

**Fellowship Reports from Undergraduate Students
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Name: Garnier, Amanda

Major: International Business

Internship Company: Loaves and Fishes for Ecuador

Position: Intern

Location: Santo Domingo, Ecuador

During the summer of 2017, I worked with Loaves and Fishes for Ecuador, a non-profit company. Members of a short-term mission trip to Ecuador formed Loaves and Fishes for Ecuador in 2005. They have four areas of focus. The first is to provide salaries for several Methodist pastors in Ecuador. The second is a sponsorship program that provides funds to allow children to attend school. The third is a meal program that feeds children in five different communities each week. The last area is to bring mission teams to Ecuador to help in the feeding program and to build churches.

The purpose of my position for the summer was to help in every aspect of the organization. For the first half of the summer, I was in Florida and met with the company's accountant. I assisted the accountant in the preparation of mid-year contribution statements for all contributions made to the scholarships and feeding program. I quickly realized that the company could benefit from an automated contribution system. I spent time researching companies that offer online sponsorship platforms.

The second half of the summer, I was in Ecuador working with the day-to-day operations of the company. I was in Santo Domingo, Ecuador for four and a half weeks. I worked in the feeding program and helped to lead three mission teams. Each team spent approximately eight days in Ecuador. I was part of the leadership team that coordinated each team's schedule. This included meeting each team at the airport, organizing hotel room arrangements, and coordinating menus. I prepared and delivered a presentation on the scholarship program to each of the teams, which resulted in the enrollment of several new sponsors for the program. I also translated for each team. While in Ecuador, my Spanish skills improved more than I thought imaginable. Before leaving for Ecuador, I

could barely hold a conversation in Spanish, and now, I can carry on a conversation with ease and feel much more confident in my abilities.

While in Ecuador, I presented my research on the online contribution platform to the director of the company. She was very excited about the impact that moving from pen and paper to an online presence would have on the company. She gave me the authority to contact the company that I recommended and to begin the process to move the company to an online sponsorship program.

The funding from the Shackouls Honors College enabled me to work for Loaves and Fishes for Ecuador as an unpaid intern. The funding also gave me the opportunity to travel to Ecuador, improve my Spanish conversation ability, and to have an impact on this not for profit company.

Name: Hydrick, Morgan

Majors: English and Communication

Internship Company: Mississippi Magazine

Position: Editorial Intern

Location: Jackson, MS

Through my nSPARC fellowship, I was able to live in Jackson, Mississippi, as I worked as an editorial intern for *Mississippi Magazine*. This internship allowed me to utilize everything I have learned from both my English classes and my communication classes and led to a fantastic summer experience. The magazine is a lifestyle magazine that showcases everything Mississippi and its people have to offer from delicious recipes, to successful businesses, to the unique cities throughout the state. As the editorial intern, it was my job to interview subjects of articles and then write those articles and to handle the distribution of the magazine's most famous contest—the Best of Mississippi contest. The latter helped me see public relations, my concentration within the communication department, in a new light. Public relations is more than posting on social media or creating an effective advertising campaign; it can be a mutually beneficial relationship between two parties. Through the Best of Mississippi contest, we were able to give free advertisement to restaurants, shops, and tourist spots around the state. When these businesses then advertised their wins on social media or in their storefronts, *Mississippi Magazine* was there for all of their customers to see.

My favorite part of the internship, however, was that I was able to write articles for the magazine. During the summer, I was published in the July/August issue, the September/October issue, and the Field Guide—a supplemental issue sent out with the September/October issue. In the fall issue of the magazine, my editor, Melanie Ward, trusted me to write a feature for the magazine about the *Miss Mississippi* pageant's 60th anniversary in Vicksburg. It was a great honor to write this article because I was able to talk with former contestants and current board members and because it is so rare that an

intern gets assigned a feature article. I was also able to write an article for the Field Guide about Bulldog Bash, a highly-anticipated event at Mississippi State. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to feature my school in one of my articles as a sort of repayment for all of the wonderful opportunities the university has given me. Without the NSPARC Fellowship, I am certain that I would not have had such a great summer opportunity and the chance to see my name in print.

Name: Kerstiens, Joseph

Majors: Business and Political Science

Internship Company: Northern District of Mississippi, United States District Court

Position: Court Intern

Location: Aberdeen, MS

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with Chief Judge Sharion Aycock of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. As a student looking to attend law school starting fall 2018, this was an invaluable experience. Not only was I exposed to the monotonous legal process in action, but I was given the added benefit of understanding everything that goes on behind the scenes. I participated in court proceedings ranging from sentencings to plea changes; however the ultimate highlight of my internship was witnessing from start to finish a full-fledged civil trial. Following the proceeding from voir dire to judgement taught me more about a future career in law than I ever I could have learned in the classroom. During the trial, I was in a unique position to not only see the actual proceeding but also what the judge and her clerks have to do to allow the trial to take place and run smoothly. Outside of the courtroom, I had the opportunity to assist in mediation before an issue was brought to trial, and through that, I began to understand the many unnoticed duties of judges.

When there was not something on the docket (which was most of the summer), I was still continuously learning. I helped the Judge by going through decades of old case files and organizing them for her records. This gave me the opportunity to learn about the structure of criminal and civil cases and how they are properly cited. When I was not working on the records, I still was learning from the clerks. In such an engaging legal environment, many things piqued my curiosity, and they had the patience to teach me. On top of answering plenty of legal questions, they familiarized me with Westlaw—a legal search engine—and gave me a solid understanding of what to expect with a career in law, particularly in federal clerkships. Because of my experience this past summer interacting

with the court and its clerks, I know I am better prepared for what law school has in store for me and what lies in the a legal profession beyond.

