

Political Savvy through Experiential Learning

With an undergraduate degree in political science and undergraduate and graduate programs in public administration, the Department of Political Science offers choices.

Students can tailor their degrees with the use of concentrations. These concentrations focus studies on areas such as international politics, campaign management, media outlets, law, electoral politics, non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal governments. Course work is supplemented with the opportunity for real-world experience through an internship.

"Our department's programs are very diverse. We truly have something for everyone," claims professor and intern coordinator Dr. Amanda Olejarski. "There are countless ways for students to get involved with internships here and we strongly encourage them to participate in at least one."

One of the more popular and competitive internships offered is The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS). Sponsored by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), THIS is a paid internship where students



work with policy makers in the executive and legislative branches of state government as well as other agencies and commissions and receive 15 credits for their work.

For example, Monika Mironenko, the fall 2010 intern, worked at the Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Other Intellectual Disabilities and Amanda Witman '10, the spring 2010 intern, was placed with the Joint State Government Commission.

"To see the growth, the mentoring they receive, and the lessons they gain working with power players is rewarding."

—Dr. Amanda Olejarski, Assistant Professor of Political Science

♦ Neshamah Crosby

The most recent THIS intern, Neshamah Crosby calls her experience life changing.

"I was approached by Dr. Greenberg in the political science department about The Harrisburg Internship Semester," she says. "I sent in my résumé, was interviewed and was eventually given the chance to intern with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)."

Working with DCNR's policy director Sarah Nicholas, Neshamah immediately stepped in by analyzing bills and performing

other related tasks. Overall she found the work to be fascinating.

"It's all quite interesting because it's not all about a bill that's written but also about the people who are affected," she said. "I got to learn how conservation works in other areas I am passionate about as well."

As Neshamah prepares to graduate later this year, she credits her internship experience and being mentored by Sarah Nicolas, and Brenda Barrett for helping her get ready for life after college. "Working in Harrisburg with the DCNR helped me find out what jobs are available, what tests I need to take, and also how to network. I got all this from being an intern; lessons that are different than what you get in a classroom."

Thanks in part to her experience at the DCNR, Neshamah discovered a desire to attend law school and while she is considering a full-time position in Harrisburg, she would love to return to New York City, one of the world's most influential and important cities and where she grew up. "I would love to work in the United Nations," she said. Thanks to THIS, she is a step closer to achieving that goal.

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did you KNOW?

The College of Arts and Sciences graduated **627** students in 2012.

More than **500** students participated in our annual Celebration of Student Research, a Spring semester event that showcases undergraduate research with faculty.

Dr. Claire Jantz, associate professor of geography/earth science, will participate in a three-year **\$750,000** NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) grant partnering with the University of Maryland and the USDA Forest Service to conduct research to help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

This fall the College of Arts and Sciences launches a **new** degree program: **B.S. in Software Engineering** (Previously, this area of study was offered as a concentration for computer science majors).

Psychology Students Integrate Lessons from Classroom into Internship

Imagine helping those in need at a hospital, or working with staff and inmates in a correctional facility as part of your educational program. These are just a few of the internships that students in the Psychology Department participate in every year.

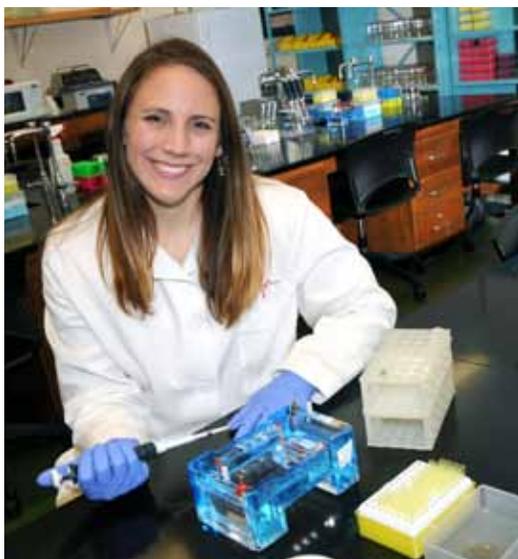
Psychology majors are required to take part in a capstone experience as they complete their programs in the form of a capstone class, a research project, or an internship.

