

IACocca INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

STUDENT REPORT

SUMMER 2024



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

Office of
International Affairs

Iacocca Institute®

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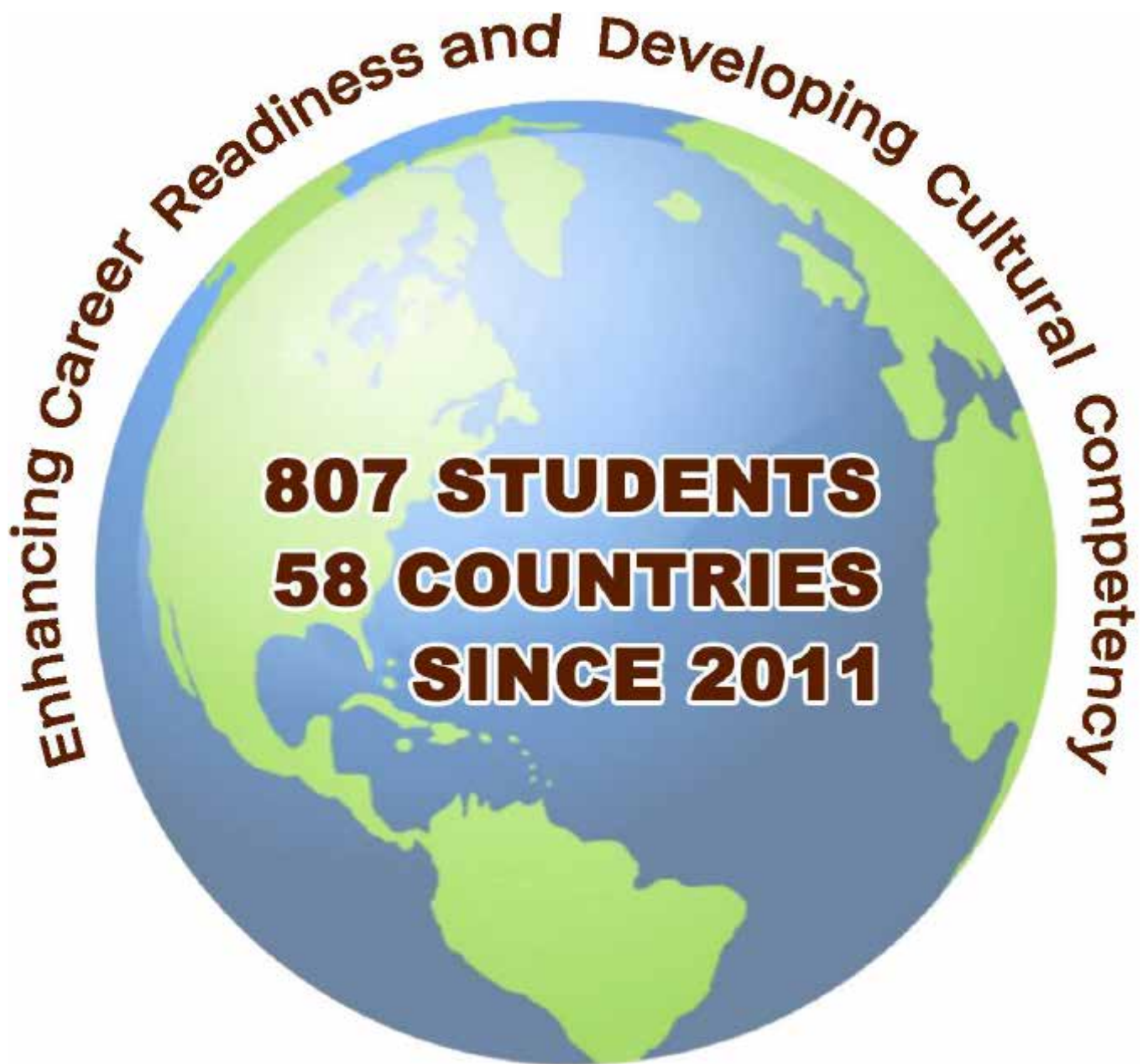
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IACOCCA INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



PROGRAM STATEMENT

Iacocca International Internship Program (IIIP) provides practical work experience, grounded in global context, aimed at enhancing students' career readiness and intercultural competency.

2024 IACOCCA INTERN HOST LOCATIONS



ARMENIA



AUSTRIA



BERMUDA



CHILE



CROATIA



FRANCE



GERMANY



GREECE



HONG KONG



IRELAND



ITALY



JAPAN



LITHUANIA



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MOLDOVA



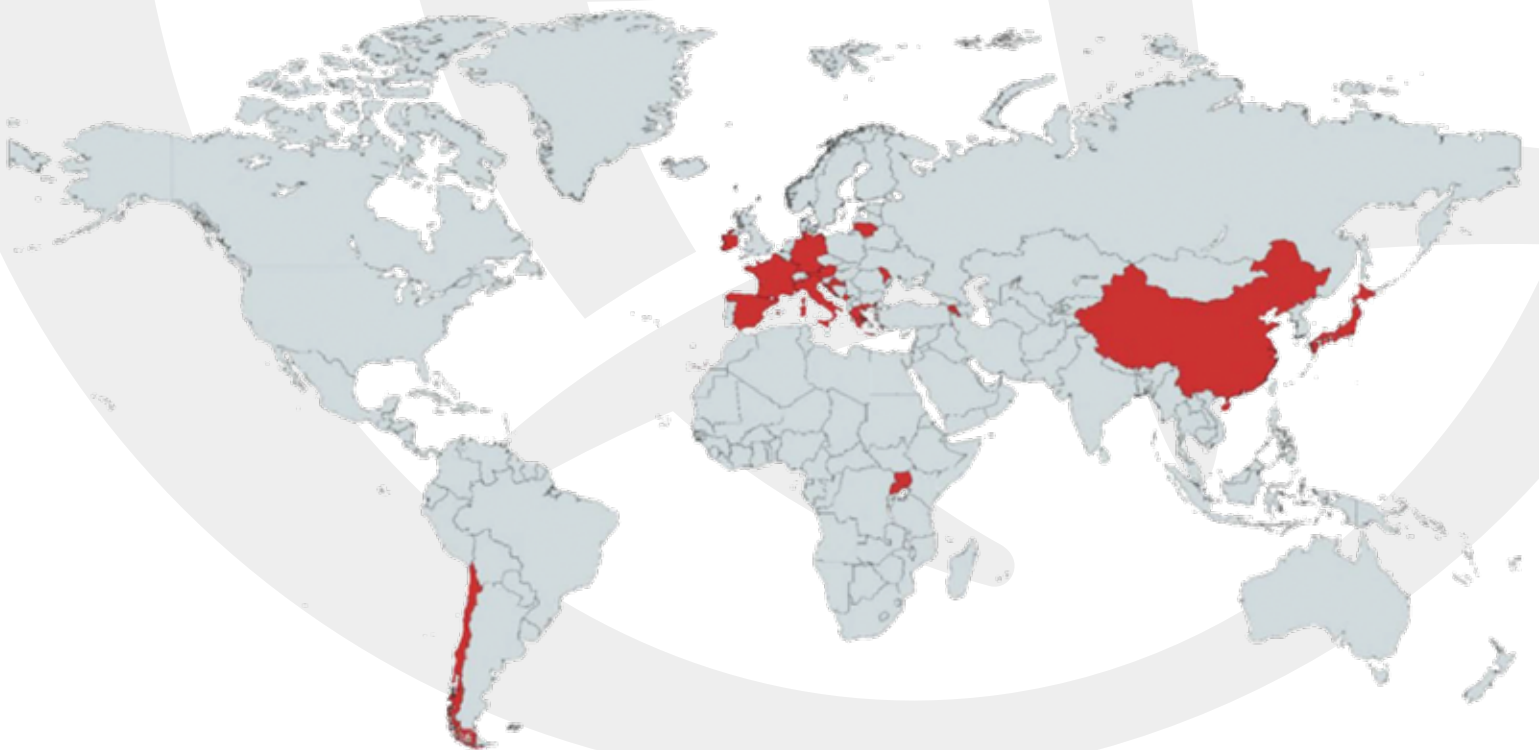
MONTENEGRO



SPAIN



UGANDA



Name: Oyu-Erdene Ankhbayar
College: College of Health
Major: Population Health
Company: Luxembourg Institute of Health
Position: Bioinformatics & Data Science Trainee



Luxembourg



Inside the Internship:

This summer, I worked as a Bioinformatics & Data Science intern at the Luxembourg Institute of Health, a biomedical research organization in Luxembourg. In the Bioinformatics & AI team within the Department of Medical Informatics, I worked on analyzing the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) dataset and building a model predicting gene expression from histopathological image embedding. Through exploratory data analysis with principal component analysis, t-distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE), and Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP), I identified differences and similarities between tissue samples in terms of their gene expression and histopathological image embedding features. Further investigating the relationship between gene

expression and image embedding, I trained and tested 2 predictive models with linear and LASSO regression. The results showed that genes that are more accurately predicted from their histopathological image embeddings are highly expressed in brain (cerebellum, cortex) and muscle (smooth, skeletal, heart) tissues. Presenting my work to the team, I further improved my model and conclusion based on the suggestions and comments I received.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Over the 10 weeks of my internship, I learned the basics of transcriptomic data analysis methods and gained valuable R skills. As someone with a more general biostatistics background, getting into multi omics data science was a huge challenging transition for me. There were a lot of terms and codes I was not familiar with and many times I was lost and confused. Nonetheless, this experience helped me to gain confidence to ask silly questions and experiment with my silly what ifs. I am now much more confident with asking questions in a way to get the answer I am looking for and playing with R to figure out the most efficient way to get what I need. Learning a new package or making my own loop, I became more experimental - more active in exploring.

This also was the most diverse environment I have ever been in. The bioinformatics & AI team has about 17 members and we have people from at least 10 different countries and 3 different continents. Additionally, in terms of disciplines, people have a biology, data science, or even economics background. Every meeting and every lunch break was a great opportunity for me to observe what the conversation looks like across cultures and disciplines.

This was a really great opportunity for me to grow not only professionally but also personally. After this experience I am much more confident in my professional skills and my future plan for academics and career. Thank you for Lehigh and IIIP for this great opportunity.

Name: Thomas Arnold
College: College of Business
Major: Supply Chain Management
Company: Delamode International Logistics
Position: Sea Freight Intern



Moldova



Inside the Internship:

Delamode International Logistics is based out of the United Kingdom and provides freight forwarding, warehousing, and transportation services to companies around Europe. They have branches all across Europe including Moldova which is where I worked. Delamode acts as a specialist intermediary company between their customers and shipping companies. They deal with full container loads, groupage shipping, and small packages. Delamode aids companies in exporting and importing goods from their customers' respective countries. Delamode Moldova primarily helps companies within Moldova to efficiently import goods from abroad into the country. They have had to develop new strategies lately due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Moldova is a landlocked country so prior to the war in Ukraine the majority of sea freight goods arrived at the Port of Odessa. However, due to the war the port was closed and almost all sea freight arriving in the region had been redirected to the Port of Constanta in Romania. This port does not have

the capabilities to handle such a high volume of goods and has been overwhelmed. Additionally, this has led to long lines at the Moldovan and Romanian border for trucks that are often over a week long. Delamode Moldova has had to work around these issues to ensure that their customers receive their goods on time. Whilst working for Delamode Moldova I was the assistant to the Sea Freight Manager. I had several different tasks including reviewing documents and ensuring that they had all been signed and had the correct official seals. I also communicated with clients over email and was tasked with reaching out to potential customers in the United States that would be interested in importing and exporting Moldovan goods. I contacted many charities in the United States that are sending aid to Ukraine and offered Delamode's services. I also contacted many wine sellers in the US because Moldova had some of the world's finest wine at cheap prices. Furthermore, I helped work on some presentations that the company was preparing for its clients and potential new customers.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience helped me develop immensely as a person and prepared me for my future career. First, I learned so much about Moldova that I never would have known before. I learned about their history, politics, and cultural values. I was able to observe many conflicting viewpoints about a variety of topics. For example, Moldova is currently in talks to join the EU but some people oppose this and want to remain closer to Russia. I also lived with a host family and I was able to observe how they lived every single day. They only spoke Russian and Romanian so I had to learn ways to communicate with them. I also learned different phrases in the local language and tried new foods every night for dinner. Several times they invited friends and family over in the evening and I learned different things about their culture. Additionally, I used public transportation every single day and got to see the way that their culture respects older people. Everyone always gave up their seat for the elderly on the buses and treated them with a lot of respect. I rode on marshrutkas many times, which are mini buses/vans that take people all over the country. They had no AC and jammed as many people as possible into them. I learned that Moldovans have a lot of trust in one another while riding the marshrutkas because people often passed their money forwards to other passengers and eventually to the driver. They always received the correct amount of change back and no one ever tried to steal anything. People there also spend a lot of time relaxing in parks and socializing with friends and family. In the evenings the parks were always very busy with kids running around and adults meeting up with their friends. People seemed less rushed at the office too. After seeing this I am planning on having a better balance between my school work, athletics, and social life. Furthermore, I learned a lot about the career I could have in the future. I feel that I have a wealth of knowledge about the Balkans and Eastern Europe regarding supply chain management now. I learned about the issues that companies like Delamode face and I learned so much about how politics can affect the global supply chain. In addition, I learned how to navigate language barriers and cultural differences. Barely anyone I met in Moldova spoke English so I had to adapt. There were many cultural differences too including different foods and customs. Since I was living with a host family I had to adapt to their customs which has made me more culturally aware. Supply Chain Management is a very global field and this experience has prepared me to work alongside people from many different nationalities and cultures.

Name: Cecy Benitez
College: Intercollegiate
Major: Financial Engineering
Company: Italian Angels for Growth
Position: Investment Analyst



Italy



Inside the Internship:

Italian Angels for Growth (IAG) is a Venture Capital firm consisting of a network of business angels and investors who invest in early stage companies. They focus on companies related to digital products, AI, and biotechnology. The team consists of three investment analysts and other positions. During my internship, I learned a lot about Venture Capital. After reading and receiving some lessons, I began to attend company meetings, where companies would pitch their product or service to members of the investment analysis team. Aside from this, I also helped with other tasks such as entering company data on a database, automating certain tasks such as an Excel representation of the team's work during the year, which was also reflected in an automatically updated Google slideshow. Overall, my job

consisted of helping with investment decisions and automating everyday office tasks.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The Iacocca Internship enriched my life in a multitude of ways. Academically, it encouraged me to take 6 credits while doing my internship, which included a cultural seminar and an intermediate Italian course. Despite never taking Italian before, my Spanish background allowed me to move forward, and now I am intermediate in the Italian language! Professionally, this experience opened my eyes to many different fields of work that I had not considered before, including the field I worked with, which was Venture Capital. It also showed me what a healthy working environment should look and feel like, something that was lacking from my prior work experiences. As an individual, however, is where I saw the biggest impact. I became a much more independent and global citizen. Being in an entirely new environment without my support system sounded scary, but that fear turned into excitement as I realized that I have the tools necessary to thrive in a new place. This past summer helped me realize how far I've come and how many things I have left to do and to conquer, while making me feel sure that I can do anything I set my mind to.

