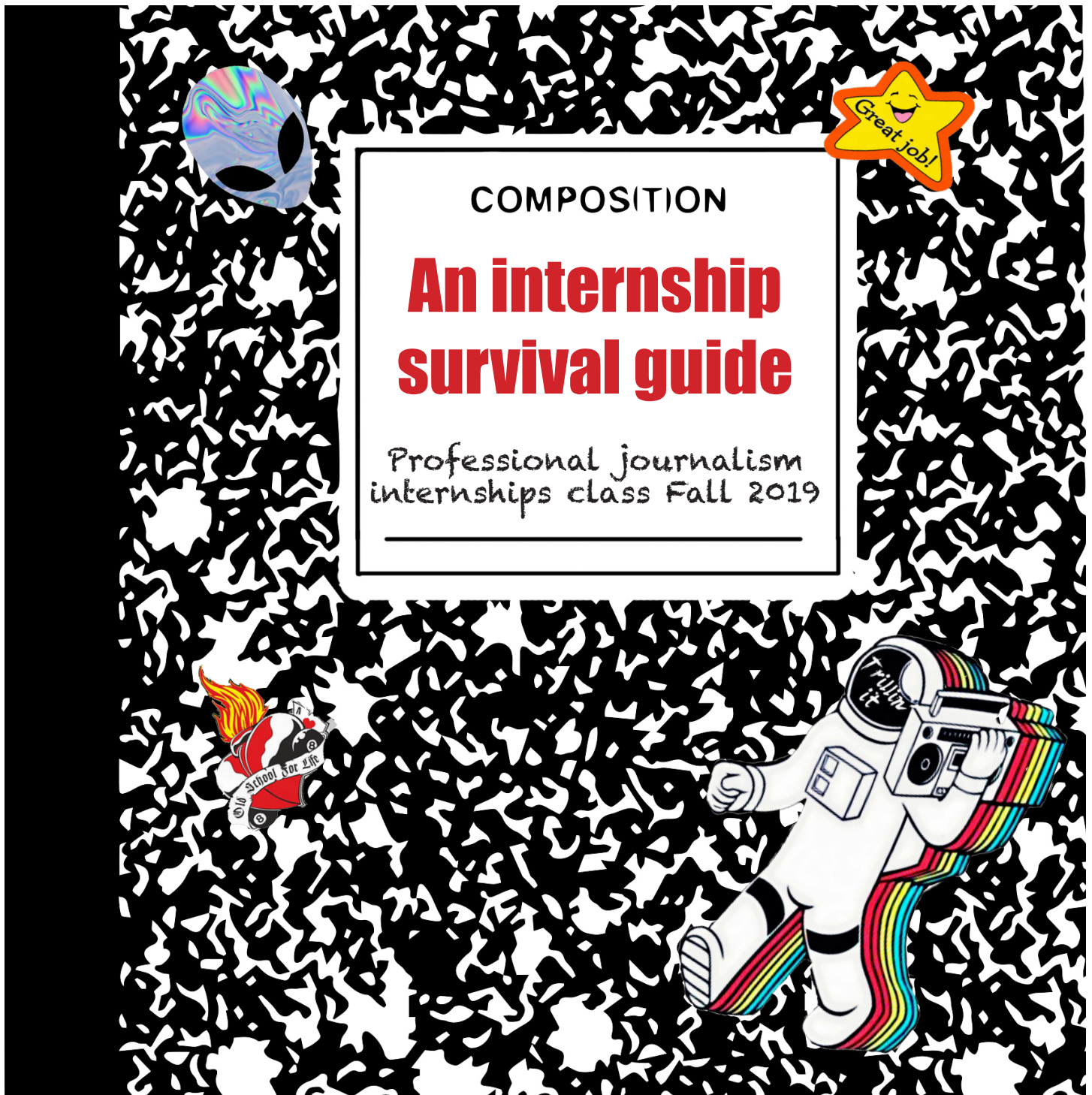


Oshkosh declassified



Stories of UW Oshkosh journalism department students who took an internship over the summer of 2019. These students share tips and tricks on navigating the obstacles of an internship.

