

Intro: You are on with Career Talks presented by the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech a regular podcast featuring students, alumni, and friends of the school offering advice to help you succeed in your career endeavors.

Host: Welcome to career talks a podcast service of the Academic Services Office of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. My name is Jessica Palacios. Today we are interviewing Madison Kelley, a fourth year International Affairs student in the Nunn School. Madison was a Fundraising Intern with International Rescue Committee, a New York based nonprofit, which has programs here in Atlanta. She will tell us about how these IRC programs are serving the Atlanta community and how in her role as intern, she supported them.

Host: So Madison, can you tell us about yourself? Where you are from? Why you decided to attend Georgia Tech for International Affairs?

Madison: Yes, so thanks for interviewing me today. I was born in Miami, Florida but I moved to about two hours from here in the north Georgia mountains about ten years ago. I am as Jessica said a fourth-year International Affairs student with minors in Leadership Studies and Global Development trying to utilize my minor in Leadership Studies to learn more and pursue a career in nonprofits or social entrepreneurship. I decided to attend Georgia Tech for International Affairs because I wanted to go to school that was going to challenge me and was going to prepare me for a career. I didn't come into Georgia Tech knowing that I wanted to do International Affairs but when I took the intro class and realize that I could combine this love that I have for different cultures and world government all these different things and use that to serve people, I knew it was instantly what I wanted to do and kept going with my studies.

Host: Why did you decide to apply to the International Rescue Committee and why specifically, for the position of Fundraising Intern?

Madison: So the position of fundraising intern was actually my second internship term at the IRC. My first internship term was this past summer and I was the Shop of Hope Intern. So basically we have this shop where people from the community will bring their donations clothing, household goods, things like that and the refugees can come get anything that they need. So I was in charge of kind of accepting the donations from the community and helping facilitate the shop and shop times to make sure that the refugees got these resources that they needed. I was initially drawn to the IRC because the IRC is a local office of an international nonprofit so you get the best of both worlds where you're you're working in such a fantastic city as Atlanta but you're also helping international clients. Their global message of helping direct refugees on their journey from harm to home was just something that's really important to me. So I would love to be able to be a part of that in my own city. While I was the shop intern and I worked on the resource development team. So I got to interact with the people in charge of fundraising and I got to get a little bit of training on fundraising because I was helping

out with a few things with that and I was really drawn to it and realized that it was something that I could see myself doing as a career doing nonprofit fundraising. So when I realized that I had time to do a second internship this semester I figured what better place to try to learn more about fundraising than a place that I was already familiar with, with a mission that I resonated with and with the team that I was familiar with.

Host: What were your responsibilities in the fundraising unit? How do you think your education at the Nunn School and/or Georgia Tech helped you prepare for such a position?

Madison: So I work with the development manager on projects focused on our individual donors. Within the fundraising unit we have somebody who focuses on individual donors and somebody who works focuses on and foundation grants. So I do a lot of database management for mailing appeals so we will send out these compelling stories in the hope of getting Atlanta community members to give and support the work that IRC does. I also managed in kind donation letters. In kind donations are like what we get to the shop, so clothing, household items of such. So managing the creation and sending out those in kind of donation letters for tax purposes. I've also gotten to help with some of the crafting of these mailing campaigns, editing those and just the general proposition of sending those out. Got to do a little bit of grant foundation research but my primary focus of my responsibilities is on these individuals donors.

Host: So it's full time then?

Madison: I work three days a week.

Host: What has been your most memorable experience with an International Rescue Committee?

Madison: I think the most memorable thing about working at International Rescue Committee in Atlanta is just getting to hear the refugee stories. So when I was the Shop of Hope Intern I got more direct interaction with the refugees because they were coming in and out of the shop and I was helping them get these resources that they needed. So I got hear the stories hear about where they come from and what they've gone through and just about their lives and how they're adjusting to life in the United States. For the fundraising side of things we take the stories that we hear and we try to present them and be as good of storytellers as we can to the community to kind of help compel donors to understand what these refugees have been through and help them understand why the IRC needs their support. So it's been really cool to get to. For our spring mailing appeal which I've been working on for the past week we have been telling the story of a girl name Petula. Her family came over I believe they're from Somalia and they were in a refugee camp in Kenya. All her family except for her came to the United States and then the travel ban happened and she wasn't able to come and join them. The IRC worked to rejoin her and her family together. It's a beautiful story. When I was the Shop of Hope Intern, I got to meet her mom and she is just one of those hilarious,

like sweet people you meet. So getting to hear the story of what the mom and the dad had to go to and not having their daughter being able to join them. Then getting to hear how they were reunited was a really cool story. C.N.N. actually did a piece on it where they followed the family around and got to know them really well. I also got to do an advocacy tabling event at a James Taylor concert this past summer which is really cool because James Taylor is one of my favorite musician. So we just got to like talk to people and tell them about what the IRC does. What all the different programs that we have are and hopefully get them interested in the work that we do.

Host: That's really exciting the things you have done

Madison: What?

Host: That it's really exciting the things you do especially since you are a intern.

Madison: Yeah, that's one of the great things about the IRC is that they value their interns a lot and so they give them real responsibilities and real work to do that does have an impact on the organization and has an impact on the lives of refugees that we are serving. it was an incredible opportunity

Host: And how old is Petulia?

Madison: Petula is, she probably is in her early twenty's

Host: Oh really?

Madison: Yeah, she's pretty young just so she just got her GED I think.

Host: How do you think your internship is helping you with with your goal to one day work for an international nonprofit?

Madison: So like I said earlier, the cool thing about the International Rescue Committee is that it's a global humanitarian organization. So they're doing work and a lot of these conflicts countries but the United States offices are more directly responsible for refugees resettlement. So it's it's an international nongovernmental organization with also community local offices in the United States. So it's cool to part of like two kinds of organizations in one. So I haven't gotten the opportunity yet to intern or work for an international nonprofit so this is about the closest I can get and still be working with international clients and helping meet their needs. So it's on that side of things it's been really great experience but also it's just taught me a lot of practical skills that I think I'll will need to hopefully someday go and work for a nonprofit or work in nonprofit management, just a lot of the administrative side of things. Those are skills you need to know like the harder skills of the actual work that you're doing along with having this preparation of knowing how to work with people from other cultures.

Host: What advice would you give students interested in applying.

Madison: So another great thing about the IRC Atlanta is we have so many for departments. We've got health and wellness, we've got resettlement, we've got adult education, we've got research development which is what I've been part of, a whole slew of other things. So my advice would be to first of all research the different departments, make yourself familiar with the different programs that the IRC offers and then apply. We take on quite a lot interns and interns get to do real work at the IRC. It may not always be super fun and exciting but that's the reality of the nonprofit world. You are not always going out and saving a life but the work that you do is helping save a life and helping adjust somebody who's come from horrible circumstances had to leave their home come to a completely new place place, adjust to life in this new city and become a part of not only the Atlanta community but the United States. So what you do on a small scale does actually have an impact on somebody's life. And there's lots of opportunities to get involved and so many different things because there are so many different departments whatever you are geared towards whatever you're good at there's probably a place for you at the IRC.

Host: Thank you for your insight into your internship with the International Rescue Committee. We appreciate your time

Madison: Thank you.

Outro: This has been career talks a podcast of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech brought to you by the Nunn School academic services this and other podcast can be found on our website at [www.inta.gatech.edu](http://www.inta.gatech.edu). Thank you for listening.