have the tools I will use for the entirety of my career.

VALENTINO MUSUMECI-MCGINN

Acting, 2022
Summer Intern

Marc Saks
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

My summer internship experience has defied my expectations. My internship was spent working in the office of the television casting director Mark Saks. The bulk of my work involved preparing for and holding sessions for the three shows that Mark and his associates are casting this season for CBS and FOX. This included pulling headshots, creating audition sides, writing breakdowns of new characters as we receive new story areas and scripts, managing waiting rooms, reading for actors, and taping auditions.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As a student pursuing a career in acting, this internship and professional experience was beyond informative. I have been introduced to the "ins and outs" of what goes on- on the other side of the audition table. Mark Saks was incredibly driven to teach me as much as possible about his sector of the industry, every document he sent me to file he would ask me to read and ask him questions about things I didn't understand. He would ask me to sit in on important phone calls/decision making conversations that he would have with directors and producers after long afternoon audition sessions.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Through this internship I have gained perspective, and a general knowledge of the industry through the lens of a television casting office in NYC. The most important thing I took away from the process was that casting is not personal, and that outside of thoroughly preparing the material and taking notes well in the room, there are practically no other variables that you have control over as an actor.

SAMANTHA OZEAS

Theater Directing, 2022
Directing Intern

Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Santa Cruz, CA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

My experience at Santa Cruz Shakespeare gave me the chance to observe a working director outside of a strictly academic setting. This allowed me to learn at my own pace, as well as, experience the responsibility of being a company member. My internship experience helped me understand the vast responsibilities a director has when working through rehearsals to performance time. I was able to learn so much about the acting industry from being around professionals that work in production, in directing, and in performance. Now knowing and seeing first hand what a career looks like in the arts, I am even more certain that this is my passion and career path.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As one of three directing interns with the company, I acted as assistant director for one of the company's season shows. We worked approximately eight hours a day, six days a week in rehearsal, and attended weekly production meetings with the entire creative team. I worked with the director in rehearsals with running lines and script reads when we were getting ready to block the show. When it was time to bring it all on stage, I helped translate what we worked on in rehearsal by giving directions to the cast members and tech crew.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

I was honored to learn the power of fostering community for a for-profit organization. I gained confidence and respect for myself as an independent artist. I enjoyed how intense and concentrated the process is for professional acting on stage. I am passionate about the arts and my future within this industry.

KATIE PYZOWSKI

Drama Design and Production, 2021
Props Department Intern

The Public Theater
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

This internship has given me the opportunity to learn about working in props, which is something I don't really have the chance to do as a CFA student. Prop work is a specialization within stage production and design. I am so grateful that I secured this internship and the SIEF made the dream become a reality. I was able to learn from females working professionally in production, which is something that I don't really see reflected in my professors. The SIEF and this internship also gave me the opportunity to experience what it is like to live and work in New York City.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

The props interns are asked to help with the making, pulling, buying, installing, and striking the props/set-dressing for the shows at The Public. We were in charge of creating all props and maintaining them for every show running in the summer season. It was interesting seeing how much life and dynamic the props added to each show. We also did some organizational work for the props stock, and had a weekly class in which we learned about the history of technologies and props master skills.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important thing I have taken away from this internship is that the key to being a badass female in production is to be confident. Being a successful and sought after props master takes a lot of skill, creativity, and attention to detail. I would enjoy doing this kind of work after I graduate and I am thankful I was able to explore this side of stage design and tech production while I am still in college honing my skills.

SIDNEY RUBINOWICZ

Design and Production, 2022
Stage Management Intern

Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Santa Cruz, CA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

This internship was my first experience in a professional outdoor theatre setting. It allowed me to work with skilled Equity actors and stage managers (members of the Actor's Equity Association). This gave me the chance to put the abstract skills and concepts I learn in classes and productions at CMU into a hands-on practice. This internship has also given me the knowledge and confidence to pursue another internship in this field next summer, bringing me closer to my goal of becoming a professional stage manager.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

I functioned as a Production Assistant on "The Winter's Tale," a play by William Shakespeare. Some of responsibilities included presetting/storing hand-props and furniture, taking notes during production meetings with designers, being on book for actors calling "line", taking and sending line notes to the cast, moving scenic elements during the show, and ensuring the safety of the actors both on and offstage.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The valuable relationships I formed with the stage managers, crewmembers, designers, administrators, and performers. Being one of the youngest people at Santa Cruz Shakespeare allowed me to learn from professionals with many years of experience in the industry. These individuals live and work all across the country, and I hope to have the chance to work with them again.