"Doing an internship is one of the more popular choices for students because it is a way to integrate and use what they have learned in the classroom," says Dr. Kim Weikel, Psychology Department internship coordinator.

This spring, 20 students took part in an internship while approximately ten others will do one during the summer. Students can take part in an internship as early as their junior year but must meet certain criteria and complete certain classes before being approved.

While the experiences students gain from internships are valuable, the lessons and foundation they receive in the classroom are also vitally important. In particular, students looking to do an internship with human service clients take a skill-based course called "Psychology of Person-to-Person Interaction" while those looking to intern in a crisis setting take a course called Crisis Intervention. "During an internship, students apply the many skills they learned in class," Dr. Weikel said.

One of the more rewarding aspects of the internship program is students get to work with many businesses in Shippensburg and the surrounding area. "There are a number of places in the Shippensburg area we work with, which is great because we get to serve the community," Dr. Weikel said. An example is New Visions Incorporated, an organization the Psychology Department has worked with for 15 years.



Sarah Wagner (left), a psychology major and biology minor, interned at Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey during the summer between her junior and senior year. Her experience helped her prepare for and to know what to expect in graduate school. Sarah, of Mifflintown, plans to earn her doctorate in behavioral neuroscience.

One of the more important professional lessons students receive in the internship process is that of competition. Many of these programs are very competitive with students from numerous universities applying for the same positions. However, because of the level of preparedness of Shippensburg students, they are often the ones selected to participate in these programs.

As Department Coordinator of Internships, Dr. Weikel has seen this first hand. "I have had internship supervisors ask for additional interns from our university because of the responsible behavior and initiative (such as developing brand new forms of programming and taking on other responsibilities beyond those expected by the supervisor) of our interns placed with them."

This very important form of experiential learning, taking what is learned in the classroom and applying it to a professional setting, will be open to more students as the Psychology Department strengthens its relationships with businesses and forges new ones with companies and organizations throughout central Pennsylvania.

Building lasting relationships with area businesses is beneficial for everyone involved. Dr. Weikel explains, "As we build long-term relationships, internship sites are often more willing to make a position available to our students because they trust us to cooperate with them, doing things such as screening the students to make sure they are prepared and a 'good fit' for that particular site and quickly addressing any concerns they (the internship site) may have about the intern's performance."

Other organizations and companies students often intern with include the Roxbury Treatment Center in Shippensburg, Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, and correctional facilities in Franklin and Cumberland counties.

Savvy

(Continued from page 1)

Neshamah believes in the value of an internship. "Taking part in an internship is a great opportunity to gain real world experience before having the stress of work and life pressures. In an internship, you can learn and make mistakes and see what changes you have to make in yourself."

Monika and Amanda agree. Monika adds, "My internship really helped me understand

public administration from the viewpoint of someone in the system rather than someone simply studying theories. Being in the professional environment matured me, which will be invaluable throughout graduate school and my career." (Monika will be attending graduate school this fall.)

"I have my current position because of THIS," Amanda said. "A fellow intern was aware of a position that I was unaware of and sent the supervisor my résumé. The rest is history. Had I not made that connection during my time

as an intern there is no doubt I would not be where I am today in a job I love working—for the Department of Environmental Protection."

Regardless of the internship, Dr. Olejarski helps students find the right internship for their future goals and enjoys seeing students develop. "It is just really cool to see the light bulbs come on," she said. "To see the growth, the mentoring they receive, and the lessons they gain working with power players is rewarding."

Message | From Dean Mike

Internships: Engaged Learning Experiences



One of the most challenging quests for an academic institution is effectively transitioning students from the classroom to their careers. A very productive and challenging way is through internships.

