

Taking Lehigh to the World and Bringing the World to Lehigh



Iacocca International Internship Program

Student Report



Summer 2020

*Lehigh University's Iacocca International Internship Program received the
2019 Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education for student mobility
from the Institute for International Education (IIE).*

2020 Student Report

Table of Contents

Burkhart, Ben - China	2-3
Chui, Eirlys - <i>Zambia</i>	4-5
Comick, Armani - <i>United States</i>	6-7
Constante, Nat - <i>China</i>	8-9
DeWeese, Brett - <i>South Korea</i>	10-11
Ghazizadeh, Omid - <i>United States</i>	12-13
Hackman, Madi - <i>China</i>	14-15
King, Isabella - <i>United Kingdom</i>	16-17
Min, Joseph - <i>Zambia</i>	18-19
Urbanski, Rylie - <i>China</i>	20-21

The Iacocca International Internship Program for Summer 2020 was greatly impacted by COVID-19. All Summer 2020 Iacocca Interns were given the option to defer to Summer 2021 or do a virtual internship. The above eleven students, who chose to do a virtual internship, are featured in this student report.

Ben Burkhart

China

PC Rossin College of Engineering
& Applied Sciences

Nova Skantek
Virtual Biotech
Intern

Chemical Engineering

Nova
Skantek



Company and Position Description: Nova Skantek is a Chinese based leader in biotechnology and instrumentation. Their work focuses on providing innovative equipment for biogas reactors and research areas. Nova Skantek has a main office located in Beijing and multiple other offices throughout China. The second largest is in the city of Changsha. For my internship, I worked with individuals located in both offices. Most of my work focused on their newest product. The product is designed to give companies and research labs an easy way to test the efficiency of anaerobic digestion. I worked with individuals to create a product brochure as well as an operation manual for the product. This required full understanding of the product and how to best present the benefits of it.



The city of Changsha where my coworkers were located



An old version of the product I was working with

Ben Burkhart

China



*My coworkers having a party
after a week of work*



*The beautiful Zhangjiajie region
taken by my boss*

Value Derived from the Experience: This virtual internship provided lots of valuable experience. I was able to meet multiple people and form relationships that I hope will last. Similarly, my communication skills were greatly improved due to a small language barrier as well as the fact that I was across the globe from the rest of my team. One of my favorite parts of this experience was just getting to talk to, and learn about, my coworkers. They were always excited to tell me about their weekend plans, where they were going on vacation, and some of the highlights of the city they live and work in. They were also very adamant about asking me to come visit so they could show me all that they talked about in person, and I hope that one day I will be able to.

Eirlys Chui

Zambia

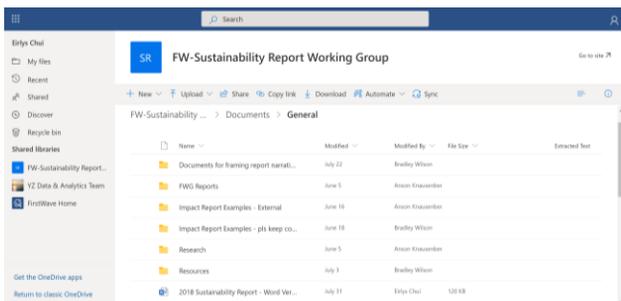
College of Arts &
Sciences
English and
Environmental
Studies



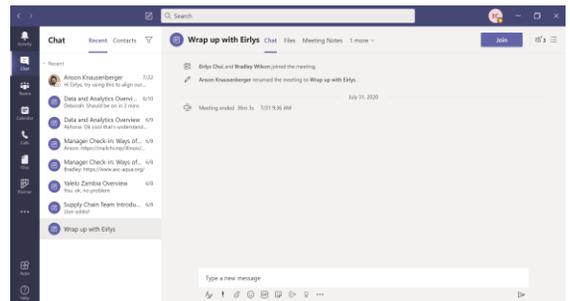
FirstWave Group
Sustainability &
Impact Intern

Company and Position Description: FirstWave Group is Africa's leading aquaculture firm. With headquarters in Amsterdam and Johannesburg, they operate a vertically-integrated group of companies across the production, distribution, and retail of fish and aquafeed in Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, and Europe. Zambia in particular has experienced severe overfishing over the last decade and the country's growing population and wealth add more pressure to the national fish gap. FirstWave produces tilapia fish in the open waters of Lake Kariba and Lake Victoria, and their mission is to sustainably provide an abundant supply of affordable protein to the growing African markets.

