

M&T Intern Fellowship Report – Vivian Ge

This summer I worked part time at Gridless, a startup led by M&T alumnus Jason Halpern. I first heard of Gridless in one of the OCR emails sent out by Jaime in the spring semester and thought it posed a unique opportunity for someone like me who had no work experience and wanted to see the different career paths available. After emailing Jason about the opportunity, he was able to work out a schedule that allowed me to experience life at Gridless as well as maintain the other commitments I had.

Aside from me, there were five other M&T underclassmen interning at Gridless this summer. On the days I dedicated to Gridless assignments, I worked in conjunction with the other interns to accomplish various projects for the team. These ranged from looking into other firms in the same market to estimating the costs of maintaining the business. Doing all of these tasks gave us insight into the behind the scenes work necessary to make a startup successful and running. Aside from just creating an innovative product, there was so much work necessary to figure out the best way to fit the product into the existing market.

Other than the work, the environment of a small startup is something that was new to me. Gridless is a fairly small group where the interns this summer nearly comprised half of the people there. I think the small feel of the group made everyone feel as if the work we were doing actually had an impact on the company and the fact that we weren't doing individualized assignments but instead collaborating made the work much more exciting.

Overall, I may not be sure whether or not startups are the right path for me to go in the future, but this experience definitely gave me an idea of what to expect if I do decide to pursue this career path.