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Advice for future interns

by Michelle Chang

First of all, congratulations on getting this far. Wherever you are in your career path, you are still persevering and you should be proud of yourself. This is the time of your life where you question whether all those years are worth it. Well, this is where internships come to play. Internships are there for you to expose yourself to the professional environment and find what options are available. Here are some tips to get through your internship as well as your career path:

- 1.** Be open-minded. Do not judge the internship by its industry. Your internship will not dictate your future career. Each industry functions differently and it is a great way to keep your options open.
- 2.** Experience is key. Do you know that meme that says “experience doesn’t pay the bills”? Well, that’s true. However, you also need experience for employers to know that you have some type of involvement in the field to gain knowledge about it. Paid or not, experience plays a huge factor for employment. That’s why most majors require students to get an internship as a requirement for graduation.
- 3.** Be positive. There has to be a purpose to what you are doing. Whether that be picking up coffee orders, running errands, or sitting in meetings that seem pointless. Try to find the smallest (and positive) reason as to why your supervisor will like for you to experience those situations.
- 4.** The sooner, the better. The more, the better. Start looking for internships as soon as possible. The more internship experiences you have, the more skills you have to flaunt to future employers.
- 5.** Build your network. Connect with those you work with. Whether it be your co-workers, colleagues or even professors, keep in touch with them. Use social media such as LinkedIn to keep in contact. That way you can easily identify those who can be your future references. Who knows, maybe they can even be your connection to your



Michelle Chang

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future job.

6. Build your brand. Clean up your social media accounts and be aware of what you are posting and sharing. Employers are out here finding as much information about you as possible, probably more than you know about yourself. It's all fun and games until you do not hear back from an employer. Save yourself some time and think before you post.

7. Do not fear rejection. Keep applying to those internships and do not give up. Take it with a grain of salt and do not beat yourself up if you don't get the job. Honestly, the more you get rejected, the more immune you become to rejections. When a door closes, another one opens. That internship is not the only one and it's their loss if they do not see your potential. Learn from it and move on.

8. Last, but definitely not the least, BE YOURSELF. Why be someone else when you can be yourself? Employers can easily identify whether you are genuine or not. Plus, it's a lot less work to be yourself.

Work smarter, not harder. You live, you learn. That's my life motto. GOOD LUCK.

How to Act on your first day as an intern vs. your last day

By Nathan Hendrix

Two of the most important days that can make or break your internship are the first and last. Making a good impression on your first day can set the tone for the extent of your internship. It is important to think about how you will look and act to employers, and to the company. Even if you don't get a chance to talk to everyone on your first day, most people will notice you. Everything from your outfit, posture and body language can say a lot about you, so keep that in mind. If it is your first time working in a professional setting, it can seem intimidating to introduce yourself to a bunch of new people, but it's worth it. Don't be the intern who hides behind a desk. This is your chance to network with real professionals in your field! You might find new opportunities and get the most out of your internship. As a marketing intern for Prairie Ridge Health, I did not expect myself to be useful in the finance department, but after getting to know the finance director, I was asked to help organize a task list by using my design skills! I never thought that I would be adding project management to my resume, and if I hadn't introduced myself to the right person I wouldn't have gotten the opportunity. This is why it's important to push yourself out of your comfort zone and introduce yourself to co-workers on your first day. In a lot of ways, your last day is just as important as the first. All of the skills you have learned and the people you have worked with can be used as tools for moving into the future. Before you go, make sure to think about who you want to keep in contact with. You can't just walk into someone's office on your last day, and ask them to be potential contacts for future jobs. On my last day, I made sure to talk to the hospital CEO and thank him for the opportunity. I had always made it a point to chat with him whenever I could so that we were on good terms. Nathan Hendrix is an Interactive Web Management major at UW Oshkosh. He is currently interested in video editing, digital photography and graphic design, and he likes blending all of those elements together to make new and sometimes weird edits.



Nathan Hendrix

Make the most of your internship or job when it's not the 'one'

By Moira Danielson

In a world full of endless opportunities to start your career, the likelihood of finding your dream job, the one that has everything you want, is slim to none.