HUAN ZHANG

Music and Technology, 2021
Music Intern

WYEP 91.3 Radio
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

From the experience with WYEP I got the opportunity to know how radio stations work and had an inside look into the industry. This internship also enhanced my ability to work with music editing software like Adobe Audition, which I am now proficient in utilizing. I was able to network with people in communications and radio production, which will help me when I begin my career after graduation. On a personal note, I gained so much exposure to new music that I now have a wide range of taste in music. This new expansion in music taste gives me an edge and new passion for the alternative music world.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As the music intern for WYEP, I worked with the station music producers and station staff members. I was responsible for the station live air radio production. A typical day for me as an intern involved documenting, recording, editing, and importing music data into the system database. I also worked with Adobe sound production software to create introductions for the music, advertisements, and other content included in the stations airtime. I learned so much about the intricate job of radio production and had support for any questions that came up during my time as a music intern.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important thing I learned from my internship was the insight and understanding of the music radio industry. Now having professional experience in my work history, I feel I have an upper hand in working in Music and Technology after I graduate. My internship definitely prepared me for my future and trained me on technologies I had little exposure to previously.



Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences

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ISABEL BRANNAN

Statistics, 2021
Student Assistant of Materials Management

Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation
Nashville, TN

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

As a statistics major, I wanted to look at the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation data and analyze problems from a statistical data-driven point of view. The best thing that I learned from this experience was realizing how much I really didn't know about applied science. I am so glad that I was able to get practical experience in my area of academic focus because I now understand the field and content of my major in a drastically different way. I'm now familiar with what I should be studying and am prepared for my desired career in applied statistics within various industries.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

My main responsibility was working on baseline estimates of waste data tonnages per county. The analysis of waste tonnages was my main area of focus, however, I would also work with my department to help verify 2018 data from the counties so that it could be properly added into the database. Additionally, I would get to make trips to landfills or sit-in on management meetings to understand government workings and waste removal.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Experience in my desired job was the best thing I took away from this internship because it refined my ideas for a career. In addition, I was able to practice self-study and problem solving. I was the only person familiar with statistical practices and software in my department, so while working I had to learn how to investigate and solve my own questions.

LAURYN KIM

Psychology, 2021
Research Assistant at the Heart Lab

Brooklyn College, CUNY
Brooklyn, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

My summer internship gave me the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge useful for my career goal of becoming a psychologist. In addition, this job helped me apply skills that I learned about in my academic studies in the Dietrich School of Psychology. I was able to learn more about research opportunities within my field, expand my professional network, and also live in a new city that may be a possible destination for me in the future.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

My job as an intern focused on assisting with a study about touch behavior on close personal relationships. My role as an intern involved the collection of incoming results and data from the ongoing touch/personal relationship study. I organized this data in a database that provided in depth analysis and statistical breakdown for reference and efficient maintenance. I was included in the departmental meetings, trainings, and events. In addition, I was able to work with a lot of the staff members throughout the summer which greatly expanded my professional network. My internship gave me an in-depth look into the different skills and responsibilities of a university level researcher.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

I was able to work in a job doing what I am interested in with the help of the SIEF. This internship at the Heart Lab, gave me a better understanding of what research is like within the field of psychology. I now have real work experience using the meticulous steps involved in conducting research, which I know now is my solidified academic interest and career path for my future.