Name: Matthew Bergin
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Computer Science
Company: Nagoya Institute of Technology
Position: Research Intern



Japan



Inside the Internship:

This summer I worked in the Electrical Engineering department of Nagoya Institute of Technology, a public university located in Nagoya, Japan. I did research regarding simulations of digital communications in a lab with 17 other Japanese students, ranging from fourth year undergraduates to students in the second year of their master's. I worked mostly on my own but collaborated with the other students at times as well. I mainly used python for my own coding, although I also used Simulink in Matlab and had to analyze the C code of others at times. I started by generating and modulating basic signals and made the simulation more and more complex from there while also monitoring and analyzing the accuracy and efficiency of the system. I added noise, roll-off filters, fading, equalization,

and much more. Each one of these additions correlated with a specific task that I was assigned which gave me some background information and the details of what I was meant to implement. Every week, I also got to attend a meeting with all the members of the lab where they discussed the research that they were working on, which was fascinating to see and learn about.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

By participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program, I learned a ton, not just within my research area, but professionally and about adapting to other cultures. I came into this internship knowing virtually nothing about wireless communications and simulating the signals involved, but through my internship I learned an insane amount. By the end I felt so much more confident and comfortable with the ideas behind my work and felt that I truly understood what I was doing. Professionally, I learned so much about how to navigate language barriers and work effectively despite them. Although everyone in my lab spoke some English, their levels varied, and it was especially difficult when discussing highly technical topics. Throughout the internship we were all constantly translating certain words and phrases to better get our ideas across. I also got the experience of working with and learning from people much more experienced and knowledgeable than myself, especially with the weekly meetings where I got to hear about their research. Finally, both with the internship itself and outside of it, I learned how to adapt to a completely new culture. Upon arriving in Japan, it was immediately obvious how different it was from the American culture I was used to. Although it took some time, I eventually managed to adapt the way I was used to living to a way that would work in my new country. This experience was truly invaluable personally, professionally, and educationally.

Name: Naomi Brangan
College: College of Health
Major: Population Health
Company: Pathways Development Initiative (PDI)
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that operates in rural Bududa, Uganda with the mission of “equipping individuals with the skills to build sustainable livelihoods, and investing in the education of their children as a means of breaking from extreme poverty.” PDI's goal is to make education accessible for youth in the community, by encouraging them to stay in school through sponsorships, scholarships, their sport programs, and music & dance programs. During my internship, I helped introduce a new donation program called the “One Dollar Campaign” to encourage partners and past visitors to make a commitment to contribute at least one dollar per month to support PDI's impactful programs. I helped start a newsletter for the organization, to

solicit contributions and to keep stakeholders informed about the progress of current projects, and also broadcast news updates and highlights both in and outside of the community. Through PDI, I had the privilege to work with Esther and Mercie, two translators, who helped my research conducting interviews within the community. I focused on the fearless indifference in younger generations regarding contracting HIV by interviewing local elders, youth, and health workers, and listening to their perspectives. It was an eye-opening experience created for me that I hope to build upon to make a difference in the future.

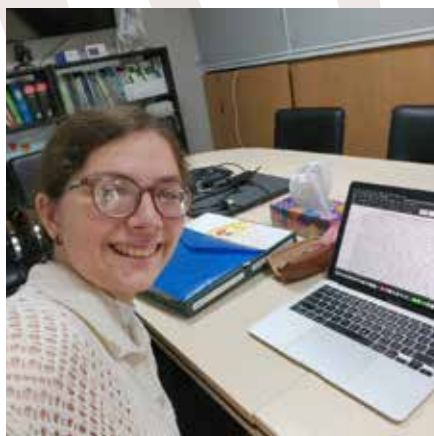
Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My Iacocca International Internship was a life- changing experience both personally and professionally: my communication skills, self-confidence in my work, adaptability to new and unexpected situations, and creative thinking all expanded and broadened during my time in Uganda. Although I value and treasure what I learned professionally, experiencing the beauty of Bududa and its rich culture are the parts that I will never forget. I observed, participated, and lived in a small community, and my time in Uganda flew by. I felt fortunate to learn parts of a unique native language and was embraced by a culture very different from my prior experiences. While in Uganda, I also learned that it is possible to survive, and especially thrive, with much less than we expect. Having unreliable access to power, water, and technology shifted my perspective on what is actually important in life and that I can be happy with a more simple lifestyle. I learned through the actions and behaviors from members of the community that it is more about the people that surround you than what you have in life. Although I observed many systemic issues in Bududa, especially diseases in the clinic and poverty within the area, I also witnessed the true power of community for the first time. I knew that I made the right choice to come to Uganda from the first day where we were welcomed by every person that we passed. Over the course of my internship, I was grateful to have made meaningful connections with so many people, and after being told that I “always have a home in Bududa”, I would love to return in the near future. Staying with the Zaale family, our host family and the founders of the PDI organization, made my experience truly one of a kind.

Name: Emily Buchanan
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Environmental Engineering
Company: EcoContact
Position: Intern



Moldova



Inside the Internship:

During my 2024 Iacocca Internship, I worked with EcoContact, a non-governmental organization in Chisinau, Moldova that works with all levels of government to advocate for sustainable development and environmentally responsible management and policy. It also hosts the Aarhus Environmental Information and Consultancy Center, and supports the integration of scientific, legal, and educational collaboration.

My main job as an intern was to assist with the technical write-ups for various projects, such as environmental management plans, press interviews, and other informational materials. These documents had been translated from Romanian to English, but the team needed someone with both the language and technical

knowledge to be able to go through them in finer detail. I was tasked with making corrections to the documents as I saw fit, and also offering both my own comments on the content and methods as well as suggestions to improve the reporting or the environmental impact in the future.

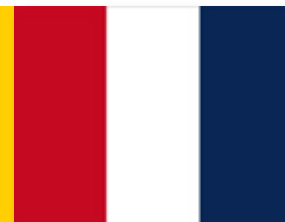
I also learned about the process that things like this go through in Moldova, by listening in on the occasional meeting with English-speaking partners and by having frequent one-on-one conversations with my coworkers about the different roles they played.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Professionally, a big part of navigating a new country and new culture was my learning to advocate for myself. Moldovan work culture is very laid-back and relaxed compared to the United States, so I often found myself moving ahead of the pace that my coworkers expected of me, and would have to speak up when I finished a task or needed something further. Asking for help/further understanding was also a weaker skill of mine that I was able to strengthen, as it was often necessary since I was not completely familiar with how the EU and EU-ascending countries function environmentally. It was very rewarding to learn about typical expectations both culturally and scientifically, and I had many conversations with my coworkers over lunch comparing with those of the US.

As for the personal side, this was my first time ever leaving the US—so I was naturally both incredibly nervous and excited, but it didn't take long for me to feel at home in Chisinau. After work and on weekends I explored both the capital city and a handful of nearby others, by trolleybus and by walking, and spent time with both my host family and the other Iacocca interns. Both of those I am so glad to have met, and I really do feel like I've made genuine connections that I likely would not have without participating in this program. My host family was incredible, and we spent a lot of time together going for walks, visiting parks, and trying, for me at least, new foods. I even surprised them with a Romanian word or phrase here and there from time to time (shout-out Duolingo)! I learned a lot both from them and with them, from everything cultural, to culinary, to political, and so much more.

Name: Brielle Byerley
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biochemistry
Company: Laboratory of the Future
Position: Research Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

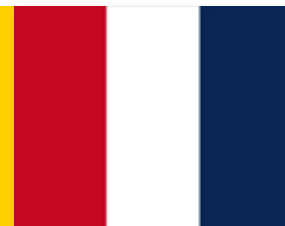
I worked in the Laboratory of the Future (LOF) in Bordeaux, France. This lab collaborates with another company, Syensqo, and the University of Bordeaux, where they specialize in microfluidics. Microfluidics is the study of very small amounts of fluids (10uL-100ul) and typically utilize microfluidic chips. Through this internship, I learned a variety of new and useful lab techniques such as photolithography and Raman spectroscopy. I applied these new skills to my project, which focused on diffusiophoresis of colloids in non-electrolytic solutions. Diffusiophoresis is the movement of particles in a solution caused by a concentration gradient. Based on this idea, I utilized microfluidics to study the movement of colloidal particles into/out of solutions of sucrose. Doing so allowed

me to observe in all experiments the movement of the colloids towards water. During my time at the lab, I was also able to attend multiple conferences where I learned more about microfluidics and projects other labs are working on.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Spending the summer in Bordeaux, France, was a transformative experience for me, both personally and professionally. Professionally, working in the lab allowed me to immerse myself in a professional scientific environment, allowing me to gain hands-on experience with advanced microfluidic techniques. Collaborating with international colleagues provided me with new perspectives and approaches to problem-solving and team work. This experience also improved my ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and concisely in order to minimize any confusion caused by the language barrier. Personally, being in Europe for the first time was an incredible experience that has helped me grow and appreciate new cultures. Navigating a new country, culture, and language challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and forced me to be adaptable. I developed a greater appreciation for cultural diversity by exploring different cuisines, such as escargot and duck to name a few. Moreover, traveling through Europe exposed me to enriching history, art, and natural beauty. I was fortunate to be able to visit multiple countries during my 8 weeks in Bordeaux, one of my favorites being the Czech Republic. These experiences have made me more open-minded and adventurous. Overall, my summer in Bordeaux reinforced my passion for research and nurtured a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and intercultural competency.

Name: Jose-Gabriel Castro
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Bioengineering
Company: Bioluminescence & Optofluidics Lab
Position: Bioengineering Research Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

LP2N, or the Laboratoire Photonique Numérique & Nanosciences focuses on integrating optics and computer science for a variety of different applications. The Bioluminescence and Optofluidics Lab (BIOF) in particular examines these technologies applied to biological tissues and systems. The BIOF group also has a patented cell encapsulation technology which sees different cell types encapsulated in an alginate shell allowing for more physiological relevance in these 3D structures. I had the privilege of being responsible for the summer project formally titled "Cell Biology Techniques for Microscopic Visualization in 2D and 3D Cultures". Throughout the internship, I carried out different immunostaining procedures that were typically done for 2D cell cultures but developed and optimized them for

3D applications. Along with this, I also helped with the production of viruses for the transduction of a notoriously hard to infect cell type called induced-pluripotent stem cells. I was able to combine the cell encapsulation technology and the techniques used in this project to open up new avenues, techniques and applications for better cell visualization and genomic editing in 3D cultures.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This internship taught me many lessons, the first one hitting as early as the first day touching down in Bordeaux. I was able to see first hand throughout the summer how differences in fields, mindsets, and cultures lead to the biggest changes in both innovations and ideas. Being able to learn from so many people in different places in their research career was an invaluable experience, and this combined with the symposiums and discussions I was able to have with people at the cutting edge of the field, allowed for a larger and more full understanding of what larger scale research looks like. Seeing differences in work culture only contributed to this understanding because even through the differences, the common thread of a passion for science was apparent. From the cultural exploration trips as well as the internship work, I learned a lot about the connection between disciplined work and intentional relaxation. Oftentimes seen as opposites, it's clear that one leads to another and that it goes both ways. Good work allows for real relaxation and genuine relaxation allows for efficient work, showing that regardless of where the start is, as long as real effort and work is put forth, results will be yielded. It was also very fun exploring Europe with my friends and regardless of when things went to plan or if we accidentally and temporarily hopped on the wrong train, the experiences contribute to the summer memories. A big thanks to the Iacocca International Internship Program, and my hosts at the BIOF lab group for the opportunity and kindness this summer. Overall, every success, failure, trial and triumph faced this summer only contributes to the future works ahead and I'm so excited to bring it with me and see where it goes as I continue to pursue a research career in the health industry, combining groundbreaking research with advancing patient care.

Name: Marti Colasurdo
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering & Applied Sciences
Major: Environmental Engineering
Company: University of Donja Gorica
Position: Project Assistant at the Center for Climate Change



Montenegro



Inside the Internship:

As the Project Assistant for the Center for Climate Change, Natural Resources & Energy at the University of Donja Gorica I was expected to complete weekly projects that centered around Montenegrin climate policy and sustainability initiatives. One of the projects that I was tasked with was to create a presentation discussing sustainable alternatives for medical waste disposal. I laid out all of the methods of medical waste disposal, and included pros and cons with example machines. The presentation was extremely helpful when my supervisor met with her client and discussed disposal options that they could utilize. I additionally got to explore my creative side when I was asked to create graphics and video presentations about climate change and energy transitions, these were used for

the Center's social media profiles. The most notable project that I completed while in Montenegro was when I had the opportunity to write a speech for the former President of Montenegro to deliver while on a climate change discussion panel. The speech focused on the balancing of climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Completing this task was very rewarding, it made me feel that I had genuinely made an impact on my host organization. I am so grateful that I was awarded the opportunity to work with such a wonderful University and Montenegrin community. I have returned home with skills that I will absolutely bring with me when entering the professional world.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I had never been overseas and honestly, before learning about the Iacocca International Internship Program, I did not think that I would be able to during my college experience. Being one of two Lehigh Students to be sent to this host country, I was worried about being by myself in an unfamiliar place. I am very used to being around people all of the time. Being in Montenegro helped me embrace spending time with myself. The facilities where we lived and worked were so beautiful. There was delicious food, a pool, gym and spa right across the street from my living quarters. I utilized them every day as I got into a routine. Public Transportation was inexpensive and accessible in Montenegro, Alexis and I would frequently take the bus into the city and explore the amazing sites within the country. There is so much beauty in such a small country, you just have to plan trips and find it! Whether you enjoy hiking in the woods or swimming by the beach, Montenegro has it all. Alexis and I explored four of the five National parks in Montenegro, we celebrated Montenegrin Independence Day and I was even lucky enough to celebrate my birthday while in the country! Learning more about the country and exploring its beauty helped me feel more connected to Montenegro and made me feel more at home. On this adventure I gained an immense amount of independence and self confidence. I hope that whoever travels here next will seize every moment and take it all in. Make everyday count because there's so much to see in Montenegro!!

Name: Alexa Cruz
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Psychology
Company: American Councils for International Education
Position: EducationUSA Intern



Lithuania



Inside the Internship:

American Councils for International Education aim to empower institutions and individuals through international education and cultural exchange, fostering stronger relationships across borders. The Vilnius office serves as a hub for partnerships, such as EducationUSA, an advising center for students interested in pursuing higher education in the States. As an EducationUSA Intern, I advised underrepresented students on college applications and/or general inquiries on American institutions. I delivered virtual and on-site presentations on topics such as "Mental Health in Academia" and "Contemporary U.S. Culture", aligning with my interests and student needs. Additionally, I collaborated with my supervisor to develop a comprehensive informational and educational schedule for the startup

of the Baltic's Competitive College Club, supporting students with their success in the college application process.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My experience in Lithuania was truly once in a lifetime, and I am deeply grateful for every moment. With the support of my host daily, I am delighted to have discovered what makes me the most fulfilled and energized version of myself. I arrived with few expectations about this small country and its people, but I left with deep admiration for those I met and their incredible life stories. I learned what it means to live life to the fullest and seize every opportunity, making it uniquely my own. For me, this meant trying new things and saying yes to everything. I had my first experiences paddle boarding and kayaking, took my first hot air balloon ride, danced with strangers during the Midsummer festival, and formed lifelong bonds with amazing people. This journey reaffirmed and strengthened my passion for travel and culture exchange. Now I am much more confident in my career aspirations and the direction I want to pursue for my future goals.

Name: Brithany De La Rosa
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Architecture
Company: YES Agency Lithuania
Position: Intern



Inside the Internship:

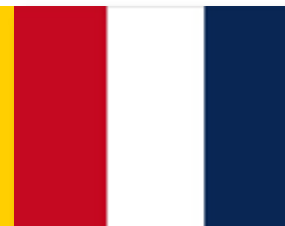
YES is a leading architecture and design firm specializing in residential and hospitality projects. It was founded in 2008 by Lithuanian architects Indre Sangus and Greta Valikone, YES blends a refined aesthetic with a sharp focus on functionality. Over the years, the firm has expanded both in size and scope, evolving into a multidisciplinary team that offers a unique combination of branding, marketing, and design expertise. This approach allows the company to create environments that perfectly align with each client's needs and lifestyle. During my time at YES, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in new programs and gain valuable hands-on experience working on various projects. One of my highlights was designing a private movie theater room, which was an enriching experience.