During my time with FirstWave, I conducted research on various topics regarding sustainability, aquaculture, and food security, particularly in the context of the African continent. Additionally, I was part of a collaborative team that planned the making of the company's annual sustainability report. Along the way, I gained knowledge and insight into environmental and social management, data collection and organization, and impact metrics and reporting. I also acquired an understanding of the challenges that come with monitoring a company's environmental footprint and commitments to social responsibility as they dedicate themselves to helping communities overcome obstacles such as hunger and poverty.



We utilized OneDrive for syncing and collaborating on files.



Microsoft Teams was used for meetings with supervisors.

Eirlys Chui

Zambia



Lake Kariba is the world's largest man-made lake!



Aquaculture cages used for tilapia farming on the lake

Value Derived from the Experience: Despite being unsure about what to expect going into this internship, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with FirstWave Group. I greatly appreciated the chance to meet people living in another part of the world and learn more about the aquaculture industry and its significance to African economy and society. During this internship, I discovered that working remotely has its benefits as well as its disadvantages. Communication through a screen can feel more distant without the use of body language and hinder the development of good rapport with colleagues. However, it also removed some of the pressure of in-person meetings and offered an opportunity to focus on practicing oral communication skills. I truly enjoyed being able to work with a welcoming and supportive team who took the time to introduce me to the company's operations and make me feel proud of their missions, values, and goals. I learned to adjust to time and cultural differences, accept the kind feedback and helpful advice of my supervisors, and adapt to working outside a typical job setting. This internship enabled me to improve research skills, oral and written communication, time management, and work ethic. Ultimately, this was a valuable experience that taught me to embrace opportunities in unexpected places and opened my eyes to the range of possibilities as I continue navigating my career path.

Armani Comick

United States

College of Arts and
Sciences

Iacocca Institute

International Relations



Iacocca Institute Intern

Company and Position Description: The Iacocca Institute, founded in 1988, emerged from the idea that provided the opportunity for Lehigh students to be exposed to the global world as a part of their Lehigh experience. Eventually, the Iacocca Institute expanded to feature many different programs hosting students from all over the world including the two programs I worked with directly, The Global Village, and The Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive. Throughout the duration of my internship I was tasked with three separate projects. The first project was a creative design project, where we aimed to create a real life version of the popular children's platform "Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?" The goal was to model an interactive version of the game where global villagers used clues from destinations and landmarks all over the world to find Carmen Sandiego. The second project was a operational project that challenged us with organizing databases with past alumni's and sponsors' information to maintain contact with the Global Village. The final project was to mentor high school students throughout the virtual Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive. The students were tasked with creating a product that would ease the consumer shopping experience during the current pandemic. Overall, working with the Iacocca Institute pushed me to use and learn different skills that will help me in the working environment moving forward.



First Full Day -- Zoom
Fatigue Was Real



Iacocca Virtual Global Intensive - Social
Activity Session

Armani Comick

United States



Music is a commonplace for Americans of different backgrounds that bring us together.



Patriotism defines traditional American culture from birth.

Value Derived from the Experience: Working with the Iacocca Institute helped me develop both professional and personal areas of my character, each project catered to different areas of my development. The project featuring “Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego,” allowed me to develop and hone in on my skills in a professional way. For example, by creating mood boards for each medium of production, we were able to analyze how different programs were portrayed and advertised to the consumer. The opportunity to not only design a project but also determine how it would be executed was extremely effective in developing project design skills. I now have an understanding of the best ways to implement creative strategies in the future. The operational project helped me understand the idea that my career will involve structural and organizational work. Aside from that it developed my Microsoft Excel skills, and I was able to contribute to a database that the Institute will continue to use long after my internship. The last project, where we mentored high schoolers through an entrepreneurial experience really developed my leadership skills. This not only applied to American students, but rather, students all over the world. Personally, from the COVID/virtual world experience, to the death of my mother, I was able to learn how to cope with both ambiguous and challenging circumstances while in the professional environment. Learning how to work professionally in a virtual environment took great adjustments, but once I became fully acclimated into the team it was smooth sailing. Additionally, the death of my mom was extremely unexpected, yet I was able to continue on with my position to the best of my abilities finishing my internship strong, thanks to the help of my team at the Iacocca Institute.

Nat Constante

China

College of Arts & Sciences

a_a&d

Architecture & Civil Engineering

Architecture Intern

a_a&d energy rationalization
architecture & design

Company and Position Description: a_a&d is an architecture firm based in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Paris. They primarily focus on design and engineering consulting in the field of environmental design in architecture. They aim to optimize design and layout, which results in lower energy consumption. This summer I was able to develop a design for a tree house that would go in the eco resort they have been working on. It was a project I was able to be on from start to finish, which enabled me to see the entire design process.



