

The Office of Career Services Announces 2012 Summer Internship Stipend Recipients
July 30, 2012

Twenty-two students receive funding for unpaid internships in 6 U.S. states and 8 countries.

The Office of Career Services and Oberlin College's Creativity and Leadership Project are pleased to announce the selection of twenty-two 2012 awardees. The annual Summer Internship Stipend program provides need-based awards of \$250 to \$3,500 to support Oberlin students pursuing unpaid summer internships with organizations that do not have the resources to provide financial support. By reducing the living expenses and other financial barriers associated with unpaid internships, these stipends allow students to develop new skills, make valuable connections, and explore their future career interests. In this application cycle, \$87,193.95 was requested from 49 applicants, and 22 students were awarded a total of \$30,305.

Students can prepare for the rigorous, highly competitive application and interview process by attending a series of information sessions and workshops, as well as meeting individually with Career Services staff. Students must demonstrate that they have secured an appropriate unpaid internship or that they are engaged in the application process for the internship prior to seeking funds. The comprehensive written application and interview process helps student applicants develop fundamental skills that may serve them well as they apply for future positions in a competitive market. Internships are now, more than ever, crucial to the success of many Oberlin graduates, no matter what field or profession they choose.

The Office of Career Services is delighted to coordinate this process and to support opportunities for students to explore their career and personal interests. While the economy and competition for post-graduate positions increase student need for summer internships, the funds to support these critical positions are dwindling. Over the past four years, the Young Alumni Internship Fund has allowed students to pursue unpaid internships in their individual areas of greatest passion. For example, recipients of stipends from the Young Alumni Internship Fund have pursued opportunities including wildlife research in Tanzania, production assistance with the world's premier early music festival, and tutoring at a non-profit writing center in San Francisco. To support student internships, visit www.oberlin.edu/giving/donate.

Funding for internships is available from the Class of 1968 Leadership Award, the Marion B. Anderson 1954 Endowed Grant Fund for Aspiring Peace Activists, the Peter Goldsmith Internship Fund, and Young Alumni Internship Fund. In addition, Creativity & Leadership: Entrepreneurship at Oberlin provides stipends for unpaid internships that help students develop a range of skills essential for entrepreneurship.

For more information please contact:

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2012 Summer Internship Stipend Recipients

Rachel Adler, 2014

Comparative American Studies major, Anthropology minor
Women's Initiative for Self Employment | Oakland, CA

As an intern in the Research Department at the Women's Initiative for Self Employment (WISE), Rachel works with the organization to train women from low-income backgrounds in entrepreneurial practices and provide support as they start their own businesses and become economically self-sufficient. Rachel interviews alumnae – primarily in Spanish – about their experiences, and writes participant biographies to share with staff and to use as promotional materials for the website and events. Rachel chose to work at WISE because it will give her insight into the workings of non-profit organizations. Above all, she is thrilled to have the opportunity to speak with individuals whose lives have been deeply affected by the organization's work.

Ben Agsten, 2012

Environmental Studies major
Shagbark Seed and Mill | Athens, Ohio

Ben, an aspiring miller, is working with a new company, Shagbark Seed and Mill. Shagbark seeks to localize staple foods, like grains and beans, by buying from local farms, processing the foods and bringing them to local restaurants and markets. One of Shagbark's goals is to increase food security in the region at a time when national availability of staple foods is unstable. They also try to find an appropriate scale of operation, at which it can be more environmentally and socially responsible than large, industrial counterparts. Ben works on a variety of activities associated with the business, including seed cleaning, grinding, bagging, farmer's market sales, sampling at retail stores, updating Shagbark's Facebook page, taking inventory and working with spreadsheets. He hopes to have the skills he needs to start a regional mill somewhere else, perhaps in Oberlin.

Rebecca Kahn Bloch, 2013

Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies and Studio Art majors
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders | Boston, MA

Rebecca is an intern in the Public Affairs and Education Department at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). GLAD, the leading legal rights organization in New England, is dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression. Rebecca assists the department in its efforts to communicate GLAD's ground-breaking legal victories to the public and make certain that LGBT and HIV-positive people are aware of and can exercise their legal rights. Specifically, she prepares historical and archival research, creates various forms of media with which to convey that legal information to the public, and helps organize grassroots legal workshops and public education events. As an aspiring LGBT legal activist, Rebecca chose this internship to gain a more comprehensive view of legal LGBT activism.