I found myself over and over again in this particular position and it took some readjusting and looking from a different perspective to figure out how to get the most out of each opportunity. Whenever I start a new position, whether it would be a job as a reporter for the campus newspaper or an editorial intern at a local business magazine, I would make a list of what skills each job would have me focus on. Then I would go back to what my original "dream job" would need from me skill wise to see what I still needed to learn. It's better to be more well-rounded as you go further into your career because it makes your value as an employee grow. Another way I try to get the most out of my internships and jobs is by trying to incorporate what I would like to see in a job into the work I am doing. For example, when I worked for UWO's Department of Residence Life as a social media coordinator, I helped create a mini-series where I would interview students around campus about different student-related topics because I wanted to become a reporter further into my career. Most of the time your employer will appreciate you trying to bring fresh new ideas into the workplace. That is why they hire interns in the first place, to get fresh new feedback and input into their company. You can always talk to your boss and figure out what you can try within your position that still works for the company. Almost all of the employers that I have worked with have been very flexible and supportive in helping me learn as much as I can to help get me closer to my own personal goals. One of the most important things to remember at any of these internships is you need to appreciate the fact you were chosen for the position ahead of other candidates. The employer saw something in you that they didn't see in anyone else. Although it may not be the ultimate job, you were still put there based on your talent. Learn as much as you can, put your best work forward and make the most out of every day. Moira Danielson lives in Appleton, Wisconsin with her boyfriend and her two guinea pigs and two hamsters. She currently works as one of the morning newscast producers for WBAY-TV 2. One day she would like to work for either the Washington Post or the New York Times and eventually start her own media company.



Moria Danielson

Internship pet peeves

By Nao Phia Vang

Internships provide people with experience and skills that they can put in their toolboxes to use in the future. Not all your experiences you have at your internships will make you enjoy the company. There were many pet peeves that I came across during my internship. So many that it even made the internship difficult at times. I was at an internship for about a year. One of my top pet peeves was that my boss could not properly communicate to me. I would message him about projects that I had been assigned, and he would not get back to me for as long as a week. At one point he left me for 2 weeks when he went on vacation, but I was never informed he was on vacation, so I continued to go to work by myself. Lack of communication lead to this bad experience. My second biggest pet peeve was that my boss was such a nice guy that he did not critique anything. I did not know much of what I was doing, so I did a lot of experimenting. One project that I was assigned was the promotional video for the company. This was my very first video ever and I felt proud of it. I knew that it was not perfect, so I asked my boss to see what he wanted to change. He said that it was perfect, and that nothing needed to be changed. Over my time with the internship, he repeated that my work was perfect. I never really got the critique that I wanted on my work. Another pet peeve of mine was that the business was never organized. Their content was all over the place. After I made my boss aware of that, he attempted to clean up some content, but nothing was really done. I started to organize content, but then there was constantly other content flowing in, so it just flooded the files. I requested that one of my main projects be to organize content and create a strategy that would make all our lives more efficient. Even now, I still have a hard time trying to find the logo for the company. Lastly, I did not get an exit interview. I wish I had the chance to talk about how the internship could have been improved. If something comes up and it affects the way you work, do not be scared to let your supervisor know.