Section of the tree house on site



Sketch of the tree house

Nat Constante

China



Dragon Boat Festival



Lunar New Year

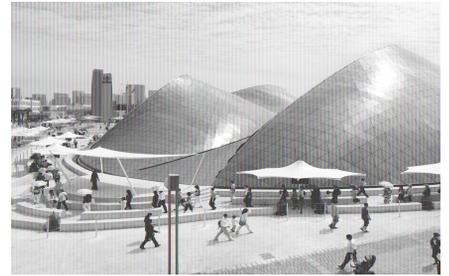
Value Derived from the Experience: Although this experience was very different from what I originally thought my summer would look like, I was able to gain a lot of knowledge. I learned what it is like to work in a professional architecture firm, work on my technical skills, while also improving my communication skills and becoming more confident in my own design ideas. My original internship placement was in India, for an engineering firm, and although I am sad that we had to shift gears, I am glad I was able to intern for an architecture company. As a dual-degree student, I have spent a fair amount of my time during my undergrad years trying to figure out what my next steps are going to be once I graduate. Often torn between engineering and architecture, I felt as though I would never arrive to a clear answer. After this summer though, I am confident in wanting to pursue a graduate education in architecture. This internship enabled me to trust in my own design instincts and work on a project from the very beginning of the design stage up until the very end. It felt very fulfilling to be able to take ideas from my head, then to paper, and seeing it as a digital 3D model on the actual site.

Brett DeWeese

South Korea



One of Syntegrate's projects, Sunrise Unification Observatory



One of Syntegrate's projects, the UAE Pavilion

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience was definitely not what I had planned for when I applied for an Iacocca Internship. This challenged me mentally during the internship. I also faced some challenges at the beginning with miscommunication between Virtual Internships and my host company, my boss was told I was a business student and thought I was going to be working more than double the amount of time I was supposed to be working weekly. This added more mental stress on top of the circumstances with COVID. I learned to advocate for myself and speak up when they had the information wrong. Although I still had to do business tasks as oppose to architecture tasks, I worked on my attitude towards the whole experience and how this internship will still be helpful to me. I was able to have an experience that is unique compared to other architecture students, and I learned about a niche in architecture that I wouldn't have been exposed to in the classroom. The best thing that I got from this experience was changing my attitude during challenging times.

Omid Ghazizadeh

United States

Computer Science &
Business (CSB)

Iacocca Institute
Business Intelligence



Analyst Intern

Company and Position Description: The Iacocca Institute leads innovative international programs that combine immersion in an extremely diverse living community with learning experiences in entrepreneurship, leadership and more.

This summer I interned with the institute and learned and experienced many things. I created and developed an innovative virtual program for the Institute by analyzing a 30-year old game show and researching the end user in order to come up with the proper design. Using my skills in computer science, I cleaned, organized, and updated an old database system on Excel using functions and pivot tables and was able to recommend a CRM to the Iacocca Institute by market researching and analyzing different CRM's.



Friday Zoom meeting with the team

Country in GV cd - Value	Tag - Value1
Afghanistan	2005 Villager
Afghanistan	2009 Villager
Afghanistan	2010 Villager
Afghanistan	2012 Villager
Afghanistan	2013 Villager
Afghanistan	2015 Villager
Afghanistan	2017 Villager
Afghanistan Count	7
Albania	1997 Villager
Albania	1998 Villager
Albania Count	2
Algeria	2011 Villager
Algeria Count	1
Angola	2009 Villager
Angola	2017 Villager
Angola Count	2

Organizing and cleaning the data

Omid Ghazizadeh

United States



Independence day, commemorating the Declaration of Independence



Showing the U.S. as a melting pot

Value Derived from the Experience: I originally was supposed to go to Croatia and intern as a business intelligence analyst intern there at a pharmaceutical company. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 plans were changed and I decided to stay here in the country and intern with the Iacocca Institute. Even though I didn't get the same cultural experiences that I planned to get by living and interning in a different country, I still learned a lot and gained experience. Most importantly I learned how to manage my time more efficiently. Working on a side project of website development and design, taking a class, and interning at the institute challenged me to manage my time better and more efficiently.

Another important experience I gained, was leaning how to perform proper market research on products and services and professionally presenting ideas.

