

Ben Goldberg ('17)

Education

Wesleyan University, Middletown CT May 2017
Bachelor of Arts Candidate; GPA: 3.95/4.00
Film Studies & Sociology Major

Amherst Central High School, Amherst NY June 2013
Advanced Regents Diploma; Valedictorian

Awards

- Dean's List for 1st & 2nd Semesters Fall 2013 - Spring 2014
- Tishler Award, Outstanding First-Year Student
in Organic Chemistry Spring 2014
- All-Western New York Academic Team -
-Second Team Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

Work Experience

Marketing Associate, *Congo Leadership Initiative*;
Buffalo, NY Summer 2014 - Present

- Maintain social media outlets to promote the organization and spread its message.
- Organized and ran a successful crowdfunding campaign with StartSomeGood.com.
- Created a marketing database including photos, research, and quotations.

Teaching Assistant, *Green Street Teaching & Learning Center*,
Middletown, CT Fall 2014 - Present

- Assist teachers in classes focusing on arts and individually help students with their projects.
- Supervise children during snack and homework time.
- Help children understand and complete their homework.
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Tutoring; Buffalo, NY Summer 2014

- Taught 10th grader Algebra to prepare for the NYS Regents Exams.
- Assigned weekly homework problems to complete.

Sales Assistant, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Sales Department; Buffalo, NY

July 2013 - Spring 2014

- Reorganized company database for future and potential clients.
- Sent mail to subscribers with information about sales to keep them up to date on subscription status.

Leadership Experience

Personnel Director, WESUFM 88.1

Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

- Organize and create curriculum for new member's training.
- Email staff with news and log staff meeting attendance and staff service hours.
- Co-host a radio show bi-monthly with a set theme and playlist for each show.
- Plan station events and maintain the station from week-to-week.
- Fall 2013 – Present

Principal Violist, Wesleyan University Orchestra

- Led the viola section in bi-weekly orchestra rehearsals.
- Ran sectional rehearsals with the rest of the viola section, dictating bowings and style of playing.
- Performed solos for the viola section.

Tutor Co-Chair, National Honor Society

Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

- Organized the tutoring program in my high school with one other student and an advisor.
- Recruited academically gifted students to participate in the tutoring program.

Skills

- Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Audition, Adobe Dreamweaver
- Graphic design, sound editing, basic web design
- Proficient in Spanish

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Project Proposal

1. Provide information on the status of the organization that you were awarded a grant for.

The organization I was awarded the grant for is Congo Leadership Initiative (CLI). I have been working with them since last July and am continuing to work part-time with them. Recently, unfortunately, they informed that they still want me on board and to stay involved in CLI but that they do not currently need full-time support from me over the summer. Therefore, the full-time CLI position I was awarded the grant for is not something that I can accept. I do intend to continue working with CLI in a limited fashion over the summer, however, as I am doing now, and continue to manage their social media networks.

2. Provide a brief overview of the organization for which you will intern or program/project you are developing.

The organization that I would love to intern with over the summer is React to Film. React to Film is a nonprofit based in New York City that focuses on using documentary films to incite discussion and conversation about the social issues that are presented in these films. Like CLI, React to Film accomplishes this goal through an educational program. This educational program is focused on high schools around NYC, and some of the schools that participate are Achievement First Brooklyn High School, Humanities Preparatory Academy, Harlem Renaissance High School, and Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School. The educational curriculum asks young people to watch a series of films about various social issues, and not just accept them at face value, but rather to engage with the films, question them, and discuss them. Discussions about bias in these films also occur in order to teach the kids to be critical thinkers. Through this curriculum, React to Film hopes to inspire youth and get young people thinking about different social issues that they might not otherwise be exposed to. The power of film lies in its ability to spread a message through images and sounds, and React to Film harnesses this power for activism. They also have an outreach program for colleges and universities, which Wesleyan has recently joined as a chapter of their College Action Network. At colleges, these chapters screen films to incite campus discussion about different social issues.

3. Briefly provide details of the internship or experience, including responsibilities and tasks.

This internship experience would be with the Educational Programs department. There are two React to Film offices, one in the Hudson Valley and one in Manhattan, and I would primarily work in the Manhattan office to help create curriculum content. I would be involved in this creation, from picking films, creating discussion questions, and figuring out the best way to spark discussions among middle and high schools for these important social issues. I would be directly involved with the content creation aspect of the organization, which would be incredibly exciting for me. In order to create these curriculums, I would be viewing various documentaries, analyzing them to create lesson plans, and could even have the opportunity to meet with some of the filmmakers and interview them about their films, which interns have done in the past. In addition to content creation, I would be involved with social media, outreach programs, and the React to Film blog, which are similar tasks that I would have done with CLI. Additionally, I will be able to be involved in summer courses taught at high schools that React to Film works with, and I would be able to work hands-on with the kids and be able to implement the curriculums that I will have worked to create. My supervisors have also mentioned the possibility of spending a week or two in Connecticut to bring the React to Film curriculum to areas outside of the NYC area. Lastly, I would be involved with their annual College Action Network Summer Leadership Conference at the beginning of the June, which is a conference that brings together all of React to Film's college chapters across the country for a leadership conference to discuss changes and brainstorm new ideas. I would be involved with the planning and organization of this event, and then also be able to participate in the event and help lead discussions during the conference.

