Bieler Family Internship Office
Macdonald Campus, McGill University

Summer 2015 Internships
Terrapex Environment Ltd is a consulting company that is specialized in soil and groundwater remediation and geotechnical. It was founded in 1995 and has since then developed an excellent reputation as an entrepreneur and consulting firm in the field of environment. They do in situ and ex situ soil treatment, environmental monitoring, phases I, II and III rehabilitation. They are located on the South shore of Montreal, in Brossard. They also have offices in Quebec and Richmond.

I chose this employer for my internship because of their reputation in the field of remediation. I also enjoyed the atmosphere as all the employees were really friendly and welcoming, making me feel like home. As an intern, my job was to collect samples on the field for analysis and I also work on R&D projects for remediation. My projects included research on ozone sparging, mycoremediation and thermal desorption.

Throughout my internship, I gained some hard skills during the fieldwork. I learned how to use a piezometer and bailer to take samples in the gas wells in Dorval. I also improved my soft skills in the office such as communication by asking questions and feedbacks to colleagues and also by participating in R&D meetings every two weeks. I believe that this internship at Terrapex Environment has opened doors for future connections in the field. Throughout this internship I had the opportunity to meet all the employees of the company but also clients that have been working with Terrapex since its creation. These connections with contacts in and out of the company will benefit me greatly.

I recommend all students to participate in an internship in a field that they like because it is a perfect professional experience. Indeed, it will help you acquire some soft and hard skills that are otherwise not achievable in university. On top of that, internships can open you doors to future connection for your career. The manager might offer you another internship the year after if you do a good job.
This summer I interned at Partageons l’espoir/ Share the Warmth, located in Pointe St. Charles, Montreal. Their mission is to “awaken the hopes and dreams of the pointe St. Charles community by fostering the overall development and success of children and youth, increasing access to food security and health and work training programs.” Their mission is lived out in schools, youth and the community via the school food program, providing school supplies, youth groups, tutoring, scholarships and music for the youth, food bank, a second-hand shop, work programs, with the main goal of fighting hunger and poverty.

I started helping in the community kitchen where I incorporated healthier options by adding fruits and vegetables to the already existing portions. This required standardizing the recipe to a larger amount, preparing the nutritional analysis and costing it so as not to alter the existing budget. I also coordinated the collective kitchen program, where participants come to learn to cook healthy dishes, with simple ingredients and fresh produce. Each week had a different theme to introduce a variety of cuisines. I took this opportunity to educate them on the nutritional benefits of the ingredients used. I also introduced new items to the café terrace, where we serve delicious meals, coffee, tea and other snacks. New and healthier recipes were added to the menu for lunch to give a variety of dishes, which were also costed and analyzed for nutritional content. I also got the opportunity to do research on impact evaluation on the School Food Program, by comparing it to other programs in Quebec, Canada and across the world. It was an educational experience to read about various other programs with a similar goal.

This internship gave me an excellent platform to use classroom theory and put in practice nutritional analysis, accounting, food service management and food security issues. By being placed in a position of leadership, I grew to be more organized, in charge and challenged myself to do a good job. Now I am certainly more confident and I have more experience in this field. At their 1st year anniversary of the café terrace, I was interviewed by CTV news as a McGill Nutrition intern which truly was an honor.

This internship has definitely helped me realize that I am heading in the right path in terms of academics and is where I want to be working in the future. It is satisfying to work in a non-profit, knowing that all your work leads to the goodness of serving the under privileged and that you are making a difference in their lives.
This summer I did an internship with the Live-in-Labs program at Amrita University in the south of India. This program is a multidisciplinary, theory-into-practice program that facilitates research, development, and deployment of sustainable solutions for current challenges faced by rural communities in India. The program provides interns an experiential learning opportunity in which they can directly interact, observe and study while living in rural communities to gain a better understanding of problems in the areas of health and livelihood, education and technology, environment and farming, energy and infrastructure and basic facilities.

I worked with Ammachi Labs on developing a rural sanitation model by empowering women and communities through toilet building. One of my tasks was to test a prototype which facilitates the understanding of toilet building with the women in the village of Nani Borwai in Gujurat. The prototype was a lego-toilet downsize model. This educational toolkit simulate how to put bricks in a specific manner and let them handle a 3D model before constructing a real toilet.

Ammachi Labs’ goal was not to simply build toilets but to give the women skills such as masonry, plumbing and more through vocational training and allowing them to become self-reliant by earning an income using their skills. In such context, I quickly understood that the technical and engineering aspects of the toilet building project represented 20% of the project while 80% was related to social behavior and learning.

Through this internship I was able to improve my communication and leadership skills well as my system-based thinking. I also learned to be adaptable and flexible as there were times when I had planned activities, trainings or workshops but something happened which would alter my plans, so I had to find ways to adapt with the resources and time that were available to me. In addition, I have learned to appreciate the complexity of working in a developing country. This has definitely helped shape my future career as I now have a better understanding of working in a large NGO with the aims of helping people to become self-reliant.

I had an amazing experience in the villages and I can definitely say that I grew up as a person. I lived with them, ate the same food, and lived their simple yet happy life. I went there to help build toilets but I believe I helped build up the people and in turn, myself.
This is my second summer working for Pratt and Whitney Canada Plant 1 in the department of Chemical Technology and Test. Pratt and Whitney Canada is a Canadian airplane engine manufacturer and is considered to be at the forefront of sustainability in aerospace manufacturing. PWC has adopted a Zero Waste goal for 2028, which is the overall objective that my projects were derived from. Plant 1 is located in Longueuil, Quebec, and is a large R&D and manufacturing facility. The department of Chemical Technology and Test is within the Manufacturing and Tooling Engineering division and provides technical support to manufacturing.

I had an excellent experience working in this department as an intern last summer. I realized last summer that I thoroughly enjoy working in a fast paced environment as part of a large industry. Not only did I enjoy working on waste reduction projects but I also enjoyed the work environment and learning about aerospace coatings, processes and materials.

During my internship I worked closely with my mentor on wastewater, metal and hazardous wastes reduction. The nature of my projects required consultations with specialists in the field, operators and supervisors. I had the opportunity to often hold meetings and present findings or proposals. Most importantly, I documented my progresses to facilitate the takeover by future interns or for future reference for other employees.

Upon leaving my internship, I take with me many new skills and considerable knowledge of manufacturing processes. I have learned so much about metallurgy, wastewater and many processes in the aerospace industry. I have also gained valuable professional skills, such as the ability to compile and present information in a succinct, functional way, and the ability to follow up and be persistent with my projects.

My internships have not only enabled me to relate in-class learning with real world experience but it also taught me valuable professional skills such as project management, perseverance and the ability to create and present presentations. My internship experiences have matured me in many ways and have helped me in choosing a career and setting my career goals.

Nothing compares to the professional experience you receive when doing an internship. It guides you in your career choice and setting personal goals, while also providing you with the professional skills and connections that can aid you in achieving those goals.
This summer I worked with Dr. Mark Lefsrud on a project growing plants in an Indoors System in a fully controlled environment. This project was for research on growing different produce using CUBIC FARMING™ technology made and developed by Urban Barns Inc. located in Mirabel, Quebec. The machine has a completely controlled environment that is suitable for the plants and our job was to help in finding out what can grow well in this system. We grew leafy vegetables, dwarf vegetables and one of my roles was to explore chances to bring edible flowers to the market. I was able to learn about the conditions that different plants prefer to grow in and I enjoyed being able to harvest and see the results that we had. I was also tasked with growing peas on the field in a hydroponics system in the greenhouse and to maintain the environment. I learned about the different nutrients required to grow the plants and I gained experience on working in the field.

Before doing this internship I did not have any work experience so I was happy to work in an area so closely related to my field of study. I learned to be organized with data collection and keep track of dates since there were a lot of samples and therefore from the start everything should be well organized. I also learned about the different nutrients that plants require to grow and that each plant has preferable growing conditions. I learned that it was necessary to do tasks regularly to have consistent data for the research.

While working with Dr. Lefsrud, I was also introduced to the various research being done under the faculty which opened my eyes to the different possibilities in this field. My experience has benefited in further shaping my interests since I was exposed new concepts, new technologies, and ongoing research. This experience also helped strengthen my character because I am more mindful of the different aspects to consider when carrying out one task.

I would definitely recommend participating in an internship because you learn about what kind of projects are being undertaken and therefore you could get a better idea of what you could work on in the future. In addition you could get to carry out tasks related to what you are interested in and learn to better adapt to tackling issues that may come up in a project.
I worked as a student research assistant at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at the Sede Boqer campus in the middle of the Negev Desert of Israel. The institute’s mission is to research and explore water resources in an effort to design sustainable technologies suitable for desert environments. My hope was to get a unique perspective on waste and wastewater engineering while having the opportunity to explore and discover a part of the world completely new to me.

I assisted on a project was focused on utilizing manure as a resource to produce hydrochar from hydrothermal carbonization. I assisted in running experiments concerning the analysis of the solid and aqueous phases of the HTC 3-step process. The first step was to run the experiments in the lab; the second step was to collect the gas samples throughout the experimental process; and the third step was to analyse the gas samples.

