

Mullen continued . . .

Was it difficult to arrange an internship with Motion Designs?

Not at all. I simply approached the company's national sales manager and explained that as an intern I would earn credit toward my degree for assisting them with a personnel-related project. We agreed that I would develop a company policy manual that would outline everything their employees would need to know. They would reap the benefit of having the company's policies documented, and I would be able to accumulate some real work experience.

What did you learn about yourself?

I discovered that I had to become a little more aggressive about stating my opinion. Business people often are too busy to ask you for an opinion, and you have to learn how to "get in there" and say what you think. Of course, there is a right time and there is a wrong time to be stating your opinion about an issue. You certainly can't walk into a company and act as if you have all of the answers just because you are fresh out of school. You have to channel your enthusiasm and be willing to wait for the proper time to make a suggestion. The internship has given me an opportunity to develop some important communication skills and a sense of timing.

Have you found that your educational experience at CSU, Fresno prepared you for this work experience?

Before my senior year, I wondered how I was going to use some of the courses that my major required. At that time it was difficult to see that the general education courses, and so many of the other courses that didn't seem relative to business, were really giving me a broad foundation of knowledge. Now I can see how my senior courses are putting it all together. Suddenly I am drawing on everything that I learned in those "unrelated" classes.

After you graduate this year, what are your plans?

I would like to work for a large corporation in their personnel department, primarily because large corporations recognize the need to create good employer/employee relationships and are willing to sponsor special programs. I may have more of an opportunity to implement some of my ideas in that type of setting.

Do you have any advice for students who are entering college?

Don't get discouraged! After completing two years at Fresno City College, I transferred to CSU, Fresno. About the middle of my second semester here the pressures of school were beginning to take a real toll on me. I wanted to quit. I talked with Tom and he said, "If you want to quit, quit. No one is making you go." I was ambivalent because I enjoyed being on campus and learning, but I was also tired of school. One of my professors knew what I was feeling and he gave me some good advice. He suggested that I drop all but one of my classes so I would still be enrolled, and simply take a little rest. So that spring semester I completed only three units — which really removed all of the pressure — and I had my summer free. When fall came, I was ready to get serious and go back to school. I saw that professor on campus the other day. He was glad to see that I had survived my "slump" and was back in full force.