I had a very successful internship experience with the Denali Trekking Company in Talkeetna, Alaska over the summer. This experience was incredibly rewarding and fulfilling for many reasons, not the least of which was personal growth.

Not only did it allow for me to spend a lot of time in the mountains of Alaska where I was able to practice leadership skills and further my knowledge of the natural flora and fauna of the area, but it gave me a good sense of what I would like to be doing in the next few years after I graduate college and possibly beyond.

One of the greatest rewards that I got from this internship was the people who I met. I made friends who I may otherwise have never met and learned new things from them as much as they did from me. Although interacting with new people who you don’t know is often the most difficult part of guiding, it can also be the most rewarding.

I learned a lot about myself on each trip I took. I learned my tolerance level, my ability to make vital decisions, my ability to teach through experience, my ability to cook and to survive! Being in the middle of nowhere with no food for three days is not an easy task but it is incredible what the body can do on laughs and good spirits!

I will take this experience with me wherever I go – while traveling and in professional situations as well. Learning about your self is priceless. I will also take with me just the experience of being so removed from the rest of the world and being able to purely enjoy nature.