“Comments From”

Disney College Program Alumni of Central Michigan University

“I cannot stress enough how much of an amazing experience the Program was for me. I learned more about myself in the semester I was there then all the years I have had at college. Living on your own and working with a diverse group of people is such a valuable experience. I made some of my best friends that I still keep in contact with today. It has helped me grow as a person, it helped me to budget my money and time and it let me see what it’s like to work for such a prestigious company. I gained communication and people skills and learned how to take care of myself while living on my own. It put me into situations that I would never have encountered at CMU.”

Megan—Child Development major
Transportation & Parking, Magic Kingdom

“When asked what I enjoyed the most, my first response is always the cultural experience. Just in my apartment I lived with five girls from all over the world. This experience let me open up my eyes to the rest of the world. Before this experience, I had lived in only two places, my hometown where I grew up and Mt. Pleasant attending college. The different kind of people I met while at Disney amazed me and I now have lifelong friends around the world.”

JillCarla—Biomedical major
Characters, Magic Kingdom Entertainment

“I gained some of the transferable skills that the recruiters told us about in the presentation. Although I thought that it was a ploy to get us to come down on the program, I really did gain and increase these skills. For one, I gained more confidence in myself and my abilities. I improved my communication skills as well as my ability to partner and forge relationships. I also learned how to better manage my time and money since I found that I was short on both while on the CP. And these are all things that I can take with me and develop more in my chosen career of business.”

Shaundell—Business major
The Art of Disney, Downtown Disney

“It was easily the best experience of my life. Not only did I have a great time, but I met awesome people, and I learned a lot about myself. The College Program is hard work and we worked long hours all the time. In the end, all the hard work was worth it. I learned so many valuable life skills and made memories that I will remember forever.”

Molly—undeclared
Pirates of the Caribbean, Magic Kingdom

“I learned about the different lifestyles within our country and even adapted some traditions and picked up an accent or two. This experience allowed me to mature as a person; the result of living on my own, working full time, and supporting myself financially. As a result I also gained self confidence and gained insight into what I might want to do in my future.”

Courtney—Business Administration major
Lifeguard, Blizzard Beach Water Park

“I enjoyed it most when all of my roommates would sit down and discuss our home life & backgrounds. Being from all over the US, it helped us understand the views and ideas of everyone. I was in “culture shock”, having grown up in a small farming community in Michigan and graduating from a school of 300. During my first day at Disney, we had 300 students check in with hundreds more to come. Of the entire program, the living experience is what mattered the most to me.”

Joshua—Hospitality Services major
Quick Service Restaurant, Polynesian Resort

“One evening at the end of my program I was sitting in a restaurant with some friends from work. I realized that my friend James from Boston and I were the only Americans in our group. I was with John from France, Sebastian from Germany, Sonja from the Netherlands, Maria from Brazil, Shane from Canada and Taryn from South Africa. Never in my life have I had the opportunity to interact with such a diverse group of people! It was just incredible to hear about each of these people’s cultures, lifestyles, languages and experiences.”

Haley—Human Resources major
Kouzzina’s Restaurant, Boardwalk Resort

“I would definitely recommend the College Program to other students. This is a real-world experience that you can find nowhere else. You meet people from all over the world, from different walks of life, who all come to share one thing together, the magic of Disney. Most students do not want to take a semester off school, or postpone graduation, however when you have Disney on your resume, people pay more attention. In the long run, it’s the experience that will get you a job, not how fast you finished school.”

Jennifer—Journalism major
Walt Disney World Media Relations

“The most important thing that I learned is the proper way things should be done. Watching and being part of such a huge and successful company set a standard by which I now evaluate everything. Disney thinks of everything and how it should work. They then take steps to ensure it runs perfectly. Living and working at Disney has made me start to question everything, how businesses operate, and how to fix small inefficiencies.”

Scott—Marketing major
Merchandise, Disney-MGM Studios

“I went into the program with an open mind and no expectations, and I came back with amazing friends, a new focus on school and my future, and a new outlook for myself. I still think about my college program experience constantly and am still grateful for the experience that I received.”

Santana—Recreation major
Quick Service F & B, Caribbean Beach Resort
“I have come away from Disney with great people skills, a much better demeanor while working, and incredible work habits that definitely can’t be taught in a classroom. These work habits and people skills are traits that anyone can benefit from learning, no matter what major or career goals one might have. These skills will translate easily into any future career.”

