



REUNITING THE ROAR

UPIC

SPRING 2024

REUNITING THE ROAR

“Reuniting the Roar” marks an unforgettable chapter in Clemson University’s history — a tale of resilience, growth and persistence in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. The journey from isolation to integration on Clemson’s campus is a testament to the strength of the community and its commitment to rebuilding the Tiger spirit and grit that defines the University.

The pandemic created a widespread impact on public health and safety measures, causing Clemson University to quickly adapt to new norms and practices. To continue providing a safe environment for students to pursue their education, in-person classes, campus activities and face-to-face interactions were put on pause. For our University, a campus home to over 25,000 students, this change completely disrupted the traditional college learning environment. With the implementation of social distancing measures and restrictions on large gatherings, Clemson quickly transitioned to remote and hybrid learning models. Learning, for the first time, was restricted to Zoom classes and Canvas. Dorms were transformed into libraries, laboratories and lunchrooms. Professors faced the challenges of implementing new technology to engage students: black screens, no feedback and unanswered questions. Even though the effects of isolation translated into every aspect of student life, students, faculty and the Clemson family continued to show up for one another.

“Reuniting the Roar” emerged as a symbol of collective resilience, a promise to overcome adversity and restore the sense of togetherness that makes Clemson a family. Students took the discipline and resilience they learned and grew it into something better. Clubs returned fiercely, students returned to in-person instruction and community events returned with an intention to rebuild.

Whether it be through new sports, such as women’s lacrosse or gymnastics, or community events such as the Clemson Music Fest, “Reuniting the Roar” truly lives up to its name. The cheers, the chants and the collective roar of the crowd echoes through the new and old stands as many voices become one.

With the return to on-campus instruction came a resurgence of experiential learning. UPIC has been at the forefront of experiential learning opportunities at Clemson for over a decade, and that proud tradition has continued despite the challenges of the pandemic.

As the Clemson community reflects on the challenges faced during the isolation of 2020 four years later, the essence of “Reuniting the Roar” goes beyond being a mere theme for the year. It has become a powerful narrative — a story of resilience, growth and the triumphant return to a thriving Clemson family. It serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, the spirit of unity can rebuild what was lost and create a stronger, more connected community. The roar of Clemson, once muted, now resonates louder than ever, echoing the enduring strength of the Clemson Tiger’s spirit.



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A LETTER FROM UPIC

When I joined the UPIC team in the summer of 2023, I was immediately impressed by the vast amount of knowledge, experience and dedication each one of my fellow team members brings to this program. I am proud to be a part of this team that provides such an important opportunity and resource for Clemson students.

As the newest member of the UPIC team, I have enjoyed working with interns and helping to facilitate the UPIC program. As program assistant, I have had the opportunity to welcome interns and help guide them through the first steps of their experiential learning experience with UPIC.

An important stage in an intern's career and professional development begins from the moment they accept an internship offer. Throughout the hiring process and communication with internship mentors and the UPIC team, interns are gaining experience and skills in the professional field that can benefit them moving forward.

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to serve in many different types of roles. However, one of the most impactful experiences I have had in my professional development was working on my university campus as an undergraduate student. This experience helped shape my college experience and gave me immense respect and appreciation for student engagement within the university setting. I believe that experiential education provides students with an invaluable experience, one that I continue to encourage students to pursue!

The UPIC program provides an important opportunity for undergraduate students to expand their knowledge and gain hands-on experience in their field of study. In collaboration with Clemson University departments and mentors, the UPIC program is able to provide students with significant work that will help them prepare for their future careers.

As you read through this issue of the UPIC Magazine, you will find many wonderful examples of the skills, ideas and talents our UPIC interns bring to this program and how their dynamic work positively impacts Clemson University.

Caitlin Abbatiello
UPIC Program Assistant





DIVERSITY STATEMENT

We strive to educate ourselves and others about the issues of a pluralistic society. We are committed to reaching beyond views of individuals to value a community that appreciates and learns individuals' similarities and differences. Our services and programs seek to create a safe environment that affirms to dignity and worth of everyone. We demonstrate the commitment by embracing differences, including those differences that are not visually apparent.

