

A Foot In The Door

From the White House to the backwoods of Oregon, summer internships no longer involve getting coffee, but are a valuable tool to gaining experience in today's competitive job market

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PERSPECTIVES COPY EDITOR

Internships are short-term work experiences that help students learn more about careers by working hands-on. As the Career Services pamphlet says, "Internships bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and the actual working world."

Margaret VonStein, an assistant scholarships officer, encourages students to take advantage of the internship opportunities that are available. Internships help students learn what jobs are like on a day-to-day basis and can help them learn about what kind of job they would be happiest with. They also

Scheidt called to the owls and would get responses. If he found a male, female, or juvenile owl, the loggers would have to stop.

He said, "It was a great feeling to increase my own knowledge of owls and help save them."

However, problems can develop because some spotted owls live on private land. Saving the spotted owls is very controversial because it can hurt the economy of the logging communities. Often loggers use spotted owls as a target for their negativity and are opposed to helping them.

Scheidt said that in spite of the controversy, helping the owls was a wonderful experience. "You see how many people do care," he said.

Presidential Honors

Senior Tina Schippers, the president of Student Government, interned this summer at the White House. She applied through the Career Services office, and was one of 225 interns chosen from over 3,000 applicants.

She found out in April that she had been chosen, but did not find out until May 15 at her internship orientation that she was going to be working with the presidential advance office.

She began work with the advance team, which helps the president and the Secret Service. They did work such as making sure the doors for the entourage were open and that

interns in the mail room, and I was so lucky to be working with the First Lady.

"Everyday I had to pinch myself," she said. She talked to James Carville and Secretary of Labor Robert Reich on the phone, and saw many famous people, including Tom Brokaw, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodard and Meg Ryan.

She also met Chelsea Clinton and her friends in the White House Garden. She had access to the Clintons' residence, and she saw the Oval Office.

Schippers was given the opportunity to work on the fall election, but she wanted to come back to school instead. Schippers is majoring in

politics, business, international relations, and journalism. Tilman is studying to be a dentist, and he said that some people thought it was funny that he was going to be working for the military considering his career plans. However, he did applicable work in a chemistry lab.

Tilman had top secret clearance and dealt with some foreign weapons systems. Since his work was top secret, though, he cannot divulge much information about what he did.

However, Tilman said that it was great to see what goes on behind the scenes of government and the military.

Interning in the military opened

because the university has alumni contacts in practically every field.

Throughout the semester, the Career Services office has internship general information sessions and resume workshops.

The dates and times of these meetings are on an activities calendar in the office.

Bill Currin, the director of career services, said that the university is a member of a consortium consisting of about 10 colleges that will begin in a few months.

Students at these colleges will be the only ones who can apply for certain internships.

This consortium will help decrease the competition for internships and provide students



Left, senior Katie Schwoerer diligently searches for a possible internship. Right, sophomore Rebekah Heim meets with Margaret VonStein, the assistant scholarships officer, in the Career Services Office.



photos by LeeAnn Hodges

strengthen a person's chances for acceptance into graduate school and in the increasingly competitive job market. These internships are often a springboard to a job offer following graduation.

Many students use the resources in the Internship Office to find internships, and others find internships on their own.

VonStein said, "The purpose of the Internship Office is not to place students in specific internships, but to help in the search and exploration stage by developing a plan for students to create their own internships."

The Internship Office is more than willing to give help with writing resumes and establishing good references.

A Summer In The Wild

Junior Bill Scheidt interned this summer doing research on the spotted owl for the Forest Service in Oregon. Scheidt became an intern through the Student Conservation Association and was one of eight people on a wildlife team. The group consisted of two college

Scheidt called to the owls and would get responses. If he found a male, female, or juvenile owl, the loggers would have to stop their cutting.

students and six more researchers who were mostly in their thirties. The group went out in groups of two and hiked the back country, doing research on spotted owls, northern goshawks, and great gray owls.

The wildlife team went into proposed timber sales areas and looked for spotted owls. Under the Endangered Species Act, if any endangered animals are in an area proposed to be cut down, the loggers have to stop the cutting.

