

Dear Pepperdine student,

Before coming to Washington D.C., I didn't know what to expect. I planned on visiting the free museums to escape the summer heat, stopping by the monuments and memorials on the way home from my internship and trying hip coffee shops to feed my incessant addiction to caffeine. But as I spent more time in D.C., I realized that the city had so much more to provide.

I was offered an internship at DC Life Magazine and would not have to go into the office every day to work. Instead, I would explore the city and write articles about the diversity and culture of the Capitol. Because of this unique and different internship, I quickly became accustomed to the city and what exciting things were around each corner. I explored the streets of Georgetown, checked out dessert shops that were perfect during the summer season and even attended a cooking class where I got free food and sangria.

Everyone in the program grew really close to one another and we would all catch up on how our internships were going during group dinners. Some would go out in the evenings while some would go out to grab lunch or dinner at a local restaurant. It was those moments that I'll miss the most; being able to be in a city with other Pepperdine students who have the same dreams and goals of making an impact on our world and going through this journey together. I have made some close friendships with those in the program and will value those connections I've made.

I think Washington D.C. has a little something for everyone; you just have to find it. Go out and make connections, step out of your comfort zone and do something you wouldn't normally do. This time in our lives is about growing and learning and being able to do that in our nation's capitol is a unique opportunity.

Thank you and God Bless,



Chad Jimenez





**Cassandra Stephenson – Senior
Journalism Major
Interned at Scoop News Group**

Why did you choose the DC Summer Internship program?

I wanted a chance to gain some internship experience outside of the Southern California “bubble” that I’ve spent most of my life in. Washington, D.C. is a major national hub for journalism, and I wanted to see what it would be like working in a newsroom in the Capitol. The D.C. Summer Internship program seemed like a great fit!

What resources did you use to work on your resume?

I visited the Career Center and did some of my own research online when creating my resume and drafting cover letters.

What resources did you use to find your internship?

I mostly looked for internships using job-posting websites like [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) and [idealist.com](https://www.idealists.com). In fact, I found my internship on indeed. I also applied to a few of the suggestions on some of Brian’s email lists of internship opportunities.

What was your process like of how you got your internship?

I started applying fairly early and continued to look for internship opportunities weekly. Because Pepperdine’s program starts so early in the summer, it is likely that many companies will not respond until much later, so I wanted to make sure I was

casting my net wide enough. I basically applied to anything I found that looked like it was related to the editorial side of journalism, even if it was not exactly what I had in mind. I ended up hearing back from Scoop News Group and they offered me an internship almost right away, so I took it! I applied to around 20 internships and they ended up being the only company that reached out to me.

What work have you done at your internship?

My day at my internship consists of researching and writing articles for Scoop News Group's online platforms. The company focuses on technology and cyber security news, and writing articles for this unique niche has been a great learning experience. I am able to work with editors and copyeditors every day, watch and write articles on Congressional hearings, turn press releases into meatier stories and do my own original reporting. In the meantime, I have had the wonderful opportunity of seeing how a newsroom functions and gaining nearly 50 clips to add to my portfolio.

What have you learned while in DC, whether that is at your internship, through WAIN 495, etc.?

I've learned that having an open mind really is key. If you had asked me last year what I would be doing this summer, I probably would not have guessed that I would be working nearly 40-hour weeks at a technology reporting company in Washington, D.C. Yet, this experience has been absolutely invaluable and I am so glad that I did it! Also, challenging yourself can lead to some pretty cool opportunities.



**Gregory Virant – Senior
Business Administration Major & Strauss Certificate
Interned at The World Bank Group – Civil Society Team**

Why did you choose the DC Summer Internship Program?

I wanted to get internship experience while in a Pepperdine program, since I plan on being in the US the DC program seemed most logical to me, it certainly is the most professionally oriented program IP offers and all around a great experience.

What resources did you use to work on your resume?

I visited the career center probably 5-7 times during my first month of college and continue to go back if I ever feel in need of advice or direction, the resume they helped me craft gets updated with every new position I have and I always have at least two people proofread any resume or cover letter before submission.

What resources did you use to find your internship?

Funny enough the World Bank doesn't accept any undergraduate interns, this was feasible through Brian's contacts, which let me get my foot in the door, and then through the interview process I was thankfully able to make myself stand out against graduate student competitors. Anyone wanting to apply to the Bank needs to reach out to Brian and anyone that's done it before and make sure it's a position they are truly interested in, and then ask if he can refer you.

What was your process like of how you got your internship?

After Brian had reached out it took a couple months for my resume to circulate around different offices, during finals week of spring semester I got an email asking if I would be willing to schedule a phone interview. After that it only took a couple days before my now boss called me again to say that she would be taking me on as an intern for the summer.

What work have you done at your internship?

My work has been primarily associated with completing research assignments for end of the year reports (banks operate on the fiscal year which ends June 30th). I've been helping draft annual reports and gather data for those projects, as well as given some miscellaneous work whenever needed.

What advice do you have for future students interested in the DC Summer Internship Program?

Talk to Brian and DC alum, especially pending on your major/interests there is so much more to DC than the Hill. Also this is more of a no-nonsense program that demands discipline and really fills up your schedule with work and class, if you want to travel, go to Europe. This is the program that gives you great experience while preparing you for post-graduation. If you want an internship program while at Pepperdine, this is it.



