FSU Communication Studies Major With Track In Business Management Gains Real World Business Experience

Annapolis, MD—Frostburg State University (FSU) senior John Mason recently finished a Communication Studies Capstone internship for 3 credit hours by working with the insurance and financial services firm National Agents Alliance (NAA). FSU’s Department of Communication Studies requires students to fulfill final major requirements through a Capstone experience, which involves workplace experience through an internship with a rigorous academic reflection component. Mason is a multiple dean’s list honors student with a 3.3 overall GPA and a 3.7 GPA within his major coursework at Frostburg. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Mason is also a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma National Fraternity as well as a frequent performer in both the Chamber Choir and the FSU Guitar Ensemble.

John had to fulfill a prequalification program in order to become affiliated with NAA, which included passing the Maryland state life insurance exam as well as acquiring contracts with some of the largest insurance companies in the world. NAA is the number one provider of mortgage protection insurance in the United States and is continually growing. During his time with NAA, Mason did everything from marketing and sales to attending the NAA corporate convention. He even did work in human resources by conducting interviews and helping hire new associates. “The internship practicum was very valuable and the entire experience has been beneficial in helping integrate the education I have received at Frostburg,” said Mason. “Without doing the Capstone academic reflection with NAA this summer, it would have been strictly doing an occupation as opposed to this new viewpoint I have of how my education can be applied.”

During the internship experience Mason was under the guidance of NAA agency manager James Hill. “John always overcomes the situation and adapts to what is in front of him,” said Hill. Mason has had previous experience in the field and looks forward to working in the insurance industry after he graduates in the fall. The NAA opportunity gives people the ability to work on a part time or full time basis.

Mason’s Capstone experience was supervised by Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, Chair and Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at FSU. Those who are interested in FSU’s Department of Communication Studies can contact Dr. Ruminski at elruminski@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4480. Anyone looking for internships or career opportunities with NAA, please contact James Hill at james@naajameshill.com or 410-474-6332.

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