Josef completed his three-credit internship with the Savage River Watershed Association. There he worked as the Social Media Intern. The Savage River Watershed Association is a group of local landowner and other citizens dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rural nature and natural resources of the Savage River Watershed by assisting interested landowners and public land managers with environmental stewardship efforts and education outreach. Located in Garrett County in the mountains of western Maryland, the Savage River watershed features exceptionally high water quality and provides approximately one-third of the drinking water for the City of Frostburg.

During the Fall 2013 semester, Josef helped map out and plan the next step for the Savage River Watershed Association in terms of Social Media. He created pages for the association on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr. He also gave concrete input on what the organization should do in regards to their website, logo, and potentially a slogan that could carry on with the association. He was even given the opportunity to design potential logos for the future.

While working with the Savage River Watershed Association, he was able to improve his communication skills and used the Communication Studies Program Learning Goals to guide his process. Josef explained, “The Communication Studies Program Learning Goals gives me an opportunity to figure out which goals I find most important. Throughout the internship, using technology efficiently, appropriately, and ethically to research and communicate an idea to various audiences was the most important goal. Since I have to do a bulk of my work on the computer, being able to express the ideas of others on the internet is a new style of communication that I needed to learn, and I feel I’ve progressed dramatically.” He went on to say, “I couldn’t have received this preparation in a better format and major. The Communication Studies Capstone Project really gave me a chance to have in field experience. Before I could showcase it for a professional organization, I had to learn it in class. The CMST courses prepared me thoroughly for my future. Remember, people will always envy a great communicator.”

For more information regarding the Communication Studies major at FSU, contact Dr. Elesha Ruminski, department chair, at (301) 687-4480 or erluminski@frostburg.edu. If you want more information about the Savage River Watershed Association, contact Kathy Koscianski, Executive Director, at (814) 441-2530 or kathyk04@comcast.net.