



# Jacqueline Olson

Dartmouth '07



East meets West in the globe-trotting life and career of Jacqueline Olson, who graduated from Dartmouth in 2007 with a B.A. in Classical Studies and a minor in Chinese. She not only studied abroad in China and elsewhere, but also worked as a T.A. in the Chinese department, ran the Chinese Dance Troupe and interned in marketing and sales at Market China, Inc. in L.A. And, like so many others at MBI, Jackie was able to put her previous wide-ranging experi-

ence to good use when she was hired as an Assistant Product Manager in the PCS Stamps & Coins division.

Jackie also studied in Greece, Turkey, England and Italy, and aptly interned at the State Department in Washington, D.C. She considered a future there “because of my love for traveling and understanding different cultures,” and gave serious thought to working in China. But luckily for MBI, she decided that she would do best starting her professional life closer to home with “a company that would keep me grounded while not having to worry about all the extraneous factors that one deals with abroad. Here, I can focus on my job and building a strong foundation in business, because I am not being distracted.”

The interdisciplinary nature of classical studies served Jackie in good stead when it came to both multitasking and weaving together such disparate strands as marketing, customer service, product development, packaging and shipping. “Before starting work I knew of all the components, but I didn’t fully understand how they all worked together. At MBI, you are not isolated with just one aspect of the business. You’re really seeing the whole spectrum, and you have to understand how changing one thing in a particular area later affects something else in the supply chain.”

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**“You are not confined to a single task; you’re really looking at a whole spectrum of responsibilities that tie into the ultimate goal.”**

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Jackie appreciates the free rein, variety and level of responsibility that come with the job, as well as being able to oversee projects from inception to implementation, and is favorably impressed with what she has seen of the career track here. “This position really pushes you to your potential. As you

reach that point, your supervisors recognize your achievements, and more often than not steer you toward even higher goals. Certainly the level of interaction with your bosses surprised me.”

While all Assistant Product Managers have certain responsibilities in common, Jackie quickly learned that MBI encourages thinking outside the box. “People here are very open to the idea that everyone brings a different strength to the

company, and such strengths are cultivated to benefit both the individual and MBI. While you may start off doing the same tasks as your peers, over time, each of you will begin to specialize in particular aspects of the business, while still maintaining the comprehensive understanding of the business as a whole.”

She’s even been able to capitalize on her vast China experience. In addition to working with Chinese vendors on a number of projects, which has helped Jackie develop formats that breathe new life into existing products, “I was asked to translate for a Chinese factory manager recently in a conversation with the management team of a sister division at MBI. They were having trouble working with their middlemen, and wanted to bypass them altogether and talk directly to the factory to get the facts. It was very exciting to put my Chinese to good use.”

Jackie notes that although MBI is a well-established company, with tried and tested ways of doing things, it is still receptive to ideas for new promotions and even entirely new product lines. “That’s why the company tends to attract a large group of young professionals. They like to bring in ‘fresh blood’ so that there is a constant influx of new ideas, allowing the company to grow in new directions rather than staying stagnant. It’s also comforting to have such a great base of bright young people because it helps with socializing and feeling more a part of the family here as opposed to being just another worker.”