

My CGS Story

by Annie Goodrich (Class of 2014)



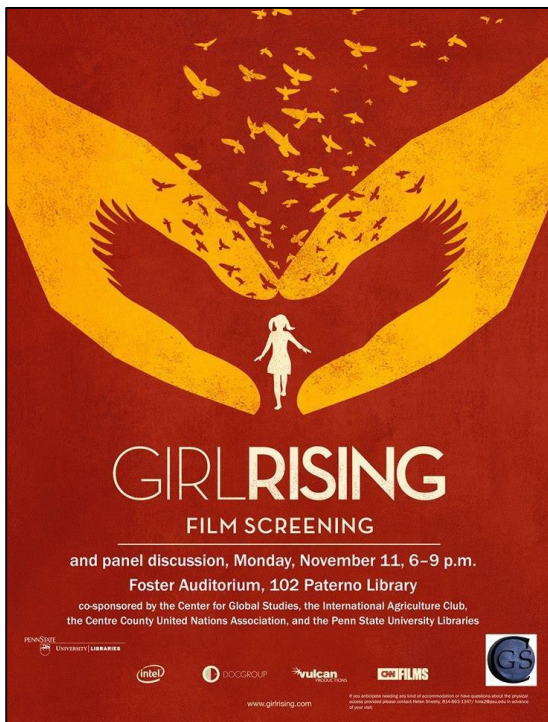
Coming into my internship at the Center for Global Studies I had no idea what to expect. I had never worked an office job so it was hard to even predict what types of responsibilities I could potentially have. I heard mixed reviews from friends and other students who had interned at other places over the summer. Some expressed they did a lot of busy work while others took on a more significant role. Coming into the internship, I hoped I would do more than just busy work because I needed to highlight skills that I learned at CGS on my resume. After talking to Associate Director, Sarah Combs about the internship in mid-July, I tried to anticipate what I would be doing. I was a little apprehensive about teaching the after school club because I did not have any training as a teacher nor did I know the first thing about keeping elementary aged children engaged with learning. As for the other parts of the internship, I hoped that if I worked hard, asked questions when I needed to, and did my best I would be successful.

In terms of expectations and reality, nothing surprised me too much when it came to working in the “real world.” With guidance from Sarah, I was able to complete all assignments to the best of my ability. I gained experience in ways that a classroom could never have taught me including working with others over an extended period of time and organizing the *Girl Rising* event. Both taught me the value of email etiquette, which is a skill that I will definitely take with me to my new job. At times I felt overwhelmed with internship work and schoolwork but I believe I was able to handle it well. Juggling multiple tasks is an important skill to have in the workplace so I am more than happy that CGS taught me how to prioritize and stay organized with all assigned tasks. I am very fortunate that I was able to have this “practice run” of working in an office, being accountable to someone other than myself, and the importance of meeting deadlines.

During the fall semester, I took a Public Relations class and quickly saw the similarities between my internship at the Center for Global Studies and certain aspects of the class. The Center does a lot of public outreach events including *America Reads* in the fall and *World Stories Alive!* in spring. The class taught me that a positive presence within the community is essential to the well-being of any company or organization because a company’s perception determines its success. The Center’s outreach events also helped me determine that I really enjoy working with the public. The experience with *World Stories Alive!* has been especially rewarding because I have seen more stages of the outreach process. As lead intern, I organized the schedule, assigned people to organize each week’s handout, and ensured that the interns showed up to their designated shift.

On the Saturdays that I assisted at Schlow Library, I saw it all come together in a way that made both the children and their parents happy. I also learned how to write a press release, which was a topic highlighted in my public relations class. As I learned in class, the press release I created for the Flynt Leverett's talk on Iran was short and to the point. I made sure the essential information was discussed in the first paragraph. Overall, the internship allowed me to take what I learned in class and apply it to a real world situation, which will greatly benefit me in my new job come September.

My time at the Center has been a rewarding experience. I expect to use a lot of what I learned at the Center when I enter the "real world" including communicating with fellow employees and supervisors, working as a team, and meeting deadlines. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to become lead intern because it proved hard work does pay off. The nine months I spent at the Center not only enhanced my resume but also who I am as a potential employee.



Flyer for the campus-wide film screening and panel discussion that I organized. Read more about that experience at <http://blogs.la.psu.edu/cgs/2013/12/reflections.html>.