

# ShopTalk

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Editor, Lisa O'Donnell Connors, x4-6803

## The Interns

**I**t's The Post's version of *The Apprentice* and *Survivor* combined. Seventy college, graduate school and high school students have been immersed this summer in the reality of working at a major daily newspaper and media company. Although there probably won't be a job offer from Donald Trump or a million dollars waiting for them at the end of the summer, they will have earned the right to add The Washington Post to their resumes.

The interns are working in departments throughout the newspaper and in the corporate office, including 23 in the Newsroom, 36 on the business-side, one at the

Springfield Plant and 10 MBA students working in business departments. They attend schools across the country including Harvard University, Penn State University, the University of California, as well as the University of Maryland and Howard University. There are also five summer interns who are June graduates from Eastern High School in the District.

Here, in their own words, are the experiences of four of the 2004 summer interns:

*By Lorenzo Mah, Marketing  
University of Virginia*

My first day at the Post, I sat attached to my supervisor's desk and watched as an assortment of callers vied for time with **Susan Heyman**, the busy manager of consumer advertising and media. I was the only business intern at that point, so I was sitting at a desk directly across from her for the entire day. Susan kept assuring me

that the rest of the summer wouldn't be like this.

After all the phone calls, I went through the rounds getting introduced to various Post employees, every time explaining how I was helping with in-paper advertising. The response I got was consistently the same: an "oh" with some sort of nod. This type of answer didn't raise my expectations much, but it at least gave me the impression that I would actually be doing some real work.

As it turned out, working on in-paper advertising has not been bad at all. Compared to my college paper, which recycles the same 20 public service announcements each day, it's interesting to see how the extra space at The Post is rationed out and newsprint cost is valued to the inch and line. Also, as a result of being tied with consumer marketing, I've had a chance to see how the paper works with media buying and advertising agencies.

Besides the in-paper work, I've gotten to know the Marketing staff, had free food on more occasions than I can count, and had lots of



PHOTO - DAVID JONES

Production Department retiree **Phil Kane** gives a tour of the College Park Plant to business-side interns.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

lunches with the other interns. Perhaps the best part of the internship is when people just stop by and talk at the marketing intern cubicles. We had one "story time" where a few people came and just talked about the Post's his-



PHOTO - TY HENSELL

**Ryan Ardigo**, a recent graduate of Virginia Tech, is a summer intern in the Springfield Plant Mailroom.

tory. Hopefully, sometime in the future they'll be talking about that time they had all those marketing interns.

*By Eli Saslow, News/Sports  
Syracuse University*

This internship is not the stereotypically underpaid, overworked experience. They pay us well and, occasionally, give us a day off. Sometimes they even feed us and Managing Editor **Steve Coll** once invited us to his house for salmon. We have metal nameplates, Washington Post cell phones and reasonably new laptops. Other reporters often treat us to lunch.

Oh, and we work a lot, too.

Here in sports we write a story almost every day. Sometimes our assignments are glamorous (Orioles games and profiles of Olympic athletes), but usually they're not (WNBA and low-level tennis).

For the most part, we don't know what to expect from one day to the next. A

few weeks ago, my editors bought me a plane ticket to cover a baseball game in Dallas. Then they told me to go to Richmond, Va., instead. Then they told me to stay here and cover the Orioles.

Our editors are helpful but not overbearing; our fellow reporters are more colleagues than mentors. For the most part, we're treated like regular staff writers.

And that's how we like it. Most of us have wanted to work for The Washington Post for a long time, and it has been everything we had hoped for. We seek advice from **Don Graham**, **Ben Bradlee** and **Bob Woodward**.

It is a thrill to be entrusted with such power. At our college newspapers last year, we'd leave messages that went unreturned for weeks. Here, sources call back and apologize for the delay, even when it has only been an hour.

*By Shara Cooper, Advertising  
James Madison University*

As a Post intern there may be no homework to do after work, but that still means I can't go out on "school nights." This is no longer because my parents won't let me, but because my body and mind are exhausted after a 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. work day. As a service rep for the National Advertising Unit (NAU), I have to constantly pay attention to every minute detail. My job is making sure that advertisers' calls are answered, ensure all faxes have been distributed, double-check that no materials need to be taken to Ad Ops—all while 20 sales reps loudly chatter around me as I try to place an order for an ad into the Advertising Business System (ABS).

Whether I'm ordering ads, creating contracts, or simply mailing a package, everything must be double and triple-

checked. I've actually had nightmares about either messing up or neglecting to place an ad order for an advertiser. In my department, it would most likely be an advertiser that has a multi-million dollar contract with



Intern **Justin Hall** is spending his summer in the IT Department.

