Archeological Internship Enhances Learning for MS in Management Graduate

Internships for business students rarely offer an opportunity to work with an archeological firm to preserve artifacts, but for Ricki Sidorov, MSM ’17, that’s exactly what happened.

Sidorov planned on pursuing an MBA degree, but when she found that George Mason University offered a Masters in Management degree that she could complete in less than one year, she jumped on the opportunity. Sidorov says her internship experience was one of the most rewarding aspects of her MS in Management degree program.

Sidorov interned with the Cultural Commonwealth Resource Group, an archaeological firm working on a contract for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, responsible for processing and archiving an archaeological collection from Polk, Dallas, and Boone County, Iowa. “I would not have traded the experience for anything,” she says.

In addition, she says challenging courses and the comradery that was built with her classmates in those courses created friendships (and a network) to last a lifetime.

“Our class came together and began holding study sessions after work in the evenings and on the weekends. I was incredibly surprised at how close we became. By working together, everyone succeeded in the program,” says Sidorov.

Immediately after graduating from the Master’s in Management program, Sidorov was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force. She says, “The MSM program prepared me for my role as a cyber officer though the knowledge I gained, the presentations and team projects I worked on, and the global residency we participated in.”
Sports Management Graduate Opens New Doors with MS in Management

A few days after graduating from George Mason University with a bachelor’s degree in sports management, Louis Fernandez received a flyer in the mail promoting the MS in Management program and said he was immediately drawn by the testimonies from students. For the recent grad who was having trouble landing a full-time role, the opportunity seemed like a good option.

“The program would not only give me a chance to obtain my masters, but also expose me to a new variety of roles that I wouldn’t have even thought of applying for when finishing my undergraduate degree,” said Fernandez. He took the leap, and applied to the Masters in Management program.

For Fernandez, the connections he made with members of his cohort were some of the most memorable experiences in the program. “I can honestly say that I feel that I have made more personal connections in my cohort from this past year than I did in all four years of undergrad. We all experienced the same things together, from the courses, the professors, the global residency trip, the triumphs, and the struggles,” said Fernandez.

Fernandez graduated from the program this year and is now an analyst for The Rehancement Group, a management consulting company based in Reston, VA.

Fernandez says he was set on working in the sports industry when he finished his undergraduate degree, but his advice to others is that it’s okay for career plans to change. “This program gave me the confidence to apply for positions that I would not have even dreamed of applying for when I finished my undergraduate degree. This program exposes you to different industries that you may not have thought of applying for after undergrad.”