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City of Evanston Economic Development Commission | www.evanstonedge.com

- Lydia Collins (Interdisciplinary Studies, Economics, Portuguese, 2017)
- Development Intern
- Part-time, 24 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
As an intern I have a main project, creating an "Evanston Guide to Parklets," and I also help out with other things in the office. A parklet is the term used to describe the space in an on-street parking spot that is converted into a "mini-park". In creating this guide, I interviewed 14 professionals around Chicago who are involved in the design, implementation, and policy of parklets and general tactical urbanism. Outside of creating the guide, I do business interviews to gauge how local businesses are doing, gather information on local businesses to update databases, and sit in on meetings with people that come through our office.

How did you find your internship?
I sent my resume to a couple of people at the City of Evanston who work in departments I was interested in. One of them reached out to me and it was a good fit!

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I love that I have freedom to put my all into the guide. I was given a desk and a computer and then the rest was up to me. I am able to structure my time to include interviews which get me out of the office and all around the Chicago area. I really enjoy speaking to professionals in the urban design/development field. I also live a mile away, which makes it possible to walk and bike to work, as well as go home for lunch everyday.

What do you find challenging?
The most challenging thing is getting used to sitting in front of a computer for eight hours a day! I adapted to this by walking to work, as well as scheduling interviews with people outside of the office.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Create a big schedule for yourself and get it approved by your boss early on. That way you can form your internship into something that best suits your interests. Interview as many people as possible in order to gain more insight into the field. Constantly volunteer to do things and try to sit in on as many meetings as possible. Go to ribbon cuttings!

About the Organization
City of Evanston Economic Development Commission
Evanston, IL

The Economic Development Division helps businesses grow the Evanston economy as we strive to create the most livable city in America. We work closely with local, county, and State of Illinois government officials to advance economic development efforts in Evanston and our region. The Economic Development Team has built strategic partnerships with the Evanston business community including Northwestern University and local and national businesses of all sizes in every corner of Evanston. We are very active in our local business district and merchant groups associations and strongly believe in getting to know and work with the people who create business in Evanston.
Neatric Norwood (International Relations, 2017)
Summer Intern
Full-time, 32 hours per week
Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I perform daily tasks for the Mayor of Little Rock, such as writing memos, research, and running general errands. In addition, I attend daily meetings on a variety on topics that are seen as important to the city government.

How did you find your internship?
I was referred to the program by a family member.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
What I enjoy the most about my internship is the number of officials (local, state and national) from a variety of agencies (the private and public sectors) that I meet and interact with on a daily basis.

What do you find challenging?
The most challenging part of my internship is the amount of information I have to sort and research for the Mayor.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
A piece of advice for someone doing an internship similar to mine would be to utilize this opportunity to see how government works and build connections to many officials in the public sector.

About the Organization
City of Little Rock, Mayor’s Office
Little Rock, AR

Mark Stodola was elected as Mayor for the City of Little Rock, beginning his term in January 2007 and re-elected to a 2nd term beginning in 2011, capturing 84% of the vote. As Mayor, he has helped prioritize public safety as the City’s first and foremost obligation, resulting in substantial decreases in violent crime and property crime. Since Mayor Stodola took office, the City’s homicide rate has fallen more than 50% with the violent crime rate falling 34%. The Mayor has partnered with the State Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Chamber of Commerce to bring over $1 billion in new capital investment to the City and more than 4,100 new jobs since taking office. In 2009, he crafted a major bond initiative that resulted in $6.9 million dollars in improvements to the City's park system. In addition, in 2011, he led a successful campaign to increase the City's sales tax garnering an 8% point win in the midst of the greatest economic upheaval since the Great Depression.
Consulate General of France in Chicago | www.consulfrance-chicago.org

- Hannah Gersten (French, International Relations, 2016)
- Cultural Service Intern;
- Part-time, 32 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I am responsible for writing newsletters summarizing French cultural events in the Midwest that are disseminated to 8,000 people. In addition, I translate documents such as emails, press releases, and brochures; update the website FrenchCulture.org with upcoming French cultural events taking place in the Midwest; and complete other administrative tasks such as updating calendars, sending emails, taking notes during meetings, and editing documents.