Nao Phia Vang

How to succeed in a job interview

By Nathaniel Stigen

You've perfectly arranged your portfolio, customized your resume for the job, and accumulated outstanding references for your recently submitted job application. What's next? Well, according to the "2017 Jobvite Recruiting Report," you might be the lucky one out of six candidates who are called for an interview. A job interview can be informative and inspiring for some, but for others it can be a nerve-wracking experience. Elaine Krizenesky, national director of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, has seen it all in her long marketing and management career. "The first thing I ask someone in an interview is, 'Did you visit our website?'" Krizenesky said when asked about how she gets a first impression on a candidate, "If the answer is no, or the information they know doesn't go past the homepage, I'm not hiring that person." According to Undercover Recruiter, 33% of employers know within 90 seconds of an interview whether they'll hire someone. The most common first impressions come from how a candidate is dressed, and how much they know about where they're interviewing. Some interviewees may clam up or get nervous, but Krizenesky said: "I don't mind if people bring notes. I think that not bringing notes is old fashioned." Krizenesky added, "I actually feel that it's important that potential employees take notes because it shows that they care about the position." Elaine Krizenesky is the person who I interviewed with when I applied for the market research internship position at Wild Ones. Going into the interview, I read the information provided by the website front to back, and even then I still had to ask questions about the organization because the world of native plant landscaping contains so much information for those who know next to nothing about native plants. Krizenesky told me that this was one of the reasons she felt encouraged to hire me for the internship. According to Recruiter.io, one of the most common questions asked in an interview is: "Do you have any questions?" Krizenesky said this question should always have an answer. She said, "Asking a question shows to me that you want to know about the position." Krizenesky has interviewed more people than she can recall, but said some traits really stick with her when interviewing top talent. "The last time someone really blew me away, it was because they had all the small details: they were enthusiastic, communicated well, presented themselves very professionally, and was enthusiastic about the future," Krizenesky said. "If you can tell me where you see yourself in five years, it shows me that you have drive and are willing to improve yourself." Interviews can be incredibly stressful. Whether it's your first interview or your 50th, a small verbal miscue or poorly worded answer can crush your confidence during the interview process. "My last piece of advice would be don't get discouraged," Krizenesky said. "There are a lot of 'no's before you get a 'yes'... keep trying."



Nathaniel Stigen

Professors are here to help you

By Mimi Tang

To new, incoming freshmen, this sentence might sound intimidating: GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS. Seriously, they most likely have been working as professors for several years and have watched students graduate and become big name “somebodies.” They are the best connections for the professional world. From personal experience, I learned that your professors are key to great connections as I was able to get an internship through my professor. I was in my Application of New and Emerging Media class, which is a real client and project-based class, and my professor saw that I was a pleasant and hardworking student. Soon after I ended my class, I received a personal email asking to take part in an internship (no interview or resume required). My professor knew my work ethic and personality and saw me as a candidate for an internship position. Here are some steps from Monster.com that will help you start your connection in your college courses: 1. Make yourself known in class. It’s harder said than done, but participating in class shows that you are engaged. Asking questions and participating in class discussions will help you get noticed. As a shy person myself, it took me a long time to find the courage to speak up, but it was worth it in the end. 2. Actually go to your professor’s office. Speaking in class is great, but it doesn’t mean your professors know you enough to help you connect with professionals. Going to their office and having one-on-one conversations will help your professor get to know you on a more personal level. I always make an effort to stop by their offices, even if it’s just a quick hello. Professors are human too, so don’t get intimidated. 3. Help your professor and they will help you. Remember, your professor is taking time out of his or her busy schedule to help you. This also gives the professor a chance to get to know you and lead you in the right direction. Plus, helping anyone out is a human thing to do. 4. Get your professor’s help lining up informational interviews. After checking off all the previous steps, you are now ready to approach your professor for informational interviews. This is where the professor can match you with a professional who can provide insights on industries/companies you are interested in. My professor is familiar with my personality and interests and will go out of her way to email me about events and meetings that pertain to my interest. Professors and other professionals are always happy to help the next set of graduates, whether it’s looking over resumes and cover letters, setting up informational interviews or just getting to connect with someone. So, go out there and connect with your professors!



Mimi Tang

How to balance an internship, job, and school

By Tyler Becker

Last spring I was able to intern at Fond du Lac Festivals in preparation for Walleye Weekend, a big summer festival in Fond du Lac. They have everything from sports tournaments to music to helicopter rides. My job at this internship was to help with event planning and marketing for a few months prior to the festival weekend. The internship was located in Fond du Lac while I went to school in Oshkosh and I usually worked about 10-15 hours per week. On top of that I also work 25-30 hours at a part-time job in Oshkosh. I was also a full-time student who wanted some kind of social life, along with time to myself. Most days I did not have school, internship and work all in the same day, but some days I did. I was extremely busy for these couple months and here are my tips on how I went about it.

Tip #1: Schedule Breaks First, and most important, I found that scheduling breaks between going from school, to internship, then to work was very helpful. I did this by scheduling breaks in my availability for my internship and my job. Let's say I had class until 3 p.m. on a given day. I would then tell my internship that I was not available until 4:30 p.m. This would give me about an hour to go home and eat something and relax just a little bit before driving the 30 minutes to Fond du Lac. I also did this going between the internship to work if needed. Sometimes I would just eat in the car to get as many hours at work as possible.