MEET THE



**Troy D. Nunamaker, Ph.D.,
MHRD**
Director



**Caren Kelley-Hall, Ed.D.,
M.Ed.**
Associate Director



Lisa Robinson, J.D.
Associate Director



**Jenna Tucker-Grogan,
M.Ed.**
Assistant Director

UPIC STAFF



Tanisha Alexander
Senior Program Director



Caitlin Abbatiello
Program Coordinator



Camryn Hubbard
Graduate Assistant



Alyssa Neff
UPIC Office Marketing &
Programming Intern

UPIC MAGAZINE INTERNS



Chadley Gray Schmidt

Graphic Design Lead

Major: Graphic Communications

Graduation Date: May 2025

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern, Technical Association of the Graphic Arts



Ashtyn Goff

Editor-in-Chief

Major: English

Graduation Date: May 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern, English Club President, Sigma Alpha Omega, Sigma Tau Delta



Olivia Almeida

Chief-of-Production

Major: English

Graduation Date: May 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce
Intern, English Club



Kathryn Atkinson

Photograph Lead

Major: Marketing

Graduation Date: May 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce
Intern, Sigma Kappa, Sales Club,
CUMA, Women in Business



Sierra Wilson

Writer

Major: English

Graduation Date: December 2023

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern



Summer Wrenn

Writer

Major: Communication

Graduation Date: May 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern



Taleah Holt

Writer

Major: Business Management

Graduation Date: May 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern, MBSA VP Marketing, Inclusive Excellence Council Member



Serena Johnson

Writer

Major: English

Graduation Date: May 2027

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern, Teach for America Intern, English Club



Kylee Butler

Writer

Major: English

Graduation Date: May 2025

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern



Emily Scott

Designer

Major: Marketing

Graduation Date: May 2025

Campus Involvement: Pearce Intern,
Cadency, Pi Beta Phi, CMA



Christina Arshansky

Designer

Major: Marketing

Graduation Date: December 2024

Campus Involvement: Pearce
Intern, Cadency, Club Field Hockey,
Pi Beta Phi

PROGRAM SA

"My UPIC experience helped me get my foot in the door and showed me a great opportunity for future employment." — Spring Intern

"[UPIC] made my time at Clemson more meaningful. My experience with UPIC alongside my classes was more impactful to my future career than if I had taken just classes alone." — Spring Intern

"I feel like I have come a long way in the way I present myself and approach things in the workplace" — Spring Intern

"My experience in the UPIC program has been nothing but positive and beneficial. I look forward to continuing with this program next school year." — Spring Intern

"This is an amazing program! Thank you to my UPIC site coordinator, Dr. Kelley-Hall, who has done so much for my resume and cover letter, supporting me and encouraging me." — Spring Intern

"It's an amazing program that I would recommend to all Clemson students!" — Spring Intern

"I really appreciate that this experience is career-oriented and works to develop meaningful goals and transferable skills. — Spring Intern

SATISFACTION



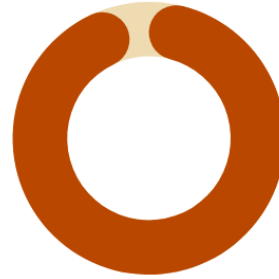
95%

of
UPIC interns
rated their
relationship
with their
internship
site mentor
as “good” or
“excellent”



96%

of
UPIC mentors
rated
the interns’
overall
performance
as “good” or
“outstanding”



97%

of
UPIC interns
rated the
overall quality
of their
internship
experiences
as “good” or
“excellent”



97%

of
UPIC interns
rated the
practical
skills gained
through their
internships
as “good” or
excellent”

TOTAL INTERNS SINCE 2012

8913

211 SUMMER 2023

424 FALL 2023

429 SPRING 2024



CORE COMPETENCIES

1

COMMUNICATION

Public Speaking
Writing
Listening

Engaging in dialogue that leads to productive outcomes and points of connection by effectively articulating one's self to individuals within and outside of one's industry or area of expertise.

2

COLLABORATION

Cooperating
Navigating Conflict
Open-mindedness

Developing authentic and mutually beneficial relationships by valuing everyone and taking responsibility for one's role within a team.

3

LEADERSHIP

Motivating
Participating
Facilitating Meetings

Being able to recognize, respect, develop and capitalize on the unique strengths of individuals from all backgrounds and being an active member in a group that achieves a shared vision.

4

ADAPTABILITY

Generating Ideas
Taking Initiative
Implementing Solutions

Taking the initiative to further enhance one's skill set and being creative with ways of thinking or approaches that allow for action, reflection, failure and resilience in an ever-changing world.

5

ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Identifying Problems
Analyzing Information
Making Recommendations

Seizing the opportunity for organizational improvement that prompts critical thinking and problem solving by obtaining, processing and synthesizing information.

6

TECHNOLOGY

Conducting Research
Learning Software
Troubleshooting

Employing current and emerging software and tools to solve general and industry-specific challenges.

7

SELF-AWARENESS

Multi-Tasking
Time-Management
Setting Goals

Understanding one's strengths, limitations, emotions and biases in a variety of situations and articulating how one's interests, skills and values align with educational and professional goals.

8

INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

Cooperating
Navigating Conflict
Open-Mindedness

Making choices and consistently acting in a manner that displays integrity (following internal principles, morals and values) and ethics (following external laws, rules and norms) in personal and professional settings.

