

Taking Lehigh to the World and Bringing the World to Lehigh



Iacocca International Internship Program Student Report



Summer 2015



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY |

OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS



2015 International Internships

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2015 International Internships

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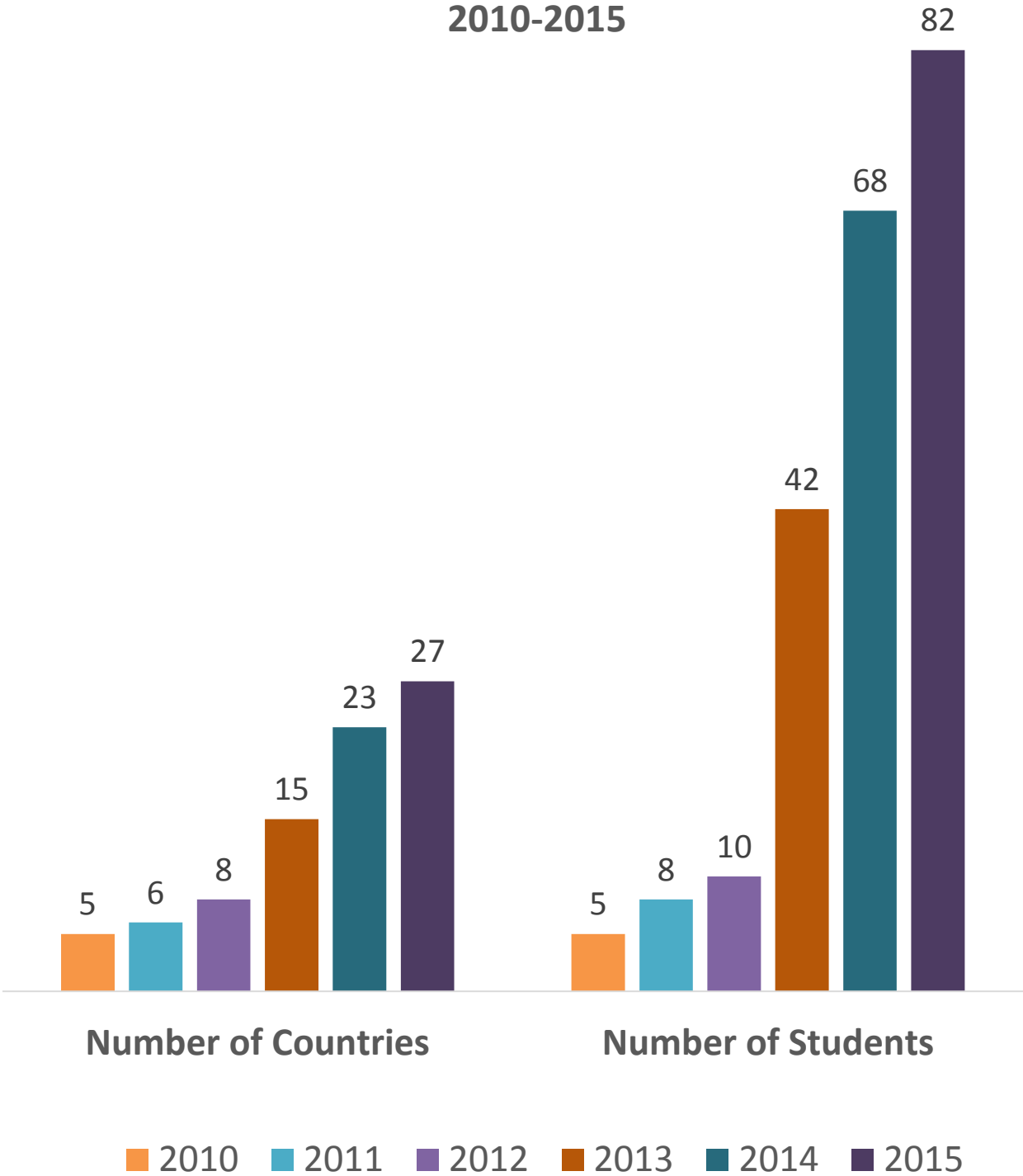
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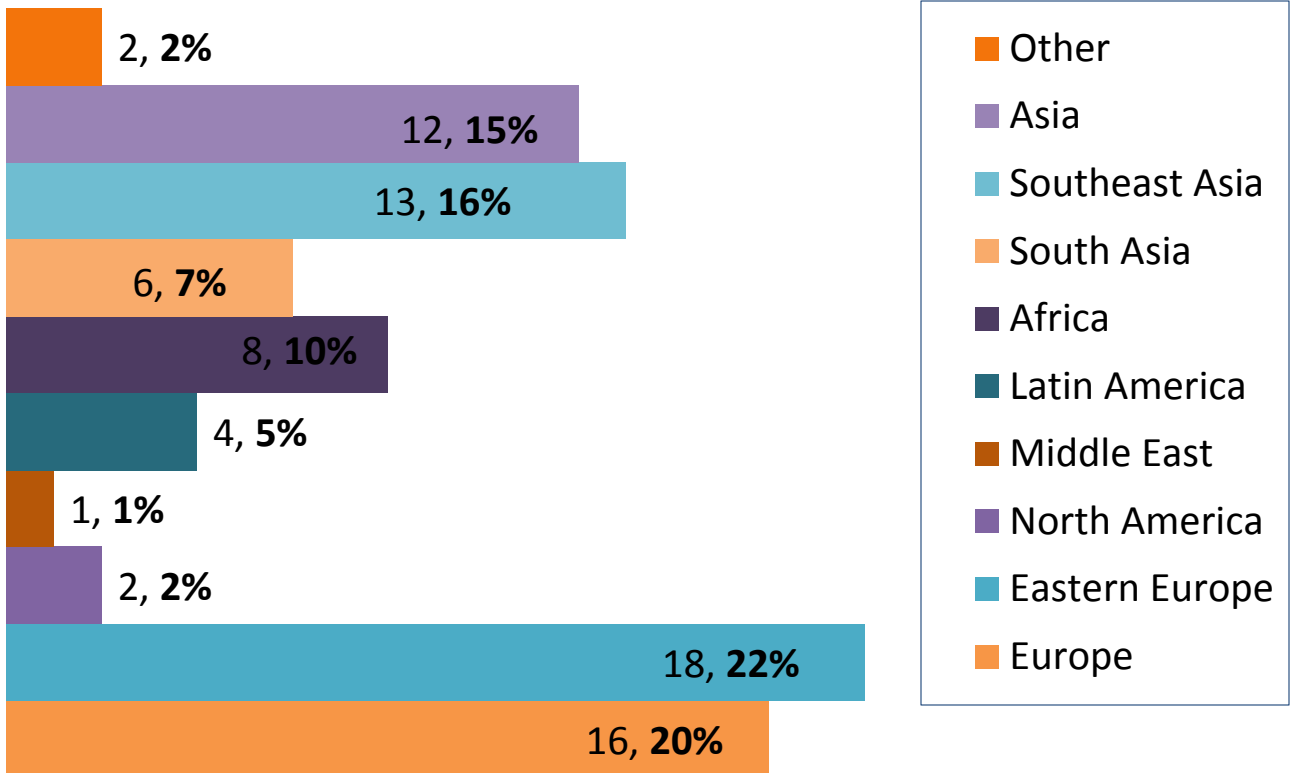
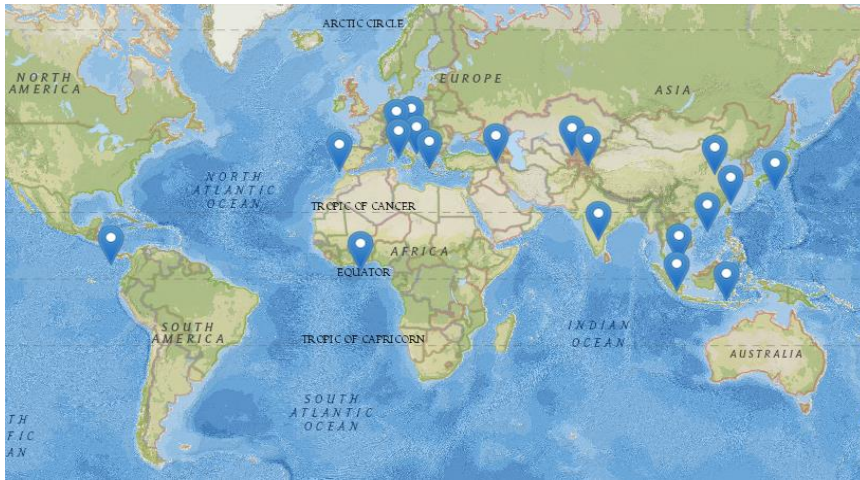
International Internship Program Growth

2010-2015



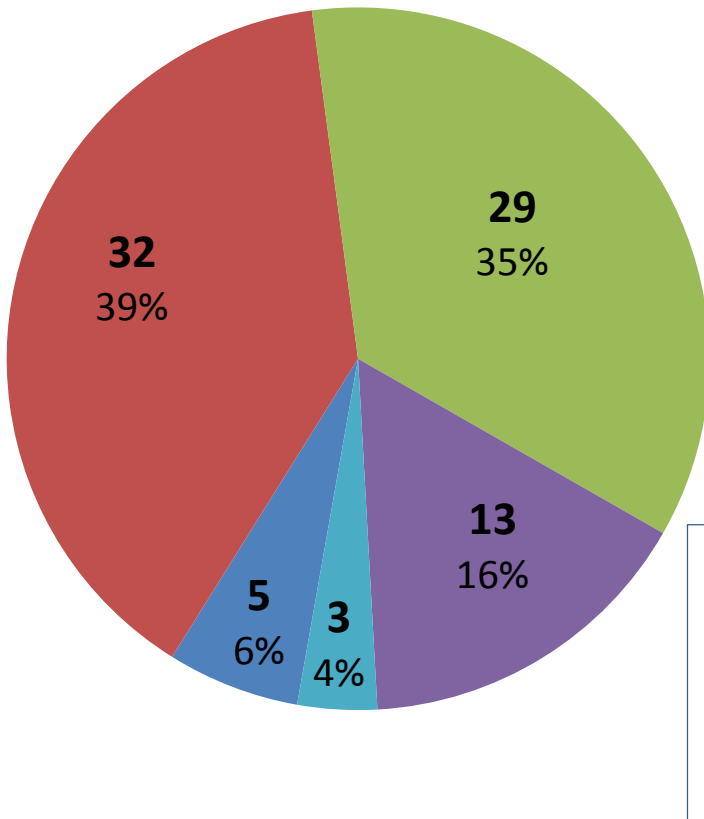
2015 International Internship Geographic Distribution

82 placements across 27 countries

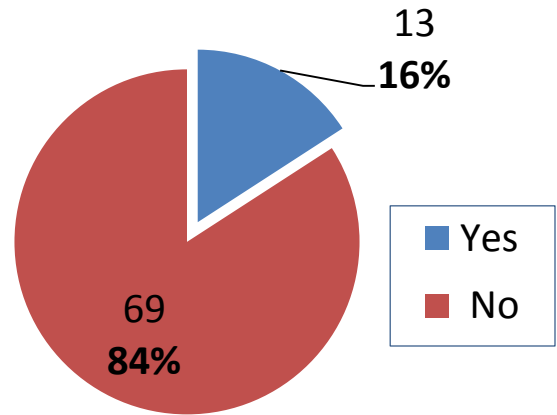


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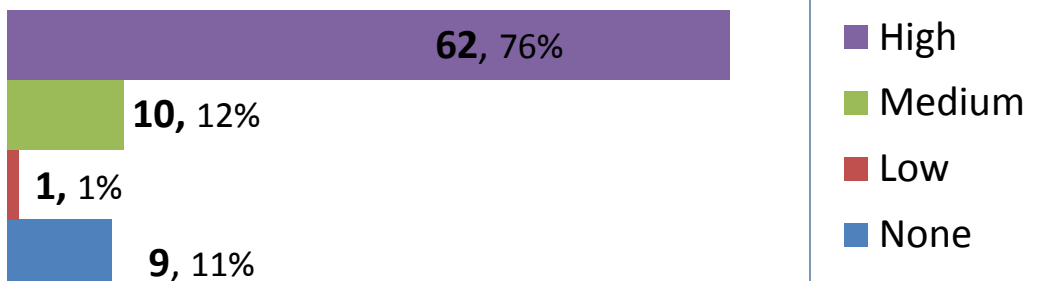
Student Year



Previous International Experience



Financial Aid Level

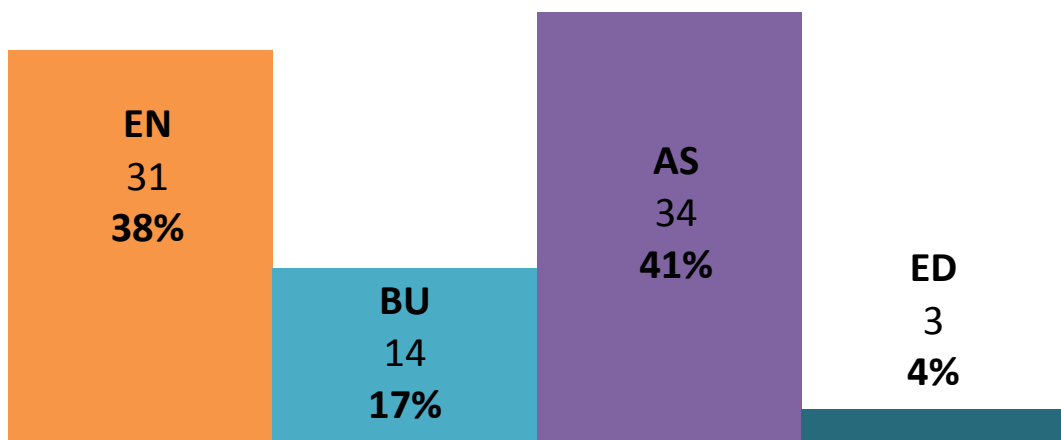


2015 International Internship Program Academic Information

Majors

Accounting	1	Earth & Environmental Science	1	Industrial Engineering	1
Africana Studies	1	Economics	4	International Relations	3
Behavioral Neuroscience	2	Educational Leadership	1	Journalism	2
Biochemistry (CAS)	1	English	1	Materials Sci. & Engineering	2
Bioengineering	9	Environmental Engineering	3	Mechanical Engineering	6
Biology	2	Environmental Studies	1	Political Science	1
Chemical Engineering	2	Finance	2	Psychology	2
Civil Engineering	3	German	1	Supply Chain Management	2
Cognitive Science	1	Global Studies	3	Undeclared (AS)	8
Computer Engineering	1	Globalization and Educ Change	1	Undeclared (BU)	9
Counseling Psychology	1	IDEAS	2	Undeclared (EN)	2

Colleges



Jessica Baier

Kyrgyzstan

College of Arts and Sciences

Kyrgyz Concept

Economics & Political Science

Marketing and Fundraising Intern



Organization and Position Description

My company is one of the prominent travel agencies in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. My division specializes in International Education, which ranges from high school academic year abroad to placing students in international universities for undergraduate and graduate studies. Other departments specialize in inbound and outbound tourism. They offer services for helping with visas, transportation, business travel, conferences, air travel, living accommodations, and relocation.

My chief responsibility was to prepare 20 Kyrgyz Student for an academic year abroad in the United States. I developed a comprehensive summer program where I met with my students for 90 minutes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Topics ranged from Culture Shock, to Emergency Procedures, to Money and Budgeting in America.

I taught the Kyrgyz Concept staff about Higher Education in the United States through meetings about scholarships, application processes, and financial aid. I also aided the existing English Club they had by preparing lessons about email etiquette in English and common English idioms.



Our final seminar, my students went to the national park, Ala Archa!



In the countryside of Tokmok where (friendly) horses are everywhere!

Jessica Baier

Kyrgyzstan



Yurts next to Issyk Kul, the 2nd largest salt water lake in the world!



The first restaurant I went to and had the national dish, Lagmon!

Value Derived from the Experience

The international perspective of being in both a Muslim country and a former Soviet country expanded my worldview more than I could have imagined. Seeing the differing views on communism, current powerful leaders like Putin and the president of Kyrgyzstan, Almazbek Atambayev, the global influence of Russia, and really everything from western medicine to Islam challenged my thinking and forced me to view our country and the entire world from a critical standpoint.

I learned I could step outside of my comfort zone by moving to a country I had never heard of and had to look up on a map. Overcoming nerves and fear of the unknown, I made a country in the heart of Central Asia my home. I learned that I cannot live in fear, that life is an adventure, and that I need to take advantage of any opportunity to explore the world and to understand it's people.

Lindsay Bailey

Moldova

College of Business and Economics

American Councils

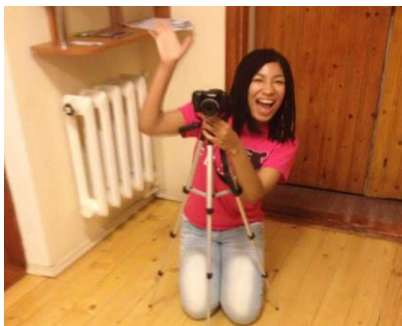
Marketing

Marketing Outreach Intern



Organization and Position Description

This summer I worked as a Marketing Outreach Intern at the American Councils office in Chisinau, Moldova. American Councils is a non profit organization that provides people in about 80 countries worldwide with academic opportunities to better acclimate themselves in a rapidly interconnected world. During the duration of my internship I was given the opportunity to work with some of American Councils partners such as Ad Astra and Career for Me as well as American Councils direct programs such as the American Language Center and the Access Program. What I did at work depended on which project I was assisting with. For smaller projects like the Access Program I server mostly as a counselor for the teens at the Access Camp while for bigger projects like Ad Astra I was in charge of filming and editing company events and critiquing their marketing material.



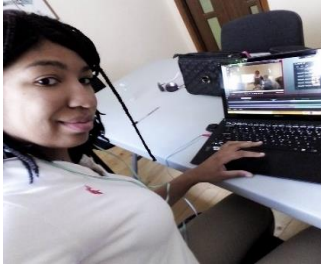
Filming B Roll for the Ad Astra Company Culture video. Now you see the woman behind the camera! 😊



Labeling my comments and critiques on all of the promotional material for Ad Astra and Career for Me.

Lindsay Bailey

Moldova



Editing footage from a Guest Thursday event. I was so happy on this day because I was starting to adjust to Lightworks!



Not all of my work had to do with marketing! During my time as a counselor in the Access Camp I got to do fun things like go rock climbing!

Value Derived from the Experience

My time in Moldova has taught me so much about myself not only as a employee, but as a human being. When I first got to Moldova, I really had no expectations because I had never heard of Moldova prior to learning about the Iacocca Internship Program. I did learn, however, that Moldova is a country full of potential and an entrepreneurial spirit. Due to the country's financial conditions it is hard for many Moldovans to create change in their communities, yet they do not let that deter them. I think if I got anything from actually working with American Councils, especially its partner Ad Astra, is to embrace that entrepreneurial side and strive for greatness. Not everything is going to be handed to you, so we must take initiative and find ways to better our community.

While I did learn a lot about myself through my work I believe I gained the most outside of the work environment when I got to experience Moldovan culture first hand. My experience interacting with local Moldovan culture was starkly different from my counterparts in that I am an African American woman. Due to my appearance I could never pass as being Moldovan. This made me stick out even more, even though I would have stuck out anyway because I speak English. If anything, I became an exotic figure of beauty to them. It was nice...most times. The men ruined it after a while because they are so misogynistic. If anything my trip to Moldova has been one of the greatest contributor to my self confidence. Who knew this country that most have never heard of could make me feel like the most beautiful person in the world and be accepting of that!

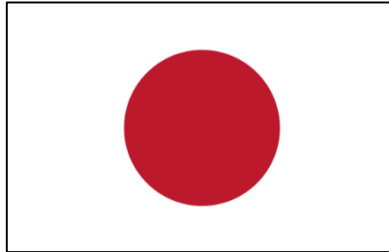
Philip Basnage

Japan

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Bioengineering

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

I spent four weeks in Taiho Pharmaceutical's pharmacology department as a research intern, developing hands-on experience with both the Japanese work environment and the lab environment. The first week consisted of creating my own structurally and chemically sound medicinal tablet: I was in charge of deciding which excipient powders to blend together to create a tablet that is hard, yet dissolves quickly in the gut lumen. Active ingredient amount, compression pressure, and environmental integrity were just some of the factors to consider to create good tablets. In the second week I worked in the toxicology department, helping the current staff with their projects. We ran and perfected RT-PCR, Western blots, and chromosome isolation. It was this week we also got to peek inside the virology lab. In the third week, I moved back to the pharmacology department, and worked as a research assistant alongside different staff, helping with crystallization techniques to create different enantiomers of splatast tosilate (an anti-allergenic medicine). We gave a small presentation at the end of the third week, explaining how chirality can drastically change the effect of a drug, and how we used SEM and X-ray imaging to detect different polymorphs. In the final week, we finished creating our own tablets (pictured below left). We ran dissolution tests, in addition to hardness and environmental testing, and coated our tablets. At the end of the fourth week, we gave a final 45-minute presentation of all our work and experience to the entire Taiho executive staff.



A small batch of completed acetaminophen tablets after two weeks of excipient balancing, granulating, hardness testing, and coating.



Warm water from the west meets cold water from the east underneath the Naruto Bridge outside of Tokushima, Japan, forming whirlpools 24/7.

Philip Basnage

Japan



The company cafeteria provided some of the most delicious café food I have ever eaten. For today's lunch: traditional Japanese curry rice and ramen noodles.



TAIHO PHARMA



The executive staff members of Taiho's pharmacology department. These extremely kind people were always there to help us acclimate to the Japanese work environment.

Value Derived from the Experience

I was honored to be one of the two students chosen to participate in Lehigh's first-ever international internship in Japan. From day one, the internship's main correspondence, Yamaguchi-san, knew how to make me feel comfortable. I was very nervous at first to use my Japanese with him and the rest of the Taiho staff. But as time went on, Yamaguchi-san and the others became not just familiar co-workers, but true friends. I could ask questions, laugh, and joke around with my new Japanese "tomodachi," as easily as I can in the US. This was the first time I've ever been in a country where I could speak the language (to any degree), and it made me realize how rich human history is; to have created such different, yet beautiful cultures all around the world.

In my time at Taiho Pharmaceutical, and my time in Japan as a whole, I was absolutely awestruck at how giving the Japanese are. Whether it was paying for my busy Tokyo subway ticket, patiently listening to my foreign Japanese, or inviting us to hang out on the weekends, my friends and co-workers would never show any hint of frustration: just genuine excitement for meeting someone new. Whenever anyone would speak to me, they would always try to speak in English, even though they are in their own country. This perfectly illustrates how humble Japanese culture is. This is a value not always present in America; the best I can do is integrate it into my own life.

There is not such a well-oiled machine quite like a successful corporate Japanese company, and in this way I may have been spoiled for my first-ever job experience. However I say "machine" with a large caveat: when I asked Yamaguchi-san what he looks for in new employees, he closed his eyes and said, "heart." The heart of Taiho was present every second I was in Japan, and I've never felt so loved in such a foreign place. This was truly a life-changing experience, and thanks to my time at Taiho, I know I will be visiting again.

Greg Casee

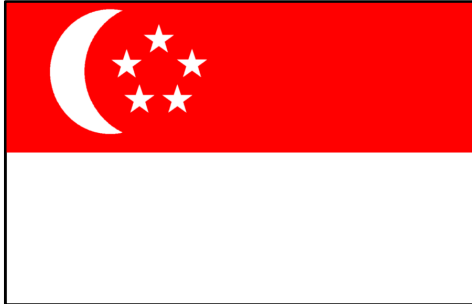
Singapore

Integrated Business and Engineering

3M

Chemical Engineering

R&D Intern



Organization and Position Description

3M makes about 55,000 different products with a huge range of applications. One can hardly go a day without interacting with many 3M products, either directly or as a component in another device. 3M operates in more than 70 countries all over the world. I worked in the Corporate Research Laboratory in the Woodlands plant in Singapore doing new product development. I was tasked with creating a new type of tape for a specific application. I often donned my safety gear and played with chemicals in a fume hood or other machines throughout the lab. My day to day responsibilities included solution and sample preparation, experiment design, and physical and chemical testing. I occasionally worked on other projects as needed, wrote reports, and give a final presentation on my findings. I often worked alone and was free to design experiments as I thought appropriate in order to progress towards our final goal for the tape.



We celebrated Singapore's 50th National Day (in the pouring rain)



Welcome lunch with the 3M team

Greg Casee

Singapore



The picturesque Lazarus Island and Gardens by the Bay (right)



Hotpot dinner with a very welcoming Malaysian family

Value Derived from the Experience

I gained so much both from working with 3M as well as living in Singapore itself. Professionally, I learned a lot more about what a research and development department does, as well as how it fits within the company as a whole. Even though we primarily work in the lab, we have to always be mindful of costs, supply chain, and scale up while the product is still in development. By touring 3M's Consumer Technical Centre, I was also able to see how the company markets the products to potential costumers. I also gained a lot of laboratory skills by preparing samples and designing my own experiments. Additionally, I learned several analytical techniques that can be used to analyze samples and determine their properties.

Finally, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with many different people with similar interests to my own. I got advice on graduate school, applying for future jobs, and I have connections within a huge multinational company. I certainly grew personally as well. Singapore is unique in that it is a hodgepodge of many different Asian cultures. Therefore, I was able to learn about many different cultures. From trying new foods, exploring the country, and interacting with people of all backgrounds, I learned a lot about Asian culture as a whole and the differences between regions. Living with only one other person in an unfamiliar country was a challenge in itself, but we quickly learned to navigate the country, eat the food with chopsticks, and live like locals without standing out too much. Every day in Singapore presented new challenges and was an adventure and learning experience like none other.

Priya Chokshi

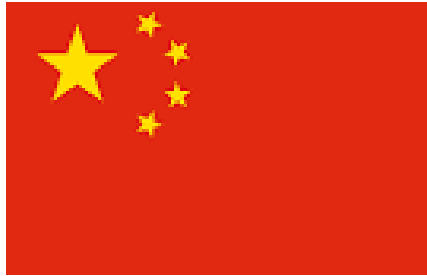
China

College of Arts and Sciences

Economics/Global Studies
Women's Studies

Becton, Dickinson and Company

Market Analysis Intern



Organization and Position Description

Becton, Dickinson and Company is a medical technology company that manufactures various medical devices and laboratory equipment. As a Market Analysis Intern, I was responsible for creating and updating reports that detail China's current economic environment and its impact on the healthcare and medical device industries. I was able to visit different hospitals and interview doctors and sales representatives about China's growth slowdown, widely referred to as China's "New Normal." We then consolidated those responses into our report to back up our literature research. We examined and analyzed not only economic implications of "New Normal," but also the political and social implications, such as equitable access to healthcare and anti-corruption. The company emphasizes teamwork, so Esther and I worked together on both major reports we wrote. At the end of the internship, we presented our final work to BD managers from various departments ranging from Finance to Government Affairs.



