



VICTORIA TAYLOR '15



NINA BARRETT '16
& SEN. PAUL A. LOWE, JR.



KIMOTHY JONES '15

INTERNSHIPS DEFINE *Career Paths*

by **Christiane Newell '15**

One of the perks of attending William Peace University is the emphasis placed on the importance of completing an internship. Every WPU graduate is required to complete an internship in his or her field of study, and more than 60% of WPU graduates receive job offers from their internship experience.

"Internships are important no matter what major you're in because it's important to work in the field before you get out there," said **Kimothy Jones, Jr. '15**. "The more experience you have before you graduate, the better off you are."

Jones, who graduated in May with a B.A. in Communication, completed an internship with Curtis Media Group this spring, owned by Don Curtis, husband of Peace College Alumna **Barbara Hoffman Curtis '66**. Jones worked as a writer for ACC Sports Journal and ACCSports.com, where he learned some journalistic tricks of the trade, including the importance of research to back up data.

"I've always wanted to go into sports journalism, whether it be print or broadcasting," said Jones. "This internship will help advance my career because it's given me experience writing for an actual sports paper and online site. It's given me great material for my portfolio and shows that I can write about different things like recruiting and games."

Jones heard about his internship through WPU's Career Services, a source for students even after they become Alumni.

Victoria Taylor '15 completed an internship with the North Carolina Council for Women (NCCW), whose Executive Director is WPU

School of Professional Studies graduate **Gale Wilkins '11**.

Taylor graduated in May with a B.A. in Communication and a Concentration in Public Relations. She served as a Social Media Public Relations Representative at NCCW and kept up with the organization's Facebook and Twitter pages, photographed events, created short promo videos, and compiled research for their listserv email alerts.

"This internship helped me grow because it's what I want to do with my career," said Taylor. "I like social media, so I like that this is a profession that allows me to use it. It's also taught me a lot about promoting and advertising for an organization. I like trying to think of creative things to say and things that will make the company look good."

Nina Barrett '16 aspires to become a corporate attorney, and her internship with the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) is helping prepare her for that role in more ways than one.

"Lawyers focus on law in the courtroom, and our legislators are actually making the laws that lawyers are executing," said Barrett. "I'm basically getting to see the stage before making my career choice."

Barrett, a current Political Science major with a Business minor, has been interning with the NCGA since May 2014 and is the legislative intern for Senator Paul A. Lowe, Jr. (Dem). Her responsibilities include attending sessions, tracking bills proposed by Senator Lowe, attending and reporting

on committee meetings, and working with social media.

"Attending sessions lets me see how to debate, argue and get my point across using logical aspects without having an emotional attachment to it," said Barrett. "The legislative process is something you can research all day, but when you're actually there and in the environment, you get to really see what it's like and how hectic it can be."

Barrett works with constituents from Senator Lowe's district who call with concerns and she composes email blasts, which are sent out multiple times a week. She also writes monthly newsletters to be sent to his district and to his fellow colleagues to tell them what he's doing, and also to boast about the good things he has accomplished. It also gives lobbyists and advocacy groups a chance to see what issues he stands for and what he's most likely to vote for.

"I work on the newsletter everyday to make sure it's the best it can be," said Barrett. "We send it to over 1,000 people. It's nice to see the end product of my work and be proud of it."

Barrett is also president and co-founder of WPU's verbal expressions club, phenoMEnal, and will serve as WPU Senior Class President for the 2015-2016 school year.

Know a company or organization interested in providing an internship experience? Email Barbara Ehir, Director of Career Services, at Barbara.Ehir@peace.edu.