The Post. My second greatest fear used to be snakes. Now it is sending out a tear sheet package to one of those multi-million dollar advertisers, like Hecht's, with the wrong materials or worse, sending out the right materials for Hecht's to the wrong address.



PHOTO - DAVID JONES

The business-side interns outside of the College Park Plant. The 2004 interns include (back row, l-r) **Graeton Tripp**, **Bess Wilson**, **Tricia Carlisle**, **Audrey Brown**, **Sezer Solak**, **Lorenzo Mah**, **Caitlin Vandevander**, **Mike Guirguis**, **Austin Hill**, (third row, l-r) **Joseph Hsiung**, **Sandra Davis**, **Zandra Henderson**, **Leila Allen**, **Tamela Odom**, **Fred Peterbark**, **Anne Tackabery**, **Alice Shin**, **Anne Kofol**, **Chantelle Ross**, **Cienai Wright**, **Timothy Wilson**, (second row, l-r) **Uyen-Nhi Nguyen**, **Katya Tomarev**, **Ruth Hughes**, **Krystal Smith**, **Tyla Bodrick**, **Jihad Bruce**, **Rosalyn Coronado**, (front row, l-r) **Nina Sen**, **Carissa Maye**, **Shara Cooper**, **Cecily Chambliss**, and **Tiffany Shaw**.





*This year's Newsroom interns include (back row, l-r) **January Payne, Arielle Levin Becker, Tommy Nguyen, Tracy Dahl, Dakarai Aarons, Karin Brulliard, Renee Petrina,** (middle row, l-r) **Stefanie Shaffer, Sabaa Saleem, Cathy Kapulka, Lauren Anderson, Dana Oppenheim, Amalie Benjamin,** (front row, l-r) **Raymund Flandez, Amit Paley and Ron Lin.** Not pictured are **Rebecca Dana, Nicole Fuller, Brian Henderson, Sarah Park, Eli Saslow, Jessica Valdez and Zachary Wittig.***

Fortunately, I have an extremely understanding supervisor, **Cimberly Nash**, and a great team of intelligent and patient women like **Wanda Elliot, Angela Archer**, and **Terri Campbell**. All of whom I have really come to admire because they have so much work heaped onto their plates, and yet still find the time to answer all of my annoying questions that keep me out of trouble.

Even though by the end of the day I might not be up for that weekly happy hour, my memory, multi-tasking abilities, and number of friends has increased right along with my once empty bank account.

*By **Tim Wilson**, Public Relations  
University of Maryland*

I still can remember that Friday evening when my cell phone rang, and it was **Linda Burchfield** from the Human

Resources Department. I looked at my caller ID and became so excited, that I dropped my cell phone and missed her call. Thank goodness for voicemail! She left a message stating that I had been hired and was being assigned to the Public Relations Department.

I was so elated to hear that I had been hired that it really did not matter what department I was being assigned to. When the joy of being hired had passed, I began to think what it was actually going to be like. I prayed that it would not be another 9 to 5 filing job. However, I could tell from day one that each and every day working here at The Post was going to be unpredictable!

I must admit I was a little nervous on the first day, but I was welcomed with open arms by the staff in the

department. They have been right there to answer all of my questions and concerns.

I think it is a challenge every time the telephone rings. I never know what to expect to hear on the other end of the line. So far this summer I have dealt with the calm readers as well as upset and raging readers. Currently, I'm working on revising the community relations ad, updating the "What's Your Story?" brochure and creating a teaser ad for the Music & Dance Awards. But at the end

of the day when my head is swimming, I still say that it was all worth the time and energy! I have learned a lot about what it takes to be successful in public relations. From my experience thus far, I would say that the most valuable aspect I have learned is being a "devil for details." ■



*The MBA summer interns include **Mike Biggica, Pavani Reddy, Jenny Abramson, Ashish Khurana, Nicole Benhabib and Laura Kauderer.***



*And there are more MBA interns including **Mulumba Tshishimbi, Kate Eberle, Taylor Goodson and Chris Eisenberg.***

## Post Sponsors Summer Music Fest and KidsFest

The Post is sponsoring the Loudoun Summer Music Fest, a series of live outdoor concerts at the Belmont Country Club in Ashburn, Va. The Music Fest, which runs every Sunday now through Sept. 19 features popular bands from the 70s and 80s, including *The Fixx* on July 25 and *Gin Blossoms* on Aug. 1. The family-oriented series also includes KidsFest, with fun activities for children. Tickets are \$10 for adults and kids ages 12-years-old and under are free. The gates open at 5 p.m. and the concerts start at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ticketsbuy.com](http://www.ticketsbuy.com), or at the gate. For more information, go online to [www.washpost.com/events](http://www.washpost.com/events).