Esther and I presenting our final project to BD managers. The presentation was about an hour and a half long, including Q&A sessions



Me at the Becton, Dickinson and Company office

Priya Chokshi

China



Esther and I in Dalian, China on a business trip with BD. They flew us here, along with our manager, for two days to interview doctors at local hospitals



In Beijing, China at the Summer Palace

Value Derived from the Experience

This international internship has undoubtedly been one of the most rewarding and exciting experiences of my life. It's tough to live and work in a foreign country without prior knowledge of the culture and language. It's really about making the most of it and immersing yourself fully in the country and all it has to offer. We made sure to visit museums, gardens, and local shops. The experience taught me to be more self-sufficient by pushing me out of my comfort zone. I learned the importance of positive intercultural exchange and being open to new places and ideas.

I was able to expand my professional skills by sharpening my public speaking and research abilities. The final presentation to the BD managers was the biggest and most significant presentation I've ever given, and it really helped me understand how to communicate effectively in a professional setting. Our supervisor checked our progress throughout the two months of the internship and prepared us for the final presentation by treating every project-update meeting as if it was the final one. He asked us questions and really forced us to think critically and creatively about the work we were doing and how we could improve it. The research and writing aspect of the two reports taught me how to express my ideas in a concise yet lucid way. We did a lot of on-site research by visiting various hospitals around China and interviewing doctors and sales reps about the Chinese medical device industry and how the economic slowdown is affecting that. BD also took us on a business trip to Dalian, where we got to both work and enjoy the beautiful city! Overall, China was one of the best experiences of my life and the company specifically really helped me develop into someone who is more prepared for future endeavors.

Mikayla Cleary-Hammarstedt

Chisinau, Moldova

IDEAS

Environmental Engineering
/ Sustainable Development

**Eco-TIRAS International
Association of River Keepers**

Administrative Assistant



Organization and Position Description

Eco-TIRAS focuses their efforts on the Dniester River Basin, which is shared by both Moldova and Ukraine, who after the collapse of the Soviet Union were not ready to change their water management policies as their governments were riddled with corruption and flashier projects were more widely available. However, this situation began to change in the 1990s when eco-NGOs from both riparian countries, started to promote the idea of the modern river basin agreement. Now, under the Eco-TIRAS umbrella, 51 environmental NGOs are united from the watershed in working at overcoming the reluctance of the country's bureaucracies to address environmental issues. Current efforts in the trans-boundary basin involve the development of a joint monitoring system, the evaluation of climate change related risk vulnerabilities, flood mapping, increasing watershed coverage, minimizing the negative impacts of hydroelectric energy systems, the development of prevention methods of technological pollution, implementation of erosion control measures, and finally the elaboration aquatic biodiversity conservation. What is so impressive about their formation is that it was initiated and fertilized ALL by the civil society. On the national level, Eco-TIRAS is trying to promote good legislation mostly through governmental amendments. By working directly with the ministries, as consultants to the Prime Minister, they have the opportunity to send comments and suggestions on existing/proposed documents that concern environmental health, clean-up, etc. The majority in parliament however, supports the opinions of the corrupt democracy, rather than the liberal views of the Eco-TIRAS NGO.

My position within the organization consisted mostly of learning and helping with administrative tasks such as revising proposals that had been converted to English. However, I also researched grant opportunities for ecological restoration and conservation of the Dniester River Basin and wrote an executive summary report. I represented the NGO at EU Joint Civil Society Dialogue Forums on trade and sustainable development. And I facilitated the creation of an UN NGO Youth Representative position to continue contact with Lehigh University.



A few of my Eco-TIRAS coworkers on a get to know us lunch meeting at my favorite Moldovan restaurant, La Placinte.



At a conference providing a way for the civil society to engage with governmental officials regarding sustainable trade agreements.

Mikayla Cleary-Hammarstedt

Chisinau, Moldova



A pro-Russian rally I attended with my supervisor to advocate for increased environmental legislation- no matter who would be elected for mayor.



A preparation meeting for a group of students who would be attending the Eco-TIRAS summer school that I helped organize.

Value Derived from the Experience

I learned more during my eight weeks at Eco-TIRAS than I could possibly begin to describe. However one thing in particular that has stuck with me is that environmental work simply cannot be done on JUST the engineering platform. Government matters. Politics matter. You need to be willing to enter the game to achieve any broad results. To me, this realization affirmed that in terms of school, by staying in the IDEAS program, in which I integrate the Engineering school WITH Arts and Sciences, I will be much better prepared for real environmental work. For example, one day one of my coworkers from a different office stopped by my desk to drop off the briefings from the FOUR presentations she had given at a conference in Greece (on both the environmental situation of Moldova as well as their water treatment plans). Of course I asked her how her day was going and she responded rather positively! She had just received her certificate that she had gotten a level 4 achievement on her Russian literary exam. In addition to being a classically trained environmental engineer, she loves languages and studies MANY in her free time, because she understands how important they are in regards to conveying her work throughout many countries! I would be ecstatic to land a job as fascinating and interdisciplinary as hers.

So if this internship has taught me anything, it is never to limit myself, socially or professionally. I need to develop ALL the skills I possibly can, because the world is filled with many able-bodied people. The ones who are successful, both in terms of career and personal life, are the ones who are willing to take risks, go outside their comfort zones and gather as much experience as possible! I am so happy that I have had this very unique opportunity to grow. I know that I will be much more confident and knowledgeable for the next internship I may acquire. Because I AM much more informed on my areas of interest in developing countries that I was when I started. Since I wish to pursue Sustainable Development fields globally, having developed these greater insights into the very complicated issues that surround our Earth as a whole at such a young age is invaluable. Now, after this wonderful gift from the Study Abroad office, I am much better equipped in knowing exactly what kinds of professional projects I want to work on in the future.

Trevor DiLallo

Scotland

**P.C. Rossin College of
Engineering and Applied Science**
Mechanical Engineering

University of Glasgow
Research Assistant



Organization and Position Description

Founded in 1451, The University of Glasgow is a major research-led university in Glasgow, Scotland. The University is well known for receiving large annual research contracts and impressive historic architecture. The professor I worked under was working on research to develop the technology of biomass gasification at the time of my internship. During my as a Research Assistant I was tasked with creating designs for biomass gasification systems, the computer assisted modeling of these systems and prepare for physical fabrication of these systems. These were to be the systems then used for real time data acquisition during the system's operation. In addition to this main responsibility I helped out in organizing the two conferences being held by the university of the topics of biomass gasification and algae. A final report was provided by me to my advising professor on relevant considerations for future development of the gasification system after my departure.



Picture of Glasgow University from one of the courtyards



View over Edinburgh Scotland from Arthur's Seat

Trevor DiLallo

Scotland



Taking a tour of a scotch distillery to learn about the process and the product.



Hiking the beautiful Ben Lommond. A mountain that looks over Loch Lommond.

Value Derived from the Experience

During my time as a Research Assistant I gained many valuable technical skills such as increased proficiency in the Solid Works CAD program, experience with acquiring materials from other companies and using research and data to influence design parameters. These skills will be great assets to me in any Engineering profession I may chose to pursue.

Possibly even more important than the technical skills I learned I gained experience performing research. Discovering the methods of cooperation and culture of a foreign workplace was very interesting to me. It is surprising how differently cultures can look at the same goal and approach in such a variety of ways. Helping plan some of the conferences held by the University was a good lesson in organization and event planning.

From the experience of being abroad in the country itself I learned a lot about planning when we went on weekend trips as well as budgeting for those trips. This brought a greater confidence in my ability to be completely independent as I start to move towards my life after college. This confidence will allow me to pursue interests I may have otherwise been nervous or scared to pursue leaving the structure of college life.

Racquel Doherty

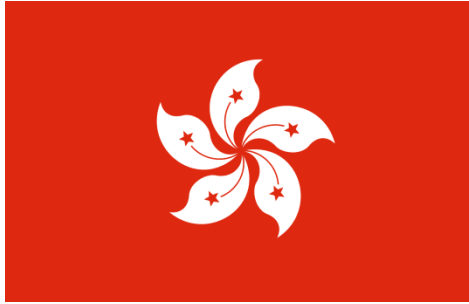
Hong Kong, China (S.A.R.)

Integrated Business and Engineering

Industrial & Systems Engineering

Hutchison Port Holdings

Operations Development &
Technology Intern



Organization and Position Description

Hutchison Port Holdings is the world's leader in port investment, development, and operation. It operates 52 ports in over 26 countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and North and South America.

My role within Hutchison Port Holdings was in the Operations Development & Technology Department. I worked alongside other Industrial Engineers to analyze terminal efficiency and layout. Throughout the internship, I was contributing to the larger scale project of creating a benchmarking report for terminal operations, which would be a standardized goal for operations among all HPH Ports. My task was to input real-time data relating to berth dimensions, vessel schedule, and crane efficiency, in order to run a simulation which would output the expected delay time for the vessels when arriving at the port. Then, I would vary the length of the vessels and the volume of each vessel in order to determine how these changes would affect delay time. Aside from my major project, I was also assigned various terminal layout projects using AutoCad. I assisted my supervisor in creating a new, more efficient layout for the HPH Terminal in Tanzania.



Overlooking the quay cranes at Hong Kong International Terminals while taking a tour of the MOL Bellwether vessel



Day trip to hike the Ng Tung Chai Waterfall Path to the tallest waterfall in Hong Kong

Racquel Doherty

Hong Kong, China (S.A.R.)



Looking down on the Hong Kong skyline from Victoria's Peak



Lantau Island's famous "Big Buddha" in Ngong Ping Village

Value Derived from the Experience

Personally, this experience has given me more confidence and a greater understanding of what it is like to completely immerse myself in a foreign culture. Having never traveled to Asia, I was skeptical at first about integrating into the culture. However, it turned out to be the greatest experience I have ever had. Not only am I more comfortable traveling, getting lost, and exploring on my own, but I also have become more open-minded and willing to learn about other cultures (and try new foods). Without any real guidance, my group and I had to plan excursions, coordinate public transportation, and navigate the city, which has made me more independent. Additionally, most of my coworkers were locals, and were able to teach me more about the city and the culture than I would have learned as a tourist. For example, one of my coworkers spent over thirty minutes giving me lessons on how to count in Chinese. I was able to get a sense of where the residents of Hong Kong stand on political issues, and realized the importance of understanding global events from different perspectives. Overall, it was an extremely enriching and exciting experience.

Professionally, this internship gave me the skills necessary to prepare myself for a corporate career. Working alongside other industrial engineers elucidated the importance of the topics I am learning in my classes and showed me how my studies apply in the real world. Moreover, I worked with a supervisor who would regularly evaluate my performance, and I had to interact with coworkers and fellow interns daily. I am now very comfortable in a corporate environment and have gained a full understanding of professionalism in the office. Finally, completing a group project with interns from other departments was a valuable lesson in cross-disciplinary problem solving. Each of us had a different background, yet we were able to collaborate effectively and efficiently in order to deliver a presentation regarding how HPH should tailor its communication methods toward the most recent, technologically savvy generations.

Evan Eckersley

Singapore

Integrated Business and Engineering

3M

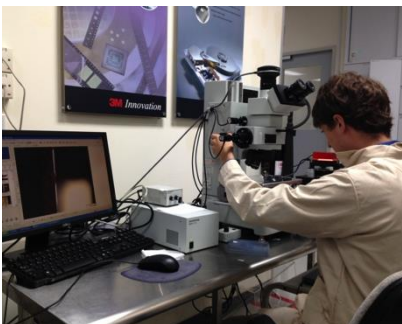
Bioengineering /
Business Finance

Research and Development Intern

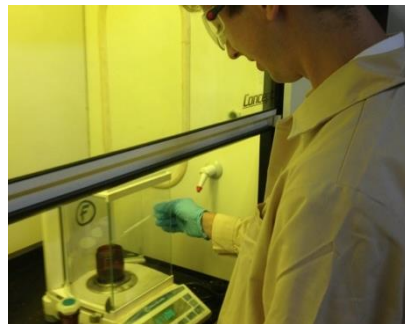


Organization and Position Description

3M boasts over 55,000 products and plays a significant role in the development of countless types of technology ranging from health care products to adhesives. I worked in the R&D division as an analytical lab intern. My internship began with learning how to use and employ the many devices found in the analytical lab, including the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), FTIR, Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC), and more. The first project I took on involved developing a method to generate a clean cross section and isolate the layers of a multilayer film in order to analyze the layers' compositions. The method I developed used a combination of the microtome, liquid Nitrogen, SEM, and FTIR to accomplish the task. I then used this method and other techniques, such as EDX, to collect data on 3M automotive films. At the same time, I worked on requests that desired morphological and compositional data of various samples. I combined techniques of FTIR, GC/MS, Pyrolysis and GPC to determine the composition of an unknown rubber sample, as well as two unknown adhesive solutions. I also used SEM to study the morphology and interaction of nanoparticles of a surface coating. Additionally, I used the various techniques to study 3M hydrocolloid patches. The results of this work was then used for purposes including competitive analysis, identification of reasons for sample malfunction, or generation of data for product development.



Use of light microscopy to examine quality of multilayer film cross-section for method development



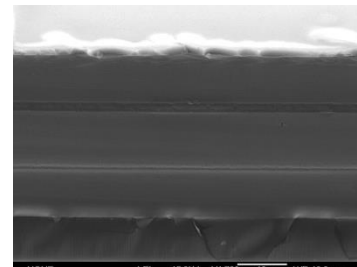
A number of different solvents were used to study the solubility of unknown samples. Solutions were then used for analysis by GC/MS and GPC.

Evan Eckersley

Singapore



Examination of surface morphology and nanoparticle distribution with SEM



A multilayer film cross-section, resulting from the method I developed during the internship

Value Derived from the Experience

My experience in the analytical lab developed my ability to solve problems while exposing me to numerous lab procedures and the broad scope of applications for those procedures. The hands-on approach to learning allowed me to gain proficiency in several techniques including SEM, FTIR, GC/MS, GPC and more. As I was learning such techniques, I was required to apply them in order to handle real requests for the company. These projects led me to become familiar with manners of data collection and presentation while working within a given time constraint. Additionally, the tasks I was given were open ended and required creative thought. For example, I was required to develop a method to produce a clean cross-section of a thin, multilayer film and also to separate the layers for analysis. For this project, I was not told what to do. Rather, I used the information that I had acquired and my knowledge of the capabilities of the lab equipment at hand in order to form an idea, develop a way to test the idea, gather data, make adjustments, and finally come up with a final solution to the problem. For this project and others, I felt that the work I had done would have a valuable impact on the company, since it would be used for future testing. This only added to my interest in the work.

In addition to the skills I learned in the lab setting, I was exposed to the overall operation of 3M and the connectivity of the different divisions within the company. I had the chance to meet with experts within other divisions such as manufacturing and market research to learn about how the multiple divisions collaborate to develop products and successfully release them into the market. Additionally, I attended a tour that described the history of 3M and its methods in innovation while displaying many of the company's products. Experiences like these, as well as many conversations I had with the employees, inspired my thinking, allowing me to understand and appreciate the real world applications of the work I was performing. Overall, the most valuable things I gained from the experience include the application and further development of my problem solving skills, the chance to perform work relevant to my field that will have a direct positive impact in the department's future, the developed understanding of corporate connectivity and collaboration, the rapid acquisition of new skill sets on the job, and the development of the skills to collect and analyze data in order to obtain desired information about a sample of interest.

Ashish Erasani

Czech Republic

College of Business and Economics

Škoda Auto

Finance & Accounting

Sales Intern



Organization and Position Description

Skoda Auto is an automobile manufacturing company based in Mlada Boleslav, Czech Republic. The company is owned by Volkswagen group and employs over 25,000 people worldwide. During my internship, I worked in the International Sales department which was responsible for importing Skoda cars to dealers as well as developing Skoda's dealer network in European countries. In the two months that I was there, I mainly did research on new unique ways that car companies could sell their products to customers outside of the traditional dealership model. Many of the new sales channels that I focused my research towards were on improving methods to allow customers in large metropolitan areas, where real estate was at a premium, to easily experience and purchase Skoda cars. I also worked on the rebranding of Skoda dealerships in Western European countries where our objective was to modernize their their whole dealer network in two years.



Entrance to one of Skoda's manufacturing plants on their Open Day



A Skoda Octavia in the process of being built in the factory

Ashish Erasani

Czech Republic



On top of a hill overlooking Mlada Boleslav

ŠKODA



Visiting Prague Castle on a weekend trip

Value Derived from the Experience

My experience in the Czech Republic was certainly an unforgettable experience and has affected me both professionally and personally. Working for an international company such as Skoda allowed me to meet many other interns from various countries such as the UK, Germany, France and Russia. Working and living with such diverse colleagues and friends changed my perspective drastically because I was exposed to new ways of viewing the world and also enabled me to learn about so many different and unique cultures. This internship allowed me to see how a major company like Volkswagen operates its companies and opened my eyes to how much work goes into the production of a single car.

I also enjoyed working in Mlada Boleslav, which is 45 minutes outside of Prague, because it gave me a chance to see what life is like in a smaller Czech Republic city rather than the very urban Prague. Living in a smaller city had its challenges, mainly due to the language barrier, but I enjoyed it a lot because it forced me to step out of my comfort zone and experience different foods and activities that I normally wouldn't have tried. Being in central Europe was also amazing because it let me easily travel to many cities all over Europe and experience the wide array of cultures that Europe has to offer.

Erwin Fuentes

United Arab Emirates

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Mechanical Engineering

DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Structural Engineering Intern



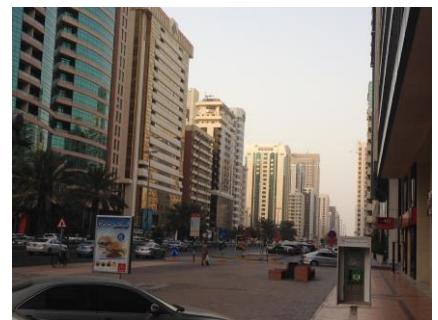
Organization and Position Description

DeSimone Consulting Engineers is an American structural engineering firm that specializes in the development of high quality buildings that include hotels, office buildings, and more. The company headquarters is located in New York City, but has offices around the world. Their diverse team of engineers allows them to attract and serve their clients' needs as best as possible, which has resulted in much success of the company. DeSimone's projects include structural analysis on all types of buildings from all project phases that include from the small medical clinic of ADNOC to the 24 story Al Maryah Tower.

During my time with DeSimone, I was as a structural engineering intern and was involved in several projects that included the Al Maryah Tower (formerly known as Al Hilal Bank Tower), the ADNOC clinic, and the Saadiyat Resort. I conducted site surveys, verified structural engineering drawings, and attended weekly meetings to discuss the progress of projects.



On the roof of the Al Maryah Tower, one of the deepest excavated sites in Abu Dhabi.



Walking through the streets of Abu Dhabi after a hot and hazy day

Erwin Fuentes

United Arab Emirates



Having lunch with coworkers from DeSimone.

DESIMONE



Desert oasis outside of Abu Dhabi

Value Derived from the Experience

In all honesty, my experience in the U.A.E was too good to be true. I did a lot of things in and out my internship and each day was always a learning experience, whether it was professionally or socially. It was a little weird at first since I was practically halfway across the globe and I didn't know a single soul in Abu Dhabi, but then again, that was pretty much what I wanted: to explore new frontiers and make the most out of them. It didn't take long to get used to Abu Dhabi and before I knew it, I had a weekly routine like any other person living there. I did things such as run, play pool, and of course check out the special spots U.A.E had to offer. From riding the world's fastest rollercoaster to going on top of the world's tallest building, it was all special. And let's not forget about the internship too. I learned a lot about Structural Engineering considering I am a Mechanical Engineering major. I learned how to read structural drawings, use AutoCAD Architecture, and learn about the structural engineering business in Abu Dhabi and how DeSimone deals with their clients along with the problems that occur.

Because there are many expatriates in the U.A.E, there is a lot of diversity in the country and there are different things to do for different people. The best places to hang out are the malls because they are just so big and you can do different things in them such as play arcade games or even jump on trampolines. One thing that I had to get used to was the eating hours during Ramadan because I had to plan accordingly to make sure I was able to eat when I could, but I eventually got the hang of it and it wasn't so bad after all. The incredible architecture of the buildings were unreal and the people there were cool as well, especially the taxi drivers. Yet my favorite part of the social experience was the amazing group of friends I made. Learning and getting to know each of them is something I can never forget and I enjoyed the great times we had together. My experience in the U.A.E changed my thoughts about the future and overall, just made me be more appreciative of everything I have.

Kate Hickey

Croatia

College of Business and Economics

Finance

Business School PAR

Program Development Assistant



Organization and Position Description

The Business School PAR is the first and only private business school in Croatia. PAR offers a bachelor's degree in business management and will soon offer a master's degree program as well. With a small student body and staff, the school is like a family. The work environment is very friendly, open, and collaborative. For my internship assignment, I worked on furthering PAR's international cooperation with Lehigh by assisting in a grant writing program for European Union funding. I performed research, wrote proposals, assisted with budgeting and feasibility studies, and gave presentations on my work. This project taught me about the EU's goals for education and the economy, as well as how the Union interacts with the United States.



Dubrovnik, Croatia



Plitvice Lakes

Kate Hickey

Croatia



Rijeka City Port



In the PAR Office

Value Derived from the Experience

Living and working in Rijeka, Croatia for two months was like nothing I have ever experienced before. Although I have travelled outside the U.S. previously, this was my first visit to this region of the world. I learned so much about the cultural differences as well as similarities that exist between Croatia and America. Working and staying in an apartment as opposed to a hotel really helped with our cultural immersion. We got to witness everyday life and pick up on norms, customs, and language that we would not have been aware of if we were vacationing and staying in a hotel.

As a part of our internship, we visited different organizations including the U.S. Embassy, Grawe Hrvatska Insurance, and the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning. Each visit taught me about doing business in Croatia and what it means to be a part of the European Union. We also had the opportunity to visit Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina during our time here. Seeing the different ways people live within Europe was very eye opening. Being exposed to a number of cultures this summer will undoubtedly help me throughout my life. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I was given through the Iacocca International Internship Program.

Katie Howlin

Macedonia

College of Arts and Sciences

International Relations

American Councils for
International Education

Youth Exchange and Study Intern



Organization and Position Description

American Councils for International Education is a non profit organization that provides international educational opportunities for individuals. Over the past 40 years, American Councils has offered programs in over 80 countries and 40 languages. American Councils has over 55,000 alumni around the world and currently offers a multitude of programs. The office in Skopje, Macedonia currently provides YES and YES Abroad programs to American and Macedonian high school students. The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program provides scholarships for Macedonian students to spend a year living and attending school in the United States, while the YES Abroad program provides those same opportunities for American students to spend a year in Macedonia. Working in the American Councils office in Skopje provided me with many opportunities to get involved with these programs. I prepared for the YES 2015-2016 pre-departure orientation, facilitated workshops at the YES 2014-2015 reentry retreat. Working on the orientation and reentry programs was especially rewarding because I was able to interact with these Macedonian high school students who were either preparing to come to the US or who had just returned from their year abroad. I also helped create reports about the students' host towns and schools, maintained the social media accounts for the office, and interacted with program alumni.



Facilitating a workshop at the reentry retreat for 2014-2015 program participants.



Celebrating my host father's birthday!

Katie Howlin

Macedonia



At Matka Canyon with another Lehigh intern!



At an Ancient Greek amphitheater in Ohrid, Macedonia.

Value Derived from the Experience

This was an incredible experience, and is one of the best opportunities I've had at Lehigh. This internship and overall experience allowed me to grow as a person, as I was routinely forced out of my comfort zone. Being half way across the world without my family or friends forced me to become more outgoing, spontaneous and adventurous. We adopted a motto of saying yes to any opportunity that came our way, and as a result we were able to attend some incredible events and make wonderful memories. Spending this time abroad, I was able to see and do things that I would never have had the opportunity to do in the United States, and even though going to Macedonia was taking a risk, it paid off incredibly.

Working in the American Councils office was another incredible experience. Interacting with the YES students and alumni was a highlight of the job for me, because I got to directly see the results of this program and how life changing it was for these students. I was also able to befriend many of these students and alumni and visited them in their hometowns when we traveled throughout Macedonia. Working in the office forced me to find creative solutions, as there were plenty of opportunities where I struggled with the cultural and language barriers. Instead of getting frustrated about these differences, I was in a position where I had to remain calm and figure out an alternate solution, which is something that will help me for years to come.

Having a host family was one of my favorite parts of this experience. My host parents were so welcoming and I immediately felt that I was a part of their family. I learned a great deal about the culture, history, current events, and geography of Macedonia from them, and they cooked delicious, authentic meals.

Katie Jennison

Luxembourg

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**

BioEngineering

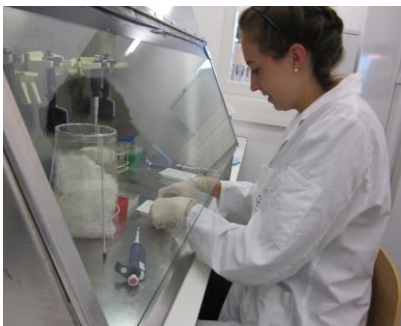
Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH)

Research Trainee



Organization and Position Description

The Luxembourg Institute of Health is the leading research institute in the country of Luxembourg. Within the institute, there are six research departments, including the Department of Infection and Immunity, in which I was working. My particular project involved studying the methylation patterns of DNA and analyzing how it impacts the immune system. More specifically, my group was looking at the potential differences in methylation between people with early life adversity (ELA), a.k.a. those who were adopted early in life, and those who were raised by their biological parents. I was exposed to many different techniques in the lab, including PCR, gel electrophoresis, bacteria transfections, plasmid extraction, sample quantification, restriction enzyme digestion, and methylation-based sequencing. In addition, I was able to gain experience in the areas of leadership skills, team dynamics, time management, responsibility and accountability, and presentation skills.



Preparing samples for PCR



Luxembourg City

Katie Jennison

Luxembourg



The House of BioHealth



*Visiting Vianden,
Luxembourg*

Value Derived from the Experience

I gained a considerable amount of experience and knowledge from this international internship. Professionally, I was able to experience the challenges of working in an international work environment – there were people from Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, China, and more. Although everyone could speak English, not everyone chose to, which added an additional challenge of a language barrier. I also experienced first-hand the reality of research – almost nothing goes perfectly the first time, and you have to constantly adapt to the outcomes you get, whether they are good or bad. The team-like environment was a really great experience, as I depended on some members of my workgroup to help me by preparing samples, and others depended on me to then analyze those samples. Academically, I learned a lot about the lab, how it functions, and how to use the machines within it. Additionally, I learned all about DNA methylation and its effect on the immune system – this was something I had not known anything about before, and now I am able to present to the head of the company how it works. Personally, I feel that I have gained significant life skills that come with living independently – I had to make a budget, I had to go grocery shopping and cook my own meals, I had to make sure that I planned my schedule right so that I could be on time, etc. I also made significant strides in my navigational skills, as I am now a whiz at map-reading and train-station-navigating. I think I also further developed my leadership skills, when, several times, I had to make quick decisions that affected all in the traveling party. The most significant impact this trip made on me (on a personal level) is exposing me to other cultures that are not my own. While this was the hardest challenge to deal with, it was also very enlightening and interesting to see how the culture in Europe is different than the culture in America. I am coming away from this experience wiser, stronger (I went to the gym 5 days a week), and smarter, which will be evident as I move forward in my Lehigh education.