Internships give students the opportunity to explore their chosen discipline and experience real-world situations within the comforting confines of the university. Reinforcement of their classroom studies is intertwined with critical thinking, finding solutions, and further honing the skills and knowledge necessary for establishing successful and fulfilling careers.

These experiential learning practices are an integral part of the College of Arts and Sciences as each department within the college offers internship opportunities. Several, like the Department of Geography/Earth Science, include an internship in their degree program requirements. A few opportunities are here on campus but most are in typical workplace locations. Our students can find themselves interning for local businesses; governmental units at a local, state, or federal level; or non-profit organizations.

Our internship program is effectively managed for the benefit of our students, which fosters a close relationship between the University (faculty mentor, department, the College of Arts and Sciences), the collaborating internship site, and the student. As we view internships as learning experiences we follow strict federal rules and guidelines. While essentially created to prevent unpaid interns from being used to replace paid workers, the guidelines are useful in all situations.

We strongly adhere to the principle that internships must be for the benefit of the student and are a time for our students to put the theory they have learned at Shippensburg into practice.

Besides exploring a potential career choice, internships provide important experiences that help a student become more marketable and establish professional contacts outside the university, enhancing the important agenda of professional network building. And in some cases, internships lead to that all-important first job after graduation.

Internships are important learning experiences that complement activities such as undergraduate research, service-learning, intensive writing and presentation activities, and a host of other high-impact learning practices. Internships provide students with opportunities for professional growth, but also provide the university with a mechanism to come closer together with the community.

Within these pages we have chosen to highlight a variety of internship experiences in which Shippensburg University students participate through the departments and programs of the College of Arts and Sciences.

James H. Mike, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

CAS | Calendar

July

12 8:00 PM

Concert I: Festival Celebration Orchestra features violinist Sarah Chang and guest conductor David Amado. The Festival is under the artistic direction of Dr. Blaine Shover, professor of music. Luhrs Center

19 8:00 PM

Concert II: Festival Celebration Orchestra features American pianist Simone Dinnerstein and guest conductor David Amado. Luhrs Center

26 8:00 PM

Concert III: Festival Celebration Orchestra features mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and guest conductor David Amado. Luhrs Center



August

7 7:30 PM

Jackson Browne Summer Acoustic Tour. Luhrs Center

September

1 1 PM First home football game

October

6 Homecoming



**Complete listings
& details at
www.ship.edu/events/**

My Experiences at the Washington Center

JEFF KAYER '06

It began when a representative from the Washington Center spoke to my journalism class about the many opportunities available to students who decide to spend the summer in Washington, D.C.

After leaving class that day I immediately applied and after an interview process was eventually accepted for the 2006 summer program. Days before my departure for Washington, I was both nervous and excited. Although I had gone through the process of leaving home for college, I had never spent any time on my own in a large city. I quickly realized, however, that my time in our nation's capital would be some of the best months of my life.

I was placed with Talk Radio News Service, a news radio group on Capitol Hill, where I was treated like a full-time employee and was responsible for attending Senate and congressional hearings. I then went to our studio to edit and publish 30- to 60-second audio bites that were uploaded to the database and made available to over 700 radio stations nationwide. I also met and interviewed other Washington newsmakers and attended various events and conventions throughout the city.

While in DC, I lived with three tremendous roommates in a high-rise apartment complex in Bethesda, Maryland. We, with approximately 100 other interns, lived in Grosvenor Tower and its nearly 400 full-time residents. There we had a food market, gym, and even a large swimming pool at our disposal when we were not working.

Last but not least, all interns (about 400 in the summer session) took at least one course. I chose one on ancient Asian history.



What did I take away from the experience? Because of the Washington Center I was introduced to the world of government and politics and after graduating from Shippensburg, I worked for several campaigns and non-profit organizations. I learned how to produce audio files and use radio equipment, something I did not do at Shippensburg since my emphasis was on print journalism.

