



Summer Internship Report 2017

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Hometown: Houston, Texas



Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

Valmont Investments is a real estate brokerage and leasing management company that goes all around the city of New Orleans and buys properties to renovate and eventually sell. The company also owns and manages over 110 units across town and rents them out to tenants. I was tasked with shadowing the owner, Woody Koppel, around properties as a second set of hands to ensure the quality and timeliness of his projects were going as planned.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

My communication skills developed exponentially as intern at Valmont. Having to coordinate meetings for my supervisor helped me to better understand the value of timeliness and how that correlates in the real estate profession to ensure things are running smoothly.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

As an intern, I was able to experience the property management side of the real estate business. I was constantly answering calls for tenants around town with whatever issues that arose. These calls were generally maintenance related, and there were a few times where I helped tenants who had locked themselves out of their unit.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

Working side by side with contractors and other listing agents was a big part of my experience. Communication skills were by far the most crucial set of skills that I learned and improved over the course of the summer.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

This summer, I saw my interest in the real estate business grow. I am really looking forward to the next few months while I begin to apply to commercial and development companies in and around the southeast. My experience at Valmont has me eager to jump into the workforce and showcase my skills.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

New Orleans is a melting pot of socioeconomic backgrounds. I didn't so much experience this aspect during my time as an intern, but I did realize that these factors come into play frequently in real estate, specifically residential.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

Uptown is an ideal part of town to live in because of the easy commute to Valmont's office.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

Mr. Smith, I want to thank you for your generous contribution that allowed for a once in a lifetime experience this summer. I ended up learning a lot about myself while working for Valmont Investments and am looking forward to what the future has in store! -Gray