

As a sophomore in college, I am beyond grateful for the opportunities I have been rewarded. I have proven, not only to my family but to myself as well, that hard work pays off in the end. Coming from a string of hard working parents and siblings, I was always expected to do well in school and to stay “out of trouble.” However, my parents did not expect me to manage working a part-time job while balancing school and family time. From age 15, I have taken on more roles than my parents could ask for. I am proud to say that I have transitioned from high honors in high school to meeting the Dean’s List in college. The best part is, I am lucky enough to work along side of my family members throughout this whole process.

Not many people are lucky enough to see their grandparents, parents, cousins, and siblings every day like I am. Being in the pest industry has shaped my adolescent years more than I ever imagined. Being born and raised in a city that tops the charts for bed bugs, I have used my knowledge in and outside of the work place. As a communication major, marketing minor, and specializing in both Public Relations and Academic Internships I am confident that I can use my degree to better the pest management industry as a whole.

In today’s society, technology can either make or break a small business. Working at Valley Termite & Pest Control has taught me endlessly about social media and marketing. I have helped my family’s company turn mobile and tech-friendly which will be more convenient when customers are looking for an answer to their pest prayers. In addition, being in the office has changed the way I view our customers in so many ways. When a person finds out that they have an infestation, it can completely ruin a person’s life—until we fix it. People never understand how much these pests affect a family until their world is crashing down in front of you. There is nothing better than taking the fear and stress out of a customer’s lives and seeing complete joy in their eyes.

Being involved in the Future Pest Managers of Ohio (FPMO) has helped me meet other pest management professionals and has given me more knowledge on state-wide pest industry concerns. Sitting in on OPMA’s meetings truly helps me more and more at every meeting. It is so great that FPMO members can listen to all of the board and executive member’s meetings because it really pieces together many of the questions I have.

Working along side my family has given me the determination to succeed in the pest management industry. I have seen how my family has overcome many obstacles. Now I have a better understanding of how I will manage them myself someday.