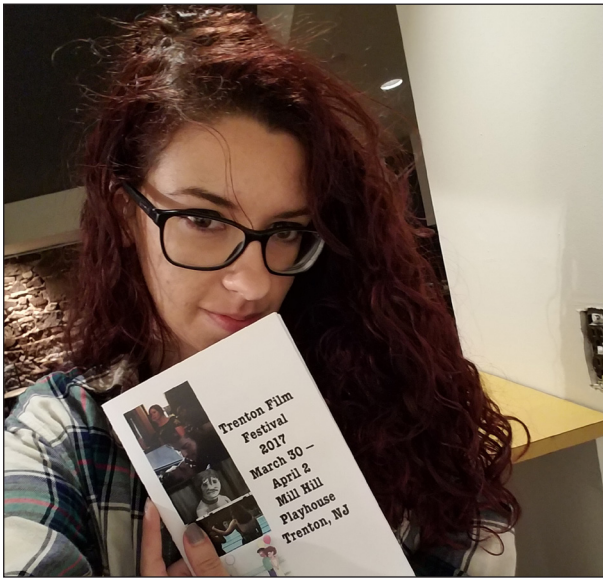


College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Internships and Shadow Experience Newsletter

Media student goes behind-the-scenes at film festival



Pictured above is Emily Klingman.

Many students admit that they enjoy sitting in a theater and watching a good movie. However, for senior journalism major and film and media studies minor Emily Klingman, that love of film evolved beyond the local cinema and became an in-depth internship involving intensive behind-the-scenes work.

Klingman worked as a media and public relations intern with the Trenton Film Society during the Spring 2017 semester. The society focuses on hosting two festivals, all with the goal to “entertain, educate and engage” the Trenton area in a variety of forms of film.

“I helped with the Oscars Shorts Festival, which was a screening of all the Oscar-nominated short films for this year,” Klingman said. “I also helped with the Trenton Film Festival, an international festival featuring films from directors from all over the world, including China, Israel and even some local.”

Klingman’s job involved helping the Trenton Film Society prepare for these two festivals by contacting directors, writing for social media and press, managing listings, and much more.

“I sent out a couple of email campaigns to directors and accepted filmmakers who had the option to send us their films,” she said. “Once the films started coming in, I kept a tracking sheet of who sent in films, what they sent it, how they sent it in, all those details. I also did social media, scheduled Face-

book posts, put the events on listings online and wrote press releases.”

However, despite this valuable and helpful behind-the-scenes work Klingman did, there is one aspect of her internship that she produced that she finds herself most proud of.

“I designed the programs for the festivals,” she explained. “That was my favorite aspect of this internship. That surprised me, because I didn’t think I’d care about it. My favorite memory was going to pick up the proof for the program I designed. It was nice because I was physically holding something that I created from scratch.”

In addition to all the work she did in the office, Klingman was also present at each festival, where she said she served as a “helping hand.”

“I worked the snack stand [for] a couple takes,” she said. “I was the ticket takers a couple times too. I was also the projectionist for the films. That meant I sat in the projection booth and made sure that the films played smoothly, and they played in order.”

Klingman added that serving as a projectionist was also one of her favorite parts of working in this internship.

However, though there were many aspects of her internship that she loved, the internship still had its downsides.

“I didn’t really enjoy all the emailing stuff,” Klingman said. “Sometimes people needed answers I didn’t have, and it kind of stressed me out.”

Still, Klingman noted that even though this added pressure for her and was monotonous, it was still “important work.” She explained that the company is a non-profit organization and none of the workers at the Trenton Film Society worked there full-time. She stressed how important it was that she “picked up all the little pieces to enable them all to do their jobs.”

Overall, Klingman believed her work at the Trenton Film Society not only benefited them, but will also have a lasting impact on her future and her career.

“As a journalism major, I know how to write stuff obviously,” she said. “But this was an interesting media aspect as I was behind the scenes. It was interesting getting the take behind the other side of the media. I also learned social media strategy skills, like how can posts be put out in the world and can make such an impact.”

Student gets hands dirty in sustainable internship

Often times, the best internships will require students to head outside and get a little dirty. Just ask Julia Ragazzo, a junior environmental science major and sustainability minor at Rider. Through her internship, she had the chance to immerse herself in science and get her feet a little wet — literally.

Ragazzo has worked as a water quality monitoring intern with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). According to their mission statement, the DRBC was founded in 1961 “to share the responsibility of managing the water resources of the Basin,” and to maintain and protect water quality.

“It’s a regulatory agency,” Ragazzo said. “We work within the basin of the Delaware River. Basically anything that has to do with water quality, we set the rules for that.”

Ragazzo interned with the organization last summer and fall semesters, and is taking the spring semester off before working again this summer. Her internship is paid and she worked anywhere between 4 and 40 hours, depending on the semester. However, no day at her internship was the same.

“Every day was kind of different,” Ragazzo said. “The great thing about the internship is I get to see and do field work, lab work and office work.”

In terms of her duties themselves, Ragazzo stated that it depended on if she were in the office, the lab or out in the field. Office work entailed delegated assignments such as crafting spreadsheets or data collection. While in the lab, she spent time calibrating meters utilized in measuring “dissolved oxygen or pH levels” in water from the Basin. Field work often required traveling and definitely put one’s body to work.