How did you find your internship?
I sent a spontaneous application to the Cultural Service in March with my resume and cover letter and was contacted early in the summer about working as an intern.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I love having the opportunity to speak French at work and keep up to date on the French cultural events happening in my area after spending a year abroad in Paris. I’ve learned so much about international and multilingual workplace dynamics, the life of diplomats, and the day-to-day happenings in international diplomatic organizations. Plus, I've genuinely enjoyed the projects that our office supports: film festivals, cultural celebrations, educational materials, university outreach, and art exhibits.

What do you find challenging?
It is certainly a challenge to balance my workload. Depending on which project we’re working on, I could be overwhelmed on a certain day and left with nothing to do the next. My supervisors have been great about providing me with long-term projects and allowing me the independence to create my own schedule and spread out the work. I find it extremely helpful to ask my supervisors which work should be prioritized and if any projects are urgent so that I am able to organize myself.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
I encourage all future interns to develop their own personal projects (something they enjoy doing) within the activities of the Cultural Service. Because I am passionate about French culture, I have thoroughly enjoyed writing and publishing newsletters and website articles that advertise events happening in the Midwest. Plus, my superiors have noticed that I’m competent in this skill, and they’ve given me more independence to do the work!

About the Organization
The Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago is a division of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S. The Cultural Services was first imagined in the 1930s, and in 1945, General de Gaulle appointed the first Cultural Counselor, with the mission of providing Americans (individuals and organizations) with access and resources to engage with French culture and promote it in their own communities. Today, under the leadership of Antonin Baudry, the French Cultural Services provides a platform for exchange and innovation between French and American artists, intellectuals, educators, students, the tech community, and the general public. Based in NYC, DC, and eight other U.S. cities including Chicago, the Cultural Services develops the cultural economy by focusing on six principal fields of action: the arts, literature, cinema, the digital sphere, French language and higher education.
Paige Newman (International Relations, 2016)
National Program and Outreach Intern
Part-time, 25 hours per week
Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I work with the outreach department to coordinate events and outreach initiatives among government officials, educators, and religious leaders.

How did you find your internship?
I found my internship on the Council on Foreign Relations career website.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I get to attend events on a wide range of issues with the top minds in foreign policy. The speakers have ranged from Secretary of State John Kerry to former Ambassador John Campbell.

What do you find challenging?
The position requires a great deal of attention to detail, particularly when writing, since CFR has a strict set of style guidelines to follow.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Apply early (I believe I applied in January) and make sure to be persistent. Upwards of 500 people apply for each internship position at CFR, and you have to be able to make yourself stand out in the application process.

About the Organization
The Council on Foreign Relations
New York, NY

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.
Economic Policy Institute | www.epi.org

- Claire Sleigh (Economics, International Relations, 2016)
- Peterson Fiscal Policy Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
My main project for the summer has been researching and writing a policy brief (at EPI, that's 25 pages!) on the future of Medicare spending and how it relates to the federal budget. I've spent about half of my summer working on this project and working with the policy director who is co-authoring the paper with me. Other than that, I've done a variety of tasks from gathering data, doing research, and emailing people.

How did you find your internship?
The Economics department sent an email about the Peter G. Peterson Foundation internships, and I applied to EPI through them.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
There is a lot of freedom and independence, and I essentially had the opportunity to pick my research topic. It is a very progressive organization, but they do top level research. It was really cool to work at a place that did hard-hitting research backing up all the things I believe in but never really knew why.

What do you find challenging?
The freedom and independence were actually the most challenging aspects because I had to be really proactive about getting assignments. It was sort of a disorganized office at times.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Talk to people, ask them about their lives, their work experiences, and how they know that they are in the right place.

About the Organization
Economic Policy Institute
Washington, D.C.