Weelic Chong, 2015

Neuroscience major
Duke-NSU Graduate Medical School | Singapore

Weelic strives to unravel neuroscience mysteries this summer at Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, a thriving research medical institution in bustling Singapore. He is an intern in the lab of Assistant Professor Eyleen Goh, which focuses on neuroregeneration and translational biomedical research. While growing stem cell cultures and mixing solutions, Weelic spends the rest of his day reading and learning about the stuff between our ears. As a Neuroscience major and an aspiring medical scientist, Weelic believes that this summer experience will be invaluable for his future endeavors.

Julie Christensen, 2013

Anthropology major

Center for Community Health Promotion | Hanoi, Vietnam

Julie is working with the Center for Community Health Promotion (CHP), a non-profit, non-governmental organization that coordinates health projects and provides support to community-based organizations throughout the country. The organization focuses on the sustainable development of Vietnam by supporting stigmatized and vulnerable populations, such as people living with HIV, drug users, and orphans. Julie is doing research for the organization in the area of harm reduction as well as teaching English to children at a local community center. She is connected with the CHP through its partnership with GlobeMed at Oberlin College. Julie started the GlobeMed at Oberlin chapter in 2011. As an aspiring non-profit administrator and physician, Julie believes that working with the CHP will give her insight and knowledge that she can apply to both local and global health endeavors.

Sarah Coco, 2012

Politics major

Tomorrow's Youth Organization | Nablus, West Bank

As an intern with Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO), Sarah works toward the non-profit's mission to provide services to disadvantaged areas in the Middle East. She lives and works at TYO's center, where she teaches arts and crafts at a summer program for children from refugee camps. She also teaches two English classes a week, one to mothers of the summer program students and one to community members. Finally, she teaches a workshop on professional competency at An Najah University. Although the internship keeps her extremely busy, Sarah sees it as an invaluable introduction to living and working in Palestinian culture, as well as to the world of development work. In the future, Sarah hopes to return both to this region and this field of work.

Meredith Diamond, 2012

Latin American Studies major

Ayuda | Washington, D.C.

As an intern in the legal department at the non-profit organization Ayuda, Meredith helps provide legal aid and social services support to low-income immigrants in the Washington, D.C. area. The department assists immigrants with completing applications and legal processes related to family-based immigration, obtaining and renewing legal permanent residency and work permits, and applying for citizenship and asylum. The legal department also works with immigrants who have suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, in order to help them obtain immigration-related benefits. Meredith works on many cases under the supervision of staff attorneys, preparing filings, meeting with clients to take testimonies, researching asylum claims, and more. As

someone who plans to continue working in the field of immigration law and social services support, Meredith believes this experience is invaluable.

Eliza Diop, 2014

African American Studies and Politics majors
Shared Value Africa | Dakar, Senegal

Eliza works in the marketing department at Shared Value Africa (SVA), a non-profit that manages and develops projects around sustainability and socio-environmental needs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. SVA focuses on delivering necessary services to communities that need it the most without compromising their natural resources or burdening them with costs. In addition, Eliza is developing her waste-management project called The Enhancement Project, which she wants to start in Senegal. Eliza chose to work with SVA because she appreciates its commitment to delivering services that benefit communities in ways that empower them not only to embrace the services but also to continue making change for themselves using the tools provided. The internship at SVA has proven to be a great benefit for Eliza in designing and implementing her waste-management program. As an aspiring non-profit director, she believes this experience will make her aspiration a reality.

Eliana Golding, 2013

Politics major
Andean Information Network | Cochabamba, Bolivia

Eliana is working at the Andean Information Network (AIN), an organization that promotes human rights and socioeconomic justice by providing news, policy information and analysis to non-government organizations, the media, and international policy makers. She is preparing the preliminary plans for a new educational program for American college students on the effects of climate change in Bolivia. Also, Eliana is researching a broad range of issues – from lithium extraction to traditional agronomy – and interviewing local organizations and experts to lay the plans for the program that will begin in fall 2013. Eliana discovered AIN when its director, Kathryn Ledebur ('89), spoke at her study abroad program, also in Cochabamba.

Ariel Goodman, 2014

History major, African American Studies minor
KPFA Radio News | Berkeley, California
The California Coalition for Women Prisoners | San Francisco, California

Ariel decided to intern at two organizations. KPFA Radio News is the nation's first and oldest established listener supported radio station in the country. KPFA produces a wide range of music, news, public affairs, interviews and reviews. As a reporter for KPFA, Ariel travels the bay area to conduct interviews with experts and community members daily. She produces and edits her own stories, which are then aired on the evening news. She has covered a wide variety of topics including the Stop and Frisk policy, protests against rising tuition fees in the UC school system and home foreclosures in the bay area.