Matthew Kleinhenz

Dortmund, Germany

College of Business and Economics

Dolezych GmbH

Accounting and Finance

Operational Business Development Intern



Organization and Position Description

Dolezych GmbH is an international manufacturing firm, specializing in strapping equipment for freight hauling, headquartered in Dortmund, Germany. Their many products include patented winches and straps which are used by shipping companies to safely transport goods. They recently opened a subsidiary in the United States, Doleco USA. The main task that I participated in was the updating of the U.S. catalog for the firm. This involved planning, formatting, and translating many parts of the German catalog to create our end product. I communicated regularly with the Doleco USA CEO regarding placement of products, and I essentially laid out the entire catalog. When completed, the catalog was nearly double the size of the previous year. In addition to working on the U.S. catalog, I also helped out in the purchasing department. I kept track of incoming orders and witnessed how prices fluctuated depending on where the products were produced. My final task with the firm was a project assigned to me by the CEO. I researched a new CRM (customer relationship management) database to determine how this CRM platform could be integrated with their current CRM database. After research and communication with the new CRM platform vendor, I made a recommendation to the CEO and key personnel via a PowerPoint presentation.



Working on the Doleco USA Catalog



Outside of the office

Matthew Kleinhenz

Dortmund, Germany



At a BVB Dortmund soccer game

Dolezych
einfach sicher



In my Apartment

Value Derived from the Experience

This summer's internship was one of the most rewarding experiences I could have ever had. With the support of the Iacocca International Internship Program I have grown and matured, both professionally and personally.

From a professional standpoint, the ability to adapt to an ever-changing global work environment is very important. I had the opportunity to experience this first hand. While Germans' work ethic is similar to that of Americans, it was exciting to have immersed myself in their work culture and both provide and gain value from the experience. I realize now the importance of communication in an international work environment. Being involved personally with updating the U.S. catalog, I was in the unique position to experience from the other side just how important (and sometimes difficult) it is to effectively communicate product descriptions and to translate them appropriately, as different cultures and languages do not always mesh perfectly. Also, with the language barrier, it was difficult at times to understand exactly what I should or should not be doing. I realized that if I had a question or doubt, it needed to be addressed immediately before proceeding to eliminate the possibility that I had misinterpreted the task. This is extremely relatable to a work environment in any country – effective and concise communication is key to success.

Personally, I feel I also gained value from simply having more confidence. When you are thrust into a foreign culture, one where people do not speak your language and the food and cultural habits are different from what you are accustomed to, you learn very quickly how to adapt to different situations and how to conduct yourself appropriately. As a result, I have become more self-confident and independent. While some internship programs had more than one participant, I was by myself in Germany. I really had to grow up quickly and learn how to live and get around on my own, which I really have never had to do before. That in itself was a challenge, and I feel I matured greatly in the process. In addition, the ability to experience not only the German culture, but also many other cultures during my travels has been phenomenal. I had the opportunity to visit Berlin, Barcelona, Dublin, London, and Amsterdam during weekends. I really got to see first hand how each culture differs from my own and each other.

Overall, the Iacocca International Internship Program has given me the experience of a lifetime. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity, and am excited to share and promote my experiences so that future students will want to have similar ones through the Iacocca International Internship Program.

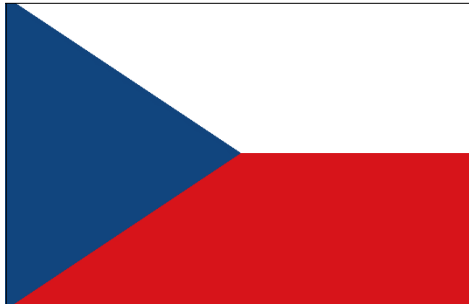
Mike Leonhardt

Czech Republic

P.C. Rossin College of
Engineering and Applied Science
Mechanical Engineering

Škoda Auto

Tool Shop Engineer



Organization and Position Description

Škoda Auto is a Czech automobile manufacturer owned by Volkswagen. Founded in 1895 under the name Laurin & Klement, Škoda originally began manufacturing and selling motorized bicycles. After just ten years, Škoda began to solely produce automobiles. Headquartered in Mladá Boleslav, the company produces over one-million units per year across three manufacturing locations in the Czech Republic.

For two months, I was afforded the opportunity to work in the Tool Shop Factory as an engineer. The Tool Shop Factory essentially creates all of the tools needed to manufacture the automobiles. In the factory, they produce casting molds for the engine blocks, all necessary tool bits, the robotic manufacturing lines for production, and the massive dies needed to press out the many different car body panels. It was my project to research and investigate an automated, robotic metal die spotting system. With this process in place, Škoda would minimize cost, iterations, and ultimately, time needed to produce dies within spec.



Standing by the entrance to the Škoda Auto Tool Shop Factory in Mladá Boleslav.



One of Škoda's many moving assembly lines. This factory produces over 2,300 cars per day.

Mike Leonhardt

Czech Republic



Máchovo Jezero, in the Liberec Region of the Czech Republic.



Enjoying a sunny day near the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary. The 2015 Red Bull Air Race took place right behind me on the river.

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience helped me greatly develop both personally and professionally. Being immersed in a foreign culture for two months had far-reaching effects. Personally, it was most valuable being able to experience a country thousands of miles away with only one other Lehigh student, and get outside of the “bubble” of everyday life in the United States. Encountering the sights and sounds that you’d always heard about from others who’d traveled firsthand was great. You really are taught things that can’t be learned in a classroom or from a book. This experience has developed in me a want to experience and travel—to see other cultures and learn from them. I’ve learned about myself and the world around me, realizing that there is endless knowledge and adventure just waiting to be discovered.

Problem solving, working, and communicating with others whose native language is nowhere near English was a challenge. But, it was rewarding. My communication skills and professionalism in the workplace have improved vastly. It was expected that all interns for Skoda were punctual, professional, and ready to be challenged. The experience overall was fantastic.

Karina Licea

Republic of Moldova

College of Arts and Sciences

CCF Moldova

International Relations

Organizational Development Intern



Organization and Position Description

CCF Moldova is a non-governmental organization with the noble goal of protecting the right of every child to be raised in a safe and loving environment. A team of passionate employees, from lawyers and psychologists to project managers, go above and beyond their job descriptions in order to serve children despite the country's difficult political and economic contexts. CCF seeks to prevent the institutionalization of children by providing aid and services to vulnerable families. CCF also works diligently to reintegrate institutionalized children into their families, to promote foster care and alternatives to institutions, and to ensure that children with special needs are treated well and can benefit from inclusive education. As an intern at CCF, I learned a lot about the history and structure of the organization, about their fundraising and communication methods, and I was able to help revise documents and publications. I had the honor of working alongside some of the most dedicated and welcoming people I have ever met. I was able to join them on trips all over Moldova to visit and monitor families, to visit institutions and perform activities and therapy with disabled children and expectant mothers, and I was lucky enough to spend several days volunteering at a day care center for at-risk children where I got to play and laugh with the most adorable kids.



Celebrating International Children's Day by making ladybug headbands with CCF Moldova.



My colleagues and I with the British ambassador to Moldova (in plaid) and Dave Crowe (to the left of the ambassador) from the British band Heymoonshaker. CCF asked him to autograph the band's new album so it could later be raffled off.

Karina Licea

Republic of Moldova



The vibrant head scarf colors really fascinated me during a visit to the monastery at Orheiul Vechi.



It was great having three other Lehigh interns in Moldova to explore and have fun with! Here we are visiting the town of Cricova.

Value Derived from the Experience

The experiences and relationships I gained through my participation in the Lee Iacocca International Internship Program have been wonderful and life-changing. I definitely feel like I returned from Moldova a different person than I was when I departed. Being in a completely foreign culture and having to navigate the working and social environments of Moldova taught me to be flexible and open-minded. I learned how to celebrate the differences between our cultures while also appreciating our similarities. My co-workers, host family, fellow Lehigh interns, and all of my Moldovan friends made my time abroad unforgettable and invaluable. I am extremely grateful and lucky to have been involved in this program; had it not been for this, I would not have had a chance to travel and work abroad in my college years.

Not only did I undergo personal development, I also acquired and strengthened skills that will make me a better candidate for future employment. Interning at CCF Moldova and living in another country allowed me to use and expand my cross-cultural and communication skills. I was also able to participate in activities involving teamwork, dependability, adaptability, tenacity, and passion. After witnessing the dedication and work-ethic of the people at CCF, I feel that I can be a more confident and knowledgeable employee thanks to the lessons they taught me. I even learned a bit of Romanian!

Kelly Mayid

Portugal

College of Business and Economics

VC Group

Finance

Business Administration Intern



Organization and Position Description

VC Group is a group of five companies specialized in the production of corporate image and publicity materials. As a group, they produce marketing tools such as banners and brochures for a variety of industries as well as engineer signage, displays, and other interior decor. My internship was based out of their head office in Quarteira (Algarve), though their two other offices are also located in Lisbon and Seville. My day-to-day duties included working within the Finance Department to assist in administrative work, filing invoices and organizing the company's database. However, my overall purpose within the company was to aid their Marketing Department in analyzing VC Group's efficiency from an American perspective. I was able to conduct market research on competitors and the sector's general environment in order to gain insight on the company's position. I was also able to create a Twitter page for the company in English as well as translate their website and other marketing materials to publish for potential global customers.



My work desk in VC Group's Algarve office.



Took a day trip to Sintra so I could hike up the Pena National Palace!

Kelly Mayid

Portugal



Treked all the way up to Jardim Augusto Gil for this amazing red-roof view of Lisbon!



original building concepts



Kayaking in the legendary coves of Lagos in the Algarve.

Value Derived from the Experience

My greatest success in Portugal was attaining a new level of global perspective. Prior to the internship, I always said I wanted to travel; though, I could never really tell if it was an actual desire of mine or if I just felt I *should* travel since it seems like a right of passage that everybody *should* to do. Living alone and so out of place for two months, you learn to absorb all the culture you can. You realize how important it is to be exposed to the beauty of different languages and to the authenticity of the local lifestyle—not just the tourist attractions. Portugal has left me *genuinely* wanting to explore the world. It has also created the desire to go back to Lehigh and learn all foreign languages I can. Now that I've had the chance to admire the streets of Lisbon and the beaches of the Algarve, I know that there is even more to be seen outside of Portugal.

There is also a level of independence and self-confidence that you reach when traveling alone. At first, I resented the idea of living by myself without knowing a single soul in Portugal. But then, you get to a place like Lisbon and realize there is no one there to push you but yourself. If I want to sightsee in Sintra, I should go find myself a map. If I want to go hiking in Gerês, I need to plan myself a trail. I've now experienced what it's like to step out of my comfort zone without needing someone guiding me by my side. And, although scary, having the ability to explore a place completely alone is absolutely liberating.

Mikayla Mayoryk

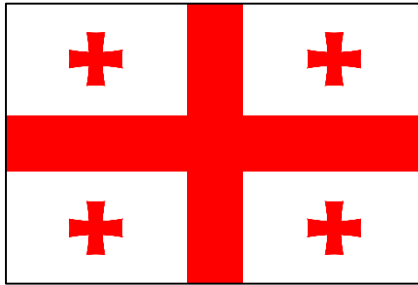
Georgia

College of Arts and Sciences

Office of European Relations

International Relations

Intern



Organization and Position Description

The Office of European and Euro-Atlantic Relations was created within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to handle integration with the European Union. The country signed an Association Agreement with the EU which allows them tariff free trading and a variety of other benefits typically only given to EU member states. However, joining the EU means a mountain of legislation and systematic changes for a country that has only been independent for 27 years. This office communicates with the EU on new changes to EU law and Georgian progress on their integration efforts, and with the people of Georgia on the changes to the country as well as the benefits. Most of the communication with the EU is done in English, and many publications to the Georgians are printed in English in addition to Georgian. As an intern, it was my responsibility to edit and often improve these documents for publication. I also received the opportunity to sit in on a sub-committee meeting between the EU and Georgians where I was responsible for recording and reporting on the necessary directives for the Georgian government.



The Coastal Town of Batumi.



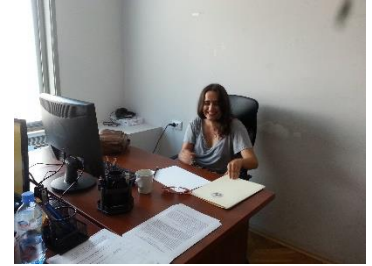
The opera house in Tbilisi

Mikayla Mayoryk

Georgia



Stalin's home in the town of Gori.



Me at the office!

Value Derived from the Experience

In Georgia, I was able to work in a foreign government and experience a country in the middle of forming a democracy. That to me, was a wonderful career—and life—experience in itself. Being in the EU relations office allowed me to work with a group of people who were optimistic about their country's progress. I made many friendships while there, and met people from all over the world, including Americans, who had similar interests in travel and politics that I did (and were not afraid to talk about it). Georgia is an ancient country with a culture and traditions dating back thousands of years. Castles, fortresses, and monasteries form the countryside; and Tbilisi, the capital, was an interesting mix of these and new, modern structures with lots of sleek glass and steel. This eclectic mix is the closest I can get to summing up my experiences. A contradictory juxtaposition of old and new, albeit a beautiful one. A very intelligent and knowledgeable man explained to me: "you could spend 15 years here, and the next day Georgia would still surprise you."

Kaitlyn McCollian

Croatia

College of Business and Economics

Accounting and Finance

Business School PAR

Program Development Assistant



Organization and Position Description

The Business School PAR is a private higher education institution located in Rijeka, Croatia. PAR offers a three-year Bachelor's of Art program in Business Management. Their curriculum uniquely focuses on both theory and practice. PAR also offers vocational training programs, professional seminars, non-formal workshops, international conferences, a language center, and multiple civil organizations (NGOs).

As a Program Development Assistant, I worked with the administration and public relations department in order to develop a summer program for both American and European students. I conducted intensive research on target markets, current markets, and valuation. I also reviewed and assisted with program marketing, social media recommendation, recruitment, design and strategic planning.



Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia



Korzo, Rijeka, Croatia

Kaitlyn McCollian

Croatia



Dubrovnik, Croatia



Business School PAR (left)

Value Derived from the Experience

Participating in the Iacocca International Internship program helped me develop both personally and professionally. Personally, it was the first time I have ever flown or travelled outside of the United States. While staying in Croatia, we had the opportunity to travel to other cities in Croatia, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on weekends. Learning how to both fly and travel using public transportation located in a foreign country and in a foreign language is an invaluable experience that will benefit me in the future. Professionally, the experience of working in a foreign country improved my international business knowledge. Through working at an organization that has international cooperation and visiting other corporations in the area, I was able to get a sense of the way business works in this area of the world.

Learning and understanding the differences in culture between the United States and foreign countries will help while working with international business in the future. By having the opportunity to present my ideas to the faculty at PAR, I also gained creativity, communication, and teamwork skills. In Croatia, I was presented with many experiences and gained many perspectives that I otherwise would not have gained in the United States. My experience in Croatia will definitely benefit me both personally and professionally in the future.

Danielle Mustin

Luxembourg

Integrated Business and Engineering

Luxembourg Institute of Health

Pre-Med

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

The Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), previously known as CRP-Santé, is a public medical research center. With access top of the line equipment and a wide range of state-of-the-art technologies, LIH is internationally renowned. The department where I worked, Infection & Immunity, is one of four within LIH. During my internship, I joined both the B-cell repertoire group and the TOBAVAC group. B-cell repertoire works to investigate the genetic record of the human body's humoral response to infection. TOBAVAC works on the development of immune-preventive strategies against infectious agents and environmental risk factors, such as carcinogens, specifically those in tobacco. As a student intern, I joined a multi-annual project that overlapped with both project groups; my role was to prepare almost 100 hybridoma B-cell libraries for next generation sequencing. During the 9 weeks of the internship, I was exposed to techniques and equipment that I had never worked with before; such as cell culture, RNA and DNA extraction, PCR and RT-PCR, and bead purification, just to name a few. Most importantly, I learned how to work precisely in a biomedical environment and how to work autonomously, planning my own experiments.



Cell Culture



The Grund, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Danielle Mustin

Luxembourg



*Luxembourg Institute of Health,
House of Biohealth*



Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Value Derived from the Experience

My 9 weeks in Luxembourg was my first time traveling outside of North America and the longest I have been away from home. It was an adjustment, especially because I do not speak any French. French is a very difficult language when it comes to listening and understanding and, more than anything, pronouncing. Trying to food shop, order meals at restaurants or simply ask a question in a region where everyone only speaks French was quite an adventure! It was very difficult and uncomfortable at first, as I felt bad and embarrassed for not knowing their language. It was very exhausting to spend 8 hours at work and then struggle to order a sandwich, to figure out the laundromat or to manage other simple daily activities in a foreign environment.

After some time and acquiring some confidence, I have learned to be patient and find ways to communicate what I wanted to ask. I had to be resourceful, culturally sensitive, and open-minded. At work, I collaborated with people from all over Europe and the rest of the world. There was never a dull moment! My time interning in Luxembourg forced me outside of my comfort zone. It has helped me mature, as I have developed a greater sense of independence, learned to quickly adapt to new situations and developed skills that I will be sure to use in my professional and academic future.

Willy O'Sullivan

Scotland

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Mechanical Engineering

University of Glasgow
Research Assistant



Organization and Position Description

While at the University of Glasgow, I worked under Professor Watson who was conducting research on Biomass Gasification. My job was focused on designing a lab-sized gasifier which could be easily operated inside to test out various instrumentation which Prof. Watson was developing. To accomplish this goal, I read technical papers which discussed important design considerations as well as utilizing dimensions/parameters provided by my advisor. Further, my job required deciding upon a material to be used for the fabrication of gasifier, as well as communicating with suppliers to purchase the metal.



Photo of Loch Lomond taken while hiking Ben Lomond



Bell tower at the University of Glasgow. The photo was taken from inside one of the beautiful "Quadrangles", aka courtyard.

Willy O'Sullivan

Scotland



In front on the Auchentoshan Distillery



Picture taken on Islay. Islay is one of the many small islands which surround Scotland.

Value Derived from the Experience

As a rising senior, this Internship allowed me the opportunity to take critical steps towards becoming a member of the job force. I find the issue of generating energy through a clean and sustainable method highly interesting, so spending a summer looking into one of the technologies that is up-and-coming aligned with my career goals nicely. Additionally, beyond working on the gasifier, I was involved in setting-up and running not one but two conferences, the first being on gasification and the second on microalgae technology. Each conference offered an incredible wealth of knowledge on what experts are currently working on.

Further, by helping with the conference, I was invited to come to dinners at which the keynote speakers were also in attendance, allowing me to have one-on-one conversations about their research. Overall, this process has helped me to understand what to expect when arriving in the workforce and gives me confidence and experience which will be crucial when I apply for a fulltime job.

Esther Pak

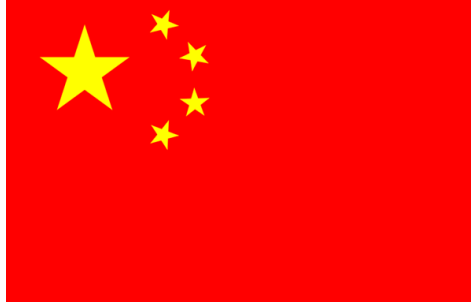
China

College of Business and Economics

Becton, Dickinson and Company

Marketing

Market Analyst Intern



Organization and Position Description

Becton, Dickinson and Company is a multinational medical device company that manufactures products in diagnostics and other areas of medical care. Along with my co-intern, I updated a healthcare fact book that was created by the 2013 Lehigh interns. This involved online research of China's healthcare system and many intricate subtopics within it such as medical device registration and the public hospital landscape.

However, our main focus was on researching and analyzing the general overview of and foreign opinions on China's changing economic state, called the "New Normal," the government policies in place as a result of it, and its effects on market access for BD. At the end of the internship, we presented our findings to a few different teams within BD.



Presenting our project to BD.



On a business trip to Dalian with our awesome supervisor, Shiye.

Esther Pak

China



Climbing the Great Wall of China to the Mulan soundtrack.



People's Square at night. Right by our hotel.

Value Derived from the Experience

This internship was beyond expectations, both in the company and in China overall. As a market analyst intern for BD, I got a firsthand view on what it was like to actually work in an office. It gave me a better understanding of what I would want to pursue as a career and how I could contribute to a corporation. I was also able to apply what I learned in class to my project, which boosted my confidence in my academic studies. The supervisors were great! They were always there for us when we had questions and I especially appreciated their constructive criticism because it enabled me to improve professionally. They also made us feel like our project wasn't just "busy work," but rather something that could actually benefit BD.

This being my first international experience, living there for two months was eye-opening. It forced me to adapt quickly to new situations and showed me new ways of thinking and living. It was also pretty cool applying the research I did at BD to China overall. Some things I saw in China was explained through the research I got from work. What could've been confusing or considered "weird" was more understandable now that I had the background information. I was also able to explore China and do things I never even dreamed of doing before, such as climbing the Great Wall! Meeting interesting people from China and all over the world was quite an adventure, too. Surprisingly, I spoke more Spanish there than I did Mandarin or Cantonese.

Julia Patterson

India

IDEAS

Viva Group (Viva Homes)

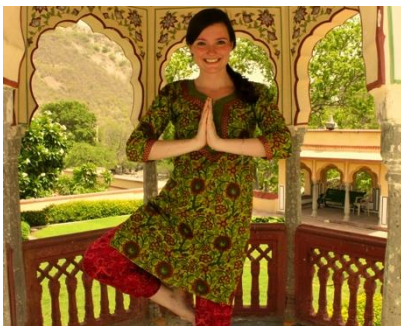
Architecture/Civil Engineering

Construction/Design Analyst Intern



Organization and Position Description

Viva Group is a business conglomerate who is well-known in the Virar-Vasai region. In particular, their Viva Homes Office, stationed in Virar-Vasai, deals with construction, land aggregation and development. For my internship I was working in this sector of the company as a construction/design analyst intern. Over the two months I was there, I was able to learn about Viva's affordable housing projects and their up-and-coming slum rehabilitation projects. While most of the projects are in the Virar-Vasai, we were able to travel to places like Pune and various places around Mumbai. Once we understood India's construction process, I worked on several sites where I was able to help oversee the building process. Then, towards the end of the internship, I helped design affordable housing for a multi-story building complex with the help of the companies architect.



Getting in touch with my inner zen



Sompa, "The fastest elephant in all of Jaipur!"

Julia Patterson

India



Elephants from Elephantastic



Couldn't have asked for a better day at the Taj

Value Derived from the Experience

This internship gave me invaluable experience for future internships and careers. For the first two-weeks, the other intern and I got the chance to work alongside graduate students who were doing consulting work for VIVA group in the areas of smart cities, crowd funding and advertising. After that, I was able to see other aspects of VIVA's multifaceted company and got to interact with business associates, more graduate students, consultants and more. While in the office, I was able to help design and construct buildings and learn about how India's method of construction differs from other parts of the world. Finally, although the internship focused on construction, I got the opportunity to delve in the business aspects of the construction industry.

I also gained valuable life experience which has completely altered my college experience. Even though I was thousands of miles away from home I never felt alone in India. I embraced every part of their culture, from wearing their clothes to trying to speak their languages. I had the chance to interact with a variety of peoples from all over the country who I still am in touch with today. Just like their saying "Attito Devo Bhav," meaning "the guest is equivalent to god," I felt like an honored family member with every person I met.

I cannot thank the Viva group and the Iacocca foundation enough. This trip has widened perspective to other cultures and viewpoints, has made me a more compassionate person, and has given me a new "home" in the world.

Seneca Rasey

Macedonia

College of Arts and Sciences

Pivara Skopje, A.D.

Global Studies

Public Affairs & Communications Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked for Pivara Skopje, A.D., Macedonia's largest and best known brewery. It is also one of the largest companies in the country. Pivara was established in 1922 and began brewing Skopsko, Macedonia's most popular beer, in 1924. The company is part of the Heineken and Coca-Cola enterprise. Their grounds consist of the beer facilities and the soft beverage facilities. As a Public Affairs & Communications intern, I participated in many community and public events, ranging from an Art & Beer exhibition showcasing Pivara's art collection alongside the "art" of the brewing process to the Galicnik Wedding, a significant cultural event, to the opening for the Ohridsko Leto, a summer art festival. I helped to draft and distribute weekly e-tools informing company employees of relevant events and campaign messages. I also researched Pivara's CSR programs and composed summaries of these programs which have been uploaded to Heineken's Best Practices website. Additionally, I was able to spend two days with the marketing team traveling around Skopje to check-in on various restaurants and cafés and promote our products. The entire company and especially my boss and colleague in the PA&C department made an effort to engage me in meetings and trusted me with real responsibilities such as hosting events and interacting with other agencies. I truly felt like an employee of Pivara and a member of the PA&C team.



With the Galicnik couple at a press conference for the Galicnik Wedding. Pivara is a main sponsor of this cultural event and the couple visited for a brewery tour.



Pivara Skopje's main brewery. The beer fermentation tank covers display Pivara's "We Love Beer!" campaign logo in Macedonian.

Seneca Rasey

Macedonia



Lake Ohrid, one of my favorite places in Macedonia. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and I was told by multiple people that there are 365 monasteries in Ohrid – one for every day of the year!

The Lehigh interns in Kosovo visited Macedonia one weekend and we visited Matka Canyon.

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience changed my life. Living and working in another culture has been interesting, challenging, gratifying, humbling, and at times exhausting, and I have grown in so many ways, both personally and professionally. I have learned to keep an open mind and not to judge others, particularly in a culture so different from my own. People in Macedonia are very forward and they are not shy about expressing their political, social, or economic views. As a result, I have been in uncomfortable situations but I know to recognize that the other person grew up in a different culture and was exposed to different views and customs and I cannot judge them solely based on American standards. Being able to discuss controversial topics with people from another culture has broadened my understanding of their positions and other points of view which may have never crossed my mind. My host family was absolutely incredible and I truly consider them family. We learned a lot from each other and I loved being able to share my culture with them as they shared theirs with me. This experience has also made me more independent. I have grown up travelling with my mom and it has always been something I enjoyed, but travelling independently this summer was an eye-opening experience. Coming to Macedonia in the first place was absolutely terrifying but after two months of learning to navigate a new culture in a country with not only a different language but a different alphabet has shown me that I can do anything. It was gratifying to be able cross country borders and make it to your destination in one piece! I worked in a corporate environment and learned how to work in a professional business setting. My bosses were extremely impressed with my soft-skills and the fact that I was ready to jump into projects on my first day, which gave me an even deeper appreciation for the American education system for preparing me so well. Every day of my internship I was reminded how fortunate I was to be working and living abroad. Nothing made me happier than talking culture and politics with my new friends and host family or exploring new countries and learning about their history and culture. I am beyond humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have this incredible experience. I have never felt so lucky and this summer has not only given me great memories but skills and lessons that will stay with me for life.

Cara Rosengard

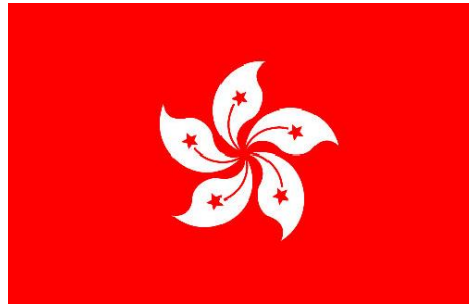
Hong Kong

College of Business and Economics

Accounting

Hutchison Port Holdings

Commercial Development and
Corporate Finance Intern



Organization and Position Description

Hutchison Port Holdings is one of the largest terminal operators in Hong Kong in addition to having a significant global presence. They are responsible for providing a place for shipping lines to berth their vessels so the containers on those vessels can be quickly and efficiently moved into the terminal yard for later shipment.

