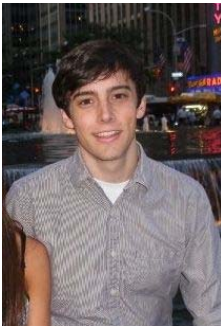




WMSA Interns - Where are they now?

With the West Michigan Internship Initiative in full-swing and the Intern In Michigan web portal up-and-running, WMSA checked-in with our 2008 Intern Alumni, Dan Churette and Brad Wilson, who accepted the first two internships available at WMSA, proving that the intellectual capital in West Michigan is stronger than ever.



Dan Churette – Dan a native of Grand Haven, came to WMSA after completing his first year as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. His primary focus was centered on researching regional green initiatives in West Michigan, with the end goal of documenting and displaying this information on a portal designed for public access. Dan’s final report can be found by [clicking here](#).

After finishing his internship at WMSA, Dan returned to the University of Chicago and resumed his coursework, deciding on a major in sociology. Apart from a heavy course load, Dan joined, and is Treasurer of, *The Giving Tree*, a community service student organization dedicated to curbing hunger and homelessness. He and a few friends founded a new club called *The Mahjong Society*, where they play mahjong--a Chinese tile game.

Dan is currently finishing up an internship with *United Neighborhood Houses of New York*, located in New York City. Dan reports: “I’m working as a policy fellow for the Jeff Metcalf fellowship program run by my University, currently researching policy and legislation regarding access to and use of healthy foods in low-income communities in New York City. It’s been quite fascinating.” When finished with his internship in New York City, Dan will head to Paris to study abroad for the 2009 fall term. Upon completion of his studies abroad, he will return to the Windy City and resume his studies at the University of Chicago.

When asked about his experience as a WMSA intern, Dan says: “I can’t tell you how much my internship with WMSA last summer helped me in getting my current internship. It gave me experience that I could talk about in interviews and cover letters, and that was really valuable for me”.



Brad Wilson – Brad came to WMSA after finishing his undergraduate degree at The United States Military Academy, as an economics and mathematics major at West Point. Wilson took on the daunting task of analyzing how pending free trade agreements with Peru, Panama, Colombia, and South Korea might affect West Michigan business. [Click here](#) to review Brad's final report.

“I was happy to be able to work with WMSA during my summer internship for the ‘hands-on’ experience it provided me. I wanted to find something that would help prepare me for graduate work in economic development,” Wilson said. Further he states, “WMSA was perfect for this, as it let me hone my analytical and research skills, while allowing me to keep thinking about economic issues.”

After completing his internship with WMSA, Wilson headed to the prestigious London School of Economics for a year to study economic development. Currently, Brad is about to finish-up his time at the London School of Economics and hands in his dissertation next week. Upon finishing his studies abroad, he will head back to the States for some Army training in Oklahoma and Georgia. Brad tells us: “I've had a fantastic year out here: learned a lot at school, met some cool people, and did a little travelling. I spent time in Japan, India, Egypt, Jordan, Israel as well as a few European countries.”

Thanks Dan and Brad for checking in with us and providing an update. We wish them both great success in their future endeavors. Watch for future updates about other WMSA interns and ‘Where they are now’.

To learn more about the West Michigan Internship Initiative and find out how you can become an intern or how to get interns at your place of business, [Click here](#).