Mewbourne Oil Company Summer Internship

Established in 1965 by Curtis Mewbourne, Mewbourne Oil Company continuously represents themselves as a devoted operator and producer of oil and gas operating primarily in the Anadarko and Permian basins in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. By focusing on these two extensive basins, Mewbourne Oil Company has developed an extensive understanding of the high risk and volatility associated with the industry and has advanced their knowledge that is essential in decreasing the risk for themselves as well as for their investors. The summer internship is located at their headquarters in Tyler, Texas and encompasses all aspects of the business, although most time is spent with the investor services department. My responsibilities included building return models in Microsoft Excel, updating weekly investor reports, conducting industry research and analysis, and developing a PowerPoint framework to be used for future investor presentations.

As previously mentioned, an extensive amount of my time was spent working closely with the investor services department whose job is to locate and secure possible investors to raise capital for Mewbourne Energy Partnership programs. Each year, Mewbourne Oil Company offers a single partnership to accredited investors that begins in May and closes at the end of August to invest in the production and exploration of oil and gas wells. As the intern, I have had the opportunity to witness first-hand the seemingly endless amounts of paperwork and phone calls from advisors and investors regarding past and future partnership opportunities, which helped better my understanding of the process of acquiring partners. My responsibilities were
aimed at increasing the efficiency of the investor services department, which ranged from sorting and handling subscription documents to updating sales spreadsheets. Likewise, a significant portion of my time was devoted to collecting and organizing quantitative data from past partnerships and formulating the data into descriptive return models. I found this process to be the most valuable to my internship experience because it furthered my understanding of financial concepts while also providing viable information for the company. Furthermore, all of my models were aimed to highlight the significance of their above average internal rates of return of their investments in comparison to those of other companies within the industry. Overall, my internship has advanced my financial knowledge through an analytical scope and widened my understanding of the oil and gas industry.

There were many benefits associated with my internship, one being that I was able to gain a sophisticated understanding of how the company operates by visiting with employees in areas other than investor services. The Tyler office includes over one hundred employees who specialize in areas other than finance such as geology, engineering, and land management, so I had the opportunity to visit with employees in all departments and learn more about the oil and gas industry from their perspective. There are so many moving parts and it is important to understand how each works and contributes to the company’s success. Moreover, there is a lot to learn, and even more to read in order to remotely grasp the significance of each part within the business. One aspect I noticed within the first week was how intelligent everyone was about the business, so it is important to not only ask creative questions, but also to be passionate about learning as much as you can.
Although I had previously interned for an oil and gas company, this internship was completely different than what I initially expected. I was able to gain a stronger passion for the industry, while also building my financial knowledge and skills that can be used in areas other than the oil and gas industry. The pros of my experience tremendously outweigh my cons and I have Mr. Roe Buckley to thank for that, for which I have tremendous respect for. He consistently took time out of his day to talk with me, and would go out of his way to pursue projects for me to complete. We had several great conversations, and I was able to receive some authentic advice that will help me in my final year at Sewanee and for many years to come. Mr. Buckley, along with every employee I encountered, genuinely wanted to help me learn more about the oil and gas industry and I am very grateful for their undertaking in that respect. Thus, my internship delivered a memorable experience that was tremendously helpful in getting me closer towards my goals.