I was really pleased that my internship took place in the laboratory preparing and running the experiments, and collecting samples. While there I learned several new analytical chemistry method for sample analysis. I learned how to prepare and run samples and how to use and understand the gas chromatograph machine. The most interesting aspect of the project for me was seeing the process from beginning to end. Starting with preparing the experiments all the way through to the interpretation of the results, I was responsible for each step of the research. It was a great experience to feel accountable for the work that I was doing.

In addition to the academic gains that I benefited from during my summer in Israel, I found that the cultural experiences that I was exposed to were incredibly valuable to my personal development. While at the university, I was strongly encouraged to take the time to get out and see as many parts of Israel as possible. I spent most of my weekends travelling all around the country, seeing different cities and regions, trying new food, and meeting really interesting people. Exploring new places and encountering alternative ways of living is the best way to readjust one’s perspective.

I would strongly encourage students to participate in an internship in a field that they are passionate about. Getting involved in the work and actually producing results is the best way to ensure that you are headed in the direction you are interested in going.
This Summer I worked as a student research assistant for Dr. Zhiming Qi in the department of Bioresource Engineering. Dr. Zhiming Qi’s research specializes in field experimentation and system modeling such as RZWQM2, DSSAT and GPFARM models. He tries to understand the hydrological, environmental and crop growth response to climate change, management practices and engineering measures. His lab is located at the Macdonald Campus of McGill University. Under his supervision I was placed to do independent research, as well as any assistance with his lab that he needed.

My project was on water flow patterns of the Yamaska River and whether there was a significant relationship between the climate change, the land use in the watershed and the stream flow rate. I used statistical tests to analyze trend in the stream flow rate, temperature, precipitation, and evapotranspiration and to see whether there was a significant change in each. I created an excel template for the statistical tests where the data over several years could be input to see a trend. At the end of the research I submitted a paper that will be sent to be reviewed for a chance to be published.

I learned about how studies are performed as well as climate change and trend testing. The field work was an especially fun experience. As a Bioresource student I took classes in hydrology and engineering for land development which was very similar and helpful for my project and for understanding evapotranspiration. My research skills improved immensely as I was constantly looking for papers relevant to my topic. I am now able to find good sources for scientific papers.

This summer internship was a good opportunity for me to learn about future career options in the field of Bioresource Engineering. I benefitted from the research experience as well as the field work and paper editing. I learned what goes into random sampling of corn crops and field procedures. It was a rewarding experience. I would recommend students to participate in internships for it is a great opportunity for them to see whether they want to go into research or whether they want a more hands-on career. I would have not known the path that I wanted to take if it was not for this summer internship.
This summer I worked with the Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA) under their Coral Reef Monitoring Program. CEA is located in the small but touristic town of Akumal, in the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico. The Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA), has the mission to produce and promote strategies for ecosystem management in Akumal, through research, education and policy, for sustainability in the Mexican Caribbean. It depends on volunteers, students and partnerships with many other organizations to carry out their work. The main goal of CEA’s Volunteers Program is to collect comprehensive data of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef in the region of Akumal and to help conserve marine turtles.

I worked in fish identification (adult, intermediate and juvenile phases), where I learned general knowledge about coral and benthic cover. I used this knowledge during dives and snorkels and compiled this data into an excel database. The database was set up with certain algorithms to instantly analyze the raw data and provide useful parameters for population health such as fish average biomass, density of main groups, distribution and frequency, number of herbivores, etc. I also helped two researchers doing lionfish surveys and fish behaviour surveys. The lionfish work consisted of writing down the size of lionfish, and if any surgeonfish, grunt or snapper showed signs of disease. There had been a wave of disease in the bay and the Ecological Center wanted to assess at what stage of infection the population was and try to determine the cause. The fish behaviour work consisted recording various fish behaviours in a pre-made table.

My understanding of ecology, ecosystem functions and services helped me understand the trophic effects that pollution and tourism were having on Akumal Bay. This made my suggestions for changes in policies more credible as they were based on evidence and sound arguments. My knowledge of the basic biology and phylogeny of organism families made my learning of corals and fish easier. This internship made me realize I was seeing the practical application and live version of “the ecosystem”, this vague concept I have reviewed and analyzed theoretically so many times. Overall, I became very knowledgeable about the fish species of the Gulf of Mexico, being able to recognize all but the rare ones by common name through colouration, shape and other characteristics, just by looking at them briefly.

Participating in an internship, be it at home or abroad, is a unique experience that shows what is to be expected of students once they graduate. It is like going to a class named “Introduction to working a real job”; it shows various methodologies that may be useful later on, allows meeting people and networking, it shows how much work is required of you and what the result of your work will be or what it will do for others. I feel grateful knowing that the data I gathered during my internship will be compiled in a public database that researchers across the world use to study various themes related to marine biology and coastal environments.
This summer I worked as a student research assistant for McGill professor Dr. Stan Kubow whose research focuses on impact of nutritional interventions on a variety of disease outcomes and metabolic disorders. I chose Dr. Kubow as my employer because his research is so fascinating; a perfect combination of theoretical study and useful application. And I love potato (delicious and cheap) which is the one of the important materials for Dr. Kubow’s study. Potato is also the leading third food crop in the world! This means any progress we make about potato may have large impact and benefit a lot of people.

My main duties in the lab consisted of doing experiments and analyzing data. During this internship I learned how to use high-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) and gas chromatograph (GC) machines. It was my first time using these so it was truly memorable. Basically, you need to load your samples into the auto-sampler, then design suitable methods in the computer, and then run the experiment, which will then produce results for you. The researchers in Dr. Kubow’s lab designed a machine which was able to simulate the digestion process in our body. The computer program automatically manipulates separated units to adjust the pH and temperature.

My knowledge of computer, organic & inorganic chemistry, physics and nutritional science helped me understand the mechanisms of these machines and the principle of experiments more quickly. My ability to organize improved immensely as I had to organize order of series small tasks to avoid lengthy time delays. I also aquired knowledge about the physicochemical properties of nutrient molecules like vitamin A, D, B, lactic acid and so on. I also gained much needed experience working in a lab, doing experiments, analyzing data and working the machines.

This internship was truly rewarding as I enjoyed working in the lab doing research. This experience might indicate a future career choice in academia, as a researcher or even a professor. I also realized that I am motivated by research relating to solve human diseases. This finding might help me narrow down scientific aspects for my master’s or even a PhD degree. Studying human health is one of passions and it is a very important science. By doing on-going research I feel that I am able to continually learn and grow and contribute to human health.
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This summer I did my internship at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Stability (IRES) at the University of British Columbia. Their mission is to “foster sustainable futures through integrated research and learning about the linkages among human and natural systems, and to support decision making from local to global scales”. I was placed in the EDGES (Environment & Development: Gender, Equity, and Sustainability) team with Dr. Harris as the head professor and six PhD students working on various projects. I was assigned three main tasks throughout my internship on projects on water governance.

I collected, read and coded all public submissions to the B.C Ministry of Environment in response to the B.C Water Sustainability Act (WSA). I learned to use a computer program, Nivivo, to perform qualitative analysis on these data. The aim of this project was to investigate the fairness and democratic process during the public consultation of the WSA. I also worked on a small watershed project at Fraser Valley where the team studied the amount of carbon and nutrients in river water. I performed data sampling and testing and used computer programs to trace and graph the levels and analyzed them. Lastly, I assisted the team on the Genome Canada’s Watershed and metagenomics project. I interviewed researchers and professionals in the water industry to hear their opinions on the GE3LS work in the project.

I learned to work independently while researching and collaboratively to share my findings with colleagues. I was surrounded by like-minded students, professors and researchers in the field who taught me so much about this field. I feel lucky to have met such a group of lovely people who accepted me with open arms and guided me through this internship.

I enjoyed my assignments, working with professionals and learning about water issues. It further forced me to think about the issues more in depth and from various angles. Working at the IRES inspired me to one day become a professional in the field, like one of them. I want to work towards a tangible goal where I know all my hard work will result in for the betterment of our people.

I had a productive summer where I got to learn and I feel satisfied with my work knowing that part of my work might be published in a paper. This internship has given me invaluable experience in working in a professional setting that I would otherwise never have learned in a classroom. I am grateful I got to experience it.
My internship was in the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. As a research assistant in Dr. Agellon’s lab, I worked together with Salam, the PhD student. Her thesis is about the factors that affect microbiome and its effects on body weight. The internship project makes up a part of the thesis and was to study the effect of bile acids on the growth of gut bacteria using an anaerobic bioreactor.

I’ve always been very keen on doing research and experiments in labs, since I can put what I learned in class into good practice, expending my knowledge and gaining more lab skills. This is why I chose to do an internship in the lab.

Some of my tasks included culturing bacteria, measuring optical density of bacteria samples, extracting DNA from mice tails and various bacteria samples using spectrophotometer, PCR amplification of extracted DNA, running gel electrophoresis, genotyping a certain gene presented in the mice, analyzing experimental data of bacteria growth , and autoclaving glassware, bacteria media and pipette tips. The highlight was building up the Bio-reactor, which we used to simulate the GI environment and cultured bacteria in. Working on the Raspberry pi to control the Bio-reactor was the most interesting yet challenging experience for me.

The internship was without a doubt beneficial and during this lab working experience, I achieved most of my goals. I read journals and experimental protocols related to the project and expended my knowledge in the nutritional science field and learnt new lab techniques. By designing and discussing the project with the PhD student, I trained myself to think more logically, comprehensively and scientifically as a scientist. Through the process of carrying out the project, I became a lot more familiar with using the lab instruments and polished my skills in terms of both laboratory and communicating with PhD students and professor, working as a group. Also, I improved my ability to handle situations when mistakes were made or when the results came out to be different from expected.