9

BRAND

Punctuality
Meeting Deadlines
Accepting Responsibilities

Demonstrating the continual development of a positive impression or image in every facet of life while seeking feedback from others to ensure congruence between one's intended and perceived reputation.

UPIC INTERN

ZAY BARTON: *Cooperative extension*

The greenhouse at Southside High School in Greenville, South Carolina was once unable to support life, covered in cobwebs and overlooked by students. Now, thanks to Zay Barton, a junior horticulture major and Spring 2023 UPIC intern, the greenhouse flourishes.

Barton has a passion for horticulture, so when Toya Moore approached him to be an intern for a greenhouse revitalization project, he accepted. Moore and Barton worked with Upstate Circle of Friends, a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the lives of at-risk children and families through various after-school programs, to complete the greenhouse project.

Revitalizing a greenhouse is no simple task. Barton attended Southside's career day to invite students to learn and help after school. Upon talking to students, he discovered that many thought the greenhouse was a storage shed. Determined to make a difference, Barton gathered a group of students to work on restoration.

Because the greenhouse had not been maintained, it was unable to support life.

Barton explained, "It was too hot, it was too arid and it was too dry for any of our plants to grow. Especially seeds and small plants. Because once plants get to a certain maturity, they can withstand this condition."



Barton proposed the idea of planting outside the greenhouse. Once the plants reached maturity, they would be moved inside.

“A lot of the times when I was out there, I was guiding rather than instructing.”

As a subject matter expert, Barton maintained the greenhouse and garden spaces and taught students about horticulture. Barton described his role as “teaching them through experience.”

“A lot of the times when I was out there, I was guiding, rather than instructing. I was an instructor to a certain degree, right, but I kind of saw myself more as a light facilitator,” he said.

Recalling a memorable day during his internship, Barton described when he brought a bag of plants and allowed students to select the one they would like to work with. Barton said the students reacted with “curiosity.”

“It’s always imagination. And it’s an imagination that’s like, okay, how do I want to mold it? It’s like they knew that they were the sculptors of that figure,” he said.

Barton credits UPIC for fostering his ability to convey horticulture concepts in a way that is digestible and easily understood by others, whether that’s adults or kids. He also found an interest in “experiential learning,” specifically within agricultural and horticultural education, through his UPIC internship but ultimately plans to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors after graduation.

Barton already operates two thriving entrepreneurial ventures on Instagram: @wholeSOLorganics_ and @InfiniteSeeds_academy. Through Whole SOL Organics, Barton educates his followers on the medicinal capabilities of various plants and sells a selection of products, many of which he plants himself. Infinite Seeds Academy is a garden consulting business where Barton collaborates with clients at various stages of their gardening journey. Whether it’s guiding beginners on starting a garden or coaching experienced gardeners on how to improve, everyone has a place at Infinite Seeds Academy.



As Barton’s journey continues beyond the greenhouse, his entrepreneurial ventures — Whole SOL Organics and Infinite Seeds Academy — exemplify his commitment to spreading knowledge about horticulture and encouraging a brighter, greener future.

Written By: Chadley Gray Schmidt

UPIC INTERN

ZAHAYA HUSSAIN: *A place to learn*

Clemson Online is a University department that provides personalized faculty support to create and sustain unique learning opportunities for Clemson students. Clemson Online works with the UPIC internship program to create an internship on accessibility. The digital accessibility internship for Clemson Online works with the digital learning strategist team and instructors to enhance accessibility with services like video captioning, document remediation and coding for learners in online courses.

Clemson Online helps get programs and courses online and advances the quality of those programs at Clemson. Through Clemson Online's blended programs, students can choose to have online meetings, attend hybrid courses, participate in independent study courses and take traditional, on-campus courses. The benefit of Clemson Online is the program provides more schedule flexibility for required courses that honors student schedules.

Digital accessibility intern Nayha Hussain, a senior computer science major from Greenville, had her first UPIC experience with the Watt Center prior to her working for Clemson Online.