This project not only enhanced my technical skills but also provided real-world insights into the design process. The work environment at YES was calm and collaborative, with a small, close-knit team of five, including my boss. Each of us was entrusted with our tasks and projects, fostering a supportive atmosphere that allowed me to thrive and grow in my role.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has been an incredibly enriching experience on multiple levels. Simply being part of this program is a reward in itself, but the professional and personal growth I've gained has reinforced my long-term goal of pursuing a career in architecture. The cultural experience has also been something I will always cherish. What resonated with me most was the opportunity to meet many people across Europe and learn about their experiences and aspirations. I entered this program with the hope of advancing my professional skills and building meaningful connections, and I can confidently say that I succeeded in both. Through this internship, I've gained valuable insights into myself, and it has continuously pushed me to challenge my limits, fostering personal and professional growth.

Name: Julia DeAngelis
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biochemistry
Company: Laboratoire du Futur
Position: Materials Research Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

LOF is a laboratory jointly operated by the University of Bordeaux, the materials company Syensqo, and the CNRS (the French national research center). The lab hosts scientists and students in various fields, and it specializes in microfluidics, soft matter, and robotics.

During my 8 weeks at LOF, I worked on a research project concerning the drying process of hydrogels, a diverse class of materials which are used by several scientists at the lab. Most of my work involved using a microscope to produce timelapses of drying gel droplets and analyzing the images using Matlab. I also read scientific literature to determine what was already known about the gels I was researching. I worked under a PhD student as well as one of LOF's research

directors to produce a final presentation summarizing my research.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I'm so thankful for the opportunity to both live and work in France this summer. I became quite comfortable navigating around Bordeaux, and the city felt like home after just a few weeks spent exploring its beautiful surroundings. I also loved traveling with my fellow interns each weekend and visiting the unique cities of southwestern France. This experience deepened my understanding of French culture and helped me become more independent and self-reliant by living abroad. It was also great to be able to practice speaking French, as I didn't have to choose between summer programs that would give only language or research experience.

My internship was one of the most impactful experiences I've had regarding my career development, as I was able to practice new skills and techniques that I wouldn't have learned otherwise. I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a final presentation of my research as well as the support I received while preparing it. The lab was a very welcoming environment, which helped me get even more out of my summer in France. Having conversations with my coworkers, both about their work as well as about French culture, helped me develop as a more well-rounded scientist and person. I've taken a lot from this internship experience and know I'll remember it forever.

Name: Ashley Diaz
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biology
Company: Pathways Development Initiative
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to work with the Pathways Development Initiative (PDI). PDI is a nonprofit organization aiming to eradicate extreme poverty through sustainable means like education. Bududa, the district we lived in, is ranked among the worst in the nation in terms of education. In order to break this troublesome statistic, PDI is committed to providing educational opportunities for several different populations. The PDI Preparatory School is a pre-primary educational institution which helps children aged 3-6 master essential skills needed in primary school. There is also the Second Chance program which helps individuals go back to school after having to leave school for whatever reason and pursue a career. The sports, and music and dance programs are other activities that PDI offers. These programs are aimed at fostering a sense of community as those who do not attend PDI but live in the area are invited to come. They also help keep the kids busy when they are not in school.

As an intern I had the opportunity to try as many different positions as I wanted to! Since I love working with kids I decided to spend most of my time at PDI School. During the school day, I assisted with teaching lessons and gave individual help to students who needed it (I even taught a few lessons on my own!). After school, I would help the teachers grade papers and plan for future lessons. I also helped increase their computer literacy by advancing their Microsoft Word and Excel skills. I also spent a bit of time working in the office and doing assessments. For assessments I went to different schools around the district and asked the children questions like if they had enough food at home, what school materials they were missing, if any, any problems at home, etc. Gathering this information is essential for getting more grants to help the community.

As a student who is pursuing a career in the healthcare industry, I also had the chance to work at Bushika Health Clinic III. During my time here I was able to work in every department and learn what happens behind the scenes. During my time here I was able to work in every department and learn more about what happens behind the scenes. I had the opportunity to work as a scribe and enter the information into an online record keeping system, take vitals, spend time in the maternity ward, analyze test results in the lab, and distribute medications to patients.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My time in Uganda was like no other and I will forever be grateful for it. Being in Uganda has helped me appreciate the little things. Things we don't think twice about here in the United States like access to clean water, electricity, a washing machine, quality medical care, education, etc. During one of our last days in Bududa, one of our supervisors said something along the lines of "look around you... these people have little to nothing, but that does not deter them from being happy and enjoying life." In the United States, we live in a go go go type of culture and often lose sight of the simple things and what really matters. Though the people do not have a lot materialistically, they have rich relationships and are some of the happiest people I have ever met. Having a strong community and friendships is such an important part of everyday life and often more meaningful than the material goods people strive to have. Being in Uganda has helped me really cherish the power that strong relationships, friendships, and communities hold.

Working in Bududa has helped me realize how interconnected things like education and medicine are and how they go hand and hand. I firsthand witnessed how the lack of a quality education can negatively impact a person's life and health. This has led me to further understand the importance of a holistic approach to healthcare- something I want to explore further in the future. Working in the clinic has additionally helped me come to the realization that a career in the healthcare field is right for me. In fact, I cannot envision myself doing anything else. I have also developed an interest in working with vulnerable populations in the future. My critical thinking skills were additionally strengthened as I often had to try to solve problems with limited resources.

I can't put into words how amazing of an experience this was. I will forever be grateful for all of my fellow interns and people I met in Uganda.

Name: Matthew Diaz
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Molecular Biology
Company: Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences
Position: Visiting Scientist



Bermuda



Inside the Internship:

My internship was at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) a marine science research base that uses its unique location to conduct experiments that not many other bases have the opportunity to do. BIOS has many labs and researchers that focus on microbiology, bioinformatics, physics, engineering, and ecology; my lab focused on bioinformatics and ecology applied to the Bermuda area. My project focused on exploring the biodiversity of the Bermuda marine life using environmental DNA. A big part of BIOS's goal is to use the research they conduct to inform policies created by the government or local initiatives that are trying to make changes towards a more sustainable environment for the community and marine ecosystem. In my case, my research could go to a

new program being implemented to create different levels of protection for certain areas of the Bermuda platform. This would not only allow for a more stable environment for the fish, but let Bermuda still maintain the marine economy that it depends on. All of the sampling, processing, and sequencing were done before I came to Bermuda. My job involved running the sequences through different pipelines in order to assign taxonomy, then assessing the diversity of my samples through different measures created in R.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Being able to take part in the Iacocca program was one of the best decisions I've made during college. I planned from around freshman year that I would try and study abroad in my junior or senior year and I'm so glad that I was able to be accepted to participate. Being able to study abroad in Bermuda is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity and gave me the unique opportunity to conduct field work and see appreciate the timeline in which research is conducted. I've been able to take part in amazing experiences like deploying our cameras into the ocean, retrieving them once the time was completed, collecting fish and environmental samples, and getting familiar with coding and different biology pipelines. I was kind of left on my own as to when things needed to be completed, there was a lot of time in the beginning just learning all of the pipelines and understanding the experiment before I could go ahead and start, but this helped me take accountability for myself and how much I wanted to complete in a day as well as getting me more comfortable with asking for help. I've also had a great time meeting all the other interns. We all eat lunch together and talk about our projects, then we always plan to travel around the island during the weekends and try to make the most out of the weekends we have. I love hearing about the other interns' projects and it's been amazing getting to know them. This has truly been an amazing experience. I've met so many amazing people and it's taught me so much about science and problem solving. I'm very sad that I have to leave soon, but I know I will look back on this opportunity with so much love and be grateful for the Iacocca program for letting me take part in this.

Name: Sabrina Diaz
College: Intercollegiate
Major: IDEAS
Company: Pathways Development Initiative (PDI)
Position: Office Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

I worked with Pathways Development initiative (PDI). PDI is a small NGO in rural Bududa, Uganda founded by a local family, the Zaaes. Its programs encompass early education, sports, and community development. It “exists to mobilize and empower individuals and communities to improve their livelihoods and to understand the role of education as a means to fight poverty and transform their lives” (PDI Website).

My position at PDI as an office intern included a variety of roles. I assisted teachers instructing children ages 3-8, conducted assessment surveys on the wellbeing of students in the area, and worked with other Lehigh interns to share technological skills in order to promote a more sustainable and organized operation.

When not at PDI, I worked with Professor Kelly Austin to conduct qualitative interviews with local coffee farmers, traders, and youth. This information is crucial to the understanding of the local and global inequities of coffee production.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The most valuable takeaway from my experience is to not underestimate the impact of your presence. Personally, I felt the pressure to make impressive logistical changes and implement programs on programs, as I had a narrow perspective on what makes success. Not to say I made no changes. However, I felt the personal pressure to do more to see immediate groundbreaking shifts in the community. I tried to leave those feelings at the office and instead spent my time immersing myself in the community. I spent a lot of time with my host parents, the wife of the PDI lead manager, the homestay chef, the translators working on interviews, and the children. Through this, I learned what being a true community member is. Something I admire about the Lugisu community is how they are always willing to help and spend time with their neighbors and I tried to apply that as much as I could. Whether that be making a small donation, teaching kids how to play sudoku and duck duck goose, sitting down over a slow morning coffee, toiling over the stove, just giving a compliment, or lending an ear, I tried to do something for someone every day. I also did my best to encourage the older kids, reminding them that they are smart and capable. This sentiment carried over to my last PDI job, a roundtable discussion on girls in education. I asked our translators and homestay chefs to share their struggles and success stories in education to prove to young girls that it is possible and how. The audience was small, but the impact was felt. There is something so invaluable about connecting with others. Work is not exclusive to the community, and in order to make changes, you need to be integrated and care about the people you work with. Success needs to be built on strong foundations of connection, trust, and love. Change starts small, but just as PDI grew from a 10x15 room on the homestay to an ever-expanding school house, I believe that I helped inspire a few kids to pursue their education. I will no longer underestimate the power of a connection and will further my passion for community in any and all future endeavors.

Name: Rachel Dorney
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Bioengineering
Company: Laboratoire Ondes et Matière d'Aquitaine
Position: Materials Science Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

The Laboratoire Onde et Matière d'Aquitaine (LOMA) is a public research laboratory affiliated with CNRS and the University of Bordeaux, focusing on both fundamental and applied research in Optics and Condensed Matter Physics. LOMA is internationally recognized for its work in Soft Matter, Condensed Matter Physics, Photonics, Materials Science, and Biophysics, bridging disciplines such as physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics. During my internship, I studied the Brownian motion of colloidal particles near complex boundaries using advanced optical methods, including Mie holography and microscopy. My tasks involved preparing a lipid bilayer, creating a microfluidic channel, and injecting microparticles into the system. We used Python to analyze videos of particle

diffusion to investigate interactions between rigid particles and soft surfaces, focusing on elastohydrodynamic lift forces generated by soft substrates.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My internship in France was a transformative experience that shaped me both personally and professionally. On a personal level, living and working abroad pushed me out of my comfort zone and forced me to adapt to a new culture. Navigating daily life in a foreign country taught me resilience and independence, helping me build confidence in my ability to handle challenges. I learned to appreciate different perspectives and lifestyles, which broadened my understanding of the world.

Professionally, the hands-on research experience gave me a clearer picture of what a career in research entails, particularly at the PhD level. Working closely with a PhD student provided invaluable insights into the demands and rewards of pursuing advanced studies. I gained practical skills in experimental techniques and data analysis, and I learned the importance of effective communication within a research team. This experience clarified my career goals, making me more determined to pursue a PhD and continue contributing to innovative research. Overall, the internship equipped me with skills and experiences that will be crucial for my future endeavors, both in research and beyond.

Name: Montserrat Escobedo
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: International Relations and Economics
Company: Nor Luyce
Position: HR Intern



Armenia



Inside the Internship:

Nor Luyce is a NGO-focused mentorship and empowerment of socially-vulnerable girls from the Shirak region of Armenia. Their mission is to ensure that the girls become self-sufficient and globally aware young women through their three-phase program focused on mentorship and skill building. Nor Luyce provides these girls with resources ranging from psychological counseling, skill workshops, and scholarships for higher education. This organization is dedicated to each girl's individual goals and journey, becoming a testament to the importance of nurturing the youth's potential. Additionally, Nor Luyce provides a safe and welcoming environment where the girls can explore their interests and confidence. As an HR intern I was in charge of modeling an effective HR department to be used in the

future. Nor Luyce, like many other organizations in Armenia, lacks a HR department and proper documentation. During my time here I worked on curating employee and volunteer handbooks abiding to the Armenian Labor Code along with other necessary documentation. After finishing my HR duties I was allowed to shape my last internship project. Along with our director, Shogher Mikaelyan, I planned a fundraising plan which we will hopefully pilot this upcoming fall.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I will forever be grateful for my time in Armenia, and will always cherish all the experiences it gifted me. The last few weeks have been surreal, and thinking back to my first week I would have never imagined the relationships and memories I would be leaving behind. Working with Nor Luyce, an organization dedicated to building an encouraging community, I was able to become more assertive and innovative. During past experiences, I always felt constrained when in a professional environment, but my time in Armenia taught me that in order to be professionally successful I don't have to walk around eggshells trying to check every box. Instead I learned to embrace the uncertainty of being in a different cultural setting and professional environment and used it to my favor to explore and identify what impact I wanted to leave upon leaving. Apart from my professional growth, the impact Armenia and its people have had on my personal growth is something I will never finish being grateful for. From last minute hikes to joining a Kochari dance class I am so happy I was given this opportunity to experience such a beautiful culture and country. Armenia is such a special and unique destination, I could have never imagined what would be awaiting me here. Being placed in a city with a prominent international volunteer population really enhanced my experience by opening me to perspectives from all over the world and allowing me to build relationships with people of all ages and backgrounds. I loved getting to know all the other volunteers and seeing how open they are when exploring their paths has inspired me to do the same with my life. Armenia showed me the true meaning of appreciating the simple beauties of life. The simple joy of walking down the dirt roads to meet up with my friends, the bumpy rides to our destinations along the countryside, the endless afternoons of playing pretend with my host sister all these simple memories are stuck with me forever and I hope to apply that same joy to my life back home. Thank you Iacocca for this immense opportunity that has allowed me to explore parts of myself I had unknowingly been ignoring. And lastly, thank you Armenia and I hope to be back soon!

Name: Adrian Fernandez
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Chemical Engineering
Company: IIASA
Position: Energy, Climate and Environmental Intern



Austria



Inside the Internship:

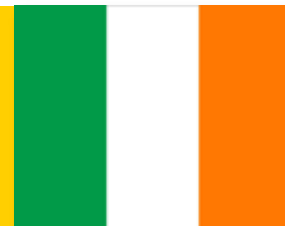
IIASA's main mission is to advance systems analysis and apply its research methods to identify policy solutions that reduce human footprints, improve natural and socioeconomic systems, and help achieve their Sustainable Development Goals. The organization boasts a network of approximately 533 researchers from 57 different affiliated countries. It also has published 431 peer-reviewed journal articles, and is dedicated to improving and applying systems analysis to a wide array of global issues. This includes analyzing the economies of specific countries or studying how public transportation affects certain cities. The organization is committed to using data and modeling software to understand systems and improve them. Personally at IIASA I was involved in the Energy Climate, and

Environmental department which mainly dealt with Climate Change related issues. Within the department I was tasked with organizing and defining how IIASA's funding was being allocated to research projects, creating a slidedeck which highlighted recent high impact articles by IIASA's researchers, and aiding in IIASA's transition to the new 2024 template.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I feel that I have gained so much from working at IIASA. The internship itself provided new learning opportunities which challenged me. There were many times in which I was asked to do tasks which I had no experience in. For example when I had first arrived I was asked to navigate the organization's research database to find and summarize information from high impact research articles. This task was initially daunting as I had no idea how to use the database or how to even access it. After attempting many times on my own I went back to ask my boss to clarify and walk me through how to begin the project. Although I was hesitant at first I believe that it was extremely valuable to ask for help. It has taught me that in most cases it's better to ask rather than waste valuable time. Additionally, being abroad in Austria provided similar learning opportunities. Since it is located so centrally in Europe I was able to travel to several countries and experience a multitude of cultures. I was able to see famous historical sites and try foods and products I wouldn't be able to find anywhere else. Being in Vienna allowed me to become more independent and learn how to navigate the world.