Tip #2: Get active The next thing I have found helpful was being active. If I had a break in my school day, or between school and work/internship, I will always find time to go to the gym. Doing this during class break or before work/internship was helpful because it felt like I was starting my day over. I always felt refreshed and ready to finish out the day after that. From sitting in class to sitting in an office at my internship, I needed to be active at some point in my day.

Tip #3: Schedule out your day The last big thing I did was simply take it day-by-day. Yes, you need to plan ahead and be prepared for the coming days or weeks. But once that planning is done, just focus on today. If my days were really busy I would write down and plan out my day and then just check things off the list as they get done. This helped me from feeling overwhelmed and like I accomplished something at the end of the day because I could look back and check off everything I did.



Tyler Becker

The chaos of the event industry

By Amanda Prusak

When I first started my internship as the wedding and events intern at the Paine Art Center and Garden, I had no idea if I would like it or not. Events weren't really what I was considering when I went into public relations. Once I got the hang of things, running around the venue, getting people down the aisle and giving tours to wedding clients, I finally came to the realization this industry is meant for me. I love the chaos of a busy day and the change of pace each time I work. To make it in the event industry, these qualifications are needed:

- Organization: Being organized during the day of an event helps you keep track of the chaos during the day. A schedule helps keep you on track and it is a timeline of what needs to get done. If you have one flaw in your schedule, the event can take a turn for the worse. There are strict times for when things have to be taken care of during an event, such as when the grand march is, when the bridal party has to walk down the aisle, when the vendors arrive and if they arrive. These are just some of the most important aspects of being organized.
- Time management: Following a strict schedule can be hard with constant changes throughout a day, but you have to be willing to play with times and make sure everything gets done throughout the day, even if they do not follow your timeline. If you forget to do something, not to be dramatic, the day can be ruined. Times might be pushed back or forward depending on weather or other unexpected occurrences.
- People person: Being happy and representing your brand or company is huge. With a well-known company like the Paine, you run into a lot of people who see your name badge out of work and you still have to be representing that company. Being positive all the time at work during a busy and chaotic job can be hard, but if you know how to talk to people in an understanding and caring attitude, you will change the way people look at your company and that will leave an impact on the company you represent.
- Leadership skills: Being a leader and stepping up the plate is easy for me. Not to be mean, but I love telling others what to do. But you have to do it in a respectful way and manner that is understanding for people. I just got a management role at the Paine and that is something that I am being trained to do, have patience and a caring attitude toward the people you manage. Have patience and work through issues with an open mind will help you take on tasks outside of your comfort zone.
- Calm and collective: Events aren't always fun and games. The people in the background making events work have to be ready for any change that may happen during the day. Last minute switches are always happening, and you have to be able to go with the flow. A vendor may not show up. While it is not your job to make



Amanda Prusak

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sure they know when to arrive, but if you want everyone in the event to be happy and excited for their day, you have to make it perfect and figure out where that vendor is and make sure they show up on time.

Works well under pressure: It is said that event planners are in the top four most stressful jobs in America. I have seen how stressful and scary the day of an event can be. There may be an outdoor wedding and we have to work with weather change – thanks Wisconsin – and rain can ruin a bride's whole day. We need to make last-minute decisions to bring a wedding indoors. While we may not make everyone happy during an event, we want to do what will be best for the situation and be flexible with the client. Events are not for everyone. This internship has taught me where I should move in my career as far as a job and I have gained new skills and knowledge in the field that I never knew that I had. If you think about going into the field of events, try getting an internship or find someone who you can shadow to experience what the behind the scenes are of an event. Amanda Prusak is a senior graduating this fall from UW Oshkosh. She is interested in the event industry and she has had two event internships. Her dream job is to open a venue or an event planning company because her passion and dream is to be a coordinator for events.

