International Internship Portfolio

Global Data Intern at the Fundación Río Urbano

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Professor Tracy Buss
Global 489 – International Internship
21 December 2016
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I. Student Consent to Use of Information, Waiver, and Release

Student Consent to Use of Information, Waiver, and Release

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1. Create and maintain a digital copy of the Portfolio within CIE’s academic server space;

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3. Provide a digital copy of the Portfolio to any party seeking information about international internship opportunities or CIE’s programs;

4. Utilize the Portfolio for both quantitative and qualitative research and marketing purposes in the pursuit of the mission and goals of CIE and provide the Portfolio to CIE staff to achieve these purposes;

I understand that (i) I have the right not to consent to the release of my Portfolio, (ii) I have the right to inspect my Portfolio, and (iii) I have the right to revoke this consent at any time by delivering a written revocation as set forth herein. I understand that this authorization remains in effect from the date I sign through the date on which I deliver written revocation of my consent.

I acknowledge CIE’s intent to utilize the Portfolio for educational, research, and related marketing purposes. CIE reserves the right to utilize the information in full or part as related to the purpose of its mission and goals, and I consent to such use. I hereby waive all rights of privacy, compensation, and other rights which I may have in connection with CIE’s use of my Portfolio for the purposes set forth herein.

I understand the rights I am conferring upon CIE with regards to the Portfolio by signing this agreement. I release and hold harmless the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, CIE, and each of their officers, employees, and agents from claim or cause of action, whether now known or unknown, for any and all claims arising out of the use of my Portfolio as set forth herein.

I understand that if I wish to discuss or negotiate the terms of this agreement, or if I desire to revoke my consent, I may contact Professor A. Aneesh, Faculty Coordinator, Global Studies Program, at (aneesha@uw.edu; 414-229-4253).

I have read and agree to the terms of this Agreement:

Student
Name: [Stephanie K. Davidson]
Email: davidssy@uw.edu
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 12/21/16

Parent/Guardian Information (if under 18):
Name: __________________________
Email: __________________________
Signature: _______________________
Date: ___________________________
II. Internship Learning Goals

Fundación Río Urbano
Stephanie Kay Davidson
Global Data & Communications Intern
15 November – 20 December

Internship Learning Goals

A. Skills Goals

1. Grow in personal Social Networking capacity by attending conferences/forums, visiting local partner nonprofits, and connecting in a meaningful, personal way with professionals in the Waterkeeper or Conservation fields.

   a. Strategy: I will utilize dyad process to coordinate with my supervisor at least three (3) specific outings (Bipp & Kleingeld, 309). I will also stimulate “self-efficacy” by bringing business cards to each meeting and stepping out of my “comfort zone” during interpersonal interactions, including those in Spanish (Seijts & Latham, 1, 5).

2. Improve personal writing skills in both English and Spanish by writing articles to be published on the foundation’s website and researching Sustainability/Environmental Conservation articles from other English-speaking sources to share with the Bogotá community.

   b. Strategy: I will utilize “goal-striving” technique to “shield…goals from distraction or disruption” by keeping a list of potential articles to be posted and bringing this to my supervisor at least once a week (Mann, et al., 488). I will also dedicate at least 10 hours per week towards reading newspaper articles or online resources in Spanish to improve my knowledge on local environmental topics as well as my speaking and reading abilities.

B. Knowledge Goals

1. Gain a deep understanding of the history and current status of the Bogotá River, including local testimonies, governmental involvement, and key areas of critical need.

   a. Strategy: In addition to the above strategy, I will utilize “self-reflection” in the weekly D2L postings to assess my knowledge of the environmental situation in Bogotá and how my time here impacts the local community (Creed et. al, 807).

2. Successfully communicate, translate, and analyze technical topics in Spanish that factor into responsible natural resource management and environmental efforts in Bogotá.

   b. Strategy: I will use “increasing effort or persistence” when face with difficult translations, and will request dyadic feedback from my supervisor on all verbal/written translations (Creed et. al, 811).
C. Values Goals

1. As Fundación Río Urbano’s mission states, I will strive to personally promote proper use and protection of urban rivers and water sources by serving as an example of water conservation, sharing new knowledge gained with others via social media or in-person conversation, and documenting the approximate impact by a tally of total people interacted with—a personal effort to engage others in sustainable water use across the world.

   a. **Strategy:** For this goal, I will use “self-regulation” to “consistently organize and manage my thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and environment in order to attain” a continuous effort toward water sustainability (Ramdass & Zimmerman, 198). This approach includes documenting at least 10 of these efforts on the Facebook page and my personal notes.

2. Define “sustainable living conditions” in my own terms and understand what this means to Colombians, especially those who live near or are impacted by the Bogotá River, by potentially conducting an online survey and consolidating the local responses into a dynamic, locally-grown definition.

   b. **Strategy:** The concept of “sub-goals” will be utilized here, to develop key steps of goal completion (Seijts & Latham, 2). I will first provide my own definition, produce a hypothesized response for the general Bogota public, then conduct a survey in a local park and/or through social media to receive unbiased local opinions.

D. Career/Personal Development Goals:

1. Produce a list of concrete projects completed, with associated online links available, to add to my professional resume and demonstrate a personal knowledge of the state of Environmental Sustainability in a Latin American country.

   a. **Strategy:** I will utilize collaboration and the “social learning” tool to work with my supervisor and develop a comprehensive list of all projects accomplished with this internship (Heyes, 210). This list will then be published on the foundation website as an informational update.

2. Connect with at least three (3) other organizations in Bogotá, or around the world, in which I can become further involved as a volunteer, intern, or prospective employee in the upcoming year (2017).

   b. **Strategy:** This goal will incorporate time management, self-regulation, managing the environment, self-efficacy, and dyadic collaboration with my supervisor (Ramdass & Zimmerman, 215). Supervisor collaboration includes at least two (2) suggestions for planned visits to partner organizations, including informational interviews—informal or formal—with said organizations.
Signatures

By signing below, I certify that I have read and agree to the above Internship Learning Goals, and believe that said goals are both relevant to and beneficial for the student intern, the employer organization, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee educational curriculum. Additionally, these learning goals have been designed to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based and satisfy all above categories.

Student Intern:

[Signature]

Date: 12/15/2016

Printed Full Name: Stephanie Davidson

Site Supervisor:

[Signature]

Date: 12/15/2016

Printed Full Name: German Garcia-Duran

Academic Advisor:

[Signature]

Date

Printed Full Name
III. Weekly Journal Entries

A. Week 1 Discussion Post: 15 – 22 Nov. 2016

What a whirlwind of a first week!

First off, yes this post is later than usual (per the syllabus and my posted start-date). However, this is due to the fact that my start date at the Fundación Río Urbano was postponed to November 15th—precisely one week ago. This delay took place due to an incredibly long journey to Bogotá, Colombia—lasting a total of 35 hours en-route, a night on the floor of the Panama City airport, and a scraped-up runway in Bogotá which shut down all flights for 24 hours. Despite these delays (including a national holiday on 11/14), my supervisor was eager to acquaint me with my work material on the 15th.