I would recommend students to participate in internships because it can be the starting point of your career. The knowledge and skills you are going to learn from your internship will be of great help in your future. Your scientific knowledge will expand, thus further enhancing your academic learning at McGill. And you will definitely have an amazing summer!
This summer I had the honor of working with registered dietitian, Naureen Hunani at the center d’hebergement Denis-Benjamin Viger. The center cares for elders with dementia and alzheimers. Patients are transferred from hospitals to the center where they are offered better personal care, and attention to their needs such as dysphagia, and diabetes. The center is staffed with a team of nurses, dietitians, physical therapists and more.

I was tasked with compiling a cookbook with recipes that Naureen had given me. With data input and calculating the different nutritional values of them, I learned to become efficient with various programs and websites such as photoshop and nutritional data calculation. I organized recipes by finding better and healthier alternatives for the listed ingredients (i.e. replacing regular flour with whole wheat flour).

By shadowing Naureen, I learned about the procedures that one would normally go through as a dietitian. I was shown formulas of calculation, for weight gain/weight loss, diet control and more. I watched her perform a dysphagia test where the patient was exposed to foods of a texture that was different from their original diets. This was a memorable experience. I was also asked to help conduct a taste panel where new products of thickened liquids were introduced and the workers at the center would have to determine the brand/type of liquids that is to be purchased. This was a fun experience but also one from which I learnt a great deal. Finally, I was allowed to sit in at the weekly meetings where new patient files were introduced and their health conditions were made known to everyone, so that the right measures were taken to ensure the patients’ health and well-being.

This internship was highly beneficial, as it allowed me to peek into the world of dietitians as well get a sense of what it’s like to work with real patients under different types of dietary requirements. I would definitely recommend this internship to my fellow classmates, seeing that it had helped me gain a better understanding of the nutritional work field as well as used the skills I learned in class into the work field, making this a memorable summer.
This summer we worked in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus, under Dr. Shiv Prasher. There are estimates that our population will reach 9 billion people by 2050, as such, water and food demands will also rise. This increases the need for smarter agricultural practices that can efficiently maximize the use of water and nutrients. The project we worked on aimed to discover the potential of polyacrylamide superabsorbent polymer and plantain peel biochar in enhancing the water and nutrient use efficiency of sandy soil.

As interns, our tasks consisted of monitoring the growth of the potato plants, of measuring soil moisture content, temperature and humidity and measuring the stomatal conductance and plant greenness. We were at times faced with challenges such as malfunctioning equipment which cost us time and delays as well as determining the best solutions to problems we faced during the internship.

As a result of this experience, we learned essential engineering skills such as professionalism, modeling and time management. We learned a great deal about utilizing our engineering backgrounds and applying them towards agricultural needs. Being in this environment was truly memorable and will help us in our future careers as engineers.

We also learned how to work in a team, how to be more hands on as we were required to perform various lab analyses and modeling. We also developed time management, writing and communication skills as we reported our progress and had to ensure we met project targets and deadlines. It was truly fulfilling as we got to work on an experimental design that we helped design ourselves and witness its effects and results in real time.
This summer my internship was in Singapore at the Novartis BiopharmOps site. Novartis, a Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company is a market leader in the pharmaceutical industry. The site I worked at is a biological pharmaceutical site. It its ground breaking in 2013, and is currently still in the commissioning and qualification stage of the project. I worked as a Downstream Process Engineer. Working close to the Area Lead for the downstream process, I was able to get a comprehensive understanding of projects starting from their initial formulation to the end. I got to see procedures required to start up a plant, and also witnessed it happen.

My main job scope was to write-up of commissioning tests and be a field execution support, but I was also told that there was a side project for me to work on. This side project was to map out and try to accurately feedback on the completion of the overall work, and to predict when the project would be finished. After much discussion, the project work slowly took over as my major tasks, and I was tasked to create and coordinate a weekly schedule for the team, which was eventually rolled out to the rest of the site. This coordination experience is mostly done by a managerial level, but I was also told to approach the project manager and seek advice from him. From there, the project manager brought me along to the coordination meetings, and it helped me understand comprehensively the activities of the site, and I was able to speak to the decision makers and understand their considerations. This to me is the most valuable experience from the internship, and one that would probably be helpful in my future work experience as well.

As I was working on the weekly plans of the execution team, I had to learn to coordinate work activities for a site. There were many problems and issues that happen on a daily basis, hence I learned to adapt and maneuver around the hold ups. It lead me to think ahead of the current plan and to predict issues and to incorporate them into the plan.

This internship was a really big eye-opener for me. I had learned many skills that could have only been taught in a working environment. I expected to learn the requirements for a starting engineer and be doing work equivalent to a fresh graduate job, but I was given the opportunity to explore and work with some of the project management team. Because of those opportunity, my learnings surpassed my expectations from day one.
This summer my internship was at Terix Evirogaz in Quebec. Terix Evirogaz processes organic waste into methane which in turn is to be liquefied into a carburant that could substitute diesel. This company is now building a Biomethane plant to do the entire process from anaerobic digestion to the liquefaction of the biofuel on the same site, in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec. The start-up of the biofuel plant started this summer and I was a part of it!

My tasks consisted of the following: writing the Biofuel plant operation manual, furnishing the Biofuel plant equipment manual, operating the pre-treatment, and helping in problematic situations. Through this internship I learned about the process to produce one type of renewable energy from organic waste. My goal in life is to find more efficient renewable energy that could reduce or consumption of fossil fuel. This was an amazing experience because it taught me all the steps and challenges when developing a new biofuel.

Writing the operation manual was challenging, so I was often asking about the process to the engineers in this field and in turn I learned a great deal. I also learned how to deal with problematic situation of starting a biofuel plant. The process was very detailed but at every step, it did not work as planned. No data base has ever because it is the first plant of its kind, which meant it required us to find the solution as fast as possible every time it occurred. Most of these problems were happening to the major equipment and to pumps and valves. These subjects were talked about in class but I learned a lot more about them when analysing all the possible errors that happen. During these situations, I asked a lot of questions and my supervisor always took the time to answer and explain what was happening which increased my knowledge about industrial equipment.

This experience allowed to me learn a great deal and to also be included in a team of experienced engineers. I received positive feedback and encouragement from everyone which has in turn inspired me to pursue my dreams.
My internship was with Fraser Health, which is a healthcare company that provides a wide range of integrated health care services across the Lower Mainland in British Columbia. Their services range from hospital care, to community-based residential, home health, mental health and public health services. Fraser Health’s mission is to improve the health of the population and the quality of life for the people they serve. They hope to achieve this by improving patient outcomes and making their operations more sustainable as well as giving support for people to stay healthy and receive care in their homes and communities, thus freeing up hospital services for patients who need it most.

I was working with the project manager on his projects to do with different energy systems. One of the projects was a feasibility study to implement a biomass power plant at one of the hospitals. The other project was converting an existing steam system to a more efficient hot water system, which included installation of new boilers and a new piping system. As part of my internship, I wrote a report comparing different piping materials. I wrote about the advantages and disadvantages of copper vs. polypropylene pipes and made a recommendation for the re-piping project based on that report.

I got to apply all of the theoretical concepts I learned in thermodynamics in a more realistic way. I learned about installation of energy systems and the potential problems that are encountered with these systems. I gained a great deal of knowledge about mechanical systems; I learned how a system is set up in a hospital with boilers, heat exchangers, pipes, and other necessary equipment. I expanded my knowledge on the thermodynamics of these systems in a practical way, i.e., where the headers should be located and how much pressure should be in a system.

This internship furthered my interest in renewable energy through biomass power plants. I learned about different types of biomass and how it can be combusted or gasified to produce heat or electricity. I learned about converting biomass into biofuels. The most beneficial part of my internship was being able to visualize the theoretical concepts that I have learnt in the classroom. I also had the opportunity to further develop my communication skills and capability to give presentations and have discussions with engineering professionals. This internship has expanded my passion and intrigue for energy systems particularly renewable energy. It has broadened my awareness of the Canadian healthcare system and the importance of providing sustainable health care facilities.
This summer I did my internship at PleinTerre in Napierville Quebec. PleinTerre is a key figure in the progress of scientific knowledge, as it works in research and development with many partners such as the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ), the Research grain center (CEROM), The Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment (IRDA), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Quebec Universities (Laval, McGill, UQTR, Concordia). PleineTerre offers quality services in the fields of agriculture, biology, environment, soil science and land and water management to increase the growth of agricultural enterprises while respecting the environment.

This experience has allowed me to better understand the step to create a drainage plan. Creating a drainage plan isn’t like creating a skyscraper or a bridge since no one’s life is threatened by a poor design. However, major steps such as determining the particle size are fundamental for your drainage system to last and still work efficiency. So even if some farmers can do it by themselves, it is way better to contact a professional. I encountered some difficulties with the GEO Mensura program but the junior engineer was always there to help and guide me through the process.

