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Summer 2009 Sustainability Assistant

I learned about Suffolk University's Sustainability Assistant internship when the Campus Sustainability Coordinator Erica Mattison presented to my Built World class about the environmental initiatives at Suffolk. After the presentation, my professor, Angela Buffone, spoke highly of the positive changes that have made Suffolk more environmentally aware.

I was inspired by the opportunity to work with someone with a strong track record. I was also interested in the internship because of my passion for the environment. I enjoy learning about new environmental initiatives from energy conservation to building design. Having studied Graphic Design, I plan on at least incorporating sustainability into my future career, if not even working in an environmental capacity. I was interested in an internship that could give me a little taste of what a career in sustainability would be like.

When I was accepted for the Sustainability Assistant internship, I was not expecting to do much designing. At my previous internship, which was in graphic design, I unfortunately did not get hands-on design experience, but definitely made a lot of copies. In contrast, my internship this summer served as a great opportunity to put my design skills to use while making a positive difference at Suffolk.

During my two months as the Sustainability Assistant, I completed over a dozen projects, including designing signage and educational materials for:

- Suffolk's Welcome Center to highlight eco-friendly changes on campus,
- Bring Your Own Bag program (on display in the University and Law School Bookstores),
- The Mug Club (on display in the cafes),
- Green cleaning tips (on display in the residence hall laundry rooms),
- Using dual-flush toilets (posted in bathrooms), and
- Recycling (posted in residence halls).

I also led workshops for incoming students to learn "what's green at Suffolk" and how they can become involved.

This internship without a doubt was a positive experience that I would do again. It was a pleasure to spend time honing my graphic design skills and developing my portfolio, while contributing to something I really care about. As a post-graduate, this learning experience that I wanted to take advantage of ended up being well worth my time. Graphic design is an important part of relaying messages, and I'm proud to know that the materials I created will help raise awareness and encourage environmentally responsible choices at Suffolk University.