As a Commercial Development intern, I wrote the Daily Market News, summarizing relevant maritime industry updates, which was sent to the entire Commercial Development department and HPH Group. I was simultaneously working on a project on HPH's Global Terminal Operator competitors, researching their current investment trends.

As a Corporate Finance intern, I researched M&A deals of HPH's competitors, calculating financial figures of each deal and compiling my work in a portfolio.



On the 10-day-old MOL Bellwether vessel.



My fellow interns and I in the Terminal 4 yard, with quay cranes in the background.

Cara Rosengard

Hong Kong



Hiking through the beautiful trails in Stanley.



The tallest waterfall in Hong Kong at Lam Tseun Valley.

Value Derived from the Experience

Hong Kong is a very global city, with people of all nationalities and backgrounds calling the city “home”, Therefore, my summer enrichment involved more than just learning about Hong Kong, but rather the beauty and diversity that comes in learning about all types of people and cultures. The experience truly broadened more horizons. My favorite parts of the trip were my interactions with different locals, ex-pats, and visitors. Everyone I talked to had a unique reason for arriving in Hong Kong with an interesting story to go along.

The most important thing I learned from my internship at HPH was how to navigate the professional work setting. This was my first time working in a corporate office. Admittedly, the first few weeks of the internship involved a lot of trial and error. However, I was lucky to have very patient supervisors and coworkers who clearly outlined the expectations they had of me. When I presented my Global Terminal Operator project at the end of the summer, I felt that it fully culminated all that I had learned during the 8 week internship, both in content and the self-assurance I gained. I know that the confidence I gained during my time at HPH will propel into a successful junior year and any future work experiences!

Jordy Salcedo

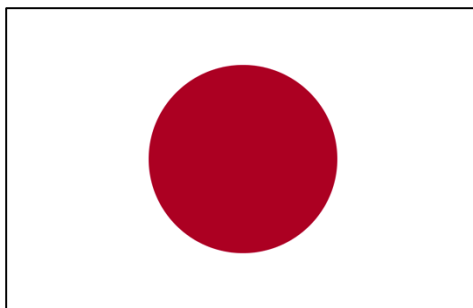
Japan

College of Arts and Sciences

Taiho Pharmaceutical

Biochemistry / Japanese / Psychology

Lab Intern

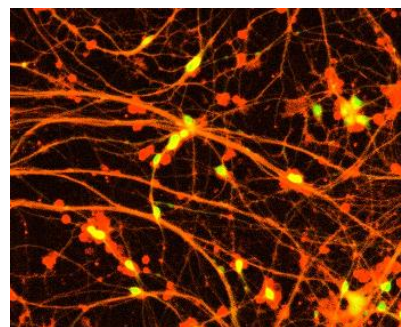


Organization and Position Description

During my time in Japan, I had the chance to work in the labs of the Tokushima branch of Taiho Pharmaceuticals. The Tokushima branch is responsible for the testing, production, and manufacturing of company's anticancer medication and other products. Throughout the four weeks I spent in Tokushima, Taiho had me working on several projects where each introduced a new lab skill or procedures used in the pharmaceutical industry today. During the first and last week, I worked on the formulation and production of an ibuprofen tablet from scratch. During the second week, I worked in the Pharmacology Department, where I ran an experiment to see the effects of siRNA breaking down mRNA. This was done by running western blots and RT-PCRs. The second week also had me working in the Toxicology Labs and allowed me to learn and work with iPSCs. In the third week, I worked in the Analytical Chemistry Lab synthesizing Splatast tosilate (ST). For each one of these projects, Taiho would place one to three employees with us to serve as "mentors." They would explain the basis of the project to us, and watch over us in case we needed help.



Working in the formulation lab, making small scale samples of our tablet, during Week 1 of the internship



Human neuron cells developed from iPSCs during Week 2 of the internship

Jordy Salcedo

Japan



Taiho's Formulation Lab team, who worked with us during the first and fourth weeks of our internship



This internship also gave us the chance to learn more about Japanese culture and travel Kyoto (imaged above), Osaka, Tokushima, Kochi, and Tokyo

Value Derived from the Experience

Working at Taiho Pharmaceutical provided me the opportunity to grow professionally by giving me the chance to take the skills that I have been learning in a classroom for the past three years and putting them to use in the real world. This internship gave me a glance at what it is like to work in a pharmaceutical company, and allowed me to see many of the different opportunities this field has to offer. I enjoyed this internship particularly because of the fact that rather than learning random bits of information each day, I would work on a project from start to finish and learn new techniques along the way. Taiho Pharmaceutical was very much prepared for our arrival, and made sure that every day in the lab was a new learning experience.

This internship also provided me the chance to grow as an individual. During my six weeks in Japan I was able to travel all over Tokyo, Tokushima, Kochi, Osaka and Kyoto. I had the chance to visit temples, learn about the history and traditions of these cities, talk to locals, and eat all of the amazing food Japan has to offer. I also met an amazing group of individuals and made some good friends while at Taiho. For me, this trip was also the first time I had traveled out of the country on my own, so it gave me the chance to become more self aware and independent. Lehigh's Iacocca Internship provided me the chance of a life time, and I would not trade it for anything.

Lillian Schrecengost

Armenia

College of Arts and Sciences

Global Studies / Spanish

Civic Forum NGO of Armenia

Summer Intern



Organization and Position Description

Civic Forum NGO is a non-governmental youth organization which provides supplementary education to Armenian youths. Its main projects include workshops, international cultural exchange programs, and trainings focused on youth empowerment, European integration, and professional mobility. My role in the organization included facilitation assistance, participation, and collection of feedback for the third installment of an international youth exchange program, EntreRural. I joined students from Estonia, Denmark, Georgia, and Armenia to explore principles of collaboration, entrepreneurship, and mobility in the rural Tavush region. After Civic Forum's main summer programs wrapped up, I collaborated on a smaller project with a fellow international intern. We created the research project "YOUth Speaks," an on-going, detailed survey for current, previous, and potential Civic Forum program participants to determine what educational aspects they need and/or desire most from future projects. When promoting YOUth Speaks, I networked with several related organizations and youth groups to gather data from a diverse range of students.



Learning from Local Farmers

Civic Forum NGO's Cultural Exchange



Farewell party at Civic Forum NGO

Lillian Schrecengost

Armenia



Collaboration in Civic Forum NGO

Trip to Noravank Church

Value Derived from the Experience

Of all the incredible aspects of my first international experience, the most valuable skill I gained are the ability to communicate and network effectively. Meeting a host of new people—during my daily internship work, walks in the capital Yerevan, and weekend travel excursions—forced me to step outside of my comfort zone. Above and beyond ordinary pleasant exchanges, I was able to hold both meaningful and informative conversations both with individuals and groups. In addition, I developed many lasting professional and social relationships that have helped me grow both professionally and personally.

Plunging into a new environment loosened my usual social inhibitions, which allowed my confidence to bloom. I have since become more comfortable asking questions and speaking up about rising issues. During my host organization's youth exchange program, I began to present my ideas, opinions, and problem-solving techniques more effectively than ever before. The positive change continued to influence my social development in following projects and events.

Interacting with such diverse groups of people heightened my awareness of the constantly growing need for effective communication, education, and outreach. International issues need to be addressed from perspectives: local, global, cultural, economical, political, historical, environmental—the globalizing world requires experienced leaders. Traveling in Armenia has spurred my passion for travel, teaching, and communication as a part of my career and personal life. It has given me a foundation for future international travel and experiences in the Caucasus region. As I continue to study globalization and languages, I will remember my experiences in Armenia for a spark of inspiration. These were the first footsteps of what I know will be a life-long international adventure.

Mikaila Skaroff

Armenia

College of Arts and Sciences

Eurasia Partnership Foundation

International Relations

Intern



Organization and Position Description

I interned for the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) which is a non-governmental organization in Armenia and also in Georgia and Azerbaijan. They have many different focus areas and projects including human rights, civil society capacity building, democracy, youth empowerment, and anti-discrimination. Their projects focus on peace- and confidence-building in Armenia and on Armenia's relations with their border countries, Turkey and Azerbaijan. My job centered around editing various projects and also helping them comprise an anti-discrimination report. I read through grant reports and project proposals, editing them for clarity, content, and style. I also attended various workshops held by EPF or that EPF was invited to, regarding social justice movements, civil society organization, and peaceful resolution building.



A workshop hosted by EPF.



A view of Yerevan from the Cascades.

Mikaila Skaroff

Armenia



Exploring the Tavush region of Armenia.



Inside the Yerevan Opera House.

Value Derived from the Experience

I have learned and grown so much through this experience, and I don't think I will be able to fully realize the way this has affected me for some time. But one thing that I've truly learned and seen is that everything is what you make of it. I could have easily had a bad experience in Armenia. No one was there telling me I needed to go do this or that, and I could have sat in my room for two months and thought about missing home. But I didn't. I went out, and I met people, and I explored the country. And I think this opened my eyes to how complacent we can become in our normal day-to-day lives. We get tired and lazy and stop trying to make things great and settle for okay. But I didn't want that to happen to me in Armenia, and despite being a bit nervous at first, I adapted and ended up loving it.

And through this I learned about being truly independent. Honestly, being in such a different place than America was scary at first. I didn't know the language, and that in itself, made me feel nervous and isolated. But I learned to step out of my comfort zone and try things even if I didn't feel completely sure of myself. Whether it was signing up for different adventures, walking around alone and getting a little lost, or trying to navigate buying things on my own with someone who I couldn't communicate with, everything took more courage to do than at home in the US. And I grew a lot through that, and also learned about communication in general.

And even further, I realized that we are in control of our own happiness to some extent. Sure, other things influence it, but if you want to see the bad in something and be miserable, no one will be able to stop you. But if you try to be positive and find the good in your experiences, you will be ten times happier. There were things I did not like about Armenia and Yerevan, but I didn't let that stop me from having an amazing summer and a life-changing experience.

Cory Spranger

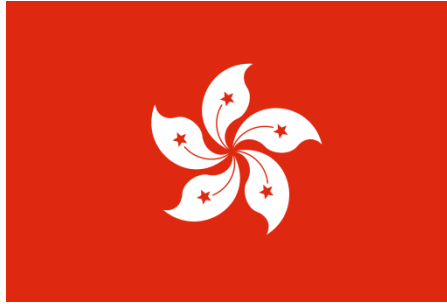
Hong Kong SAR, China

Integrated Business and Engineering

Hutchison Port Holdings

Finance

Commercial Development Intern

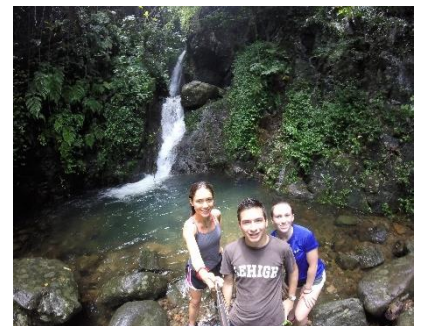


Organization and Position Description

Hutchison Port Holdings is part of a larger conglomerate which operates many business in Asia. HPH is the world leader in port operations globally by volume and has a lot of larger industry players as clients. The Commercial Department at HPH performs two major functions: market analysis/research and establishing/building upon important client relationships. My role at HPH was as Commercial Development intern and in that capacity I completed one major internship-long project, data-centric ad-hoc tasks, and other functions like the Daily Market News. In addition to this was a social aspect of the job both internal to the company and external. This involved networking with co-workers and forming relationships with clients, sometimes outside of work hours. My major project was a comprehensive study of the Intra-Asian trade lane. I looked to seek out the defining characteristics of this trade lane as well as define what major trends are currently in place as it relates to HPH. Throughout the process of doing this, I created a fact sheet which was easily digestible and introduced Intra-Asian trade to anyone who was looking to learn more about it. Finally, I created a PowerPoint to go over this data and look deeper into qualitative aspects of the trade as well as explain trends.



*View from a paddle board off of
Cheung Chau Island*



*A selfie of all the Lehigh Hong Kong interns in
front of a waterfall at Sheung Luk*

Cory Spranger

Hong Kong SAR, China



View off of the Wilson's Trail in Hong Kong



A quay crane at Terminal 4 in Hong Kong

Value Derived from the Experience

I can say with certainty that I gained a great deal from my experiences in Hong Kong. These experiences have benefited me personally, professionally and academically in ways I would've never previously imagined. Personally, I think immersing myself in another culture has been an enlightening experience, especially when you are able to fully commit to the process. Hong Kong, being a very Western-friendly place already made it easy to do just that. Hong Kong actually has quite a bit to offer, even outside of what you'd expect from a large city. I was quite surprised to realize just how accessible all the islands around Hong Kong were as well as how much green space and mountains surrounded the area. Some of my favorite memories are actually from hiking, going swimming or getting amazing seafood at these parts of Hong Kong. Even just the experience of moving to a new location and learning your way around, finding new stores and restaurants to go to was very gratifying. Professionally, I learned quite a bit as well. HPH takes their internship program seriously and it shows as they were able to anticipate the types of things an intern in my position would appreciate. My full project was extremely detailed and I had a great mentor at HPH help me all along the way. I was very impressed HPH for having the ability to do this – especially since I had no prior experience in the transportation industry previously. I also gained a lot of specialized skills and knowledge as a result of going through these processes. For example, one of these included the extensive use of Excel and databases in order to extrapolate data relevant to whatever it is you may be researching. As a result of this entire experience, I have definitely matured, made a host of new friends, and gotten to see the world just a little bit differently. It allows one to take their own culture out of the equation when perceiving new things and frankly is a once in a lifetime experience.

Evyn Tarvydas

China

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Materials Science

Bracalente Manufacturing Group
Quality Intern



Organization and Position Description

Bracalente Manufacturing Group (BMG) is a family owned and operated manufacturing plant founded in 1950 in Trumbauersville, PA. Their focus is machining precise high quality metal parts for their clients. Recently BMG has opened a branch in China, Bracalente Metals Products (BMP). This allows for BMG to compete globally with other manufacturing plants while retaining the high quality of service they have become know for in America.

I worked at BMP as a quality engineer. I spent the summer learning how a quality department of a company works. From creating pareto charts to analyze which parts are loosing the most money from being scraped, to learning the process of making sure that a new part holds up to the tolerances specified by the client.



*Bracalente Metals Products
manufacturing plant in China*



*Waterfall found while hiking
through the mountains*

Evyn Tarvydas

China



Ancient temple found hiking through the mountains



Rafting down a river

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience has helped me grow personally and professionally. Being born and raised in the United States with very little international experience, living in a country that has such a different culture was a truly eye opening experience. I was able to see how a company based in China operates and compare it to companies in America. I learned a great deal about the Chinese culture from conversations with people in the company, those that spoke English, and was able to share much about the American culture with them as well.

The largest challenge I faced while in China was communication. I embarked on this trip with very minimal knowledge of the Chinese language and very few people in the town I lived in spoke English. It made communication difficult but not impossible, it would often just take some time and the help of a translator.

I was lucky enough to be invited along with the company on a weekend trip on one of my first weekends there. We went to the mountains of China where we spend a day rafting down a river and then hiking through the mountains the next day. Being able to do this showed me many different sides of China. In my short time there I was able to see a major city, Shanghai, live in a small developing town, Fenhu, and travel to the mountains. Overall the experience was enjoyable and something I'd never thought I'd be able to do, thanks again to Mr. Iacocca and Leigh for making this experience possible.

Allon Vitenson

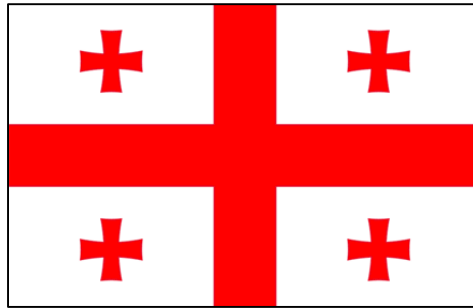
Georgia

College of Business and Economics

TBSC Consulting

Accounting and BIS

Business Development Intern



Organization and Position Description

TBSC Consulting is a boutique management consulting firm located in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital city. One of the few professional services firms located in Georgia, TBSC Consulting has worked on a variety of different projects for some of Georgia's largest corporations, International Financial Institutions, and NGO's. During the internship, I worked on a multiple of projects ranging from Real Estate market research to strategic consulting for a Georgian charity organization. All International Interns at TBSC Consulting are paired with a Georgian intern, who acts as an Georgian language and culture ambassador. The two interns form a team to complete all assigned projects.



*Sitting high up in the Caucasus Mountains
Kazbegi, Georgia*



*Taking a group picture with some of my co-workers on my last day of work
Tbilisi, Georgia*

Allon Vitenson

Georgia



*Standing on The Bridge of Peace, over the Mtkvari River
Tbilisi, Georgia*

TBSC
CONSULTING



*Posing by the Vardzia ruins, a cave monastery originally built in the 12th century
Vardzia, Georgia*

Value Derived from the Experience

Interning at TBSC Consulting and living in Georgia for the summer helped me develop in many ways, both personally and professionally. As someone who wants to pursue a career in consulting, working on projects at TBSC gave me valuable experience and insight into the field. Gaining work experience in another country was especially helpful, given that I hope to work on assignments in many different countries during my career. Learning how to adapt to a culture so starkly different from my own was a great lesson I hope to carry over to my future career. Additionally, gaining experience in consulting and observing how business practices differ in the US and Georgia helped me shape and further develop myself.

Spending the summer in Georgia and living with a host family allowed me to immerse myself into Georgian culture. By getting to know the local people and culture, and by exploring various regions of the country, I was exposed to a culture which I had known little about prior to this experience. The combination of gaining work experience and living in a foreign country gave me new perspectives and helped me develop personally, as it was unlike any experience I had had before.

Evan Vomund

Kyrgyzstan

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Computer Engineering

Kelechek HealthProm

Intern



Organization and Position Description

Kelechek, an NGO which was founded in 2009, helps aid parents of disabled children in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyz society sees disabled children as burdens and a shame upon their families, leading them to be placed in orphanages where they are often taken advantage of and pushed into sex trafficking. For example, in 2013 Kelechek helped close and redistribute the children of the Pokrovskij Orphanage where over 5 children had died due to ignorance, violence and hunger. Kelechek hopes to change the culture so that people begin to see these children as beautiful and unique human beings who should have the same right to a prosperous life as anyone else.

Kelechek HealthProm does this in many ways, including counseling and financial support for parents. However, as an intern I was put in charge of fundraising to install inclusive playgrounds which bring disabled children together where they can interact and play just as normal children have for years. In order to raise this money, I used a crowd founding site to raise funds from all over the world.



A Kyrgyz man herds his sheep in the mountains above Lake Issyk Kul



Kelechek provides a printer, books, and tablets for a classroom of disabled students

Evan Vomund

Kyrgyzstan



Tash Rabat, an old stop along the silk road



Kyrgyz nomadic families still live in Yurtas

Value Derived from the Experience

Taking part in an internship in a country like Kyrgyzstan built me greatly as a person. Kyrgyzstan is an especially interesting place to visit due to all the generalizations we tend to draw about it and the other past soviet countries. Influenced by its soviet roots, history of nomads, and the silk road, Kyrgyzstan adopts a culture and perspective that is far different from our own. Much of the country prioritizes a simple life based around the family, while places like Bishkek seem to have a culture of flaunting ones wealth, characteristic of their emergence as a capitalist economy.

By involving myself in such a culture, I learned to work well with others who are very different from myself; people who often didn't even speak my language. I gained a new perspective on what cultures and communities are, and why different habits and traditions are so important to individuals in different cultures. My host family was very traditional, practicing Kyrgyz traditions like food and music, as well as Muslim traditions, such as fasting and prayer. They welcomed me with open arms to share their traditions, and were always eager to discuss their ideas. Although some of their ideas about society seemed very extreme such as their perception of gender roles, I enjoyed hearing about such a different prospective.

I especially enjoyed the time I got to travel with my co workers to visit families of disabled children all over the country. This gave me an authentic cultural experience in both Southern Kyrgyzstan, with its Persian influence and Middle Eastern feel, and in Central and Northern Kyrgyzstan, where citizens still participate in a nomadic lifestyle. One thing I learned through this experience was how fortunate I am to have things like education and infrastructure. One family I stayed with desperately wanted a book or other English writing to help their daughter learn English so she could travel and play music around the world.

This experience went as far as changing my values, including what I view as important in life. I am inspired by the many people I met who worked to make a difference and help those like disabled children who cannot help themselves. In the end, I view myself as a much more cultured, mature, and understanding person than before my internship.

Madeleine Wescott

Moldova

IDEAS

Industrial Engineering /
Product Design

Hospice Angelus

Fundraising Assistant



Organization and Position Description

I was responsible for editing the English portion of Hospice’s website, as well as assisting in the maintenance of the social media sites including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook.

Additionally, because of my background with programs such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, I was able to assist in the designing of the new donation boxes, as well as newsletter formats, and webpage setups.

I also helped at all the Hospice charity events. I would keep score or assist at the door for our monthly Trivia Night and our “Fashion for Action” event.



Our office at Hospice Angelus consisted of our director, Raluca, as well as five fundraising assistants. We all shared a central table to allow for easy communication between our close-knit team!



Our Hospice team at our monthly quiz night!

Madeleine Wescott

Moldova



Outside work functions were a large part of my internship at Hospice. We often had social gatherings, lunches, and barbecues that really fostered communication within our team.

Ana and Anna (a very common name in Moldova) requested I take this photo for my blog! Once they found out that I enjoyed writing, I ended up doing short pieces for Hospice publications.

Value Derived from the Experience

I could go on and on about the value I derived from this experience.

From the internship alone I developed confidence in my professional abilities, especially communication. In this foreign environment, I had to be cautious with cultural norms and learn about how to function efficiently with a team of foreigners in this non-American office environment. I developed patience and understanding in regards to how sometimes a different culture creates an entirely different mindset. I also learned that when it comes down to it, people are not all that different. I surprised myself when I was able to create some truly lasting relationships in Moldova with one of my coworkers becoming one of my closest friends.

This experience opened a whole world of new and interesting people. I think the greatest value for me came from the connections I made with others. Through these connections, through learning about these new foreign friend's families, culture, childhoods, villages, ideas, problems, and aspirations, I was able to learn a great deal more about myself.

It took me one application, an eleven hour flight, and two months, but the value I gained from this experience is truly priceless. I am more confident, professional, open-minded, lighthearted, adventurous, and worldly from my experience abroad.

Simon Wong

Kosovo

College of Arts and Science

Kosovo American Education Fund

Economics

Intern



Organization and Position Description

Kosovo American Education Fund (KAEF), was created by American Councils with funding given by the NGO, Kosovo Business Finance Fund, which was established by USAID. The goal of the organization is to send students from Kosovo to the US in order for them to receive master's degrees so that they can return with the knowledge they've gained and implement it in order to better business development and infrastructure in Kosovo. My responsibilities as an intern primarily comprised of assisting other program managers with administrative work, making phone calls, and pitching fund raising ideas. As well as interning for KAEF, I worked simultaneously with the partner organization, Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES). Similar to KAEF, YES provides funding for Kosovar students to spend a year of high school in the United States. I assisted with the returning students' re-entry into Kosovo as well as assisted in filling out paper work for upcoming exchange students.



Re-entry orientation with Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) students returning from the states



The Kosovo American Education Fund staff and I

Simon Wong

Kosovo



Kosovars are Albanians and this is the Albanian flag. Forever kuq e zi (red and black)



Soaking up Albanian culture

Value Derived from the Experience

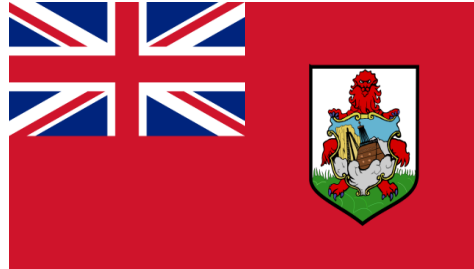
Going to Kosovo was an opportunity that I had the pleasure of having and I did in fact make the most of my experience there. From the moment I landed, my mind had been set on learning the Albanian language. I was set on learning the everyday lifestyles of Kosovars and their culture. Within my two months spent in Kosovo, I learned a surprisingly good amount of Albanian within a short period of time. I was able to greet people, say goodbyes, order at restaurants, and it came to a point where although I couldn't speak Albanian fluently, I was able to understand what people were saying. People were impressed by my ability to pick up the language and they were equally as pleased about my interest in immersing myself with as much of their culture as possible. I befriended locals, dined on local favorites, discussed and learned about their politics and economy, and even attended concerts of famous Albanian popstars. One of my greatest accomplishments here is understanding how ambition and hard work goes a long way. It was due to my ambition and self motivation to put in the time and effort to learn the language and about the life and culture of Kosovars that made this an experience of a life time. However, the greatest lesson I have learned from this experience is that people, no matter where they are from, are all the same. Our cultures might differ from one another's, but deep down to the core of it all, it isn't about what we are as people- it's about who we are as people. My adventure in Kosovo helped in my personal development. I've learned to keep an open mind to try new things and meet new people, to let different experiences and different opinions guide not what I want to be, but who I want to be, and I've learned to live for the future, but live in the moment. In essence I have made Kosovo a very important part of my life.

Sarah Wu

Bermuda

College of Arts and Sciences
Biology and English

BIOS
Microbial Observatory Intern



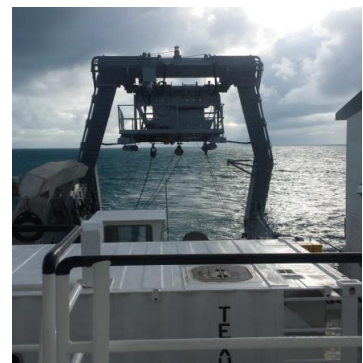
Organization and Position Description

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS), founded in 1903, is a non-profit organization that focuses on marine science research and education. I was a part of the Microbial Observatory Lab under Rachel Parsons. My particular project falls into the umbrella category of Ocean Acidification which, as the name suggests, involves the decrease of the pH of Earth's oceans. This is caused by most notably, an increased uptake of carbon dioxide by the ocean.

In particular, my project aims to aid in the research of Ocean Acidification by studying some of the differences between the surface water of open ocean and reef waters, specifically the microbial composition. This may prove helpful because previous literature looked at the changes in pH and calcium carbonate saturation in open ocean water instead of the reef water systems themselves. Having a better idea of the differences between open water and reef water systems may then allow other scientists to have a better idea of the true effects of the changes in pH and calcium carbonate levels to the reefs. We were able to accomplish through epifluorescent microscopy and terminal restriction fragment length polymorphism (TRFLP).



Waterfront view from Wright Hall, BIOS



A frame of the research vessel Atlantic Explorer

Sarah Wu

Bermuda



*Sunken wreckage near
Nonsuch Island*



*Rare Bermuda Petrel (Cahow)
resting in artificial nest*

Value Derived from the Experience

Working at BIOS, my goal was to experience and to just immerse myself in the research environment. Having nearly no background in marine biology before this, I was really eager to learn and experience anything that I was given the opportunity to do. More specifically while working with Rachel, I wanted to familiarize myself with the many techniques and protocols typical of a microbial lab which, prior to this experience, was restricted to a core biology lab class where I may have done a complete T-RFLP in a group of four students once.