I also grew tremendously in self confidence. I enjoyed every moment of living responsibly in one of the larger cities in America. I learned a lot more about myself and what I would like to do following college. I also met some incredible people along the way and am still very thankful to consider several of the interns I lived with as some of my very best friends to this day.

The memories I was able to take away from my experience are simply unforgettable and I owe that to the Washington Center. Whether it was being the person in charge of attending important Senate hearings with then Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, doing feature interviews with politicians, or even watching the World Cup with my new friends in a British restaurant blocks away from the White House, it was all possible due to The Washington Center's excellent services and programming that encouraged us to build relationships wherever we were. I am happy Shippensburg University maintains its close ties with The Washington Center.

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) is the largest and most respected organization of its kind, placing college students in hundreds of internships each semester.

Part of the program involves civic engagement projects and a course that students take from some of the area universities' most respected professors.

TWC's new living and learning facility combines state-of-the-art classrooms and computer labs with comfortable suites. The location—between Union Station and New York Metro stops—puts interns in the heart of the nation's capital.

Students from Pennsylvania received some scholarship support from TWC, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and the Commonwealth to participate in the program. For more information visit <http://www.twc.edu>.

Although it has been nearly six years since I was in Washington, I am still reaping the benefits of my time there. I continue to stay involved with civic organizations in my community. And I am still heavily involved in the communications industry.

When I left for Washington, I was still a college student, unsure about what I wanted to do with my life. By the time I left there, I felt like I had become a mature adult, ready to face life's many challenges. I owe that to The Washington Center, their staff, the many interns I met along the way, and the incredible company they placed me with. I would encourage any student considering a full-time internship to check out The Washington Center (www.twc.edu). Simply put, it was one of the best decisions of my life.

Jeff is a graduate student in the Organizational Development and Leadership program.

“Simply put, it was one of the best decisions of my life.”

Diversity of ODL Program Allows Graduate Students the Chance to Find the Perfect Internship

Although Shippensburg focuses on undergraduate education, we have many strong graduate programs. With 17 graduate degrees and eight certificate programs available, people in any field can find a program that will help them advance.

One of the newer on campus is Organizational Development & Leadership (ODL). It blends sociology and leadership courses with professional electives, focusing on one of numerous available concentrations. The program is designed to enhance students' understanding of how organizations operate and change over time and the role of leadership in formal and informal settings.

As part of ODL's core curriculum, students are required to take several advanced sociology courses. Students are then allowed to focus on one of the following concentrations:

- Business,
- Communications,
- Environmental Management,
- Higher Education Structure and Policy,
- Historical Administration,
- Individual and Organizational Development,
- Management Information Systems,
- Public Organizations, and
- Social Structures and Organizations.

"With the variety of concentrations within the ODL program, I would certainly say we have one of the most unique programs on campus," says Dr. Barbara Denison, the Department Chair for the Sociology and Anthropology Department, who serves as the Program Coordinator for the ODL program.

With so many concentrations to choose from, the ODL program allows students to focus their studies on an area they're truly interested

in. This is why the ODL program has another component that all students take part in—the internship, an important required component of the program.

What makes ODL so unique is students with so many different backgrounds take part in the program. That is reflected in the diversity of the types of internships available to students. As Dr. Denison illustrated, "Recently I have had students intern at the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Volvo, the Carlisle United Way; even higher education institutions like Messiah College and Harrisburg Area Community College. We even had a student do an internship in Singapore!"

Two students who exemplify this diversity are Janet Swisher and Carla Palavecino. Janet recently graduated from Shippensburg in 2011, while Carla received her master's degree in 2005. Carla graduated from Penn State with a degree in Architectural Engineering before coming to the ODL program where her concentration was in Individual and Organizational Development. "I interned at Noelker and Hull Associates in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where I still work today as a senior associate and part of the board," said Carla.