I acquired a tremendous amount of knowledge. At the beginning of the summer I wasn’t even able to recognize a soybean plant but my learning experience clearly met my expectations. I learned more about Geomatic Engineering and GIS and its applications on precision agriculture. I also got familiar with the computer programs they use to process their spatial data. I learned to do land surveying with RTK GPS, engineering level and survey laser, to create maps and analyze the previously surveyed data with geographical information system (GIS) software. I also learned the basics of leveling and drainage; when it is required and how to proceed.

I made great strides in delivering quality work and showing consistency and rigor in my daily task. I became more attentive about the perception of other people towards my labor and overall attitude. More precisely, I developed my drawing skills by doing plans on a CAD software about tile draining and river design projects. Furthermore, by helping others, I learned to establish research plot quickly and effectively. This was a great experience and I am glad I did this internship this summer.
This summer I did my internship at Geosyntec Consultants in NY, U.S.A. Geosyntec Consultants is an environmental consulting company located throughout the United States and Canada, as well as some locations in Europe, Asia, and Australia. They do a large variety of things in order to meet their client’s needs. These include, environmental planning and management, air quality management and air pollution control, contaminated site assessment and cleanup, and water and wastewater system planning, engineering, and design, to name a few.

I spent my summer as an engineering intern. I spent most of my time working in the field doing various tasks. I spent some time in the office as well, mostly focusing on excel work, as well as QCing tasks and preparing deliverables. I worked under my supervisor while in the office, but I was given tasks from people from all around the company. I would often work in the field with different people. I really enjoyed this because it gave me the amazing opportunity to meet a lot of different people with extremely interesting backgrounds. While in the field I did a variety of different things, including water sampling, air sampling, soil sampling, and work at the Gowanus Canal, which encompassed a variety of different components in the field. I also spent some time in the office and did mostly Excel analysis and deliverable prep.

I learned so much during this internship, it completely exceeded my expectations. I learned how to perform all of the different sampling, why it is needed and what the data is used for. I learned all about water sampling, soil sampling, vapor intrusion, and all about various pilot studies that the company that I worked for is performing. I also learned all about the various different ways to analyze soil and water and the different types of remediation depending on the type of pollutant. It was a fantastic opportunity and extremely rewarding. I learned so much that is relevant to the field of Bioresource Engineering. I made a lot of great connections and I really hope that I continue in this field in the future because I really enjoyed it. I think everything that I learned this summer was extremely relevant and useful to my career path.
This summer I did my internship at Macdonald Campus working under the supervision of Dr. Zhiming Qi. I received the Undergraduate Student Research (USRA) Award from the National Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) which allowed me to work on my own project. I chose to conduct research on climate change and its impacts on agriculture. I worked mostly off a computer since I had to do a lot of research but I also got to go to the field and conduct biomass sampling of corn to build a reference data.

I acquired a lot of knowledge through this internship. I did research on cropping systems, climate change and scientific methods to analyze datasets. At first I did not know much about agriculture, but now I understand and I can apply the basic terms, such as growing-degree day, growing season length and the biomass of the grain. I learned how to use statistical methods to test data, and the frequency analysis of rainfall events. I also learned how to work on the field and how to proceed to the biomass sampling of corn. I developed an effective work ethic by working alone or in a team. I got better at managing my time and I improved my ability to do a research, filter information and use other studies to support my work. I learned to take initiative and make quick decisions to fix problems on the field. I got better at writing a scientific paper, creating a poster with concise and clear information and organizing an oral presentation. I improved my abilities to work with Excel and Matlab and I learned how to use practical software that will be useful in the future, such as SigmaPlot and Root Zone Water Quality Model 2.

My greatest success was the completion of my scientific paper entitled: Long Term Trends of Climate Change and Its Impact on Crop Growing Season on Montreal Island. I worked on this paper for nearly 3 months but all the hard work was worth it in the end when my supervisor was happy with the work I did on my own. I was given autonomy and worked independently which has helped me in so many ways. I feel like I can take on so much and will use these newfound skills in my studies and my future career. I would highly recommend to students to do an internship as you can discover new interests and learn a great deal about your area of study.
This summer I worked at the Emile A. Lods Research Centre under the supervision of Dr. Philippe Seguin. As a research intern I was tasked with various duties. These included; preparing the field according to the research protocols, conducting seed experiments by hand and by using the mechanical seeder, touring the fields and making observations on new and on-going experiments, harvesting the plant experiments, recording the yield and botanical compositions and finally analyzing the data.

As a result of this internship, I have acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience. For instance, I learned how to determine the grass maturity stage of grasses and alfalfa based on their morphology. I have also learned how to identify various crops species, including millet, sorghum, soybeans, alfalfa, canola, wheat, corn, and 8 species of grasses. I learned about herbicides, how they work and why they cannot be used in some cases without arming the crop of interest. I learned about alternative weeding techniques and when they should be used in experiments.

I also learned how to drive a tractor with the help of the technician. He showed me the basic components that could be found in most tractors, and let me practice to become more confident. This was truly a fun and exciting experience. Finally, I have become a better leader and a better team member because I was in charge of the students when working in the field. It is my second year working here, therefore I was able to teach them how to use equipment, and to explain them the reasoning behind the tasks performed.

This internship has taught me the components of field research, and how conclusions are drawn from it. I have also learned how to follow official research protocols. I have acquired experience with various electronic and manual tools. I now feel confident working independently on research projects. I have had the chance to work with a passionate team, and have built long-lasting friendships as well as a professional network. I am proud of my work and grateful for the experience. Through this internship I was offered to do a Master’s project with my supervisor going forward, so not only have I learned a great deal but will continue learning and growing as a result of this experience. I would highly recommend doing an internship to students as it just might lead you down a path towards your future career goals and aspirations.
From June to August I had the opportunity to intern at the Hope for Wildlife (HFW) rehabilitation centre situated in Seaforth, Nova Scotia. HFW, named after the founder Hope Swinimer, is an organization that rescues injured and orphaned wildlife from all over the province with the aim of releasing healthy animals back into the wild. The rehab takes in over 250 different species throughout the year and provides them with care specific to their needs. In addition, HFW offers guided tours of part of their facility and visits numerous schools to educate both children and adults about the importance of wildlife conservation and protection.

At HFW I was assigned the position of rehabilitation intern. My primary responsibility was to ensure the wellbeing and the comfort of the animals. The heart of the rehab is the barn, which holds all three nurseries and is also the location of food preparation and task delegation. I received training in all three nurseries and includes tasks such as cleaning enclosures, admitting new arrivals, solid food preparation, preparing different formulas and relocating the animals based on their weight. If requested by a lead hand, I also administered medication. Most of my time was dedicated to feeding and caring for orphaned animals whose mother had been killed or separated from them. In addition, the HFW hotline is bombarded with calls regarding wildlife in distress every day. In cases where intervention is necessary the caller is asked to bring the creature to the local Pound in Dartmouth or, straight to the rehab. On occasions where animals cannot be brought over or may be dangerous, or drops offs are not be possible, then a member of the HFW rescue team is sent to pick up the animal. I often took part in these rescues. My colleagues and I would quickly look over the animal for life threatening injuries or serious infections. If it’s serious then the animal is immediately taken to the Veterinary Hospital for further assessment.

My internship at HFW was a great opportunity to get hands on experience working with different animal species. As someone who benefits greatly from a hands-on approach, my time spent at the rehab was extremely rewarding and allowed me to acquire new knowledge and perspectives. This experience has strengthened my passion for animals and has made me more determined to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. I would highly recommend this internship to other students who share my passion and are ready to work hard in providing care to animals.
During this past summer, I worked on the design and construction of an indoor residential living wall. I worked under the supervision of Dr. Mark Lefsrud from the Bioresource Engineering Department. The living or green wall allows for year-round growth of plants directly where they will be harvested and used or consumed. The plants also purify the air and have the potential to clean water.

Having the privilege to work on such a practical project this summer helped me develop many skills. I learned tricks of the trade in plumbing and electricity that will definitely serve me well in the future. For example, after soldering countless LED strips, I learned tricks for soldering at odd angles or one-handed, among many other tips for avoiding solder disconnections. Also, having been on a budget, I learned about sourcing materials and how much components cost. This internship also forced me to research aspects of my design to a level of specificity I had not reached before, which was interesting. For example, when it came time to purchase lighting, I knew I wanted white LEDs but I needed to know what size diode, how many diodes per meter, what spectrum (cool or warm) which forced me to study how strong LED diodes are and how light intensity is even measured in the first place. These were questions I would never have delved into if not for actually building this prototype.

Building this living wall forced me to acquire a deeper level of knowledge in electricity, plant biology, automated growing systems, chemistry and fluid mechanics in order to ensure the wall functions properly. I developed skills and countless other practical tricks of the trades involved in building an automated growing system. I believe my internship taught me life lessons more than anything else. I have always been more of an independent worker but after this internship I am much more of an advocate of “two heads are better than one”. Not only has this been a lesson on a personal level but it has also developed my professional network by pushing me to make connections with professionals in the fields involved in my internship.
This summer I had the honor and privilege to work at John Deere Canada in Grimsby Ontario. I worked from July to August 2015 and my task was to manage the GoHarvest™ Premium Combine Simulator sessions. The goal of these sessions was to expose John Deere and dealership employees across Western Canada to this new simulator. The goal of this product is to train new operators faster with fewer risks, lower cost and also before harvesting season. On top of the scheduled sessions, I also hosted sessions for the staff working at the Regina John Deere Facility. Since some of them were not familiar with the operation of a combine, I was able to determine more accurately the benefits for an inexperienced operator. They all learned a lot from the simulator, and the sessions were longer since I was there to explain and clarify all the information.