“Collecting the data was pretty physically demanding at times because we’re standing on top of bridges, lowering



Pictured above is Julia Ragazzo.

anchored bottles and pulling them back up,” Ragazzo explained.

However, in spite of this challenge, Ragazzo still could not recall many negative situations or aspects over her time with the DRBC.

“Sometimes, it’s just really hot outside,” she said. “But I don’t know. It was just a great experience overall.”

When Ragazzo reflected on her work, though, there was a vivid, positive memory that came to mind.

“Some days, we would travel up to New York state and we took a little detour to somewhere along the Delaware,” she said. “And up there, it’s so pristine. If you go see it in [Philadelphia], it’s, like, disgusting. Up there, it’s just clear, blue waters. So, I got to see some new places that I’ve never been to.”

In addition, Ragazzo said that lines dividing her schoolwork and internship work were often blurred. She states that she was able to employ the lab work and information learned at Rider in her internship. She also obtained skills at DRBC, such as how to use a computer program called GIS, before she learned about it in a required environmental science class.

“I think it’s cool that a lot of the stuff I learned school, like a lot of the lab work I’ve done and just information from classes, I got to use at my job,” she said.

Overall, as an environmentalist, someone who is passionate about her field and as someone who loves the outdoors, Ragazzo believed her work with DRBC has been beyond helpful to her.

“I feel like I was really lucky to get this internship,” she said. “I get to be outdoors a lot. I get a good field for not just my department, but I get to work with a lot of different groups at DRBC. I think it was just a well-rounded experience. I got to learn a lot of different things that I can use in really any job.”

Before you send that application, make sure you have...

An edited, professional résumé

Employers look for professional, edited résumés. Make sure you have all the relevant information there, but also make sure it’s neat.

A clear cover letter

Your cover letter should talk a little about you, why you want the job and what you can offer the position. Try not to ramble too much, and make sure you hit those main points.

If needed, samples or portfolios

Many employers want to know what work you can produce before hiring you. A portfolio of published work, research, design, video, etc. can help showcase your skill level and talent.

How to land an internship: helpful tips from Rider CLAS interns

Even if you don't feel ready for an internship, you're probably ready and you shouldn't sell yourself short. Take the opportunity if it presents itself.

Ask your professors if they know anyone who has an internship. Make yourself known. Utilize things that Rider puts out, like Handshake.

Talk to older students who had internships. See how they like them and if they can get you into their jobs. They can answer the questions you have on a peer to peer basis.

Be confident. If you are looking for any internship, persevere even if people say you cannot get there or it will be very hard. Try it and prove them wrong.

I definitely suggest doing the Shadow Program at Rider. It is a great way to get a feel for your job field, and helps in deciding whether or not you are on the right track.

—Julia Ragazzo

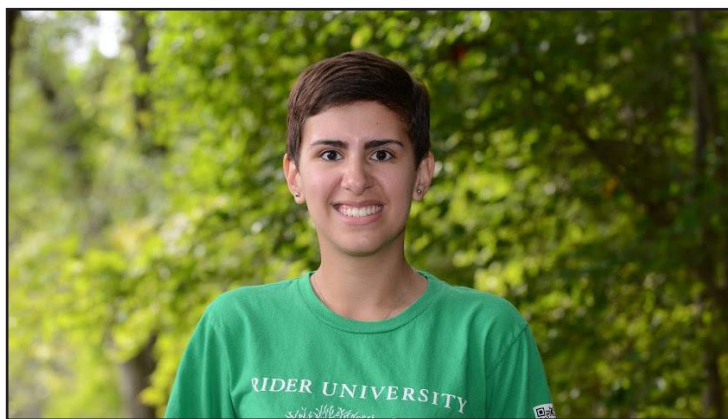
—Marianna Buseman

—Emily Klingman

—Cassandra Zitani

—Joseph Suizzo

Intern learns value of arts and internal internships



Pictured above is Marianna Buseman.

When many people hear the word “internship,” they immediately think of a position in a swanky office, miles away from this university. However, while these positions exist, they do not encompass all of the opportunities in the job market. In fact, some of the most rewarding internships can be found right here, on Rider’s own campus.

Marianna Buseman, a senior English writing major with an American studies minor, has learned this firsthand as a publicity intern with Anne Sears, the director of external affairs at Westminster College of the Arts. According to Buseman, her position is that of a “feature writer,” and she writes articles about the various arts programs hosted by Westminster, which Sears edits and uploads to the Rider website.

“A lot of people think I write for the newspaper and I’m like, ‘no,’ it’s for the website,” Buseman explained. “I want to write for a career, so it’s cool because when I do portfolios, I can also show them that [mine] is also included with a .edu website.”

For Buseman, her position requires her to write 500-700 word articles. However, she is never deterred by her duties, as they all fall in line with her passion.

“I’m a writer, that’s my passion,” Buseman said. “A lot of the times, I can get pulled away from my craft for whatever reason. This kind of forces me to sit down and write. And I really enjoy writing creatively and even though this is news oriented,

it’s so creative because it’s about art like plays, musicals, art gallery openings, dance recitals and things like that.”