**Sarah Barney – Senior
Acting/Political Science Major
Interned at Institute for Global Engagement: Center for Women, Faith and
Leadership and American Rivers**

Why did you choose the DC Summer Internship program?

When I started thinking about how I wanted to spend my summer, I was looking for something meaningful and challenging. As I began to explore Pepperdine's resources for summer programs, the DC Internship immediately stuck out as an opportunity to get to know myself, other Pepperdine students and a new city in a whole new way. The DC Summer Internship program's holistic nature ensured that I would get the most out of my summer and my time abroad.

What resources did you use to work on your resume?

Amy Brinkerhoff at the IP office was incredibly supportive and helpful when it came to updating my resume. I appreciated the guidance and professionalism she brought to all our resume sessions and by the time we were finished I felt I had a document that accurately reflected my experience and made me a competitive candidate.

What resources did you use to find your internship?

Brian was hugely helpful in keeping everyone updated on the job opportunities he found as well as keeping me motivated and encouraged to keep applying places. I also checked listings on Indeed.com and Internships.com to see if there were any that matched my interests and time frame. I also contacted businesses and

nonprofits that I felt were a good fit but that didn't necessarily have any positions listed to see if they would be interested in taking on a summer intern.

What was your process like of how you got your internship?

The internship application process was stressful, but ultimately very rewarding. I submitted a lot of applications and interviewed at a lot of places, but the employment scene is so competitive that even jobs I was told I was a good fit for I wasn't always offered. Ultimately it was a lot of hard work to get materials and references together, but the perseverance paid off in the positions I accepted and the experience I gained.

What work have you done at your internship?

My internships have been really challenging and exciting in very different ways. At CWFL I helped plan and execute their June Fellowship conference, which brought together 8 women of different nationalities from around the world to D.C. for a week to talk about peace building and community support through female empowerment. For American Rivers, I got firsthand experience lobbying and researching legislative hearings regarding water rights, current environmental laws and upcoming infrastructure and hydropower licensing.

What has been your favorite part of the dc summer program?

Getting to know D.C. and all the opportunities it has to offer has been one of my favorite aspects of the summer program. D.C. has become the city I compare all other cities to, and I'm counting down the day until I can come back. My time in the city has inspired me in so many ways and opened a lot of doors for potential careers and academics. From the friendships I made with other Pepperdine students in the program to my coworkers at my internship, the connections I made over this summer will easily last long past the program's end date. Everyone should have a chance to explore and experience this city, and I'm grateful I got to do it through the Pepperdine D.C. Summer Internship Program.



Austin Welch – Junior

Business Administration & Political Science Major and Straus Certificate in Dispute Resolution

Interned at the Institute on Religion and Democracy

Why did you choose the DC Summer Internship program?

I chose the DC Summer Internship program because DC is the epicenter of so much more than simply politics in the United States. I wanted to immerse myself in a program where I could network and grow my professional skills while gaining valuable work and life experiences.

What resources did you use to work on your resume?

One of the main resources that I used to work on my resume was my Business Fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi. It was through my peers in DSP, who have experience in the job market, that I honed my resume through formatting, content, and information that is easily located.

What resources did you use to find your internship?

Brian Swarts was an incredible help in finding my internship. Brian took the time to gain an understanding of what my vocation and passions were and helped steer me in the direction he felt would suit me. From there, I did research on my own and made sure that I knew as much as I could about my internship before I wrote my cover letter and interviewed.

What was your process like of how you got your internship?

The process was fairly straightforward in terms of applying for my internship. I emailed my cover letter and resume to the President of IRD, which was then passed on to my supervisor and an interview was scheduled. After my phone interview, I was asked to send in a writing sample. A few days after my interview I was offered the position.

What work have you done at your internship?

One of the most beneficial and unique opportunities at IRD has been my ability to write articles on religious liberty and democracy for IRD's blog, *Juicy Ecumenism*. Writing for IRD means I am entrusted to research and find stories that are truthful, important, and beneficial to the mission of IRD. For inspiration as well as to stay informed, I have also been lucky enough to attend events and briefings as frequently as I wish. One of my favorite aspects of what I do on a daily basis, however, is working with IRD's Business Manager to assist in ways such as preparing for our upcoming financial audit as a nonprofit, coding checks and donations as they arrive, and helping with other administrative tasks. Because of all of the different responsibilities presented at IRD, I am never bored while at work and have gained valuable skills.

What are a few goals you had for your internship? Do you think you have reached those goals?

I went into my internship with a very open mind in regards to what I would get out of it. Of course, I wanted to grow my professional skills as well as learn how to adapt to an office environment and excel in the jobs assigned to me as well as how to go out of my way to exceed expectations. So far, I do believe that I have reached all of these broad goals. As a professional, I have grown much more than I could have ever imagined. After a week or so one gets accustomed to the environment of the office, and I have learned to see when there are things that need to be done, allowing me to take care of them without having to be asked. I give much of the credit to the incredible group of individuals that I was so honored to work for and help preserve religious freedom and fight for democratic values across the globe.