That said, as the Global Data Intern for Fundación Río Urbano (FRU), I have had a hand in various updates to the foundation’s website over the past week. One of the first projects I was given to work on was uploading 4 new articles to the website, since the organization functions as a source of environmental news for both Spanish and English speakers. Once these had been uploaded and I was familiar with the administrative page, I analyzed the webpage and began to correct link errors, download errors, and photo errors across the platform. Finally, one of the more time-consuming projects I worked on this week was an article I wrote and posted on the “News” section of the website, describing my position as intern at FRU.

In terms of academic integration in the internship, I’ve become incredibly thankful for taking the JAMS 101 and CES 210 course while at UWM. The resources I saved from these courses regarding press releases, OpEds, and Editorials as well as Natural Resources management, risk, and history have been inexplicably helpful. I must admit, though, that the first week of this internship didn’t unfold the way I’d imagined—which isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but adds to the adventure. For almost the entirety of this first week, I didn’t have an office to work in and did much of the projects from the couch of my apartment. Though this was a nice break, I was a bit disappointed since I was looking forward to the Colombian office environment. Since then, I’ve visited the foundation’s office, which is mainly a desk shared with a sponsoring organization. If my intuition is correct, it appears that FRU is running very low on funds, and my current supervisor—the executive director—is the main employee keeping it afloat.

Even so, I am thankful to be learning from such an intelligent ex-diplomat. So far, I have connected with many influential professors, environmental engineers, and governmental figures. I look forward to the upcoming weeks, as a complete redesign of the webpage and a few environmental forums lie on the horizon. Let the adventures continue!
B. Week 2 Discussion Post: 22 – 29 November 2016

This past week was a bit faster paced than the first week. The highlight of the week was a meeting last Wednesday, 23 Nov., with our web administrator company, Capital Colombia. This being the first official meeting I’ve participated in, I made sure to arrive on time and prepared a list in advance of questions to keep us all on topic. After a half hour drive through the city, a few wrong turns, and enormous traffic jam, my supervisor and I finally made it to the meeting half an hour late—apparently normal per Latin American time? Although the meeting was quite thorough and lasted two and a half hours, we managed to stay on topic and add a search engine to the website home page, create drop down menus, hide metadata details that shouldn’t have been visible, change the homepage banner image, and develop new webpage space for future ecological research editorials.

Through this meeting and the additional list of projects that followed, I’ve grown much more comfortable with developing a website and working as an administrator of web content. Although these skills are currently specific to the Joomla web platform, I am confident that my knowledge on hiding and publishing material, as well as controlling links and analyzing metadata use will apply to other sites, such as WordPress. Additionally, my Spanish speaking, reading, and writing ability has improved remarkably, since all of my coworkers speak Spanish, and the Joomla platform is entirely in Spanish.

As this next week begins, I hope to dive into more of the research side of my internship and both share and write a few articles in Spanish and English on the current ecological state of water resources in Colombia and around the world. I will also be collaborating with my supervisor to develop a “Policy on Personal Privacy” document, which will delineate our members’ rights when they sign up for newsletters or share any personal contact information with the organization. This is quite important here in Colombia, since legislation passed within the past year has tightened security on company and nonprofit use of personal contact information—another tiny cog in the greater task of running a nonprofit that can make a huge difference!
C. Week 3 Discussion Post: 30 Nov. – 5 Dec. 2016

First off, my apologies on the delay of this post! I’ve finally recovered after a week and a half of doctor appointments and one hospital visit. Healthy just in time for the holidays, thank heavens!

Reflecting back on the week, I checked off many of the goals on my list! The work week consisted of polishing off the Privacy Policies document for the Foundation, entirely in Spanish (and celebrating my birthday on the 29th!). Though the Privacy Policies project filled a large portion of the week, my supervisor and I also attended a public forum at the nearby Universidad de Santo Tomas—the oldest University in Colombia—on Wednesday, Nov. 30th.

This forum was incredibly informative, as speakers from Conservation International, U. de Santo Tomas, Fundación Cerros de Bogotá, Amigos de la Montaña, and many other partner nonprofit organizations attended to discuss public use of the Eastern Bogotá foothills of the Andes mountain range. At this four-hour forum, I learned about the geographical history of Bogotá, the therapeutic use of the mountain range, illegal development and expansion of the city, and was able to network with others working in environmental conservation in Colombia. What was most interesting, though, was the fact that the Secretary of the Environment for the Colombian Government was scheduled to present and partake in the final debate, however happened to cancel last minute…for the second time! The room was visibly upset and even laughed at this news as the forum began, solidifying the point that many speakers made in the forum: ‘the government is present in environmental matters, but definitely not visible’. See attached for a few images of the forum!

In addition to this amazing professional opportunity, the weekend was quite honestly the highlight of my entire internship. On Saturday, December 3th, my supervisor led a day-long outing along the Bogota River; nicknamed the “Jornada Ecológica”, or “Ecological Day Trip”. As he and his wife drove me and one of my friends through the city and up to the north, we witnessed the physical change of the Bogotá River and how the surrounding populations used it. At first, the river began as a water slide, shooting through concrete troughs in the city…and occasionally not smelling the best. To the north, the color turned lighter and more transparent, as we followed it to the 250-year-old, ornate stone bridge called “Puente Común”. Farther north, we passed massive cervecerías (breweries) towering over local pueblos, and one of the two water treatment facilities for the entire city of Bogotá (~6.7 million inhabitants). Finally, we reached the páramo, or the birthplace of the Bogotá River. Here we met a local tannery owner who is struggling to make ends meet while also protecting the environment from harmful chemicals in her business’ wastewater (see Facebook post here). One of nearly 200 tanneries (curtiembres in Colombia Spanish) on the Cundinamarca section of the Bogotá River, her business produces—and thankfully extracts—water tainted with chromium, a toxic blue chemical now used in leather processing. After viewing the crystalline waters of this northern region, we drove two hours to the south of Bogotá. Here, the smell of human waste was unbearable. Even in a car with the windows rolled up and the air off, I could only breathe through my scarf!! The river’s rapids ran stagnant black, with plumes of white foam covering nearly all of the visible surface. Yet, despite this rancid state, houses banked the river, cows grazed at the edge, and children ran along the streets. The final destination here was the “Salto de Tequendama”, or the famous cascading waterfall that was once a booming destination of world dignitaries in the 20′s-40′s. Today, the lookout point is a run-down neoclassical hotel and wooden platforms held up by thin wood
beams. A potent example of neglect, this sight nearly brought tears. At this final point of the trip, my supervisor admitted, “this is why I’ve dedicated 50 years of my life to fight for the Bogotá River… and we still have yet to see drastic progress” (transl.).

This week taught me that great efforts are being made to preserve Colombia’s beautiful natural resources; yet, there are still piles of red tape to cut through. I hope my internship here at least helps to tear one strand.

* * *

(Forum on Public Use of Bogota Mountains)

(Debate on Public Use of Bogota Mountains)
(Fundación Rio Urbano: Bogota tour of the Cundinamarca region - North)

(Salto de Tequendama - South)

This week was, thankfully, a bit slower paced. Despite being granted a day off to fully recover (my supervisor is very kind), Thursday Dec. 8th was also a national holiday in Colombia. So, plenty of work was done remotely this week.