Name: Paul Firuzie
College: College of Health
Major: Population Health
Company: Irish Cancer Society (ICS)
Position: Research Intern



Ireland



Inside the Internship:

The Irish Cancer Society (ICS) is the largest organization in Ireland dedicated to eliminating cancer and funding research. Their work includes reducing cancer risk, advocacy, education, public outreach, fundraising, and support services. They promote early cancer detection/prevention, and advancements in cancer policy and treatment. The ICS is renowned for cancer patient support, transport services, and patient assistance. As an intern, I worked with the Research department, overseeing research supervision and management, policy formulation, and funding as part of my tasks. I actively contributed to various administrative tasks within the organization, including award contract reviews, budgeting, cancer awareness events, patient assistance, PPI initiative, planning, and participated in fundraising

Color Dash program. I volunteered at St. Vincent's University Hospital's Daffodil center and attended daily and weekly staff meetings. Also, I worked at UCD's Cancer Biology and Therapeutics lab which allowed me to conduct a real-life experiment using The Base ScopeTM Duplex Detection Experiment method. I applied techniques like RNAScope target retrieval, deparaffinization, hybridization, and staining of targeted cells while using human lung cancer cells/tissues, hence, providing valuable insights into cancer prevention strategies and potential research.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The Iacocca International Internship Program and IES abroad Dublin fostered a sense of community and support, facilitating a smooth transition to a new country. The program's preparation and seminar sessions greatly impacted the experience. The seminars and wordpress also provided invaluable resources for the abroad experience, enhancing professional growth while facilitating the transformative experience I gained from interning abroad. The internship opportunity enhanced my intercultural competence, allowing me to understand workplace language and skills while gaining diverse experiences through teamwork & resilience within the organization. I am a true change maker, influenced by my involvement in cutting-edge cancer research. My appreciation for community belonging and the teamwork in Dublin, showcases the value of Irish culture and healthcare. Working with diverse teams and communicating with various stakeholders, patients, healthcare professionals, and volunteers has enhanced my interpersonal and communication skills, while adding a significant value to my personality. My visits to various places in Ireland also provided unique experiences, resulting in a holistic and life-long impact.

Name: Alan Flores
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Computer Science
Company: Net4Market
Position: Backend Developer



Italy



Inside the Internship:

Net4Market is an e-procurement platform that produces application solutions integrated with high technological services suitable for all types of companies. As a backend developer in the office 5 days a week for 8 hours, I worked on creating an inventory management system for the company. I learned about and utilized the Java Spring Boot framework to help create REST APIs. I learned how to use SQL language with MySQL to create the database and have it work with the project I was working on. I was able to run and test it all through Postman and by implementing JUnit tests, while I had the SQL server running on Docker. I was able to automate some of the database actions on project startup using Liquibase. I also configured the logging utility to log to various files using Log4j2

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My internship was a transformative experience that significantly impacted both my professional and personal development. Professionally, I faced a variety of tasks each day that sharpened my problem-solving skills and adaptability. Constantly engaging with new challenges pushed me to quickly learn and apply new skills, which improved my technical competence and project and time management abilities. Personally, living in Italy and navigating the vast cultural differences deepened my curiosity and flexibility. I learned to manage language barriers and adjust to new social norms, which broadened my perspective and developed my interpersonal skills. One important lesson was the need to set clear boundaries, something I discovered through a few challenging situations. This experience taught me how to assert my limits while remaining respectful and open. Additionally, I strengthened my communication and critical thinking skills by clearly articulating my needs and effectively applying new information. Overall, this internship has made me more confident and resilient and allowed me to discover myself, all the while better preparing me to tackle future challenges and contribute effectively in any professional setting.

Name: Roisin Gaffney
College: College of Business
Major: Undeclared
Company: Pathways Development Initiative (PDI)
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

Pathways Development Initiative is an NGO located in Bududa that is dedicated to developing sustainable livelihoods for children in the community. This is achieved by providing affordable early education at the pre primary school in which students are able to develop their English language skills at a younger age. PDI also facilitates many different initiatives such as the sports program and the music and dance program, which provide safe spaces to empower youth community members. While interning at PDI, I taught English lessons to 3 to 4 year old students and assisted with developing future lesson plans and grading assignments at the pre primary school. I also spent a majority of my time in the office creating virtual fundraising campaigns, developing a system to track the

skills and attendance of players in the sports program, and facilitating informational workshops with teachers and PDI employees to improve data collection and analysis skills. Finally, I coached soccer every afternoon with more of a focus on strengthening the SheNamakye female sports program to empower more young girls in the community to participate in sports. I conducted assessments at schools throughout the district to check in on the players in the sports program and discover what challenges they were facing outside of practice whether this was at home or at school.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My perspective on life and the world has been significantly transformed by participating in the lacocca International Internship Program. During my time in Uganda, everyone who I interacted with would always be very welcoming and friendly while having the biggest smile on their face. Children might have been tired from walking for several hours to get to school or hungry from not eating for a long period of time since they weren't able to afford food, but they continued to remain content with themselves and their lives since they were constantly surrounded by people who genuinely cared about them. This was truly eye opening as I feel that we often think materialistic items are necessary to provide us with happiness in the United States when all we actually need is a community that will always be there to support us. By immersing myself in the culture, I have also been able to develop a newfound appreciation for everything that I have in my life that many people in Uganda don't have such as shoes and electricity. I don't believe I would have been as prepared to partake in this internship without the tools and advice I was provided with from the preparation sessions during this past spring semester. These sessions gave me the opportunity to get to know the rest of the interns as well as feel more comfortable about travelling across the world. I will never forget the rewarding experiences I've had throughout the past seven weeks in Uganda and I'm extremely grateful for all of the Lehigh students and PDI employees I was able to form close friendships with!

Name: Maria Gregoire
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Psychology and HMS
Company: Hutchison Ports
Position: Research Analyst



Hong Kong



Inside the Internship:

While working at Hutchison Ports, I was a research analyst within the commercial department. I worked on my own individual research project that we were allowed to choose as well as several other group projects that I worked on with my fellow interns. We were in the best department within the company just because of our supervisors. We were really looked after and cared for by our bosses and they always treated us with so much respect. We were incredibly welcomed by our team and got to experience a lot of different opportunities including visiting a tugboat, touring a power plant, and viewing a monastery that is inaccessible to most individuals. Furthermore, we were also taken out and enjoyed many meals with everyone where we got to know our coworkers personally. The people in my

department really made my experience.

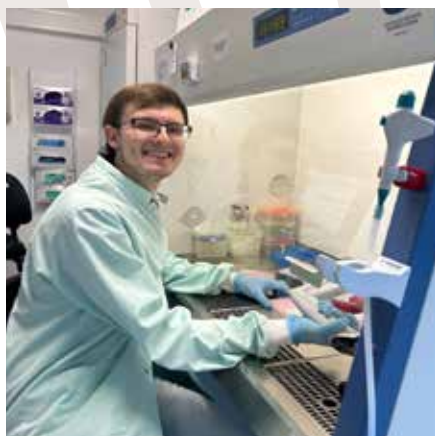
Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I have truly appreciated my time here in Hong Kong. I have loved the good and the tiring and grown so much from this experience. Being here has been a wonderful opportunity to immerse myself culturally and learn more about myself and others. While the language barrier caused confusion sometimes, mostly everyone we interacted with was capable of speaking/understanding English so getting around was fairly easy. I'm in love with the city's public transportation system and the accessibility of everything we wanted to do. We toured around the entire city as well as multiple islands and really enjoyed various terrain and ecosystems that Hong Kong has to offer. Additionally, the food was amazing and we also got to experience a wide variety of cuisines. The people that we met also shared their favorite places to eat and visit which we enjoyed as experiencing a place from a local perspective is always better. I really got to learn about Hong Kong from a personal perspective as everyone was so open in sharing their experiences and beliefs which also influenced my own values and reaffirmed some of my morals as well.

Name: Zach Groner
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biochemistry
Company: Luxembourg Institute of Health
Position: Brain Tumor Biobanking Intern



Luxembourg



Inside the Internship:

At LIH, I worked for the Department of Cancer Research as a Brain Tumor Biobanking Intern/Trainee in the NORLUX Neuro-Oncology group. Their main focus is advancing treatment options for malignant brain tumors, specifically diffuse gliomas. Through this, they use patient samples to create patient-derived tumor organoids which are then serially implanted in mice to create Patient-Derived Orthotopic Xenograft (PDOX) models. PDOX models are used to monitor innate tumor activity and responsiveness to various treatments. As an intern, my role was to participate in this research through reading literature, transporting patient samples from the nearby hospital, freezing/thawing cells, maintaining cells in culture, staining and counting cells, extracting DNA, preparing plates for drug

screening, and inputting accurate patient records into their secure database. I also had the opportunity to shadow various experiments from both my team and other groups in the department, observing techniques such as western blot, brain slicing with drug injection, primary tissue culture, human cell extraction from mice brains, and brain/blood biobanking. Overall, this internship has given me a well-rounded scope of cancer research and biobanking techniques, and I believe that this experience has given me further insight into the development of cancer treatments and research as a whole.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My time in the Iacocca International Internship Program is an experience that I will never forget. Travelling outside of the US for the first time, I was quite nervous and did not know what to expect. Being from a small town in the middle of PA, I did not have many opportunities to interact with people from other cultures. Thankfully, my transition to life abroad was quite manageable, and I did not experience as much culture shock as I expected. Everyone I met in Luxembourg was very friendly and went out of their way to ensure that I was having a positive experience here at LIH.

I believe that my experience at LIH will aid me tremendously moving forward. Before travelling abroad, I was unsure about exactly what career path I wanted to take in the future, as I was unsure if I even wanted to continue my education. Being surrounded by a plethora of Masters students, Ph.D Students, Post-docs, and PIs, I have gained so much insight into the responsibilities associated with each level of education/experience, and this knowledge has definitely helped ease my worries about my future and aided me in making a decision.

Furthermore, this internship has enhanced my lab techniques and professional skills. After working at LIH, I am much more confident in my problem-solving skills. Being immersed in a different culture, I found that I am now more comfortable with unfamiliar situations and much more adaptable. I am truly appreciative for every opportunity I received while here, and I am grateful for everyone's willingness to help me grow at LIH.

Name: Emily Gutierrez
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Chemical Engineering
Company: LOMA Laboratory
Position: Emet Lab Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

Laboratoire Ondes et Matière d'Aquitaine is a laboratory that is on the University of Bordeaux Campus. The research focuses on physics and material science. Within the lab, I specifically worked in the Emet Lab group. My group worked on Taylor Dispersion Analysis (TDA) for amyloid proteins. TDA was used by passing PBS (a base) through a pressure controlled capillary tube and injecting the protein. The pressure and injections of PBS and the proteins was controlled by a fluigent machine where you can write a program to set the wanted pressure for specific amounts of time. It would pass through UV lights which were then read by a detection point and made into a graph. We would then do various calculations to find the hydrodynamic radii of the proteins.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I'm glad I was able to participate in the Iacocca Internship Program as I gained tons of valuable experience. I was able to develop both professional and laboratory skills through this role as a lab intern. I had the opportunity to work on my critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. I also immersed myself in French culture. Others at the lab taught us some French slang and would recommend where to eat the best food. I tried a lot of new foods and saw many historical sites. It broadened my perspective and made me a more independent person.

Name: Alexis Guzman
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Computer Engineering
Company: DigitalSmart
Position: Junior Research Assistant



Montenegro



Inside the Internship:

In Montenegro I worked on a research project that showcased the benefits of AI in the safety sector. My supervisor Stevan took a more hands off approach to my work, leading me as lightly as possible so that I could figure out most of the details myself. I learned about machine learning and computer vision the first couple of weeks just to nail down the basic concepts. Then I experimented with some AI architecture and trained datasets for the next couple of weeks. I had to figure out how to use certain google colab notebooks to train the datasets and how to interpret the results. There were some failed attempts and shortcomings but I eventually found a drowsy detection dataset that piqued my interest and I trained that one to detect faces. I tested it on myself and some colleagues and then wrote

a 5 page research paper on my motivation, my work, and my results. This was the first time I had ever done any of those things by myself and am now working with my supervisor to send it to an IEEE conference to present it.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience completely reshaped my understanding of the field I study in. I now realize how many options and ways I could branch out from my line of work. I had a taste of research and while I did enjoy it, this experience made me even more excited to try other specialties in Computer Engineering. Personally, being in Montenegro challenged me to go outside and explore the wilderness, something I don't usually do. Partially, this is thanks to my fellow bis cas intern Marti who always took the initiative to go somewhere and pushed me to go everywhere. I would have utterly regretted not exploring the country without her initiative. We were lucky enough to explore many national parks, beautiful old cities, and breathtaking wilderness. While I have experience living away from home, living this far away from home was definitely new and was something to get used to. I definitely learned to keep myself busy and do things for myself that I hadn't done before. Taking full advantage of the facilities provided to us I would go to the gym and eat breakfast and dinner for free. I also learned how to budget for the week since we were on a limited amount of money for a month and a half. Professionally, I learned how to work and research by myself with limited guidance and a broad plan. Only given a timeline, I learned how to plan and pace myself to meet the deadlines in an appropriate manner. I also learned to ask for help when I needed it. I am not usually one to ask for help when I'm struggling but in this case, if I didn't ask for help I would have never finished. In the end, I grew as a person and as a professional hoping to grow even more. Special thanks to Marti for growing with me as well!

Name: Hannah Hagley
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Earth and Environmental Science
Company: Pathways
Position: Development Initiative Researcher



Inside the Internship:

The Pathways Development Initiative is based in Bududa, Uganda and has programs centered around empowering youth in the community. Bududa is a rural village that had low performance test scores compared to other regions in Uganda. PDI was founded as a pre-primary school to better prepare children for primary school. The hope is that PDI students have enhanced performance academically in primary and secondary school due to the early foundation in education. PDI has also developed sports programs (football and netball) to provide constructive after school activities for youth in the community.

As an intern I worked with Dr. Austin as a researcher. She conducts research centered around the coffee industry in Bududa. After the collapse of cooperatives foreign companies emerged to control the coffee industry. These companies exploit farmers by devaluing their coffee. Dr. Austin has framed research centered around studying the social and environmental impacts of the coffee industry in Bududa. As a researcher I conducted interviews with farmers, traders, and larger companies. After interviews I worked on transcribing the interviews. This helped me become more familiar with the content.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience helped me develop personally from my exposure to another culture. The community of Bududa has traditional values centered around gender and sexuality. Women are culturally devalued leading to low education levels, young pregnancy and marriage. As a woman it was challenging to see women perceived differently than men. However, we worked with PDI, an organization that supports the empowerment and education of women in the community. I was inspired by the work PDI is doing to improve women's lives in the community and support young girls through access to education. In particular, as a researcher I was able to build a relationship with my translators which were three women in university. On our walks to interviews we would frequently talk about our experiences at school and growing up. At the end of our time in Uganda two of the translators did a round table conversation led by a Lehigh student about the challenges women face in education. I was inspired by the perseverance and vulnerability they demonstrated at the round table and during all of our walks to interviews.

I developed my communication skills through my experience conducting qualitative research. I learned how to effectively frame questions around themes related to the coffee industry. I worked with Professor Austin to continuously rephrase questions that were lost in translation, and change the guide when we had reached saturation points on questions. The process of interviewing and the continuous revision of the interview guide improved my communication skills. This will be beneficial in my professional career, as communication remains an integral aspect of most jobs.

Name: Farhan Hasib
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Computer Science & Engineering
Company: goUrban
Position: Software Engineering Intern



Austria



Inside the Internship:

I interned at goUrban, which is a B2B SaaS company that provides e-mobility platforms to their clients for shared mobility services. They develop, maintain, and provide software platforms to fleet owners and other clients to help them manage the rental, booking, tracking, maintenance, and overall management of their vehicles.

