

Economics and Legal Studies

SPEARS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Program | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Internship Spotlight



Melyssa Gilbert's Story

GRADUATION DATE **May 2011**

MAJOR **Economics**

JOB TITLE **Business Analyst, Torchmark Corp., McKinney, Texas**

It's amazing how intricate our world is. The earth is like a gigantic puzzle, and we are only just beginning to comprehend how all the pieces fit together. Undeniably, one of the most complex aspects of this puzzle is the economy. Most of us rarely take the time to consider all the intertwining factors that create a healthy market, and we often don't understand how seemingly unrelated factors can affect each other. That's why we need people like Melyssa Gilbert, a Spears School of Business alumna with a bachelor's degree in economics.

"Economics interested me because it is so relevant to everything that occurs," Melyssa said. "Economics touches everyone's life in both big and small ways. It helps you apply theory to real-life situations and hone your analytical abilities."

Melyssa has already used her analytical abilities to have a positive impact in a real-life situation. During the summer of 2011, she was employed as a business analyst intern for Torchmark Corporation, a health and life insurance company with multiple subsidiaries. In her position, Melyssa was responsible for assisting with a project to improve Torchmark's process for compensating insurance agents. She analyzed the state of business operations, discovered inefficiencies, created proposals based on cost analyses, and presented her work to the other project team members and the company's executive management team.

Melyssa said that many of the classes and programs offered in the Spears School helped her attain and excel in her internship.

"Presenting to the CEO of a major company can be intimidating, but due my speech class and other classes that had a presentation requirement, I was able to communicate effectively," Melyssa said. "Also, programs such as résumé polishing classes, mock interviews and career fairs led me to be more comfortable and at ease in interviews and other professional situations."

To prospective students, Melyssa recommended not only joining student groups but also truly immersing themselves in their roles within these organizations.

"Students realize that leadership roles in various organizations look good on their résumés," Melyssa said. "But once you obtain that role, don't be complacent and content with just going through the motions. Take an active role in contributing value because making decisions, converting ideas into reality based on your available resources, and working effectively on a team are all things that will continue to be not simply valuable in any career, but required."

Because of her hard work, Melyssa has been accepted to DePaul University to pursue a master's degree in economic policy analysis. Once she completes her degree, Melyssa said she hopes to find a job where she can really make a difference in our world. If you would also enjoy a career where you can have a positive impact, then maybe economics is the right major for you!

Why economics?

As technologies change and the world shrinks, new careers continue to emerge requiring analytical ability and adaptability. With a major in economics, you will have a tremendous advantage because you will gain the skills to think through new and complex situations, and you will be equipped with the analytical tools required for high-quality research and application. If you choose to major in economics, you will be entering one of the highest-earning fields in the world.

In the Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business in the Spears School of Business at OSU, you will be able to earn a degree in general economics, an economics degree with a pre-law option, or a degree with an applied business economics and quantitative studies option. Completion of this degree requires 120 hours of undergraduate course work.

Internships

The Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, hireosugrads.com.

Student organizations

The Economics Society is a club for all students intrigued by economic issues and the economic side of broad issues affecting our nation and the world. Join the only club on campus where marginal cost of participation always equals marginal benefit and enjoy food, fun and discussion! Phi Alpha Delta is OSU's pre-law student organization. The goal of the organization is to provide information about law school and the legal profession.

Study abroad/travel programs

The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education.



Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business

Spears School of Business **PHONE 405.744.5195**
Oklahoma State University **FAX 405.744.5180**
339 Business Building **WEB spears.okstate.edu/ecls**
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078 **EMAIL spearsinfo@okstate.edu**

Career Spotlight



Hart Dubberstein's Story

GRADUATION DATE **May 2011**

MAJOR **Economics**

POST-GRADUATE PLANS **Consultant for Quorum Business Solutions Inc.,
Dallas, Texas**

In this day and age, it seems like everything we hear about our economy is negative. How would you like to help people make wise business decisions and have a part in turning our nation's economic circumstances around?

If this kind of career sounds worthwhile to you, then maybe you should choose to major in economics. Selecting this major certainly turned out to be a wise choice for Hart Dubberstein, a recent Spears School graduate.

Hart is currently employed as a consultant for Quorum Business Solutions Inc. in Dallas, Texas. In this position, Hart works with clients within the company's business software suites. He also examines software and organizes database information into concise reports.

"The part I enjoy most about my new position is the ability to work in a company that provides a challenge," Hart said. "I also enjoy interacting with many different professionals each day, analyzing business procedures and evaluating decisions that can be made. The Spears School provided me with the tools and general business knowledge I needed to succeed in my position."

Hart said OSU offered a number of programs that helped him obtain his position at Quorum, including OSU Career Services, his internship and his study abroad experience.

"For my professional development, HireOSUGrads.com was a fantastic resource," Hart said. "Through this system, I was able to attain an internship and my current full-time position. In today's market, an internship is almost a necessity, and it provided me with wonderful work experience that I apply to my current position."

"One of the most valuable academic programs I experienced was the study abroad program. These programs give you the opportunity to explore a new country and customs. It really provides an experience that sets you above your peers."

To new students, Hart suggests taking advantage of all of these opportunities as well as the many other activities available to OSU students.

"Your college career will be the shortest years of your life," Hart said. "I recommend being active each day. The more time you put into activities in college, the more you get out of those activities. These activities will provide a great work ethic for a steady transition to a new job."

If Hart's career and experience at OSU sounds exciting to you, make the wise choice and contact the Department of Economics and Legal Studies today!

Scholarships

Each year, the Spears School grants more than 275 individual awards for a total of nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. These numbers continue to grow as donors recognize the value of providing assistance to college students.

Economics career areas

- Business economics
- Business/government management
- Politics/policy development
- Securities trading
- Insurance
- Banking
- Law
- Financial planning
- Business consulting
- Stock market analysis
- Efficiency analysis
- Economic development analysis
- Budget analysis
- Marketing analysis
- Demographic analysis

Career resources for economics majors

Some helpful Web sites and professional organizations for economics students include:

National Association for Business Economics ... [NABE.com](http://www.nabe.com)

U.S. International Trade Commission..... [usitc.gov](http://www.usitc.gov)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis [bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)

Partnership for Public Service..... [ourpublicservice.org](http://www.ourpublicservice.org)

Economics Jobs..... [economicsjobs.net](http://www.economicsjobs.net)

Economics Jobs..... [economicsjobs.com](http://www.economicsjobs.com)

Dr. T's Econ Links [econlinks.com](http://www.econlinks.com)

International Nonprofit Info..... [idealists.com](http://www.idealists.com)

Spears School of Business Career Services

Spears School of Business
Oklahoma State University
103 Business Building
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

PHONE 405.744.2772
FAX 405.744.5180
WEB spears.okstate.edu/careerservices



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