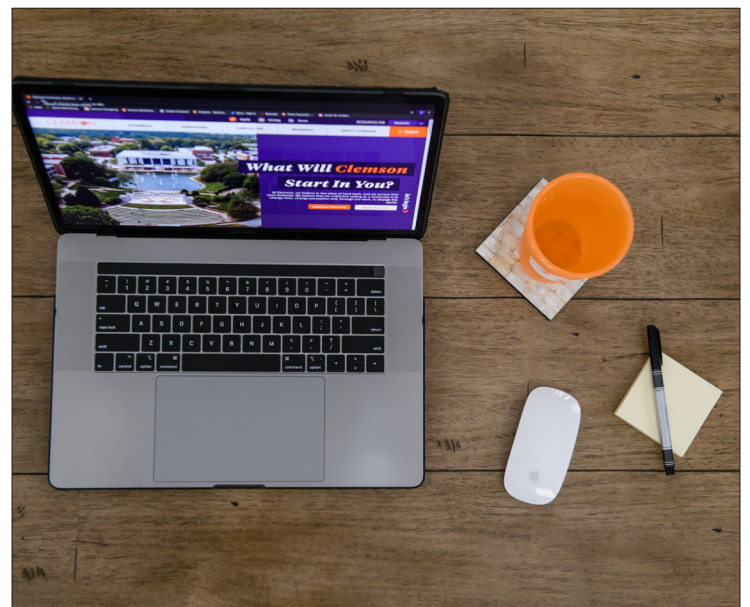
"My first UPIC internship was in Spring 2023. I worked as an IT intern at the Watt Center. I really liked it because it's on campus, and the focus is on learning and building your technical skills with a mentor who is invested in your learning. It's an internship program

that has the objective of wanting you to learn," Hussain said.

Hussain was introduced to web accessibility through a course she took in Spring 2023: Web Accessibility and Inclusive User Interfaces taught by Emma Dixon.

"Taking the digital web accessibility class taught me how important it is to make sure we are developing accessible technology to make sure vulnerable populations are not left behind as everything becomes digitalized. It will become imperative that everyone has the ability to work a computer," Hussain said.

Hussain's previous experience as an IT intern and her passion for accessibility led her to her current position with Clemson Online. Her previous experience with UPIC prepared her to navigate different workplace environments. In her transition to a hybrid role, Hussain learned that not knowing everything is actually...okay.



“I think [myself] and a lot of interns start thinking you need to know everything and you need to be performing well to be a good intern, but that’s not true. Rather than saying ‘I don’t know,’ you should switch your mindset to say ‘I don’t know, but I can figure it out.’ You need to have the problem solving abilities to figure out what information you need and implement and iterate. The purpose of this internship [is] to learn,” Hussain said.

Similarly to Hussain, UPIC mentor and digital learning manager, Sharyn Emery, understands that interns come into the internship with little experience. Hussain appreciated her focus on collaboration and helping students problem solve.

“I [...] want the interns to try things that are new, figuring out their own best practices and workflows to achieve project goals. [Hussain] was extremely capable and curious, which are excellent traits for this internship. She applied herself to learning even more about accessibility so she could problem solve independently,” Emery said.

Emery believes that internships like Clemson Online are important to strengthen career competencies such as collaboration and time management — skills that these students will take with them beyond Clemson.

Written By: Malaysia Barr



“[...] the focus is on learning and building your technical skills with a mentor who is invested in your learning.”



UPIC INTERN

KRUSHI PATEL: *From Italy to biology*

Proteins exist in every cell of the human body, and recent studies hypothesize that 10 percent of all proteins in the body do not conform to the usual, static 3D structure of protein molecules. Instead, they change configuration, which has earned them the title of intrinsically disordered proteins. Krushi Patel, a senior microbiology major working on the N2B Project, works to create models of these proteins to better understand their structure.

“Mentoring Sterling has been a great opportunity for me to learn how to teach effectively.”

While Patel was studying abroad in Florence, Italy, during her Spring 2023 semester, the Single Molecule Biophysics Lab’s Principal Investigator Hugo Sanabria informed her of a summer internship position. Though initiating her internship was a bit more difficult because she was abroad, UPIC’s flexibility made it possible for Patel to join the N2B project, and she’s been with the program ever since!

The N2B Project creates models of the N2B protein, an intrinsically disordered protein, using the Förster Resonance Energy Transfer mechanism to understand the molecular structure of other IDPs better. FRET and other machines shoot lasers at energy-emitting molecules known as chromophores, a section

of a molecule that allows humans to perceive color. The donor molecule in the protein initially absorbs the energy from the laser, which is then transferred to the acceptor molecule to emit energy. Machinery measures the distances between these interactions, allowing the N2B project to build models of the proteins. Though the unfamiliar process initially daunted Patel, she has grown comfortable and increasingly interested in it.

“When I first started the lab, I had no clue what biophysics or single molecule biophysics was. It sounds super complicated, but it’s not [...] it’s really, really cool.”

Working under Sanabria and grad student mentor, Danielle Latham, allowed Patel to grow with experienced scientists while providing her with exemplary role models, professional connections and new friends.

“It’s been [great] having a [...] mentor to teach me what being a good mentor is supposed



UPIC INTERN

CHADLEY GRAY SCHMIDT

When you have a question about something, it is generally easy to type in a search, navigate through a website and find your answer. Despite the simple process of clicking and gathering your information, it is easy to forget all of the planning, strategy, design and hard work executed to make your quick search possible. One of UPIC's interns making this possible for Clemson's Student Accessibility Services department is junior Chadley Gray Schmidt.