I worked on a vehicle IoT integration project in the backend. My task was to extract real-time vehicle telematics data from a third-party IoT device installed in the vehicles and integrate a continuous feed of real-time data being fetched in the backend system. I also worked in the front-end as well, where I implemented new settings features in the dashboard of the mobility manager, which is the

client's fleet and user management software. Other than that, I also fixed bugs and attended daily stand-up meetings, and retrospective and refinement meetings as well.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

From a personal standpoint, the experience helped me broaden my worldview and have a better understanding of a different culture than my own. I was able to learn a lot about Austrian culture and way of life by immersing myself in different cultural events and activities during my time in Austria. This helped me develop a more respectful and open-minded attitude when it comes to interacting with different cultures and customs, which will serve me well in my personal life going forward. Professionally, this was a valuable experience as I gained both technical and non-technical skills by working with all the different tools and technologies during the internship. I also got an in-depth insight into software engineering and the entire lifecycle of software, which will be beneficial for my career as this experience aligns well with what I plan to do for my career in the future. All of these were made possible by the Iacocca International Internship Program, for which I am truly grateful.

Name: Lauryn Heskin
College: Intercollegiate
Major: Marketing and Psychology
Company: PAR University of Applied Sciences
Position: Social Media Coordinator



Croatia



Inside the Internship:

PAR University is the only higher education institution in the Northern Adriatic region of Croatia. PAR specializes in bachelors and graduate degree programs in disciplines such as business management and management in gastronomy. As a participating institution in the Erasmus and EU4Dual programs, PAR partners with institutions throughout the EU in various study exchange opportunities. As a Social Media Coordinator intern, I was responsible for aiding PAR in their efforts to expand partnerships and student programming. For example, I worked with the other Iacocca interns in identifying 50 student organizations that PAR could connect with to recruit new students for their programs. My main project involved helping promote the Erasmus program at PAR, which encompassed

interviewing exchange students, drafting social media posts, and creating a mockup web page for prospective students. By working on different projects, I had the opportunity to meet staff in various positions and departments, ranging from the International Office, Marketing professors, and the Dean of PAR.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My internship experience in Croatia was beyond transformative. As a marketing major, I found it very insightful to work in a global market surrounded by a diverse set of people of all ages. Being in the office at PAR enhanced my understanding of professional etiquette, improved my networking skills, and allowed me to witness how different departments collaborate on joint projects. Outside of the office, I enjoyed exploring Rijeka, the city where I was living. From the beautiful beaches and marina to the Euro 2024 watch parties and the delicious local restaurants, it didn't take long for Rijeka to feel like a second home.

On the weekends, I had the opportunity to pursue my love of travel. In my six weeks there, I visited six Croatian cities, spanning from Rovinj to Split, and two countries (Italy and Slovenia). On these trips, I learned more about myself and experienced self-growth. By stepping out of my comfort zone and going to places I did not know much about, I became more independent, adventurous, and appreciative of life. I learned to step back and live in the moment rather than constantly thinking about the future. It was truly incredible to experience so many cultures that are quite different from those in the United States. I am so grateful to the Iacocca International Internship Program for providing this incredible opportunity. It is truly a special experience that I will treasure forever.

Name: Nix Huang
College: Intercollegiate
Major: IDEAS: Integrated Degree in Engineering, Arts & Sciences
Company: Nagoya Institute of Technology
Position: Student Researcher



Japan



Inside the Internship:

During my internship at the Tokuda, Nankaku, and Hashimoto Laboratory at the Nagoya Institute of Technology, I engaged in research on speech signal processing and multimedia signal processing. The lab specializes in developing technologies for speech synthesis, singing voice synthesis, speech recognition, and spoken dialog systems. My role involved contributing to projects that aimed to advance these areas, particularly focusing on voice translation technology. I worked on testing and optimizing algorithms for speech synthesis and recognition, ensuring that the systems accurately preserved the speaker's voice and emotional tone. This experience provided me with the opportunity to collaborate with a team of researchers and apply machine learning techniques to improve the accuracy and

efficiency of the lab's innovative speech processing systems.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Summitting Mt. Fuji at sunrise was a transformative experience that deeply impacted my personal growth during my time in Japan. The challenging climb taught me the importance of perseverance and mental resilience as I pushed through fatigue to reach the summit. Witnessing the sunrise from the top of Japan's highest peak was a breathtaking moment that filled me with a profound sense of accomplishment and gratitude, reinforcing my belief in the rewards of hard work and determination. Visiting Kyoto, with its stunning temples and serene gardens, allowed me to immerse myself in Japan's rich cultural heritage and history. The city's beauty and tranquility offered a perfect contrast to my rigorous academic pursuits, providing moments of reflection and inspiration. Professionally, I gained hands-on experience in cutting-edge speech processing technologies, enhancing my technical skills in machine learning and voice synthesis. Working with a diverse team of researchers allowed me to improve my collaboration and communication skills, as I learned to navigate complex projects and integrate various perspectives to achieve common goals.

Name: Jessica Hurtado
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: IDEAS
Company: Pathways Development Initiative
Position: Preparatory School Teaching Assistant and Office Administrative Worker



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

While in Uganda, I worked with the Pathways Development Initiative (PDI). PDI is a non-governmental organization located in the Bududa district of Uganda. It aims to curb patterns of poverty in the region by giving people opportunities to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves. PDI focuses especially on women and children. Through a preparatory school, a sports program, a music and dance program, a loan system, and a resource center, PDI has touched many lives. During my visit, I aided the organization in the school and the office. At the school, I served as a teaching assistant and taught students English. At the office, I helped with administrative tasks with a focus on implementing organizational systems.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Spending my summer in Uganda was life-changing. While there, our group stayed in the rural Bududa district. This district is one of the most impoverished in the country. Simple daily feats like eating three meals and going to school do not come easy to those in Bududa. That being said, the people there are not discouraged. It is incredible how many determined the individuals I met there. Seeing people work so hard to change their social status was inspiring. They start at such a disadvantage, yet they are still able to go so far. It really showed me how much privilege I have. I have been given so much that I take for granted. Working for PDI was incredibly rewarding because I felt as if I was giving back a little. The PDI employees are some of the kindest people in the world. They have taken their earned wealth to empower others in Bududa. Living alongside them has really shown me that I want to do more valuable work in my life.

In the future, I hope to return to Bududa. I absolutely fell in love with the community there. The homestay family, the children at the school, and many of the other locals really made an impact on me. I have been home for three days and I am already missing Uganda!

Name: Ryan Tao Javier
College: Intercollegiate
Major: IDEAS
Company: Hutchison Ports Holdings
Position: Terminal Development & Group Operations



Hong Kong



Inside the Internship:

Hutchison Ports is the world's leading port network with over 53 ports across the world. At Hutchison, I utilized ARENA, a simulation software that allows companies such as Hutchison to run models and determine what they should invest in. Specifically, I ran models testing the battery consumption of autonomous trucks in a terminal yard and optimizing battery charging. In addition, our supervisors also introduced us to the other divisions within the group operations department and their functions. We also had the opportunity to meet with interns from CK Hutchison, Hutchison Ports' parent company.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Working at Hutchison allowed me to experience a true 9 to 5 and helped me develop my collaboration and communication skills. While English is widely used in Hong Kong, it was an adjustment to get used to the Hong Kong accent, especially in a formal setting. In addition, the hard skills I learned in simulation software will be particularly useful if I decide to pursue data science or artificial intelligence. Learning an entirely new software almost all by myself was daunting but it has made me more confident in my skills to learn something new.

Name: Zaki Khan
College: Intercollegiate
Major: Computer Science and Business
Company: Center for Entrepreneurship & Transfer
Position: Jr. Professorship Intern



Inside the Internship:

At the Technical University in Dortmund, Germany, I worked a tandem internship between two departments. First, I worked as a research assistant under inspiring PHD students who were pursuing their PHD in Entrepreneurship. Some of my day to day tasks included helping them scrape data online, help review research papers, and make their data collection tasks easier by implementing novel ways. For example, through my interest in AI and software development, I created an AI agent for generating company descriptions for one of the PHD students. The second half of the internship was working at the Center for Entrepreneurship & Transfer (CET), where I learned about the startup culture in Germany, learned a no-code software that helps startups create an MVP, and developed the foundation of

my own startup idea. During the week, I worked two days as the research assistant and two days at the CET. There was a lot of flexibility and freedom to be innovative and pursue my interests.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience has truly been a once in a lifetime opportunity. I never would have expected all the people I would meet, the places I would travel, and the independent skills that I've developed. Professionally, I've learned to work with people from different backgrounds, learned new skills in the internship, and developed career readiness skills that you won't be able to get with a normal domestic internship. Personally, I've ultimately developed my own story. This memorable experience taught me that going abroad for an internship not only helps you develop professionally, but also imparts key life skills. I learned about a new culture, took an A1 German language course, heard stories from people of diverse backgrounds, and traveled to different European countries independently—all at an early stage of my college career. My most memorable moments of the trip happened after traveling with a group of interns at TU-Dortmund, who all came from different countries. This summer will forever be a cornerstone in my life, and I am truly grateful.

Name: Lucas Koranda
College: Intercollegiate
Major: Industrial Engineering and IBE Finance
Company: WuliuAir
Position: International Intern



Lithuania



Inside the Internship:

WuliuAir is a premier air freight forwarding and 4PL logistics company based in Vilnius, Lithuania. As a certified cargo agent with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the business acts as an intermediary between shippers and recipients, assisting with freight booking, customs clearance, and local delivery for both general and specialized cargo. While serving a global clientele, WuliuAir's team—proficient in Lithuanian, English, Russian, and Polish—has a particular expertise in serving the Baltic, Eastern European, and Central Asian markets. As an international intern, my primary responsibility was to assist operations through logistics management, quality assurance, and business development. I became familiar with key legal instruments in the air freight industry, such as

documentation, cargo rating principles, and Incoterms, to create customer quotations and track shipment progress. Additionally, I conducted a two-week experiment to monitor the internal temperature duration of a pallet shipper, evaluating its suitability for transporting pharmaceuticals and perishable goods. Lastly, I applied my knowledge of the legal business environment in the United States to develop an expansion proposal for WuliuAir's purchase of a warehouse on the East Coast. Completing these projects not only deepened my understanding of the air freight logistics industry but also enabled me to contribute to the company's growth.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The Iacocca International Internship Program enabled me to achieve invaluable personal and professional growth through a deeply gratifying cultural experience. I was blessed to have an incredibly compassionate and adventurous host family who significantly enriched my understanding of Lithuania's language, heritage, values, and beauty. Communicating with my host family and their friends taught me valuable interpersonal skills that are uniquely developed through international experiences. I navigated the Lithuanian-English language barrier by relying on nonverbal cues such as body language, facial expressions, and laughter, which deepened my appreciation for the fundamental aspects of human connection. Integrating into Lithuanian society boosted my self-confidence as I navigated unfamiliar environments and engaged with people from Lithuanian, Russian, Belarusian, and Polish backgrounds. Furthermore, I developed a greater sense of empathy and geopolitical awareness through discussions about historical conflicts and their lasting impact on today's society. Living in a small country revealed the strong patriotism and unity among its tight-knit population. I admired the shared values of companionship, environmental stewardship, and mindfulness, which I intend to incorporate into my daily life when I return home. This experience also gave me an outsider's perspective on the United States, revealing how its cultural and geopolitical influence is felt worldwide. As a result, I have developed a deeper sense of responsibility as a U.S. citizen and Lehigh University student, recognizing that my words, actions, vote, and presence can significantly shape others' lives beyond our country's borders. Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible—the IIIP staff, selection committee, and program benefactors. I am deeply grateful for the lifelong impact you have had on me by providing this opportunity.

Name: Thor Long
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Computer Science and Business
Company: WatGen
Position: Research and Development Intern



Chile



Inside the Internship:

I had the pleasure of working for WatGen, an innovative company with a focus around creating clean energy solutions to various socio economic problems around Chile. As a clean-energy engineering company, the company has various projects working to create operational continuity, sustainability, and efficiency, ensuring that the projects are utilizing as much carbon-neutral technology as possible. We were given our tasks, each with a common theme of using carbon-neutral energy to help solve problems around Chile. My main responsibilities as a R&D intern included coming up with eco-friendly and energy efficient solutions to various problems around Chile that Manuel wanted to look into solving. These projects required me to do research in academic journals about eco-friendly

technology and applying it to problems such as farming and construction.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience in Santiago was truly enlightening and allowed me to simultaneously challenge myself and grow both personally and professionally. I can confidently say that I've learned a lot about myself, including how I can adapt and operate in a foreign country, how well I can make new friends and memories with the people around me, and that I really and genuinely enjoy trying new things, even if they seem frightening at first. My experience at WatGen allowed me to practice and hone my technical skills while challenging my communication skills, especially given the different cross-cultural communication styles that my fellow interns and my supervisor had. This being my second time working for a startup company, I also can say I've grown fond of the fast paced work environment that comes with running a business, especially those with the objective to find solutions to impactful global issues, like how WatGen aims to help fight climate change using renewable energy. The position allowed me to grow in terms of obtaining critical and relevant information which will serve me well into next year as I finish up my degree, and well into the professional field.

Name: Laura-Lee Luke
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Behavioral Neuroscience
Company: IES Abroad
Position: Teacher Intern



Inside the Internship:

This summer I lived and worked in Barcelona, Spain for two months at Tembo Family Club. Tembo is a bilingual daycare that specializes in allowing children to easily learn both languages through an immersive program that has qualities such as daily excursions, low student to teacher ratios, and flexibility. This is especially important since the children are from all over the world and not just Spain. During my time at Tembo, I was lucky enough to have a position as a teacher intern where I was able to engage with the kids on a daily basis. I was able to interact with both the daycare children who were aged ten months to two years old and the Tembo tribe who were aged three years to five years old. As a teacher, I was tasked with learning the schedules to be able to actively be a part of the daily functions of the daycare. I was

able to do things such as leading activities, finding activities and preparing those materials for future activities, facilitating both snack time and lunch time, playing with the children, and organizing learning spaces within the classroom. When the summer officially started, we did daily excursions with the children. So, every day the children would come prepared with either extra clothes, bathing suits, extra snacks, or anything else that Tembo had asked their parents to equip them with. Then, upon arrival, we would split into groups and take the children on excursions. Some examples of excursions we did included taking them to the beach, the library, museums, etc. It was a great way to help them explore Barcelona.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I am very grateful for the opportunity of being able to participate in the Iacocca International Internship Program. This experience not only taught me a lot about living and working in another country but also a lot about myself as a person. I had never traveled abroad by myself before and I had certainly never worked abroad before. I was able to experience a different way of living and working. I found a passion for working with young children and I want to incorporate that in my future career aspirations of becoming a Physician Assistant, possibly by going into pediatrics or the NICU. I really enjoyed everything Spain had to offer and I was so grateful to experience another culture being as immersed as I was. I was able to grow my language and communication skills by being in a Spanish speaking country. I was able to interact with people of all different backgrounds and ages on a daily basis. I was able to visit so many amazing places such as touring and attending Mass in the Basílica de la Sagrada Família. I was able to take weekend trips to visit amazing places all over Spain such as Tarragona, Madrid, and Valencia and sight see everything from beaches to museums to parks. I often think about how I had the opportunity to live less than two minutes away from La Sagrada Família, a church people travel all over the world to witness. Personally, I was able to gain so much knowledge about myself as a person and really step out of my comfort zone and become more independent. Working in the daycare and often being tasked with resolving conflict and leading activities on my own really allowed me to develop not only my problem solving skills but also my conflict resolution skills. Both are skills I know I will need in my personal and professional life. The unmatched experiences I gained while participating in the Iacocca International Internship Program has taught me so many invaluable lessons and given me so many unique opportunities that have shaped me into a more well-rounded individual with strengthened cultural awareness, transferable skills, and more importantly, amazing memories I will carry with me forever.