During my internship I developed many technical skills since I was working with large agricultural machinery. The main skills are related to diagnostic of combines. I learned many ways to diagnose hydraulic, electric and electrohydraulic problems on these machines. I also improved my knowledge of precision agriculture considerably since I was covering many parts of the class with GPS and auto guidance systems. I also acquired quite a bit of knowledge of harvesting crops. I have a much better comprehension of the threshing and harvesting of crops in a combine. From what I expected, I learned way more materials that I could have imagined.

My greatest success during my internship was my experience teaching to technicians across Canada. One of the biggest challenge I faced and proudly overcame was teaching a class by myself which consisted of Quebec technicians since I was the only bilingual combine instructor. It was an extremely rewarding experience that gave me a lot of self-confidence. Another great accomplishment was my evaluation report for a new product recently launch. My supervisor sent copies of my work to many project managers and supervisors working For John Deere in the United States and I received extremely good feedback. It was not only validating but also very encouraging. My overall the experience at John Deere was extremely positive and has shaped my future aspirations in many ways. I would highly recommend this opportunity to students.
This summer I worked at the Kenauk Institute in Montebello Quebec. The Kenauk Institute is a new research center located on Kenauk Nature property, a 65,000ac plot of land primarily focused on the hunting and fishing industries. A third of the property is Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) land and is unattainable by car or foot. NCC is protecting this land because it contains Quebec’s only black maple forest. Since the property is unique in this sense, Professor Chris Buddle from Macdonald Campus and the Kenauk Institute teamed up to create the Black Maple Project. Myself, along with McGill students Katrina Di Bacco and Juliana Balluffi-Fry, were hired to participate in the Black Maple Project for the Kenauk Institute.

The Black Maple Project consists of three smaller projects, one for each intern. My project focused on arthropod communities at different heights in three tree species. Therefore, I spent the summer sampling for insects by climbing trees.

The job consisted of the three interns sharing responsibilities in each other’s project, meaning that we learned much about each other’s fields of study. We are more well-rounded students after this experience. I learned many things and acquired many new skills this summer, especially from the other interns. I learned about plant and bird sampling, two new methods of insect sampling: Lindgren funneling and foliage shaking. I learned how to use plant quadrats to measure plant abundance and species richness along with circumference sampling for trees. We also learned how to take point calls of birds and how to use a single rope system to climb trees.

I am very happy about how the summer turned out. I made many new friends at Kenauk and hope to keep in touch with some of them. I am proud of the work and effort we put in this summer. We learned a lot and will be able to take this knowledge with us into the future. This summer has made me realize that biodiversity is important and I believe that I will continue my studies in this area of study, with a focus on entomology of course!
This summer I worked at Le Nichoir in Hudson, Quebec. Le Nichoir is a non-profit organization supported by Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. It is a bird rehabilitation organization that strives to care for injured songbirds for their eventual reintroduction back into the wild. They are heavily focused on public awareness and education of songbirds through tours, open houses and education. As an intern my duties fell between those of a volunteer and staff. I would talk with the public, answer their questions, feed birds, give medication, clean aviaries, wash dishes, do laundry, help design some enclosures, prepare food, answer the phones, and transport birds to be released.

As a result of this experience, I am now able to name most birds native to Quebec with much greater accuracy than before, and I have a much better understanding of their diets and specified habitats and which species naturally reside together. I have learned about bird parasites and what they consume to have them in their bodies and which parasites are a non-issue. I learned safety protocol for handling larger birds like geese and cormorants. I have also learned how difficult it is during the breeding season to keep up with the birds being brought in by the public. It is not easy on the staff who work there to feed, clean, medicate, and keep track of through records the four hundred birds that reside at Le Nichoir during peak season.

I have learned where certain species of birds are released as well as how. For example cliff swallows are driven to the Morgan Arboretum and released there, while goslings are released to families of wild geese that have young around the same size. Most other birds are just released outside the center. I can now properly feed a bird, bandage it semi well and give it medication orally. I know how to design an enclosure and provide enrichment for birds based on their species. I have a better idea of how their data entry system works and specific codes they use to give the staff a better idea of a certain bird’s condition.

The most rewarding experience was definitely being able to release the birds. It is the culmination of all the hard work that goes into Le Nichoir to see the bird that you fed, medicated and doted on fly away to live the rest of its natural life in the wild. You can see the hard work you did physically in their plumage, how high they fly and how free they finally are.
This summer I worked as a research intern under the supervision of Dr. Jacqueline Bede at Macdonald Campus. I was involved in research working with caterpillars known as the beet armyworm or *Spodoptera exigua*. The beet armyworm is an insect that infests vegetable, flower and field crops. In an attempt to control this pest the lab was doing research on the plant *Medicago truncatula* which has been known to contain defensive compounds making it resistant to pests.

The lab conducted an experiment using six different *M. truncatula* ecotypes and allowing armyworm larvae to feed on them in order to determine the effects the plants had on larval development. Using this information the lab found that the F ecotype was the most resistant to herbivory and the T ecotype was the most susceptible. The experiment was then repeated using these two ecotypes. My role in this project was to extract the DNA from these two ecotypes, amplify them using 5 microsatellite primer sets and run them on a metaphor agarose gel to determine if there were any differences in the DNA of the two ecotypes. If there were differences this could implicate a point of interest as those genes may be responsible for coding proteins that are involved in synthesizing the defensive compounds.

As an undergrad just finishing my second year of a life sciences major, I am still a novice when it comes to working in a lab and applying classroom theories practically. During my internship my abilities were put to the test. My project required extensive background knowledge of DNA isolation, PCR amplification, and how to run gel electrophoresis, which are the basics of all biological research. I already had some knowledge of these techniques from lecture, but actual application was different. With some help I was able to work my way through and master these techniques. There were some technical issue but thanks to the help I got I was able to improve my problem solving skills and work my way through the rough patches.

This internship has been a huge stepping stone in figuring out what kind of career I want and was my first taste of a research setting. All in all I truly enjoyed the privilege to work in such a great environment and I believe I have built a great foundation for me to build on with future projects.
JUDY MENGISTU, Bioresource Engineering
UNIVERSIDAD RAFAEL LANDIVAR, and INSTITUTO DE AGRICULTURA, Guatemala

This summer I did my internship under the supervision of Julien Malard a PhD student from the department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus. Julien is currently conducting his research in Guatemala. He aims to investigate how conventional, market-based agriculture and low-input (organic), subsistence agricultural development models compare in terms of socioeconomic and environmental outcomes for smallholder farmers and their communities in terms of food security, as well as how to develop sustainable agricultural strategies in these communities. He chose two case studies in Concepción and in K’iche, where market-based and subsistence-based agriculture is done. As his research assistant, my role was to retrieve data from Concepción where high input, conventional agriculture is practiced and produce destined for market. This data will eventually be fed into Julien’s agroecological network, which is currently under development.

Through the field work I acquired a lot of knowledge about insects, beneficial insects and pest management. I learned to identify a great number of insects, and to recognize pests from Beneficial’s. I also learned a great deal about crop diseases and how to quantify the damage. I became very familiar with a variety of agrochemicals, their active ingredients, mechanisms, and how they impact the soil and ecosystems. I also witnessed firsthand how climate variability is affecting agricultural production and crop availability by destroying the agroecosystem resilience and how this is interrupting the progress towards ensuring food security in Guatemala.

Living in Sololá helped me improve my language skills tremendously. Every day we spoke Spanish or Kaqchiquel, as most people in the villages do not understand English. I learned how to use QGIS software through the mapping activities I was tasked with. I also expanded my programming skills, using Python software to write and understand codes. I am extremely grateful to Julien Malard for giving me the opportunity to be a part of his research, to Marcela Rojas, our project manager, for guiding and supporting me throughout the internship, and to everyone at the IARNA Research Insitute of the Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala, for supporting the project and for kindly allowing us interns to use their facilities.
This summer I did my internship at Kenauk Nature Institute in Quebec. Kenauk Nature is a privately owned fish and game reserve in Montebello, QC. Along with hosting clients throughout the year, Kenauk is also partnered with Nature Conservancy Canada to further protect its 65,000 acres of wilderness. This year, they have launched their own research institute, which will allow professors and students to stay on site and conduct ecological research. Because the property is close to Ottawa and Montreal, and holds many lakes, wetlands, vernal pools, and a very diverse fauna, it is a perfect place to house a biology station.

As a research intern for Kenauk Nature, I assisted with multiple on-going research projects this summer with 2 other McGill students. We collected data on arthropod and plant biodiversity, called the Black Maple Project, as our main focus. However, we also helped with other projects such as a loon nesting survey. I learned a great deal about ecological data collection and research through this experience. I learned names and breeding bird survey codes of many bird species in Quebec. I am now also able to identify many different tree species, bass species, and insect groups. I also went from knowing basically no French, to now having a basic grasp of the language. Now I feel much more informed about my future. This internship without a doubt exceeded my expectations.

I also learned how to climb using single ropes climbing system, which was how we reached the tree canopies to collect the arthropods for the Black Maple Project. I also became familiar with pinning insects and creating posters for educational purposes. Another new skill that I learned is snorkeling, which we were able to do by helping researchers from another university snorkel small lakes at Kenauk and count 1st and 2nd year largemouth bass. I fine-tuned my photography skills by taking pictures of wildlife which I enjoyed immensely.