A graphic communications major from Charlotte, North Carolina, Schmidt began her work with UPIC in the Spring of 2023. In her endeavor for involvement and experience, Schmidt applied for the job through Clemson JobLink after hearing about the program from a friend. She was excited for the opportunity and the learning journey ahead with an eagerness to improve her web design skills.



Schmidt's graphic communications knowledge gave her a background of web design aesthetics; however, when it came to manually creating and changing website features, she was starting at square one.

"Website design is a whole different world," Schmidt said. She describes her work in two different halves. The first half was reviewing the current website and researching ideas for changes, and the second was creating content and design for structuring information. With her work varying beyond just web design, Schmidt's role title, with collaboration from her mentor, quickly changed from Web Design Intern to User Experience and Content Creation Intern.

In this second phase of her internship, Schmidt greatly improved her writing skills, being responsible for writing new content, rewriting old content and making necessary edits.

"I definitely learned a lot about how to write things in a way that someone can understand when they see it for the first time, especially when there's so much content to go through," Schmidt said.

With new technical skills, Schmidt also built newfound confidence from learning new ways to speak and communicate with other people. Although the experience was primarily independent and remote, Schmidt leaned into the ability to attend weekly in-person meetings. This is a feature Schmidt enjoyed the flexibility of, but it also granted her the

crucial experience of working face-to-face with clients and ensuring her designs were on the same page as her client's vision.

The road to learning was not a completely straight path. One of Schmidt's challenges included the amount of content she had to structure. Her work highlights the importance of planning and strategy in the realm of web design and, with experience, Schmidt's hard work paid off. With an obvious impact reflected in the before and after results of the website, she also got the chance to learn about backend website building, which sparked a new interest in her.

Schmidt hopes to go into social media content creation in the future and looks forward to carrying over her content creation knowledge from the internship into this professional endeavor. With an interest in company branding and marketing strategy, Schmidt sees herself starting out in social media and marketing with dreams of eventually becoming a creative director.

“If you even think ‘I don’t know if I want to do this in the future,’ that’s okay, because being able to test things out now and seeing what you’re good at and what you’re interested in now is really important.”

Highlighting the impact of the job, Schmidt has chalked her positive experience up



to her close relationship with her mentor, Jamie Martin.

“She was so awesome, and I can’t thank her enough,” Schmidt said. A strong mentor inside and outside of the internship, Schmidt was moved by Martin’s relentless support, constant encouragement and kind understanding.

Schmidt advises anyone interested in applying for the job to just go for it.

“The great thing about UPIC is that it builds you up, and that’s what it’s there for,” Schmidt said. “If you even think ‘I don’t know if I want to do this in the future,’ that’s okay, because being able to test things out now and seeing what you’re good at and what you’re interested in now is really important.”

Written By: Summer Wrenn

UPIC INTERNS

BRYNN SUMNER & CALEB DAVIS



Picture this: you are in Northern Idaho with five other people, three of those being high school tribal interns from the Coeur d'Alene tribe, studying the recent drought and how it has affected the land the tribe relies on. Brynne Sumner and Caleb Davis, Clemson students and UPIC interns, had the opportunity of working with the Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science to complete this exact task.

“This was my first real work experience ... I think it’ll set me up for my future as I’m doing a graduate program that focuses on ecology.”

Sumner, a senior biology major, and Davis, a senior parks and recreation major with an emphasis in conservation and outdoor recreation, spent six weeks in Northern Idaho working on a project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The goal of the project was to analyze how the ecosystem of the wetlands are impacting the native species of plants and animals and how that impact is affecting the cultural significance of these plants and animals for the tribe. They also looked at how human impacts, such as roads and irrigation, are affecting the ecosystem.

Davis explained their research as looking at “different stream sites and taking measurements and data like water purity, the size of the stream, the shape of the stream channel at different points and then identifying all the different plants in the area that were either invasive or not.” He pointed out that it is crucial for streams to flood over for native

plants to thrive in the area. However, because of the drought and the invasive plants coming in, the streams are becoming more incised — meaning deeply cut, like the shape of the letter V — and it is affecting how easily the streams flood over and seep into the ground for the native plants.

While there, Davis and Sumner created transects for the stream sites — three per site — and monitored them with sensors and cameras, tracking how wildlife is interacting with the stream. These transects will continue to be monitored over the next few months. Sumner said that she took on a leadership role with the tribal interns, guiding them as they did their fieldwork. She said, “That was a big goal of mine, to really engage with them.”

