



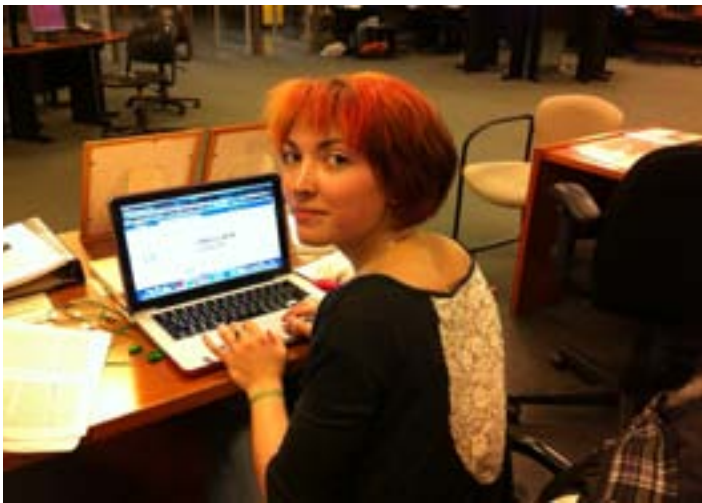
# Internships and Co-Ops in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

By: Libby Hanks

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## Intern Uses Facebook and Twitter to Promote Online Publication

Senior English writing major Marina Marcello has taken Facebook and Twitter to the next level as a social media intern at Wild River Review (WRR). WRR is a non-profit, close knit, family-like organization that produces a publication exclusively online, so she has had the opportunity to expand her skills through an “at home” internship. The staff typically meets at a coffee shop or at Editor Kim Nagy’s house,



*Marina Marcello, Social Media Intern at Wild River Review*

which has allowed Marcello to play her part. “It’s not like I’m getting lost in the sea,” she said and her success in making WRR more involved with social media has shown that. “The social media was originally run solely by Kim Nagy, with the interns’ help. This semester it’s basically all on my shoulders; I’m like the go-getter,” said Marcello.

Her responsibilities were as follows: reading at least one article daily, promoting WRR publications via Facebook and Twitter, sharing articles with friends, informing contributors of newly published articles, and rallying everyone together to pitch in on the pro-

motion effort. During her time at WRR, Marcello has been able to gain an understanding of how to post online, the importance of deadlines, and how to use Drupal, a web platform that works as a “blueprint” for formatting purposes. With these skills, she has gained valuable experience in the publication world.

“I wanted to have another skill that I could sell myself with and have the ability to [better] market myself to find a job and support my student debt,” said Marcello and it appears that her internship experience has been significant in that. Her ultimate goal in life is to be a creative writer, yet she said “I don’t know how possible that is, so I think getting myself into the publishing world is the next best thing.” Her social media internship with Wild River Review is her first step.

## From Project to Internship: The View of Women Is Transformed

“My Color is Beautiful” is a Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) internship that developed from a class project by Theater major Destyne Pitts. During her Introduction to Women’s Studies class, she encountered “My Black is Beautiful,” an article that discussed the negative portrayal of black women in the media. With the help of two fellow students, Pitts created her own angle and decided to make it a program for women of all cultures.

“Being a woman is to understand her full potential and what it is to reach it. I learned the importance of talking with other people and listening to what they had to say,” said Pitts. The project turned into a three credit internship in the following year and they began having seminars on Rider’s campus to discuss various topics. The program had so much success that, with the help of Dr. Mary Morse, director of GSS, “My Color is Beautiful” became a program jointly sponsored by GSS and the Wright Hall Wom-

en's Learning Community.

In Fall 2011, Allie Nelson and Shadorah Howard took part, making a total of three women to facilitate the program. "It's designed to shed light on women in society and a way of trying to give people a better understanding about women," said Nelson and each of the seminars seemed to do so. The seminars were held for two hours every two weeks and they were primarily based on discussion topics such as women in power, the essence of female being, feminism, women in sports, and many more. "The big goal and mission last semester was to unite the women who came each week and to build a type of relationship with each other," said Pitts as she spoke of the connections that the program has provided.

Both Nelson and Pitts said that the program has certainly changed since they first got involved and that they have learned new things through the program. Nelson even said, "I learned more about myself - how to work with a team, work under pressure, and how to be a leader." According to Nelson and Pitts, "My Color is Beautiful" is a program based on women and only women, but they still appreciate the male perspective. Pitts hopes to continue the program next semester, but with the rest of her team graduating, she will have to start from square one once again.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

#### **YOU CAN GET AN INTERNSHIP WHILE STUDYING ABROAD?**

##### **5 Easy Steps:**

1. Talk to the Center for International Education
2. Apply & get accepted by Rider
3. Apply to specific program
4. Apply separately for internship with...
  - A good résumé
  - Professional references
  - Police background check
5. Get accepted and go abroad!

## **Organizational and Writing Skills Pay Off in the End**

The State House in Trenton has had numerous Rider students as interns and this year was no different as Senior English writing major Brittany Johns worked at the Office of Constituent Relations (OCR). The OCR generally deals with phone calls and re-

sponses to letters for the State House and Johns has had the opportunity to play a role in that. Responding to letters regarding budget and tax concerns, composing gifts and thank you notes, as well as answering letters from children have been some of her main responsibilities. Johns would describe herself as busy, quiet and organized and it appears that the OCR has been a nice fit for her.



*Brittany Johns, Intern at the Office of Constituent Relations*

Through this experience, Johns has been able to improve her skills as an English major. "It's very friendly. The office and building are a little confusing, but the people are really nice," she said, as she talked about the OCR. Throughout her internship, she has been able to develop office skills as well as writing for different audiences in a more condensed way. "You can't be afraid of being corrected or critiqued," she added, as she discussed how her writing skills and awareness of policies and political positions have been changed for the better. In addition, she has even had the opportunity to meet Governor Christie, which she said she didn't expect at all.

The only problem that she added was that the internship was a bit more routine than she expected, but she has certainly excelled at the tasks that she was given. "I wanted to experience writing for one particular individual for a purpose," she admitted, and her internship at the OCR has given her that opportunity.



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