Interning for a startup

By William DeWeerd

I imagined how interning for a well-established firm would go: You get to the company's office, punch your timecard, and look to some sort of task board for what your department needs you to accomplish that day. Obviously, your experience will vary depending on what field you are interning in and the company you work for. Based on what I have heard from my peers, that is the generic internship experience. But I have had anything but a generic internship experience. Interning remotely for an interior design startup out of Milwaukee as a social media management and consulting intern this fall has been a very interesting rollercoaster. From long email chains and conference calls, to making decisions well above interning level, startup interning is a stressful, yet a highly engaging and educational experience. The first thing that comes to mind when reflecting on the last few weeks is how much input and responsibility I have had regarding the company social media. I was directly in charge of Leslie Dohr Interior Design's content audit. Since then, every single piece of media content that my manager wishes to utilize is run past me and asked for my input on how to best optimize that content. Furthermore, I was directly involved in drafting the social media marketing plan for the company. Large established firms (from what peers have told me) are not letting mere interns develop their content strategies. With great responsibility comes a small level of frustration. First, it's all on you. There is no team of interns, or even a social media team. It's just my boss and I, meaning that I there is no one else to run my work by (internally) before I show it to my superior. So as one could imagine, there is a lot of back and forth perfecting strategies and ideas. Additionally, there is often a delay in communication. Remote interning involves a lot of email chains and conference calls and because management is not readily available due to other responsibilities (like running the company), I often must wait for answers to my emails that ideally need immediate response, which can be frustrating. Another thought that often crosses my mind while working on the strategy or drafting the content schedule for the coming weeks is how much weight my decisions have. Working for a startup whose company image isn't yet established, every decision that you make or in my case every bit of input I give toward a piece of content directly impacts the consumer bases view of the company, which is a pretty big deal. While it is scary to consider that a mistake of yours could damage the company's image, one also takes a lot of pride in the fact that your input is directly helping shape the image of the company, which not a lot of interns can say. In the end, I am really enjoying this experience. Sure, it's a lot of work, responsibility and some levels of frustration. But overall, it's a valuable experience that will make me stand out to employers in the future. Plus, it's kind of fun.



William DeWeerd

Using Your Internship to Create Friendships

By Jelissa Burns

Working at an internship in the field of your dreams can be scary and exciting. It feels good to be surrounded by people with the same goals and ambitions as you, but it is a huge step into the real world and a step closer to having your goal career. It can also be a little stressful to start in a new place with new faces. Making friends and establishing connections within the company is a good way to make sure you stand out and leave a lasting impression. Even though the office was small, I was nervous about meeting new people when I first started my internship. It was easier to introduce myself to the other interns, but I wanted to make an impression on everyone in the office. So I made sure to introduce myself to everyone I could and have at least one conversation with them. Not only did this allow me to establish myself in the work space, but I also was able to learn more about my coworkers and supervisors. It may seem a little intimidating to talk to the higher ups around the office, but they're people just like you and chances are they want to know who you are as well. Introduce yourself as an intern and let them know what role you'll be playing in the work space. Try asking questions about the company or environment; this will give you more information about where you're working. When you are introducing yourself, mention something interesting about yourself that will set you apart from others. Don't be afraid to ask questions, not only about the company but also about the person that you are talking to. Making connections during your internship increases the chances of the company wanting to hire you on full time. If you make a positive impression on your boss or supervisor they'll most likely want to keep you around. If that isn't the case, you'll still have a good source for a reference. Your internship is a great way to get experience in your field of choice, but it is also a place to establish some connections and create a network. Using your internship to make a name for yourself at your company is a good way to get your foot in the door for your future. Jelissa Burns is a student at the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh majoring in journalism with a minor in radio, TV and film.



