

Intern WALL OF FAME



Chelsea Drake (Journalism, Senior)

Editorial Intern, *Buffalo Spree Magazine*

Editorial Intern, *Rhode Island Monthly Magazine*

Visiting Writers Series Intern, Fredonia English Department

Leader Practicum Intern, *The Leader* (Campus Weekly Newspaper)

Chief Research Assistant, Jake Halpern (Author, journalist, radio producer)

I've had five internships and they've all helped me reach my career goals. I found that each one of my internships led right into the next, which was an easy opportunity for me to network and gain exposure. With each of my internships I was welcomed as if I were a full time staffer. I had responsibilities and I was trusted as any other employee.

I received an email from author, journalist and, radio producer, Jake Halpern saying that he received my contact information from my previous internship supervisor at *Buffalo Spree Magazine*. One phone call later and I was Jake's research assistant for a project that will be a book, magazine piece and, an HBO series produced by Brad Pitt's production company, Plan B. Building and maintaining a friendly relationship with the former associate editor of *Spree* and putting my best foot forward led me to this opportunity.

I've learned so much from all of my internships. The importance of timeliness, copy editing, proofreading, and discipline are just to name a few. Aside from learning about how a magazine is put together or overseeing a soon-to-be HBO series come together, I've learned to use certain moments as cues. If I knew how to use a program or how to do anything that my internship supervisor probably didn't know I knew, I would offer to assist in these things. For instance, when the associate editor of *Buffalo Spree Magazine* was going to be out for the afternoon, I offered to plug our magazine content into a program that I knew how to use. As a research assistant, I am heavily involved in recruiting sources for an in-the-works book, which dapples in both my interests of journalism and book writing. Although transcriptions and continuous phone calls can be tedious, it's fun and rewarding to be involved in something that you love. Recently, he has put me in touch with a large talent agency in New York City---WME---where I am currently involved in an interview/hiring process. I hope to be a new member of their literary department. Jake was a stranger to me, a note-worthy byline on an article, just a few months ago. Today he is my mentor.

If I could give any student advice on internships, I'd say to do as many as possible. In journalism, or any arts related field really, experience trumps all else. It's a competitive world to break into, no matter what field you're aiming towards. I've been exhausting this phrase but I truly believe in it. "Bite off more than you can chew." Your bank account might suffer, you might face several sleepless nights, you might even have no time throughout

your day that is unaccounted for, but know that it's not forever. Be a fighter and work through it, do the best you can with everything because when it matters most, you'll know how far your talents and energy can go.

My advice for future interns: We're all in college for an experience. So go out and experience life while you're here. You have the time and the means to create yourself, which is probably the most rewarding thing he or she can do for themselves. It's a chance to go out with friends, fall in love with everything, and, as cliché as it sounds, shoot for the stars. You are limitless here so give it everything you've got. Be smart, be safe, enjoy it.

Use every resource you have available. You never know who could lead you to an amazing opportunity so always put your best foot forward and be yourself. Wanting something enough is half the battle. The CDO office can help you find connections, or suggest going to events that would lead you to the right people. While they are a great help, it is *you* who will need to do the work, make the connections, and get yourself out there. How's it go? "You can lead a horse to water..."