Madi Hackman

China

College of Business
& Economics

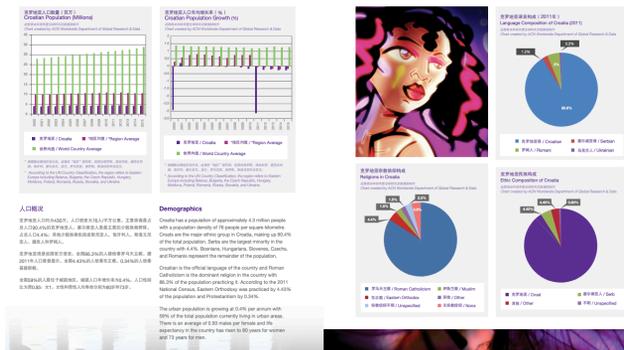
ACN Worldwide

Finance



Financial Consulting
Intern

Company and Position Description: ACN Worldwide is a global investment advisory group that specializes in strategic investments, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, trade relations, research and market intelligence, and business support services. They are based in China, servicing private and institutional investors and facilitating transactions across the globe. Their headquarters are in Shanghai with subsidiaries and rep offices in Asia, Europe and North America. They provide investment prospects, market information and advisory services for both individual and corporate investors worldwide. I worked as a market research analyst, gathering data about Chile, Argentina, and Peru to compile three separate fact books to be given to clients interested in investing in these countries. The fact books included information about the country's history, geography, climate, demographics, economy, education, culture and infrastructure. Then, I accumulated legal, tax, and labor considerations along with the ease of doing business within in each country to be used as investor considerations. Each book amounted to about 40 pages.



Example page in fact book



Chile
Order Printed Copy

Completed fact book of Chile
ready for publication

Madi Hackman

China



Tai Chi is a popular pastime in Shanghai



Chinese Lantern Festival

Value Derived from the Experience: Going into this internship, I had no idea what to expect. After my internship in Croatia was canceled, I was connected with this company through a placement service. I think this internship opened my eyes to all the possibilities that a finance job could be. I originally thought that the main career track in finance is to go to Wall Street and work in an investment bank. I now see that finance can be so many different things, much more than just budgeting and calculations. I really enjoyed doing market research on different countries and really learned so much about each country. I am so excited and open to the possibilities of a less conventional finance job. This internship made me realize that an amazing, enhancing experience can bloom where you least expect it, and that any experience can be worth it if you really put the work in and have an open mind. I also learned that I am very passionate about traveling and having a job that handles global responsibilities. I learned that in the finance world, it is extremely important to create relationships with your clients and let them know that you really care. A really interesting aspect of my job was seeing what other investments our clients were interested in. Many clients wanted to invest in human rights initiatives, green living solutions, and economic and political stability platforms. This made me realize that money can make a huge impact on people and it is of paramount importance to give back and use financial prosperity to make the world a better place.

Isabella King

United Kingdom

College of Business
& Economics

Accounting & BIS



Kids Know Best

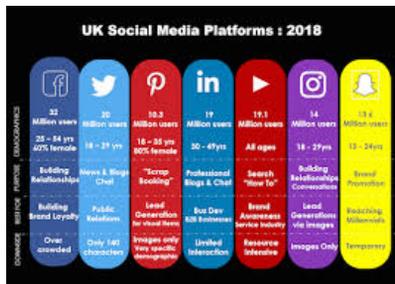
Research/Marketing

Company and Position Description: A newer marketing company that was founded in the UK, entirely based on the idea that marketing for kids must come *from* kids. They focus on research with kids (they even created their own app to allow kids to make choices and earn points to redeem them to donate money to UK Charities). They work a lot with influencers on social media sites and connect them with potential customers (like Hasbro) to do different promotions of board games or merchandise etc.



Isabella King

United Kingdom



This is a statistic of the social media that is popular in the UK.



Photo of Big Ben where I would have loved to visit and hope to see one day.

Value Derived from the Experience: This experience really helped me grow in both the professional and the personal sense. Professionally I learned a lot about on hands research outside the classroom and how B2B business actually works. When it come to learning about and focusing on influencers in different countries it was very interesting to experience their culture and learn the nuances between individual influencers and those who worked for a larger firm. I also got to learn a lot of hands on experience on the marketing strategy and process when new products come to market with a nice twist in the case of these always being for younger children. And, although professionally I did not experience anything very similar to my major I learned a lot about my style of communication especially virtually and what I need to do to keep myself motivated while at home or when working with someone in a different time zone so I could not always ask questions. This helped me to grow more confident in my ability to work independently and problem solve which I think will help in my future career.