Jelissa Burns

How to make a remote internship work

By Erika Stupek

Working remotely is becoming more and more common as people begin to ditch the traditional office space for a more flexible schedule and lifestyle. Of course, working remotely has its positives and its negatives, but I'm here to tell you how to make a remote internship work. I've been working my internship for Bobi NYC remotely for over 5 months from Wisconsin. Although my boss and team live in New York, our entire team works remotely. Doing my internship remotely has allowed me to maximize my time and productivity while going to school full-time and working a second job in addition to my internship. It enables me to prioritize my to-do's and complete my internship work when it's most convenient for me. However, working remotely can sometimes be tricky. Here's some tips on how to make it work best: E-mails, texts and phone calls may be a safe form of communication, but when working an internship remotely, it's helpful to utilize innovative communication and task applications such as Slack, Zoom and Trello, as well. These tools can help you to stay on task and stay in touch with your team. I use all of these applications to communicate with my team, boss and/or with clients. Everyone works best in their own unique space. It is important that the space you work remotely from is comfortable. Make sure that it's a space you will be the most productive in. Find what space works best for you. That being said, I find it fun to change up my workspace location once in a while; It keeps my ideas fresh and keeps me engaged in my work. Sometimes I'll work remotely from a coffee shop instead of my usual space. However, be sure you know your schedule for the day before you decide to change up your workspace location. You don't want to be in a loud coffee shop trying to take phone calls. When working remotely, it is easy to become sidetracked, especially if your remote workspace is your home where there may be distractions like a load of laundry that needs to be done. To avoid distractions when working from home, I set a timer while I'm working on a project to make sure that I work through that block of time without any distractions. When the timer goes off, I give myself a 10 minute break. This helps me to stay on track when my environment can get distracting. Most importantly, NEVER be afraid to ask questions. It can be tricky to be briefed remotely and it may lead to miscommunication. Therefore, it is very important to clarify and ask questions if you are not certain what is being asked of you. Sometimes I will ask my boss if she can brief me over the phone or via video chat if the project I'm going to be working on is more complex. Although working remotely may not always be easy, it can be done. And if it's done right, it can be better than working in a traditional office space. At the end of the day, always do what makes sense for your lifestyle.

Erika Stupek is a public relations and journalism major with an emphasis in advertising who will be graduating in December. She is currently a remote intern for Bobi NYC, a creative digital agency located in New York City.



Erika Stupek

Turning a volunteer position into an internship

By Ally O'Keefe

There are many things employers look for when seeking employees. As one of my bosses once told me in an interview, "I'm not as interested in your years of experience as I am interested in what kind of person you are." Building a resume or history that shows these values and interests is important. A great way to show an employer that you have values is to have some volunteer hours under your belt. Pick something that inspires or motivates you, maybe the humane society, homeless shelter, YMCA or even several local nonprofit organizations. I was a junior in college actively searching for volunteer opportunities in my community, but none of them inspired me to take action. One day I was at work when a coworker of mine mentioned she was speaking at an event for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day as a survivor. She was human trafficked when she was 22 years old. Human trafficking is something I've been informed about for years, but hadn't known anyone personally involved. I asked her if the nonprofit she was speaking for needed any volunteers as I wanted volunteer hours and felt a call to the cause. That's when she reached out to the nonprofit and told them about my interest. This once again proves how important connections are. About a week later I met with one of the main women in charge of Damascus Road who gave me a tour of the office and sat down and had a really great one-on-one chat with me about the organization. I scheduled a time to come back and started doing little volunteer tasks. One thing Damascus Road does is make bags for victims of human trafficking that come to us. These bags are filled with a big blanket, hygiene products, food items, a notebook and nice pens, and more. All of these are donations given to us. While I was creating bags one afternoon my 'boss' asked me what I was going to school for. I told her I am an interactive web management major. To my surprise, her jaw dropped. "Oh my gosh! So you do websites and online posts and things?" I explained to her a little of what I've learned so far and she was visibly thrilled. "We need someone like that! We have a lot of ideas, but no one here really has the technical skills." She also explained to me they have a volunteer who creates posters for events, but she doesn't enjoy it; it's simply something she has to get done. I offered to help as I enjoy designing things like this. We had a huge open house coming up to present our renovated office to the public. I went home and created three different poster designs that I sent to all three women in charge. They agreed on one, sent it back and had me change a few things. This was our poster for our open house distributed online and printed and posted throughout Oshkosh. It was a simple job, but one they needed and I enjoyed. After this, I ended up traveling around Wisconsin with Terra, Damascus Road's director, and attending anti-trafficking events where we would set up tables with information, talk to the public at our table and sometimes my director would be a speaker. It was at the open house that my director asked me to be their university intern and we made it official. I've helped them brainstorm ideas for



Ally O'Keefe

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advertising Jan. 11, which is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and am currently creating more social media posts for them to boost our social media presence. Showing up as a volunteer that was willing to put effort in and work hard made me a great candidate for an intern. It showed I had a passion for the cause and ended up having extra skills they could utilize. I was able to show them what kind of person I am before they hired me. After my experience with interning at a nonprofit, I am considering applying for another internship I recently found that is a nonprofit with a similar goal. Working with nonprofits was not something I would've guessed I'd end up doing, but it's given me connections and experience I wouldn't have found anywhere else. Plus, if you end up volunteering and not turning it into an internship, you've still got meaningful experience in the field and new references in your pocket.