Now at the end of my internship I'm proud to say that in these two months, I am confident in my ability to work in a professional lab environment and able to carry out various techniques and tasks typical of such an environment. I really think that my internship at BIOS was an excellent experience that provided me with many skills that I will need should I consider a career in research.

Huan Xie

India

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**

Civil Engineering

VIVA Group

Analyst Intern



Organization and Position Description

VIVA Group is a diversified group who mainly deal with construction business but also home finance, hospitality, education and retails. It is located in Virar-Vasai area which is about 70 km from the downtown of Mumbai.

As a Civil engineer, I worked in VIVA as a construction analyst and we designed several different house lay outs for a local plant, in order to make the living condition more affordable and sustainable. Besides, we visited a lot of architects and structural or environmental engineers who offered numerous suggestions for our design.



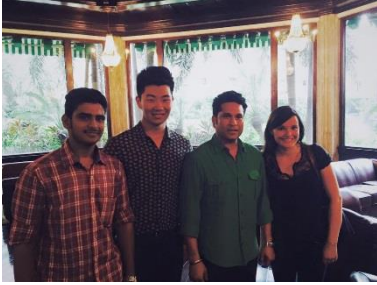
Our boss Mehul Thakur and secretary Hetal Shah Pandit in the office.



With VIVA Group colleagues in VIVA city.

Huan Xie

India



With one of the most famous cricket players in the world – Sachin Tendulkar, who is a really important friend of our boss.



VIVA group with George Washington University presentation of business evaluation

Value Derived from the Experience

Professionally, this internship gave me a broad view of how a company design a building practically and make it work as a final construction. There are far more than paper works or textbooks as we learned in class. More importantly, I have to think how to make it more economical and affordable for real uses. And doing a real construction is pretty different from doing a project on campus, because the criteria and requirements are always different due to the local conditions and clients. Moreover, I learned much basic knowledge for a civil engineer as a sophomore, which is really helpful to my junior courses right now.

Personally, this trip is unbelievable because VIVA Group treated us so well because of their hospitality. I think this will be one of the best internship programs in Lehigh because VIVA Group is really a special company who pays attention to business and personal relationship much and has a great bonding with partners and clients. We even visited a lot of friends of our boss during the weekend who shared their precious experience of all kinds of things which you will never have in another internship. And we travelled around India for another two weeks which makes me never forget this amazing country.

Diana Yeh

Bermuda

College of Arts and Sciences

Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences

Biology

Intern



Organization and Position Description

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) is a lead research institution with world-class faculty in various aspects of marine science. It has a large intern group every summer and also has classes that occur throughout.

Here, I worked on a team that did research on the mesophotic coral ecosystems. Together, we deployed the baited remote underwater video stations (BRUVS) that capture footage of the different fish communities that live in the benthos of the mesophotic zone of the ocean. For my specific project, I worked on finding indicator species for specific habitats and fish communities in various sites all around Bermuda. The purpose of this is to develop methodology to find the indicator species for the shallow reef habitats and that will eventually be used on the mesophotic benthic habitats as well.



Sunset at Whalebone Bay



Deploying BRUVS with my research team

Diana Yeh

Bermuda



Working on my final project



Lionfish Tournament hosted by BIOS. Here, Cory is measuring the lionfish's length and weight.

Value Derived from the Experience

Before coming to BIOS, I really wanted to gain research experience outside of Lehigh University since I've only really been exposed to microbiological and bacterial research done by my professors. Additionally, I wanted to learn about what other types of research is done at other institutions. BIOS seemed like a great option because there aren't many marine science research opportunities at Lehigh.

My internship has taught me many things such as research skills, time management, and public speaking. I learned so much about marine science, ocean health, and fish ecology. This is a huge field and definitely imperative to research in order to help aid the impacts of global warming. I learned and applied research skills that many students do not get in any classes. I was able to conduct my own research project. This experience has challenged me academically and has definitely helped me if I decide to go into research as a career path and even back at university. BIOS is a great institution and has a lot to offer many students and researchers.

Angela Young

Kosovo

College of Business and Economics

3CIS

Marketing

Telecommunications Intern



Organization and Position Description

The Iacocca International Internship in Kosovo was organized primarily through American Councils; however, rather than interning there I interned at 3CIS, a telecommunications company. 3CIS was established in November 2008, coinciding with Kosovo's newly found independence. The current mission of 3CIS is to provide network support to various clients that specialize in telecommunications. The company works with large carriers such as Verizon and AT&T by providing 3G consultancy and integration services.

During my time there I was given the task of improving bottom up and top down communication through the 3CIS Intranet, the company's employee portal. I enhanced the current Intranet system by adding new features that improved internal communication between management and employees as well as between employees themselves. In improving the Intranet, the ultimate goal was to increase employee engagement, build stronger teams, share more information within the company, and overall improve employee morale. I conducted research and compiled the information I discovered into reports given to higher management.



The main floor at 3CIS I worked on



3CIS Headquarters

Angela Young

Kosovo



Prizren, Kosovo



Overlooking Pristina from the top of the Mother Teresa Cathedral

Value Derived from the Experience

My time in Kosovo was extremely transformative to say the least. Throughout my 8 week stay I developed more as a person than I have in my entire life. It was my first experience leaving the country and being fully immersed in a culture that is so different from the American culture I am accustomed to. Being surrounded by Albanians and observing their lifestyles made me question the credibility of the American routine that so many individuals believe is the only way to live. Furthermore, living in a country in which over 90% of the population is Muslim gave me a once in a lifetime chance to experience a religion entirely different from my own. I always thought of myself as an open-minded person but after being immersed in the Muslim and Albanian cultures my views developed further.

Through this experience I became much more independent and developed a sense of responsibility and confidence that I did not realize I was missing before. Overall, this experience exceeded all of my expectations and I would highly recommend to others to seek out similar experiences. I know that I am now equipped to adapt to any obstacles I may encounter in life and I know this internship will have a positive impact on my future career endeavors.

Shannon Cassidy

Cambodia

College of Arts and Sciences

Global Studies / Political Science

Caring For Cambodia

Volunteer Coordinator/
Digital Media Intern



Organization and Position Description

Caring For Cambodia (CFC) is an educational NGO working in the underserved community surrounding the city of Siem Reap, home of the largest religious monument in the world, Angkor Wat. Though Cambodia has a dark history of genocide and political upheaval, this organization is working to improve the lives of the next generation by providing them comprehensive education for the community as well as support and resources for the families of their students. During my time in Siem Reap, I assisted in planning an event at the Park Hyatt's Glasshouse Cafe, partnering with local businesses and NGOs for donations in the raffle for the event and also worked toward fostering stronger relationships with key community members as well as spread awareness about what kinds of programs CFC does. I also acted as a point person for the volunteers for the Make a Difference (MAD) groups who visit to volunteer at CFC schools and learn more about what they can do to help CFC accomplish their goals. I also created evolving documents that the volunteer coordinators can use as a guideline to their school tours and best practices as well as create comprehensive volunteer packets that will educate visitors of all ages about CFC and its programs. Additionally, I worked with GoPro for a Cause to help facilitate their new partnership with Caring for Cambodia. I trained two exceptional students as well as the staff that will be helping with the project on how to use the cameras and how to create meaningful and beautiful content on their donated GoPro cameras. Lastly, I left them with a comprehensive guide to the cameras and equipment, describing what settings to use for different filming situations and what each setting does to each shot.



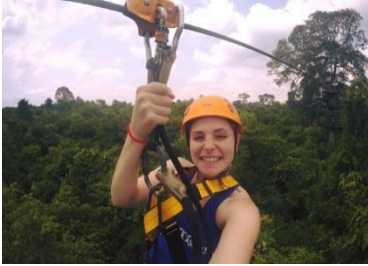
Here is a group of eighth grade students CFC featured in a Herogram thank you video that we created to thank a generous donor for a classroom full of new laptops!



Angkor Wat Temple at Sunrise

Shannon Cassidy

Cambodia



Ziplining above the trees in the Angkor Wat temple complex



Here is a retired working elephant at Elephant Valley Project in Mondulkiri Province taking a nice mud bath

Value Derived from the Experience

The time I have spent working with Caring for Cambodia has helped me to grow personally and professionally more than I could have ever conceived of before I left. I grew so close to the staff members I had the privilege of working with and learned how they have overcome so, so many challenges in the face of the genocide that tore through the country not so long ago. This experience has helped me to contextualize sustainable development and politics that I have spent my last four years studying. Being completely immersed in an unfamiliar culture and place, I found myself stretched to the limits of what I believed I was capable of. I also got to use my love of photography and creativity to develop lessons and a framework for the GoPro for a Cause project. I got to spend so much quality time with CFC staff and students in this initiative and really get to know their personal stories so that I could help them tell it. I got to see the world through their eyes and learn what they value and what happens after the last school bell rings. I think more than anything, I appreciate the warmth and optimism that Cambodia embodies in things like art and traditional dance, but also in the glowing smiles of everyone I encountered in my time there.

Jeevan Jain-Cocks

Cambodia

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Industrial and Systems Engineering

Caring for Cambodia
IT Summer Intern



Organization and Position Description

Caring for Cambodia is an educational nonprofit based in Siem Reap, Cambodia. They run 21 schools in an effort to provide a good education to underprivileged Cambodian children. My project involved a database built by a Lehigh team led by Professor Ron Crane. I worked with the IT staff on the ground in Siem Reap to establish a good understanding of the database, and then together we ran training programs for the CFC management staff. The goal of the project was to have made a sustainable change in how data was recorded. The database will be deployed organization wide in the next couple months. On top of that project, I also worked on some other small projects, including some graphic design.



A training module at Aranh High School in Siem Reap where management staff learned how to use the database.



Bayon temple in the Angkor Wat Complex, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Jeevan Jain-Cocks

Cambodia



The Sanctuary of Truth, from a weekend trip to Pattaya, Thailand.



A picture from a wedding where we were lucky enough to be the groomsmen.

Value Derived from the Experience

There are many things that I think I have gained in the last 2 months. First, professionally, I think that I have gained an ability to connect with many different types of people and work with them regardless of language barrier or any other type of barrier that there may be. I gained an understanding of how people of different cultures do their work and interact with coworkers, and I learned to put aside what I was comfortable with and learn their behavior to be able to communicate with them. I also realized that the people working for CFC (Caring for Cambodia) did so not because of the paycheck, but they did it because they genuinely believed in the cause, and I realized that I wanted to be able to believe in my work as much as they did, which brings me to the personal development aspect of my trip.

Working with CFC staff made me realize that if I found something that I loved to do as much as they loved the work that they were doing, it would never feel like work to me. They cheerfully put in full days of work, stayed late, and worked alone at night so that they could get projects done early. Apart from that, I was able to travel on weekends and a little after my internship, and through traveling alone as well as just living in another country, I found that I was more confident and ready to take on challenges without being afraid of failing. Running into problems during traveling can be stressful, but by staying calm and looking at options, I realized that any situation could be worked out. These past two months have been an amazing adventure for me, and I feel that I have really grown from the different people I met/worked with, and all the experiences that I had.

Santiago Martinez

Cambodia

College of Education

Educational Leadership (M.Ed)

Caring For Cambodia

Gender Equity Intern



Organization and Position Description

Caring for Cambodia is an NGO that works out of Siem Reap, Cambodia and closely with government schools. Their goal is to secure a better, brighter future for the children of Cambodia through education by building schools that stand up to world-class standards. They invest in their teaching staff, by training and empowering them to be mentors. CFC has over 15 programs, one of them being Gender Equity that is run under Sivaing Suos who is the senior program manager. This program ensures that both male and female students can achieve their full potential. There have been kids dropping out for a variety of reason. CFC knows that there are many resources available in Cambodia and thought of a way we can bring these resources together in one place where they can easily be accessible. That's when my project came into play. I was able to finish a resource book that links all the trusted resources to the staff and students of CFC schools. There were over 150 resources that Sivaing and I put together including universities, NGOs, and other trusted organizations.



I had to get to know what CFC was about before I could dive into my project.



Our interns in Siem Reap

Santiago Martinez

Cambodia



Around Cambodia, this type of monkey is quite common. He's posing with the Lehigh flag in the back



Feeding Mangos to the elephant in the Angkor Wat temples

Value Derived from the Experience

Through out my time in Cambodia, I was put in situations that made me develop in different ways. Personally, the kind of people I met has shaped the way I go on thinking about the future. Being on the other side of the world has opened my eyes to the many other ways of living, not necessarily having to live in USA. I also noticed how travellers normally have unique stories and ways of thinking that make you think bigger.

One of the reasons that I wanted to travel was to find other interest of mine since I thought my current passion might have an end to it. After I became friends with the author of the best-selling book, *How to Retire in 12 months While Doing What You Love*, she and her husband were able to open my eyes. Initially, I wasn't aware of all the options but now I know that I am able to continue doing what I love and have different ways on how I can go further into it.

Professionally, I knew that I had a deadline to the project. Yet I knew that I had to learn about the culture before I could start. I had to plan my timeline and adjust it while I was there. I had to use/develop skills such as self-control, time management, socialization, and much more. I had to grow as an individual in a variety of ways. I now see the world through much different set of eyes and could see how this will be helping me in the future.

Linda Nguyen

Cambodia

College of Arts and Sciences

Caring for Cambodia

Behavioral Neuroscience

ESL Intern



Organization and Position Description

Caring for Cambodia (CFC) is a non-profit organization based in Siem Reap, Cambodia founded by Jamie Amelio in 2003. CFC's mission is to provide children of Cambodia with a well-rounded education. CFC now manages 21 schools, ranging from primary to high school, with more than 4,000 students in attendance.

As an ESL intern for CFC, my job was to create a year long pilot curriculum to teach English as a second language to grade 2 students.



Students volunteer to go to the front of the classroom to read their story to their classmates.



Students practice writing letters on mini chalkboards.

Linda Nguyen

Cambodia



CFC interns taking a tour of Angkor Wat.



Interns as bridesmaids and groomsmen in a traditional Khmer wedding.

Value Derived from the Experience

My trip to Cambodia provided an opportunity for me to help the staff and students of Caring for Cambodia. Seeing first-hand the passion and enjoyment for learning from the students in the classrooms made my work feel very worthwhile. I was also able to learn more about myself. By stepping out of my comfort zone, I was able to fully immerse myself in the Cambodian culture. I got to connect with many people in Cambodia who I now happily call colleagues and friends.

Sarah Dudney

China

**P.C. Rossin College of
Engineering and Applied Science**

Civil Engineering

USTC

Research Assistant



Organization and Position Description

My research attachment took place at the University of Science and Technology of China, a member of China's Ivy League, the C9. At USTC, I was introduced to a new, yet interesting and relevant topic, fire propagation. My time was spent at the State Key Laboratory of Fire Science (SKLFS), one of over 300 nationally funded laboratories, and the only laboratory in China dedicated to field of fire science. A portion of my time was spent conducting an extensive literature review, where I educated myself on the numerous and complex components that contribute to the behavior of fire spread. My remaining time was split between learning data analysis programs and experimenting using the Combustion Wind Tunnel. A previously-unexplored combination of uphill and downhill fire propagation was tested at varying wind speeds and slope angles. Results from the experimentation will help to shed light on the combined effects of slope and wind on more realistic types of terrain, aiming to improve fire prediction techniques and ultimately reduce the amount of fatalities due to wildfires.



Playing (...experimenting) with fire at SKLFS



*Close-up view of fire propagation.
Wind speed: 1 m/s, Angle: 10°*

Sarah Dudney

China



*Exotic fruit for sale in Nanjing-
delicious!*



The Crew at Huangshan

Value Derived from the Experience

Beans, t-shirts, and horns: three of the most memorable and distinct differences between our cultures.

Beans: the Chinese love their beans, especially the red bean. This legume can commonly be found at the bottom of drinks, stuffed in steamed buns, and as a flavor of ice cream.

T-shirts: the text was often quite comical, containing much more character than those common in the US.

Horns: the car's instrument, frequently played. The horn had a different connotation in China- it was not an aggressive warning, but a friendly indication of where they were in relation to you.

These differences were obvious; what wasn't as obvious were the similarities between us, the characteristics that unite us between languages, borders.

Hard work: my lab partners were incredibly hard working, often staying in the lab from 9 AM to 10 PM Monday through Saturday (naps were common, though). The fact that these hours were commonplace gave me motivation to work harder and embrace this type of work ethic for my classes at Lehigh.

Hospitality: at USTC I was shown kindness on par with that of the South. My lab partners insisted on treating us to local delicacies and showing us local gems during the weeknights; I hope that one day I can return the favor when they visit the US.

Curiosity: a desire to learn about my culture was consistently expressed by my lab partners. I returned the feeling with a myriad of questions about student life in China. Often their answers were surprising; I feel I matured through accepting and showing respect for those differences.

This experience has allowed me to embrace a new culture while still appreciating my own. I have learned that traveling is more than similarities and differences; it is about the friendships created, the precious memories formed, and responsibility to pay it forward so others can experience the joy of an adventure like this.

Braden Frigoletto

China

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**

Mechanical Engineering

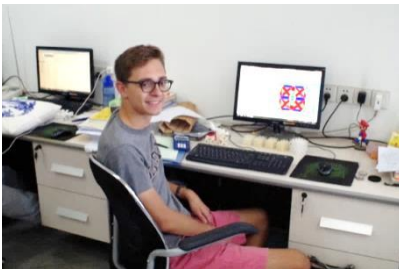
USTC

Research Assistant

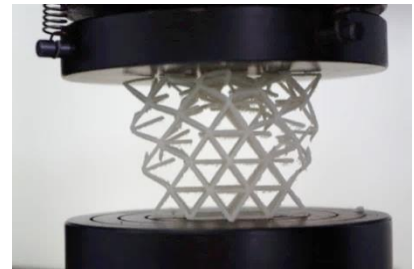


Organization and Position Description

I worked as a research assistant at the University of Science and Technology (USTC) in Hefei, China. USTC is one of the best schools for engineering in China and is one of the most prolific research institutions in the country. I worked with two undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanics on the failure modes of the octet-truss lattice material. My work included; conducting a literary review, formulating predictions, using CAD software to model octet-truss lattice material, learning FEA software and conducting simulations, 3D-printing octet-truss models, and physically testing the printed models to validate predictions made earlier. I worked about eight hours a day, five days a week in a lab of 15 people on campus.



Myself at my work station in the lab at USTC working on a simulation I made using COMSOL software.



One of the 3D-printed models during our physical compression test using a WDW-100 testing machine.

Braden Frigoletto

China



Our group of four from Lehigh by Swan Lake in Hefei, China.



Myself on top of Huangshan during one of our weekend cultural trips.

Value Derived from the Experience

On a professional and personal level this trip really helped me to grow. As my first research experience I learned a lot about the research process in general. I learned what the research environment is like and what is expected. I learned how to communicate effectively with non-native English speakers. I also learned some new CAD and FEA software skills that will be helpful in the future. Working in China on my research project has helped me to figure out what I want in my future career and its given me great insight on whether or not working abroad is something I want to do. I worked closely with two other Chinese students and formed some great friendships with them and others in my lab.

During my trip I experienced first hand Chinese culture which has greatly broadened my world view and respect for Chinese people. Our group of four from Lehigh became very close over the six weeks and made memories we won't forget anytime soon. I am very grateful I was able to participate in this program as it was truly an experience of a lifetime.

J. Zachary Lentz

China

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

USTC

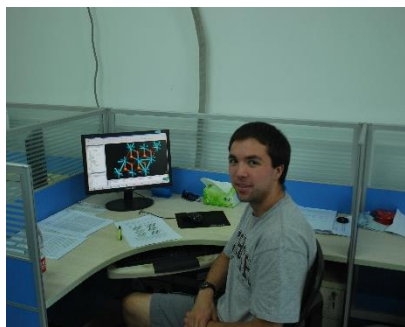
Materials Science and Engineering

Summer Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

Over the summer of 2015, I did research at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). USTC is located in the city of Hefei, which is the capital of Anhui Province in the People's Republic of China. It is considered one of the best (top 5) universities in the country. I worked in the School of Chemistry and Materials Science, under the guide and supervision of Professor Xiaojun Wu and his research group. My research was focused on *ab initio* electronic properties simulations of 2D materials and was composed of three distinct projects. I researched: (1) the structure and electronic properties of MoS₂ monolayers, (2) the strain-dependent magnetic properties of TaS₂ monolayers, and (3) the structure of VS₂ and VSe₂ monolayers.



*Me at my desk in the School of
Chemistry and Materials Science*



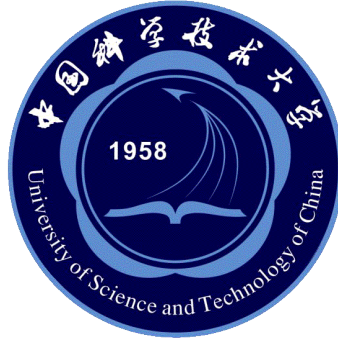
Me on the Great Wall of China

J. Zachary Lentz

China



The entrance to the School of Chemistry and Materials Science, where I worked



The stairs on the way up to the mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China

Value Derived from the Experience

I gained extremely valuable experience both personally and professionally while at USTC, and in China in general. It goes without saying that I got to experience a different culture, but my international experience prior to my internship was limited to one trip to the UK and France, and Asia has a totally different feel! The food, people, cities, and culture were unlike anything I had conceived of. The language barrier was also impactful. In France and the UK, obviously, most everyone knows English. That's not the case in China. That aspect of the trip really broadened my perspective and gave me a sense of how lucky I am to be a native speaker of the business language of the world.

On the professional side, I got pretty lucky with what I was able to do. The research I did over the summer was an extension of what I did the previous summer at Lehigh. The summer research at Lehigh was the foundation, and at USTC I was able to build on that and do some pretty exciting work. I now feel like I am quite well prepared for a career in the "real world" and much more marketable. In conclusion, this experience gave me more than I had expected and value that I could not have obtained by any other means.

Nick Reese

China

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**

Civil Engineering

University of Science & Technology of China

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

During my six weeks abroad, I worked at the University of Science and Technology of China. It is located in Hefei, a city of 7.6 million people and the capital of the Anhui Province. A moderately sized school, USTC hosts approximately 8,000 undergraduate and 9,000 graduate students. As for my internship, I did research in the department of Modern Mechanics with Prof. Yong Ni and his graduate students. My work involved analyzing the nanocomposition of a structural material and finding a way to optimize that material's mechanical properties through manipulation of the composition. All of my research and lab work was done theoretically and on a computer, as opposed to live testing. A large part of the procedure was examining stress-strain relationships and shear-lag models, both of which were essential to making progress. By the end of my six weeks in the lab, I made a number of interesting and valuable findings.



Great Wall of China



Financial District of Shanghai from across the river

Nick Reese

China



With Prof. Yong Ni and his graduate students



The four interns at Tiananmen Square

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience was nothing like anything I have ever done in my life. It gave me a chance to really see a whole different lifestyle and immerse myself in it for a short time. Upon arriving in China, I initially was taken aback by the culture shock I faced. Every aspect of daily life that I was used to was no longer the same – food, language, style, and even normal behavior in public were different from back home. After a few days, though, the feeling of displacement went away and I was comfortable with my surroundings. I actually came to like the cuisine over time and have missed some Chinese foods since coming back.

Among my favorite parts of this trip was the frequent travelling I did along with the other interns. Every weekend, we visited a different city in China, with the highlights being Beijing, Shanghai, and Huangshan. In just six weeks of being in the country, I feel as though I got to experience many variations of Chinese life, particularly in getting to sample the local foods from each region that we visited.

Another valuable part of the trip was the friends I made while in China. Between my lab mates, our Chinese excursion tour guides, and other international students that were there, I met countless people that I got along with and still have contact with now. In making these friends, I was able to learn about their cultures and lifestyles as well as teach them about my own. The most meaningful experience from this trip, for me, was the connections I made with people of different backgrounds and upbringings.

All in all, my time in China gave me an experience unique from anything I have ever had or will have for the rest of my life, both professionally and personally. My exposure to the lab setting was valuable for any future research I will do, and it gave me my first experience in that type of setting. I feel as though the lessons I learned on how to conduct myself in that environment will be important once I get my first job. More importantly, I feel better off in life with the personal experience I gained by immersing myself in a drastically different lifestyle with various types of people. Living in China for the time I did made me appreciate many things that I have never even thought twice about back home. To sum it up, I believe I simply have more knowledge of the world because of my experience in China.

Kristen Mejia

Costa Rica

IDEAS

Osa Conservation Center

Forestry Intern



Osa Conservation Forestry Intern

The Osa Conservation Center is a non-profit organization that focuses on preserving the biodiversity of Costa Rica. With its highly dedicated and passionate team of workers, they are able to run a beautiful conservation center. At the center one can do many things. One could research primates, big cats and sea turtles. One could also work with the trees, or volunteer at the center with their various projects. One could even conduct their own research at the center itself. The center itself is an amazing facility and the beauty is indescribable.



Walking on the Beach to get seeds for our tree sites!



Hanging around by the trees!

Kristen Mejia

Costa Rica



Value Derived from the Experience

This internship was the best decision that I have made. I have learned so much about myself and about the person I am and who I want to become. Prior to Costa Rica I was not very confident in my Spanish speaking abilities. I knew that going to Costa Rica and having to speak Spanish was going to be a big change for myself. I knew that I would constantly be out of my comfort zone and that it was going to be tough. I am so glad I took the chance. My Spanish has improved so much throughout the trip and I am so much more confident in my Spanish speaking abilities.

Not only was I able to speak Spanish but I was also able to immerse myself in a culture unlike the American one that I live in. Costa Rica's pace of life is very slow. I am a fast paced person. I work fast, I eat fast, I speak fast and I do everything quickly. While in Costa Rica, I learned how to truly enjoy my time with others. I learned how to take a breather and how to enjoy my life for what it is. I was surrounded by the forest and I was living in a very rural area. There weren't many people, I barely had wi-fi and the center was so beautiful. I was able to truly enjoy my time at the Osa and I could not have asked for a better experience than the one I had this summer. The people were so amazing and hospitable. I didn't want to leave. It felt like I was leaving my family behind.

I hope that one day I will be able to return to the conservation center and see my family again. There are so many amazing things about the experience that I had. I am SO thankful to Lehigh for having these amazing programs for their students. Without Lehigh I would not have been able to create a family in Costa Rica, feel so much more confident in my Spanish and feel even closer to finding who I truly am.

Dylan Morgenweck

Costa Rica

College of Arts and Sciences

Earth and Environmental Science

Osa Conservation

Forestry Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked for Osa Conservation, a non-profit organization located on the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica. My job was to measure the growth of trees that were planted in 2013 and 2014 to assess growth rates and survivability. These trees were native species planted in old pasture land in an effort to reclaim the forest that was cut down many years ago. There were 50 plots planted with 30 trees averaging per plot. Once the measuring was completed, I needed to analyze the data to understand which species were growing best and how well the overall project was going. I created a comprehensive map of the planted area using ArcMap software, then I completed an assessment report, which I submitted to my boss as my recommendation for how to improve the project in the upcoming years.



Admiring the forest of the Osa Peninsula.



A break during the workday with a coworker, Augustine.

Dylan Morgenweck

Costa Rica



Sunset at the beach on the Osa Peninsula.



A critically endangered Pacific Hawksbill sea turtle encountered on a turtle patrol.

