

FINANCE

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Undergraduate Program

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Callie Heerwagen



MAY 2014 GRADUATE

Finance

Williams Companies

Business Intern – NE Operating – Project Controls

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as an intern.

My role at Williams is within the Engineering and Construction branch specifically dealing with Project Controls. To say this extremely specific, technical and out-of-state internship was out of my comfort zone is an understatement. However, this could not have been a better learning experience. I was able to apply a high level of understanding in finance and accounting to a specific process and see it all the way through. Since the Northeast area is growing so much, I was given a one year long project but encouraged to learn and help anyone else. Given that freedom I was provided one-on-one lessons from employees about forecasting, scheduling, financial analyzing projects after completion and evaluating capital budgets in addition to working on my intern project. I added real value to the company while being mentored by my fellow coworkers.

What did your internship teach you about this career field?

My internship has shown me that finance is an extremely adaptable field and it is a career that can branch out into any industry and direction you wish to pursue. Even in the very technical role I am in dealing with, the engineer and construction of pipelines, my financial skills were utilized in a very practical way. I deal with accruals, forecasting, capital budgeting, financial analysis and improving the product life-cycle all which directly correlate to my cost accounting, financial management and operations management classes. It is exciting to see the application of my studies to real world experiences.

What impacted your selection of this major?

I started out very unsure of what I wanted to major in; however, I knew I wanted to have a technical skill set that would be marketable after graduation and something that can be adapted to many different industries. The one thing that has always peaked my interest is money. From seeing how a gas pipeline company budgets and tracks their money for projects to how you should manage your own wealth to maximize its returns, money is in every sector of business. I think a common misconception with this major is that a finance career consists of crunching numbers and making spreadsheets all day but that couldn't be further from the truth. Many management roles, sales roles and higher officer roles are filled by finance professionals.

What class best prepared you for the job?

The class that prepared me the most for this role was my financial management class with Professor Alex Boquist. He explained the application of many financial principals to real world examples and then showed us how to utilize functions on Excel. He would teach us how to turn a mess of data into a graph or chart that we would analyze. The one thing I continually hear from prospective employers is Excel skills are necessary to have in the workplace today and the more experience you have, the better.

What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?

I think the most valuable experience that helped improve my career development was my leadership within my Greek Chapter and my involvement in Student Alumni Board. Once I discovered that finance was my passion, I tried to pursue roles in organizations that would provide experience for me. My most valuable experience was the office of Vice President of Finance for my Chapter. It allowed me to budget and manage over \$300,000 and bear the responsibilities of day-to-day operations. Our Greek chapter was run very much like a small business with my role being that of the CFO. Not only did I gain experience while in college but I was able to relay this experience to employers when interviewing for internships. Additionally, my experience in Student Alumni Board has offered me the opportunity to hone my professional and social skills while working with alumni, prospective students and distinguished guests.

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that are a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

A great way to get a foot in the door from the beginning is to apply for freshman specific groups like Freshman Representative Council and college specific councils. This personally showed me all that the campus had to offer and gave me the initial push into other organizations and service activities. From volunteering at the blood drive to reading to the special education class at Stillwater Middle School, it is humbling and fulfilling to serve others and breeds a strong work ethic.

WHY FINANCE?

Finance is the management of money by businesses and individuals. Finance is critical for all aspects of business. The finance major focuses on the processes, markets, institutions and instruments that facilitate the transfer of money and wealth, the allocation of resources and risk, and the acquisition of financial capital. With a degree from the Department of Finance in the Spears School of Business at OSU, you will graduate with an understanding of the financial system and the theoretical framework, analytical tools, and business techniques used in a variety of finance positions. Finance graduates excel at problem solving, decision making and communicating which prepares them for a wide variety of careers.

Internships

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 Department of Finance is home to a chapter of the Financial Management Association (FMA). It provides a student interested in finance an opportunity to learn from and network with working finance professionals; to enhance their understanding of sound financial practices; and to interact with fellow finance students in an informal setting. The OSU chapter annually ranks in the top 5 percent of FMA chapters nationwide.

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 designed to give you exposure 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.

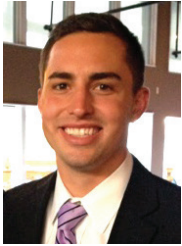
Scholarships

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.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Ty Ketchum



MAY 2013 GRADUATE

Finance

ConocoPhillips

International & Intercompany Financial Analyst

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as a new hire.