At California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Ariel helps respond to letters sent by various incarcerated women around the state, country and world. She personalizes each letter as she responds to the writer's requests, which include legal, medical, and personal assistance. Ariel aspires to someday create empowering ways for people to tell their stories.

Loan Lu, 2015

Economics and East Asian Studies majors
Center for Community Health Promotion | Hanoi, Vietnam

Loan is an intern at the Center for Community Health Promotion (CHP), which implements healthcare and education initiatives and engages in government policy advocacy to support those most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Loan assists CHP staff with various projects, such as planning and preparing for weekly volunteer trips to HIV/AIDS Center, teaching English to children at a local school, and participating in weekend trips to orphanages and HIV/AIDS centers. Loan chose to work with CHP to gain hands-on experiences and deep understanding about the effects of discrimination on people within the social and cultural context of Vietnam and to initiate changes in the community. In addition, as an active member of GlobeMed at Oberlin, Loan hopes to share her experiences and inspire other students to take part in global health movements.

Elena Makansi, 2014

Environmental Studies major
The Baltimore Orchard Project | Baltimore, MD

The Baltimore Orchard Project, a non-profit organization focused on urban food access and sustainability, is hosting Elena as an intern. The organization's mission is two-fold: to organize gleaning initiatives and donate excess fruit to those with low or no access to fresh, healthy food, and to partner with other individuals, organizations, and institutions to plant fruit trees in and around the city of Baltimore. Along with developing organizational marketing materials, Elena is working mainly with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools to map and research historic orchards and vineyards and to map a present-day fruit tree census. She is also developing and will be presenting a proposal to revive an historic orchard on the Johns Hopkins University campus. As food issues and urban sustainability are the axis on which Elena's academic and personal interests center, she is excited to be working with the Baltimore Orchard Project and believes that her projects will give her valuable experience, especially with GIS technology, and may lead to future research and work opportunities.

Jena Mauldin, 2013

Double-degree student majoring in Anthropology and Musicology
Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage | Washington, D.C.

As an assistant to the webmaster at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Jena is helping to record the Folklife Festival as well as other audio production. She is also writing blog posts and cataloging. From a curatorial perspective, the materials she helps publish and prepare at the Center are applicable to both of her majors: the materials span the world and deal with a vast array of cultures. Jena is considering a career in museum studies, and her internship is a great opportunity to test the waters.

Ilyssa R. Meyer, 2013

Comparative American Studies major, History and Politics minors
The White House Internship Program | Washington, D.C.

Ilyssa is honored and excited to be interning with the White House Internship Program in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Specifically, she is working on outreach to women and girls through the White House Council on Women and Girls. Her roles include event planning, constituent outreach, research, and policy meetings. Ilyssa is also volunteering for the Capitol Area Food Bank on the weekends for the service component of the Internship Program. Ilyssa plans a career in the public sector doing policy outreach and engagement. She hopes to earn her masters in public policy and a law degree and be back in the White House someday – in the Oval Office.

Chinwe Okona, 2013

Neuroscience major, Comparative American Studies and Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies minors
Camfed USA | San Francisco, CA

Chinwe is an intern at Camfed USA, a non-profit organization that provides educational opportunities for young girls in African countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, and Ghana. There are many young women orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic left to care for their siblings and education often takes the back burner to making a living. Camfed works to keep girls in school and further support them as they launch small businesses. Chinwe is logging and tracking donations for Camfed, in addition to writing case studies for grants. Chinwe also volunteers at needle exchange sites in the city to explore the different ways in which the HIV/AIDS epidemic manifests in different communities and how these communities can support each other.

Ana Robelo, 2015

Comparative Literature and Latin American Studies majors
Center for Living Peace | Irvine, California

Ana interns at the Center for Living Peace, a non-profit organization in Orange County that inspires everyday citizens, especially youth and students, to make good happen. Its responsibility is to connect people who have creative ideas and willpower with the appropriate resources to make them a reality. The Center offers a variety of classes and programs that facilitate inner peace and conflict resolution. Ana contributes to the Center's blog and is expanding her knowledge of social media and publicity tools through work with the organization's marketing manager. Ana also assists with the Center's community outreach to surrounding schools and groups. This experience will help increase her understanding of non-profit and grassroots-organizing methods, and Ana aspires to work in the non-profit sector.