As far as projects went, I successfully launched the foundation’s new Facebook page and managed to receive nearly 40 likes so far (take a look here & like if you want!). This task was a bit harder than it may seem, since another page and group exists for Fundación Río Urbano. I am nearly finished merging the two pages, and have successfully created a list of all 131 members of the other closed group, in the hopes of adding them to the new page. Finally, I used my knowledge of research—garnered from Honors College studies and my Global Securities capstone course—to draft of list of articles on current environmental concerns for posting to both the webpage and the Facebook platform.

Apart from these concrete projects, I also focused on my first Value Goal, which is to “personally promote proper water use and protection of urban rivers/water sources by serving as an example of water conservation…”. Since much of the week was spent at home or in medical centers, I was first very conscious of turning off faucets between washing dishes, washing hands, or simply washing up. Secondly, since the water is electrically heated here, I placed a jug under the shower as the water warmed up, and saved this overflow for watering the plants on the balcony of my apartment. Finally, since the municipal plumbing infrastructure is less regulated in South America than in the United States, it is imperative that no paper products be thrown into the toilet (apologies for the frankness). This is quite a different custom, for those who have grown up in the U.S. However, the real difference here is that all of those paper products will end up directly in water sources south of the city…thus the deplorable state of the Bogotá River discussed in my previous post. Although these three home efforts seem small in the grand scheme of environmental protection and pollution, each of my actions produced an impact—thankfully a reduced one this week! Although my “carbon footprint” is much greater than these efforts (especially with international travel—link below for you own footprint!), every little action counts.

Lastly, I happened to view the new documentary Before the Flood this week. To be honest, this documentary is an impressively-produced summary of the major issues and setbacks that the world faces with present and future climate change. Although this documentary is surprisingly directed by Leonardo DiCaprio, the “popular” nature of his career only makes this film even more impactful. I was truly blown away with the discussions of the film, which actually sum up the difficult topics I’ve witnessed and discussed in my environmental career! I highly recommend the documentary to everyone, not just environmental enthusiasts. (http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/before-the-flood/)

This week was challenging, both mentally and physically. After conversations with taxi drivers and my doorman, I started to get dismayed as locals continued to discourage me from pursuing environmental conservation in this country—since many have little trust in the government, see local effort as thwarted by drug trade, and see any progress as corrupt. Yet, this documentary made me incredibly proud to share in the (many times depressing and challenging) task of environmental pollution and wise governance. It is truly a valiant and worthy effort; I hope humanity never loses sight of this fact.
The final week! This past week only brought a slight race to the finish. The main projects I worked on were related to minor modifications of the webpage. I added a few additional articles and published them on the website as well. My supervisor and I also learned that adding a phone number to the organization’s website wasn’t the best idea. Here in Colombia, if any organization has “foundation” in the name or associated with the name, people will begin to call asking for money. This perplexed me, since our organization runs off of donated funds as well…so why would we have money to give? It turns out that these calls were mainly spam-related, and they didn’t even mention the name of the organization or the executive director when calling. For this reason, we quickly erased the phone number from the website.

Apart from this slight fiasco, the final project I sought to complete was a final promotional email of the Foundation’s new website. This was quite the task! As mentioned in a previous post, communication from organizations or businesses is highly regulated in Colombia—thus why I created a Politics of Privacy document for Fundación Río Urbano. However, due to these legal boundaries, we couldn’t simply send an email to 200+ contacts from any old email server. If we would have done this, it would have blocked the IP address (or the foundation’s website) and immediately shut it down as spam. The email would then go directly into members’ spam folders, instead of to their inboxes. To solve this, I researched email marketing companies and checked their pricing for NGO’s, since some of them have non-profit discounts.

This is the list I came up with, in descending order from most valuable for a small non-profit organization:

1. Benchmark Email
2. Mail Chimp – Non-profit discount
3. Vertical Response
4. Send In Blue
5. Compravista (Spanish)
6. Constant Contact – 60 trial fee before mandatory payments
7. Php List – High-end, also high-priced

In the end, I chose to go with Benchmark Email. After creating an account, I attempted to then import the database of contacts I had organized this past month. However, this hit another dead end: over 35% of the contacts were non-functional. Since Benchmark only permits a maximum of 5% dead email addresses, I then had to create an account on BriteVerify, and verify which email addresses were valid and which were no longer in use. Since this email list hasn’t been used in over 3 years, many email addresses didn’t work. Yet, after this long process of confirmation and data consolidation, I managed to upload all valid subscribed members, and sent out the final email notice! See photos below for the final email! With this extra bit of effort, along with training my supervisor how to use Benchmark Email, I ended up extending my internship one more day.
The effort wasn’t for naught, though! Today the office I work in celebrated their Christmas party, and we all gathered around to share in food, drinks, and silly videos someone compiled of everyone in the office that year. A day filled with laughs and celebration, this was a perfect note to end the internship on.

Happy Holidays and cheers to all!
Haga clic en el botón de abajo para ver el nuevo portal!

Y, si Ud. tiene cualquier comentario u opinión para nosotros, nos encantaría recibirlo! Contáctenos en el formulario del sitio de web, o envíenos un email a riourbano@riourbano.org.

Le deseamos felices fiestas y vacaciones!

~Su equipo de la Fundación Río Urbano
IV. Internship Sponsor Organization Information

Mission Statement

Fundación Río Urbano is an organization established by and created for the people of Colombia and all those who call this planet home. As a nonprofit focused on conserving clean waters for all species and generations, Fundación Río Urbano upholds the mission of promoting proper use and protection of urban rivers and water sources, including areas impacted by such, and strives to ensure residents in these zones enjoy sustainable conditions that nourish a dignified life for all inhabitants.

History

Fundación Río Urbano was created on April 11, 2003 through a constitutional act, and legally registered on April 23, 2003 by the Chamber of Commerce in Bogotá, Colombia. Through these legal bodies, the Board of Directors designated Germán Garcia Durán as Executive director of the Foundation.

Fundación Río Urbano’s leading governing body is composed of the Board of Directors, in collaboration with the Board of Administrators which supervises administrative tasks. At the directorial level, the Executive Director is responsible for directing and carrying-through all actions considered by national statutes or noted by the Board of Directors. Beneath this governing body are four vice-presidents: Technical, Operational, Chapter, and Financial Administrator. To support the operations of the foundation, guidance is provided by an executive committee consisting of the President and the four Vice-presidents, as well as support from a multi-disciplinary technical committee that guides the technical decisions of the foundation.

Since 2003, Fundación Río Urbano, has sought to establish itself as an NGO leader in Colombia. This goal translates through educational efforts and advocatory services to the community, including technical research, publications, and designs/contracts in environmental engineering or related sciences. Fundación Río Urbano works to strengthen the network of similar nonprofits across the world, with a final goal of growing the recovery and responsible management of urban bodies of water in Colombia and beyond.

