

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



CHAMPLAIN
COLLEGE

At Champlain College, we are proud of our Alumni! We want to tell their stories and celebrate their successes. Our Alumni stand out for their professional accomplishments, contributions to their communities and beyond. We recently caught up with Nicole Egan '14 to see what life has been like since Champlain.

So tell us a little about yourself?

Greetings, I'm Nicole! In 2014 I graduated with a degree in Graphic Design & Digital Media (B.S.) from Champlain. Currently, you'll find me wearing a variety of hats at ESPN on the Creative Services team, but my official 'title' would be Designer I, Motion Graphics. This September will mark my fourth year working at the worldwide leader in central Connecticut, where I live and am originally from. I enjoy snow, coffee, eating lots of nutella, and traveling. I'm also just a girl constantly seeking a balance between screens and the outdoors.

Why did you choose Champlain?

I'll admit it - I wanted to go to college in a place where I could ski. Naturally, I was drawn to Vermont as a whole, being from New England and having spent a great deal of time there growing up. Secondly, I knew I wanted to study Graphic Design. At a college fair here in Connecticut, I met Nicole Lentine who was representing Champlain at one of the tables and ever so graciously welcomed my parents and I with kindness and warmth. Being interested in art and technology led me to graphic design. It was the perfect marriage of the two. I learned about the graphic design program, ended up visiting campus shortly after, fell in love with everything from the atmosphere to the upside-down curriculum, and the rest is history.

What did you like most about your experience at Champlain, academically and otherwise?

Hands down, my study abroad experience. During the fall of 2012 I spent a semester at our Dublin campus. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget, and something that I highly encourage everyone I meet to take advantage of. With the assistance of our Dublin professors, curriculum, and schedule, I had the chance to completely immerse myself in another culture. 75% of my class time took place outside the classroom: visiting museums, attending film showings, touring 16th century baroque influenced mansions, or stopping by to examine some geological specimens in Trinity College's research department. Not to mention the 4 day class week made it rather easy to travel to a different European country every weekend. It was here that I truly learned how to live on my own, developed a sense of independence, and thoroughly expanded my travel knowledge and skill set.

How has Champlain changed you?

In so many ways that it's really difficult to narrow it all down. Being from a small town, I feel that Champlain gave me a much broader perspective of my surroundings. Campus and Burlington as a whole felt like the first place where I truly belonged. I was also lucky enough to make life-long friends there.

Did you complete an internship at while at Champlain?

I completed a number of internships throughout my sophomore through senior years, but my most significant experience was a fellowship with local advertising agency, Kelliher Samets Volk. I had the opportunity to work directly with their founder, Linda Kelliher - as well as alongside a project manager to further develop their internship program. I was involved with a variety of projects, had the chance to work with and help hire new interns, in addition to collaborating with other employees on numerous initiatives involving marketing and design. Without a doubt, KSV helped me get my first job here at ESPN. It paved a pathway for success in my field and gave me the hands-on experience I needed to make myself stand out.

What is your position/job now? What are your specific duties?

Currently, I work for ESPN in the Creative Services department as a Designer I. To put simply what our team does, when you watch any given show anywhere on our network and you take away the anchor or hosts, whatever else left that you see is what we create and make possible. The animations, graphics, studio, set, music, and other forms of content are all produced by us. My specific duties and projects are constantly changing, but mainly at this point in time I work on the crew for the show, Outside The Lines. OTL is a live investigative series that examines topical issues off the playing field. I really enjoy my work on this show, collaborating daily and directly with the producers, host, researchers, and director to create topic-based graphics that you'd see featured in and around the studio, as well as on the screen itself. The other half of my day is then occupied by projects I am involved on teams with, led by art and creative directors. Recently, these have entailed developing designs, concepts, and graphics for new shows launching this summer on our digital streaming platform, ESPN+.

What's it like working in sports television?

Ironically, I am not the biggest traditional sports fan, but I really love what I do. I've come to appreciate the scope and reach of sports culture, how it can unite people and nations, and how people can turn to them in times of tragedy. As a whole, I would say that sports television is a male dominated world but surprisingly in my area I work with a lot of women, and I have had the opportunity to work with people from all over the world with diverse backgrounds. I strongly value being able to directly work with people every day who are from all over the country, and world. It really makes you see things from a different perspective.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

These questions always get me. I don't think life is something you make a schedule for. I try to keep my outlook simple - all I desire is to never stop growing, learning, and being curious. The most exciting part about the future should be that you don't know what it could hold.

If you could go back and tell yourself one thing on your first day at Champlain knowing what you know now - what would it be?

It took me some time to accept and realize this, but going into higher education somehow forced me to think that I needed to have a plan for myself, for my life and where it would take me. So with that, I would say whatever plan you may have for yourself - toss it. I never in a million years expected to be working at an international corporation when I was a freshman at Champlain. Back then, if someone told me in four time I'd be working at ESPN, I would have probably laughed at them.

What excites you about the future?

There is so much to see and do. So get out there, and do it!

What is one thing about you few people know?

I really value my time alone. I think everyone should at some point in their life, at the very least, travel alone and live alone. It teaches you a lot about yourself and your surroundings, and allows you to focus on your personal growth and development in ways that nothing else can.

To see some of Nicole's work visit: <http://www.nicoleegan.com>