I coordinate with ConocoPhillips' intercompany accounts & international subsidiaries to ensure compliance with our company's financial regulatory efforts. A key aspect of my job is building and maintaining relationships with these contacts. I also provide timely and accurate analysis of monthly financial results, as well as coordinate financial accounting reconciliations. I enjoy the daily challenges associated with working for the worlds largest independent exploration and production oil company. The oil industry is so dynamic and I love how I'm constantly innovating. I've also acquired invaluable experience by collaborating with international coworkers and companies, an element of my position that I otherwise would not have attained so soon in the workforce.

When you were choosing a major, what factored into your selection?

I have always had a keen interest in finance, whether it is the global equity markets, corporate finance, or financial planning. The finance department at Oklahoma State gave me the chance to see all of what the world of finance has to offer and thus allowing me to choose and focus on the best academic/career path to suit my individual interests. A degree in finance is one of the most sought after academic backgrounds by corporate recruiters, and that's the whole point of this college thing in the end, right?

What classes best prepared you for the job?

Energy Finance in particular helped prepare me for my career path by exposing me to a broad analysis of applications in the energy industry including financial statement analysis, valuation, risk analysis in capital budgeting, risk management, and challenging us with actual case studies and issues that I deal with in the energy industry. Gaining core knowledge in school of the particular industry that I later went on to intern, and now work full-time in, has set me up to succeed early in my career. Entrepreneurial Finance was another great course to further learn about financial valuation of smaller firms in any given industry that lays the foundation for starting your own venture.

What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?

My internship with ConocoPhillips allowed to me gain valuable first-hand exposure to the energy industry and vast career opportunities it provided. No matter what you're interested in, I strongly suggest completing internships in multiple industries to really find your niche. The Spears School of Business Career Services office was also an instrumental resource I used throughout my college years to prepare myself for my career, such as improving my resume and interviewing skills. Don't be afraid to ask for help, it's what they are there for!

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that were a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

The Spears School of Business Student Council facilitated my professional development by providing key networking opportunities and responsibilities throughout my undergraduate career. Additionally, being the head of recruitment for my fraternity was just as important in developing my interpersonal skills. Whether it is through the Greek community, Spears School of Business Ambassador program, or simply advertising your academic/social group on campus, recruiting is an invaluable skill that you will use throughout your life. Being able to communicate with and influence others is essential when it comes to climbing the corporate ladder to success.

Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?

Get involved with all the organizations the Spears School of Business has to offer. You truly will get out of your undergraduate career what you put into it. Take advantage of internships that are available to students; Oklahoma State University has one of the best career fairs in the nation when it comes to possible future employers – get your name out there and learn about all the companies you can. Get to know your professors as much as you can. They want you to succeed and will do whatever they can to help you on your way. Be engaged, ask questions, find out what really intrigues you, and go accomplish it!

CAREER SERVICES

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Oklahoma State University
103 Business Building
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

phone 405.744.2772 fax 405.744.5180

web spears.okstate.edu/careerservices



CAREER SERVICES



Finance career areas

Commercial banking

- Commercial banking includes opportunities in commercial and personal lending, leasing, credit card banking, international finance and trade credit. More people are employed in this area than any other part of the financial services industry.

Corporate finance

- Careers in this area involve working for a company to help find money to run the business, grow the business, make acquisitions, plan for its financial future and obtain and manage cash on-hand.

Money management

- Money managers hold stocks and bonds for institutional clients and are on the buy side of Wall Street.

Financial planning

- Financial planners understand investments, taxes and estate planning issues in order to help individuals plan their financial future.

Insurance

- Jobs in insurance involve helping individuals and businesses manage risk to protect themselves from catastrophic losses and to manage risk to person and property.

Investment banking

- Investment bankers assist companies and governments to issue securities, help investors purchase securities, manage financial assets and risk, trade securities and provide financial advice.

Career resources for finance majors

OSU Career Services hireosugrads.com

Careers in Finance
careers-in-finance.com

Jobs in Finance financejobsite.com

Finance Jobs Net finance.jobs.net

Financial Job Network financialjobnet.com

Jobs on Wall Street streetofwalls.com

EFinancial Careers efinancialcareers.com

Intern Match internmatch.com

Financial Management Association
fma.org

Association for Finance Professionals
AFPonline.org

American Bankers Association aba.com

Oklahoma Bankers Association oba.com