Objectives

1. Promote adequate use and conservation of rivers and other bodies of water, such as wetlands, gorges, lakes, lagoons, swamps, and coastal water sources located in cities, towns, or influential regions, including corresponding hydrological watersheds;

2. Ensure that urban planning and territorial organization remains adequate and is aptly managed;

3. Present assistance to communities located in regions surrounding rivers and other sources of water, with the intent of facilitating improved extraction and the betterment of public services, housing, and health services;
4. Supply economic incentives and honorary benefits to individuals, entities, and communities that achieve exceptional levels of excellence in performing environmental projects and services akin to those dictated above;

5. Participate in studies that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Fundación Río Urbano;

6. Produce Publications, develop educational campaigns, organize events aimed at environmental awareness, and promote and defend activities that accomplish the objectives of the Fundación Río Urbano.

To complete these objectives, Fundación Río Urbano:
1. Organizes conferences, seminars, workshops and courses;
2. Provides technical assistance for official and private entities for participation in national and international events;
3. Offers consultations for environmental issues at both the national and international level;
4. Participates in national and international conferences;
5. Drafts agreements with official and private entities;
6. Maintains an up-to-date internet portal for a high volume of visitors, especially students;
7. Organizes environmental projects in Colombia and abroad;
8. Participates in roundtable meetings with official and private sectors;
9. Unites itself with environmental conservation projects, conferences, environmental campaigns, environmental festivals, and festive environmental events that brings together the local community.

Accreditation

Fundación Río Urbano is one of the few Latin American NGOs that is certified by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). With this certification, Fundación Río Urbano participates in regional and global conferences for the Civil Society on environmental topics, and has met with the Board of Administration and attended UNEP forums on Environmental Governance.

Fundación Río Urbano is also a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance, an organization which certified the foundation as “Bogotá Riverkeeper” in November 2007.

Honors and Awards

Since the establishment of Fundación Río Urbano, the Executive director, Germán Garcia Durán, has received both international and national honorary recognition, including:

- A Global “UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award” for “vigorously defending the beginning of sustainable human settlements in key international meetings.” World Habitat Awards, Río de Janeiro, Brazil. October 2003.
- An “Order of Environmental Civil Merit”, presented by the Colombian Federation of Environmental NGOs (FEAMBIENTAL) and the Colombian Ecological Association on August 13th, 2004. The honor was awarded in the “Salón Eliptico” of the national capital.
“for having demonstrated a deep commitment to natural resources and the environment, particularly in the improvement of hydrological resource quality.”

Apart from these, the Executive Director of Fundación Río Urbano has previously received numerous national and international honors, including the “Global 500” award from UNEP.

*(personal translation by Stephanie K. Davidson on 12/20/16)*
V. Internship Project Samples

A. New Personnel Press Release – Written and Published on Fundación Río Urbano Website by Stephanie Davidson

Fundación Río Urbano Welcomes New Global Data Intern from Afar

21 November, 2016

Bogotá, COL – As of November 15, Fundación Río Urbano grew one staff member larger. The FRU team welcomes Stephanie Davidson, a student from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as Global Data Intern until December 20, 2016.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA, Stephanie brings her expertise in natural resources management, risk analysis, global policy, and community organization to both Fundación Río Urbano and the greater Bogotá community. With the completion of this internship in December 2016, Stephanie will also complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Securities, with two minors in Spanish and Environmental studies and a certificate in Latin American & Caribbean studies.

As Global Data Intern, Stephanie will lead the re-design of Fundación Río Urbano’s website, contribute expertise toward the redaction of new articles, research and update the site’s environmental resources, and reorganize the database to build a deeper connection with our members.

The volunteer work she is contributing comes at an opportune moment for the foundation, as the Bogotá river is undergoing the first substantial steps toward water treatment. As of this past May 12, the local Día del Río Bogotá, the river is “considered the most contaminated river in Colombia” [1]. Since 2014, the Ministry of the Environment has directed more attention to this critically polluted natural resource.

“‘Environmental education is a key component in the recuperation of the Bogotá River,’ said a Ministry of the Environment representative. ‘That’s why we have worked to draw attention to the protection of wildlife and plants, the ecosystems and overall functioning of the waterway’” [2].

Stephanie adds a global perspective to a team with rich experience in environmental engineering, international policy, and sustainable community empowerment. With this support, Fundación Río Urbano looks toward hosting more educational tours of the Río Bogotá and increasing the scope of our environmental initiatives in both the local and global communities.

Sources:
[1] Río Bogotá: una apuesta por el medio ambiente Transl. “considerado el río más contaminado del país”

[2] The Upstream Battle for a Cleaner Río Botogá
**Acuse de Privacidad, Tratamiento de Bases de Datos y Datos Personales**

La Fundación Río Urbano es una organización fundada por y creada para los habitantes de Colombia y todos aquellos que llaman a este planeta su hogar. Al ser una organización sin fines de lucro enfocada en conservar aguas limpias para todos los especies y generaciones, Fundación Río Urbano sostiene la misión de:

**Promover el buen manejo y protección de los ríos/otras fuentes de agua en zonas urbanas**

con el objetivo de garantizar que residentes en estas zonas disfruten condiciones sostenibles de vida que nutren a una vida digna para todos los habitantes.

En virtud de la Ley 1581 de 2012 y sus Decretos reglamentarios específicos, al completar y remitir este formulario, se da consentimiento previo, expreso e informado para tratar los datos personales que en él se indican.

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO considera que ésta conservación, protección, integridad y confidencialidad de los datos personales de sus miembros es muy importante. Esta política sirve para abordar el almacenamiento y tratamiento de la información que nuestros miembros suministran a través de diversos canales de interacción con nuestros publicaciones y servicios (tales como sitios web, formulario de contacto, llamadas telefónicas, redes sociales, WhatsApp o cualquier otro medio de comunicación). Estamos comprometidos con la protección y manejo adecuado de los mismos, conforme al régimen legal de protección de datos personales.

1. **IDENTIFICACIÓN DEL RESPONSABLE DEL TRATAMIENTO DE LA INFORMACIÓN**

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, en adelante FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, organización identificada con el número de identificación tributaria: NIT. 830119532-0, sitio web: www.riourbano.org, y correo de contacto: Contáctenos.

2. **TRATAMIENTO Y FINALIDAD AL CUAL SERÁN SOMETIDOS LOS DATOS PERSONALES**

Los datos pueden ser almacenados y/o procesados en servidores propios de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, lo cual es autorizado al aceptar este Acuse de Privacidad. De acuerdo con la Ley 1581 de 2012 y el Decreto 1377 de 2013 los datos personales que FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO recolecte, almacene, use, circule y suprima, serán utilizados para alguno de los siguientes propósitos:

2.1. **Las Actividades propias de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO**

Los datos necesarios para el desarrollo y promoción del objeto social descrito en los Servicios de la Organización: a) Asistencia gratuita a estudiantes y comunidad en general sobre temas ambientales; b) Jornadas ecológicas al Río Bogotá y sus afluentes; c) Conferencias, foros, seminarios y cursos ambientales; d) Estudios, diseños e interventorías en el área ambiental y sanitaria; e) Evaluación del impacto ambiental; f) Asesoría para certificaciones ISO 14000 y similares; g) Auditorías articuladas; h) Acueductos, alcantarillados y sistemas de tratamiento de aguas para consumo y aguas residuales; i) Sistemas de administración ambiental; j) Planeamiento ambiental urbano y rural; k) Residuos sólidos; l) Energías alternativas.

