

## Introduction

During my year-long internship with Colonial Life, I was assigned to the Business Planning and Technical Strategy department. This team concentrates on project management and the planning of future technological initiatives. The experience has been incredibly rewarding so far, and I am thankful for the opportunities that have presented themselves because of this position. Because of this experience, I believe that Project Management is an integral part of every company and is an important field that should be taught at universities.

## Job Experiences

Being in the unique position of the internship I am in, and my fantastic manager, I have gained experience in several different roles that are present in most Project Management departments. These are some of the positions that I have held:

- Product Manager
- Product Owner
- Business Analyst
- SAFe Scrum Master

Within these positions, I have had a plethora of responsibilities. Here are a few:

- Leading Scrum ceremonies and removing team impediments
- Analyzing while providing metrics regarding team health and production
- Coaching in best practices for our agile project management tool
- Lead continuous development discussions and brainstorming

## Motivation

During my sophomore year, I was starting to have doubts about my commitment to my major (Biology). It was that year that I decided to take an Information Science class in order to satisfy one of my core requirements. However, that class ended up having a substantial impact on not only my current studies, but also on my career goals.

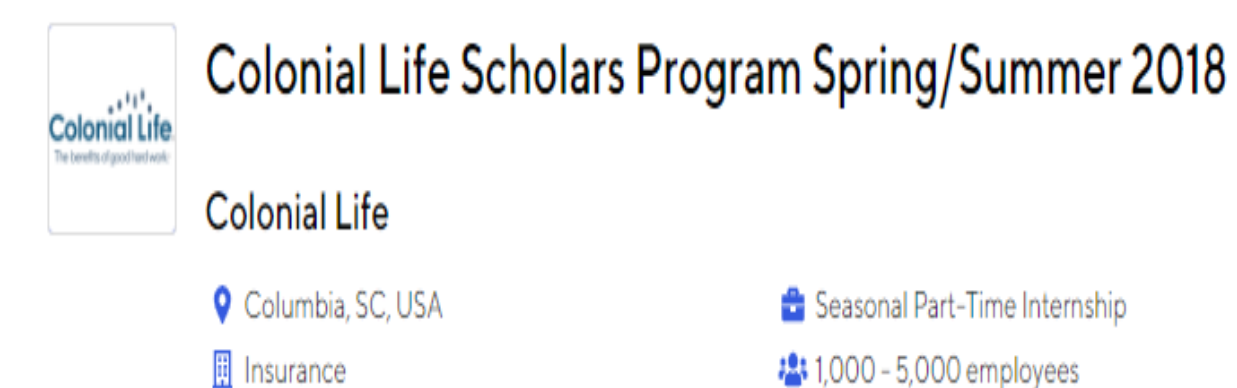
After becoming enthralled in Information Science, it became clear that it was my passion, and that a career in a similar field would fit my skillset and desires. When it was time to look for an internship for the summer of 2018, I utilized Handshake, a service provided here at the University of South Carolina. It was in Handshake that I found the Colonial Life Scholars Program. After a phone interview, I was called in to interview for a second time. During my second interview, I was questioned by what would end up being my boss and co-worker. The interview went incredibly well, and the next day I was contacted with a job offer. This began my stint with Colonial Life.



Colonial Life building here in Columbia, SC. Colonial Life has been a part of the Columbia community since 1937.



Davis College is the home to Information Science at the University of South Carolina.



Colonial Life Scholars Program Spring/Summer 2018

Colonial Life

Columbia, SC, USA      Seasonal Part-Time Internship

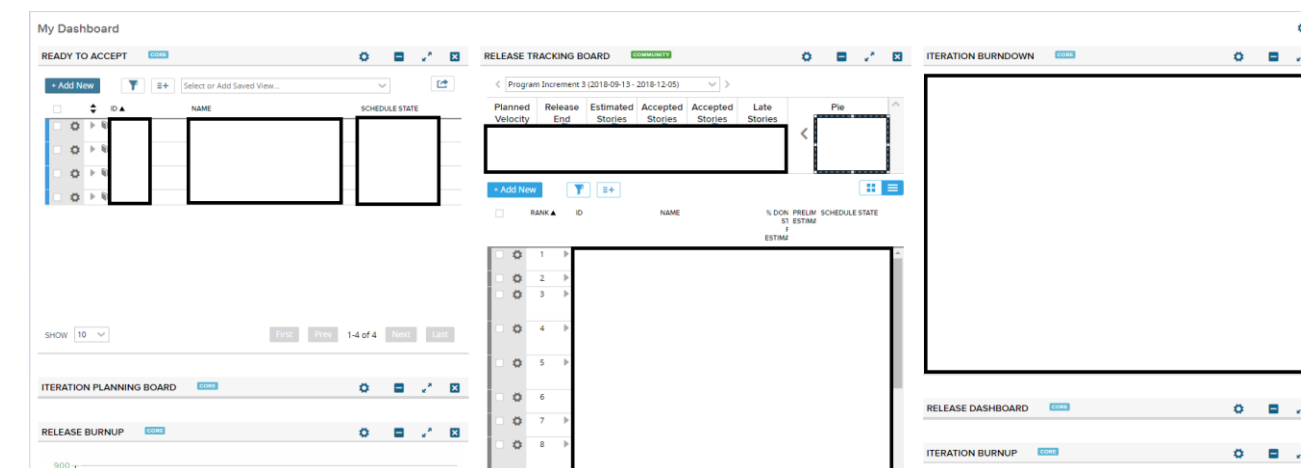
Insurance      1,000 - 5,000 employees

Handshake posting which caught my eye

## Reflection

Project Management is integral to the success and longevity of a company. This department works on upgrading, updating, and improving all facets of their company. I have grown to love this field and I am aiming to have a career in Project Management, while also contributing and growing the career and Information Science field.

Below are some images from projects or tools I have worked on.



This is a screenshot from our project management tool named Agile Central. This helps us track work across many teams, allowing us to maximize communication and productivity.



One of the first events I was a part of was a Hackathon. We ran this event as a way to provide a creative opportunity to work on an idea of your own that would help the business.

## Significance

Project Management is something that every company invests in and looks at to improve each aspect of their company. Because of this, there should be classes designated and taught at universities that concentrate on this field. I learned everything from Scrum and Agile frameworks in IT departments, to planning and budgeting projects for the next fiscal year. The field is incredibly rewarding, and I hope to see USC invest in curriculum that would allow people to concentrate their studies in Project Management.

## Future Plans

My future plans with Project Management are limitless. I first want to work with the University and the College of Information Science to help develop classes, programs, or curriculum that would allow for people to learn about Project Management. As for myself, I hope to continue to grow my skills and find a position and company that I want to have a long career in.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Doctor Elise Lewis. Dr. Lewis has been an inspiration to me ever since introducing me to Information Science during my sophomore year. Without her, I would not have had the opportunities that I have had, but I also would not have found my passion. Because of Dr. Lewis, I intend to further my education in Information Science by staying for a Master's degree. I would also like to thank all the incredible people that I have met in my Information Science classes, who have challenged me in not just my education, but also in self-improvement and personal growth. My sincerest thanks to everyone who has made the Information Science college the greatest place on campus.