Before this internship I was almost sure that a career in research was the path I wanted to take, and after this incredible experience, I am certain of my academic and career goals. I would highly recommend students undertake internships if they can as it’s a great learning experience, it adds value to your educational experience and helps you determine the path you would like to take in the future.
This summer I did my internship at the United Nations World Food Programme in Panama. The World Food Programme is a voluntarily funded food assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide and promoting food security. In emergencies, their mission is to get food to where it is needed, saving lives of victims of war, civil conflict and natural disasters. After the cause of an emergency has passed, they use food to help communities rebuild their shattered lives. I have always had a true passion for human nutrition and helping people. I did this internship to see if it could be a career option for me and I think I’ve hit right in the spot; combining humanitarian work with food was not only an excellent choice for me but an exception experience.

As a Voluntary Assistant in the Procurement Unit I was tasked with several responsibilities. These included; supporting the Procurement Unit in drafting a Business Case for Regional purchases of Super Cereals, launching a sub-regional request for the Supply of Food Inspection Services in Latin America and the Caribbean, worked on a School Feeding Programme Report as a clarification of the different Procurement Models available to the Regional Governments and wrote a report on the benefits and disadvantages of a potential new canned product submitted as part of the WFP’s Food Basket.

This experience has been life altering. I really went outside my comfort zone by accepting this internship and am truly proud of the way I adapted to all of those new things. I was on my own for the summer, I had to be truly resourceful to find a place to live, to adapt to a new culture, to start working in a field I didn’t know much about, and to perform well to help WFP the best I could. It was great success on a personal and professional level. I had ups and downs, but I never stopped trying to find new ways to acclimatize, from asking my supervisor and other team members about business, procurement or the economy, to joining a swimming club or a volleyball team to network, build connections and friendships. It was truly a wonderful experience.
This summer I did my internship at Kenauk Institute. The Kenauk Institute is a research institute based out of Kenauk Nature, the 260 square kilometer private property providing accommodations for hunting and fishing. With support from the Organix Foundation, myself and two other McGill students were hired to conduct research on the rare Black Maples (*Acer nigrum*) at Kenauk.

The Black Maple Project, supervised by Dr. Buddle and the director of the Institute, Liane Nowell, consisted of three projects. The first was researching insects in the canopy of these Black Maple trees. The second was interpreting bird surveys done by experts from Nature Conservancy Canada. Lastly, we researched the tree species and understory plant species growing near Black Maple trees. I was the lead student on the Plant Diversity of the Black Maple Trees which consisted of identifying all understory plants in a one meter square quadrat at the base of the Black Maple tree, as well as recording the trees present in an 8 meter circumference of the tree.

I learned a great deal this summer. I learned how to identify most trees in the Kenauk area, as well as the more common herbaceous species. I learned a lot about Common Loon’s behaviour, and how to tell when you are approaching a nest since the Loon’s act in a particular way. I learned about Nature Conservancy Canada, which is highly involved in protecting the ecosystems in Canada. Nature Conservancy Canada conducts surveys in all of their protected areas, which can be a useful tool for research in the future. I also learned how to collect data and organize it on Excel spreadsheets so that it can be easily interpreted. Since this was such a practical experience, I learned how to use plant guides to identify plant species and how to climb trees using the single rope method. This climbing experience will be useful when doing other high canopy research in the future. I learned proper methodologies by ensuring everything is standardized and the same procedures are followed week after week. I also developed public speaking skills as I often dealt with the public to interest them in our research and the preservation of a property.

My summer was filled with amazing experiences, I am so proud that the research we did will actually be used to help protect the beautiful property of Kenauk. Even though it was daunting at first, our team quickly became efficient at climbing to collect insects and we had great teamwork. We all learned how to complement each other’s strengths and attributes, and became a super team! I would highly recommend doing an internship as it can fun and life changing.
This internship gave me an insight of the research’s daily life and a taste of the research world. I weighed pros and cons from such experience, and know now what kind of job I aim for. It highlighted my professional strengths and weaknesses and provided me strong technical skills. As part of the animal experimentation I assisted with the drug administration (through feeding and injection). I was the Echocardiography and Surgery assistant and helped with blood collection.

In the laboratory, I learned about molecular biology, proteins and about blood samples in general. For instance, the theory behind Western blot allowed me to understand the role of each chemical, and the specificity of each component (ex: membrane, type of gel). I also learned about protein denaturation conditions and blood sampling tubes –ex: serum clots, while others decant plasma when centrifuged because they contain anti-coagulant. Because of the diversity of projects, I learned about cholesterol efflux monitoring, cardiac cells, aortic valve stenosis, injected radioactivity and ventricular diastole dysfunction. In the animal housing complex, all regulations and ethics on protocols were new to me, and I had the chance to get detailed explanations on it because I assisted to several surgeries and echocardiography. I learned about pharmacogenomics, personal genetic care and epidemiology. As such, my view of fundamental and clinical research widened, and this experience in general helped me to know me better.

I became now more confident in a laboratory environment. I know how to prepare buffers and solutions accordingly. I can perform gel electrophoresis and Western blots. Also, I managed to prepare tissues and quantify proteins; I learnt how to properly mash organs and perform a Lowry test. I also learned to handle rabbit and to adapt to their behaviors. I know how to prepare and conserve organs, how to administrate yoghurt and perform intravenous injections and how to prepare a surgery room.

I am very proud of the role I played in my team and how I fully became a part of it. I especially appreciate the fact that my colleagues learned to trust me and included me in their day to day tasks to help further my learning and experience. I am truly proud of what I achieved this summer and highly recommend to students to partake in an experience like this to get the hands on experience and learning we need to succeed in our future careers.
This summer I was tasked with the job of performing geospatial analysis in support of corn breeding operations at Monsanto Company through analyzing and mapping trends from the sub-field level to a global scale. It was an internship in precision agriculture in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Over the course of my internship, I learned about corn breeding and soil trends. We had orientation sessions learning the basic principles of corn breeding as well as how the process is handled within the company. We were encouraged to review topics in genetics and plant science to better understand the concepts we would encounter on the job. In addition, my direct supervisor is a soil scientist, so I learned a great deal about soil properties, site-specific management, and methods of measuring soil electrical conductivity. This in turn gave me a better understanding of how soil properties can differ across a single field and how the heterogeneity of the field impacts crop health and yield throughout. As a result, I completed a corn disease mapping project and was able to collaborate with pathologists who taught me about major corn diseases.

I created a series of weather summary maps depicting patterns across the entire United States. These maps illustrated rainfall, temperatures, wind speed, and GDU for the entire month of June across the United States, as well as the maps showing these factors compared to 30-year normal data. I consider this project my greatest success. I was able to complete these maps efficiently with very little help, I was able to improve my cartographic skills in ArcGIS by consulting with the Global Environment and Modeling Team Lead. This assignment allowed me to collaborate with other coworkers and our combined efforts contributed to a larger project which was distributed across the Corn Breeding division.

Through this experience I developed my computer skills. I learned a few new tricks and tips which allowed me to simplify my workflow and complete my tasks more efficiently. For example, I learned new methods to interpolate data, and how to use new design elements which improved my final map layouts. I also became more efficient at processing data and performing mathematical functions in Microsoft Excel. I also developed my professional skills. I greatly improved my networking skills by setting up one-on-one meetings with various people across Monsanto to learn about their business areas. Consequently, I now have a more comprehensive list of contacts that I can reach out to when I am in need of their expertise or advice.
MARCOS IGREJA, Bioresource Engineering
MCGILL UNIVERSITY & FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF FLUMINENSE, Brazil

My first internship of the summer was in the Biomass Production Lab of Macdonald Campus of McGill, Bioresource Engineering department under the supervision of Dr. Mark Lefsrud. The Biomass Production lab works with a variety of projects surrounding production and monitoring of living organisms for human food security and energy, as biofuels. The lab currently has ongoing research in proteomics, controlled environments, LED lighting for plants, urban agriculture, bio-oil, and wood-pellet conversion and heating.

My job consisted of working on three main projects: the Urban Barns Cubic Farming unit, Natural Ventilation and Cooling greenhouse (NVAC), and Northern Greenhouse. Urban Barns Inc. is a Canadian company aiming to commercially develop an indoor farming unit, capable of producing food while protected from environment hazard. I was responsible for maintaining and collecting data on the cultivars being tested in the machine. The other project, led by PhD student Lucas McCartney, was to install and monitor the NVAC greenhouse in his absence. This included sensor data collection, misting and irrigation system control, and soil & plant preparation. I also assisted Patricia Gaudet in her work constructing the Northern Greenhouse, a transportable insulated greenhouse to be used all year. With this internship, I acquired mostly practical skills and manual work experience with; Plant care and growth, Soil preparation, Applied heat transfer theory in insulation and heat dissipation (UB unit LEDs), Machine shop experience, COMSOL Multiphysics, Arduino circuit board, HOBOware and sensors.

Being the lead of my own projects, this lab gave me complete freedom to redesign, improve, and monitor the studied systems. This greatly improved my critical thought and individual work skills. In the end, I was glad to see some of my own ideas in practice, mainly in the Urban Barns indoor farming system but also other projects.