2.2. **Funcionamiento y operación de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO**

Los datos que sean necesarios para el funcionamiento administrativo de la Organización, sucursales y puntos de atención. Podremos proporcionar determinada información a los representantes de
FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO que nos ayuden en operaciones relacionadas con su pedido. Sin embargo, FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO no divulgará, ni venderá o pasará su información a ninguna otra institución, personal natural o jurídica bajo ningún motivo o circunstancia.

2.3. Personal y Empleados de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO
El Tratamiento de los datos se realizará para la vinculación, desempeño de funciones o prestación de servicios, retiro o terminación, dependiendo del tipo de relación jurídica entablada con FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO (incluye, entre otros, funcionarios, exfuncionarios, judicantes, practicantes y aspirantes a cargos).

2.4. Proveedores y Contratistas de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO
El tratamiento de los datos se realizará para los fines del desarrollo de los objetos contractuales de productos y/o servicios, su gestión o cualquier otra actividad que FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO requiera para su administración.

3. VERACIDAD DE LA INFORMACIÓN
Nuestros visitantes, participantes, amigos y miembros deberán suministrar información veraz sobre sus datos personales para efectos de hacer posible la prestación de los servicios por parte de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO y bajo cuya condición aceptan entregar la información requerida. FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO presume la veracidad de la información suministrada y no verifica, ni asume la obligación de verificar, la identidad del huéspedes, visitantes, miembros, usuarios y proveedores, ni la veracidad, vigencia, suficiencia y autenticidad de los datos que cada uno de ellos proporcione. Por tanto, no asume responsabilidad por daños y/o perjuicios de toda naturaleza que pudieran tener origen en la falta de veracidad, vigencia, suficiencia o autenticidad de la información, incluyendo daños y perjuicios que puedan deberse a la homonimia o a la suplantación de la identidad.

4. DERECHOS DE LOS TITULARES
El titular de los datos personales podrá ejercer los derechos de acceso, rectificación y cancelación de la suscripción para recibir información en el siguiente correo electrónico: “info@riourbano.org” indicando: “Cancelar Suscripción: Socios y Miembros”.

Como socio de la Fundación Río Urbano, los derechos del titular incluyen:
a) Conocer, actualizar y rectificar sus datos personales frente a FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, en su condición de responsable del tratamiento. b) Solicitar prueba de la autorización otorgada a FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, en su condición de Responsable del Tratamiento. c) Ser informado por FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO previa solicitud, respecto del uso que le ha dado a sus datos personales. d) Presentar ante la Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio quejas por infracciones a lo dispuesto en la Ley 1581 de 2012, una vez haya agotado el trámite de consulta o reclamo ante el Responsable del Tratamiento. e) Revocar la autorización y/o solicitar la supresión del dato cuando en el Tratamiento no se respeten los principios, derechos y garantías constitucionales y legales. Dicha supresión o revocatoria procederá en conformidad de las leyes colombianas de tal manera que no vayan en contra de las distintas autoridades administrativas de control, fiscales y vigilancia que existen en Colombia. f) Acceder en forma gratuita a sus datos personales que hayan sido objeto de Tratamiento.

5. USO DE COOKIES Y HERRAMIENTAS PARA ANÁLISIS DE VISITAS
Podemos hacer uso de cookies y otras tecnologías similares, en nuestras páginas web, aplicaciones móviles y en los dispositivos electrónicos utilizados para acceder a éstos, con el fin de:
a) Conocer la procedencia, actividades y preferencias de nuestros visitantes, miembros o usuarios al navegar en la web; b) Incrementar la funcionalidad y la accesibilidad de los sitios web; c) Verificar que los usuarios cumplan con los criterios requeridos para procesar sus solicitudes; d) Realizar actividades de marketing y remarketing de Google u otros proveedores; e) Adaptar nuestros publicaciones y servicios a
las necesidades de los usuarios, logrando obtener información general del visitante o usuario, tal como dirección IP (la localización del computador en internet).

6. **MENORES DE EDAD**
Nuestros servicios sólo están disponibles para aquellas personas que tengan capacidad legal para contratar. Por lo tanto, aquellos que no tienen 18 años deberán abstenerse de suministrar información personal, y siempre solicitar autorización a sus padres o acudientes antes de entrar a este sitio.

7. **AUTORIZACIÓN DEL TITULAR**
Sin perjuicio de las excepciones previstas en la ley, en el Tratamiento se requiere la autorización previa, expresa e informada del Titular, la cual deberá ser obtenida por cualquier medio que pueda ser objeto de consulta y verificación posterior.

8. **CASOS EN QUE NO SE REQUIERE LA AUTORIZACIÓN**
La autorización del Titular no será necesaria cuando se trate de:

8.1. Información requerida por FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO en ejercicio de sus funciones legales o por orden judicial.
8.2. Datos de naturaleza médica o sanitaria.
8.3. Tratamiento de información autorizado por la ley para fines históricos, tributarios, contables, estadísticos o científicos.
8.5. Datos relacionados con el Registro Civil de las Personas.

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO no se hace responsable por las ventanas emergentes que puedan salir al utilizar o consultar nuestro portal ya que depende del nivel de seguridad otorgado en cada computador por los usuarios. Acceder a cualquier link o vínculo proporcionado hacia terceras partes, fuera de www.riourbano.org, es de responsabilidad de cada uno y está dispuesto, únicamente a su propia conveniencia.

La operación y el contenido de tales sitios o portales de internet están fuera del control de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, y no es avalado por la organización, ni se hace responsable por su contenido u otros que este sitio contenga. FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO no estará ligado bajo ninguna circunstancia a los daños causados, directa o indirectamente, por cualquier uso de sitios web o portal de internet u por otros sitios vinculados que no estén bajo el dominio exclusivo de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO a nivel global.

9. **ATENCIÓN DE PETICIONES, CONSULTAS Y RECLAMOS:**
Para realizar peticiones, consultas o reclamos con el fin de ejercer los derechos a conocer, actualizar, rectificar, suprimir los datos o revocar la autorización otorgada, se puede contactarnos en la página “Contáctenos” o directamente vía info@riourbano.org.

10. **PROCEDIMIENTO PARA EJERCER LOS DERECHOS DE LOS TITULARES:**
FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO garantiza la protección de los derechos del titular de los datos personales y en cualquier momento podrá presentar consultas, quejas, reclamos o solicitudes en general con su información, conforme al artículo 8 de la Ley 1581 de 2012.

10.1. Consultas
Los Titulares o sus causahabientes podrán consultar la información personal del Titular que repose en cualquier base de datos, sea esta del sector público o privado. El Responsable del Tratamiento o Encargado del Tratamiento deberán suministrar a estos toda la información contenida en el registro individual o que esté vinculada con la identificación del Titular. Se abolverán en un término máximo de
diez (10) días hábiles contados a partir de la fecha de su recibo. Cuando no fuere posible responder la consulta dentro de dicho término, se informará al interesado antes del vencimiento de los 10 días, expresando los motivos de la demora y señalando la fecha en que se atenderá su solicitud, la cual en ningún caso podrá superar los cinco (5) días hábiles siguientes al vencimiento del primer plazo.