Scheidt monitored nests and looked at the reproductive status of the owls. He conducted studies on movement and nesting and banded spotted owls for further studies.

In conjunction with his owl studies, Scheidt also backpacked to different lakes and studied amphibians such as frogs, newts, and salamanders, gathering data for scientists in Washington State. People had been stocking the lakes with trout to increase the fishing industry.

However, because the lakes are so clear, the fish had no vegetation, and therefore had to eat the amphibians.

Scheidt said that introduced species, such as these fish, do great harm, and he worked to show the negative effects the fish have on the amphibians.

More than anything, Scheidt said, he discovered who he is. He experienced a great deal of personal growth by living a simple life.

He also had a chance to climb the third-highest volcano in the United States, go spelunking, and see both the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park.

He encouraged anyone interested in nature to do an internship. All the professionals that he worked with had volunteered for a summer. He stressed for people definitely to do something related to their field and to do as much hands-on work as possible.

"It was a wonderful experience and by far the best summer of my life," he said. "It was so invaluable. It showed me what the field is like. I knew I loved nature, but now I know that this is what I want to do."

In addition, he said that people in his field now know him and what he has to offer. The connections he made this summer will help him to get jobs that he is interested in.

Scheidt is a biology major, and is interested in being a wildlife biologist and working with birds. He wants to go to graduate school, do research, and possibly be a college professor.

the press were in the right places. She also helped prepare the travel log for Air Force One.

Schippers soon began to work

"It was thrilling to flash a badge and go into the White House. There is so much history there. They had interns in the mail room, and I was so lucky to be working with the First Lady."

Tina Schippers
Student Government President

with First Lady Hillary Rodham-Clinton as part of her advance team work. She interned under the Chief of Staff Maggie Williams with three or four other interns.

Schippers prepared schedules and helped make sure Clinton had her briefings.

She helped prepare briefing books, which had information about whom Clinton was going to meet and what she should say to them.

Schippers also did work such as filing and answering phones, but even so, she said it was so amazing to answer the phone with, "Good morning, Office of the First Lady."

"It was so exciting to be in the heart of the office, with Hillary Clinton right in front of me," she said. She said that everyone in the office calls Clinton "HRC."

Schippers said she spoke with President Bill Clinton several times and saw him about twice a week.

Even though Schippers herself is neither a Democrat nor a Republican, she said, "The Clintons were fantastic."

"It was thrilling to flash a badge and go into the White House. There is so much history there," she said. "They had

politics and communication, and eventually wants to work in government, as either an elected or appointed official. She is applying to law school now and has her resume on file at the White House.

Top Secret!

Senior Nate Tilman worked for the Navy in the military intelligence department this summer. He found the job opportunity himself instead of going through the Internship Office.

The program he worked with is only in its second year of existence, but it is more publicized now and he has given a pamphlet about it to the Internship Office.

The other interns he worked with were from broad backgrounds, with interests and majors in such areas as

his eyes to government service, and he plans on doing more work there.

How To Get An Internship

Students can make an appointment to discuss their individual interests and get constructive feedback on their resumes by calling Ext. 5902 or stopping by the Career Services office in Reynolda 8.

The Internship Office in Reynolda 4 has thousands of files and notebooks with internship opportunities.

The Career Services Library in Reynolda 11 has resources available for different careers and internships.

The Alumni Career Assistance Program notebooks in the Internships Office can also be helpful

with better opportunities.

VonStein said that it is important for students to remember that many places that offer internships do not pay their interns.

Some do not pay because they are a nonprofit organization with little funding, and some, such as the White House, do not pay because they have so many qualified applicants.

The university sponsors a Spire of Excellence grant for students pursuing nonprofit or governmental sector internships, which provides seven students with \$2,100 each for a summer internship.

VonStein said, "The most important thing students can do is start early in looking for internships because they can offer students such incredible and enriching opportunities."

Would you like a summer internship?

Then definitely check out:

■ The Career Services Office, Room 8, Reynolda Hall

■ The Internship Office, Room 4, Reynolda Hall

■ The Career Services Library, Room 11, Reynolda Hall