



Alumni Spotlight

Your fellow Public Policy alumni would like to showcase you and your achievements to the PUBP community on our website. We would be grateful if you would send us a profile. Please fill in the name/city/etc. in the blanks provided. Then pick as many questions as you would like, or add your own topics, and type your answers in the text boxes following. Thank you!

Name: Wes Staley

Graduation semester/year: Fall 2011

City of residence: Montgomery Village, Md

Current professional position: Presidential Management Fellow

Question Choices for Alumni Profiles

1. What do you do for a living now?

I am currently working as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md. As a PMF, I rotate in various offices at the NIH to gain an understanding of the administrative functions performed by the NIH. At the completion of my 2 year fellowship, I will convert to a traditional position.

2. What did you think you wanted to do during your time at Tech?

When I enrolled at Tech, I was uncertain what I would end up doing, but I had an interest in pursuing research that focused on ethically contentious science policy.

3. Where would you like to go with your career?

I do not have a clear expectation for where my career will take me. The strength of the fellowship I am currently completing is that I can evaluate multiple options before deciding on a career.

4. What research did you conduct while at Tech?

While a student at Tech, I was able to work as a graduate research assistant for Dr. Roberta Berry. In this role, I assisted her with her NSF funded research investigating the influence of exposure to multiple perspectives regarding controversial scientific advances and policies. Additionally, I complete a research project evaluating the effect of a price shock on the egg donor market.

5. What research are you interested in now?

My current responsibilities do not include conducting research. However, I am currently working in the Division of Risk Management and Audit Liaison. This provides an opportunity for me to apply the skills/knowledge obtained through a Negotiation and Conflict Management course I attended while at Tech.

6. What did you do in the year after graduating?

Immediately following graduation, I spent about 3 months working for a small start up firm as a Technology Manager. This experience was made available to me based on my past work experience. I was unable to secure a position related to my degree for approximately 8 months.

7. What links, news sources, or interesting research would you like to share?

We may need to make changes or deletions to the responses given. Thanks for your understanding!

While I do not have a specific suggestion for research that is worth investigating further, I will say that working at the NIH is fascinating. One of the aspects I had not expected was the research that is conducted on site at the NIH. One of the more amazing experiences is a presentation from the Doctor/Researcher responsible for the Undiagnosed Diseases Program. This researcher's responsibility is the same as the character Dr. House in the program title House.

8. What was your greatest "Ah-Ha!" moment at Tech?

I can't speak to that experience, but I have found that many of the lessons taught are hard to appreciate until you are in an environment where the skills/knowledge obtained is required to complete a task.

9. Do you still believe in the same principles as you did when you were a student?

Yes, although it is interesting to be in the D.C. area. An open mind is not as valuable if you are interested in working on Capitol Hill as you might imagine.

10. What are your current hobbies or interests?

I am still exploring the D.C. area to take in the sights. Attending committee hearings is also an interesting experience.

Please send a photo with this profile