The second part of this 2015 summer consisted of a lab assistant internship, in the Federal University of Fluminense (UFF), in the city of Volta Redonda (VR), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. My internship was in GEUFF, the University’s Electrochemistry and Energy lab Group, department of Industrial and Metallurgical Engineering. This group is led by Professor Gilmar Clemente Silva and
works in partnership with several Bioresource departments abroad. GEUFF works with several applications of electrochemistry varying from agricultural residue to energy generation. My work consisted in conducting experiments and reporting on the current project: to reutilize sugarcane industry effluent as a substrate in a microbial fuel cell, confirming that it provides an excellent medium for exoelectrogenic bacteria while benefiting from treatment. The effluent, vinasse, is very problematic for the industry as it has a high polluting charge and is produced in massive amounts.

With Professor Gilmar my work consisted of characterizing BOD, COD, and overall degradation of vinasse sugarcane effluent in a cathode-air microbial fuel cell (MFC). The cultures used were strains of *Shewanella* and *Clostridium*. This included graphical data analysis and reporting in an article, currently in review for publication. Conductivity tests were also performed. In addition, I was responsible for generating images of the biofilm created by the bacteria while in vinasse substrate, using Atomic Force Microscopy. Finally, I worked with a hydrogen fuel cell to compare performance with the MFC.

At Volta Redonda, UFF, I mostly gained laboratory experience and academic knowledge including; basic lab procedures and measurements, Conductivity, Spectrophotometry, Atomic force microscopy, Potentiostat (Modulab), BOD and COD procedures and significance, Scientific publication proceedings, with authorship.

My greatest accomplishment was my first official publication. I co-wrote the paper “Degradation of Vinasse in a Microbial Fuel Cell”, to be published in Elsevier’s Waste Management journal. This authorship will greatly add to my experience in the field of sugarcane ethanol processing and already greatly contributed to my personal scientific writing skills.
This summer I worked at the Lyman Entomological Museum at the Macdonald Campus of McGill University. My work consisted of furthering the research I was already doing on two independent projects. The first is a taxonomy project to describe new species and write a key to all species of the genus *Gimnomera* (Scathophagidae) in arctic Canada. The second project is a collaborative study of the long term effect of climate change on body size in arctic insects. I wanted to determine if climate change could be a cause for change in insect body size in selected species of arctic flies over time. Part of my role at the Lyman was to use social media for science outreach and communication.

The use of social media for scientific outreach is becoming more common. Many of my professors on Macdonald campus have their own blogs and Twitter accounts dedicated to their work. I wanted to do the same but through the use of YouTube, which allows for a visual experience of my research and work in the Lyman which can bring viewers into the museum. I ran a YouTube channel dedicated to The Lyman Entomological Museum. I researched, wrote, filmed and edited all videos published on the channel. The channel was a way for me to learn about the different aspects of Natural History museums such as collections, curation, and outreach. Scan the QR code to view the Lyman YouTube channel.

From this experience I have learned a great deal. Now I know the names of the different body parts of the fly as well as where they are located. Also through the research that I did for my videos I acquired knowledge on a verity of different subjects. Such as information on the different orders of insects, the different methods for caching insects and the importance of natural history museums. A new skill that I developed during my internship was writing fly descriptions. I also further developed skills in research, as I did a lot of research for my videos since they were all on different subjects within entomology. My greatest success was making the Lyman Youtube videos. They were challenging to do as I did everything myself; I would write, film and edit them. I’m proud that I consistently uploaded a new episode every two weeks, and never skipped. This internship was a wonderful experience and I would highly recommend it to other students.
This summer I worked under the supervision of Dr. Grant Clark in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus of McGill. My job involved three parts; one was to help graduate students in the lab, second was to conduct research for my own project, and third was to work on department related tasks.

Through this internship I acquired many new skills. I gained insight on how to conduct research in an academic setting. I learned that communication is essential to any research project. Acknowledging a lack of understanding about a subject, then proceeding to find the proper resources will make you more efficient and produce higher quality work. I cannot count the number of times I visited the electronics laboratory to borrow tools or seek advice. I also learned about project timelines and setting goals. Setting realistic goals is important, but estimating how hard certain objectives will be to achieve is very difficult. For example, I was helping a graduate student on a project where he expected to run his experiment for several weeks, but it ended up finishing much earlier and he only got several days’ worth of data instead.

I also learned how to conduct a literature review, design and build a circuit involving computers, relays, sensors, and main (120 volt) power. I learned how to program for Arduino controllers, and about how sensors collect and send data. I learned how to use McGill’s website editing tools. I learned a lot about fungi, including their life cycle, and how research is conducted on them in a laboratory setting. My greatest successes were creating a working controller board (an interface that allows me to control outlets with software that I wrote myself) and finishing my research paper. The controller board tested my technical knowledge and skills, while the research paper tested my organization and writing abilities. Creating the control board required me to learn about electrical engineering, software, and general testing and prototyping skills. Writing the paper really helped formulate my ideas on the project design.

Each task that I performed exposed me to a different set of skills, all of which will be useful in future jobs in engineering. A position at a university is especially useful for students. It exposes us to real-world problems in a familiar, academic setting. The responsibilities given to me were parallel to those in full-time jobs. I would highly recommend an internship like this this to students.
This summer I was given the opportunity to work at Rio Tinto with a team in charge of the final remediation of the legacy sites. Rio Tinto is one of the leading mining companies that is involved in finding, mining and processing of earth’s mineral resources. The legacy sites are sometimes former mining sites but more frequently they are industrial operations such as smelters, refineries, mills or sites of manufactures products that are no longer operational and require additional remediation. I worked mostly in the downtown office of Montreal but I had the opportunity to visit sites that had ongoing remediation. Remediation is the removal of pollution or contaminants from the natural environment. The focus of remediation is to cleanup soil, groundwater, sediments or surface water for the protection of human health and the environment.

In this role I was tasked with writing a master plan report. A master plan report is a document that presents all the different aspects of a project, such as history of the property, the environmental conditions, the social and community aspects and so on. It also includes the risk assessment, the regulatory and compliance challenges, the analysis of potential alternative solutions and the chosen action plan. It is a thorough presentation and analysis of a given project. It is meant to be the main support document when introducing the project to a new team member. This was a challenging but also a rewarding exercise for me because it allowed me to understand the process of remediation, how it is managed and the real challenges faced by engineering on a daily basis.

The experience I gained through this internship reinforced my motivation to work in environment in my future career. Working at Rip Tinto was difficult at first but I soon overcame these challenges and learned how to work on and write reports, learn about environmental issues and take on more responsibilities. I am proud of all that I have learned and accomplished this summer. Working at Rio Tinto has enabled me to acquire knowledge and professional skills that will remain valuable throughout my studies and my future career. I strongly encourage students to do an internship in their field of study or interest as it is an enlightening and learning experience both professionally and on a person level. I certainly hope to one again before I graduate.
This summer I was a technical representative in a small wastewater treatment company called Aquasan located in Quebec. I was asked to give technical support to Aquasan’s clients when needed. Being exposed to the many areas of wastewater treatment, I was confronted with problems in multiple industries, from the agri-food sector to the pharmaceutical sector. This allowed me to discover new sectors within the field of industrial wastewater treatment that I wasn’t aware of while putting into practice technical knowledge that I had learned in an academic setting. Wastewater treatment is a great mix of mechanical system understanding, biological concept application and chemistry that allows you to fully use the set of technical skills taught in the classroom and apply them to a real-life situation.

Another fun aspect of this internship was that I was asked to lead a project on my own. The project was very interesting: we had to create a system that would monitor the level of chemical products in tanks and automatically communicate this information to a server from which we could monitor the level directly on a webpage. The first step of this project was to find a system that was already built in order to install it at one of our clients that needed this system immediately. We then created a system of our own with the help of an instrumentation company from the west island. This was a great professional experience that helped me developed a set of skills and knowledge that I didn’t have before the internship.

During the duration of the summer, I was given more and more tasks, which led to a very busy schedule. I therefore learned to organize myself and scheduled my time better in order to meet deadlines. I also gained experience and improved my customer service skills. I took the approach of being as transparent and honest as possible with my clients and this seemed to work well since most of them started to call me directly instead of calling my supervisors. A relationship built on trust was thus created which then led to a proactive approach to wastewater treatment on part of the clients as they didn’t wait for a problem to occur before calling me but rather they called asking steps to optimize and ameliorate their treatment.

This was a great internship for students looking to explore the different aspects of wastewater treatment and seeing its many different applications in various sectors with very different budgets! I strongly encourage students to undertake opportunities such as this.
SARAH BARKER, Global Food Security | DOBSON CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, McGill

This summer I had the privilege of interning at The McGill X-1 Accelerator program, part of the Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship at McGill University. The McGill X-1 Accelerator is an educational program that empowers the McGill community to build innovative companies. It is an intensive 10-week summer program to learn the skills to become better entrepreneurs. The program is composed of a speaker-series, mentorship, workshops, advisory board meetings and time-to-build hours. Activities range from discussions on user acquisition to intensive lectures on inbound marketing, user profiling, and more.

As the Operations Intern I worked alongside the Dobson Centre staff to plan logistics for various events including guest speakers, advisory board meetings, mentor match-making events, and check-ins. I met some of Montreal and McGill’s most successful entrepreneurs and investors and learn what it really means to “hustle” and “pivot.” I also played a major role in the planning and execution of the program’s finale showcase called Demo Day, where over 300 Montreal entrepreneurs, investors, and community member will gather to hear the teams pitch!