Name: Connor Malinger
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Anthropology & Psychology
Company: College Year in Athens
Position: Archaeology Student



Greece



Inside the Internship:

CYA is a undergraduate study abroad program based in Athens that prioritizes on-location learning, meaning we visited the sites and analyzed them in detail as we learned about them in lecture. I was enrolled in an archaeology class with students from American and Australian universities taught by a professor from the University of Athens. The class covered interconnections in the Bronze Age Aegean Sea (Egyptian, Minoan, Mycenaean, Cycladic), with a large focus on the material left behind and that may yet be discovered. Pottery, masonry and architecture, wall paintings, jewelry and metalwork made up the majority of our studies. Throughout our travels we created a log of the journey as if we were a captain of a vessel in the Bronze Age. This required rigorous note-taking

throughout lectures, museum and site visits, and bus and ferry rides. I also documented everything with my camera, trying to learn new photography techniques and learning the basics of videography.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I had never left the US before this, but growing up in Hawaii made the experience different than it would have been otherwise. I grew up in a culture that wasn't uniform, a melting pot, so when I experience new cultures, I don't really get thrown off. Although in some ways I realized how large the world really is and how different life can be, what surprised me more was the similarity and the basics of life that I saw. People went about their day and did much the same as anywhere I have been. The differences in culture that people seem to care about so much seem very minor to me. I enjoyed the late dinners, the cheap food, how walkable everything was, the crazy drivers, the slow living, the morning coffee, and everything in between. What I didn't really enjoy had nothing to do with the culture. The inconsistency of the class times made running very difficult and training for my sport felt more difficult than I expected. I was often exhausted and I honestly felt a little disappointed with the running and exercise culture there. For the first half I rarely saw anyone that wasn't a tourist running. However, I was just looking in the wrong places. There were plenty of people who ran and exercised at the University track. Old and young and really busy after 6 p.m. It was perfect.

All that to say, I want to travel for different reasons now. I want to explore the stories people tell rather than just visit some place because it seems exotic, though I certainly want to go on a number of extreme adventures. As for archaeology, I've seen quite enough pots and although I will do what I must, I'd rather go for a hike than look at something in the lab, which lines up perfectly with my next opportunities.

Name: Diane Marrow
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Cognitive Science
Company: Hutchison Ports
Position: Commercial Research Intern



Hong Kong



Inside the Internship:

Hutchison Ports is a global port network with 53 ports in 24 countries. I interned with the company's Group Commercial Department, which is concerned with the company's customer base and new developments within the container shipping industry as a whole. The main responsibility for interns in the department was individual projects relating to market research and the company's relationship with their customers. My specific project involved reviewing and summarizing the department's previous customer satisfaction survey and writing a project brief in preparation for the next one.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Through my position in the Group Commercial Department, I learned about the importance of market research and how it's conducted. I also had the opportunity to learn about other departments within the company, which increased my knowledge of the shipping industry as a whole. Personally, I gained knowledge about different perspectives on a variety of topics in Hong Kong and other countries where the friends I made live or have lived. I learned a lot about myself, including new ideas about what I want for my future. Overall, I'm very grateful to have had this experience.

Name: Edyn Marsland
College: College of Business
Major: Finance
Company: PDI Uganda
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

PDI Uganda is a nonprofit organization located in Baduda, Uganda. The mission of the organization is to end the cycle of poverty through the means of education. They have established the first pre-primary school in the area that serves 4 grades of students. They have a sports program that focuses on football and netball. Hundreds of children participate in the program daily between 2 different locations. The goal of the sports program is to give children a positive way to spend their evenings, and it also can lead to children being recruited by private academies to play sports on scholarship. PDI checks in on the students who are a part of the sports program through assessments which occur each term. These assess how the athletes are doing in school and if their needs are being met both

at home and in school. Similar to the sports program, they also have a music and dance program available for children in the community. PDI focuses specifically on helping girls continue their education as they are at a higher risk of dropping out due to a lack of opportunities and societal norms. PDI has had a partnership with Lehigh for more than 10 years which has allowed for a cohort of Lehigh students to travel to Uganda annually and aid the organization with the work they are doing. Students are able to stay at the "Zaale Homestay" courtesy of Papa Zaale, one of the founders of PDI. In addition, Lehigh students are able to volunteer at a local health clinic during their time in Ugandan. At the clinic they aid staff in any way they can and are especially helpful with computer skills.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My experience in Uganda was nothing short of amazing. My day to day work varied greatly as some days I would help in the PDI office or school. Others I would work at the health clinic or conduct interviews in the community. In the PDI office I worked a lot with excel, developing attendance sheets for the sports program and entering past data. I also helped develop the \$1 campaign which is a new PDI campaign with the goal of securing donors who will donate \$1 per month to the organization. I did not spend too much time at the pre-primary school, but when I was there I would assist teachers in the classroom and of course play with the kids at recess. In the health clinic I participated in a variety of rolls. I worked in the lab entering information like malaria and pregnancy test results into an online database. I worked in intake and consultation, recording patients information and taking the height and weight of patients. I also had the opportunity to shadow in the maternity ward and see some births take place. Although I did not have my own research project, I would occasionally sit in on community interviews being conducted by fellow students in which I gained a deeper understanding about the culture and norms of the area. That being said, my favorite part of work was playing football every evening through the sports program. I also spearheaded a project to build a basketball hoop for the village which is the first ever in the surrounding area. The plan is for basketball to be formally introduced as a part of the sports program in the future. In my freetime I went on walks, hiked up mountains, read and journaled, played games, and built close relationships with both Ugandans and my Lehigh peers. One highlight of the trip was a 3 day hike I completed to summit the 14,000 foot peak of Mount Elgon. All in all, this was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Professionally, I was exposed to a large variety of jobs and responsibilities, and personally, I grew as a person, adopted healthy habits.

Name: Avery McGarry
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: English and Theatre
Company: Irish Arts Review
Position: Production Intern



Ireland



Inside the Internship:

This summer, I worked at Irish Arts Review, the leading non-profit art magazine of Ireland. The quarterly publication features art from around Ireland and aims to highlight both Irish artists and heritage. It is in its 40th year of publication, and the schedule of print is once per season. My largest task was to oversee the New Gen Gallery, an online exhibition that features the art of newly graduated BA and MA students from around Ireland. While there is a database of graduates since 2014, I only worked with 2024 graduates. Once receiving a submission from a graduate, I ensured that every guideline was met. In order to complete this task, a lot of attention to detail and organization was required. If something was wrong, I communicated with the graduate directly to fix their submission fully. Before

getting submissions, however, I created a database of all the 2024 Irish graduates and consistently sent out mass emails inviting them to submit their work. As time went on, I started to gain other tasks, such as taking various phone calls, managing subscriptions, making social media posts, and requesting feedback from previously featured artists of the magazine. Since the summer issue was just published before I started working, and the autumn issue was just about to be published before I left, I was able to see the inner workings of an arts publication both before and after its release.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I don't believe I will ever be able to fully articulate how grateful I am for my experience in Ireland this summer. Any expectation I had of the growth I was able to achieve in such a short period of time was blown out of the water. Professionally, I gained a lot of valuable experience in a field I truly enjoy and that blends many of my interests. For example, I saw first-hand how I can combine my interests of art and writing into a dynamic and interesting job. Further, I learned what soft skills are needed to succeed in that kind of environment, such as independence, organization, and effective communication. I believed I excelled in these skills before, but I have since learned how to specifically apply them to a professional field that interests me. Culturally, I learned how to immerse myself in the unfamiliar without hesitation. On the surface, Ireland doesn't seem terribly different from the USA, but there were still countless moments of unfamiliarity and differences I was able to spin into a positive experience. I spent my time exploring the different counties of Ireland and pushing myself to talk to as many people as possible, which truly gave me a rather comprehensive understanding of Irish culture. While I expected growth in professional and cultural competency, I am surprised at the personal transformations I have undergone this summer as well. Pushing myself outside my comfort zone allowed me to explore a lot of interests and anxieties of mine, and I subsequently came out with a lot of perspective on myself. I learned to find peace in my own company more than ever before, while simultaneously feeling so filled with every conversation I had- whether it be with a local or someone else from my program. I couldn't have asked for a better place to have this experience, as I can safely say that Ireland is my favorite place I've ever been to! It is an incredibly lively and personable country with gorgeous scenery anywhere you look.

Name: Ana Sofia Mendoza
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Political Science and Sociology
Company: Nor Luyce
Position: Grant Writer Intern



Armenia



Inside the Internship:

Nor Luyce is an NGO located in Gyumri, Armenia. Its mission is to provide adolescent girls from socially vulnerable families with the mentorship, skills and resources needed to become independent and globally aware young women capable of reaching their desired personal and professional goals, all accomplished in a 3-phase program with ongoing all-inclusive support. The three structured phases focus on: mentoring relationships, skill building, career success and global vision. Throughout all phases, an emphasis is placed on constant workshops and activities with all members of the organization that have empowering participants as a main objective. As a Grant Writer, I focused on finding different grant opportunities from multiple sources, ultimately resulting in the completion of 3

applications. Constant communication with different staff members was required - from brainstorming proposal ideas to ensuring the work presented is accurate and impeccable. With this position, writing skills are essential, along with values of thoroughness and time management, due to the responsibility of filling out extensive parts of the grant applications.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This unique experience has helped me grow both personally and professionally in ways I never expected. On a personal level, I discovered the thrill of travelling to a place that is entirely different from any other I had seen. The mix of the beautiful landscapes and the endless activities in different areas made my time in Armenia extremely joyful. One special thing that I will make sure to hold close to my heart is the unique Armenian hospitality that we were always warmly embraced by, with our host families, co-workers, or even locals. It taught me that even small acts of kindness can always help make a person's day better, which I will try to implement in my daily life back in the US. On a different note, I am confident that my professional growth has been remarkable during this experience. With both of my majors belonging to the social sciences, my writing skills are constantly used - and being a Grant Writer Intern only helped me improve them drastically. It opened my eyes to new vocabulary that taught me how to keep enhancing different texts I create. Furthermore, it showed me the meaningful value of having strong communication with co-workers to ensure the best results possible in any work presented; any input is always meaningful. This has been an experience that I will treasure forever, and I am eternally grateful for its impact in my life.

Name: Kwynsky Miguel
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Sociology and Anthropology
Company: College Year in Athens (CYA)
Position: History Student



Greece



Inside the Internship:

This summer, I studied abroad at College Year in Athens (CYA). The course I partook in specifically focused on archaeology (ARCH 347) and the title of the course is When Egypt Meets the Aegean: Interconnections in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean. The objective of ARCH 347 is to offer students an analysis and thematic exploration of Aegean and Egyptian history, focusing on the Late Bronze Age. The curriculum I learned covered various topics like architecture, burial customs, trade and commerce, writing systems and literacy, religious practices and rituals, arts and crafts, social hierarchies, and political structures. During the course, my class traveled to Athens, Santorini, Crete, and Nafplio in Greece. Throughout my course, I worked with my fellow classmates on several

assignments and quizzes on the curriculum we learned, while also visiting the sites and museums for further enrichment. All of this work led to my final paper: a captain's log. This final assignment involved me taking the perspective of a captain or crew men traveling around the Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age. I used all the information on the various artifacts, settlements, and colonies I learned in ARCH 347 to illustrate my paper. My study abroad program involved daily commitments, classes, and trips across 4 weeks.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The College Year in Athens (CYA) provided me with a new perspective on education in my majors, Sociology and Anthropology. Taking a course outside of Lehigh University has given me the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom environment. By taking a course in Greece, I was immersed directly in the material being taught by visiting the sites and museums after learning about them in lectures. This approach taught me a great deal compared to the normal textbook and classroom environment. I believe I developed personally through this experience because it challenged me to adapt to a new culture. CYA enhanced my understanding of global perspectives and allowed me the opportunity to experience hands-on learning. I also learned through this experience that I am capable of persevering through challenges in a group setting. Collaborative work was frequent in my program, so I had to adapt and problem solve many times when working with my groupmates. I value this experience greatly and firmly believe that it will shape me both at my time in academia and beyond.

Name: Andrey Montero
College: College of Business
Major: Business Management
Company: Imaginary
Position: Intern



Italy



Inside the Internship:

My internship at Imaginary, which is a business that makes video games that are accessible to people with disabilities, has been a really good and rewarding experience that has greatly influenced my personal and career development while also offering me priceless insights into the real working world. I have gained knowledge about the technical aspects of content creation and game development during these past few months, as well as the significance of accessibility and inclusivity of technology. I performed a variety of duties as an intern at Imaginary throughout my internship. Writing stories for kids with varying English proficiency levels, translating documents between Spanish and English, and making minigames for the English learning project were among my

responsibilities. Proficiency in English, extraordinary patience, creativity, and an awareness of the needs of children with disabilities were among the competencies needed for this role.

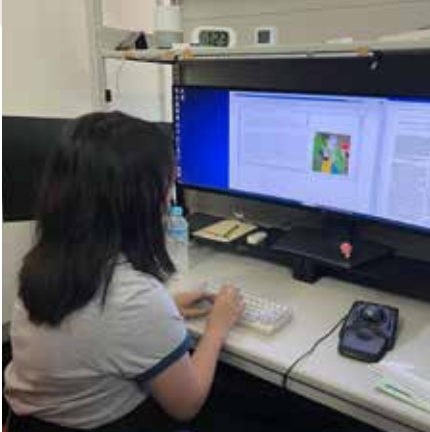
Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My time as an intern at Imaginary has been a truly educational experience. I now have more useful abilities in content production, game design, and translation. More significantly, I now have a better awareness of the difficulties that people with disabilities have and the need to come up with inclusive solutions. I've learned from the experience how important it is to have empathy, inventiveness, and patience in work environments. In addition, I now know how to work well in an online group setting and make valuable contributions to team initiatives. In addition, my knowledge of accessibility concerns and exposure to the healthcare industry has expanded my perspective and improved my capacity to operate in a variety of settings. My flexibility, ability to work well with others and desire to have a positive influence have all been highlighted by my experience and are attributes that companies find appealing.

Name: Michele De Guzman Murata
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Computer Science
Company: Nagoya Institute of Technology
Position: Research Assistant



Japan



Inside the Internship:

Nagoya Institute of Technology is a post-secondary institution in Nagoya, Japan. Their work usually consists of research in technological fields such as information technology, engineering, and biology. I worked with the FUKUSHIMA Lab, translating a previously made program in C++ to MATLAB regarding the creation of Gaussian Fourier Pyramids for Local Laplacian Pyramids, the creation of a new type of multiscale image processing method that improved the quality of detail enhancement in the resizing of images.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Immersing myself in a culture in a wholly different country was a perspective changing experience. Personally, I have grown to understand that the limits I've set upon myself are not as "hard" placed as I thought, and the boundaries of what I can truly do are on a completely different scale. There is a certain sense of fulfillment from going to a different country and working with people with cultural differences (not to mention the language barrier) that only really exists through this kind of experience.

I've learned more about our community on a global scale, and the differences between audiences. If you want to make something successful, you'd have to be able to broaden the scope. America seems so big when it's the only thing you've known, but when you change your perspectives and scopes, it becomes a smaller part in the picture. Through travelling and working with others from different backgrounds, I've made a much bigger picture in the work that I would like to do, and realized that there are significantly more opportunities and paths to take.

