

Sidelines

1301 E. Main Street

MTSU P.O. Box 8

Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132

Office: (615) 898-5111 • Fax: (615) 904-8193

<http://www.mtsusidelines.com>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTSU junior lands prestigious internship with Las Vegas Sun

MTSU junior Tiffany Gibson is working for the Las Vegas Sun and its parent company, Greenspun Interactive, for the Fall 2009 semester. Gibson was selected from more than 65 applicants from schools such as the University of Missouri, Northwestern University, the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Ohio for the fall internship.

MURFREESBORO, TENN. – Oct. 16, 2009 – Tiffany Gibson, a junior journalism major at Middle Tennessee State University, has landed a prestigious internship at the Las Vegas Sun for the Fall 2009 semester.

Gibson, a 20-year-old student from Cookeville, Tenn., was selected for the internship from more than 65 applicants from such prestigious journalism schools as the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of California-Berkeley, Northwestern University and the University of Ohio, said Rob Curley, president and executive editor of Greenspun Interactive, the new media division of the Las Vegas Sun and Greenspun Media Group.

Curley said while you might expect interns from larger, more nationally recognized journalism schools to land such internships, Gibson had qualities lacking from many of the other applicants.

"She had an amazing attitude. We felt like she would run through a wall for us. Our interns have to do an amazing amount of stuff for us, and we needed someone who wasn't going to bitch when we needed her to do more menial stuff," Curley said. "Some of the kids from those other universities felt that was beneath them. She had a great attitude."

The internship is primarily for the company's Web site. Curley said while other programs offered students far more in-class training in multimedia and Web skills than MTSU had provided Gibson, she was leaps and bounds ahead of them in terms of providing professional examples.

"It became clear that her journalism program was print-centric, and her multimedia skills were kind of basic, but it was clear she had self-taught herself everything, and we like people who do that," Curley said.

However, that's not to say Curley wasn't looking for an intern who had sacrificed print skills for multimedia skills.

"Bottom line, the writing test we give people is one of the hardest writing tests a kid is going to get. We do it in a way that probably puts more pressure on them than a kid deserves to get," Curley said. "We are looking for really, really strong writers, and you wouldn't believe how poor some of the writers are we get to apply. So writing is No. 1. If you have to have a converged program, don't take the writing out. Then, we look to a kid who can do anything -- anything -- that's not writing. We're looking for one other skill that's interesting."

Gibson said the internship is one of the best learning experiences she's ever had.

"This internship is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I'm glad to be working at the Las Vegas Sun," Gibson said. "I have learned so much in the few weeks I've been here. The internship has given me a taste of the real world and now I'm hooked. The feeling of waking up every morning and not knowing who you are going to meet or what story you're going to cover is what journalism is all about. If I had my doubts before, this internship has definitely shown me that I'm in the right profession."

Gibson is the daughter of Phyllis Ann Gibson. In addition to her major in journalism, she is minoring in writing and women's studies. Gibson has previously served in several capacities at the MTSU student newspaper Sidelines, including most recently as editor in chief this past summer.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Steven Chappell, Director of Student Publications
Sidelines Student Newspaper
Middle Tennessee State University
1301 E. Main St.
Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
615-898-2337 (voice)
615-904-8193 (fax)
schappel@mtsu.edu
<http://www.mtsusidelines.com>