The Economic Policy Institute’s mission is to inform and empower individuals to seek solutions that ensure broadly shared prosperity and opportunity. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank created in 1986 to include the needs of low- and middle-income workers in economic policy discussions. EPI believes every working person deserves a good job with fair pay, affordable health care, and retirement security. To achieve this goal, EPI conducts research and analysis on the economic status of working America. EPI proposes public policies that protect and improve the economic conditions of low- and middle-income workers and assesses policies with respect to how they affect those workers.
Embassy of Pakistan | www.embassyofpakistanusa.org

- Hashim Pasha (International Relations, Arabic, 2016)
- Intern
- Part-time, 35 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I perform a variety of tasks for the embassy. I conduct research on topics of interest to Pakistan's foreign policy, and I also attend think tank briefings and write summary reports for diplomats at the embassy. Reports on topics of high interest are sent back to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad.

How did you find your internship?
Embassy website

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I enjoy that I'm able to be at the helm of International Relations. I am able to see decisions take place that are covered in newspapers the next day, I've been able to meet senior policy makers of International Affairs, and I've also gotten to know the internal workings of an embassy.

What do you find challenging?
The sheer number of topics and events to cover that relate to Pakistan are very high, as Pakistani-U.S. Relations are currently of critical importance to global security. This keeps us going nearly 7 days a week.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
My advice is to check the embassy websites of countries you are interested in to see if they offer internships. Never be afraid to send emails to inquire about internships, and always send as many inquiries as possible.

About the Organization
Embassy of Pakistan
Washington, D.C.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C. is the diplomatic mission of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United States.

- Hashim Pasha (International Relations, Arabic, 2016)
- L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Engagement and Development) DC Intern
- Part-time, 25-30 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I joined the Strategic Government Operations cluster in the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and was responsible for drafting Decision Point Memos for the Mayor and Deputy Mayors. I was also tasked with writing letters on behalf of DC City Administrator Rashad Young. I performed operations oversight for 8 major DC Government Agencies, which included on-site inspections and organizing meetings between Agencies and the OCA. In addition, I attended weekly L.E.A.D. DC Leadership Sessions and conducted field visits to enhance the District’s ability to respond to constituent issues.

How did you find your internship?
Jumbo Jobs

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I am treated as an equal colleague in all aspects of my job. I bear the same responsibility for projects and initiatives as those who work with me, and the fact that I am an intern has in no way held me back from achieving my goals within District Government. I feel as if my participation in the team is vital, and I have been assigned substantial work, which allows me to see the impact that I’ve had on the city.

What do you find challenging?
What I find most challenging about my internship is the fast pace with which the Office of the City Administrator works. Every day new challenges arise, and there is no shortage of issues to deal with on behalf of District residents. Coordinating with dozens of District Agencies to create solutions can sometimes be a tough (but rewarding) task.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
This is an excellent internship that allows you to gain hands-on experience in Government Operations and Public Policy. Deadlines are variable, so visit the Mayor’s website for updates. The District Government values dynamic individuals who are able to bring fresh ideas to governance. Creativity is appreciated, and I would strongly encourage Tufts students with an interest in Government to apply.

About the Organization
Executive Office of the Mayor, District of Columbia Government
Washington, D.C.

The Office of the City Administrator provides oversight and support to the Deputy Mayors and increases government effectiveness with cross-agency and targeted improvement initiatives, including the integration of strategic policy priorities, budgetary constraints, and operational directives.
The Hague Institute for Global Justice | http://thehagueinstituteforglobaljustice.org

- Samuel Berzok (Political Science, 2016)
- Summer Fellow
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Paid; Received grant from the IGL

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I mainly assist with research going on in the three program areas of the think tank: Conflict Prevention, Rule of Law, and Global Governance. Additionally, I provided event support and social media assistance.

How did you find your internship?
I found my internship through a friend who was involved in the Tufts Institute for Global Leadership.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
Gaining perspective on global peace issues from a Eurocentric viewpoint prompted me to change my views as an American citizen.