Name: Risa Nkululeko
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Political Science & Africana Studies
Company: Nor Luyce
Position: Content Writer Intern



Armenia



Inside the Internship:

Nor Luyce Mentoring Program is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 2009 in Gyumri, Armenia that aims to create a welcoming space for adolescent girls from marginalized communities. Offering them the chance to explore the vast opportunities of higher education and career aspirations by indulging in a one year long program. The organization empowers girls to become independent, driven global citizens, guiding them to achieve their personal and professional goals. Although the centralized location is placed in Armenia, there is a need for expansion across the country to connect other young women to mentorship programs that grasps their full potential. Working as a content writer I created new templates for their monthly newsletters, showcasing the hard work

and accomplishments of the company. Conducted a SWOT analysis to recognize obstacles and strengths, designed and revised the annual yearly reports and organized Nor Luyce PR plan. Additionally, I was in charge of translating success stories, thank you letters and personal statements to send to partners and donors. Alongside any other tasks that needed my assistance, including establishing their Wikipedia page.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The experience I gained through the Iacocca International Internship Program has been surreal to say the least. Throughout my time in Armenia, I have fostered a profound appreciation for the people in this country. Their hospitality is unparalleled and have truly made me feel a home away from home. Connecting with other volunteers from around the world allowed me to broaden my global perspective while cherishing the unique differences that brought us together. On a personal scale I have been able to adapt to new environments. Although the language barrier was a challenging factor, I proceeded to find other means of communication that allowed me to understand my colleagues, host family and locals. Nonetheless, I never felt excluded. I have created bonds with individuals over food, religion, dance, music, art and photography. Including exploring other parts of Armenia by volunteering on community service projects that allowed me to connect with Birthright Armenians (many of whom reside in my home state!) Professionally, I was granted the opportunity to explore a different profession outside of my field of study. Where I made decisions on my own while meeting people from different walks of life. This helped broaden the possibilities of my future by partaking in important conversations related to career goals.

Name: Becca O'Brien
College: Intercollegiate
Major: IDEAS
Company: TU Dortmund
Position: Electrical Engineering Intern



Inside the Internship:

I worked at the Institute of Energy Systems, Energy Efficiency, and Energy Economics (ie3) at TU-Dortmund, Germany. I was involved in the GLocalFlex project at the lab, which aims to scale flexible local energy systems by making it easy for consumers across all energy sectors to participate in energy flexibility markets. Energy flexibility refers to the ability to adjust electricity consumption or production in response to market signals, which is essential for balancing supply and demand and maintaining grid stability. As renewable energy sources are integrated into the grid, their variable generation makes flexibility even more crucial. This project promotes interoperable solutions and products at all grid levels and demonstrates large-scale, near real-time flexibility trading in six European

locations. The focus is on automated, machine-to-machine flexibility trading to enhance grid stability and integrate renewable technologies. My specific contribution was developing a dashboard for metric visualizations related to the project. By the end of my internship, I created a functional dashboard showcasing important metrics from the economic, energy, and trust layers of the GLocalFlex market.

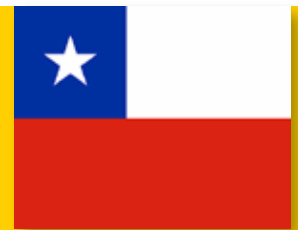
Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience has been incredibly enriching on both personal and professional levels. Living in a new culture has really pushed me out of my comfort zone, helping me see life from a different perspective and sparking a genuine interest in learning new languages and customs. Navigating through cultural differences and overcoming language barriers has been a significant challenge, but it has also been immensely rewarding. It has helped me become more adaptable and open-minded, allowing me to connect with people from various backgrounds more effectively.

Professionally, the internship has also been a significant growth opportunity. The independence working on my project forced me to delve deeply into each step of the process, honing my critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The autonomy, combined with seeking guidance when necessary, has improved my ability to manage projects and balance self-sufficiency with collaboration. Additionally, the process of learning and applying new technologies has broadened my technical expertise and made me more resourceful.

This journey has been an incredible catalyst for my growth, teaching me valuable lessons in cultural sensitivity, self-reliance, and the importance of continuous learning. These experiences have not only shaped my professional skills but also enriched my personal outlook, providing me with a stronger foundation for future endeavors. I'm excited to carry these insights forward and apply them to both my personal and professional life, confident that they will support my ongoing development in meaningful and impactful ways.

Name: Erika Ramirez
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Architecture
Company: Bosque Santiago
Position: Park Guide



Chile



Inside the Internship:

During my internship at Bosque Santiago, I was immersed in a vibrant environment dedicated to environmental education and conservation. Bosque Santiago is a branch of ParqueMet, the largest urban park in Chile. My role involved a variety of tasks aimed at supporting the park's mission to guide and educate visitors about the importance of preserving nature. I assisted visitors by providing information and support, set up cameras to monitor wildlife, and contributed to the ongoing maintenance of the park. These responsibilities allowed me to engage directly with the park's operations and gain hands-on experience in conservation efforts. Additionally, I was given the opportunity to propose and develop an architecture project intended to benefit the park. This assignment was particularly exciting as

it enabled me to explore a new idea that integrated architectural design with the park's environmental goals. The project not only challenged me to apply my architectural skills in a practical setting but also allowed me to contribute creatively to the park's mission. Through this experience, I learned how to balance innovative design with functional needs, and I gained a deeper appreciation for the intersection of architecture and environmental stewardship. This internship was a unique opportunity to combine my interests in both nature and architecture while making a meaningful impact on one of Chile's most significant urban green spaces.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My internship at Bosque Santiago boosted my confidence in Spanish, as daily interactions with locals improved my language skills. Professionally, it made me more independent and focused, especially through managing various tasks and working on an architectural project that aligned with the park's goals. This experience enhanced my ability to communicate effectively and handle complex projects.

Name: Teg Ritchie
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Product & Apparel Design Major
Company: Formula Iozzi
Position: Apparel Design Intern



Italy



Inside the Internship:

Formula Iozzi is an apparel startup based in Milan, Italy. The brand is partnered with a flagship store opening this fall, which will release collections of tees, trousers, overshirts, bandanas, and hats. The brand makes clothes for motorcycle enthusiasts, and manufactures garments meant for the road. All of the products are made in Italy, and reflect the lifestyle of being on the road. My work for Formula Iozzi was to design T-shirts to be released this fall. One of these shirts was a mock grand prix of Milan, with the pit stop being the location of the store.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Living and working in Milan helped me learn about what I value in my life, and how I can balance my work and personal life. In Italy, time and deadlines are slowed down, and you can take the time to get your assignments done right, rather than cramming in as much work into every hour of the day as you can. Depending on your career path, working in Italy can be relaxed and sometimes not even feel like work. There's plenty of activities to engage you outside of work hours if you're in the city. A part of the culture I had a hard time adjusting to was the ubiquitous cigarette smoking outside during breaks. A lot of building entrances have a lot of people crowded and socializing while smoking. It wasn't something I was interested in and I felt a bit distant on breaks. If I were to go back, I would get my own vehicle. The metro has good range and gets to most places, but there were several times I needed to go somewhere and couldn't due to delays or strikes. Strikes were frequent during my time in Italy and they pose a severe impact on your daily life in the city, since you're primarily relying on other people to do things for you. My time in Italy was great, and I often reminisce of the delicious trapizzini and pizza I had.

Name: Teresa Rizzo
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Biology and Health, Medicine & Society
Company: Pathways Development Initiative
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

There are many amazing things that PDI does that are all devoted to providing local children with the best opportunity and continuing and finishing their education while breaking patterns of common occurrences such as early marriage or pregnancy. PDI has a pre-primary school for young children ages 3-5, an afterschool sports program that offers coaching in both football and netball, as well as a second chance program for those who were not able to finish their education due to lack of finances or other challenges. Furthermore PDI has an assessment program to gauge the needs and hardships of students in the program when they are at home or school, and a music and dance program on the weekends in which students perform at a showcase at the end of their internship. These different

programs have become an integral part of the lives of children in Bududa and they are extremely eager to play football and do traditional dances each day! I spent my internship volunteering at the school, aiding teachers in grading papers, teaching lessons in middle or top class and aiding the teachers in navigating computers so that they can more efficiently create and print assignments. Furthermore, I became involved in the assessment program. I traveled to different schools with staff and asked a list of questions relating to quality of life at school and home, something that was widely eye opening. After seeing how assessments were done, and how data was inputted I decided to develop a google form that has the questions directly there and makes it easy to just click the responses. This way, data can be easily organized and put into premade charts that will later be used to make a final report that will be used to apply for grants. I am excited to continue to work with PDI into next semester to resume the development of these initiatives!!

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

I truly will never experience anything quite like my internship in Uganda ever again. I am eternally grateful for every second of my time in Bududa. We constantly emerged in the culture and I learned something new every day as it was just so different to anywhere I have ever been before. I was able to develop deep connections with those who I was working with in the community as well as local children that we spent our days with. Though it was hard to witness the hardships, especially economically that those in the village had to go through on a day to day basis, it was amazing to see everyone come together to support one another. I learned the true meaning of community. I'm glad to have been a part of that community as well. I have been able to keep in contact with staff from PDI and know that the members of the Lehigh group will remain some of my closest friends going into the next academic year. As our group sobbed saying our goodbyes to the people who we have gotten so close with, I knew this place would forever mean the world to me. I am forever indebted to Bududa.

Name: Eldisa Rosario
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Political Science
Company: Hospice Angelus
Position: Intern



Moldova



Inside the Internship:

Hospice Angelus is a non-profit organization that aims to provide palliative care to children with terminal illnesses. Their center, Casa Angelus, is located in the village of Isacova, around 45 minutes away from the city of Chisinau. I had the opportunity to visit the compound, which provides 24/7 care free of charge to families. On their site, they have medical professionals and are equipped to take care of up to 18 children at a time. To fund these expenses, Hospice Angelus uses a combination of donation boxes, social media marketing, and government funding. This summer, I assisted the PR team in refining their social media strategy across multiple platforms. My role involved enhancing content engagement, optimizing posting schedules, and analyzing performance metrics to strengthen the team's

overall online presence. This included optimizing Instagram Reels and TikTok, along with further promoting the cause through daily Instagram story posts. In the future, Hospice Angelus hopes to establish a palliative care hospital in the center, where treatment can be more readily accessible to families.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Spending six weeks in Moldova completely redefined who I am as a person. Immersing myself in a new culture, connecting with the people, and experiencing the beauty of the country allowed me to grow out of my shell. Prior to this trip, I had only traveled to my own country, the Dominican Republic and other destinations where English/Spanish were commonly used. However, in Moldova, I was surrounded with new languages and customs. I did things I had never done before on this trip, like visit a wine castle and watch a play in the middle of the woods. My host family so graciously showed me their country and taught me much of their history that I was unaware about. This experience taught me that there is so much to learn in the world. One of my first purchases when I touched down was a culture book on Moldovan history. I brought it back to the US and told my family the history, experiences, and adventures that I had while I was there. I left this trip not just with stories and a new outlook on the world, but also invaluable connections to mentors and individuals that I will definitely keep up with. It was the best time I've ever had, filled with unforgettable moments that broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the world around me.

Name: Sofia Rousseau
College: College of Health
Major: Population Health
Company: Luxembourg Institute of Health
Position: Research Intern



Luxembourg



Inside the Internship:

During my time at LIH, I had the privilege of working alongside an exceptionally talented team of researchers and professionals who are at the forefront of innovation in digital health. Their passion and dedication to pushing the boundaries of science have inspired me every day, and I am grateful for the knowledge and skills I have gained under their guidance.

I was actively involved in cutting-edge projects that explored the integration of digital technologies with health research. Researching vocal biomarkers and the relationship with disease allowed me to explore health technologies from a new perspective.

Additionally, working in a multidisciplinary team was an eye-opening experience. The collaborative spirit and diverse expertise within the team enriched my learning and showed me the importance of teamwork in driving scientific advancements.

Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to attend seminars, workshops, and discussions that broadened my understanding of current trends and challenges in the field of digital phenotyping.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to attend seminars, workshops, and discussions that broadened my understanding of current trends and challenges in the field of digital phenotyping. This exposure has ignited my passion for continuous learning and further research exploration. Having worked with people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds, I'm equipped with the adaptability to adapt to wherever I'm working. I believe that Luxembourg is one of the best places to work abroad due to the fact that it's in the middle of France, Belgium and Germany. As a result you're able to be exposed to many different cultures and customs.

Name: Sofia Ruiz
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Chemical Engineering
Company: Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia
Position: Research Personal



Spain



Inside the Internship:

I had the amazing opportunity to work with the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain, as a research personnel. During the first part of my internship, I shadowed a student who was doing his master's degree. His project consisted of recreating the blood-brain barrier using organ-on-a-chip technology by incorporating cells and different matrix materials to model neurodegenerative diseases. I would observe what he was doing first, and then he would let me try it myself. Some of the things we did included creating the "chips" with PDMS, seeding them with cells, using GelMA or fibrin or matrigel as matrix materials, and conducting the live/dead and permeability assays as well as qPCR. We also passed and counted cells used for the experiments. During the second part of

my internship, I assisted a lab technician. I helped her by conducting immunostaining, qPCR, RNA extraction, forming hydrogels, making cDNA, and working with cancer cells.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Through this experience, I learned many new laboratory techniques and also improved old ones that positively impacted my career readiness. Now I can perform experiments with greater control, confidence, and precision. I also learned a lot of soft skills that I will take forward with me. I learned how to take good notes on how an experiment is conducted, including the specific measurements/calculations taken during the experiment and any errors made, as well as to collaborate with people from diverse cultures, communicate well with those I work with, and adapt to a new environment. I also learned that I truly enjoy conducting experiments and working in the laboratory as a researcher. Although I had expressed interest in following a career path that involved research in the past, this experience solidified my passion for research work and reminded me how much I enjoy it. Some of the key lessons I learned were: 1) always label everything (it is very important because you could get distracted or forget what solutions you are working with) and 2) do not be afraid to make mistakes in the workplace and while conducting research (nobody is perfect, what truly matters is learning from the mistakes and finding a solution).

I will forever be grateful to the Iacocca International Internship Program and IES Abroad for granting me such a transformative and incredibly valuable experience.

Name: Lorraine Rwasoka
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Bioengineering
Company: IES Abroad
Position: Digital Marketing Expertise



Inside the Internship:

MedBioinformatics is a leading company based in Barcelona, specializing in integrating biomedical data with advanced bioinformatics tools to drive research and innovation in healthcare. As a Digital Marketing Expertise Intern, I utilized software like ActiveCampaign to manage marketing campaigns and improve outreach strategies. In addition to my marketing responsibilities, I shadowed a software engineer to gain insights into the backend process of managing databases. I also learned about natural language processing and AI applications in gene databases to enhance precision medicine. My work contributed to the successful launch of DISGENET, a platform that curates and analyzes gene-disease associations.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The experience at MedBioinformatics was invaluable, both professionally and personally. Professionally, I developed a deep understanding of digital marketing strategies within a tech-focused environment, using tools like ActiveCampaign to manage campaigns and contribute to the successful launch of DISGENET. Shadowing a software engineer allowed me to grasp the technical intricacies of database management and explore advanced concepts like natural language processing and AI in precision medicine, broadening my knowledge of the intersection between technology and healthcare.

On a personal level, the flexible work environment at MedBioinformatics was a highlight. The practice of having lunch together fostered a sense of community and collaboration that made the workplace feel welcoming and supportive. Additionally, being in Barcelona allowed me to immerse myself in the city's vibrant culture, from celebrating San Joan to the excitement of watching the Euros final where Spain triumphed. These cultural experiences, combined with working in a multicultural team, enriched my understanding of collaboration and communication across different backgrounds. The internship not only enhanced my technical and marketing skills but also deepened my cultural awareness, shaping my approach to teamwork and problem-solving in a global context.

Name: Samantha Santana
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Psychology and Sociology
Company: Net4Market
Position: MarketLaunch Intern



Italy



Inside the Internship:

Net4Market is an innovative e-procurement platform that enables a cohesive management of suppliers' telematics, activated procedures and telematic tenders, while reducing costs and time of supplying. During my time at Net4market, I played a key role in supporting the company's efforts to expand its market presence and enhance its competitive edge. I conducted in-depth market research to identify trends and opportunities for growth, analyzing data to provide actionable insights and recommendations.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience greatly impacted my development as an individual overall, at personal and professional levels. Professionally, it exposed me to different market dynamics and business practices. It broadened my understanding of global business strategies and enhanced my ability to analyze and respond to international market trends. I also learned to navigate and adapt to a new work culture. At a personal level, living and working abroad challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, fostering greater independence, resilience and cultural awareness. This experience made my appreciation for different perspectives deeper and taught me the value of cultural adaptability.