In terms of discovery, Davis said he was shocked by how the invasive plants prevent the streams from being healthy and affect how incised they become. Sumner said she was amazed by how different the plants are compared to South Carolina and the east coast. She also made a personal discovery in how “something we do as a society, as a whole, is impacting a people.”

Both Davis and Sumner gained valuable experience from this internship. Sumner said, “This was my first real work experience. I had been in a lab in my classes, but never in the field doing the work...I think it’ll set me up for my future as I’m doing a graduate program that focuses on ecology.”

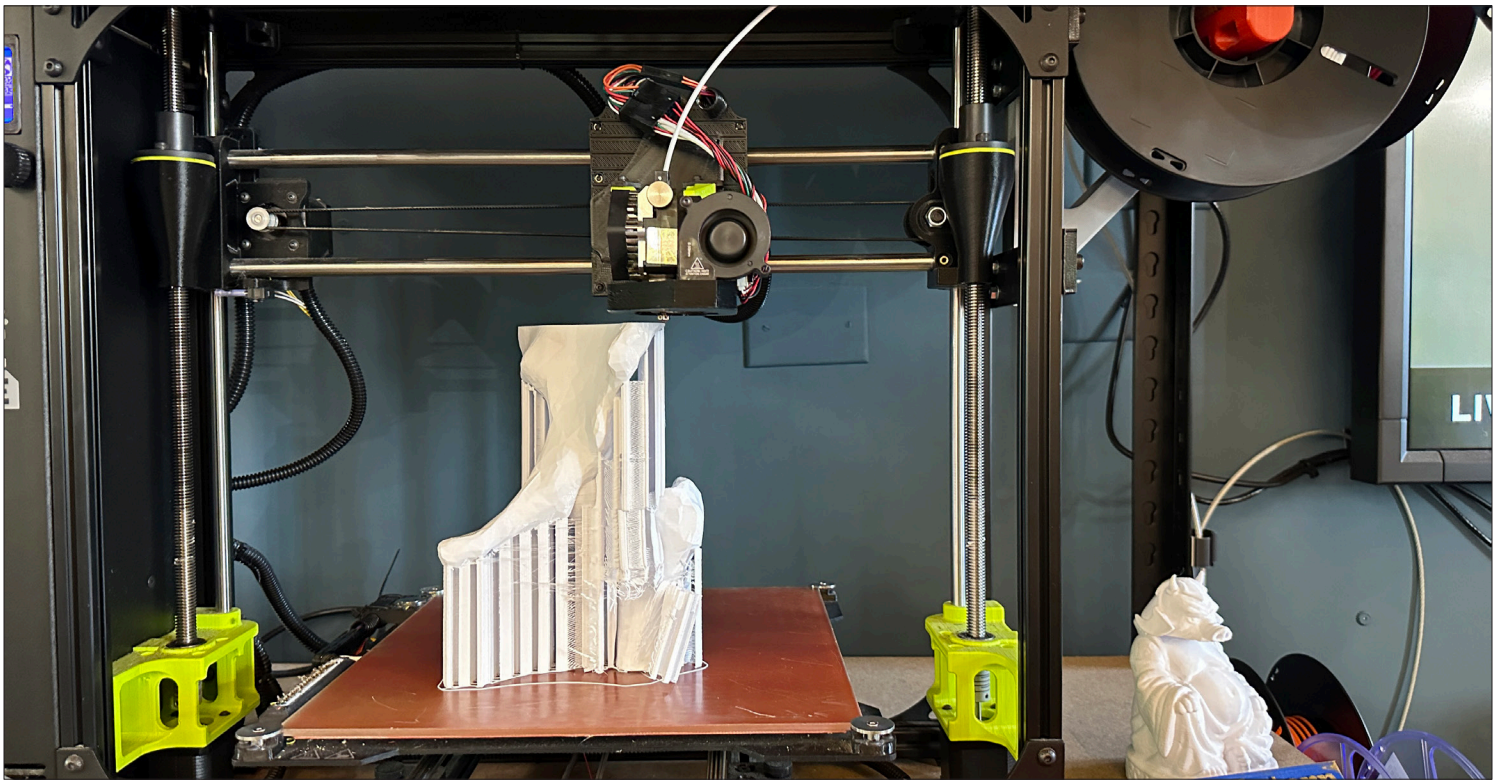
Davis said, “I’ve taken research classes and science classes in the past, high school as well, but I haven’t really been able to do fieldwork and research on a real sponsored project.” He went on to say that it helped him discover his interest in doing something related to conservation management.



To future UPIC interns, Davis said, “It’s a way to get experience in something that you’re not as experienced with...or get an idea of what you want to do or what you don’t want to do.” For example, he learned that he does not want to do fieldwork; he wants to do conversation work. Sumner said, “Explore your options... try to find something that interests you and challenges you.”

