



MCS NEWSLETTER

OUR BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER OF GOINGS-ON IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STUDIES

INTERNSHIPS: HOW TO BEGIN YOUR SEARCH

By: Elisabeth Chen

As part of the MCS degree, students are required to complete an internship. Getting an internship is a great way to apply the knowledge and skills you've learned from your classes. But how do you start on finding one? To get some tips and insight into how to find an internship, I talked with Kacie Lawrence, Associate Director of Internships & Employment at the Career Center, and Dr. Snyder, who teaches MCS 404, the internship and professional development course. I also received input from other MCS students in a survey.

TIPS FOR FINDING INTERNSHIPS

There are a lot of different things you can do when searching for internships:

Visit UMBCworks - this is one online portal that Kacie Lawrence and Dr. Snyder both recommend for students and alumni to find many different job and internship listings. It's a great place to begin your search and also apply for internships!

Make Connections - some students noted that they found their internships through family friends and professors. Kacie, who is the MCS Career Center liaison, says, "Sometimes students will come to me and say like 'Well, I got my internship, but it was through my uncle, does that matter? Is that okay?' and I'm like 'Yeah! Use your resources!' A lot of people get started that way." Dr. Snyder also suggests getting to know your professors and telling them about your career interests because they can help you and even refer you to jobs if the opportunity comes.

Attend Career Fairs - Kacie helps to organize several networking events such as the Career Fair and the CAHSS Careers Conference, which host several alumni panels and

networking opportunities with employers. She says that "connecting with alumni-- through these events, faculty connections, or LinkedIn-- is another great method of securing an internship."

Make an appointment at the Career Center - you can meet with Kacie Lawrence for help with searching for an internship and checking over resumes and cover letters. The Career Center is a great resource for both current UMBC students and alumni!

Be Bold - Sometimes it requires stepping outside your comfort zone and contacting people about internships. Worst case scenario, according to Dr. Snyder, is that you won't receive a response, but best case scenario is that you could get connected and have a great opportunity. One student, Alyssa, says to "Brain dump your interests and "cold call" (or email) businesses you could see yourself gaining valuable experience at. As far as I know, I was the first intern for the Music Division of MAGFest, Inc. The fact that it was something I was passionate about and already had background knowledge of made my supervisor willing to take a chance on me."



Alyssa interning at MAGFest Inc. (photo provided by Alyssa)

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION COORDINATOR ... ELISABETH CHEN (MCS, '22)

LESSONS LEARNED

Internships are great for gaining new experiences and learning new things about your field of interest as long as you are going into it with a willingness to learn and grow more professionally. As Dr. Snyder says, "You're gonna get out of it what you put into it." Make the most of the experiences and whatever lessons you learned from your internships! Here are a few things that students said they learned from their internship experiences:

"During this experience, I learned one of the most influential ways to propose ideas and solutions is to combine your own experience and knowledge (to prove that you are valuable in the problem-solving process) with the knowledge and understanding you have gained of the problem and specific situation of the stakeholders you are assisting to create a concrete and well developed suggestion for improvement."

- Samuel (interned at Bluewater Advisory)

"You don't have to settle being miserable in order to gain valuable work experience" - Alyssa (interned at MAGFest Inc.)

"Be willing to try new things and opportunities even if you are unsure." - Anonymous

MCS FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Adelman was promoted to Full Professor and her co-edited collection, *Remote Warfare: New Cultures of Violence* was published by the University of Minnesota Press. **Prof. Anchor** was the guest editor in April for the Mid-Atlantic Moving Image Archive's monthly Members Only video, compiled from the WJZ-TV Collection. **Dr. Loviglio's** essay on WYPR's Daily Dose COVID19 podcast will appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Radio Studies*, which will be published later this year. **Dr. Patton** was interviewed by media scholar Elana Levine for *MEDIAPOLIS: A Journal of Media and Cities* about her book *Easy Living: The Rise of the Home Office*. In November, **Dr. Shewbridge** participated in the Leadership Summit on Applied Storytelling hosted by Loughborough University. He also received grant funding from Maryland Traditions to begin production of a documentary on Maryland folk musician Ola Belle Reed, to be completed in 2022. This academic year, **Dr. Snyder** developed and implemented new learning modules in MCS 101 with funding from a Hrabowski Innovation Grant. **Dr. Yang** published a review of the book *Underglobalization: Beijing's Media Urbanism and the Chimera of Legitimacy* in *Film Quarterly*.



Tania Lizarazo (MLL), Bev Bickel (LLC), Lia Iannuzzi (MCS 484) and Kenny M'Bali (MCS 484) on the set of *Conversations in Digital Storytelling* at UMBC's New Media Studio in February, 2020.

ALUMNI DEETS

Here's what a few of our alumni/ae are up to. Please let us know your updates too! We'd love to hear from you!

Elizabeth Chong, '11 is the Social & Digital Products Coordinator at Maryland Department of Commerce, Tourism Division.

Courtney Perdue, '12 (MCS Certificate) is a Co-Producer for the *Just Beyond* series coming soon to Disney+.

Stefanie Mavronis, '12 was named the Deputy Director of Communication for Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott.

Maren Gonzales, '13 is a Communications Associate for The Life Design Lab at Homewood at Johns Hopkins University.

Robbin Lee, '13 was appointed Executive Director for Baltimore Homecoming.

Maggie Dier, '15 is an Academic Programs Specialist at Vectorworks (entertainment design software).

Emily Kranking, '16 plays a role in the groundbreaking musical film *Best Summer Ever*, which won a Special Jury Award at SXSW and is available for streaming.

Elena Beck, '18 was awarded a fellowship to attend the Communication and Culture graduate program at York University.