UM students head off to begin careers at Disney World

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UM STUDENTS HEAD OFF TO BEGIN CAREERS AT DISNEY WORLD

MISSOULA –

Three University of Montana graduating seniors will begin their careers as professional interns with Walt Disney World in January.

The internships offer the students opportunities to begin careers in their areas of study with a respected, world-renowned company.

The students are Madison Knowles, a communication studies/entertainment management major from Missoula; Kidron Cobb, a culinary arts major from Conrad; and Kristin Gemignani, a zoology major from Whitefish.

Knowles will work at Disney World as a coordinator in the College Education Program. She will assist with educational programs, events and learning centers offered at Disney University, an on-property campus that offers course work accredited by the American Council on Education.

“Disney opened many doors for me throughout my college career,” Knowles said. “I enjoyed my internship with them in the Entertainment Department as a freshman and have continued to support the program and work hard toward the possibility of getting a professional internship. UM is fortunate to be sending three students to be a part of the Professional
Internship Program, as these internships are extremely competitive and awarded only to the best of the best."

Cobb has accepted a professional role as a culinary assistant/cook II and will begin his career in catering production and on-stage cooking.

“I am excited for such a unique opportunity and know I will learn many skills that will further my career in ways I would not have expected,” he said.

This is the second placement of a UM culinary arts graduate with Disney in their highly competitive, nationally recognized career-start positions.

Gemignani will intern with the animal care team in one of the largest zoological facilities in North America, working in Animal Kingdom Veterinary Medical Records. She completed an undergraduate internship in costuming with Disney two years ago and while there realized her love for animals was more than just a passion. It was to be her career. She returned to UM and changed her major from theatre to zoology.

“I’m extremely excited for this wonderful opportunity,” Gemignani said. “The internship will provide me with valuable insight and experience in the zoological and veterinary fields and will undoubtedly help jump-start my career and future working with animals.”

Five UM students also have accepted undergraduate internships with Walt Disney World. They are communication studies majors Ben Buckridge and Stephanie Turner, media arts major Anna Miller, marketing and entertainment management major Zach Morgan and radio-television major Eri Okazaki. The students will work in photography/digital imaging, merchandising and guest attractions.

Two UM School of Business Administration alumni currently are employed at Walt Disney World. Kevin Cunningham, a 2006 UM graduate from Columbia Falls, manages Magic
Kingdom Guest Services. Krista Paul, a 2007 UM graduate from Butte, is a field representative with Disney Casting. Cunningham and Paul began their careers with the Fortune 100 company as professional interns.

“Both my college program undergraduate internship at Epcot Outdoor Foods and my field marketing representative professional internship at Disney helped prepare me for my current duties planning events in the role of community coordinator,” Paul said. “My journey with Disney began while I was a UM student, and I’ve always aspired to have a career with Disney.”

For more information about Walt Disney World internships, call UM Internship Services at 406-243-2815 or e-mail internships@mso.umt.edu.

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