Where is/was your internship (Company and City)?
CMT (Country Music Television) in Nashville, TN

Tell us about your internship?
I work in the production/show specific department and the show I work for is CMT’s “Hot 20 Countdown”.

How did you find your internship?
I knew I wanted an internship with a Viacom related company because they are a huge media outlet and they own several television networks (such as Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, BET, VH1, MTV, CMT…). I originally went to their career site to apply for an MTV internship to browse what was available but then I saw the applications for CMT. I really wanted to go to Nashville and I love country music so I applied to their internship program instead.

What is your major and did it influence your decision to become an intern?
I’m a broadcasting mass communications major and it definitely influenced my decision. I knew I needed more experience, especially hands on in a real work environment. Last semester I interned at a local news station and I realized working in the world of news broadcast was something I really wasn’t interested in, so I decided to branch out to learn more about other aspects of television production and entertainment media.

What are your main responsibilities as an intern?
I have a lot of responsibilities and some are random and I only do a few times a month. I do a lot of excel spread sheet work such as music charts, show data, formatting scripts for the producers, tape logging, getting new videos digitalized, cue sheets (which document time codes of music for legal purposes), check artist’s twitter accounts, and I do a lot of artist research. Whenever the producers are writing the scripts each week they give me a list of things I need to look for in current news or bios about certain artists that are featured on the countdown…anything from what is Taylor Swift’s favorite ice cream to Tim McGraw’s shoe size…so I do a lot of research!

Every other Tuesday is the shoot day for the show so I have to help set up, help with talent (coffee and food runs), print scripts for the crew, and assist with props. I also got the opportunity to do backstage talent videos this semester, which is a new thing they are trying out for the social media pages. I use a little camcorder that my supervisor gives me and I ask a guest on the show that day to say a little promo line that will be put on the Hot 20 Facebook page.
What type of experience have you gained so far that you wouldn’t have learned in a classroom?

I have a general insight into how a national television network is ran and all the ins and outs of everything. That’s something you learn in class but just witnessing it and seeing the process of everything in person is much more worthwhile.

What is the most exciting part of your internship?

FREE PERKS! Even though most networks are changing up the programming, CMT still focuses a lot of their TV and online media towards music, so there are always free shows every week in the studio that anyone at work can go watch. I’ve seen a lot country artists at work and just around the building, at first I used to get a little star struck but now it’s kind of normal and doesn’t phase me much.

The coolest thing I got to do so far I think was work with another intern at a Country Radio Seminar event put on by Big Machine Label and CMT Radio. We had to fill over 400 gift bags for the red carpet event but it was a private venue so after we finished that we got to in and watch Tim McGraw, The Band Perry, Justin Moore, Rascal Flatts, and Cassadee Pope for free and it was just at this simple bar/music venue so it wasn’t open to the public.

Do you have any suggestions for students who would like to do something similar?

Keep applying and always reach out to the Compass or others for help. Also, build your experience starting freshman year! I applied to CMT the semester before this and never even heard back. I had several of my friends help me go over my resume and cover letter to make sure everything was perfect before applying my second time. I think one thing for me was I waited a bit late to start applying and working towards internships; it’s never too early to get any type of experience because every bit helps in the long run. I transferred to Oswego my Junior year and participated in athletics so I never participated very much in the media clubs on campus but I wish I did because they do help you!

Do you think your internship will play an important role in your education and career?

Yes I do, I’ve learned so much here and I think I’m really starting to figure out what I want to pursue after graduation. It also gives to opportunity to shadow other departments at CMT to branch out and learn even more.

Do you have any internship advice you would like to pass on to other students?

Network! I heard it all the time before coming to CMT but it really is all about networking, especially in this industry. Even if it’s someone you meet in the elevator or on another floor just reach out, get to know everyone, and make connections. It’s very important!

Be yourself! Some interns here from more private schools aren’t as interested in connecting with the other interns or even socializing with us and they act like they are on a mission to prove they are better than everyone else. Yes, it’s important to stand out in a crowd but it’s also important to just be yourself and connect with anyone because you’re an intern and you’re here for a learning experience and that’s most important.

Carly is in the center of this photo with the Gift bags.