10.2. Quejas y/o Reclamos
Los Titulares o sus causahabientes que consideren que la información contenida en una base de datos de esta Organización debe ser objeto de corrección, actualización o supresión, o que adviertan el presunto incumplimiento de cualquiera de los deberes contenidos en la Ley 1581 de 2012, podrán presentar un reclamo ante FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, a través de cualquiera de los canales de comunicación descritos anteriormente; y éste deberá contener la siguiente información:

a) Nombres y Apellidos del Titular;
b) Profesión actual del Titular;
c) Correo electrónico, dirección física, y teléfono del Titular
d) Ciudad, Departamento/Estado, País
e) La descripción precisa y completa de los hechos que dan lugar al reclamo;
f) Los documentos y demás pruebas que se pretendan hacer valer.

En caso de que FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO no sea competente para resolver el reclamo presentado ante la misma, dará traslado a quien corresponda en un término máximo de dos (2) días hábiles e informará de la situación al interesado.

Si el reclamo resulta incompleto, FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO requerirá al interesado dentro de los cinco (5) días hábiles siguientes a su recepción para que subsane las fallas. Transcurridos dos (2) meses desde la fecha del requerimiento, sin que el peticionario presente la información solicitada, se entenderá que ha desistido de aquél. Una vez recibido el reclamo completo, EL ENCARGADO lo incluirá en los registros que lleve, señalando el motivo del mismo, la fecha de recibido y en general todos los datos necesarios para darle el trámite correspondiente y responder dentro de los términos establecidos. El término máximo para atender el reclamo será de quince (15) días hábiles contados a partir del día siguiente a la fecha de su recibo, y si no fuere posible responder en dicho término, FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO informará al interesado los motivos de la demora y la fecha en que aquél se atenderá, sin llegar a superar, en ningún caso, los ocho (8) días hábiles siguientes al vencimiento del primer término. Además de lo establecido en el presente Acuse, los procedimientos a seguir para la atención de consultas y reclamos serán los establecidos en la normativa aplicable, y especialmente los referidos en los artículos 14 y 15 de la Ley 1581 de 2012.

Cualquier tipo de solicitud, petición o reclamación que realice un titular se deberá responder por el mismo canal en el cual se recibió, asegurando almacenar las respuestas en un medio que asegura su posterior consulta y reproducción.

11. FECHA DE ENTRADA EN VIGENCIA DE LA POLÍTICA DE TRATAMIENTO DE LA INFORMACIÓN Y PERIODO DE VIGENCIA DE LAS BASES DE DATOS DE FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO:
El presente Acuse rige a partir de su expedición y las bases de datos sujetas a Tratamiento se mantendrán vigentes mientras ello resulte necesario para las finalidades establecidas en el punto 2 de la misma.

12. MODIFICACIONES A EL ACUSE DE PRIVACIDAD.
FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO se reserva el derecho de efectuar en cualquier momento modificaciones o actualizaciones a este Acuse de Privacidad, para la atención de novedades legislativas, políticas internas o nuevos requerimientos para la prestación u ofrecimiento de sus servicios o publicaciones.

13. PUBLICIDAD Y VIGENCIA
El presente Acuse será publicada en la página web de la Organización http://www.riourbano.org y entra en vigencia desde el día de su publicación. Este sitio web es propiedad de FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO, lo cual puede, periódicamente, actualizar y/o cambiar sus contenidos para que esta sea más restrictiva y se ajuste a los usuarios de la misma. Por favor revise esta página constantemente para verificar los cambios, y si en algún momento no acepta dichos cambios, por favor escribanos a la dirección mencionada.

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO está comprometida con los principios de responsabilidad social en el manejo de los datos de sus donantes, amigos, voluntarios u otros actores que estén vinculados directa o indirectamente; por lo tanto, si tiene alguna pregunta, duda o sugerencia sobre estas políticas de privacidad y manejo de datos, por favor escribanos: info@riourbano.org.

C. Creation of Foundation’s Facebook Page, including addition of 40 new followers and links to the Foundation’s website.

- Fundación Río Urbano Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/riourbano.org.co/
D. Redesign of Fundación Río Urbano’s main webpage: [http://www.riourbano.org/](http://www.riourbano.org/)
Previous Version of Fundación Río Urbano’s website
VII. Letter of Recommendation from Site Supervisor

A. Original Document written by Germán García Durán

Bogotá, 20 de diciembre de 2016

CERTIFICACIÓN Y RECOMENDACIÓN

La Fundación Río Urbano, identificada con NIT 830119532-0 de Bogotá, Colombia, certifica que la estudiante Stephanie K. Davidson de la Universidad de Wisconsin en Milwaukee completó exitosamente una pasantía en la Fundación Río Urbano en Bogotá, Colombia entre el 15 de noviembre y el 20 de diciembre de 2016, realizando a cabalidad las siguientes tareas:

1. Rediseño de nuestro portal de internet en coordinación con la empresa administradora del mismo, Capital Colombia.
2. Participación en jornadas ecológicas organizadas por nuestra Fundación.
3. Participación en otros eventos a los cuales fue invitada nuestra Fundación en el periodo de la pasantía.
4. Reorganización de la base de datos para poder contactar a más de 2000 inscritos en nuestra Fundación de manera rápida y económica.
5. Selección de artículos novedosos para la primera entrega de esta nueva etapa del portal.
6. Orientación de editoriales y otros artículos para que coincidan con los más importantes temas ambientales a nivel nacional y mundial en el momento.
7. Anuncio del contenido de nuestro primer número de esta nueva etapa del portal al mayor número posible de inscritos e interesados en nuestra página.

Todas las anteriores tareas fueron realizadas por la estudiante Davidson con los más altos niveles de excelencia, por lo cual se le otorga la calificación máxima en esta pasantía: A+.

En atención a lo anterior, la Fundación Río Urbano tiene el honor de recomendar a la estudiante Stephanie K. Davidson para continuar sus estudios hacia un master y/o doctorado en una universidad de gran prestigio o para ser vinculada como profesional a una empresa pública o privada de alto nivel.

Dada en Bogotá, Colombia, a los 20 días del mes de diciembre de 2016.