4. How have you communicated with the employer and determined mutual interest?

I have been offered a full-time internship position with React to Film this summer by Ms. Dahlia Graham. I began speaking with React to Film at the beginning of March, interviewed with them, and sent them my references. A little over a week ago, I was offered this position with React to Film in NYC and I am very excited at the prospect of working with them, and the Summer Experience Grant would make that opportunity possible.

5. How will this experience enhance or broaden your career goals?

Coming into Wesleyan University, I was unsure about what job I wanted in the future or even what subject I wanted to major in. Over the past two years, though, I've been able to hone in on my interests, and, this semester, I declared a Film Studies & Sociology double major. I am very passionate about both the power of film and images and the importance of individuals to make a change in society. React to Film is the perfect mix between my two interests and could help lead me down a potential career path.

As I mentioned in my previous application for CLI, nonprofit work has become a very interesting and exciting field of work for me. I was first introduced to nonprofit work through CLI last summer when I interned with them remotely. The independence and pride that I took in my work that summer was something that I had never really experienced working at any job before, and I knew that this pride in my work was something that I wanted to carry throughout the rest of my life. I believe that recognizing the inequalities in society and striving to fix these problems in any way that you can is a very admirable goal, and one that I wish to continue with React to Film. Thinking critically about social issues has been something that my parents have stressed with me since I was little, as both of my parents are lawyers in Buffalo, NY. Like I mentioned in my previous application, my mother in particular works for a nonprofit organization Neighborhood Legal Services, where she specializes in housing and disability law. I have always found her work inspiring, and she often points to her work as something that is difficult and frustrating but ultimately rewarding. Her work has taught me the importance of helping others in need and the sense of accomplishment that comes along with nonprofit work. Despite the hardships present in this line of work, I find it an exciting challenge that I wish to explore even further.

Both CLI and React to Film are nonprofits that strive to educate young people and get them excited about change, growth, and leadership. These qualities are incredibly important, and I want to be involved in exciting others in that way. These organizations aim to raise social consciousness. One particular aspect of React to Film's curriculum that is different and attractive to me is its variety and ability to educate youth about a variety of different social issues. I am not passionate enough about one particular issue, like reproductive rights or climate change, to focus exclusively on that issue, and React to Film offers the opportunity to raise many different discussions. It aims to teach young people to view the world through a sociological and critical lens, allowing them to take the initiative themselves and discover what issue they are passionate about; I, too, would be able to engage these different documentaries and social problems to discover what I am drawn to the most, as well, and then continue to use film as a medium to explore those interests. I want to be involved in helping people discover their passions just as Wesleyan

and nonprofit work has helped me discover mine. In addition, I want to continue working in nonprofits like React to Film to explore if this is the line of work that I would like to continue in the future. I have enjoyed my experience in this realm so far, but I want to engage different approaches to these types of organizations.

The educational component of this internship is also very compelling for me. This past year, I have begun working at Green Street Teaching & Learning Center as a Teacher's Assistant for first through fifth graders, and I have loved being able to work with children and teach them new ways of thinking. As with nonprofit work, through teaching, I have had an incredibly rewarding experience and the feeling of enacting change for many of these kids. Next year, I am going to continue working at Green Street by teaching a creative writing class myself, and I would be thrilled to explore more educational opportunities with React to Film. At this internship, I will have the opportunity to create content and potentially work with middle and high schoolers directly, which is an age group I have never been able to work with before. I don't know if I want to continue teaching later in life, but I have loved working with and teaching young people before and want to explore this line of work further to see if it is something I could enjoy as a potential career.

This internship not only addresses my interest in nonprofit work, though, but also my interest in film and documentaries. Ever since I was a child, I have been absorbed by moving images. I consumed television series day after day and became interested in the power of images to tell a compelling story and argument. This interest in the film industry was solidified upon visiting a television set in high school; the creative energy excited me, and I grew passionate about joining this field. The past few years, I was unsure how to channel my interest in film, though. I am excited by the moving image and the creativity in the industry, but I am not interested in becoming a director or writer of films myself. Rather, I want to be involved in the management of this creative work. React to Film provides a great environment for me to explore working in a different but creative way with films and documentaries. I would love this experience to work with films in a unique way, one that I had never previously considered.

Additionally, React to Film's focus on documentaries and social issues is of particular interest to me. Currently, I am taking a Documentary Film course that has exposed me to a new way of looking at film, with an eye towards the filmmaker's responsibility and film's connection to 'truth.' I am starting to understand the importance of mediation in documentaries to craft an argument; I see documentaries as a powerful medium that could be very personally fulfilling. I would love to learn more about documentaries and their ability to change social perceptions; they work with their context in history to have an impact on the viewers. Working with documentary films at React to Film will allow me to explore documentaries' connection between

film and nonprofit and discover how I can balance my interests in both.

Receiving the Wesleyan Summer Experience Grant this summer would allow me to explore my two interests of film and social activism in ways that I had not even considered previously. React to Film is a remarkable organization that would provide me with the opportunity to continue my work with nonprofits and understand the way that different nonprofits function on a day-to-day basis. This internship would allow me to use my knowledge and interest in film in a unique and exciting way that facilitates my interest in pursuing social change. This generous grant would offer me the chance to explore how I can discover a career that uses the power of art to facilitate change.