Being a UPIC intern is a valuable experience that will help you grow as a person and will look great on resumes, so take the leap and find an internship that intrigues you!

Written By: Sierra Wilson



UPIC INTERN

ERIK DAUNHEIMER: *Uncovering the imagination*

A place full of imagination — open to all majors and all expertise, could it be possible? The answer is: yes, of course, and it lives right here on Clemson's campus.

The Adobe Makerspace has two homes on Clemson's campus: R. M. Cooper Library and the Watt Family Innovation Center. Adobe Makerspace UPIC intern Erik Daunheimer notes that the Adobe Makerspace is open to all users to work on a host of projects, from Christmas gifts to video game replicas.

"That's the thing I love about the Makerspace is [...] the limit is your imagination," Daunheimer said.

The interns bring life to the Makerspace, making it accessible to everyone on Clemson's campus, as long as they are open to learning and completing a basic safety quiz.

"You can come in with no experience whatsoever and be like 'I want to make something like [a video-game replica],' and we'll be happy to help you," Daunheimer said.

The interns help users accomplish any goals, whether that is helping them set up their 3D prints in Adobe Illustrator or helping them use equipment like the button-maker and laser cutters. It's common for the interns to hear that the Makerspace is intimidating, but Daunheimer combats these hesitations.

“You can see all the engineering majors there and the machinery, but we have a lovely staff of interns. Everyone is really nice and eager [...] to help people.”

The typical day as an Adobe Makerspace intern consists of many behind-the-scenes processes that enable interns to help users during the day, whether that’s checking in on the printers, always ensuring they’re running smoothly, or monitoring the Discord where the team troubleshoots problems together. In Fall of 2023, Daunheimer served as the chief of staff, assisting in hiring processes, scheduling the other interns and coming up with inclusive plans to accommodate the interns’ schedules.

Daunheimer attributes his career skillset to his UPIC internship in the creative and challenging Adobe Makerspace.

“I’ve learned more about personal skills and UPIC goals [...] How to improve myself, not only in the makerspace, but also my professional work ethic — and that’ll help me whenever I graduate.”

Daunheimer encourages anyone who is interested to apply for internships available to them.

“The competencies and professional gain that I’ve gotten from doing UPIC in the Makerspace will help me throughout my entire life.”

Written By: Ashtyn Goff



“That’s the thing I love about the Makerspace is [...] the limit is your imagination.”



UPIC MENTOR

LA'TOYA MADDUX: *Managing money and mentoring*



La'Toya Maddox flourished in her new responsibilities after being promoted to director of finance and chief of staff for the College of Arts and Humanities in June of 2023. With her new role, she knew she would need some extra assistance. She decided to take the opportunity to mentor through the UPIC internship program.

Maddox balances a host of duties in her new role as she works to foster communication within financial affairs.

“In my new role, I am now fiscally responsible for stewardship of all resources. I assist the dean in making financial decisions for adopting new processes and policies . . . Every year, we have to develop a new budget, which is ultimately the planned use of funds that are made available to our college. And so there’s always an opportunity for us to make sure that those finances are used most properly.”

Maddox looked to UPIC’s internship program for an aide and, more importantly, to mentor a student and offer them a great opportunity.

“I certainly wanted to participate [in the program] in some capacity. I knew I needed the assistance, but it was more important to give that opportunity for a student to shadow and see a slight peek into what the real world is going to look like and make themselves competitive.”

Through the interview process, Maddox reflected on what she was looking for in an intern and how the high-caliber candidates made the decision more difficult than she expected. She found what she was looking for in Kellie Coleman.

“[I was looking for] someone that was dependable and teachable. [Coleman] checked both boxes. I was elated by the caliber of students that were sent over, and

“It was more important to give that opportunity for a student to shadow and see a slight peek into what the real world is going to look like and make themselves competitive.”

I can tell many of them were very ambitious and goal-oriented hard workers, so it was a hard decision.”

Maddox thinks that exposure to tasks ranging from revenue analysis and repository work to data entry and budget adjustments will prepare Coleman to be a competitive candidate in the professional world.

“[Coleman’s] not just doing thoughtless tasks. She’s getting the history and the knowledge of what plays into our day-to-day responsibilities. She’s being challenged in a way that is expanding her experience and also building a resume.”

Through her experiences working with mentee Coleman, Maddox learned and found renewed pride in Clemson students’ drive and ambition. “We have an excellent student body at Clemson. I don’t have the pleasure of working with a lot of students because my job is not student-facing, but having Kellie close by has been refreshing because she is an example of the caliber of students. Working with Kellie is a renewed excitement into our future, a level of trust and comfort and knowing that our college-age students are razor-focused and driven toward being positive contributors to society.”

Despite the pressure of meeting strict deadlines and balancing responsibilities, Maddox is passionate about and finds joy in her work for the College of Arts and Humanities and UPIC mentorship program.