Joseph Min

Zambia

RCEAS & College of Business

IBE Finance,
Industrial &
Systems
Engineering



FirstWave Group

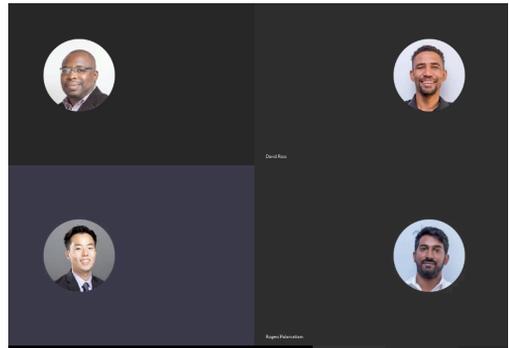
FirstWave Group

Supply Chain
& Logistics Intern

Company and Position Description: Over the summer, I had the opportunity to intern at FirstWave Group, a vertically-integrated firm that operates a group of companies across the production, distribution, retail, and aquafeed of fish in Southern and Eastern Africa. FirstWave is Africa's leading aquaculture firm that operates across Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and Europe. Their purpose is to sustainably provide an abundant supply of affordable protein to the growing African markets. As a Supply Chain & Logistics Intern, I was part of a team called Optimal Delivery Project Group that looked towards restructuring the route plan for the company's daily truck deliveries to retail outlets as well as modern trade stores across Zambia. With an increase in shelf life of the fish products, the team decided to cut down on the number of deliveries through the implementation of the NOD and NDD schedule while conducting investigative analysis of the consumer demand for each store. Maximizing efficiency for each route as well as cutting down delivery costs were the key driving factors for this special project.



Analyzing possible routes within Lusaka, Zambia



Screenshot of Daily Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Joseph Min

Zambia



Tilapia Fish is one of the most consumed products in Zambia



A Distribution Center is located in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia

Value Derived from the Experience: Going into this virtual internship experience, I did not know what to expect. After coronavirus cancelled my internship in Croatia, I got connected with a company that is so culturally and economically different from what my original internship was going to be like. Working for a company located in a third world country, I realized that there are a lot of possible constraints regarding business operations. Had I continued to intern for a more economically developed country such as Croatia, I would never have considered possible factors affecting businesses such as companies facing load shedding and the large presence of informal markets in less developed countries. These business constraints made the projects that I worked on a lot more interesting because it required the team to think outside the box to overcome issues. Although I did not get to meet in my team members in person, they were very supportive of me throughout the learning process and through our daily Microsoft Team meetings, I learned to communicate my ideas more effectively with my group over the course of the internship. Even though this was not the way that I had imagined my international internship experience looking like, overall, I believe I still grew both on a personal and professional level and I am glad I had the opportunity to work for a company in the midst of the pandemic.

Rylie Urbanski

Beijing, China

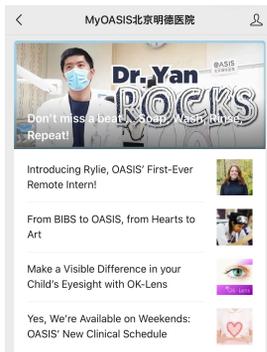
PC Rossin College of
Engineering &
Applied Sciences
Bioengineering
and Finance



OASIS International
Hospital
Communications
Intern

Company and Position Description: OASIS International Hospital is an international high-end general hospital that provides world-class evidence-based practice through the international JCI medical standards certification. OASIS is Beijing's largest comprehensive service hospital providing quality, patient-centered care across a full range of medical and surgical specialties.

With OASIS, I worked with Joshua Hiller as a remote communications intern. In that position, I created social media and video content to inform and educate the public in an entertaining way. I also worked on market analysis through company PowerPoints and research.



My articles were published on WeChat, a social media platform commonly used in China.



This is a video I made about women's health with my mom.

Rylie Urbanski

Beijing, China



Shopping in a local Oriental market



Making traditional Chinese zongzi

Value Derived from the Experience: This internship provided me with a lot of opportunities to learn and grow. I was able to adapt to working and communicating remotely with a foreign country. I was also able to develop my strategic thinking capabilities. I had to do research and iterate a company PowerPoint through mind mapping and brainstorming that encouraged me to go back to basics, develop a cohesive plan and train of thought, and then be able to convey that in a PowerPoint to others. Most of my internship laid in creating and editing videos. I learned the valuable skills of starting from scratch and creating an educational and impactful video outline, how to record quality footage in a proper environment, and edit the video to make it interesting and easy to follow-along with. I can now also say that I've made traditional Chinese zongzi and gained that cultural insight in preparing a foreign dish and shopping in cultural markets near me that I usually don't visit.

Working remotely provided unique experiences and challenges that, along with working with people I've never met in person and across a 12-hour time difference, I didn't expect the quality of this internship to be as beneficial as it was. I also now know how to communicate challenges and positives along to my supervisor, how to ask for feedback, and how to build work relationships. These are invaluable skills that I will use in my future career.

Thank you to the donors who make this program possible!



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