What do you find challenging?
There was a learning curve in the level of research because I was the single undergraduate summer fellow while the others were prepared for graduate/professional level research.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Be on top of your assignments and be friendly to your coworkers. This was by far one of the best office environments I've worked in because everyone was friendly with each other inside and outside of the office. Applications are collected during the spring semester.

About the Organization
The Hague Institute for Global Justice
The Hague, Netherlands

The Hague Institute for Global Justice is an independent, nonpartisan organization established to conduct interdisciplinary policy-relevant research, develop practitioner tools, and convene experts, practitioners and policymakers to facilitate knowledge sharing. Through this work the Institute aims to contribute to, and further strengthen, the global framework for preventing and resolving conflict and promoting international peace.
Joshua Grelle (International Relations, Chinese, Communications & Media Studies, 2016)

Intern
Full-time, 40 hours per week
Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I compiled and analyzed data on international trade topics ranging from international markets and geopolitical relations to corporate structure and foreign tax systems. I also attended many events and composed reports on congressional hearings and various think-tank and government agency events.

How did you find your internship?
I found my internship on the liberal arts career network website (LACN), a Career Center resource.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I enjoyed the very broad exposure to Washington D.C. and many different areas of policy. Some days I would be covering the Iran nuclear deal and others I would be monitoring the upcoming presidential elections. Every day was different, and I was always learning about new things.

What do you find challenging?
A lot of this internship involved researching and writing about highly technical and legal aspects of international trade. I didn't have a strong background in this before coming to IBC, so at the beginning I had a steep learning curve.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Take advantage of all of the networking opportunities that you get by being in DC; that being said, don't forget to network with your peers. In the long run, those will be the most useful connections.

About the Organization
IBC
Washington, DC

IBC is a full service Washington, DC-based international government relations firm that assists businesses in international government relations activities affecting their global operations. IBC's clients include major global companies in the U.S. and from around the world. Established in 1972, IBC is the oldest and most prominent international government relations firm in the United States.
Alicia Sanders-Zakre (International Relations, 2017)
Outreach Coordinator
Full-time, 40 hours per week
Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
My main project was organizing the youth outreach program. I also worked on our communications by managing the IPB twitter feed and updating the website. Due to IPB’s ECOSOC status at the UN, I was able to attend UNODA and UNIDIR events and write reports to be published on our website.

How did you find your internship?
At my previous internship with American Friends Service Committee, I helped to coordinate an anti-nuclear mobilization at the NPT Review Conference, which the International Peace Bureau endorsed. I researched the organization and applied for an internship.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
Considering the small size of the office, I was able to complete a variety of tasks, take on a lot of responsibility and learn about the organization. Living in Geneva has allowed me to meet with many professionals with similar career interests and learn about future opportunities.

What do you find challenging?
It was necessary to take a lot of initiative and be creative, as I did not receive much guidance on how to construct a youth outreach program. Ultimately that became a perk because I was able to take pride in projects that really felt like my own, but it was certainly a challenge in the beginning.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Take initiative. In a small organization, you can often suggest projects you are passionate about. And don’t be intimidated to talk to professionals inside and outside the organization about their careers. Even some high level UN experts were happy to sit down and talk when I asked.

About the Organization
International Peace Bureau
Geneva, Switzerland

The International Peace Bureau is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and within this, our focus is mainly on the reallocation of military expenditure. We believe that by reducing funding for the military sector, significant amounts of money could be released for social projects, domestically or abroad, which could lead to the fulfillment of real human needs and the protection of the environment. At the same time, we support a range of disarmament campaigns and supply data on the economic dimensions of weapons and conflicts. Our campaigning work on nuclear disarmament began in the 1980s. Our 300 member organisations in 70 countries, together with individual members, form a global network, bringing together knowledge and campaigning experience in a common cause. We link experts and advocates working on similar issues to build strong civil society movements.
What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I spent my time helping senior fellows with research and conference logistics. I also worked on writing my own research paper under their guidance.

How did you find your internship?
I found the internship by internet search, however one position was offered through Tisch, so I applied through them. (National Defense University has many different centers with many interns.)