Mellon College of Science

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ANDREW GU

Mathematical Sciences, 2021
Visiting Scientist

Columbia University- Department of Electrical Engineering
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

I wanted to work within Columbia University's Electrical Engineering Department as a visiting scientist so that I could gain specialized experience and exposure that would satisfy my interests and academic background as a math major within the Mellon College of Science. In considering my options for post-graduation career options or continuing my education, I wanted to get hands-on experience researching and working in a university environment. My experience as a summer intern was facilitated by the funds I was awarded through the SIEF and I am extremely grateful for the funding and the opportunity to gain work experience I previously was lacking. I now have a greater understanding of my interests, my career path, and my goals for the future.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

My work as an intern focused on the automatic video highlight generation algorithm. I employed a deep-learning approach to build one component of the core algorithm, developed the server and Android applications to host the algorithm. I also contributed content to literature during my internship.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

My internship provided me with experience in research, university work structure/industry knowledge, and personal reaffirmation of my career path and academic focus. I've learned that it is extremely common for methods and approaches to solutions to fall short and that a lot of times there are no known solutions to the problems that exist.

YEONJU KIM

Computational Biology, 2020
Software Development Intern

Biomotivate LLC
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

My internship with Biomotivate provided me with an opportunity that integrated my biology background with my growing experience in computer programming. My summer internship facilitated professional career experience utilizing both sides of my skill sets in a streamlined role as a software development intern at a healthcare technology start-up company. As a computational biology major hoping to pursue a medical career, I gained industry knowledge and on-the-job skill sets. My experience solidified my programming skills and provided first-hand exposure to prevalent issues faced by the healthcare industry today.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern on the development team, I primarily worked on data integration projects. These projects involved consolidating large amounts of health care data into a database that organized the large amount of data in a user-friendly way. In addition to my software development job responsibilities, I was able to attend departmental/neighborhood meetings and also shadow physicians for insight into the context of my work.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

In addition to the valuable experience of working as a software intern at a start-up, this internship gave me so many opportunities to interact with and learn from various aspects of the opioid epidemic, and the healthcare industry's current efforts to combat this challenge. Through those opportunities I was able to solidify my career goals in medicine, and learn more about this growing nationwide crisis in the context of our very own Pittsburgh community.

JENNIFER LEE

Neuroscience, 2020
Undergraduate Research Intern

Hackensack Meridian Health
Nutley, NJ

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

I hope to pursue a career in the medical field. This internship allowed me to apply knowledge from my biomedical engineering courses to design and implement experiments aimed towards treating multiple myeloma and pediatric osteosarcoma. Specifically, I learned more about the translational nature of research and how findings from these studies can be used to develop medical solutions for patients.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

The main project that I worked on was the creation of a 3D culture of osteosarcoma cells and osteocytes. This required conducting proper tissue culture techniques, cell proliferation assays, and analysis by flow cytometry and microscopy. My other responsibilities in the lab included preparing and analyzing multiple myeloma cell samples using the seahorse assay and flow cytometry.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The internship taught me the importance of optimization and troubleshooting in scientific research. My project required me to create cultures under different conditions to determine the model that worked best for the cell lines I was working with.

CRYSTAL LIU

Biological Sciences, 2020
Research Intern

Department of Ophthalmology at NYU Langone Health
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

This internship experience allowed me to explore ongoing research in the medical sciences, particularly in vision and glaucoma. As someone who is interested in medicine but not know which specialty exactly, I have developed a fascination in the eye, brain, and vision while working in the Neuroimaging and Visual Science Laboratory, leading me to pursue a career in optometry.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern in this lab, my responsibilities included conducting various assessments on different types of glaucoma mouse models as well as assisting postdoctoral fellows on their experiments.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Working in this lab has allowed me to learn about the eye and brain in more depth. Aside from the sciences, I also strengthened my interpersonal skills as working collaboratively was imperative. I learned that performing research in a specific field is not just about carrying out experiments, but also refining and optimizing protocols, accepting and reflecting on setbacks, justifying every action, and working as a team to ensure quality, effectiveness, and efficiency.

