



Name: **Mai Tran**

Age: **20**

Level (sophomore, junior, etc): **Junior**

Major: **Political Science**

Hometown: **Jacksonville, FL (born in Saigon, Vietnam). My father was a refugee from the Vietnam War. Our family was reunited after five years of separation. My father left when I was 3 months old. I have lived in Jacksonville ever since.**

Internship Opportunity: **Hillary for President Campaign**

### Interview

How did you learn about the internship and what motivated you to pursue it?

**During an Honors Society meeting, students learned about the potential study abroad programs and internship opportunities. My attention was drawn towards a slide that included a description of The Washington Center program and an image of Capitol Hill. I knew instantly that I wanted to go on the trip. I contact Mary Borg, UNF's Undergraduate Enrichment Director and close mentor, to discuss details. I then contacted Nancy Soderberg, former Ambassador to the UN who I had been helping to write her most recent book. Their encouraging words helped to strengthen my desire to pursue this internship opportunity. Their letters of recommendation also aided immensely in my placement process.**

Tell me about the goals and objectives you set to achieve before you started your work.

**Many of my academic goals were defined by my Learning Objective Statement which included understanding the campaign process, identifying techniques used to create an effective campaign, and better understand Senator Clinton's views and compare those views to other presidential candidates. My professional or personal goals were initially not as precisely defined. I wanted to learn something new, test the waters, and travel. I wanted to refine my career goals and establish my independence.**

Tell me a little bit about the projects you worked on and what your responsibilities consisted of?

**I worked for the Hilary for President Mid-Atlantic Finance team. My duties included, but were not limited to, staffing fundraising events, writing biographies, recording contributions, and extracting and vetting donor lists. I also responded to fan mail, distributed fundraising packages and chum, sold tickets and attended the Senator's Congressional Luncheons on Capitol Hill.**

What was the most surprising or unanticipated thing you learned?

**I would have never thought that an internship could so greatly influence my own personal growth. I entered the program with the assumption that this was an academic and professional stepping stone. I found out that the experience was just that and so much more. I don't think anyone can put a price on the opportunities that I have had working on such a historical campaign right from the center of Washington, DC. It was the experience of a lifetime- living and working in the nation's capital surrounded by our country's strongest and most influential leaders.**

Did the internship change your course of education at all? If so, how?

**No, if anything, it confirmed that the path that I am on is the right one for me.**

What advice or insight would you offer to other students considering an internship or transformation learning opportunity?

**I would definitely encourage students to find internships at home or abroad to gain the experience they need in their fields. Internships offer students a great network of role models that can help them get where they want to be, while building confidence and character. To UNF students, you are young and you are attractive! Never be hesitant to get out there and make a difference in the world. Touch lives and leave your legacy.**

What lies ahead for you now that you have completed the internship?

**Now that I have completed my internship with the Senator, I continue to follow the progression of her presidential campaign in anticipation of the results towards which we have worked so hard. I plan to continue my education at the University of North Florida and apply for admission to Law School. I am in the process of writing my Undergraduate Thesis on addressing the characteristics of voting behavior in relation to entertainment and will continue to work with Mary Borg towards those efforts. I look forward to reading Nancy Soderberg's newest book, for which I am assisting in researching immigration and global warming issues. I definitely seek to take best advantage of my remaining year at the University of North Florida.**