In terms of any dislikes Buseman may have regarding her position, she only has one, highly personal concern.

“I have anxiety, so having to schedule meetings with people is kind of nerve racking because I wonder “what if they’re rude,” or “what if this doesn’t work out?”” she explained.

Some of her fondest memories include interviewing Miriam Mills for *Inherit the Wind* and Trent Blanton for *Once on this Island*, both conversations she considered highly enlightening.

However, this opportunity would not have been available to Buseman or any other intern if the university carried that idea of external internships as more essential. According to both Buseman and Sears, internal internships are highly valuable.

When discussing how she handles her internal interns, Sears said “we function in many ways like any arts center in the community. We offer Rider students the same experience they might receive working for another arts organization/presenter and the convenience of being close to home.”

Buseman seconded this idea.

“For someone like me, I don’t have a car,” she said. “So this is perfect because I have the opportunity to engage in an internship and it is convenient for me because it’s on campus.”

In addition, Buseman believes that taking an internal internship at Rider allows interns to learn more about the university.

“I was never really involved in its arts program before, and now I know all these things,” she said. “When people ask me about [plays or arts programs], I know it, and it makes me want to go see it more. It gives me an appreciation of the vastness of the arts program.”

Sears also viewed these internships as not only an opportunity to grow professionally and learn, but to create a mutually beneficial relationship between students and the university.

She said, “Internal internships can be mutually beneficial opportunities that offer students hands-on experience while providing the university’s departments new perspectives and additional hands to achieve our goals.”

Students reap benefits through Shadow Program

Internships are not the only way that students can immerse themselves into a professional setting. Learning about one's career can be as simple as signing up to take another class.

Rider offers a course in the winter and summer sessions called the Shadow Experience, and it allows students to be paired with a professional working in the field their aim to go into. This is a valuable opportunity for students to not only witness what a job in their desired career entails, but to also connect with professionals in that career.

However, the benefit of this experience is most clearly illustrated through those who have partaken in it. Just ask senior healthcare administration major Cassandra Zitani who pursued this opportunity to receive hospital hours for nursing school. She said that shadowing at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) was her "dream job."

"My absolute favorite part was being exposed to various cases that have furthered my understanding of the medical field," Zitani said. "[I also had] to step out of my comfort zone to ask questions to students and doctors who, at first, I felt intimidated by. But at CHOP, they made me feel like a part of the team."

For Zitani, she worked directly with Dr. Tsahouras at CHOP and assisting in taking care of the children.

"I would go to whatever team I was apart of that day and meet Dr. Tsahouras," she explained. "We would go to see each patient individually and then try and figure out what could be wrong or what was going on. We would see as little as 10 to at max [of] 25 patients in one day. We would see the patient and Dr. Tsahouras would talk to the medical students and I about the diagnosis. Then, they would get admitted or go through the discharge process."

Zitani was not the only student deeply absorbed in her work for the Shadow Experience. Senior psychology major Joseph Suizzo, who shadowed in Southern Regional High School's autism wing, also became immersed in the program while working with the disabled students.

"For the three days, I worked with my board certified be-

havior analyst (BCBA)," Suizzo said. "I watched her and her colleagues work on behavior plans for each student, as well as watch a project the team was working on with a specific student who had a particular problem with certain music."

Suizzo also found the experience worthwhile, remembering a specific moment that stood out to him in his experience.

"While I was shadowing, I was given the opportunity to teach a student how to ask for food and drinks on his iPad using applied behavior analysis (ABA)," Suizzo recalled. "After a few trials with him, he learned how to do it. It was really amazing to see what a little positive reinforcement does for these students."

The course entails 25 hours of on-site work. While Suizzo worked three days, he noted that BCBAs typically work full days of teaching through ABA and working as one-on-one aids for the autistic students. Zitani said her days usually began at 4 p.m. and ended around midnight.

However, despite these intensive tasks and hours, both Zitani and Suizzo found the shadow experience to be worthwhile.

"Working through the Shadow Program definitely pushed me further on a track for psychology when it comes to graduate studies," Suizzo said. "It definitely taught me how to work with that particular population. Many people don't understand that, just because these kids are different, it doesn't mean they cannot learn. I really enjoyed working with each student and the population was great."

Zitani also agreed.

"This has prepared me for a job more than any classroom or homework assignment or group project any professor could ever give me," she said. "This experience changed my life for the better. I felt so much more passion about become a nurse and was so motivated after this opportunity."

If interested students have 30 or more credits and a 2.5 GPA or higher, they can contact Terri Marriott for more information on how to begin their own worthwhile shadow experience.

For more information on internships or shadowing...

To find out what professors to speak to about your major or for information about the Shadow Experience, contact Director Terri Marriott at marriott@rider.edu or (609)895-5454.

To refine your résumés or cover letter, or for help finding internship opportunities, schedule an appointment with Career Advisor Lauren Nicolosi at lnicolosi@rider.edu or (609)896-5000 ext. 5271.

Newsletter produced by Samantha Sawh, '17