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO

[Signature]

GERMÁN GARCÍA DURÁN
Presidente Ejecutivo
www.riourbano.org

Carrera 13 N° 134A-16 - Tels. PBX. (571) 6088388 – CEL. (57) 3208461037 – Bogotá, Colombia
B. Translation of original document, completed by Stephanie K. Davidson

Bogotá, Colombia
20 December 2016

Letter of Certification and Recommendation

Fundación Río Urbano, identified with NIT 830119532-0 in Bogotá, Colombia, hereby certifies that Stephanie K. Davidson, student of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has successfully completed an internship at Fundación Río Urbano in Bogotá, Colombia between the dates of 15 November and 20 December, 2016. Stephanie fully completed the following projects:

1. Redesign of the Foundation’s web portal, in coordination with the website administrative company Capital Colombia;
2. Participation in educational Ecological Day Trips, organized by our Foundation;
3. Participation in all organization-related events to which our Foundation was invited, within the internship period;
4. Reorganization of the organization’s database to facilitate communication with the 2000+ members of our Foundation, creating rapid and efficient interaction;
5. Selection of cutting-edge articles to publish on our website for the first launch of the new web portal;
6. Insightful guidance on editorial publications and other articles published on the Foundation’s website, to ensure topics coincide with the most important and relevant environmental discussions at the national and international levels;
7. Announcement of new content for the first launch of the Foundation’s website, disseminated to the greatest number of members and Facebook followers possible.

All of the above projects were completed by Stephanie Davidson at the highest level of excellence, for which she is given the maximum mark in this internship: A+.

In accordance with the above performance, the Fundación Río Urbano has the honor of recommending Stephanie K. Davidson for the continuation of her studies towards the Master’s and/or Doctorate degrees at a University of great prestige, or to be connected professionally to a private or public company of high standing.

Declared in Bogotá, Colombia, on the 20th day of December, 2016.

FUNDACIÓN RÍO URBANO

GERMÁN GARCÍA DURÁN
Executive Director
riourbano@riourbano.org
VIII. Internship Placement Discussion

In full honesty, finding a solid internship placement abroad was the most difficult task I faced in my undergraduate career. Granted this fact also comes with a grain of salt, since I was very determined to find an adequate placement that fit into my core studies, career trajectory, language studies, and interests. Since I’d also studied and volunteered abroad twice before, I was ready for a challenge—an internship not linked to any student travel agencies. With this goal in mind, I spent nearly two years searching. Email after email after email went out to companies I found intriguing, my resume transformed and developed, and yet such a short-term internship abroad…which also happened to be unpaid…was quite the needle in a haystack to organize. Finally, through simple word of mouth, consistent attention to email communication, and the beautiful powers of networking, I landed upon my internship opportunity in Colombia. Though the process to find this internship was much more complex than 1-2 pages can hold, the following is a list of steps that led me to this particular placement abroad:

1. I mentioned to a friend (Claudio) I had met while studying abroad that I was in desperate need of an international internship;
2. This friend (Claudio), who works as a professor in economic administration in Colombia, suddenly remembered he had a friend from Chile who works at a non-profit Waterkeeper organization. I then received the contact information of this friend (Patrick);
3. After contacting Patrick, I learned that the Waterkeeper NGO he worked at in Chile was also certified by an ‘umbrella’ organization, housed in the U.S., called Waterkeeper Alliance. Patrick thus gave me the info for his contact at this non-profit, Sergio Moncada;
4. I sent a quick email to Sergio Moncada as soon as I could, very briefly explaining my search for an internship abroad and my interest in Latin America and Europe;
5. Sergio sent a reply within the next week, requesting a resume and my experience. He also proceeded to provide me with links to a few contacts in Colombia he thought would be a good fit for my interests—and who also needed the help;
6. After reviewing the list, I scheduled a telephone call with Sergio (located in NYC), during which we went over both of our hopes and needs for this internship;
7. Following the call, I forwarded on a follow-up email to thank him for his time, and also sent him samples of my writing in both English and Spanish;
8. I then reached out to three Waterkeeper organization leaders in Colombia, per Sergio’s recommendation;
9. Out of the three emails sent, I received two responses. From these two responses, I organized a chance to meet with them both individually, since I happened to be travelling to Colombia on a vacation that next week;
10. During this first week-long visit to Colombia, I was only able to successfully meet with one of the two foundational leaders who followed up via email. I then essentially treated this meeting as an informational interview over lunch, during which both I and the Executive Director exchanged ideas for the internship and our initial expectations;
11. Upon returning back to the United States, I reached out to Sergio Moncada once more to confirm that the internship was confirmed. Since he didn’t quite give me a definitive answer, I quickly realized that he wouldn’t be the one providing the internship. Rather, the organizations directly in Colombia would be the ones I would need to collaborate with to initiate the placement;
12. At this moment, I sent a clear, concise, and prompt email directly requesting the internship dates and confirming that the internship would in fact complete 160 hours;
13. After receiving a positive affirmation of this, I then sent another email directly asking for the projects I would work on during the internship;
14. Once I received these details and ensured all requirements would be fulfilled, I designated the internship as confirmed and purchased a plane ticket to Bogotá.
If I had to summarize specific skills I learned for future jobs they would most definitely be centered on clear, concise, and well-thought-out communication. The first skill I am taking away is networking, networking, networking. I hardly knew what “networking” really meant until I started searching for jobs and following the trail of my interests throughout companies, government agencies, and NGOs. Interpersonal skills are crucial to any situation in life, and this process most definitely built mine up. Secondly, dedication was a difficult skill to master. Consistent organization and a commitment to the project at hand, unshaken by distractions including work, is another key to landing a job, internship, scholarship, and more. Finally, the last skill is one that I still have yet to grow in—a bit of adventurous risk-taking. Simply learning to trust the process, stay alert, yet not be afraid to follow one’s heart and take great leaps into unknown territory is a lesson I hope to continue to grow in. This adventurous spirit and thirst for knowledge is what molds and forms me as a culturally-aware, global citizen. My hope with all of this skills is not simply to exploit them for my own personal gain, yet grow them and share them with those around me—whether in the professional, academic, or community setting.
IX. Resume Excerpt

To whom it may be concerned,

The following is a list of projects completed by Stephanie Kay Davidson for the Fundación Río Urbano between 15 November 2016 and 21 December 2016:

- Analyzed webpage content and facilitated smoother user interface experience;
- Added key webpage tools exempt from the previous version;
- Redesigned website graphics in coordination with the system administrator company, Conexión Colombia;
- Developed a new system of organization for Fundación Río Urbano’s membership database;
- Produced a legal document on the Politics of Privacy, explaining the rights of all members of the organization;
- Selected new research and current articles to publish on the redesigned website;
- Wrote applicable articles/announcements regarding local environmental efforts to be published on the website;
- Attended all planned conferences, meetings, and ecological tours;
- Provided insight and guidance for editorial content written by the organization’s Executive Director, ensuring articles coincided with pressing environmental topics on the present global agenda;
- Created a new Facebook page for the foundation;
- Coordinated final launch of new website content via interactive and illustrative email to all current members.

