



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

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Nicole Adams and Dr. Yavelow in the lab.

Future Biologist Already Making a Difference in the Outside World

by Jamie Raspa

Nicole Adams, a senior biochemistry major, is working as an intern at Medical Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL). The laboratory president is former 1991 Rider graduate Eli Mordechi. He runs a DNA-based diagnostics laboratory that competes with companies such as Quest, Lab Corp, and other blood testing companies. The laboratory tests a patient's blood, often times due to an infection, and performs diagnostic tests on the sample. After performing these tests researchers sometimes discover that the infection is resistant to the antibiotic the patient is taking. Antibiotics are known to take up to a week before they are effective. Adams' job is to work with the MDL scientists to determine if a drug will work in one hour rather than one week. This results in better care for the patient, which leads to a faster recovery. Adams works five to eight hours a day, five days a week. Adams says, "The best thing about this internship is being involved and absorbing all the knowledge and advice that current scientists in the field have to offer."

Every day is different. Sometimes Adams finds it hard to wait for a scientific reaction, but says that it is worth it when the experiment works. Each week everyone meets and discusses the project that they are working on and related current literature. Adams says that doing an internship is helpful because students can see if they really have a passion for biology and it is important to have lab experience if one plans on applying to graduate school. Nicole Adams plans on going to graduate school for biochemistry or a related field. Anyone interested in a internship such as this can contact the Biology Internship Coordinator, Dr. Julie Drawbridge at drawbridge@rider.edu.

Psychologists Benefitting Society

by Jamie Raspa

The Psychology Department offers a class, PSY 491 Internship in Psychology. Seniors can take this as a capstone course instead of doing independent research or a project. This class is offered in the fall and spring semesters and is limited to 18 students. Students need permission before registering for the class. The class meets every other week where students discuss things that they are doing in their respective internships. It allows students to see how the lessons learned in the classroom apply to the real world. The students also read and discuss articles relating to their internships. This creates an intimate setting where all of the students get to know and support each other.

Some of the internship locations this semester are Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation, Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI), and Medical Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL).

Millhill, located in Trenton provides specialty childcare and services to children and their families. Four interns work at the daycare and assist the

teachers with children 2 ½ to 5 years old. One intern works with the social worker and is responsible for performing assessments and creating behavioral plans.

Another intern works at PCDI, a school for children and adults with autism. The intern is responsible for working in the classroom with four and five year olds and helps implement child behavioral plans.

Stephanie Melendez currently has an internship at MDL in the human resource department, which is responsible for preparing workshops for employees's, benefit packages, and interviewing prospective employees. Melendez says, "I love the corporate environment and how they really want to help you learn and grow as an individual." She would recommend this internship to anyone who would like to work in the corporate environment, work with people, and learn new things. Students who would like to learn more about internships in the Psychology Department should contact Dr. Alison Darlene Thomas-Cottingham at athomasc@rider.edu.

Law and Justice Minors Working with New Jersey State

by Jamie Raspa

Doug Ferguson, a senior, political science major and law and justice minor interns at the Office of the NJ Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice. The Attorney General's office prosecutes insurance fraud and is composed of different divisions such as investigative, prosecutors, and the Deputy Attorney General who prosecutes the cases. Ferguson's duties include interacting with the different investigative units, researching people and insurance claims, and data mining through different databases. In order to do this he uses a computer program called Sanction that scans all exhibits and documents. He sometimes goes to meetings with the prosecutor and Attorney General and is allowed to voice his opinions. Ferguson says that he likes going to meetings best because he prefers legal over investigative work and wants to go to law school. He definitely recommends this internship to any student that plans on working in the law field because one can really see how the criminal justice system works. "One of the things you learn is that it is a more drawn out process than on T.V. shows and there is a lot that goes on in the background not just with the prosecutors, but with the other people



Michael Katz, New Jersey State Police intern in the criminal justice system," says Ferguson.

Another senior, Michael Katz, a history major and law and justice minor is interning at the New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters in the Support Services Unit. The Support Services Unit contains the Regional Operations Intelligence Center, which receives information about fires, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other catastrophic events. When there is an emergency, the Community Emergency Response Teams, comprised of volunteers, go between towns to help civilians. The teams are also allowed to request equipment that they will need for the specific situation. Katz files this information into the computer and makes sure that each team receives what they need. In addition, Katz has been given the opportunity to see different divisions of the New Jersey State Police such as the Helicopter Bureau, where he was able to fly in a helicopter. He has also gone to the Police Academy in Sea Girt to see the boot camp. Upon graduation he plans to join the New Jersey State Police in the Helicopter Bureau and work toward getting his helicopter license. Katz says, "An internship is a good stepping stone to get your foot in the door." Students interested in law and justice internships like these should contact Dr. Pamela A. Brown at brownp@rider.edu



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