

Christine Lairson

(Senior Honors English major, Undergraduate Leadership Program intern)



What brought you to Andrews University?

I came to Andrews under God's guidance. After visiting the campus, I believed Andrews would provide a good education consistent with my values. I was impressed with both the English and Honors programs. Additionally, I was interested in trying out for the Gymnics. Reflecting on the past three years, I know God led me to make the right decision as all three of those areas have blessed me and others immensely.

You had an exciting internship in New York City last year. How did that come about?

I sent in my application for an Accessories Editorial Internship at *Glamour Magazine* in December 2010 after stumbling across an online posting. In a whirlwind three days, I was interviewed, hired and packing my bags to move to the Big Apple.

I understand this is a highly competitive position. Why were you chosen?

Alison Girschick, the Accessories Editorial Assistant at the time, said the following: "I chose Christine because of her energy and her experience. In addition, the fact that she is a Leadership student was especially exciting for me; knowing that she would be one of a group of about three or four interns at a time, I had a feeling that she could really pull the group together and act as a decision-maker and a person for the others to look up to."

What did your job entail?

The internship involved acting as a liaison between public relations companies, designers and *Glamour*. I managed the shoes, jewelry, handbags and other samples the magazine borrows for photo shoots. I also checked the mail, made schedules, cleaned, answered phones, made tons of photocopies, and even got the editors their breakfast. Or lunch. Or a cupcake. Due to the demonstration of my character and the qualities I developed as a leadership student, I was entrusted with handling the fine jewelry and working in the safe room. My supervisors continually increased my responsibilities.

Did your involvement in the Leadership Program help you in your internship?

I am currently working as an intern with the Undergraduate Leadership Program and am a leadership certification student. With leadership tangibly represented on my resume, my candidacy and competency for the position stood out amongst the other applicants. In the publication industry, as well as in many other professional environments, leadership capacity is desired, and my training gave me a competitive edge.

What did you take away from the experience?

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn about the magazine industry. I am coming away with insight into my own values and talents, and how that corresponds to a future, fulfilling career. I thrived working in an environment that called on my leadership strengths—activator, achiever, communicator, disciplined and strategic. Is an internship worth all the free labor? Definitely. What you personally acquire from the experience is priceless.