



I began at FSU in Fall 2011 as an accounting student. As I progressed through my courses I began to enjoy the work more and more. After my freshman year I knew Accounting was what I wanted to do.

Once I was sure I chose the right major I began to get more and more involved within the college of business. I joined Beta Alpha Psi, a national accounting fraternity that provided exposure to International and Regional CPA firms. Shortly after, I joined the College of Business Student Leadership Council which is the governmental body of the college. I gained many useful connections throughout my time in that organization and I was given the opportunity to shadow/interview at a regional CPA firm in Tallahassee, Thomas Howell Ferguson. It was around this time that I began to realize being a CPA was not my dream.

During my Spring Semester through Fall of my senior year I was given the chance to intern as an assistant controller at an engineering firm, FINLEY Engineering Group, Inc. This internship provided me experience in every aspect of the accounting and finance world, and what I learned at FINLEY I would take with me throughout college and into the early stages of my professional career. Upon completion of my internship I knew that I wanted to stay in the manufacturing/Engineering field but wanted to move onto a larger company.

Spring semester of my senior year I began interviewing with companies and was given the chance to interview with Harris Corporation, a government and defense contractor based out of Melbourne, FL. My experience as an intern gave me the ability to understand what Harris expected right out of the gate. Upon receiving a Government Security Clearance I began work in Melbourne as a financial analyst and am still there today.

If I have any advice to give students it's this; get involved as early as possible and get exposed to all options within your desired field. Without the ability to shadow and intern at various companies and in different fields within my major, it would have been much more difficult to learn what I wanted to do. I was able to graduate college with a job at a Fortune 500 company doing what I love. I owe that all to my involvement in the college of business and my internship experiences. Use the connections and experiences you have to your advantage.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – Bill Gates