CV en Español:
- Analicé el contenido del sitio web y facilité una experiencia de interfaz más eficiente para el usuario;
- Añadí herramientas claves al sitio web;
- Rediseñe las imágenes del sitio web en coordinación con la compañía administradora, Conexión Colombia;
- Desarrollé un nuevo sistema de organización para la base de datos de la Fundación Río Urbano;
- Produje un documento legal de las Políticas de Privacidad, aclarando los derechos de todos los miembros de la organización;
- Elegí investigación nueva y artículos actuales para publicar en el nuevo sitio de web;
- Redacté artículos/anuncios pertinentes, relacionados con el esfuerzo ambiental local, para publicar en el sitio web de la Fundación;
- Asistí a todas las conferencias, reuniones, y jornadas ecológicas planificadas;
- Proveí guía en contenidos editorial, escrito por el director ejecutivo de la organización, para asegurar que lo coincidían con temas ambientales urgentes en la actual agenda global;
- Creí una nueva página de Facebook para la Fundación;
X. Post-Internship Reflection Paper

Stephanie Davidson
Professor Tracy Buss
Global 489
21 December 2016

Post-Internship Reflection Paper: Greater than Expectations

Apprehension, curiosity, excitement, and deep thankfulness—these were just a few of the emotions that swept through my mind as I landed in Bogotá. Over the course of the internship, many of these emotions continued to arise. However, through all of the adventures, challenges, frustrations, and new lessons learned, one word in particular stood out—expectations. True, expectations can come in positive and negative forms. For this internship in particular, I would be untruthful if I denied the fact that I arrived with certain expectations. Yet this internship, above all, has taught me that one cannot simply rely on their own expectations in life; in fact, when these are completely blown away, there is more space for learning and growing as an individual.

During my time at the Fundación Río Urbano, nearly all of my Internship Learning Goals were met; though not in the manner I had expected. Both of my Skills goals were achieved, including networking with local nonprofits at a public forum in Bogotá’s city center and utilizing my Spanish language abilities to translate/compose documents and participate in technical conversations. For the two Knowledge goals, I most definitely gained a deeper understanding of the history and current status of the Bogotá River, especially through two informational videos my supervisor provided as well as the Ecological Tour of the Bogotá River. My supervisor in fact contributed a wealth of knowledge about the Bogotá River, the history of the region (both political and geographical), how different actors influence environmental efforts in Colombia, and more. It was a privilege to learn under his direction. In addition, he offered great patience as I maneuvered difficult territory with use of the “you respectful” mode of Spanish and both technology-based and environmentally-based terminology.

Regarding the Values goals, only one was fully completed. The first was a success, as I managed to personally promote proper use and protection of urban rivers and water sources by serving as an example, sharing knowledge with others, and documenting the impact of individuals contacted. I took
steps such as saving running water while waiting for the water-heater to kick in and posting directly to Facebook about my learning moments in Colombia. In total, my efforts reached approximately 110 people, according to a rough estimate of views on Facebook and the amount of people I told in my running group here. On the other hand, time unfortunately did not allow for the local survey of the “sustainable living conditions” definition to be completed. Although I began this goal by setting up sub-goals, the project load seemed to be too high to dedicate enough time to this particular survey. Finally, both of my Career/Personal Development goals were successfully met and exceeded. I successfully created a list of concrete projects completed, which turned out to be much longer than expected. Additionally, I was able to connect with Conservation International Colombia, UNDP Colombia, and AMP Mendez Engineering Consultancy—three organizations that serve as promising job prospects here in Colombia. Upon arrival at the Fundación Río Urbano, I had not expected to take on as many projects and goals as I did. However, with each new step towards completed goals, I was able to organize, prioritize, and trust in collaborative production.

What are goals without a base of key knowledge? Arriving with very little knowledge about the behind-the-scenes functionality of websites and online data, I was quite intimidated and unsure of what my contributions would truly consist of. The initial language barrier did not help, either. However, the first and greatest contribution that I provided to this internship was definitely a curiosity and natural analytical disposition. To be honest, the only form of instruction provided to me was one sheet of paper with passwords and very brief instructions on how to publish content on a website from the administration page. Beyond this, however, I was a lone wolf—challenge accepted. After a few hours of orientating myself, I began to explore, interact, and eventually learn from self-teaching. This curiosity and analytical nature also helped me research new environmental articles for publishing on the website, growing the organization’s function as a key environmental resource for communities in Colombia and abroad.

Secondly, I contributed in great part to the addition of key elements to the website, including a search box, drop-down menus, new links, updated online resources, and key legislative efforts taken by the Colombian Environmental Agency. One such example is the addition of a Facebook button to the
homepage, which in fact directs users toward my third contribution—greater connection to social media and marketing. Lastly, and most importantly, I contributed a lasting impact (hopefully more positive than negative) on the Bogotá River and local environmental wellbeing. By listening to business owners on the river, local taxi drivers, professors, doormen, and electrical engineers among others, I provided a ready ear to the hesitations, doubts, and “impossible” impasses the environment produces in their daily life. I heard tales of failed justice, corruption, danger, and apathy; and yet, I also learned that the efforts of a wise, conscientious, and dedicated individual can go very far. With curiosity and the hope of increasing positive communication, I’m certain that my contribution to environmental education in this internship reached more than a few individuals.

Reflecting back upon expectations, there were a few areas of disorganization that could have been improved by both Fundación Río Urbano and myself as the intern. On the Foundation’s side, the first area of improvement would be in time management and organization. Included in this critique is the topic of punctuality and dependability, as many meetings and office hours were delayed. Although there is slight flexibility with this considering difficulties of traffic in Bogotá, the time of both the intern and Fundación Río Urbano’s Executive Director could have been respected much more. Secondly, greater mutual trust between the intern and the supervisor would have been much appreciated. Upon multiple occasions, I, the intern, created a document or reorganized the organization of folders given me, however the supervisor nonverbally refused my contribution. Although this could be due to a disconnect in communication, this caused me to feel the “creative/innovative” side of my contributions was greatly lacking. Despite these faults, the foundation’s Executive Director had clear goals set, made sure to check in with me each time we met, dedicated much of his time to collaborative work, and was generous and very informative.

On the part of the student, I myself also have a few areas to work on. The first of these areas needing improvement is also time management. Although I did arrive to work on time, I found myself falling back into procrastination habits every now and again, especially when fronted by a particularly daunting task. Additionally, I believe a large area of improvement for me is communication in Spanish, as it has now been two years since my last Spanish course and my vocabulary/conjugations are not quite
accurate at times. This led to a bit of confusion during every encounter and/or meeting, which also led me to fall silent and not participate as per normal. Finally, effort could have improved a little more during this internship. By taking two other courses this semester, in addition to the internship and related Global 489 course, I found myself a bit distracted during the evenings or during the day when an academic deadline was approaching. Since much of my internship work could be done online, this caused me to prioritize academic work before internship projects at times. While education is incredibly important to me, I also admit that I should have prioritized assignments earlier and dedicated daytime hours to my internship, rather than the reverse. Apart from these faults, I found my organization of data and projects to be consistent during this internship, along with my daily work attendance and my capacity to self-develop goals and successfully complete them in a timely manner.

Yet, what happened to my expectations that I brought to the table when starting this internship in Bogotá, Colombia? At first the expectations were nearly nonexistent, due to an insecurity over what the position would consist of. As projects began, I was shocked that the work space and meeting locations were not what I thought they would be—working either from home, an alumni association, or at a small, partner-organization office. While traversing the city, meeting individuals of various educational and cultural backgrounds, and seeing every experience as a learning opportunity, I discovered that my expectations were transforming as my worldview transformed—I discovered that the moments when one feels most uncomfortable can be the moments that one learns the most.
Bibliography