Value Derived from the Experience

My internship helped me to experience how the work of a forester is done. I learned the methods employed to complete work in the field, and was able to integrate it with my existing scientific background. This has given me a great perspective on this career as I look forward to my future. Working for a non-profit corporation has also given me an idea of the differences in how different companies are run, and how a non-profit operates compared to a traditional company. I also got a lot of perspective into how work is completed in different countries compared to the method in the United States. This helped to prepare me for possible careers across the globe, as I am comfortable with adapting to the work pace of others.

My experience also allowed me to meet a very diverse group of researchers at the biological station at which I did most of my work. Volunteers and researchers from many parts of Europe and the United States worked together for the common goal of the good of the organization. We all integrated our work experience to complete the tasks we were assigned. This was a valuable way to again learn new methods of completing work, which helps to make me more appealing to potential employers. I feel that my intern experience has greatly contributed to my professional development.

Benjamin Shepherd

Costa Rica

College of Arts and Sciences

Psychology



Los Cusingos Refugio Aves

Sustainable
Development Intern

Organization and Position Description

The main organization I was assigned to work for was Los Cusingos, a bird sanctuary/biological reserve located within the Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor in Costa Rica. Made up of a series of forests, rivers, gardens and a museum that visitors are free to explore upon paying an entrance fee. Research is also conducted there. As an intern of this organization, I had various responsibilities. First and foremost, I was to continue an ongoing research study by measuring water quality in each of the rivers that ran through the area with a special device that allowed us to read and record pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity levels. Secondly, I worked to maintain the place by cleaning the trails, the gardens and the museum throughout the week (ex. sweeping, dusting, raking, weeding, etc.). Thirdly, we were responsible for creating our own project, for which we construct a sturdy net that we used to collect insects from each river and identify whatever macroinvertebrates we found using the “Biotic Index” as yet another way to measure water quality, since some macroinvertebrates are more sensitive to pollution/contaminated water than others.



Me searching for macroinvertebrates from a sediment sample that was taken from one of the rivers.



Melody, my fellow intern, recording data for logging of the Manta, water-testing probe in “Rio grande.”

Benjamin Shepherd

Costa Rica



Me and my wonderful host family, minus the dad, who had to leave early for work that day.



Me and the rest of the interns and Dr. Don Morris drinking fresh coconut water after a hard day's work on the farm.

Value Derived from the Experience

I had never before done an internship, and I had never been to Costa Rica. So being an intern in Costa Rica was a completely new experience for me that I am so grateful to have had this past summer. Through the work I did, the people I talked to and the many places I was able to visit, I managed to try so many new things and learn so much while I was there. The environmental work was not something I had ever done before. Since my major is Psychology, I had not been previously trained to do any of it, but I learned -- and that was an experience in itself. It taught me that anyone can learn to do anything and do it well when there is motivation and a will to carry out such goals. My motivation was to be a hardworking, reliable intern that my coworkers and my fellow intern could count on, and I proved to myself I could do it. My second major in Spanish definitely came in handy, however, as well as my Puerto Rican heritage, as I was able to communicate easily with the people who lived there, the Costa Ricans, all of which were so friendly, warm and welcoming. Never will I forget how welcoming they were of me as an outsider and I will try to follow by example by treating others the same way no matter who they are or where they come from. In such a short time, they became my friends, especially the families that we lived with. I also felt for the first time what it is like to truly be needed. Countless times my Spanish came in handy, since most Costa Ricans we came across spoke little to no English. Both at work, at home and during the weekend when my fellow intern and I would travel, I found myself working as a translator so that my fellow intern could communicate with people and vice-versa -- and I loved the feeling. It also made me appreciate the gift of language, or rather the importance of learning a second language. If it was not for one of us being able to speak the native language, I am positive our experience would have been a lot different, less rich, and I will forever cherish my Spanish for that reason and continue fostering it so that it may grow and get better for future use in both my future career as a bilingual Psychologist and in my personal life.

Melody Walthers

Costa Rica

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Environmental Engineering

Los Cusingos Refugio Aves

Water Analysis Intern



Organization and Position Description

Los Cusingos is a bird sanctuary where visitors can enjoy petro-glyphs, nature trails, visits to the House of Dr. Skutch (a naturalist), and bird watching tours (a popular activity among visitors). Los Cusingos is home to many flora and fauna such as whitefaced capuchin monkeys, agoutis, and birds like cusingos, tanagers, hummingbirds, and honeycreepers.

The Peñas Blancas River and four other streams run through the property. Our job was to sample the water quality with a water probe, called a Manta, which provided information about the turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature of the water source. Although continuous testing could not be performed, the river was tested 3 days/week, 2x/day over the span of six weeks. Obtaining data about how water quality variables fluctuate, even within the span of only six weeks, is valuable. The results can provide a baseline of data against which the impact of development or reforestation can be assessed with respect to water quality



Enjoying some fresh coconut water after helping plant trees at the Osa Verde farm.



The Rio Grande: largest and closest river on the Los Cusingos property.

Melody Walthers

Costa Rica



Palms on a morning turtle patrol in the Osa Conservation.



Mini irrigation system growing food for the Osa conservation.

Value Derived from the Experience

As my first time out of the country and having little to no Spanish I was a bit nervous (but very excited). My first day in the country was a bit of a shock seeing all the signs and hearing all conversations in Spanish, but I would spend free time with my host family practicing my Spanish so that went from zero Spanish to being able to understand most of what they were saying. I really think no matter where you come from, to get the most of a culture you have to put in the effort to really try and communicate to get the whole perspective. I was also very grateful to have such a wonderful and loving family who taught me that love is not bound to language and I'm going to miss them so much! Another small personal victory for me was that I had never flown before and I was **terrified** to, but having this internship has made me get over my fear and has truly opened up with rest of the world to me (nothing I ever considered doing one day).

Although Costa Rica has taught me that I probably won't become a Spanish teacher anytime soon it has reaffirmed that I'm going into a field of work that I know I'm going to love. Despite our main instrument, the Manta, malfunctioning and unable to complete our data I learned that you have to be prepared for anything while working in the field-and sometimes things just don't go your way. Our coworkers found other projects for us that allowed us to go exploring in the jungle or along rivers. I was living a real life Indiana Jones movie! The staff at Los Cusingos are a small group, but I got to know them very well and without them I wouldn't have learned so much about the many flora and fauna there.

Before I left I knew that "Pura Vida" was a phrase in Costa Rica that means "pure life" but I thought it was just a catchphrase. After experiencing the country myself I realized that it is truly a way of life for the Ticos (Costa Ricans). They are down-to-earth and live very simple and happy lives that contrast to the stressed, fast paced lives we have in the U.S.A. I plan on going back and maybe even retiring there one day. It was truly the experience of a lifetime and I'm excited that my future career can bring me to amazing places like this one day!

Morgan Coonrad

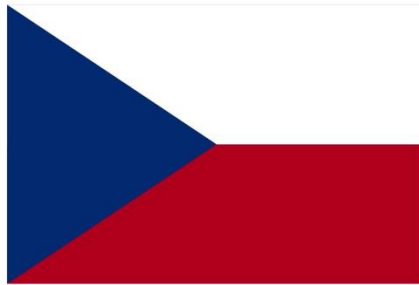
Czech Republic

College of Arts and Sciences

Campaign for Social Inclusion

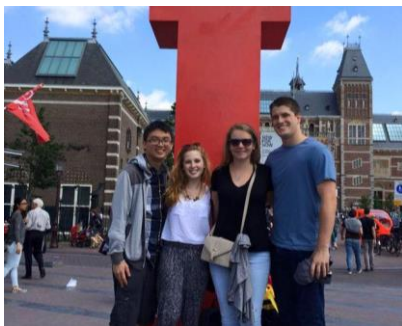
Psychology

International Connections Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked for Slovo21, a nongovernmental nonprofit company geared towards minimizing the social exclusion of Romani people in the Czech Republic. They offer programs that educate Romani people on a wide range of topics surrounding the 4 pillars of: education, housing, healthcare, and employment. They work specifically with Romani youth to develop their interpersonal skills and motivate them to go to school and get educated. One of their biggest projects each year is the Khamoro Festival, held in Prague, which is a week long festival celebrating Romani culture. As their intern, I worked contributed through both direct and indirect service. I translated over 25 articles from Czech to English and worked to make their website more accessible to English-speakers. I also worked with their staff to better develop their English so that they can extend their reach to the English speaking world. Additionally, I worked directly with Romani people to develop their resumes and practice interviewing with an English speaker for job interviews.



*"I" for Iacocca!
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*



*The John Lennon Wall
Prague, Czech Republic*

Morgan Coonrad

Czech Republic



Overlooking Budapest, Hungary



The group and Czech volunteers on the Charles Bridge in Prague

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience was beneficial both personally and professionally. I previously never had experience working in an office, especially an office as busy and passionate as an NGO. It was insightful in that I got to see how an organization actually operates. I worked with everyone from the CEO and founder to their project managers and volunteers. I was able to really grasp the mission of their organization by learning about all the different programs they put on for Romani people. And I was able to see firsthand just how helpful those programs were to the people in need. I also developed a deep understanding of the social issues in the CZ and throughout Europe. This is where my personal development comes into play. The most important thing I took away from this experience was a changed perspective. I had always considered myself a pretty nonjudgmental and open person and I believed that I understood and appreciated all my privileges. But this experience opened my eyes to a whole new set of issues that I did not even know existed. It has changed me as a person, made me more grateful, patient, and understanding. The experience also gave me new and exciting passions like volunteerism and travel. After this experience, I can say that the travel bug has definitely bit me. It is difficult to summarize in words what a summer like the one I had gave to me, but I know I am forever grateful that I was given this incredible opportunity.

Lauren DiNapoli

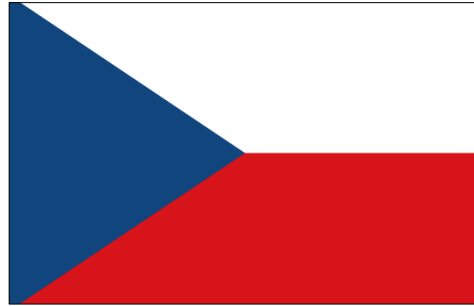
Czech Republic

College of Arts and Sciences

Inclusio: Campaign for Social Inclusion

Anthropology / HMS / Biology

Intern



Organization and Position Description

During the Campaign for Social Inclusion in Prague, Czech Republic, my fellow students and I took on multiple roles. In the mornings, we alternated between conducting research geared at specific and individualized topics affecting the Roma people and conducting a final project using this information in order to make a lasting difference. This final project led to the responsibility of interviewing local Czech's about their experiences with discrimination and compiling the information onto a widespread social media in order to reach as many people as possible. In the afternoons, we each worked for an NGO geared towards the elimination of discrimination, especially as it pertained to the Roma. I was lucky enough to work for Romea, a smaller NGO running multiple form of assistance- a news outlet, a help hotline, employment services, and many more. My role in particular dealt with the news outlet, as I wrote articles in English in order to better involve the Western world in the issue. The topics I wrote about include women's reproductive health care, insurance inequality, and forced sterilization.



The view from the Czech Parliament building that we were lucky enough to tour. We learned about policy in regards to Roma rights, as well as how difficult it can be to create change on a larger scale.



The most beautiful city filled with an interesting past and preserved culture.

Lauren DiNapoli

Czech Republic



Fellow students and myself on our first day exploring Prague!



Exploring the Jewish Quarter on a quest for a better understanding of Czech culture.

Value Derived from the Experience

The entire experience was amazing in almost every way. I'm so thankful for the opportunity that Lehigh and the NGO's we worked with have given us, as well as Christy Novak's caring and helpful guidance. I think that the most valuable piece of the internship was the hands on experience I was able to gain from working at a real NGO. Post graduation I'd really like to work in a similar situation so the ability to get a glimpse into the inner workings was essential and helpful to my future endeavors.

Tuan Pham

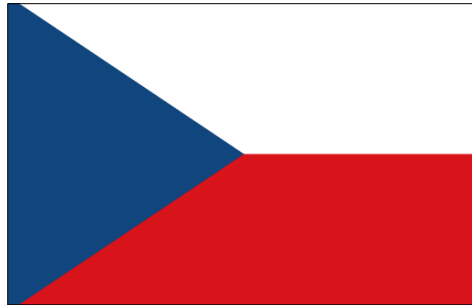
Czech Republic

College of Arts and Sciences

Inclusio: Campaign for Social Change

Psychology

Intern



Organization and Position Description

During the summer of 2015, I was interning at Inclusio for 6 weeks working on social inclusion issues. At the first half of the internship, I was working with another intern creating a promotional video for Inclusio's fundraising project called Imagion, which is a multifunctional interactive learning space for a school in Prague 5.

In the second half of the internship, all the interns worked together on a Creative project. Ours was "Voices of Prague for Equality". We created a Facebook page and a video about discrimination. Not only did we include discriminatory issues the Romani in Czech Republic have faced, but we also tried to highlight other types of discrimination that people face, on multiple accounts such as age, gender and social economic status.

Along the way, we had the opportunity to educate ourselves about the Roma issues in multiple aspects. Mine was about education. Also, every week, each of us blogged about what we had seen, learned about the problem of discrimination and compared it with our own experience.



Last Presentation at American Center about "Voices of Prague for Equality" Project



Scenes from Prague Castle

Tuan Pham

Czech Republic



Scene from the Clock Tower



Lennon Wall

Value Derived from the Experience

Going through this internship, I have learned more about discrimination. There are numerous projects that people are working on to deal with the issue, among with other issues involving human rights and equality. I have learned that it takes a great deal of time; yet with programs and activities like this, those organizations can obtain the connections, skills and resources to help make the goal realized.

As a student from another country, I understand that there are issues not only in one country, but those problems do share similarity. This experience helps me realize that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in order to reach for a solution, and that people must work together to get there. One of the roots of the problem, like how I faced in Prague, is that people do not care that much, hence not putting in the efforts to fix the problem. While still looking for what I want to do with my life, I realize how important it is to always be open to these issues, regardless of how much they are related to me, to talk about them and be more understanding.

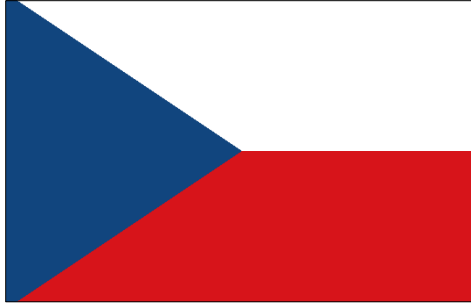
Another thing I have noticed about myself after the internship is the fact that I have gained a bit more assertiveness and confidence because of the projects and the time spent with other interns. And surprisingly, while accomplishing those projects, I also had the opportunity to indulge in one my hobbies, graphic design, which I had not spent that much time on since high school.

Jonathan Ross

Czech Republic

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Computer Engineering

Inclusio
Social Inclusion Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked for Inclusio o.p.s, which is an NGO in Prague that deals mainly with the promotion for the social inclusion of the Roma population throughout the Czech Republic. Petra Zahradnikova, Inclusio's founder, placed each of us at different NGO's, I was placed at Inclusio while others were placed at Romea and Slovo 21. My work at Inclusio, with the other intern Tuan, dealt mainly with updating Inclusio's website to include more information in their webpages, making the webpages more user friendly and attractive, and in creating a video which outlined Inclusio's next big thing, a kickstarter to gain funds for a kick-starter for their next project, Imagion. We also worked on translating write-ups from Czech to English using Google translate to help Inclusio with their English language outreach on their website and through emails they were sending to English speaking contacts.



Visiting Terezin Concentration Camp



Visit to an excluded locality

Jonathan Ross

Czech Republic



Starting the Internship



The interns during the first week

Value Derived from the Experience

The six weeks that I spent in Prague with the three other interns is a time that I will never forget. Going into the program, I didn't know anything about any of the people that I would be living with and working with for the next month and a half, but now, looking back on everything, I think I can easily say that I made three really good friends that I will keep with me for the rest of my time at Lehigh while interning abroad in Prague. This is probably one of the main things that I got out of this experience that I honestly was not expecting. Applying for this internship, all I was thinking about was how cool it would be to go abroad and all the different things I would be able to see and experience, but gaining some good friends was not at the forefront of my thoughts. While I was out in Prague on this internship, I made sure to travel as much as possible since I wasn't sure when I would be able to be in Europe next. I was able to travel to six different cities besides Prague, and I can definitely say that the experiences I had while traveling changed the way that I look at the world and broadened my sense of self, boosting my confidence in myself and making me feel more ready to face the world as an independent person, able to do lots of things on my own.

Through this internship experience specifically, I have changed the lens through which I look at the world in terms of the discrimination and challenges that people of all walks of life face during their times on this earth. Lots of people have to daily face hardships purely because of what they are or how they act, which is usually not noticed by those who do not have to face these hardships. This internship has opened my eyes up to these problems and has changed the way that I will look at the world for the rest of my life.

Miles Davis

Ghana

College of Business and Economics
Supply Chain Management

University of Ghana: Legon
Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

My research was on the Analysis of the Supply Chain Management of Gold Coast Slaves by the Europeans in the 18th-19th century. This research included visiting slave castles in Elmina and Cape Coast, being lectured by professors at the University of Ghana at Legon, and using the Institute of African Studies library daily to find books that had information pertaining to my area of study. At the slave castles, we received factual (as accurate as their stories could be based on their knowledge of the slave trade) information on the slaves that were held at those respective castles by the respective countries and companies, and we held interviews with the tour guides to gain more knowledge to specific questions we had.



Iacocca Group at Shai Hills Reserve gaining insight to African peoples by our tour guide, Ishmael



Iacocca group at Pram Pram Golden Beach visiting a slave port

Miles Davis

Ghana



View of University of Ghana at Legon where we conducted our research

View of Cape Coast Castle where slaves were held by the British

Value Derived from the Experience

I gained a lot of value out of this experience that involved professional, academic, and personal growth. Professionally, I was able to conduct interviews with people and learned how to ask the proper questions needed to get as much information possible out of my research. As an academic, I gained value in learning more about the slave trade from the standpoint of supply chain management, which is my major, and was able to find supply chain functional areas that were relatable to the slave trade.

Also, I read two other books in my free time that were written by Africentric writers, which enlightened my knowledge and understanding of my own history and the history of thought as a whole. Personally, I was able to reconnect with my African heritage and return back to the Motherland, which is the idea of Sankofa, which I am eternally grateful for. I got to connect with my brothers and sisters from Africa, who were very welcoming.

Sidney Ro

Ghana

College of Arts and Sciences

English

University of Ghana

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

Our primary research was on the “Sites of Memory” which were the two slave castles we visited, the W.E.B. DuBois Center, and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial. The bulk of our research focuses on the slave castles where hundreds of thousands of Africans were stored and then taken west to work as slaves. We spent a lot of time at the University of Ghana going to lectures with different Professors and we also went to one at Ashesi University. The professors told us about their research along with answering questions we had about our research. Along with our primary research, we had personal research projects and much of the time here, we visited the Institute of African Studies library where we conducted our research.



*On a bridge above
Kakum National Park*



Cape Coast Castle

Sidney Ro

Ghana



Photo with the interns, Professor Essien, and Dr. Peterson's family



Kokrobite Beach

Value Derived from the Experience

The opportunity to be able to immerse myself in a completely different culture, I think, will be the biggest effect this trip has had on me. The trip initially appealed to me because of the fact that it was in Ghana: a place I had never been and a place that I never expected I would find myself going to. Being able to live in Accra for most of 6 weeks and become familiar with it so quickly was an incredible experience by itself because I felt so at home and more of a resident of Ghana than a tourist.

The people that we encountered were extremely kind, hardworking, and generous and really blessed me with the opportunity to learn about a culture completely apart and different from my own. The language (Twi) is beautiful and was easy to pick up and the fact that English is the primary language made everything a lot easier. As a group, we experienced many things that tourists would only dream of doing in a country like Ghana and the connections we made and things experienced will be a huge takeaway for me.

I enjoyed every part of the trip whether it was the food, music, culture, or just hanging at the hostel with the members of my group. I learned so much about myself and my abilities to be abroad and the person I hope to become. I also learned immensely from my peers and professors who were there everyday doing the same activities as me.

Katerina Traut

Ghana

College of Arts and Science

Cape Coast and Elmina Slave Castles

Political Science / Africana Studies

Research



Organization and Position Description

Each individual in our group had their own research topic. My research was a comparison of the two Slave Castles and Auschwitz concentration camp. I compared their structures and how the practices and social structures were meant to aid dehumanization. We also had a group project to document and explain our experience with the “Sites of Memory.” These sites included the two slave castles, the W. E. B. DuBois Center for PanAfricanism, and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial.



Katerina and Prof. Kwame Essien in front of the Kwame Nkrumah Complex Institute of African Studies at University of Ghana.



Cape Coast Slave Castle

Katerina Traut

Ghana



Plaque at both Cape Coast and Elmina Castles asking humanity to “never again perpetrate such injustice against humanity” referring to the slave trade.



Pictures taken for the report on the structures of the slave castles.

Value Derived from the Experience

I learned so much about how I work and interact with others. Before this internship, I really never had an experience where I had to be with the same people, people I before was only acquaintances with, for six weeks. We were together for most of the time and it was challenging. I learned to better communicate my thoughts. Through this experience I learned how to be a team player.

I have also learned about how to interact with professors and other professionals in an environment like this, where we may even live under the same roof.

In terms of what I learned about Ghana, I can say that it was world view changing. It was so important and special for me to come here because of both of my majors. Many things I had read in books or on the news back home became crystal clear by being here and studying about them. Because of this experience, I think I can say that I better understand my participation in world politics. I better understand how I would judge an international policy. I also better understand how to communicate my ideas about these subjects to others.

Karen Valerio

Ghana

College of Arts and Sciences

University of Ghana

Africana Studies

Research Intern

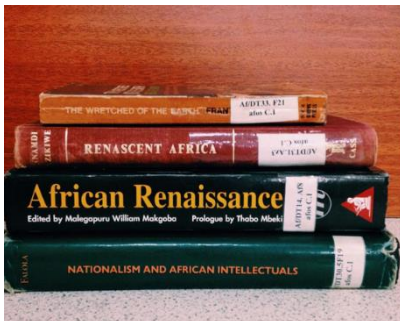


Organization and Position Description

Our weekdays consisted of: 1) compiling our research for the Sites of Memory 2015 project which is centered mainly around our Slave Castle visits and the lectures we've had with African professors at Asheshi University and the University of Ghana, and 2) compiling information for our individual research projects which we chose with the mentorship of Professor Kwame Essien and Professor James Peterson, the program administrators.

My individual research project is titled: The Pan-Africanist Structural Legacy of DuBois, Garvey and Nkrumah. I take a close look at the influence of the Pan-Africanist Giants themselves: W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, and Ghana's very own first president: Kwame Nkrumah, whose Pan-Africanist vision won him several adversaries (including Western opposition), death threats, and drove him out of power through a military coup.

We made use of the Library at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. We were so fortunate to have access to the resources there, a comfortable 5-minute cab drive from the Hostel at which we stayed during our trip. I also had access to the library at the W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Centre for PanAfrican Culture, located near the U.S. Embassy. A trotto and a taxi ride away in Central Accra, there I was able to find valuable information for my project.



Some of the titles I referenced in my project. From the Library at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana.



The Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana.

Karen Valerio

Ghana



Painting of Kwame Nkrumah and his structural legacy in Ghana.



Elmina Castle visit .

Value Derived from the Experience

A retelling of the most impactful and valuable part of this trip for me, personally – my visit to a former British slave castle:

As I walk into the bone-white edifice, I first notice the floor. Cobble stones, cracked and crooked; I can't help but see the blood. There of course is no longer any actual blood...but I can see it. I close my eyes and the echo of the chains and shackles dragging on the cement hurts my ears. I open my eyes and the first sign I encounter reads: Male Slave Dungeon. Placed right above the entrance to the darkest tunnel I've ever seen. It's a slippery slope down into the pits of hell. I'm hesitant to walk in at first. So I lag behind the group a little bit. I'm thinking to myself: Is this really happening? Am I really here? I start to descend and it's total blackness. It takes my eyes some time to adjust. We walk into a room at the end of the tunnel. Size: 5 yards x 10 yards. It's claustrophobic and the air is stale. The guide tells us that 200 men unwillingly fit in this room. There are 4 other rooms like it. A total of 1000 men passed through these dungeons time and time again for 300 years. The guide turns on one bulb at the entrance to the room. He brings our attention to the floor. I see gutters. The guide describes them as "latrines." However, they were never cleaned out and as times passed they overflowed. Three hundred years later, after the "end" of the slave trade, this one particular room contained about one foot of feces and other human waste. It was excavated and we're able to see the original stone floors, crooked...cracked... As we walk into the adjacent room, the guide brings our attention to the floor, once again. He tells us to notice how the floor is different. This one is not of cobble stone but looks like black-brown solid stone with dents and potholes, if you will, here and there. This floor hasn't been excavated. We stand on all that the slaves left behind: feces, urine, vomit, blood...I start to cry. A mix of emotions surge through me: rage, despair, resentment, sadness, a sense of inadequacy in not being able to change history, in particular the macabre history of this place. The guide goes on telling us that 1 out of every 4 men did not make it out of these dungeons alive. The dead were thrown into the ocean. My first encounter with the Atlantic on this side of the world was a peaceful one. But now, I cannot look out into the horizon without envisioning the terrifying sight of approaching ships. Now, I cannot help but think of the souls and the spirits that inhabit the water...the disintegrated bones turned to dust that caress my toes when I'm at the shore. The essence of ancestors neglected by many of my brothers and sisters in the Diaspora. All these thoughts rush through my head as I try to keep up with the group on the tour. We move onto the female slave dungeons. About 600 women were kept in tight quarters and in the same unsanitary conditions as the men. Many died of infections, especially since they didn't have access to proper sanitary care during menstruation. I stood in the corner of one of the female dungeons as the group moved on. In silence, I heard the screams of the raped. In darkness, I see their beautiful faces. We arrive at The Door of No Return. The guide talks about how this would be the last time the slaves would see their homeland, for they were sure to never return. He placed emphasis on the fact that the conditions on the ships were far worse than those in the castle. I could barely digest the thought of that. On the outside, the sign above the door reads: Door of Return. The guide explains that members of the Diaspora returned with the exhumed skeletons of loved ones who died as slaves in the United States and brought them back through the door to be buried in Ghanaian soil, land from which they were stolen. At that moment I realized how fortunate I am to be able to travel back here to the land of my ancestors. As a member of the Diaspora, I made it back to the motherland, above deck this time. I have returned to find my Sankofa.

Sarah Berman

India

College of Arts and Sciences

Political Science

Gateway House

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

Gateway House is an esteemed foreign policy think tank located in Mumbai, India. Most policy groups and research institutions in India are based in Delhi (India's capital city and the center of politics and government). However, Gateway House's location in India's financial and corporate hub gives it a distinct perspective when it comes to India and foreign policy. This internship focused on a joint research project between Gateway House and Lehigh University led by Professor Nandini Deo. We researched the current corporate social responsibility landscape in India since the passage of the 2013 Companies Act, which mandated that companies of a certain size use 2% of their profits for CSR projects. We interviewed companies, CSR consultancy firms, journalists, business professors, and lawyers to gain an overall understanding of India's current CSR climate. Our final product was a series of blog posts to outline our findings published on the Gateway House website.



