In their own words ... Experience – Grow - Make a Difference

Lucas Ensign
UW-Platteville Student & PACCE Summer Intern

Interning at American Choral Director’s Association in Oklahoma City, OK

Senior majoring in Choral & General Music Education K-12

Hometown: Freeport, IL

“...“I am writing an article for “Choral Net” as a guest blogger and also for the association’s professional journal, the Choral Journal.”
– Ensign

Lucas’s aha moment:

“My education at UW-P has come full circle...I am able to express the lessons taught to me and apply them to my career!”

How did your internship opportunity happen?
Bob Demaree, UW-P’s Director of Choral Activities has enjoyed a long relationship with the American Choral Director’s Association. He has judged competitions and worked with Dr. Dorsey, Director of Communication and Education at ACDA. Bob approached me to see if I would be interested in working at the ACDA national office in Oklahoma. I humbly accepted the offer, and have been thrilled to work with all of the staff here, including my boss, mentor, colleague, and new friend Dr. Dorsey.

How does your internship complement your academic goals?
This internship has put my content knowledge into play and enhanced my understanding of how undergraduates, new teachers, and seasoned teachers can benefit from this professional association. ACDA is the largest association of music educators in the country.

How are you spending your days?
Each day is a little different. I am working on updating and maintaining archival information in the national office, and on-line. I have been formatting and editing web content on acda.org, and am expanding the ACDA radio. I worked with Dr. Dorsey on a new and exciting addition to the “Choral Net” pages called, “Name That Choir Tune.” Forty choral songs that are considered to be of the standard repertoire were researched and selected, a twenty second excerpt was selected, and the listener is asked to identify the composer, time period, and piece being played. The answers are given at the end of the excerpt. This is a valuable and fun tool for music educators as they can listen to great music and be tested intellectually in the identifying process.

What type of skills are you learning?
To my surprise, I have learned an immense amount of computer skills and web development. I have learned of the dynamics that are created in a small office environment, which will prove to be valuable as I begin my teaching career. Finally, I have learned the importance of networking with your colleagues.