SOLANA MORNINGSTAR

MCS Undeclared, 2021
Kids Kingdom Intern

Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

Whether I decided to go to veterinary school, study animal behavior, or do something else, this internship gave me valuable experience working with many different species of animals as well as working with many people from different experience backgrounds. This experience will be useful in any field related to animal husbandry or in any job that requires you to think ahead and adapt to new situations. In class I have learned about animal biology and psychology; however, there is no better way to truly get an understanding for it than hands on experience.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern, my role was to assist the keepers. This means that I got a chance to learn and do just about everything they did. This included preparing and distributing the animals' diets as well as medicating them, maintaining and cleaning the animal habitats and yards, narrating sea lion demonstrations to the public, providing enrichment and training using operant conditioning, and observing and assisting in animal handling and restraint for veterinary procedures.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

I was able to get a better understanding of what is involved in being a zookeeper and the impact that the level of care and quality can have on an animal's life as well as the role of zoos. It is important for zoos to act as ambassadors between animals and the public in order to educate people about wildlife and the environment. Also, having worked with a variety of animal species, I have a much better understanding and appreciation of them and how to properly care for them.

HANA SONG

Neurobiology, 2020
Research Intern

Department of Ophthalmology at NYU Langone Health
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

Working at NYU Langone, I was able to delve deeper into studies of medical science. Being an intern in the Ophthalmology Lab helped me learn so much about the eye and brain systems. This internship gave me hands-on experience with data analysis and experimentation.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

In the animal lab, I conducted experiments on mice in order to examine the changes in their eyes. I used optical coherence tomography to take cross-sectional pictures of mice retina. Using optokinetic tracking technology, I screened the spatial frequency and contrast sensitivity of both eyes of the mice. At weekly meetings, my colleagues and I presented our findings and discussed what we would hope to achieve as we progress with the experiments. I also assisted in writing an editorial by utilizing my neuroscience background.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Working in this lab gave me in-depth knowledge about the brain and eye. Aside from the sciences, I also Through this summer experience, I learned the importance of a strong team. Due to the high volume of new mice that were coming in, my colleagues and I found efficient ways to experiment with all of them. With good organizational and adaptive skills, we were able to maximize the number of mice run per day while keeping the experiment consistent. In addition to my colleagues, my mentors in the lab also helped to create a strong team.

SOFIA ZAYAS

Biological Sciences, 2020
Summer Intern

Penn Vet Working Dog Center
Philadelphia, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

It helped me see other aspects of the veterinary profession outside of the clinic and other roles vets play in society. By understanding the behavior, anatomy and physiology of the dog, a vet built an entirely new working dog program so that the training procedures not only focused on how to teach the dogs how to search for people or scents, but also took into consideration their responses and feelings and their physical abilities and strength. The goal of the program is to optimize the overall performance of the dog so they are motivated and best-suited to do their jobs. The experience also showed me a new side of the interplay between animal research and medicine. At my internship, dogs used their noses to identify whether a specific blood serum contained malignant ovarian cancer or not. The goal of the study is to identify what compound the dogs are smelling with the hopes of one day building a bionic nose that can be used to identify ovarian cancer in its early stages.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern I was assigned to the scent detection team and a focus dog who I was mainly responsible for. I learned to teach dogs how to search and alert on a specific odor, and handled my focus dog through its searches. I also led my dog through its fit to work—stretch and strength exercises and treadmill—, the agility course, its basic obedience sessions, and its preparatory vet and husbandry sessions. When I wasn't working or training my dog, then I was recording on video or filling a data sheet of the session of other dogs in my team.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

Being able to read and understand dog body language and behavior. As an aspiring vet, I think it would be useful for me to see a dog and know that they are stressed or scared so that I can handle them appropriately. It was also good to learn the signs of heat stress in a dog because I'm from Puerto Rico where it is hot all year long, and knowing the signs would allow me to act quickly if I ever found myself in a situation where the dog rapidly fell into heat stress and nobody recognized it.



Tepper School of Business

Carnegie Mellon University
Career & Professional
Development Center

SHEFALI DAHIYA

Business Administration, 2022
Customer Success Intern

Quorum Analytics
Washington, D.C.

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

This internship at a tech startup was an excellent way to apply my skills from studying Business and Statistics Machine Learning. By using advanced Excel, SQL, and Python combined with my understanding of organizational structures, I was able to better inform the Customer Success Team about metrics to evaluate their performance. This allowed me to discover my interest in working in data analytics.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

I improved team understanding of things like client onboarding by interpreting data, built a customer support metrics database using Python, and engaged clients before renewal periods by creating usage reports.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

I got to meet incredible individuals within my organization and attend external events in DC about relevant topics like privacy policy.