One of Mumbai's many skylines



Getting ready to face the summer monsoon season in Mumbai

Sarah Berman

India



The Gateway of India: a well-known monument in Mumbai just a few blocks away from the Gateway House office.



Wearing traditional cow herder clothing at a cow sanctuary in Dharampur, India.

Value Derived from the Experience

As a political science major with an affinity for all things international, this particular internship caught my eye and I was immediately interested in gaining experience working at a think tank. Conducting a research project, particularly one that involved extensive interviews with a variety of individuals helped me develop my professional communication skills. Also, by being deeply immersed in the topic of corporate social responsibility for two months, I gained an extensive knowledge of the topic and feel confident in my knowledge of CSR both in India and more generally. I was exposed to many experts and researchers at Gateway House who provided helpful perspectives and advice. Paralleling my professional development, I developed my personal confidence as well. I feel comfortable and confident navigating and living in one of the largest cities in the world, interviewing individuals from a variety of fields, and formally writing up the research results.

Heather Doll

India

College of Arts and Sciences

Gateway House

International Relations / Environmental Studies

Research Assistant



Organization and Position Description

Gateway House is a Mumbai-based think tank focused on engaging corporations and individuals in debate. They conduct research on diverse subjects surrounding India's role in global affairs. My role at Gateway House was as one of four research assistants under Lehigh University Professor Nandini Deo. We researched the effects of the 2013 Companies Act, a national law that contained a "Corporate Social Responsibility" provision that mandated companies over a certain threshold to contribute two percent of profits to a nongovernmental organization or other development project. I interviewed corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and accountants for their opinions on the law and its effectiveness. I also contributed a piece to Gateway House that explores the impact that a company's size can have on its Corporate Social Responsibility decisions.



Being a farmer for a day in Gujarat.



Meeting with interns who are also studying Corporate Social Responsibility.

Heather Doll

India



Photo from a hindu temple.



Photo from my visit to Tarumitra in Bihar.

Value Derived from the Experience

My experience helped me greatly both professionally and personally. This internship and the global experiences Lehigh has given me helped me secure a promotion at my job from a Teaching Fellowship to a full-time teaching position as a 4th and 5th grade social studies and science teacher. My experience with different cultures, perspectives and landscapes has already put me much farther in my career than I otherwise been. The experience was also personally rewarding. I never got the opportunity to travel before college, riding my first plane after high school graduation. At Lehigh, I was fortunate to have opportunities for a global perspective through the Lehigh/United Nations Partnership, Winter Study Abroad Program, the International Relations and Global Studies programs and, finally, the Iacocca Internships. Despite my desire to, I did not plan ahead properly and was unable to study abroad for a full semester. I did not think I would ever get the opportunity or the money to be abroad for a longer period of time. The Iacocca Internship helped me connect with a culture I was interested in, visit the Nongovernmental Organization that I represented at the United Nations, develop professional interpersonal skills and conduct a research project. The Iacocca Internship directly resulted in a leap in my career and I could not be more grateful for the skills, friends and perspectives I gained there.

Alexa Kardos

India

College of Arts and Sciences

Gateway House

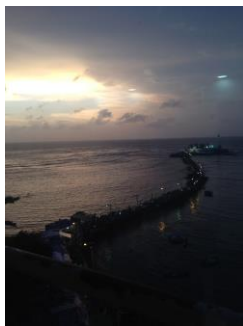
Economics / Political Science

Intern



Organization and Position Description

Gateway House is a research institution and foreign policy think tank located in the heart of Mumbai, India. We partnered with Gateway House to conduct a study on the 2013 Companies Act, which mandated companies donate 2% of their profits to Indian charities and NGOs. As an intern, I was responsible for interviewing companies and law firms to better understand their association with the law. We asked these entities varying questions ranging from “what kind of impact has the law had on your company” to “how do you pick the organizations and causes you contribute to.” We then compiled and analyzed our data to see if any patterns emerged.



View of a Mumbai Mosque at sunset



Alexa and Sarah standing under the Gateway of India

Alexa Kardos

India



*St. Thomas Moore Church,
Mumbai India*



*Sarah, Kelly, and Alexa heading
to dinner in Mumbai to celebrate
Alexa's 20th birthday*

Value Derived from the Experience

By participating in this internship I developed a wide range of skills. I was immersed in a foreign culture and learned to adapt to new and unfamiliar surroundings. I was able to travel on my own or in small groups, navigating one of the world's busiest and complex cities. I also became more adept at fieldwork. I learned to connect and network with the organizations I interviewed in person, on the phone, and via email.

I became a more skilled academic writer, completing two blog posts for Gateway House that outlined my findings. And finally, I learned a great deal about managing my own expectations and adjusting to changing circumstances both professionally as well as personally.

Kelly Scharff

India

College of Arts and Sciences

Gateway House

Economics

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked at the foreign policy think tank Gateway House this summer, located in Mumbai, India. Gateway House is a not-for-profit organization which researches and publishes global foreign policy issues, with a specific focus on how these issues relate to India. My position within the organization was a research intern. Specifically, my focus was on researching the 2013 Indian Companies Act regarding corporate social responsibility and looking at the overall corporate social responsibility climate in India. My main responsibilities included setting up and interviewing various large Indian corporations as well as online research to gather as much information and data as possible. The internship culminated in the writing of multiple blog posts to be published on Gateway House's website.



At a Jain temple outside of Mumbai



Marine Drive, Mumbai

Kelly Scharff

India



Haji Ali at sunset



Celebrating International Yoga Day with The Art of Living Foundation

Value Derived from the Experience

Both the personal and professional growth that I experienced as a result of my Iacocca International Internship were incomparable to other experiences I have had. Living in a foreign city, in the midst of a foreign culture, and learning to navigate it all on my own increased my confidence in my abilities and taught me a lot about myself. Through experiencing a different culture I was able to in turn better understand and examine the culture I was raised in, and make more sense out of my position in the world. Professionally, I gained a lot of experience from seeing how an Indian organization operated. I was able to talk with employees and see the track their lives have taken, as well as speak with multiple large Indian corporations and consulting firms through my work. Gaining this insight into how Indian businesses operate was an invaluable opportunity and is currently helping me navigate my way in my job search.

Netta Admoni

Indonesia

College of Education

KKN-PPM – Universitas Gadjah Mada

Counseling Psychology

International Intern



Organization and Position Description

KKN-PPM is a national program in Indonesia for university students. The purpose is to give students an experience in using the knowledge and strengths that they have gained from their college education to develop programs aimed at empowering underserved communities. Students relocate to live in villages across Indonesia for two months. I lived in Gulurejo, Indonesia near Kulon Progo on the island of Java in a house with 6 other Indonesian students. I collaborated with a psychology student from Universitas Gadjah Mada to provide psychological consultative services to villagers. We mainly focused on one case of a child who was experiencing significant challenges in school and at home. We worked with him, his parents, and his teachers to try to develop a collaborative psychological intervention. We also developed a psychoeducational pamphlet for engineers working with batik-makers in the village. Our pamphlet, which detailed a psychological perspective of how people change their behaviors, will better inform their work with villagers as they try to motivate them to use the more environmentally-friendly natural dyes. I also taught several English classes in school and the local mosque and executed a cultural exchange cooking program for the women in the village.



Psychological consultation with a teacher from the local school



Formal farewell from the Lehigh interns to the head of Gulurejo village

Netta Admoni

Indonesia



Celebrating Idul Fitri, the end of Ramadan, with my host mother



Catching the sunrise on the Indian Ocean with my friends on the last day of the program

Value Derived from the Experience

Being immersed in a beautifully different culture helped me learn about myself and others, and all of the similarities we share despite being from other sides of the world. Making meaningful and close relationships with the Indonesian students and villagers was hugely important in helping me gain a more global perspective, learn about other cultures and religions, and understand other people's worldview. I learned valuable lessons about making friendships despite language barriers, the value of generosity, and the importance of different values within other cultures.

Professionally, I learned so much about the cross-cultural applicability of my work and was able to test, challenge, and learn more about my field in ways I could have never done without this experience. I was able to see how the psychological theories that I learn may or may not work in other cultures, how very specific psychological issues may arise within certain worldviews, and about multiculturalism, specifically gender and religion issues. I was able to engage in critical conversations about the differences in psychology education, perceptions of mental health-seeking, and how different perspectives may collaborate for best treatment.

Angel Oi Yee CHENG

Indonesia

College of Education
Comparative and
International Education

Universitas Gadjah
Mada
Intern



Organization and Position Description

Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) ranks one of top three higher education institutions in Indonesia. Kuliah Kerja Nyata (KKN), referring to place the theories from universities in practice, is the nationwide required program for the students transiting from junior to senior years to contribute to the community building in the rural areas. Lehigh University started the partnership with UGM last year and students participated become part of KKN team. In 2015, the theme is about waste water problem from batik business, which is a main source of income from tourism for village people.

My project in Mediro Village is chiefly about “Empowerment of Children and Young Women through English Language Instruction in Yogyakarta, Indonesia”. Indonesia joined the ASEAN community at the earliest day, with tourism as a key growth factor. It matches the need of Yogyakarta where it also has become the second most important tourist destination. According to ASEAN Education Ministers, education is the first priority and a collective entity to enhance regional cooperation. However, primary school net enrollment rates are below 60% in poor districts and the recent change of ELT curriculum in 2013 removed English subject in Elementary School . The strategy is to fill the gap between the high goals of ASEAN community and the local implementation of education, as well as to establish the capacity of the next generation, which includes children and young women, with English competence for the betterment of the country. Within the project, role play, game activities, and art work conducted in English are the tools to build up individual confidence, self-esteem, capacity, and raise the awareness of the waste water problem caused by batik business. Outside of the project, it will lead to positive impacts on community and the society through the reflection of their own culture.



We were divided into different groups and I belonged to the one about social science.



This photo was taken after we did our observation of an English class in a nearby mosque in the village.

Angel Oi Yee CHENG

Indonesia



A group photo of all UGM and Lehigh students working in the same village



The girls showed happiness when they were able to form the English words the quickest in one of our classes

Value Derived from the Experience

This invaluable experience gained from Iacocca International Internship Program has affected me on personal, academic, and professional levels. Personally, it enhances my cross-cultural communication skills within and outside Lehigh University group. It also helps me to advance my understanding and experience of Indonesia by living with the local university students and the host family members. It especially unveils the mystery of Islam for me by asking them the meanings of their religious practices. We cannot ignore the importance of being flexible, humble, and open minded all the time to keep learning and adapting to the surrounding environment. Academically, it widens my research interest for global citizenship education not only in the developed worlds, but also in the developing worlds, while both have a wide variation in terms of historical, economic, political, religious, and cultural context. Communicating with local students enrich my knowledge about the promises and challenges of ASEAN community for Indonesia. Professionally, this internship can advance my career aspiration of realizing the great importance of university students to engage in the world through various partnerships, with my first-hand and real-life experience. By raising many questions about the internationalization of higher education for the local students, I have earned deeper knowledge about the trend and phenomenon in the nation. It will increase my skills for comparison and contrast in this arena in the future.

Gabriela Vinson

Indonesia

KKN-PPM – Universitas Gadjah Mada



Organization and Position Description

For this internship, I was part of a unit of Indonesian university students. We were sent to a struggling village near the city for seven weeks. We were further placed into subunits to focus on different sections of the village. Our job was to use our collective knowledge across a wide variety of majors to help improve the living and working conditions, including educating them on health, English and environmental impact. Within the unit, there were several smaller clusters based on majors, dividing everyone into teams of engineering, health and so on. Clusters developed their own projects as well as worked on ideas with other clusters for the different subunits. The main projects in my subunit were WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and English programs in the school; education programs about the dangers of wastewater from the village's largest source of income, batik and working on solutions to the wastewater treatment through engineering.



Traditional Batik

Gabriela Vinson

Indonesia



Coloring contest with the children at the mosque



Cooking class with the village mothers

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience was very valuable in learning about working on projects in teams despite cultural differences and language barriers. Having a different native language than the students and villagers, and not being able to directly communicate to the villagers due to this difference, proved to be an interesting obstacle to overcome. In the beginning, the students would sometimes try to meet about projects and speak only in their native language. We had to work through these differences so that we all could be involved in these discussions. Learning about each others' cultural differences was also an interesting experience. We came in knowing some obvious differences, such as the fact that in Indonesia you shake everyone's hand when you come meet with a group, but there were many more subtle differences. Things that were second nature and obvious to them were completely unknown to us and needed to be explained. Our group was open-minded, so, instead of getting frustrated or offended, we would start asking questions about one another's culture and experience. Our conversations covered a range of hot-button topics such as politics, religion, gender roles and history to more casual topics such as food and family. Many of my most treasured experiences from the internship were interacting with the villagers and children. One event that we held was a Western-style cooking class for the mothers in the village. The exchange was fantastic. They asked us lots of questions and many invited us into their homes. I also enjoyed my experience with the children. We put on a WASH program at four schools; the children were very excited when we arrived and even more excited when we passed out toothbrushes. The most interesting part of my exchange with them was listening to their questions. They wanted to know why I was different: why my hair was lighter or why my eyes were blue. They learned more about brushing their teeth from my being there. That was when I felt like I had really given back to the village.

Aileen Bidad

Ireland

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Bioengineering

National University of Ireland

Lab intern

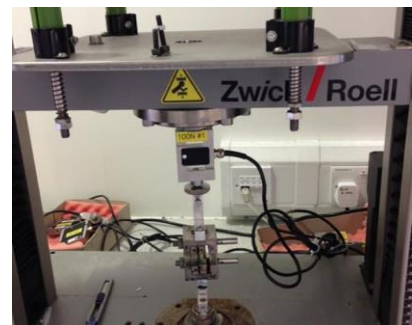


Organization and Position Description

Situated in the beautiful new engineering building, this research internship involved cutting-edge work in innovative biomechanical engineering projects. The biomedical engineering program at the National University of Ireland-Galway is geared towards biomechanics of all magnitudes, from the boundaries between cells to larger medical devices. First we were taught and trained in cell culture techniques and various laboratory procedures including microscopy and micro-CT scanning. From there, we were given projects by our advisors. I worked with Dr. Nicola Kelly and became knowledgeable in Mimics Research 17, a program that is used to analyze the data from CT scans and create 3-dimensional models. I modeled sheep bronchus and used the software to distinguish between the smooth muscle and cartilage. In addition, I took measurements of the scans for the sheep before and after implantation to determine the deformation of the bronchus due to the stent. I learned a great deal about the opportunities of further research in biomedical engineering. I was exposed to a number of skills and techniques that I will take with me as I continue my development as a bioengineer.



Myself and the 3 other interns performing tissue harvesting for a PhD student. We were extracting bone marrow cores from sheep vertebrae.



This is a biaxial tensile testing machine that was used to measure physical properties of various biomaterials and tissue. I used this to measure the tensile strength of sheep trachea.

Aileen Bidad

Ireland



We rented bikes at the Aran Islands and explored the area.



This is a picture I took when I was exploring the botanical gardens on a weekend trip to Dublin.

Value Derived from the Experience

I could not have asked for a better summer internship. I had never traveled abroad before and this program gave me the opportunity to do so, while attaining related experience in my chosen career path. I was nervous about traveling, but because I was on a group internship, I had 3 friends to help me if I ever got stuck. One of the most valuable skills that I learned was the importance of solo travel. By the end of the summer I was able to take trips to England or other parts of Ireland, and those were my favorite weekends. Being able to get lost in a country but find my way, and make my own itinerary was something I will never forget. Another thing I will take away from this trip is acceptance of other cultures. When I arrived in Ireland I had a hard time adjusting to the slower pace of life especially “Irish time”, a lackadaisical approach to meeting times, but I grew to love it. It was nice to get away from the hectic US Northeast life style and slow down. In the same way, people were generally nicer in Europe. I truly enjoyed how genuine everyone was, especially in the lab. Most labs are very competitive and people tend to focus on their own projects, but at NUIG, students would stop what they were doing to help others reach their deadlines. Everyone was interested in the progress of their colleagues. In addition, upon seeing us, almost every person at NUIG went out of their way to introduce themselves to us. It was very refreshing to be a part of such a friendly and welcoming work environment. This internship was an exceptional experience personally, professionally and academically. I have always had a strong interest in biomechanics and medical devices, and NUIG’s program was centered around those concepts. I got the chance to work with a professor who shared the same interests with me and was able to provide me with rewarding and valuable hands-on projects.

An international internship gives value in a way that in-class learning can not. Immersing myself in a new culture was everything I could have imagined. By spending a summer in a foreign country, you get the chance to learn a great deal about other people and even more about yourself. I would never have gotten the chance to travel if it weren’t for the Iacocca International Internship program, and I am grateful for the opportunity and memories that it has allowed me to create.

Kieren Connor

Ireland

Integrated Business and Engineering

National University of Ireland

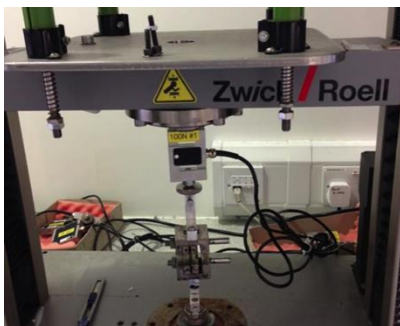
Bioengineering

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked with three other Lehigh students within the Bioengineering Program at NUI Galway this past summer. We had a hands-on, learning based experience where we had the opportunity to work with a variety of PhD students on their cutting-edge research projects. We were trained in mammalian cell culture and worked with both MC3T3 cells as well as primary MSCs derived from bone marrow. In addition, we received training on several pieces of machinery, including a biaxial testing machine, a live-cell microscope, and a microtome, as well as demonstrations with a micro CT scanner. We were trained in Mimics, a computational modeling software that allows you to render 3D images of tissues from CT scans. In addition, we also worked with tissues and performed dissections on both sheep lungs and vertebrae for further testing. In the final weeks of our internship, we put together a literature review on the topic of the iKnife, a laser scalpel that utilizes a mass spectrometer to differentiate between benign and cancerous tissues in real time. Overall, the experience I had was invaluable and I am so grateful to have been exposed to such a wide variety of topics in the field.



Biaxial testing machinery set-up used to test bovine heart samples.



Performing a dissection of sheep vertebrae to isolate ovine trabecular bone samples.

Kieren Connor

Ireland



The Long Walk, Galway



The Galway Races, an weeklong annual horse racing event

Value Derived from the Experience

From a personal standpoint, this internship allowed an enormous amount of growth. I enjoyed being forced to break out of my comfort zone after being thrust into a new culture, and to live on my own in an entirely new environment. I relished in this challenge, and took the opportunity to try and experience as much of Galway and the surrounding area as possible. I was able to become more comfortable going out and doing things alone, ultimately following my own path.

This fully-immersive travel experience opened my eyes to the possibility of potentially living and working abroad, and further cemented my life goal of world travel. I think that I have become a more open, outgoing person as a result of my time in Ireland. Professionally, I think that I gained a lot of insight into the processes involved in creating publishable, high-quality research. I was able to soak in much more than the tangible skills that we learned, through exposure to such a wide scope of projects and techniques in a shared lab environment. This program and my experience at NUIG have caused me to reconsider going to graduate school and pursuing a higher degree. This summer was the experience of a lifetime for me.

Kyle Garland

Ireland

**P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science**
Bioengineering

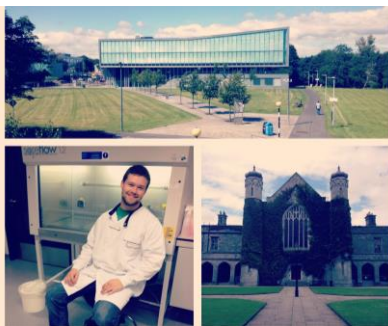
National University of Ireland
Visiting Researcher



Organization and Position Description

This past summer, I had the pleasure of being a visiting researcher at the College of Engineering and Informatics, National University of Ireland, Galway. I worked in the Mechanobiology Laboratory of Dr. Patrick McGarry in the Discipline of Biomedical Engineering at NUI Galway from June 8th until August 14th 2015. I jumped into several ongoing Masters and PhD projects and offered my help whenever I could. As a result, I was trained on several engineering machines and a couple different types of engineering software.

The following are only some of the numerous projects that I was able to work on this past summer: I became proficient at using the program, Mimics, which can take stacks of two-dimensional images and generate a finite three-dimensional image. I studied the compressibility of porcine myocardium and ovine trachea. I even helped isolate trabecular bone cores from ovine vertebrae and then tested those samples in a bioreactor, which I also helped to set-up.



Top: NUIG's New Engineering Building.

Bottom Left: A typical day in the Lab.

Bottom Right: NUIG's Famous Quad.



Isolating Trabecular Bone Cores from Ovine Vertebrae. The bone cores were then implemented into a Bioreactor.

Kyle Garland

Ireland



*Standing in the Spanish Arch,
Which can be found at the end of
Shop Street, Galway, Ireland.*



*Met this friendly donkey on a
weekend trip to the Aran Islands,
right in the heart of Galway Bay.*

Value Derived from the Experience

The amount of hands-on experience that I gained from this summer internship is simply remarkable. I will undoubtedly use both the knowledge and skills that I developed and perfected in Ireland for the rest of my professional career. Through out this internship, I was able to learn advanced programming techniques and how to properly and safely use some very heavy duty engineering machinery. I also became much more confident with presenting my work and more efficient at multitasking. By the end of the summer, taking in information quickly and then generating ideas became somewhat of a second nature. I had a most fortunate opportunity to work on many projects in the Bioengineering field, ranging from three dimensional modeling of heart valves to working with tumorous mice bone cells to testing the mechanical properties of sheep lungs. I will always remember my time in Ireland as being an incredibly important jump-start to my career as well as the trip of a lifetime.

Brittany Partain

Ireland

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Biopharmaceutical / Engineering

National University
of Ireland

Visiting Researcher



Organization and Position Description

This summer, I participated in an internship in the Biomedical Engineering department at the National University of Ireland in Galway (NUIG) in the research lab of Dr. Laoise McNamara. Unlike Lehigh, the Biomedical Engineering program at NUIG is centered around cellular mechanics and medical devices, rather than being divided into different tracks. The beauty in this was that I was able to do research that was novel to me and different from research I would do on the pharmaceutical track at Lehigh. I was able to work on many different projects under the supervision of several PhD students. Some of these projects included feeding and sustaining a mammalian cell culture, dissecting ovine lungs, dissecting the C2 vertebrae from sheep, creating 3-D models of different organs using the computer program Mimics, learning about stents and stent deployment, as well as dissecting the left ventricle of an ovine heart and performing tensile tests on them. In addition, working on these projects and performing the tensile tests, required learning the function and how to use many of the machines including a uniaxial stress tester, biaxial stress tester, laminar flow hood, bioreactor, and a live cell microscope.



Creating a 3-D model of the jaw bone using the computer program Mimics.

The C2 vertebrae from a sheep. It was isolated from the C1 and C3 vertebrae.

Brittany Partain

Ireland



Standing in the Spanish Arch near the Corrib River in Galway City, Ireland.



Day trip to the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland as well as a tour of the burren.

Value Derived from the Experience

When I first applied for this internship, I was under the impression that I would be assigned to one research project. To my surprise, there were several different projects in which I was able to work. This was by far the best aspect of the internship. I was able to learn so many different skills that will make me a more valuable candidate in my future career. In addition, I was able to overcome my fear of dissecting tissue and organs from animals. Overcoming the mental fear of touching/ dissecting hearts, lungs, and vertebrae proved to me that I am able to do whatever I put my mind to. Apart from this, the work I performed at NUIG made me excited about possibly pursuing a Masters Degree centered around stents, as well as other medical devices. Although I was not familiar with many medical devices prior to this internship, I am now familiar with stents and I understand the work and research required to design and innovate new medical devices and improve existing ones. From a professional view point, this internship enabled me to open my eyes to a different aspect of bioengineering that I may pursue as a career. In addition, I was surrounded by coworkers who were working on similar projects and I was able to discuss their research with them and relay my research in a professional manner. It was wonderful witnessing the drive and ambition that my graduate student coworkers possessed and how much they are contributing to the future of biomedical engineering. To me this is the most exciting thing about my major and one of the reasons I chose this path. There is so much potential in this field and I cannot wait to contribute in some way. I can honestly say that my internship at NUIG has made me more excited about my future career and showed me that practically any medical problem can be resolved with the knowledge and persistence of bioengineers.

Karen Huang

Italy

College of Arts and Sciences

Cognitive Science / Design



Immediatic Digital Agency

Graphic Design/App development intern



Organization and Position Description

Immediatic is a digital media agency whose clients are in need of design and/or coding services for their projects. Immediatic provides those designs and then brings their clients' ideas to life on whatever platform, be it web, mobile, or on paper. I was assigned an idea and then given the task of designing it and then later coding it. The idea was something simple: a mobile app that prompts its users once a day. The prompt was left ambiguous when I was given the assignment. After brainstorming the idea and its possible audience, I drew up mockups of the app and its transitions between pages and activities. Then I began coding a prototype of the app using java on Android studio. I also drew up mockups for the app logo. The focus of my project was on the app's UI and how to make it attractive as well as useful for its users.



*At Lake Maggiore and the
Borromean Islands*



At the World Expo

Karen Huang

Italy



*View of Milan from atop
the Duomo*

immediatic
The Digital Agency



*Beautiful view of the clear
blue waters beneath the
hiking trail at Cinque Terre*

Value Derived from the Experience

I spent six weeks in Italy which, I wish was longer. I learned so much about the country's cultures and customs and this gave me perspective on how others lived and then on my own lifestyle. We traveled on the weekends and explored outside of Milan, the city where we resided for our internships. I saw so much beauty in a country full of culture. It was overwhelming but awesome. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to travel to Italy because I may not have been able to visit otherwise.

This internship, or particularly my boss, forced me to find my own answers to questions I may have. I wasn't used to an environment where the people above me didn't have the answers or specific instructions. I learned to define my own rules for the project I was given and my boss provided me with the necessary food for thought. It was a very casual environment. This experience was insightful because I realized that in work environments where employees do more than take orders are those who are able to think for themselves and outside the box. This is a different environment than I'm used to because the environment that I'm used to are environments with a defined set of rules and no leeway.

Kelly McCoy

Italy

College of Arts and Sciences

Journalism / Global Studies

Luxos Magazine Italia

Editorial Assistant Intern

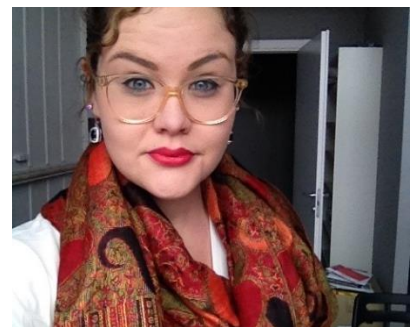


Organization and Position Description

Luxos Magazine aims to provide the most exclusive content and experiences to the global elite. Distributed mainly in luxury five-star hotels in several countries, the publication includes travel articles, restaurant reviews, and fashion news targeted for high-earning individuals. Luxos features both print and online platforms. As the Editorial Assistant Intern, I wrote articles for the upcoming fall/winter editions of the print magazine. My duties including researching information for assigned articles, finding related photos, and contacting organizations or hotels for additional information. I was also responsible for copy-editing several articles.



A photo from the last day of work with our coworkers, who became good friends of ours.



A photo after completing the first week of work.

Kelly McCoy

Italy



A photo from the first day of work.



