Internship Spotlight

Anthony McMillan’s Story

GRADUATION DATE December 2012
MAJOR Finance and Accounting
JOB TITLE Energy Lending Intern, Bank of Oklahoma Financial, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Have you ever wondered what caused the financial crisis and economic recession in 2008? Does preventing something like that from ever happening again sound like a good idea to you? Would you like to be a part of that prevention? Anthony McMillan, a finance and accounting student in the Spears School of Business, certainly gets excited by the idea of being involved in something so valuable.

“The reason I chose to major in finance was because of my interest in the investment and wealth management side of the banking industry,” Anthony said. “Ever since the economic downturn in 2008, I became interested in what made Wall Street tick and how the banking industry was connected to the recession.”

In his internship with Bank of Oklahoma Financial, Anthony is getting firsthand experience in the industry that has so completely captured his attention. His job is to help BOKF’s energy loan officers secure loans with energy companies across the country. He prospect new clients, assesses the financial statements of various energy companies, attends meetings about the state of the energy market, and works with other BOKF interns to find ways to assess BOKF’s competition in a cost-effective manner.

Anthony said the two most influential resources for helping him with his internship were his investments course and the Spears School of Business Career Services office.

“The BCS was valuable to me because it helped me refine my interpersonal skills and got me in touch with various recruiters,” Anthony said. “In addition, the staff at the BCS gave me insightful résumé tips and cover letter critiques. My investments class taught me the value of investing at an early age and showed me how significant a recession really was to the banking industry.”

If you share Anthony’s interest in what makes businesses “tick,” maybe a degree in finance from the Spears School is the right choice for you!
**Career Spotlight**

**Pervez Soomar’s Story**

**GRADUATION DATE** May 2011  
**MAJOR** Finance  
**JOB TITLE** Analyst, Spirit Insurance, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Let’s face it—our world is fueled by commerce. Without businesses big and small, our society could never function. So why not pick a college major that will help you get involved in this essential part of our economy?

This is the line of thought that convinced Pervez Soomar to major in finance when he came to Oklahoma State University.

“At a young age, I realized that the world revolved around business,” Pervez said. “I have always been very self-driven, and I have always wanted to excel in some sort of business scheme. I felt that a finance degree from OSU would help me become business savvy and eventually lead me to success.”

Pervez’s plan certainly seems to be working thus far. He is currently employed as an analyst at Spirit Insurance in Oklahoma City. In his position, Pervez helps fulfill the needs of existing customers, works to attract new customers and provides quotes for various kinds of insurance.

“I am enjoying the fast-paced environment of the office,” Pervez said. “I love meeting new people and building relationships, two things that are crucial to the success of this company.”

Pervez said his degree in finance has helped him in his career by teaching him how to handle large amounts of money, how to be a good salesman, how to display a professional image and how to communicate effectively.

In order to succeed, Pervez said new students should get to know their professors.

“OSU’s Spears School of Business professors were an extremely valuable resource for me,” Pervez said. “There are professors from all over the world and with many different types of backgrounds. They were all very easy to contact and were great resources for crucial decisions and just chats about life. They made learning enjoyable.”

More than anything else, Pervez recommended that students get involved in as many activities as they can while in college.

“My experience with the Spears School of Business was an exceptional one,” Pervez said. “I encourage students to use all of the resources that the business school offers in order to get the full experience. Doing this helped me grow a lot as a student and as a person.”

Are you ready to get the full college experience? If so, contact the Spears School’s Department of Finance today!

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**Finance career areas**

**Commercial banking**
- Commercial banking includes opportunities in commercial and personal lending, leasing, credit card banking, international finance and trade credit. More people are employed in this area than any other part of the financial services industry.

**Corporate finance**
- Careers in this area involve working for a company to help find money to run the business, grow the business, make acquisitions, plan for its financial future and obtain and manage cash on-hand.

**Money management**
- Money managers hold stocks and bonds for institutional clients and are on the buy side of Wall Street.

**Financial planning**
- Financial planners understand investments, taxes and estate planning issues in order to help individuals plan their financial future.

**Insurance**
- Jobs in insurance involve helping individuals and businesses manage risk to protect themselves from catastrophic losses and to manage risk to person and property.

**Investment banking**
- Investment bankers assist companies and governments to issue securities, help investors purchase securities, manage financial assets and risk, trade securities and provide financial advice.

**Career resources for finance majors**

A few helpful Web sites and professional organizations for finance students include:

- EFinancial Careers..... efinancialcareers.com
- Careers in Finance..... careers-in-finance.com
- OSU Career Services ...... hireosugrads.com
- Indeed .............................. Indeed.com
- Financial Job Network..... financialjobnet.com
- Jobs in Finance ................. financejobsite.com
- Financial Management Association.... fma.org
- Association for Financial Professionals.......... AFOnline.org
- Oklahoma Bankers Association ...... oba.com
- American Bankers Association......... aba.com