

## West Texas A&M University Cooperative Education / Internship Program Fall 2005 Executive Summary

The co-op / internship program at WTAMU began in the spring of 1994. A Title VIII Department of Education grant started the program and placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1265 individual placements to date (45 in Fall 2005)
- Placed 586 students in paid internships / co-op jobs (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Fall 2005 class – 3.204
- Average wage for the Fall 2005 class - \$10.45 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Fall 2005 class - \$121,642
- Total dollars earned by all co-op / internship students to date - \$4,124,220

In the academic year to date, the co-op / internship program has also helped 431 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 149 students to date during the 2005-06 school year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

### Intern to Full-Time for Fall 2005

This semester 7 of our 45 interns placed graduated. Five found full-time positions, one is attending graduate school, and one is still seeking employment.

Graduate	Major	Employer
Bohorquez, Santiago	MBA	Still seeking employment
Farley, Wendell	Computer Science	Anderson Merchandisers
Marsh, Brandy	Computer Info. Systems	Harrington Cancer Center
Moore, Keil	Biology	Pursuing graduate school
Pierce, Stanley	General Business	* Bruckner Truck Sales
Soto, Norma	Computer Info. Systems	* BWXT Pantex
Yang, Jae	Accounting	* Basic Energy Services

\*- found full-time employment with internship employer

We also know of four students graduating in May who have already secured full-time positions after graduation- two of these with their internship employers.

May '06 Graduate	Major	Employer
Jinger Pajestka	Accounting	* Anderson Merchandisers
Ryan Ross	Computer Info. Systems	* Herring National Bank
Lindsey Thorne	Mass Comm. – P.R.	Redwing Shoe Store
Ky Wilcox	Finance	First United Bank

\*- found full-time employment with internship employer

As you can see, internships continue to be an effective way for our students to find full-time employment in their field.

## Participating Employers

For a current list of employers who have participated in our program, please see <http://wtcareer.wtamu.edu/coop/coopemp.htm>.

## Selected Student Comments

"On some occasions you will be asked to work on something that may take you days or weeks to get together, but that is the fun of the job. Being able to be creative and rack your brain to the core is the backbone to survival."

"The music/book industry is so interesting; there is always something new. Also, to hear that we could change an artist's/author's life by giving it everything we have to promote the new album/book is very rewarding."

*Jinger Pajestka, accounting major  
Intern with Anderson Merchandisers*

"The Disney Experience was great! I made wonderful friends and we continue to stay in touch.

Disney was a once-in-a-lifetime experience where I developed skills that will look great on my résumé.

My advice for students considering this internship is to realize it isn't all about the money. Learn all you can from the experience and have fun along the way."

*Micki Allen, pre-med major  
Former intern with Disney*

"I can't thank your office enough for helping me obtain this internship. The accounting experience has been fantastic and it even turned into a full-time now that I have graduated. I'm now well on my way in a career I have always wanted to pursue."

*Jae Yang, accounting major  
Former intern with Basic Energy Services*