Waiting in line to see ETRO's Spring/Summer 2016, representing Luxos.

Value Derived from the Experience

This experience was incredible influential for me. I definitely grew personally and professionally. Personally, I became more confident in my own abilities and my independence. I was able to organize small day trips for myself and travelled alone on several instances. It was really freeing knowing that I could count on my own abilities to travel on my own and plan accordingly for any emergencies. I really feel like I have a more realistic and well-rounded view of the world after being immersed in another culture for most of the summer. It really taught me to be more confident in my instincts and gave me a greater perspective on how other countries view America.

Professionally, I learned what my preferences are regarding workplaces. I discovered that sitting at a desk and writing for most of the day may not be the most ideal situation for me. That's not to say that my experience at Luxos wasn't good – I loved everyone I worked with and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly – but I need to be moving around and going places. I also developed more organizational techniques for myself to make sure I got all of my assigned articles completed and submitted in time. It's comforting to know that I now have some solid experience to present to future employers. Overall, this trip definitely changed my outlook on life and boosted my confidence.

Gaby Morera

Italy

College of Arts and Sciences

Luxos Magazine

Journalism

Web Intern



Organization and Position Description

Luxos Magazine is a luxury lifestyle magazine that writes about different luxurious city destinations all over the world. My primary job as the web intern was to help in the uploading of articles onto the web content management system. This included formatting articles, as well as finding, editing and inserting related pictures, hyperlinking to other sources and creating maps for destinations. I also did some writing for the web section of the magazine.



Luxos Logo



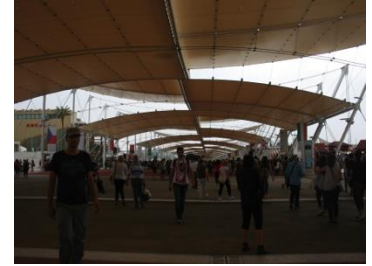
Etro fashion show for men;s fashion week that my internship sent me to.

Gaby Morera

Italy



Traveling through Venice



The Milan Expo

Value Derived from the Experience

The experience of having an internship abroad gave me so much more than I imagined. While I was honing my professional skills, being in a foreign country and relying only on myself for exploring the country gave me a huge confidence boost. I have gained so much worldly knowledge as well as insight on myself as a person, that I probably would not have gained by doing an internship in my hometown.

Julia Shor

Italy

College of Business and Economics

Vivocha

Supply Chain Management

Marketing Intern



Organization and Position Description

Vivocha is an online customer service software company that helps businesses of any size to sell online more efficiently with better customer service. The company provides the proper channels for their clients that allow them to increase sales. I had the privilege of working as the marketing intern for Vivocha and learned a lot about market research and the effort put into it. Mattia (my mentor) had taught me the rigorous steps in order to even compile research that adds value to the company. Since I was also an American at an Italian company, I was in charge of editing all the documents to make sure that they were grammatically correct. This included editing all slides and e-mails that would be sent to the company's English speaking clients.



My Mentor Mattia being as cool as ever.



The lobby at work. They also had a foosball table in the basement.

Julia Shor

Italy



Me enjoying my favorite part of Italy, the food.

vivocha
meet your customers online



Venezia, a gorgeous city.

Value Derived from the Experience

Living in Italy has been a life changing experience. Not only was I able to learn about a new culture but also about different work ethics. Working at an Italian company has shown me that there are culture differences in the workplace that one must take into account when working with companies in other countries. Not only did I learn about the work ethic, but I learned about the life lessons that every Italian follows.

Life in Italy is much slower, the natives celebrate and savor every second of their lives. It has taught me to appreciate everything around me and actually look at what is in front of me. Being able to do this has allowed me to realize what I want to do with my life and go for the passions that drive me. It is a summer that I will never forget.

Jean Kwon

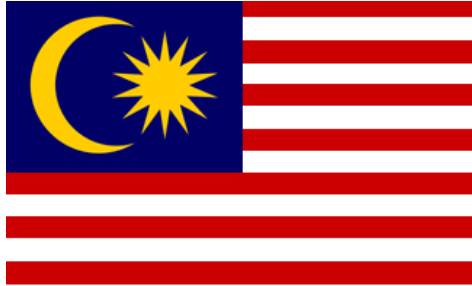
Malaysia

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Bioengineering

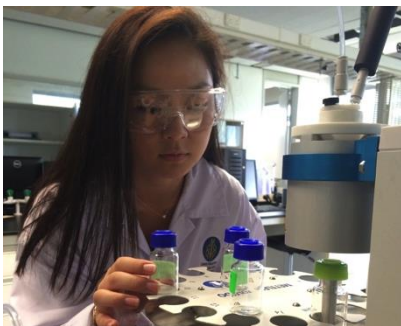
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

I worked in the Center for Intelligent Signal and Imaging Research (CISIR) at the Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS. My supervisor was a professor at the university, and upon my arrival he helped me choose and design a project to complete in the course of my time there. During my stay I did background research on my topic, I worked on getting ethics approval for my project, and finally I ran my experiment with the help of student volunteers. Because of my passion for treating arthritis, I chose a project that related to painful muscle, tendon, and bone movement. I was given a thermal imaging camera, called Fluke, which allowed me to capture and analyze the heat distribution in a person's body. After receiving ethics approval for human testing, I was able to execute an experiment in which I compared the heat distribution before and after movement. When I wasn't working on this experiment, my supervisor allowed me to expand my skills in other areas. For instance, I also learned to code Guided User Interfaces (GUIs) in Matlab and I even attended a course on biostatistics. The university was very well equipped with technology and resources, and I was able to expand my abilities in directions I could not here.



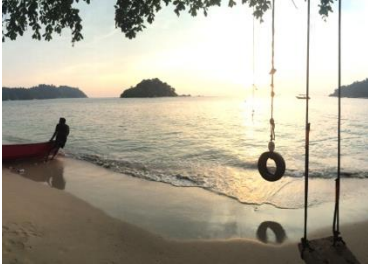
Working in the lab



Capturing thermal images

Jean Kwon

Malaysia



*Watching the sun set on
Pangkor Island*



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TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS



*Enjoying the famous Boh tea
from Cameron Highlands*

Value Derived from the Experience

Adventure is addicting. After visiting Malaysia, I am excited to continue exploring every corner of the world. The things I saw and experienced were out of movies and magazines and all over bucket lists, and it was inspiring and thrilling. Our group travelled a lot and made many friends along the way, and this surprised me the most. While I did expect to befriend some people, I didn't anticipate it being the major part of my trip. At the university we stayed at, there were many other exchange students. Even most of the graduate students who worked in the same office as I did were from other countries. I gained a new appreciation for people of different backgrounds because after eating with them, laughing with them, and running around Southeast Asia with them, I realized at the core, they're just like me. I found that the stereotypes I had about various cultures and religions just aren't true and that in the end, I had fallen for their different ways of life.

Living abroad for two months, I got to experience true Malaysian hospitality. The students were always willing to take us out for meals and share their stories in exchange for ours. Now I know that all the money in the world can't buy you an authentic experience. The best meals I've had are from roadside stalls, night markets, or home-cooked meals. The most memorable city tours I've gone on are not tours at all. They were going out with local friends who wanted to share their favorite spots growing up and their impressions on their culture. The first two days in Malaysia, I really struggled. I missed the comfort of America-where there's fast Wi-Fi and air conditioning. But once I accepted these aspects of daily life here, I could see past it all. By the third day I didn't see ignorance, poverty, and fault. I saw hardworking and beautiful women, dedicated students, and preservation of traditions. Working amongst such great people was an honor and a pleasure, and if I could do it all over again, I would.

Naoki Manzano Miura

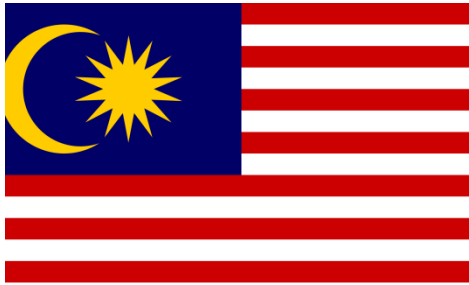
Malaysia

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Mechanical Engineering

Universiti Teknologi Petronas

Research Assistant



Organization and Position Description

Located near the city of Ipoh, UTP (Universiti Teknologi Petronas) serves as a center of cutting edge research related to petroleum engineering. The university campus has well-equipped laboratories, a culturally aware and diverse student population and friendly staff. During my stay at UTP, I worked as a research assistant in the Flow Assurance Lab. Particularly, I was interested in the problem of characterizing swirl flow in oil pipes. To do so, I developed a method of tracking multiple three dimensional particles submerged in rotating flow using a single high-speed camera. By using MATLAB to process image data and to extract kinematic information, I was able to compute the velocity vectors at a given time. The data I obtained was later validated using a Laser Doppler Anemometry system. In addition to my immersion in the oil industry, the cooperative spirit of the graduate students in my lab and my passion to solve real world engineering problems made my research experience enjoyable and useful for my future career.



Visiting the Batu Caves in Kuala Lumpur



Street art in the city of Penang

Naoki Manzano Miura

Malaysia



Visiting the Grand Palace in Bangkok.



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS



Lehigh students attending a traditional Malaysian wedding.

Value Derived from the Experience

The research that I performed at UTP was an incredible experience from various standpoints. On the one hand, it was an academic challenge for me to put my knowledge in Mechanical Engineering into practice, while acquiring additional skills, such as Robotic Vision programming, necessary to complete my project. On the other hand, it helped me to establish professional connections with faculty members and graduate students, all of whom were very helpful and friendly at all times. However, the most outstanding experience from my stay in Malaysia happened outside of the work environment, where I immersed myself into a completely new culture: Muslim prayers were played from a loudspeaker 5 times a day, the food was spicy (yet delicious and extremely cheap), and wildlife I had only seen in National Geographic documentaries lived in the campus surroundings. Overcoming the initial cultural differences together with the other Lehigh students was an enriching experience, and meeting local students as well as other international interns made my experience at UTP exceptional. Not to forget the weekend trips, where we witnessed a traditional Malaysian wedding, saw paradise-like islands, experienced the city life in Kuala Lumpur and visited neighboring countries as well.

Meghan Stranick

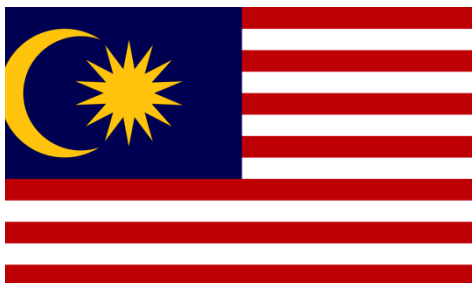
Malaysia

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Chemical Engineering

University Technology Petronas

Research Intern



Organization and Position Description

Three other students and I were research interns at the University Technology Petronas located in Tronoh, Perak, Malaysia. For my internship I was placed in the Chemical Engineering department working with a graduate student and professor in the area of study of green technology. My specific research project involved using the software COSMO-RS to predict the aqueous solubility of piperazine, an organic compound, and its selected derivatives. This process is used as a screening method for possible organic compounds used in carbon dioxide capture processes. Using my research, I was then able to make recommendations as to which compounds would be the most suitable for carbon dioxide capture, specifically amine-based carbon dioxide capture using absorption columns. Aside from my individual work, I was given the opportunity to tour relevant labs on campus, and learn about other research happening in my department. At the end of the internship I presented my final report summarizing my research. From this internship I learned a great deal about different methods of carbon dioxide capture and the environmental impact this relevant technology has all around the world.



Bangkok, Thailand



Before our farewell dinner at UTP

Meghan Stranick

Malaysia



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PETRONAS



Perhentian Islands,, Malaysia

Penang, Malaysia

Value Derived from the Experience

This international internship experience exceeded my expectations in many ways. Academically, this experience provided me with an opportunity to learn a great deal about a specific area of research in the chemical engineering field: carbon dioxide capture technology. I was able to be a part of interesting research relevant to the courses I am currently taking at Lehigh. The graduate student and professor I was paired with graciously aided me in my individual research project throughout the entire experience. Gaining experience working in a professional research facility provided me with many new skills as I continue my education and future work in the chemical engineering field.

On campus, we were able to foster relationships with many of the students all from different countries around the world. Living with other exchange students allowed us to make close friends with people adjusting to the same situation at the university. We also have the opportunity to develop close friendships with the students currently attending UTP. These students made our experience even better than we possibly thought it could be their companionship, and guidance. They really made a great effort to enhance our internship experience and make sure we took full advantage of all that was around us.

Outside of our time on campus, I was able to gain so much more than just academic experience. Every weekend my fellow students and I planned trips and traveled all over Malaysia, as well as , Thailand and Singapore. These trips provided an amazing view in to Southeast Asia, and allowed me to travel places I may would have never gotten the opportunity to explore. These trips definitely instilled a sense of wanderlust inside of me, and dramatically grew my desire to travel to even more places in the future. Meeting other travelers from all around the world along the way, we were able to make friends and see some of the most amazing places. I am extremely lucky to have received this opportunity to go abroad, and am so grateful to have had this entire life changing experience.

Jeanne Tong

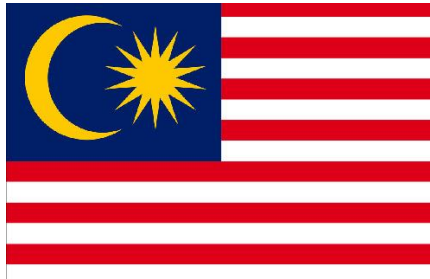
Malaysia

Integrated Business and Engineering

Environmental Engineering

Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

Research Assistant Intern



Organization and Position Description

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Malaysia for two months as an Iacocca Research Assistant Intern. I worked under the Sustainable Resources Mission Oriented Research, within the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, at the Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP). An internationally renowned research and development university, UTP collaborates much of its research with PETRONAS, a Fortune Global 500 oil and gas corporation. My internship at UTP consisted of analyzing embodied carbon footprint emissions from model houses in the Malaysian housing sector. I learned to use virtual modeling programs such as Auto Desk Revit and sustainable development LCA tools for Building Information Modeling. After developing a 3D single story house, I calculated the amount of embodied carbon emitted from various materials used to construct a house in order to determine which construction materials contributed the largest carbon footprint. During my internship, I was supervised by the Mission Oriented Research Director for my research and advised by a Post-Graduate student, who has become a great mentor to me. Overall, this internship has not only helped me become better prepared for future coursework at Lehigh while understanding the industry application, but it has also further enhanced my interest in the emerging discipline of sustainable development and environmental science.



Dinner with the Global Network Club, Vice Chancellor, Dean of Engineering, and the CSIMAL Exchange Office



Exploring the infamous street art of Georgetown, Penang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Jeanne Tong

Malaysia



Touring the tea plantations at Cameron Highlands



UNIVERSITI
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PETRONAS



Visiting the beautiful islands of Pulau Perhentian

Value Derived from the Experience

My internship in Malaysia has been both a fulfilling professional and personal experience. Not only was I fortunate enough to work with a diverse and accomplished group of colleagues in high-tech research facilities, but I also had the opportunity to travel all over Malaysia, even visiting Singapore and Thailand during my stay. Going into the internship, I had the expectations that Malaysian culture would be similar to the Chinese culture that I was raised by; however, it was nothing close to what I had expected. From living in the tropical jungle climate to the delicious spiced foods and the Muslim religion, Malaysia was everything I wanted from this experience abroad, a pure culture shock. What I enjoyed most about Malaysia was the multi-ethnic aspect, a country of three integrated cultures: Malay, Chinese and Indian. This made traveling around Malaysia an exciting journey because each destination was an entirely different experience when we would encounter various ethnic communities. From this, I learned to adapt to my surroundings quickly, communicate effectively, and most importantly, to be open-minded.

On campus, I created lasting friendships with people from all over the world, making friends with the French exchange students and the Global Networking Club, who played a large role in providing us with true Malaysian hospitality. During work, I spent the day with my post-graduate colleague, who not only advised me on my research, but also acted as a professional mentor to me. Working with such a diverse range of people has taught me so much about their upbringings, home-life, religion, and beliefs.

I am very thankful for having been selected as an Iacocca Intern this summer, as I have learned valuable life-long lessons after this experience halfway around the world. Being able to adapt to a culture so vastly different from that of the U.S. has not only been enriching, but has also broadened my horizons for future travel and work opportunities. I was able to discover new interests and learn how to deal with a variety of challenging situations. As a result, I have become much more independent, responsible and appreciative of my own upbringings and culture.

Talia Dunyak

Uganda

College of Arts and Science

English / German

Pathways Development Initiative

Microfinance Intern



Organization and Position Description

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is an international NGO started by the Zaale family in their home district of Bududa. For the past three years, PDI has been committed to both education of the young and old. They achieve this goal by running a pre-primary and primary school in the village of Bubiita, helping teen moms to return to trade school so that they can provide for their children, and teaching business and marketable skills to locals. The second goal of PDI is to help members of the local community pull themselves out of poverty, this goal is achieved through the Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLAs) that PDI has started throughout Bududa District to help encourage a culture of savings in the district.

As a microfinance intern at PDI, I primarily worked with the VSLA program. During the course of the internship, we spent time doing data collection from over 40 of the 120 VSLAs in Bududa and we also entered data from 2014, analyzed it and wrote a report about our findings. In addition to these activities, I spent time giving lessons to both new and established VSLA groups about the importance of punctuality and good record keeping and also how to properly take out a loan from your VSLA group. A significant amount of time was also spent working on content for the PDI website and eco-tourism website and also helping to implement improvements at the PDI, such as new murals and paint on the playground that Manraj Matharu (another Iacocca Intern) built earlier in the summer.



Helping to set up a new VSLA in the rural village of Bunamome.



Collecting data from the Malandu Women's VSLA in Bukalsi.

Talia Dunyak

Uganda



Field work often included hiking to remote villages near the tops of several mountains in the region.



We spent time painting murals at the PDI Education Center in Bubiita to help inspire children to play, learn and imagine.

Value Derived from the Experience

The Iacocca Internship in Uganda was an absolutely amazing and undeniably valuable experience for me as an individual. The people that I worked with in Uganda, whether they were my colleagues at PDI or the locals that we were trying to help with our VSLA program, were so amazing. Working with these people showed me both how different and similar people from such different parts of the world can be. Going into my internship, I never expected to find people who I could connect with in a place that just got electricity and still has no running water. This experience has certainly enriched the way that I understand the world around me. Not only that, but the friends I made while on my internship are friends I know that I will keep for the entirety of my life; they are truly people whose input and advice I truly value, and I cannot wait to return to Uganda one day to see all the friends I was forced to leave behind.

Working in Uganda not only expanded my worldview, but also allowed me to better understand my passions and what interests me professionally. Although I may not see myself doing microfinance work in the long-term, the experience of working for a small international NGO has been so amazing that it has caused me to seriously consider perusing international NGO work in the future. My mother always told me that I am a bleeding heart, and I've always known that I'd probably do some sort of work that involved helping others pull themselves out of poverty. But after working here, I know that if I didn't work in a job that was concerned with the improvement of the global community or the sustainable development of the earth, then I wouldn't be true to who I am. Looking towards the future, I hope to either go to grad school for international development or to law school for international or refugee law.

I would like to thank both Lehigh and the Iacocca Internship Program for allowing me this opportunity to find myself and to have a wonderful summer learning about microfinance and helping the citizens of Bududa District to pull themselves out of poverty.

Manraj Matharu

Uganda

P.C. Rossin College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Pathways Development Initiative

Bioengineering

Student Intern



Organization and Position Description

The Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a nongovernmental organization located in the Bududa District of Eastern Uganda. The mission of the NGO is to both work with communities in order to help families establish sustainable livelihoods, and to invest in the education of the younger generation. The aforementioned objectives are currently being addressed through the village saving and loan associations, and a pre-primary school, respectively. Initially, my internship responsibility involved working with savings and loan groups in order to help monitor their progression. However, approximately half way through the internship, my duties drastically changed. After focusing a few days on fixing some issues at the school, such as the drainage of the water tank and latrine, Papa Zaale, the family patriarch, offered me the position of working autonomously on renovating the school. Using my construction background, my attention was focused on first aesthetically improving the school. That said, work involved tearing the outside cow dung from the main schoolhouse and kitchen. Then, the walls were cemented to increase structural integrity. Followed by base layer paint colors of green and blue, as well as designs of various animals and cartoons. Along with the renovation of the school, the Lehigh Team built a fully functional and painted playground- the first in all of Bududa.



Completed school renovation and playground build. August 2015



Lehigh Team and Zaale Family Photo. July 2015

Manraj Matharu

Uganda



PDI students brushing their teeth during the school day. July 2015



PDI students having some fun with my GoPro camera. June 2015

Value Derived from the Experience

My experience in Uganda has aided me in assessing my true passions and solidifying my career interests. My work during the 10-week stay not only challenged my abilities, but it also put me outside my comfort zone. However, with the friendships and family I gained, the obstacles I faced, in retrospect, were entirely worth it. My stay with the Zaale family, as cliché as this may sound, made me a better person. Sleeping, eating, and living my day-to-day with this family and the surrounding community made me a more humble person. I was able to learn to hone in on admirable qualities and realize what does and does not matter in life. In regards to the school renovation and playground build, I was able to understand the meaning of hard work. For instance, when a Westerner would need to acquire planks of wood, they would just go to the hardware store. On the other hand, when I needed wood, a series of steps were required. This involved finding someone who owned land with decent sized trees, compromising with the owner to buy the trees, finding an individual with a chainsaw to cut the trees down and strip them to the appropriate size, paying for the gas, oil, and 2T to operate the chainsaw, and finally, having people carry the planks to the job site. Career wise, the internship allowed me to come to the conclusion that I truly want to help others for a living. I want my daily routine to consist of making the lives of others better. Seeing the children play on the playground, and the consistent “thank you’s” I received as I trekked back and forth between the Zaale compound and school helped me come to this realization. That said, my desire for wanting to become a physician and set-up nonprofits over my lifetime strengthened. To conclude, I am currently counting down the days for my return to Uganda next summer.

Sydney O'Tapi

Uganda

College of Arts and Sciences

Pathways Development Initiative

Journalism

Business Intern



Organization and Position Description

PDI is a small community-based NGO located in Bududa district in eastern Uganda. The NGO works toward improving the livelihood of people by educating the community and empowering individuals. PDI has two major programs; Village Savings and Loans and the PDI Education Center. I worked for the Village Savings and Loans program where I met with small savings and loans groups to teach them about finance, how to save, and how to get towards financial stability through owning a small business and having other income generating activities. I also worked on digital marketing for PDI and wrote content for their Facebook page and other social media outlets.



*Hiking at Sipi Falls in
Kapchorwa*



*PDI Education Center newly
renovated by the Lehigh team*

Sydney O'Tapi

Uganda



Rafting in the source of the Nile



Income Generating Activity workshop lead by the Lehigh Team

Value Derived from the Experience

Personally, the program helped me grow in areas I was once very weak in. The program allowed me to gain teamwork skills, problem solving skills, and become more goal oriented. The people who work for PDI really embody what it means to serve your community purposefully and successfully. They taught me how to work towards something greater than myself. I was fortunate enough to have wonderful team members that made working together so much fun.

From working on the Village Savings and Loans program, to renovating the school. It was a lot of work but very worth it in the end. We all were able to grow professionally, personally, and academically while supporting one another. It was a life-changing experience that has taught me what it truly means to serve.

Cynthia Pando

Uganda

College of Arts and Science

Pathways Development Initiative

Sociology / Behavioral Neuroscience

PDI Education Center Teacher



Organization and Position Description

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a non-profit organization in Bududa district, Uganda whose mission is to fight poverty by empowering people to better themselves through education. PDI has three main programs that it oversees: PDI Homestay, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), and PDI Education Center. PDI tries to combat the weaknesses of the Bududa District which is the weak education system where 71% of children are not able to pass 7th grade, the large quantity of orphans, teenage mothers, abandoned children, frequent landslides, food shortages, deforestation, etc. They also started a new initiative called Second Chance, which is meant for teenage mothers who had to drop out of school and were not allowed back, that is meant to fund these young women to be able to go back to school. This summer, I worked with PDI Education Center and was a Special Teacher of Special Subjects during my time in Uganda. What was implemented during my stay there was Nutrition, Health Habits, Speech, Reading, and Writing lesson plans for preschool, kindergarten, and first grade students. Additionally, I evaluated the progress of the dental program that was put in place the previous summer.



The students photographed above are from kindergarten and first grade showing off the fortune tellers they just made during Art time.



This is Cynthia Pando teaching pre-school children nutrition through the use of alphabet, colors and pictures.

Cynthia Pando

Uganda



This is the Lehigh Team posing in front of the sign indicating Murchison Falls National Park welcomes us.



This is a picture of the young children climbing up the rope ladder into the newly constructed playground made by one of the PDI interns from Lehigh.

Value Derived from the Experience

My experience in Uganda was such a unique one and helped me to develop in some many different ways. The reason that this opportunity was so valuable and memorable for me is that I learned so much not just about myself but also about the world that I live in. The perceptions that the Western world has about the continent of Africa is so static. These views then spread to others which is why when I got to Uganda I was very excited to see everything and learn about everything. I learned that Uganda is filled with so much rich culture and the people are so nice and welcoming. They were so happy to see us and to work with us. They were always so willing to teach us about their culture and their language that I worked extra hard at learning everything I could. I worked as a special teacher in the PDI Education Center and I was able to implement lesson plans about nutrition, health habits, manners, speech, reading and writing. These lesson plans were meant to expose the children to topics about health and what they can do to be healthy. Additionally, through these lesson plans I indirectly taught the teachers how to use the resources that they had in their lessons in order to diversify how students learn rather than the teacher lecturing method. These implementations also allowed for students to be more creative inside the classroom. This internship has made me refine some of my time management skills but it also allowed me to gain skills in thinking outside the box since teaching young children is not an easy task. Additionally, I am working on writing a professional report about my work at PDI in order to help future interns when they work in the PDI Education Center. I recommend working for PDI because it is more than just a non-profit or an organization it is a family. You will feel like you are doing what you should be doing and most of all you will feel at peace in the village. There was never a time where I wanted to go home which is rare because anywhere you go vacationing or not everyone hits that point when you know it is time to go but I never felt that way. If anything I never wanted to leave and I know that there is so much more that I can offer PDI. I learned so much more about myself and what I can do to help others and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Faculty/Staff Contributions

Thank you to the Lehigh University Faculty and Staff who created opportunities for group programs. Their efforts went above and beyond their responsibilities to the university and they took the time to prepare and lead a group of students in their international experience.

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Marie-Helene Chabut (Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures)

Carol Ham (Director, International Internships)

Neil McGurty (Director, International Programs)

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John Savage (Associate Professor, History)

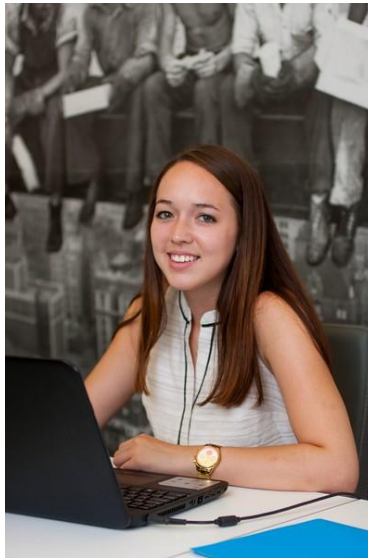
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