Jordan—Business Management major
Outdoor Foods, Disney’s ESPN Wide World of Sports

“This was more than an opportunity of a lifetime. It shaped me as a person and it gave me more direction in my life… The opportunities are endless—the college program is completely what you make of it. There are so many networking opportunities…and opportunities to learn about other cultures, other people and making lifetime friends. Inside, you get to see what makes such a successful business run. Any expectation I had for the college program was tremendously exceeded.”

Heather—Public Relations major
Quick Service F & B, Magic Kingdom

“Now that I have returned to school I have noticed that the college program has led me to become much more goal oriented. I now know what it is that I’m working to achieve in my life which is making me a better student. I feel much more organized, focused, and better at managing my time. There is no replacement for real world experience and frankly, I don’t feel that students are getting enough of it.”

Erica—Business major
Front Desk, Contemporary Resort

“This experience has been invaluable to my return to the classroom. I am returning a stronger, more driven person than when I left. I was unsure of my major going into this program, but this experience has inspired me to pursue a business degree. I have motivation that I lacked before. I return to the classroom with a new skill – networking. I now know how to appropriately meet and interact with professional people, and I feel comfortable doing so. I also have a new found sense of confidence that I did not have before.”

Beth—Business major
Merchandise, Dinoland USA, Animal Kingdom

“This is one of the best experiences you could get as a college student. Regardless of what your major is, this program is extremely useful. It teaches you how to balance and manage a full time job, how to communicate effectively with others especially internationally, and helps you learn to live with others who you may have differences with. Plus you are working for a fortune 100 company and not many can say that. Any student regardless of major, age or interest would benefit from this program.”

Jared—undecided
Role Hopper—Magic Kingdom & EPCOT

“The lifelong learning that comes from the college program (CP) is one that everyone should experience. While I was on the CP I was thinking, maybe people shouldn’t do this; all you do is work. Then my program was nearing the end and I began to see everything that I had gained from the experience. I learned more about life in four months from my friends and co-workers than I have in the 20 years before this program.”

Amy—Education major
Merchandise, Pooh Corner-Downtown Disney

“When I decided to participate in the program, I thought I was going to make some friends, take a class or two, go to work, and learn about Disney as a company, but I learned so much more. These expectations were met, but something happened which I thought was impossible: I changed as a person. Some of the changes happened because of Disney, others simply occurred because I was in the real world. The chance to grow as a person was a very welcome side effect which I am forever in debt to the Walt Disney World company for receiving.”

Joseph—Business Information Services major
Merchandise, Frontierland – Magic Kingdom

“The WDW College Program took me out from my comfort zone and placed me in a completely new environment. I gained confidence that I did not possess before as I continually had to answer guest questions and “seek out guest contact”. I could see myself doing the same types of things on my campus now as I did at Disney. The college program put me on a seven month journey to becoming a completely different individual, and I like who I have become.”

Chelsea—Business major
Quick Service, Port Orleans French QuarterResort

“While on the program, I took the Organizational Leadership class. Going into this class, I thought it was going to be a huge waste of time and energy. As the weeks went by and our class grew smaller, we began to realize just how hard this class was, and how much we were being taught. We studied our behaviors, how we manage time, and our leadership/personality styles. As we grew to understand ourselves, we hardly realized how much we began to know one another too. I am fully aware of who I am. I know my leadership style, when I should lead and when I should follow. I know where my life is headed and with that, I can control the outcome.”

Kori—Accounting major
Attractions Hostess, Adventureland, Magic Kingdom

“I fell upon this opportunity (Disney program) when my girlfriend and her roommates asked me if I’d go with them to the info meeting on campus. I left the meeting wanting to go more than they did. I am really glad that I took the chance and did the program. Every student should take the opportunity to participate in a program like this, which combines travel, real life job training and multicultural experiences.”

Joe—Physical Therapy major
Restaurantosaurus, Animal Kingdom

“Words cannot express what this experience meant to me. It was such a wonderful opportunity for me to step outside of my comfort zone and move to a truly new place. It was an incredible feeling to be self-reliant. On this journey, my friends and family say I came back a slightly different person. I am more outgoing, independent, and I take more initiative. This program really changed my life. I was able to place myself in a setting that most people never get to experience.”

Elizabeth—Elementary Education major
Attractions, Disney Quest

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