Caroline Rogers, 2013

Religion major, Mathematics minor
The Alliance for Peacebuilding | Washington, D.C.

Caroline spent her third year at Oberlin developing her ideas for the world and discovering potential paths for her future. She is currently exploring the field of international conflict resolution at the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AFP), an umbrella organization that facilitates communication and cooperative action among non-government organizations that work globally for peace. Chip Hauss (69) supervises her research on the Systems Approach, which posits that successful peacebuilding does not isolate particular issues but takes into consideration all contributing factors to an unstable situation. Caroline is also helping to create the invitation list for a September conference between

the peace community and members of the military. Caroline's work for AfP is directly related to and has been developing the senior capstone project for her Religion major, which will consider the relationship between religion and national identity. So far, Caroline has found Washington, D.C. to be quite thrilling and is excited to immerse herself in the politics and culture of both the District and the AfP.

Aily Roper, 2014

Theater major

ArticMaster Japan | Tokyo, Japan

Aily is working as the website designer at ArticMaster Japan (AMJ), a new company in Tokyo that uses environmental technology to improve the efficiency of air conditioning, cooling and refrigeration systems. She is revamping the website to make it more visually appealing to customers changing its current information-based focus. Aily is also working on artistic aspects of the website, such as the appearance of the front page and the overall layout of the site. She chose to work for AMJ because it is a good opportunity for her to build her computer skills – an area where she has been looking to gain experience. She is also seeking to develop her Japanese language skills, especially in keigo (business-level Japanese), when communicating with her employers.

Simbarashe Runyowa, 2015

Economics and Politics majors

PASSOP-Cape Town | Cape Town, South Africa

Working as an intern with People Against Suffering, Suppression, Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP) is exposing Simbarashe to this non-profit, human rights organization's devotion to fighting for the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants in South Africa. The organization was founded as a response to xenophobic violence targeted at Zimbabwean immigrants when South Africa experienced a large influx of Zimbabweans seeking to escape the intolerable conditions of hyperinflation and political violence in that country. PASSOP offers a range of services to refugees and immigrants including legal advice, employment assistance, and guidance on accessing social services. Simbarashe assists with drafting press statements, producing status reports, updating the website, launching a PASSOP blog, conducting research in immigrant communities and serving as a translator and interpreter in addition to planning events and workshops. He feels this internship will provide experience in his intended career, international relations focusing on human rights law on the African continent.

Robert Salazar, 2013

Comparative American Studies and Theater majors

The Howard Stern Show | New York, NY

Robert is working at the Howard Stern Show, the top radio program in the country, which is broadcast from the studios at Sirius XM satellite radio. The show is a comedy program involving news, comedy bits, and celebrity interviews. Robert collects news stories and assists with writing scripts for The Chatter on Sirius XM. He chose to intern with the Howard Stern Show because of its status as one of the most successful comedy programs of all time and particularly because it is an improvised show. As an aspiring writer and performer, Robert believes the internship will offer him

insight into the entertainment industry as well as invaluable experience in research and comedy writing.

Mariah Shafir-Volk, 2012

Politics major

Kids v Cancer | Washington, DC

As an intern at Kids v Cancer, a non-profit organization that advocates for pediatric-cancer research, Mariah has lobbied to pass the Creating Hope Act. This act provides incentives for pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs that treat pediatric cancer and rare diseases. Kids v Cancer's hard work resulted in the Creating Hope Act being signed into law by President Obama on July 10, 2012. In addition, Mariah is helping to create an autopsy tissue-donation database, researching structural impediments to pediatric-cancer drug development, organizing lobby days for parents of children with cancer, and planning pediatric-cancer awareness events.

Matan Zeimer, 2014

Sociology and Politics majors

Mi Casita Montessori | Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Matan is working at Mi Casita Montessori, a relatively new school established with assistance from an Oberlin College senior. The director of the school is focused on developing the school as a space for students from all backgrounds to share in the learning experience. Matan and three other Oberlin students are building a garden, greenhouse, and chicken coop for the school. The profits that will come from future market sales will create a scholarship fund to increase the socioeconomic diversity of the school's students. Matan chose this internship because of the program's connection to progressive conflict-resolution strategies, the opportunity to work on an important project started by another Oberlin student, and a chance to get involved in early childhood education. This experience will give Matan practical skills for future work and provide focus for future academic studies and extracurricular activities at Oberlin.