

Internships and Co-Ops in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

December 2013

Written and edited by Maura Hilgar and Peri Himsel



Kyle Stenger is pictured reading at the Moore Library.

In pursuit of History

The David Library holds one-of-a-kind collections that cannot be found anywhere else in the country. During the spring of 2013, Kyle Stenger, currently a senior History major, interned at the David Library of the American Revolution (primarily a microform archive and contains important documentation of American history dating back from 1750) in Washington Crossing, PA. During his internship, Stenger painstakingly went through hundreds of microform reels, with each reel containing images of books that are nearly 400 pages. Each reel documented the lives of past century Americans (such as court trials) and Stenger made spreadsheets for future researchers of what of the information contained in each reel.

While the work was strenuous, Stenger enjoyed the historical subject material and discovered unusual stories: "One was a murder-mystery," Stenger said. "The husband was killed by a soldier but it turned out that that soldier was sleeping with that man's wife and

she persuaded him to kill the husband but then the servant witnessed it and it all went to hell. That was a fun one." However, Stenger also researched extensively, mainly going through archives and records to help people trace their family lineage to confirm that their ancestors lived in certain places. Occasionally, he also helped people (normally professors or other academics) unable to make it to the library with research for their papers or books.

Stenger says he plans to become a history professor and writer in the future, though he loved his work at the David Library and could see himself working there. More importantly, he feels that he has acquired valuable research skills which he can apply to a career in the future because, "General historical research helps you open your mind to the past and see the way people thought and acted." Even though his internship ended last May, Stenger remains involved with the David Library. He is currently writing a grant proposal to help the library improve and repair old texts and finally move their library to an easily accessible online format.

Gaining experience and making a difference

Junior Eva Truncellito has combined her passion for helping others and studies of criminal justice into a unique internship experience. Truncellito is a Criminal Justice major with a minor in Social Work. She is currently interning at Womanspace, nonprofit agency that provides services to people in Mercer County impacted by domestic and sexual violence.



Pictured is Eva Truncellito.

Womanspace helps women get out of abusive households and trains its members to properly deal

with people affected by domestic violence. Rider has had a longterm relationship with Womanspace. Director of the Law and Justice program Dr. Ava Baron knew the director of the organization when it first opened in 1977. Truncellito approached Dr. Baron about interning for them, and she is the first Rider student intern to receive advocacy training. The internship is rigorous and puts Truncellito through 80 hours of training to become a volunteer Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) advocate (SASSA) and member of the Domestic Violence Victim Response Team (DVVRT). "SASS advocates accompany sexual assault victims at hospitals and police departments and DVVRT volunteers meet with victims of domestic violence at police stations to provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and information," said Truncellito.

Truncellito is trained by Heidi Mueller and Alison Daks, two accomplished members of Womanspace. Other speakers are also brought in to aid her training, such as professionals from police departments, prosecutor offices, the courts, and social service agencies. Truncellito feels her time spent with professionals in the field has taught her tremendously, and is one of the most important parts of her learning experience.

"One of the most valuable aspects of the training is getting exposure to information and viewpoints from many professionals who teach from real life experiences. These are people with years of experience working in this field every day, and so just getting to spend time learning from them is so invaluable." Eva's internship is especially suited to her because it combines not only the legal aspect of resolving domestic disputes, and also allows her to be an advocate for women and incorporate her interest in social work.

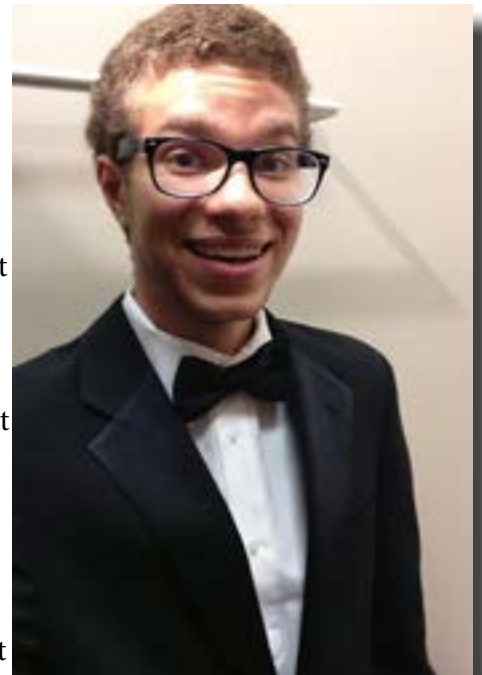
She is learning about law and legal proceedings, but also sees the reality of each case; the people who have been affected by domestic violence and need help. "What has impressed me the most about the training is the need to develop and balance a combination of practical knowledge about the field, people skills, and medical and legal information. I am learning that to be effective in these crisis situations takes much more than just a willingness to help and that I have to be both objective and empathetic, to engage people from their point of view, and to keep tuned into the fact that we are working within a system in which all parts, social, personal, and legal, need to mesh together. It's quite a challenge."

Dr. Baron is very pleased with Truncellito's work so far, and felt confident in her from the start. "Eva's a terrific student, she is dedicated, hard working; you couldn't ask for somebody who is more self directed. She is able to work independently and also able to take directions and follow instructions. I felt perfectly fine about sending her into the field, she takes her job seriously."

