

AUMNIBUS

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

February 2014

Warhawk Issue - 10

The Future: A Wonder of Possibilities

Morghan Prude

What is intimidating for most people, students especially, is the insecurity of what the future holds. AUM offers a wide range of degree programs, but we all enroll with a common purpose: to learn, better ourselves and prepare for the next stages of our lives. In college, the pressure of having to decide on a career choice can cause a great deal of stress. Let's face it: thinking about the future can be a scary thing.

From my recent experiences, however, I learned that it doesn't have to be. In the carefree days of our youth, being asked "what do you want to be when you grow up?" usually brought excitement and the wonder of possibilities. Now, even though our answers may not be as far-fetched as an 'astronaut', a 'cowboy', or a 'queen', we should still have the same passion and wonder about our own futures. Passion is the key to realizing what it is you want to do, and though there are many other factors to consider when it comes to career choices, I believe that passion is the steady driving force to keep you focused on your goal.

Last fall semester, I was fortunate enough to earn the opportunity to intern doing something I love and to experience firsthand the power of doing work I'm passionate about. For me, that is cartoons. For as long as I can remember I've been obsessed with learning about animation and the process in which cartoons were made. I found myself wishing I could someday work on a cartoon, but the aspiration had been nothing more than a daydream; I never actually believed that was something I could ever achieve. I think one of the biggest debilitating factors when thinking about our future is undermining ourselves and not dreaming big enough. Thankfully, with this internship I was able to realize that I'm capable of much more than I gave myself credit for, and you probably are too.

For three months, I worked in Los Angeles for one of my favorite animation studios: Titmouse. The



Poster for the Disney XD animated series, Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja at Titmouse Studios.

Courtesy of Morghan Prude

T-shirt-shop-turned animation studio was founded by artist duo Chris and Sharon Prynosi in 2000 and now, almost 14 years later, it's a well-established studio in the world of animation. Titmouse has created shows for Disney, Adult Swim and many other television stations and is home to over 200 talented writers, directors and artists all working together with the sole purpose of creating amazing cartoons.

The show I worked on was Disney XD's animated series "Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja", a fast paced, action-comedy centering around a young freshman chosen to protect his school from evil. As a production intern, I was able to see first-hand all the things I had always dreamed about doing. I was not only an observer of the animation process,

but participated in it as well. It was hard work, from wrangling designs of characters and scenes to working on perfecting scripts, but through it all I realized: this is, with no doubt, something I want to do.

Moving to Los Angeles was as terrifying as it was exciting and being at Titmouse was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life. I worked hard, made connections within the industry, and found that I actually had a place not just at Titmouse, but in the world of animation itself. I gained a clearer goal and feel that my college experience can only further me in getting there.

When thinking about your future career and the current academic path you're on, sometimes feelings of doubt, inadequacy or even fear might arise. Finding that point where passion and dedication cross, however, will help you get past even the hardest parts of your scholastic journey and remind you of a goal that's not only achievable but closer than you think.