



Steven Rufe

B.S. in Elementary/Special/Early Childhood Education

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Internship with the Partnership for Global Justice (a Non-Government Organization that works with the United Nations) during the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters.

Additional Photos at bottom of article.

Why did you choose to do this experience?

During the summer last year, I attend a conference called Mercy Meets the UN. The conference, which was sponsored by and ran by the Partnership for Global Justice, sought to educate us about the United Nations. It was a big task to perform in three days, and I was left wanting more. I contacted the director of the Partnership and asked her if I could get an internship. She gladly agreed. Now, I travel two and a half hours to NYC to work towards educating people about the United Nations.

What are the benefits of doing this experience?

As an intern, I constantly gain more and more knowledge of the United Nations. I have had the opportunity to sit in on the Security Council and see Hillary Clinton, I was invited to attend a conference at St. John's University about the United Nations and spoke there about my experience at the UN, and I have been able to educate many on our campus about the UN. As much as I like to call myself a teacher, I am still learning so much as an intern. I go into each day knowing little of my duties or tasks ahead, and I learn as I go. I have learned so much about myself, from my ability to successfully navigate NYC on my own, to the chance to learn about an imperative International governing body. The United Nations seeks to educate every child in the world and that's my number one goal.

How has this experience enhanced your academic experience or shaped your career goals?

When I got my internship, I had really no idea what I would be doing or what I'd be able to see everyday. It turns out I spend every Wednesday educating people, and myself, about the United Nations. I intern with the Partnership for Global Justice because I know it will make me a well rounded student. To me, every experience in my life is connected, and this one connects with my job as an educator. It also connects with my job as a student at GMC. This internship is really turning me into a "global citizen" which is exactly what each of us needs to do to ensure stability.

What advice would you give to other students who may be considering a similar experience?

The United Nations is world commonly unexplored by many, but especially by college students. If you would have asked me a year ago if I would be an intern in NYC for the Partnership for Global Justice working with the United Nations, I would have thought you were insane. I said this during a presentation once, "Shoot for the moon and if you land on a star in the process you're still in pretty good shape." Decide what you want to do, and go do it. Don't let people talk you down. There are so many

organizations that work with the United Nations. Each of them has trouble meeting their day-to-day needs.

Is there anything else you would like to share? Life lessons?
Things you wished you would have known?

Honestly, the only thing I wish I would have known was that there isn't enough time in the day. I've learned that lesson very quickly. I can ramble off everything I tried to fit into last semester, but that would bore each and every one of you. My advice, make a list. Then put the list in order of importance, and get it done. Pay attention to what you got done on that list, not what you didn't get done. Otherwise you'll go crazy, trust me.

