

FROM WCU TO TBS

Recent Graduate Lands His First Job in Master Control at Turner Broadcasting

By JOHN KENYON

When **Joe Mullins '08** started working in master control at Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta, he began a career that most in his profession do not qualify for immediately after college. "There were 100 applicants, and only six people were chosen for the positions. One had 13 years experience, two had nine years experience, and another two had three years experience," said Mullins "I was the only one hired who had no official experience, and I was also the youngest by about eight years."

As a student, Mullins earned television operator professional certification from the national Society of Broadcast Engineers. "For a student to accomplish this while still in school is outstanding," said Pat Acheson, assistant professor of communication and director of studio operations for WCU's Center for Applied Technology television studio.

Mullins also attributes the weight of his resume to the leadership role he took at Channel 62, WCU's student-run, closed-circuit TV station. "When I was with Channel 62, we went to a trade show, and I found an automation server that had programming scheduling software in it," said Mullins. "I got approval for purchase of the system, digitally stored all of TV-62's programming on the server, and came up with the operating standards."

The combination of hands-on experience and professional certification made Mullins stand out. "My production work, internship for Sony at the National Association of Broadcasters conference, and SBE certification caught their attention," said Mullins.

Of course, a person has to get a foot in the door to even be considered for an interview. "Pat Acheson took a group of us for a tour of TBS and CNN, and on that day I dropped resumes off everywhere we went. That led to the initial callback," said Mullins.

Although Mullins has a full schedule these days, he still finds time to return to WCU to speak to students about preparing for their future. "I still come back to talk to classes because I want to help students excel," he said.