Truncellito's internship has certainly given her a taste of many different career options, such as police officer, judge, lawyer, social worker, or director of a non-profit organization. She is unsure of what field she will pursue and is considering entering the Peace Corps or law school, but feels that her experience with Womanspace is a great start.

Aiding children leads to degree revelation

Jeremy Garcia, a senior Advertising and Marketing double major, wasn't sure exactly what he wanted to do with his degree. However, after finding out about an internship with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) in Trenton at the Rider career fair last spring, his outlook



Pictured is Jeremy Garcia.

changed. The CHS of NJ is a non-profit organization that provides services (such as community services and foster care programs) that ensure that New Jersey children have safety, secure, caring families and good health. Though Jeremy did not work directly with the children, his internship work consisted of helping plan their Spring Gala, an important fundraising event for CHS of NJ.

The main highlight of the Spring Gala was the silent auction, which consisted of about sixty different items that varied from an Ipad to a cake pop maker. Jeremy was an essential help behind the scenes, com

ing up with ideas for the auction items, filling envelopes, writing out descriptions of the items and setting up the day of the event. His work not only helped the needy children of New Jersey but also Jeremy himself as he states “It helped me pick the field in advertising/marketing that I wanted to go in. When making the descriptions for the items in the silent auction I noticed it came naturally. That’s when I realized I wanted to be a copywriter.”

Yet more than that, Jeremy also is grateful for the opportunity to help other families with the money raised at the Spring Gala. His work at CHS of NJ turned out to be crucial for his course work and future career as he states, “This internship helped me really get into the brain of the consumers, see how they think and how they would react in certain situations.” He will be doing a second internship with the CHS of NJ this spring, again working to set-up the Spring Gala.



Pictured is Jeff Edelstein in his byline photo from The Trentonian.

“Help! My wife wants to open a bar in Cambodia!”

No, that is not an S.O.S message, that is a subject header Professor Jeff Edelstein (adjunct instructor in the Communications department), used when pitching an idea to a potential employer. While it may have been unorthodox, he received a response almost right away and ended up doing work for the employer. Edelstein does not suggest everyone send in bizarre subject headers, but stresses that potential employees make an effort to stand out to employers.

In 2004 his boss at The Trentonian put him in charge of hiring a new employee. He posted the position on journalism.com and received 125 candidates in less than 24 hours. It came down to which candidates

caught his attention. He brought the applicants that stood out the most in their cover letters and résumés to his boss for consideration. Here are his tips for being a candidate to stand out amongst the rest.

Make a personal connection.

It’s easy to be lost in a sea of applicants, especially when you are only represented on paper by your résumé. Do something that will establish a connection. Try to use something interesting or unexpected in your cover letter/emails. Today students compete for jobs or internships against people who have similar résumés (high GPA, past experience, letters of recommendation, etc.) and the more you stand out in a pile of applications, the more likely you are to get called in for an interview.

Get out there and market yourself in person. Always offer to be available to meet up for lunch or talk to establish that connection. Even if you don’t get that particular job, you may make a connection that could cause the employer to consider you for future opportunities.

Use the personal connections you have.

Edelstein would visit his old professors at Rider, which helped him eventually get an adjunct teaching job at the university. Jeff Barnhart was a Rider graduate who now owns a marketing firm, so Edelstein reached out to him as a Rider alum and now they have done worked on some projects together.

Let Social Media help advance you, not hinder you.

Expect an employer to Google you, so keep in mind what you would want a potential employer to see. Being active on social media can show your personality and interest in your field, so don’t be afraid to be active on Twitter and Facebook about your career goals.

If you are uncomfortable with employers seeing your profile, keep it private and make it more difficult to find by adding your middle initial to your name. You can also create a professional profile. Edelstein is a columnist for The Trentonian, so he uses Twitter and Facebook to advertise his articles and communicate with his readers.

Take advantage of your location

Rider students have the opportunity to intern close by in places such as Trenton or Lawrenceville. Philadelphia and New York are just a train ride away. Make the most of Rider’s location and expand your search. This remains true for when you graduate and are searching for jobs. Edelstein feels many people are

afraid to leave their comfort zone, but in this job market people from across the country are able to apply for jobs easily over the Internet, and are willing to travel. Widening your search will provide more opportunities.

Highlighting Your Internship Experience with Lauren Nicolosi

- Include in separate sections on your résumé labeled “internship experience” or “related experience” that promotes the skills you developed during your internship
- Some skills may be direct and specific:
 - Communication
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Time management
 - Organizational skills
 - Technical skills such as software programs, tools or equipment
- Think broadly: consider ways your internship has indirectly affected you (such as changed your perspectives or skill levels)
- Emphasize your internship experience in your cover letter
- Highlight your internship during interviews as an example of your transferable and technical skills

Interested in applying for your own internship?

Here is contact information for the internship coordinators featured in this newsletter:

Criminal Justice: Dr. Ava Baron

ajbaron@rider.edu (609) 895-5462

Communications: Dr. Aaron J. Moore

amoore@rider.edu (609) 896-5089

For other majors, contact Theresa Marriott, Director

marriott@rider.edu (609) 895-5454

Polish your résumé or discuss internship opportunities with **Lauren Nicolosi, Career Advisor**

lnicolosi@rider.edu 609-896-5000 ext. 5271



Pictured: Lauren Nicolosi (left) and Theresa Marriott (right)