Name: McCarthy, Sean

Majors: Political Science and Journalism

Internship Company: Brady Campaign & Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Position: Development Intern

Location: Washington, D.C.

Over the summer of 2017 my NSPARC Fellowship allowed me to pursue an internship with the Brady Campaign & Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The Brady Center is the nation's leading gun violence prevention nonprofit. Brady was established as the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence in 1974, assuming its current name in 2004. Brady gains its name from longtime chairs Sarah and James Brady. James was injured by a gunman's bullet during President Reagan's assassination attempt in 1981. Following another incident in 1989 that almost harmed their son, Sarah and James chose to commit their efforts to assisting the then-Center for Handgun Violence. They were integral in petitioning for the successful passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1994, which established a national registry for firearms and mandated federal background checks. Following James Brady's death in 2004, the Center was renamed to reflect the sacrifices and dedication made by the Brady's to advance the efforts of the nonprofit.

I have long been passionate about responsible firearm regulation. My personal life narrative has been marked by numerous instances that have embedded in me an interest in advancing sensible firearm regulation. My interest in firearm regulation led me to author several research papers and studies into the lasting effects of various firearm regulation policies. My research eventually led me to discovering the Brady Center. I was immediately captured by Brady's mission and policy proposals.

My NSPARC Fellowship allowed me to afford my cost of living in D.C. while I pursued this fantastic opportunity. I was a development intern at Brady; tasked with various fundraising solicitation and foundation giving opportunities. During my time at

Brady I helped write a grant proposal for \$5,000, solicit funds through two digital fundraising campaigns, and drafted numerous reports for donors. I also completely digitized the foundation giving files and research and improved the Brady Legacy Society. Finally, I assisted with planning the annual L.A. Brady Bear Gala. All these opportunities taught me the value development teams possess towards the nonprofit they are a part of. I also advanced my knowledge of firearm policies and regulations through internal meetings and research for proposals.

My internship at Brady cemented my interest in a career surrounding nonprofit development work. I am now researching into pursuing postgraduate studies at Columbia University or University of California-Los Angeles towards a master's in Nonprofit Management.

NSPARC helped me realize my passion for nonprofit development work. I was granted another opportunity to advance my career in Washington, D.C. and the relationships I established with my colleagues at Brady were immensely valuable. I hope to one day return to Brady in a permanent capacity as a member of the development team.

Name: McLemore, Cole

Majors: Finance and Mathematics

Internship Company: Morgan Stanley

Position: Financial Advising Intern

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Interning for Morgan Stanley was the single most impactful experience I have made for my financial career. Going into this internship, I had no prior office work experience and held only the financial knowledge gained from within my classrooms. I understood the financial field and its various products, yet had little idea of what to expect from utilizing these tools in a professional work environment. Luckily for me, my superiors at Morgan Stanley already had an easy-to-use, self-serve coffee machine that allowed for my time as an intern not to be best filled with coffee runs or dry cleaners, but with industry immersion and client related tasks.

My specific position within the office was the personal intern of a financial advisor within the office. A financial advisor's job boils down to recommending allocations for each client's personal investments. Essentially, a client will deposit their wealth into one or more firm accounts, each with different investment goals and strategies. One client might be excited by emerging technologies and want an aggressive mix of stocks for a chance at a high return. Another may desire safer, lower return allocations in the bond market or trusted mutual funds. A financial advisor must be able to address these concerns and tailor portfolios for any case.

As the intern of a financial advisor, my most common task was to generate reports for clients' portfolios. This required me to learn company software in order analyze various aspects of each portfolio such as the returns, costs, risks, and most importantly the relative market performances. Each report would need to express these elements in a visually appealing manner that could be read by a client of any financial level. Thus, for each report, I had to fully analyze all holdings, generate graphs that would demonstrate

all profound findings, and research the general market to see if I could improve any of the client's investments.

This brings me to my second primary focus of market research. I had two methods of optimizing allocation choices for clients. Firstly, if I was assessing only a few specific securities, I would call Morgan Stanley's dedicated security desks for their professional opinions and discuss our options until we came to a relative consensus on how to perform an allocation adjustment. Secondly, when I was given the task of weeding through an entire market for optimal choices, I dusted off my computer programming knowledge and wrote scripts to automatically pick out promising investments. Given that I was only an entry level intern with minimal data clearances, I had to get creative in how I could pull necessary data in an efficient manner. After tailoring my scripts to the data collection methods that I could scrounge up, I had a working list of the top mutual funds and exchange traded funds that Morgan Stanley could offer to their clients. This list was consulted daily and altered weekly to stay on top of the changing market environments and needs from both clients and product salesmen.

After I worked with these scripts a few times, I felt confident enough to create my own project and write an automation script that would import all client allocations, classify and group all holdings, and then compare the distribution of allocations to those recommended by Morgan Stanley. I typically did these tasks by hand, but after noticing how repetitive and intuitive the work was I recognized that a computer script could take care of this quite handily. Now, whenever my previous boss has to categorize a few million dollars' worth of holdings in dozens of different funds, he can simply import the data to my script, press a button, and have the client's current strategy ready to view and ready to compare with the closest strategy that Morgan Stanley would offer them.

These experiences were absolutely invaluable in cementing my passion for the financial industry and for allowing me a preview into life after college. Aside from the actual work experience that I acquired, I made connections with active and important professionals in various fields of finance. These connections are vital as I now have mentors that I can go to for non-academic advice and for recommendations on starting

my career. This internship allowed for me to have more than just a summer paycheck or a few more lines on my resume; it allowed me the experience to break into my future profession and come away with substantial knowledge of what I want to do with my life and how I can go about securing my future. This knowledge that I picked up along my way and the people that I was able to make strong connections with will stick with me and positively influence the rest of my financial career.