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I liked being able to work on my own research and that the office was flexible and allowed me to attend interesting lectures/events around DC during work hours.

What do you find challenging?
I was responsible for a project that required using a computer program I was not familiar with, so I spent a lot of time trying to teach it to myself.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Be ready to read and write a lot.

About the Organization
National Defense University
Washington, DC

NDU is an internationally recognized graduate-level university with five colleges and multiple centers of excellence focused on joint education, leader development, and scholarship in national security matters.

- Brad Mullen (Political Science, English, Economics minor, 2017)
- Constituent Relations Intern
- Full-time, 45 hours per week
- Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
On a daily basis I am involved in constituent relations. This includes researching VA claims and reaching out to agencies to advocate for our constituents. Additionally, when the Senator is in Delaware, we plan events, meetings, and calls and travel with him throughout the county.

How did you find your internship?
The Senator’s website

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
The opportunity to interact with the constituents. Individuals are often frustrated with the bureaucracy which characterizes many government agencies and they are incredibly thankful to have us to advocate for them on their behalf.

What do you find challenging?
This internship involves a lot of writing, which I enjoy but can also be difficult as there is a lot of research that goes into the memos and letters.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Be patient! It can be difficult to find a government internship, especially one that includes a stipend.

About the Organization
Office of U.S. Senator Tom Carper
Georgetown, DE

In his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Carper has worked extensively on reforming our health care system, improving our environment, and ensuring that federal programs are run efficiently and effectively. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Carper helped craft the Affordable Care Act with a focus on how to improve our health care system by reducing costs, getting better results, and empowering consumers with the tools and resources they need to achieve better health and wellness. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Carper fought to protect our environment and clean up our air. All in all, he worked to advocate for common sense policies to clean our air, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and improve public health. As ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, he continues to champion postal reform with the goal of protecting the U.S. Postal Service from collapse and ensuring it remains a robust American institution for generations to come.
U.S. Department of State – Near Eastern Affairs Bureau | www.state.gov

- Eloise Harnett (International Relations, Arabic, 2016)
- Iraq Program Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I work in the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau within the State Department in the Iraq Assignments Office. The responsibilities of my office are to organize the advertising, hiring and tracking of all Foreign Service officers interested in working in Iraq, as well as those currently stationed in Iraq. My job includes creating profiles for all interested Foreign Service officers and tracking all information on the posts they are planning to pursue. Once all of this information is organized, I send various documents to our embassies and consulates in Iraq. The staff in Iraq then communicate with me about who they are interested in hiring, and I send out these selection notices.

How did you find your internship?
I found it on state.gov, listed with all of the summer internships.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
Working at the State Department gives you access to incredible events, lectures and daily opportunities to learn. I loved being able to attend events and meet people outside of my office.

What do you find challenging?
Due to the bureaucracy of such a large organization, I was often frustrated that I wasn't able to take initiative on certain projects.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Start looking early! The State Department internship program has an incredibly early application process. The application isn't difficult; just try to get it done early.

About the Organization
U.S. Department of State – Near Eastern Affairs Bureau
Washington, DC

The Department's mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere. This mission is shared with the USAID, ensuring we have a common path forward in partnership as we invest in the shared security and prosperity that will ultimately better prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow.
U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration) | www.state.gov/j/prm/index.htm

- Katie Saviano (International Relations, Arabic, 2017)
- Junior Program Officer
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
I am responsible for updating the USRAP Manual as needed; gathering, consolidating, and analyzing data on completed USCIS circuit rides; and analyzing and drafting standardized policy for expedite procedure. I also attend meetings and conferences for my office and complete write-ups for the bureau. I work closely with the overseas program officers in my office and have worked on significant projects for the MENA and East Asia regions.

**How did you find your internship?**
I heard about the State Department Student Internship Program from another Tufts student. For summer internships, the application deadline is in mid-October.