“[It’s] quite the challenge. But I love it [...] because I love working with people. I love helping people, fostering healthy work environments and a level of camaraderie and respect across both faculty and staff communities. So I love that part of my job, but I also love numbers. I love telling the story behind numbers. And, you know, making sure that people have the data they need to be successful and build productive programs and, you know, programs with a financial philosophy that makes sense.”

Maddox sees the UPIC program as a unique experience that will prepare Clemson students for life after graduation.



“I think the students that participate in this program will be some of the most successful leaders once graduating and entering into the professional field. Students that connect themselves to opportunities like this while in college show off their desire for success.”

Written By: Serena Johnson



UPIC INTERN

JOSEPH HUNDLEY: *Protecting paradise*

Imagine our beautiful Upstate with the rich greens and blooming flowers destroyed by exotic and invasive species, putting the environment in danger. Clemson University's Regulatory Services Department plays a crucial role in preventing such damage and working to protect Clemson's environment. Regulatory Services benefits from UPIC by employing interns to assist them with their efforts.

One of those interns is Joseph Hundley, a junior majoring in environmental and natural resources.

"What I work in is the invasive species program, but regulatory overall is just where we regulate the plant industry across the state," said Hundley.

In most states in the U.S., the government tackles invasive species, but South Carolina is unique in allowing Clemson University the responsibility of ridding the state of these exotic plants.

"In the Clemson area, we have cogongrass, which is one that we regulate. That is a weed that grows in areas and kind of dominates other plants and out-competes them."

Hundley's everyday experience with Regulatory Services ranges from attending outreach events to in-office activities.

"Usually [my job] varies a lot day-by-day. Sometimes, like this semester, I went and actually sprayed and began the elimination process for cogongrass, which is a process that can take several years. Sometimes [my

day will] just be organizing storage facilities because of how many materials, like swag items, it takes to outreach. These materials range from sunglasses to air fresheners that we give out at events, and there are thousands of them. Keeping everything organized is a job in itself. Speaking of which, some days also involve researching and allocating grant money to use on such giveaway items,” Hundley said.

“UPIC has vastly increased my understanding [of Regulatory Services].”

UPIC provides opportunities for interns to work on innovative projects.

“Last semester, the project we worked on was an invasive species analysis tool, or a threat detection tool, so that when we get a new species in the state, or we’re detecting one or one that we think is gonna come into the state, we can use this tool and run it through

this analysis to determine what is our best plan of action and how we can eradicate it.”

Hundley claims the guidance he has received in UPIC has been invaluable, allowing him to get behind-the-scenes experience and a chance to job shadow.

“[UPIC] has vastly increased my understanding, just being a part of the process. Regulatory Services [has] been great. My mentors, Allison Bower and Matt Howle, have been fantastic. They just put me in; they let me get into all these situations of actually working behind the scenes to understand what goes on through the laws and the importance of what we do.”

Hundley encourages Clemson students to apply for a UPIC internship.

“First of all, definitely do it. Ask a bunch of questions and let your supervisors know what you’re interested in. Put [your] cards on the table and get as much guidance as possible.”

Written By: Kylee Butler





Center for Career and Professional Development

CLEMSON CAREER CLOSET

The Career Closet program was developed to provide a way for Clemson students to obtain clothing for job hunting. The clothing provided ranges from business casual to business professional attire. All of their clothing comes from donations given by members of the Clemson community. In addition to providing clothing, they also offer tips and interviewing advice at the Michelin Career Center to help build your professional brand.

Visit the Clemson Career Closet in Lever Hall, room 120.



CLEMSON CAREER FAIR

The Center for Career and Professional Development hosts the only campus-wide career events. This past Fall and Spring, they offered their services to bring students, alumni and employers together to explore and discuss internship and full-time job opportunities. The fair focused on technical majors and industries, as well as business and non-technical majors. Hundreds of employers attended each day looking to connect with Clemson students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The Center for Career and Professional Development offers online workshops on choosing a career path, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for the career fair, networking effectively, job searching and interviewing tactics. The Center offers one-on-one meetings with counselors to review resumes, cover letters and LinkedIn profiles and to practice mock interviews. They also provide various resources for graduate students.

Visit the Center for Career and Professional Development on the third floor of the Hendrix Student Center.



CLEMSON JOBLINK

Clemson JobLink is powered by Symplicity, the world's largest network of college and university career centers, and includes over 5 million employers. Through CJL, students are able to connect not only with employers who are directly seeking Clemson graduates, but also with employers across the country who are posting at numerous colleges and universities. For employers who are seeking a Clemson graduate, CJL can help to effectively connect with Clemson students and recent alumni to achieve their recruiting goals.