VINAY GONUGONDLA

Business Administration, 2021
Investment Banking Intern

Oberon Securities
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

In regards to career goals, this internship experience allowed me to learn more about investment banking as an industry and determine whether it is a viable career path for me. In regards to academic goals, I was able to apply some of the concepts I learned in my finance and accounting classes and tailor my future coursework to a more technical career path.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

Some of my roles and responsibilities as an intern include conducting quantitative market research on multiple industries, attending firm-wide and client meetings, applying valuation methodologies like public comps and DCFs to companies, and writing an internal white paper for the firm.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important thing I took from this internship is whether it is my junior year summer or beyond, I am very interested in exploring a career in the financial services industry, specifically investment banking.

SONALI GUPTA

Business Administration, 2022
Private Equity Analyst Intern

Generational Transfer Entrepreneurs, LLC
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

GTE hosted many events and invited guest speakers in various industries to come in throughout the summer to talk about their professional experiences. Hearing from so many different people in a myriad of industries provided me with great insight regarding what the different career paths entail. This in turn allowed me to gain clarity as to what career path I would like to pursue moving forward.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

One of my main responsibilities this summer was conducting research on small businesses to determine if they could be a potential acquisition target for GTE. In addition, I would conduct market and industry research and analyses and then present my reports to my supervisor. The research I completed served as the baseline for my assumptions when building financial models for target companies. All of this coupled together allowed my supervisor to make more informed decisions in terms of whether he would want to continue evaluating and considering specific companies as acquisition targets.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The big takeaway for me was to take advantage of the strong system GTE had in place to teach and support interns throughout the program. As an intern cohort, we were always encouraged to ask questions and offered guidance whenever needed. If I hadn't reached out to ask my questions or to network and hear from a variety of perspectives via coffee or lunch chats, I wouldn't have gained as much out of the experience as I did.

KATIE LIU

Business Administration, 2021
Investment Banking Intern

Acta Ventures
Pittsburgh, PA

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

This internship allowed me to explore the potential areas of business that I may want to head into and gave me exposure to previously unfamiliar financial topics. It also allowed me to apply what I have learned in my previous experience with start-ups and finance classes and see how those fit into real world examples.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

As an intern, I worked with other fellow interns to research markets that bear high potential for acquiring small businesses and devised a new market entry plan for a product of Acta Ventures' recently acquired company.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

I was given a view into how the world of private equity works, from sourcing to what makes a good seller to the final days of closing a deal. I also had the opportunity to attend a panel of speakers and hear the different paths and roles in the financial and private equity world.

SUNNY SU

Business Administration, 2022
Business Development Intern

Venga
Washington, D.C.

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

In the fall, I took a course in for the Business Technology concentration and I really enjoyed it. I wanted to find an internship that would expose me to a smaller organization as well as the tech field. Academically, the internship helped confirm what I want to do for my concentration. Career-wise, it has helped me recognize that how essential company culture is when looking for a job.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

At a smaller company, my roles would vary week by week depending on meetings happening and projects going on. Some days I would be doing research for of the cofounders, while other days I would work on projects for the product or business intelligence team. It was a great experience to get to work with different teams as it exposed me to potential fields of interest in the future.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most valuable takeaway from this internship was how essential a company's culture is to the organization. I was able to see company go through changes as a result of an acquisition and I was amazed to see how everyone worked together.

KOLLATAT THANAJARO

Business Administration, Statistics, 2021
Hedge Fund Summer Intern

AO Asset Management, LP
New York, NY

How did this internship experience support your academic and career goals?

My internship experience supported my career goals of becoming an equity research analyst upon graduation. Through my internship, I was able to learn through my final project of pitching Uber/Lyft and talking with the different colleagues at my firm. I learned what makes good business and investment, how to value companies, and how to think like an investor.

Describe some of your roles and responsibilities as an intern.

At my internship, my main responsibility was pitching Uber and Lyft to the investment committee. Other responsibilities include data collection and note-taking for senior researchers.

What is the most important thing you took away from this internship?

The most important takeaway from my internship was how to think about businesses through the lens of an investor. I learned how to evaluate management teams through earnings calls and phone calls, how to value businesses, and what separates a good business from bad business.