

Instagram guides communication senior to future after graduation

By **Hanna House**
Staff reporter

Imagine posting a photo of your graded final project in the hardest class in your field on Instagram and then getting contacted about a summer internship. Sounds like a fairy tale right? For Alyssa Richardson, communication senior, it was real life.

It can be difficult to find an internship that correlates with your interests. For Richardson, her summer internship not only dealt with communications, but also with the sport she enjoys, golf.

Last summer she was offered a position with the Game of Golf Institute (GOGI) to work their social media. They gave her a trial run live tweeting during the Masters tournament in April. After seeing her finished work, they offered her the summer internship.

"The first (internship) I got was last April with the Game of Golf Institute," said Richardson. This particular internship was just part time work learning in a real life setting. "It actually came from the Persuasion final paper that I wrote. I posted a picture of it on Instagram, and they contacted me."

Her final paper was about Rick-

ie Fowler and GOGI said they would love to read it after seeing it on Instagram and they were confident they could pass it on to him. Looking like an amazing break, Richardson leaped at the opportunity. GOGI told her to do as much or as little as she could and Richardson is still an intern for them doing whatever her schedule allows. For last summer, she ventured to the North Texas PGA for new work.

"This past summer I interned with the North Texas PGA," said Richardson. "They kind of made a position for me this past summer so I got to help with some of the youth camps that they do and then I worked in the office too."

Connections are pretty much our ticket in life. For Richardson, her connection was her brother. Her brother worked for the North Texas PGA before her and encouraged her to apply as well.

Tracy Frederick, communication professor, worked along with Richardson and looked at her own pool of connections.

"All of the professors here have their own networks of people that they have had contact with," said Frederick.

For communication students, Cindy Stevens, faculty assis-



Alyssa Richardson, communication senior, serves as a tutor in 1st Class. Richardson helps with writing challenges on Wednesday and Friday at various hours. (Hanna House/Collegian Photographer)

tant, is in charge of making a list together for students to look through of all the professors' contacts.

Frederick said, "This will be an efficient way for students to see what possible internships are out there and whether past interns would recommend that company. This is also a good way for past interns to share stories to ensure prospective interns know what they are getting into and that it matches with what they are wanting to do with their degree."

"At an undergraduate institution, you learn ideas, but students might graduate without practical experience and/or students might graduate and say 'wait a minute, I don't really like this degree,'" said Frederick.

This is one of the many reasons internships are a good idea. Not only do they help solidify your mind about what you want to do later in life, it also gives you practical experience to put on your resume.

In Richardson's case, she learned that she was pursuing the right career for her and she got good experience to put on her resume.

The North Texas PGA has offered to extend Richardson's internship for after she graduates. After graduation, she will move back to Texas and pick up where

she left off.

Hanna House is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may email her at hanna.house@sckans.edu.



File Photo: Alyssa Richardson, communication senior, prepares to swing on Oct. 21 2014 during the South Central Kansas Fall Invite Tournament. Richardson carded 169 strokes in the tournament. (Bailey Ven-John/Collegian Photographer)

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