As she continues to work where she interned, Carla reflected on how her internship experience helped her. "I was given the opportunity to review the guts of the company I work for...leadership, organization, and working relationships," Carla explained. "Most people at 25 would not have that opportunity. It's interesting to see as the company grows; some of the items I wrote in my internship paper still hold true."

Janet's concentration in the ODL program was public organizations. Her internship

experience took her to Lebanon, Pennsylvania, where she worked with Lebanon Veteran's Affairs Medical Center's Primary Care Unit. A veteran herself, Janet wanted to work for the federal government and, with the help of Dr. Denison and others, was able to take part in this program.

Janet explained, "The experience affirmed my desire and helped me to realize I would/could enjoy the environment of working in Veteran's Affairs. Feeling as though I helped service members was also a major plus."

Like Carla, her internship experience translated into a full-time job as she learned of an opening while interning. Today, she works at the North East Consolidated Account Processing Center, which processes medical claims for all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in the northeast. **For both women, their experiences in the ODL program not only helped them find employment, but also helped in their professional development.**

As Janet states, "Professionally, I feel I started to truly understand the concepts reviewed in my classes and could apply them with more confidence." Carla is also very appreciative of the program and says, "ODL really helped me personally grow and accept qualities within myself. It also helped me understand how groups work, and how team work is so important."

Though internships can certainly assist in students finding full-time jobs, Dr. Denison is also encouraged at seeing the growth from students. "No matter the student, you can see all of them grow in their own way. The internship contributes to that growth," she says.

The graduate program in Organizational Development & Leadership (ODL) blends sociology and leadership courses with professional electives, focusing on one of numerous available concentrations. The primary objective is to enhance students' understanding of how organizations operate and change over time and the role of leadership in formal and informal settings.

Plant your seeds for the Red & Blue

How establishing an unrestricted endowment can lead to unrestricted success

Besides a new crop of graduates leaving their alma mater for the greener pastures of a career, spring is also a time for planting.

Consider planting your own seeds for ensuring Shippensburg University's future by establishing an unrestricted endowment for the benefit of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) through the SU Foundation. These unrestricted endowments are a permanent source of flexible support providing a perpetual source of funding that allows CAS to use the funds where the need is greatest year to year. This support can be in the form of scholarships, new technology, faculty professional development, student research, or additional programs and initiatives to name but a few.

In this current economic climate, the importance of an unrestricted endowment cannot be understated.

You might be surprised at how easy and affordable it is to plant a seed through a named endowment that benefits the College of Arts and Sciences for years to come. To see the ways your personal needs can be met, check out the personal financial planner on the SU Foundation website (www.sufgift.org) or talk with Beth McKinley at 717-477-1311 about how you can plant a seed that will grow into a legacy for future graduates of the Red and Blue.



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CAS Faculty Help Middle School Girls Explore STEM Careers



Above: The CV ESTEEM "Getting Buggy" workshop took participants to Burd Run on campus.

Right: Dr. Carol Wellington's workshop invited girls to open a variety of computer components to figure out how they work.



More than 150 seventh-grade girls from area middle schools came to campus in May to explore careers in STEM fields.

The inaugural Cumberland Valley ESTEEM Conference (Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Earth Science, and Mathematics) brought the students together with professional

women from academia, medicine, government agencies, business, and industry for a day of workshops and discussion.

It was jointly sponsored by Shippensburg University, Wilson College, Gannett Fleming, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Pennsylvania Alliance for Geographic Education.

The girls engaged in a variety of workshops, each with hands-on learning opportunities, including identifying aquatic insects, learning about squid anatomy, experiencing paper engineering, participating in a disc-tossing experiment, and de-constructing a computer.

Participating College of Arts and Sciences faculty included Drs. Debbie Gochenaur and Kate McGivney, mathematics, Dr. Carol Wellington, computer science, and Drs. Claire Jantz and Jan Smith, geography/earth science.