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
There was an expectation that I would be well-versed on current affairs, humanitarian aid and development, refugee law, and migration policy. During my first week, my only project was to become knowledgeable. I spent my days interviewing employees to learn about their portfolios, attending meetings, reading reports, and asking questions. This expectation was a theme throughout my internship. I loved that there was such a focus on learning; not only was I expected to understand and analyze my bureau’s programs, I was also encouraged to go to any talk or event at the State Department that interested me. As a result, I feel that it was truly an opportunity to learn and be engaged.

**What do you find challenging?**
The expectation level is extremely high, and it took a few weeks to become accustomed to my supervisor’s standards. However, it was extremely rewarding to know that I produced high quality work.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
The deadline is in mid-October and you are notified of the decision in mid-December. When you put down your preferences for bureaus, spend time on your statement of interest, as this is a major component of your application and it is read seriously. While at State, conduct as many informational interviews as possible! There is an incredible opportunity to speak to people with whom you share interests. You have a high level of access, and employees will be very candid with you regarding their careers, portfolios, and opinions on current events. After a few weeks, I started cold-emailing people who had portfolios I was interested in (the Desk Officer for Tunisia, for example), and every single person I emailed got back to me. I also recommend meeting as many of the interns at State as possible -- these are people who share similar interests and are probably a few years older (many State interns are grad students) and thus, will have their own advice to offer. Plus, networking with other students is one of the best types of networking, as these people could be your colleagues in the future.

**About the Organization**
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM); Washington, D.C.

The mission of PRM is to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world by providing life-sustaining assistance, working through multilateral systems to build global partnerships, promoting best practices in humanitarian response, and ensuring that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign and national security policy.

- Allison Aaronson (International Relations, 2017)
- Public Affairs Intern
- Full-time, 45-50 hours per week;
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I proposed, wrote, edited, and promoted a weeklong blog series on the transatlantic trade relationship; conducted research on the mission’s social media community; assisted with special projects, including the visit of Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and the 10th Round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) Negotiations; compiled a summary of relevant news stories to keep the Ambassador and other staff updated on current events in the EU and member states; organized a breakfast briefing series with EU Interns; coordinated logistics, managed protocol, assisted with social media, and performed various tasks for mission events involving policymakers, press, and Think Tanks.

How did you find your internship? Former supervisor referral

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
My position gave me access to high-level events and inspiring connections that helped me learn about the world and myself. I learned so much from my many colleagues (there are over 800 U.S. staff at USEU, U.S. Embassy to Belgium, and U.S. Mission to NATO) as well as the people I met through events. I am amazed by how many busy and important people took time to mentor me, and I gained a lot of confidence in networking and communication skills.

What do you find challenging?
This is an obvious one, but the bureaucracy of the U.S. government can feel crippling to passion and drive. Things move slowly, everything must be cleared before taking action, and international time differences are difficult to manage. My only other complaint is that there was negligible support for interns in terms of housing, transportation, building community, and other challenges of moving to a new country. In the end, I felt empowered that I was able to figure it out on my own while balancing a demanding job. I worked overtime a fair amount, but that was my decision as I wanted to be included in as many projects as possible. I could have maintained normal working hours if I had prioritized it.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
If you want to work for the State Dept., you need to apply early; the deadline is in November or December. Most positions require U.S. citizenship. Given the volume of applications, any way you can connect with someone within a particular mission or embassy beforehand will drastically improve your chances. In addition, the security clearance process is rather long and invasive, and it’s not unheard of for interns to be denied clearance and left stranded for summer plans. That being said, it’s an incredible opportunity to live/work abroad, get an insider’s view on the U.S., and make connections (that’s the big one). I think this internship would be really hard if it’s your first time living independently abroad, but it’s a good follow-up to study abroad. Also, most other interns were in the process of getting/had already obtained MA or JD degrees, so be realistic about which positions you apply to (e.g., legal interns are in law school). If you are thinking about joining the Foreign Service, I definitely recommend the internship, as it’s important to get a sense of the unique foreign service lifestyle.

About the Organization
U.S. Department of State, U.S. Mission to the EU; Brussels, Belgium
The Department’s mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just & democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people & people everywhere.