2017 REPORT

MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative Internship Program
Internship Job Title: Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Analyst Intern

Internship Job Description: Sophie Chen spent the summer working at Eventide Asset Management, where she conducted research on the company’s stakeholder benefits and presented her findings. Sophie said her internship required substantial academic rigor, including reading 100 academic papers, to help support Eventide’s framework for finding companies in which to invest. “I also learned a lot of potential metrics and databases from the academic papers that are useful for the firm’s decision making,” Sophie said. Reflecting on her internship, Sophie said she’ll be taking away lessons on time management and applying academic principles to the real world. “My internship gave me a much better idea of how to leverage theoretical results to the real world,” she said.

Internship Job Title: Farmer’s Fridge Sustainable Sourcing and Operations Intern

Internship Job Description: Briana Pero’s internship at Farmer’s Fridge, a start-up focusing on easy access to healthy foods, likely changed her career. “My project at Farmer’s Fridge helped me realize my passion and has completely transformed my professional objectives,” Briana said. The company’s goal is to provide healthy food that its customers can trust. By building a map of the agricultural supply chain, and by locating sustainable ingredients, Briana helped Farmer’s Fridge identify the opportunities and resources needed to source more sustainably. “I learned how important it is to be passionate about the product you are working with. Knowing that I was helping provide healthy food to more people was extremely exciting,” Briana said.

Internship Job Title: Social and Environmental Responsibility Team Intern

Internship Job Description: Catherine Wright worked at Patagonia analyzing and visualizing data on worker wages in the company’s factories. Catherine looked at how Patagonia’s wages compare to minimum wage and living wage standards, to provide the company with insights about which of their factories need to rethink wage levels. By looking at correlations between wages and other key business metrics, Catherine could make the case for paying higher wages. “Patagonia is already a leader in social sustainability, and with this project, the company will set a new standard amongst its peer companies in the Fair Labor Association on the initiative to paying living wages,” she said.
**Internship Job Title:** Innovation & Corporate Responsibility Fellow/Intern

**Internship Job Description:** Over the summer, Lorena Pelegrin Alvarez developed an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) assessment tool for Iron Mountain. The tool assessed opportunities and threats associated with new product and business ideas; her focus was on Iron Mountain’s material issues, such as environmental impact, data privacy and benefit to the customer. Lorena began her internship with an evaluation of how the company used existing tools, and where gaps existed that a new tool could fill. She identified requirements for the tool, researched business cases for ESG advantaged products, and tested the tool with two key lines of business. Her internship takeaway: successful changes to long-standing processes require strong organizational networks and buy-in.

**Internship Job Title:** Financial and Strategic Planning Manager

**Internship Job Description:** Tejasvi Srivangipuram spent his summer with SPARK Schools, a start-up company that looks to bring low-tuition private schools to South Africa. He was tasked with analyzing SPARK’s financial model, including finding metrics about the company’s financial health and developing a method for evaluating strategies for the company’s growth. “I used many of the skills I learned in Managerial and Corporate Finance to think analytically about SPARK’s strategy and ways to optimize financial health going forward, particularly given this unique time in SPARK’s trajectory,” Srivangipuram said. Working at SPARK also taught him how multiple initiatives come together to deliver quality education to South African students. “Perhaps the most important lesson I learned is the importance of culture – everyone in the organization is incredibly friendly and genuinely passionate about providing the best education possible,” he said.

**Internship Job Title:** Sustainability MBA Fellow

**Internship Job Description:** For Erik Landry, the internship experience with the Sustainability Roundtable Inc. was a lesson in being proactive in a business setting. He was part of a team responsible for procuring renewable energy for corporate stakeholders, and he learned that often, a person cannot afford to wait to have all the answers before moving forward. Nevertheless, he still strived to support his decisions in the fast-paced environment with appropriately rigorous analysis. “It was very important to be able to discern technical rigor in a small team that is trying to be first to market,” he said.