As the X-1 Intern, I quickly realized that there is a lot of jargon in the tech start-up world, picked it up just as quickly and use it like a true entrepreneur. I found my inner marketer as I designed websites on Squarespace, sent mass email campaigns on MailChimp, and organized event planning with Eventbrite. I learned to “Swim With the Big Fishes” as I got to meet some of Montreal and the Silicon Valley’s biggest names in entrepreneurship and attended some of the largest entrepreneurship events in the world.

The skills I learned this summer will be useful in my future activities as VP of the Business Operations Committee on MCSS, as well as in the Minor in Agribusiness Entrepreneurship. Being immersed in the entrepreneurship culture was invaluable in broadening my perspectives for my independent project, Heffalumps and Hunger; The role of agribusiness entrepreneurship in food security.
This summer I worked under the supervision of Dr. Viacheslav Adamchuk in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus of McGill.

The first goal of this internship was to create a procedure to standardize the data collected over the years about the agricultural fields of Macdonald Campus and present them in an interactive map format that everyone within the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and McGill University could have access to, even those with no GIS experience or special software licenses. The second objective of the internship was to develop a method to combine, filter and rapidly process tens of thousands of georeferenced data points obtained using a magnetic induction sensor and RTK GPS, collected over fourteen fields in Ontario. The analysis of this data, acquired by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) using an instrument designed by Dr Adamchuk’s team, should serve to create simple systems for developing management zones within each field. This analysis will play an important role in a much larger project on precision agriculture and site specific management, and is sponsored by the Grain Farmers of Ontario through the Growing Forward 2 initiative.

Through this internship I attained several goals; I reviewed and expanded my GIS proficiency, I solved conversion issues that came up, I explored web mapping solutions and produced a tool helpful for the entire McGill community. I also sharpened my programming and data processing skills, I learned to analyse uncertain data, I learned about soil electrical conductivity and how it relates to soil physical properties and I learned about management zones. I also got a chance to collaborate and work with real research partners which improved my professional and networking skills immensely.

Processing the fourteen fields from OMAFRA within a very short period was an incredible challenge and I am proud to have delivered the work. I did not know much about electrical conductivity and DUALEM sensors before, but I learned rapidly and processed a huge amount of data in a very short time. Presenting information on management zones was stressful but also rewarding as it was my first ever presentation in front of professionals, and I received very encouraging feedback. From knowing very little to having acquired all this knowledge and skills was indeed truly an invigorating and rewarding experience. I am certain I will take this newfound knowledge with me throughout my time at McGill and my future career.
This summer I worked for the Service de l’environnement of the City of Montreal. Currently the city is confronted with the problem of high levels of nitrogen in the municipal water. They are looking at multiple solutions and weighing the benefits or issues with each to come up with an action plan. The first possible solution is to create a water treatment plant but this can cost the city a lot of money. The second is to fine the companies that are releasing these high levels of nitrogen in the water as a way to reduce it. The third option is to ban the use of lawn fertilizers which are also big producers of nitrogen. My role as the intern for the summer was to research these options, find all the necessary information and analyze the data that I collect to come up with a clear and informed action plan.

During the summer I did a large amount of research to understand the situation and evaluate all possible solutions. I had to ensure I understood the environmental and human health impacts. I looked at and spoke to members from multiple municipalities to gain a better understanding of how they handle excess nitrogen in their water. I also researched on which sectors are the major producers of nitrogen (whether industrial, commercial or residential). At the end of it I created a report containing all the data I found and made recommendations I saw fit.

As a result of all this, I have acquired and deepened my knowledge of water quality and waste water treatment. I learned about the specific types of water treatments existent and what they are used for, and which pollutants are treated with which types of treatments. I gained insight in the decision making process on how policies are made related to the data I collected and analyzed. By attending meetings and discussing the matter with colleagues, it helped me uncover the makings of environmental policies and decisions. I did not expect it to be so complicated, but bureaucracy is very complex and important decisions such as this have to pass through many channels before a conclusion is chosen.

I improved my writing skills as I was required to synthesize large amounts of data and present my findings and make recommendations based on what I found. I am proud of all that I have accomplished this summer. I worked fairly independently and produced a report I didn’t think I could ever do. I had a lot of help from my supervisors and colleagues and am grateful for this learning opportunity and experience. I would strongly recommend doing an internship like this to students that are interested in working in the environment and helping solve real life problems.
This summer I did my internship under the supervision of Dr. Mark Lefsrud in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus of McGill. The propose of my project was to develop a system which could enable a plant to vibrate and emit audible frequencies.

Through this internship I learnt how to collect appropriate data and got a better understanding of what it is like to be a graduate student leading an experiment. I learnt how to solder and use several machines at the shop. I have equally gained skills in electronics due to the fact that I had to create my own circuit for my experiment. I developed new skills such as soldering and welding and so I am now able to create my own circuit by myself and create voltage regulators and off-set weights.

I was faced with a lot of technical challenges at first since I am only most adept at theoretical practices. But applying and putting into practice the knowledge you I gained over the years in bioresource engineering was very rewarding. The main issue was using the machines at the shop and feeling dependent of Scott when I needed to cut metal or use the soldering gun. I overcame this challenge by slowly building my confidence and using this equipment more often. The challenge of creating a system was also stressful but by trusting my instincts and trying new things continuously forced me to be creative and come out with better solutions.

The greatest success I had this summer was when I got a 5V adapter and was able to have my full system running at a 30000 rpm. This meant I was able to target an audible frequency and that the experiment would succeed. On a personal level I have accomplished a lot of hands on knowledge. On a professional front I think I got a good exposure on how to lead an experiment and to figure out all the necessary steps to explain variables and concepts with regards to an ongoing study.

This internship was very rewarding as it was very hands-on and I worked independently. My supervisors and teammates were also very helpful and so I am grateful for this opportunity and experience. I would highly encourage students to pursue internships as they are a great building block to test driving potential careers.
This summer I worked with Dr. Adamowski and Dr. Khalil on the dew water harvesting project in the Department of Bioresource Engineering at Macdonald Campus of McGill. My job comprised mainly of editing papers, conducting research, and performing data analysis. Dew water harvesting project is an on campus research project that promote sustainable water systems and educates students and the public about water conservation and dew water harvesting. There are 12 units set up near the Macdonald campus workshop.

Through this internship, I was able to gain knowledge on water quality and the dew water harvesting system. I was able to explore the various currently-available water harvesting systems on the market as well as their possible applications to address the global issue that is water scarcity. Although I did not witness a final ready-to-market product, I was able to gain better understanding of the process of how research is translated into real-world applications. While editing various papers under review for publication, I was able to study the critiques made from professionals; I hope to improve my writing by applying these insightful critiques to my own papers in the future. Additionally, I was able to better understand the process of publishing a paper.

I was able to acquire new skills on Microsoft excel through data analysis; specifically, pivot tables and wind rose graphs. These are useful skills which I will employ in the future. I also further developed organizational and multitasking skills while dealing with extensive data sets. Working independently for the majority of my internship had its benefits and challenges. I was lucky to have had the freedom to schedule my day rather than having set office hours. However, this also posed as my greatest challenge which was managing my time to meet expectations. I had to manage my time appropriately and efficiently to meet targets and deadlines.

Aside from gaining knowledge and new skill sets, this internship provided me the opportunity to coauthor a paper under review for publishing. I am proud to have made a contribution considerable enough to be added as a coauthor. I look forward to seeing the paper published in a few months. I have greatly enjoyed and benefited from working with both Dr. Adamowski and Dr. Khalil and would highly recommend an opportunity like this to other students looking for internships.
This summer I did my internship at Mars Chocolate China. Mars Chocolate is one of China’s leading chocolate manufacturers. They are committed to producing the highest quality chocolate and adhere to a rigorous food safety and quality management system. I worked in the Quality & Food Safety Lab under the R & D department. My main responsibilities were quality assurance of the raw materials, semi-finished products and end products.

For the first two weeks, I was assigned to the sample receiving room, as a sample receive assistant. My main duty there was to receive the samples arrived in, then classify and assign them to Physics & Chemistry lab/Micro lab according to the test categories. Since my major is more relevant to Chemistry, I was then assigned to Physics & Chemistry lab to assist those senior lab technicians in our lab. I helped them with the daily routine tests (lipid, protein, FFA and moisture determination tests), making sure all the results meet the product release requirement. All those food analysis principles that I learned in school made it easier for me to understand the procedures used by Mars.

Besides the lab work, I was also responsible for organizing a Quality Assurance department annual award with my colleagues. I designed all promotion posters and survey. This made me realize how important the social aspect is to your job. In addition to gaining professional skills, I learned how important it is to get along with my colleagues and fit within the organization.

After this internship at Mars Chocolate, I have become more skilled in both lab work and interpreting results. For example, I learned how to use liquid dispenser, equipment associated with Karl-Fisher and Soxhlet machine. Now I know the importance of Quality control and assurance to food products and why we are doing it.

I would highly recommend doing an internship to students to do at least one during their time in university. Internships are like a bridge that can link coursework with the real industry, which allows you to gain experience, network with professionals and find what you really want to do in the future.
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