Fall 2015

Taking Advantage of Internships

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Recommended Citation

Mileham, Mardi (2015) "Taking Advantage of Internships," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 12 : No. 2 , Article 12.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol12/iss2/12

Taking advantage of internships

Working in the fast-paced, intense environment that is Amazon.com may not be for everyone, but it was a perfect fit for Achmat Jappie '16.

Jappie, a finance major with a minor in computer science, completed a six-month internship as a financial analyst for the mobile traffic team at Amazon.com. He worked on mobile initiatives and campaigns, studied metrics such as how many people downloaded apps, how often they visited the app, and what purchases were made on desktop vs. mobile devices. He produced a weekly business report that was distributed to some 120 people. He was also assigned a special internship project, analyzing the mobile customer base compared to the desktop customer base, which included a formal presentation before employees and interns.

The internship offered a good combination of Jappie's finance and computer science skills.

"Amazon is very data driven, so this was a good balance between my major and my minor," Jappie said.

Although he greatly improved his technical skills, Jappie said he may have gained the most on a personal level. He learned how to better interact with people, build relationships, work in a stressful environment and be persistent and determined in meeting his goals. He found a strong mentor who helped him learn the Amazon.com culture, and how to work in a corporate setting.

"It was great to be in an environment where you are taught by Harvard and Stanford MBAs and really talented, driven, smart people, and offered the ability to learn great technical skills," he said. "I'll come out of college with a strong background and experience that I know will help me once I'm in the job market."

Jappie described Amazon.com as a fast-paced, team-driven environment, where people constantly raise the bar and push each other to do better – including the interns. Managing the work load and delivering at such a high standard was probably the biggest challenge.

"But moments like that define who you are and if you persevere and overcome those obstacles, that's truly where you define yourself," he said.

Linfield's Office of Career Development was instrumental in helping Jappie secure internships at Amazon.com and, prior to that, at Miller Technologies, a local IT firm.
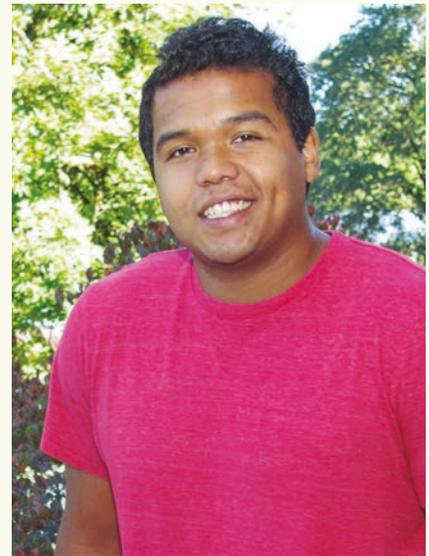
"Internships offer experiences in various industries to help you decide if that's something you really want to do," he said. "It taught me to be more mature and to be accountable and responsible for myself."

Jappie said numerous students have asked how he secured his internships, which is why he teamed up with Chris Beresford '16, who interned at GoDaddy the past two summers. They are launching a website, InternScoop.com, designed to provide information and resources such as how to build a resume, how to network and provide articles from various interns about their internship experience.

Jappie said business Professor Malcolm Greenlees and the staff in Career Development have been supportive and influential in his education.

"Take advantage of the opportunities that Linfield offers," he said. "There are opportunities; you just have to find them. Michael (Hampton), Kristi (Mackay) and Donna (Montoya) mentored and guided me and opened doors for me. If you utilize what Linfield has to offer, you can find success in whatever you pursue."

– *Mardi Mileham*

Achmat Jappie '16

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