



Communication Student Goes For The Gold With Internship

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Tucker Horne stands in front of a countdown clock to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver.

Tucker Horne, a senior majoring in communication at Western Carolina University, won the college intern equivalent of a gold medal after earning a position working with Canada's largest private television broadcast company as it covers the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

Horne, who is working with an Olympics reporter for CTV, is in Canada from January through March, posting daily blogs of what he calls his dream experiences, while also completing an internship required for graduation.

For Horne, the internship is exactly what he was seeking. He wanted to get experience in local broadcast news and be part of the excitement of the Olympics, so he looked for opportunities with local news organizations in Vancouver.

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As part of his internship responsibilities, Horne has taken calls about news tips, participated in news planning discussions, assisted with interviews and monitored news wires.

"I really enjoy the people I'm working with. They are very talented," he said. "I'm answering lots of phone calls and going out to do interviews when reporters don't have time. I'm also helping decide what makes it to air and what does not." Horne said he is most excited to watch the long-track speed skating and aerials while at the Olympics this semester.

In May, Horne will be graduating with a degree in communication with concentrations in both broadcasting and journalism. From Huntersville, Horne graduated from North Mecklenburg High School in 2007. He is the son of John and June Horne, who both graduated from WCU in 1973.

Like Horne, many communication students at WCU are broadening their scope of internship opportunities, said Don Connelly, head of the communication department at WCU.

"A required professional internship gives Tucker and other students an open spectrum of competitiveness when entering the business world. It also influences high school students to attend WCU for opportunities such as this," Connelly said. "Tucker will get great experience at an internship that will build on what he has been learning at Western Carolina. We encourage our students to do their professional internships in the largest market they can."

Check out Horne's blog about his Olympic experience at www.ctvtucker.wordpress.com.

For more information about the communication department, contact Connelly at 828-227-3851 or visit communication.wcu.edu.