Why transferable skills are important

By Christina Basken

When I first started taking journalism classes at UW Oshkosh, I was under the impression that building really good writing and editing skills would be the key to landing a job. While those skills are very important and definitely a high priority on my list of skills to hone, I was wrong in thinking that those were the only skills I needed to get a good job. It wasn't until I had a few internships under my belt that I realized that not only having more skills on your resume makes you more marketable, but it is also highly preferred by employers. Out of my five internships that I have held during my time as a student there wasn't one internship where I wasn't asked to include other forms of media, like photos and video, to supplement my writing. The best piece of advice that I can give is to get involved with as many clubs as you possibly can. On top of that, enroll yourself in that photo, graphics, filmmaking or whatever course it might be that has always interested you. College is the perfect time to be exploring what you like, don't like and discovering skills that you had no idea you were actually a pro at. The last thing an employer wants to do is hold your hand while you figure out skills you probably should have learned in school. After my first internship, I signed up for as many photography and videography classes I could. I even signed up for as many public relations, advertising and marketing classes I could, even though I had already declared myself as a journalism major. In doing that, I learned what my strengths and weaknesses were, and ultimately decided upon my minor: visual properties. By the time I landed my fourth internship, I had successfully marketed myself as a proficient writer, photographer and videographer. Honing as many skills as I could was the best decision I ever made. My fourth internship landed me another internship with the same company. After completing two internships at the same company, they created a brand new position just for me, a multimedia journalist role. They had been searching for someone who could not only handle reporting on events, but who would also be able to photograph them and film them as well. Essentially, I became a one-woman-band. Employers don't have a lot of time to spend looking at resumes. In fact, they will only spend an average of 5 seconds on each resume. Being fresh out of college, employers know that we aren't going to have a resume full of experience working in the field. But, they will expect that we have ample amounts of internship experience displaying a vast amount of skills. Christina Basken is a multimedia journalist graduating in January. When she is not taking photos, shooting video or writing, you can find her watching Hallmark Christmas movies year round.



Christina Basken

How to relinquish your fear of being underqualified for an internship

By Justin Smith

Imagine yourself in the shoes of a college sophomore that just landed the internship of his or her dreams. Not quite too far from home, in their industry and did I mention that it was also paid? Yeah, it's a feeling good enough to make you feel on top of the world. But honestly, there were some ups and downs during my time working at GE Healthcare that put my faith in myself and skills to the test. There were a lot of opportunities going for me during my summer and being able to perform for a Fortune 50 company was an experience that I will always be thankful for. It all seemed alright until it struck me that they might have been sizing me up from the moment I stepped foot in the building. The idea of that was intimidating, although this particular experience could be translated to anyone taking a chance at any company. All of the other interns seemingly had big things going for them such as pursuing degrees in biomedical engineering, radiology, mechanical engineering and all other sorts of STEM fields from some of the best schools in the country. How could an IWM student from UW Oshkosh compete with that? A sophomore at that. For the first few weeks there were doubts in my mind that I did not belong there. But one thing I learned is that you have to go through these moments of self doubt to realize where that you belong there. The first step I took was to reach out to a coworker, not another intern, who could support me in my endeavors to successfully perform more than what was expected. Getting insight from someone who had been in the industry for much longer assured me that even if everything that I had done was not perfect, perfect was not what they were looking for. Yes, results are important, but the whole point of interning is to leave with more skills than you came in with and that is what's important. To a degree, I needed this to happen to prepare me for any challenges that might arise in the future and to also present this to anyone else who may have ever doubted themselves and their sense of belonging.



Justin Smith