Name: Rachid Pierre Louis Seraphin
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Civil Engineering
Company: Nasini Architetti
Position: Architectural Intern



Italy



Inside the Internship:

Nasini Architeti is a well-known architectural firm established in the late 20th century by Nicola Nasini. The company is renowned for its innovative and environmentally friendly designs and has successfully completed major projects, including the renovation of Milan's main commercial district and the development of sustainable residential communities. The firm is dedicated to enhancing Milanese architecture with forward-thinking concepts. During my time there, I closely collaborated with architectural engineers, gaining valuable insight into their individual roles and responsibilities. Some projects I worked on included redesigning the floor plan for a nearby bank using AutoCAD. I also worked on redesigning the facade and section of a villa undergoing renovations, which

presented challenges with isometric views. This learning experience was beneficial in my next project, which involved drafting isometric views of a pool. My final project required extensive research to find multi-family villas that aligned with the company's sustainability objectives. Once the research was done, I concentrated on creating orientations and improving roads and other decorative elements to match my vision.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

During my internship, I learned about my limitations and areas for improvement. One limitation I discovered was my struggle with picturing orthographic or isometric views, such as top, side, and front views. However, this internship provided me with the chance to develop and sharpen this skill. Another difficulty I faced was my poor time allocation. With multiple projects to handle, I jumped from one to another. This experience taught me the importance of prioritizing my time effectively for each task. I could not go back and redo the assigned work, so I had to carefully allocate my time to ensure I did a good job. I had a maximum of 2 days or 12 hours for each project. On the positive side, this internship revealed a valuable aspect of my personality - my ability to ask necessary questions to find the right solutions. Initially, I was apprehensive about this because of my shyness in new environments. I did not want to underperform or not meet the standards. However, following the advice of the Iacocca interns this year, I realized the importance of asking questions to gain beneficial information about projects. This helped me perform well during my internship. I intend to continue asking questions to enhance my knowledge and understanding. The information I gained through my questioning was crucial to my success. Without it, I would not have performed as effectively as I did.

Name: Moriah Session
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Psychology
Company: Tony Hawks Center
Position: Intern



Moldova



Inside the Internship:

Tony Hawks Center is a non-profit organization that focuses on improving the quality of life for children with disabilities. They provide rehabilitation for these children such as kinetotherapy, hydro-kinetotherapy, music therapy, sensory integration, and so much more. As an intern, I helped plan activities for the summer camp that were inclusive for all the children. I also observed different forms of therapy provided through the center.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

This experience has helped me gain a new perspective of myself. I have learned how to overcome challenges in the workplace, and also how to advocate for myself so that I get the most out of my experience. My knowledge of how mental health is perceived in Moldova has also increased. A lot of people do not know about disorders like autism, or do not have enough money to pay for the little resources that are available. Personally, I grew more confident in my ability to be more open minded to trying different things. Immersing myself into the culture has been a very rewarding experience. Professionally, this experience has opened my eyes to the stigma around mental health in another part of the world, and how they are trying to overcome that.

Name: Julia Shapiro
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Molecular Biology
Company: Luxembourg Institute of Health
Position: NUTRIHealth Trainee



Luxembourg



Inside the Internship:

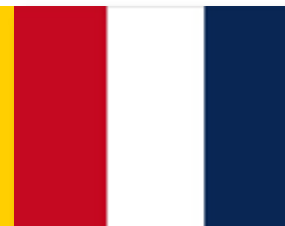
The Luxembourg Institute of Health is a public biomedical research institution with a goal of using the research they conduct on patient derived data to have a direct and meaningful impact on people's health across Europe. At LIH, my work has been conducted with the NutriHealth group, a subdivision of the Department of Precision Health that centers its research around diet and nutrition, and how they affect the overall health of citizens of Luxembourg. The NutriHealth group works both in the wet lab and doing data analysis of different dietary patterns. My specific duties were under the supervision of Dr. Torsten Bohn and PhD student Miguel Cifuentes, where I worked in the wet lab performing many different tasks such as maintaining and treating cell cultures, extracting miRNA from different

sample conditions, and performing simulated cooking and digestion of vegetables for extraction. The ultimate goal of the project was to establish a methodology for the digestion and extraction of miRNA from conditions that simulated the digestive tract to see if plant based exogenous miRNA could in fact survive digestion and be uptaken by the human gut. This work could be very influential in the field of drug therapy, because if exogenous miRNA can survive digestion and be detected in high enough concentrations in humans, then these plant based miRNAs can potentially be used as vesicles for drug based target therapies.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Getting to spend my summer in Luxembourg was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Getting to travel and experience European culture has helped me to reevaluate my own values. For example, work-life balance is heavily emphasized, and that fact made me realize that I needed to take a step back and take more time in my work to avoid burnout. Everyone here is so supportive of my work, it was easy to take a break when I needed it. It took a while into the internship for me to feel more comfortable with the amount of independence I was given, but after the first few weeks, it really felt like I had a place here. Working with so many talented students also made me feel a lot more comfortable with my own lab skills and helped me to come to terms with my upcoming graduation, because it helped me realize that I have options that I can be happy doing. I think aside from the job, which helped to improve not only my technical skills but also my professionalism, getting to experience so much of Europe was something that this internship gave me that I would never have been able to do on my own. Luxembourg is known as a "jewel of Europe" since it's so central to the continent. Getting to travel around Luxembourg and to all the countries surrounding it with my fellow interns was an unforgettable experience and really allowed us to become so much closer to each other which made the overall internship experience a lot more enjoyable too. Overall, this internship was a great experience for me, and it feels like the perfect way to wrap up my last summer in school, and I am very grateful I had the opportunity to go through with it.

Name: Cole Shaub
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Bioengineering
Company: Bioimaging and Optofluidics Group
Position: Materials Science Research Intern



France



Inside the Internship:

The Photonics, Numerical and Nanoscience Lab (LP2N) is a joint research unit between the University of Bordeaux, the CNRS, and the Institut d'Optique Graduate School. The Bioimaging and OptoFluidics Group (BiOf) is within LP2N, and the group has developed a method utilizing microfluidics to encapsulate cells and grow organoids or tumor models with a shell of porous hydrogel, and study these models using specialized microscopy techniques to analyze cell growth and self-organization processes. My project focused on the analysis of fluid flow through hydrogel tubes, where I studied both the physical structure and permeability of the hydrogel tubes as well as the behavior of fluid moving through these alginate tubes. Through my time in the lab, I was able to learn new methods

in constructing microfluidic setups, operating a variety of microscopes, learning numerous software applications for image and data analysis, and further developing my scientific communication and understanding. My work introduced innovative experimental methods for these tubes and offered valuable insights into potential future actions for the lab members to pursue. One of my favorite pieces of equipment while working in the lab was a microscope with a small, robotic arm called a micromanipulator, and this tool came with a joystick to control the movement of a small glass pipette into the inlet of the sample hydrogel tubes. The lab I worked in consisted of 10 to 15 members consisting of permanent researchers, postdocs, PhD students, and master's students.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Coming into this internship, I sought to learn to embrace working in a new country, adapt and immerse in the culture, understand the differences of the research/medical industry in comparison to the US, explore what I am really passionate about, and how I can be a better engineer and scientist from a global perspective. The Iacocca International Internship Program checked off all of my boxes, and this brilliant and unforgettable experience would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the program. During my research, I developed essential lab skills and knowledge that I intend to take into my future career in the engineering and medical field. The connections I've made working in the lab have opened my eyes to the web of networks that exist between research labs, engineering companies, and the medical world in Europe and throughout the world, and exactly how I can play a role to make a profound impact on the lives of others. As time went by during the 8 weeks in France, I became more comfortable traveling around Bordeaux on my own, talking with locals even though I didn't speak French very well, and became quite familiar with the concept of failure. Immersing myself in a foreign country fostered a sense of independence, resilience, and adaptability. I am thankful that I got to go every step of the way in this experience with an amazing group of France Iacocca Interns, and learn so much from each of them. I am deeply grateful to the IIP for the opportunity to work abroad, allowing me to grow both personally and professionally. The lessons I've learned during this experience will guide me in overcoming every challenge that comes my way.

Name: Lydia Sheeser
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Health, Medicine, & Society & Biology
Company: Pathways Development Initiative
Position: Sustainable Livelihoods Intern



Uganda



Inside the Internship:

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is an organization developed to create sustainable ways of empowering community members and breaking the cycle of poverty. Bududa is a rural village in the mountains of Uganda, where poverty is an extreme challenge for its citizens. PDI has a few different programs that work to increase the socioeconomic status of people living in Bududa including the Sports Program (which provides children with a safe and healthy outlet/activity after school), the Second Chance Program (designed to allow students that have dropped out of school the opportunity to pursue education in a trade), and the PDI Preparatory School (a pre-primary school which nurtures and educates children in an adorable way). Other programs such as music and dance are another way

to expose the children to discourse about important topics. At PDI I worked in the office to help find grants, create sustainable organizational systems for assessing children at schools, and create a fundraising campaign to raise money for PDI. I also worked to help teachers at the PDI Preparatory School write exams for the children, and digitize those tests for future use. Finally, I spent a lot of time shadowing at the Bushika Health Clinic which is a Level 3 government clinic where I helped do intake and record patient records.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

Participating in IIIP in Uganda was an eye opening experience both professional and personally. Professionally, this internship gave me a chance to develop a flexible and adaptive attitude to accommodate for any different type of work environment. It also gave me the opportunity to practice sustainability, to create systems that not only work for a temporary fix, but create a long term solution. Personally, this internship gave me a chance to live with and work amongst people that had very different upbringings, cultural beliefs, and community practices. Getting to learn about a different culture was fascinating. Many aspects, like the kindness and generosity, are things that I would like to implement in my life in the US. Beyond learning about a different culture, I was able to fully immerse myself in it. This was so incredible because I felt genuinely connected to many of the friends we made, and could understand better a lot of the reasons for traditions and beliefs that they hold. Another impact that this experience had on me was getting to see first hand the struggles that this community, and many others like it, face on a daily basis. Things that seem so accessible and thoughtless in the US are sometimes incredibly difficult tasks in Bududa. There are constantly multiple different obstacles that need to be overcome when doing laundry, printing an interview guide, or getting to a health clinic. These observations made me much more aware of the challenges that occur, and motivated me even more to help find solutions for them. After this internship, I am eagerly waiting for my next travel experience.

Name: Lillian Smith
College: College of Business
Major: Supply Chain
Company: PAR University
Position: Assistant International Officer



Croatia



Inside the Internship:

PAR University, located in the heart of Rijeka, Croatia, is the first and only higher education institution within the Primorje – Gorski Kotar County. Since its founding in 2011, the institution has conducted a bachelors program in Business Management that offers entrepreneurial individuals the opportunity to expand their knowledge and gain the valuable tools needed throughout business. PAR University maintains a high standard across the wide-ranging class offerings, and aims to bring people together with the hope of creating positive changes throughout Croatia. During my time at PAR University, I worked as the Assistant International Officer in developing the ERASMUS+ program between PAR and their partner Universities. The ERASMUS+ program is a mobility initiative across

Europe that encourages both students and staff to take opportunities in education, training, and sport throughout Europe. As the international officer, I aided the PAR team in communicating with partner Universities, collecting student feedback for the program, and promoting the program across the PAR University social media channels. Overall, working at PAR University allowed me to make positive impacts for both PAR University and the ERASMUS+ program, and I am very grateful for the skills that I learned throughout my time in Croatia.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My experience within the Iacocca International Internship Program has left me with lasting impacts both personally and professionally that I hope to carry with me throughout the rest of my life. By pushing me into unfamiliar and at times challenging spaces, I was given the opportunity to flourish into a more independent and confident person both inside and outside of the workplace. I learned valuable new communication skills as well as problem solving abilities throughout my time in Croatia, and I am incredibly grateful to have learned so much from the experience. In terms of Croatia itself, I absolutely loved the people, food, and beautiful cities that surround every place I traveled to. Overall, my time in Croatia was nothing short of wonderful and I received so much value from all aspects of the internship.

Name: Saul Torres
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Electrical Engineering
Company: IES Abroad
Position: Research Assistant



Chile



Inside the Internship:

Over the summer, I worked at a Chilean start-up called Watgen. This company is dedicated to providing renewable energy solutions to people. This includes building energy efficient homes that run off of only renewable energy. Or homes that were constructed with equipment powered by renewable energy.

My project for the summer focused on the design of solar irrigation farms for farmers in the Coquimbo region of Chile. Many of the farmers here use diesel generators to power their irrigation systems. Oftentimes these systems were old, inefficient, and by nature of using diesel, were very expensive to maintain.

I researched different journals, articles, and similar projects to design an effective, efficient, and low cost off grid-irrigation system. I presented my work to my boss, and my project design was submitted to a Chilean government grant application. The decisions for the grant come out in a couple months. Hopefully we get it!

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

My time in Chile was amazing. The city of Santiago had a lot to offer. I loved spending time with my host family. I spent time with my host parents, their daughter, and the daughter's kids. We would have dinner together, go hiking, and have game nights. On the second to last day of my time here, I spent the day with their extended family for my host mom's sister's birthday!

I also loved the natural beauty of the country. We were right next to the Andes mountains, which Chileans call "La Cordillera." Waking up every day and seeing the mountain range from my apartment's window is something I'll never forget. Since the program was being managed by IES Abroad, I was with a cohort of other students. We quickly became friends, and we would use our long weekends to travel to different places. We took a trip to the Atacama Desert and Buenos Aires. I loved my time in the desert. We got to learn about the indigenous people and tradition there, and riding around the desert on a mountain bike was straight up fun. Buenos Aires also had insanely good architecture, and really good food. I also traveled to the south with fellow Lehigh buddy Thor. We day-tripped Pucón, and hiked the national park there.

I learned to appreciate another Hispanic culture different from my own here. The people are warm. The food, while a little bland at first, is distinct and grows on you with time. There's still a lot for me to explore in Chile. I see myself coming back at some point in the future to see what I missed out on, and to see my host family again!

Name: Kiyomi White
College: P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Company: Nagoya Institute of Technology
Position: Research Intern



Japan



Inside the Internship:

Nagoya Institute of Technology is an engineering university located in Nagoya Japan. I worked as a research intern in Professor Masuda's lab group. This is a civil engineering lab group, however, the students in the lab have a deep interest in ecology so they complete ecology research while getting their civil engineering degrees. My main job was assisting 4 undergraduate senior students in their field research. I went out to the field with them several times a week to a variety of locations. At a pond, research was being done on native fish species so I assisted in invasive crayfish extermination and water Ph and soil sample collection. Two forest locations were for research on native vines and violets where I measured plant sizes, took soil pH and collected soil samples and seed pods. A mountain

location was for tracking the growth of new saplings of an endangered tree species. I also managed my own research project on vine habitats in Nagoya city, I tracked vine populations and analyzed between 5 different species which vines were best adapted to artificial habitats and which plants the vines preferred as a habitat species.

Experience to Transformative Takeaways:

The most valuable experiences I gained on this trip were the times I spent with my lab group and professor. Not only did I work with them in a professional setting, they were kind enough to take me around Japan on their off days. We went to the beach and mountains to try unique foods. Being able to experience the work and casual culture in Japan has been the most amazing experience I could have asked for. The work setting taught me a lot about international communications and the differences between running my own projects and helping others with their own. It also helped me develop my teamwork abilities with people that have very different views and experiences than me. The casual setting really helped me get into the culture and setting of Japan. I got to learn a lot about social interactions and friendships here as well as see and try things I wouldn't have been able to otherwise. My biggest takeaway from the casual experiences is that there are so many different cultures and each one is beautiful in its own way, there is no bad or good culture and it's amazing to experience the differences in the world. I have so much more I want to learn about the world and Japan and I feel this internship has given me an amazing start to having an open mind and global perspective.

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