## Tours of The Washington Post

The Public Relations Department has expanded the schedule of weekly group tours of Post facilities to include the College Park Plant on Tuesdays, the Springfield

Plant on Thursdays, as well as the Northwest Building on Mondays. Tours of the facilities are given by reservation. Tours are limited to organized groups of 10 to 30 people and participants must be at least 11-years-old. For more information about the tours, contact the Public Relations Department at x4-7969, go online to [www.washpost.com/community/index.shtml](http://www.washpost.com/community/index.shtml), or e-mail Lisa Bolton at [Boltonlm@washpost.com](mailto:Boltonlm@washpost.com).

## ISO: Summer Photos with KidsPost

Just a reminder that ShopTalk is looking for photos of Post kids enjoying their summer reading KidsPost (June 24 issue of ShopTalk). Post employees are invited to



send in a photo of their kids reading KidsPost on vacation, at the neighborhood pool, or anywhere they like to read and relax while school is out.

We will publish as many of the photos as we can by the end of the summer. You can e-mail photos that are high resolution to [ShopTalk@washpost.com](mailto:ShopTalk@washpost.com), or send hard copy photos to: ShopTalk, The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. You can also drop off your photo. ShopTalk is now located on the 3rd floor, L Street side of the Northwest Building. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, Sept. 7 at noon.

Please include the child or children's names, employee's name, department and extension with the photo. The hard copy photos will be returned.

## Basketball Champions

The Washington Post summer basketball league wrapped up six weeks of friendly competition with a championship tournament held on Sunday, June 27 at the North Michigan Park Rec Center in the District. According to the league's commissioner, **Carlton Saunders**, Production/College Park, the Circulation team



PHOTO - JOHN GILLIAM

The Washington Post basketball league commissioner **Carlton Saunders** with championship MVP **Demarco Bell**. Both work at the College Park Plant.

made up of Post distributors took top honors after beating the College Park Security team 74-58 in the finals. ■

## Security Information

Please note that for security reasons, the doors to the Northwest Building's second floor multi-purpose room can not be left propped open. Employees who need access to the room during business hours (Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) should use their ID cards to enter the area.

## Marketplace

**ISO RENTAL:** Looking for rental condo in Ocean City (Northern end) or on the Bay for the week of August 14-21. Just two people. Call Margaret at x4-4053 or at home (301) 622-2272.

**FOR SALE:** A studio bike rack/stand (never used-in original box) from Hold Everything. \$50/OBO. Please call Ann at x4-5411 or (301) 648-7144.

**ISO SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:** Need interpreter second Tuesday each month, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. for coin club meetings near Georgia Ave. and Beltway. Call Barbara or Wayne at (301) 593-3422.

**FOR SALE:** Peavey KB300 amplifier. Great for vocal, keyboard or acoustic guitar, 150 wall shaking Watts strong. Photos available by e-mail. Asking \$250. Call Eric at x6-2292 or (703) 509-1934.

**FOR SALE:** Men's jeans size 33" waist x 34" length from Old Navy, brand new with price tag, only \$15. Call Renee Kearsse at (301) 345-3361.

**FOR SALE:** U.S. Open tennis tickets, 4 tickets-\$60 each, for Tuesday, Sept. 7 (Tuesday after Labor Day). Call Enrique Villagomez at x4-7488 or (202) 288-9013.

**FOR SALE:** Six candelabra bulb brass chandelier, new and never used. In original box and packing. Bird cage shape, measures about 18-24" long and 12-15" wide. Excellent for an open foyer, \$100. Call Angela at x4-4848 or (240) 338-4405.

**FOR SALE:** Washington Post t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, umbrellas, bags, mugs, books and more! Shop online at: [www.washingtonpost.com/store](http://www.washingtonpost.com/store). Enter POST in coupon code during checkout for 10% discount.

**FOR SALE:** Two Prince tickets for sale. \$118 for August 14 show. Call Adrienne at x4-7101 or Lisa at x4-7989.

### FREE ADS!

Reach more than 2,000 Post employees with your free ad in Marketplace.

The deadline for ads is Friday at noon and your ad will appear in the next Thursday's ShopTalk. Send your ad via email to [ShopTalk@washpost.com](mailto:ShopTalk@washpost.com) or fax to x4-4963. Ads are for Post employees only and must include your name, extension and home phone number. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee per issue, please.

Questions? Call Lisa Connors at x4-6803.