The conference also provided teachers with professional development opportunities.

In the Field with Geography-Earth Science

One of the more diverse departments you'll find on campus is the Geography & Earth Science Department, located in Shearer Hall.

In Shearer, students have the opportunity to focus their studies on local environmental issues, physical and cultural geography, meteorology, and much more. The department's faculty work hard to bring students a top-flight education in the classroom and in field experiences.

But while students learn valuable lessons in the classroom, the Geography & Earth Science Department also makes sure every student takes part in an internship.

"Students get to work in a professional environment, and many places offer a great mentorship and networking experience," says Dr. Claire Jantz, an associate professor and the department's internship coordinator.

Internships have been a priority since 1972, with undergraduate students required to take an internship after they have completed at least 60 credits of coursework. Approximately 70 of the nearly 200 undergraduate majors take part in an internship each year. Graduate students may also elect to do an internship in place of a thesis.

Though the internships are required, "students enjoy the experience," says Dr. Jantz.

One of those students is Eric McGilliard, a senior who interned this spring semester with the Renfro Institute in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Eric, who has volunteered with the institute in the past, accomplished important work on a project with the Antietam Watershed Association, an organization that is working to reduce harmful nutrients from reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

"In 2006, an environmental consulting firm identified 173 sites that could be eligible for funding through the Federal Clean Water Act to help prevent runoff from going into the watershed," Eric said. "Some of these methods include building fences on farmlands to prevent cattle from getting into the water or creating buffer areas, such as tree lines or other types of grassy areas."

Eric, who has previously tested water at over 20 sites in the watershed, has been given additional responsibilities for this internship. "I am building a Geographic Information System (GIS) database to show the exact location of the 173 sites so we can contact home as well as land owners to notify them they are eligible for funding," he explains.



The experience using GIS is something Eric will be able to use long after he graduates from Shippensburg. "I've really enjoyed the aspect of this internship using GIS. I've had the chance to get familiar with the software and build databases. The work here has helped me see this is the field I'd like to get into after college."

As Eric and other geography/earth science majors intern, they acquire professional experience working at a company or organization. They also learn what it is like to be a person looking for a full-time job, which is an important lesson in a tough economy.

"They know there is competition for many of these positions," says Dr. Jantz. "Students go through the process of applying for a position and interviewing for it just like the experience of looking for a full-time position after college."

With so many students interning each year, the department has numerous ways to reach students with information about internship opportunities. "We use our Facebook page whenever an opportunity comes up so it gets to students instantaneously," Dr. Jantz said. "Sometimes it may just take five or ten minutes to have a student come to my door."

As many alumni will attest, an internship is one of the more valuable experiences in college.

The Geography & Earth Science Department ensures every student who walks into Shearer Hall will have the opportunity to participate in these valuable learning experiences before graduating from their program.

"We use our Facebook page whenever an [internship] opportunity comes up so it gets to students instantaneously. Sometimes it may just take five or ten minutes to have a student come to my door."

—Dr. Claire Jantz, internship coordinator, Department of Geography-Earth Science

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This publication is brought to you by College of Arts and Sciences at Shippensburg University.

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Contact the SU Foundation

For information on how you can support the students, faculty, and programs of the College of Arts and Sciences and Shippensburg University, please contact the SU Foundation at 717-477-1377 or visit the website at www.sufoundation.org. The SU Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that seeks financial resources and provides services to support and enhance the mission of Shippensburg University.

College of Arts & Sciences

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CAS | Advisory Board

The College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board is comprised of alumni, friends of Shippensburg University, and faculty emeriti of the college. The purpose of this advisory board is to share their professional and personal perspective on matters relating to academic philosophy and practice, internships and cooperative learning opportunities, professional development for faculty, provide financial assistance, and become involved in the curricular and extracurricular programs of the College. With thanks, we recognize the current members of the board:

- | | | |
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