

Michigan in Washington Internship Program Highlights Fall 2007—Winter 2008

Introduction

A total of forty-three Michigan undergraduates came to Washington, DC for the Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 semesters. These sophomores, juniors and seniors worked a minimum of 32 hours per week at their internships in 38 organizations throughout the metropolitan area. Tables at the end of this document list the internship placements and majors of the participants.

MIW welcomed its first student from the University of Michigan—Flint, and MIW will welcome another Flint student to Washington this coming Fall 2008. The program also welcomed majors in public policy, which has just begun its undergraduate concentration. Although a majority of program participants are political science majors, students from fields as diverse as archeology, business, linguistics and music joined their colleagues from the humanities and social sciences in working and studying in the nation's capital.

The Move To New Facilities and New Collaboration with Berkeley and Penn

Michigan in Washington moved from the Boston University Washington Center to the University of California Washington Center. The UC center is on Scott Circle on Rhode Island Ave., NW at 16th Street, about six blocks due north of the White House. It was built in 2001 and was designed to accommodate up to 276 students and a dozen visiting faculty members in its 11 stories. UCDC is the home of undergraduate internship programs for all UC campuses, and it rents dorm rooms, classrooms and office space to Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania. Michigan, Berkeley and Penn shared elective classes, so Michigan students could take Berkeley and Penn classes, and Berkeley and Penn students could take Michigan classes. For the students, this collaboration meant that instead of choosing between two electives, they could choose among four or five classes.

Fall 2007 Electives:

Michigan Prof. Ari Roth, artistic director of Theater J in Washington, DC, offered “The Politics of Theater: The Theater of Politics.”

Michigan Prof. Allyson Purpura, cultural anthropologist lately of the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler African Art Museum, taught “The Power of Display: Museum Exhibitions and the Politics of Interpretation.”

Berkeley Prof. Margaret Weir offered “American Society: Social Problems and Public Policy.”

Berkeley Prof. Nicholas Ziegler taught “Europe and the US in World Affairs.”

Penn Prof. Eileen Doherty offered “International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Global Arena.”

Winter 2008 Electives:

Michigan Prof. Ari Roth, artistic director of Theater J in Washington, DC, offered “The Politics of Theater: the Theater of Politics.”

Michigan Prof. Sally Katzen, former deputy director for management in President Clinton's Office of Management and Budget, taught "A Window Into How Washington Works" on the Executive Branch and regulatory policy.

Berkeley Prof. George Mackenzie, former senior staff analyst at the International Monetary Fund, offered "Public Economics."

Penn Prof. Eileen Doherty offered "The New World Order and Its Critics."

Prof. Katzen's class on regulatory policy listened to oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court and met with Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The class questioned U.S. Senator Carl Levin of Michigan about his work on various committees and his stands on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The class visited Ms. Susan Dudley, the current Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget, a position Prof. Katzen had held in the Clinton Administration.

Prof. Roth's Winter 2008 class took advantage of the Arthur Miller homage several metropolitan theaters undertook. They saw four Miller plays, and for their final project, they led a discussion with the audience about Miller at the Jewish Community Center's Theater J, where Prof. Roth is the artistic director. The emphasis in Prof. Roth's class is on the appreciation of scripts, playwrights and productions, not on learning to act or direct; however, taking the stage after the production of a play and leading the audience in a discussion provided an opportunity for the seven students to overcome a bit of stage fright. The audience's reception of the students was enthusiastic.

Prof. Purpura's cultural anthropology class visited four museums to discuss with exhibit curators and designers how museum exhibits come to fruition. The students visited the American Visionary Arts Museum in Baltimore, and the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington; however, the most unusual of the four field trips was to the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, where the class saw "Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body," an exhibit about the history of the autopsy. The discussion with the curator proved valuable for insights about ethics, taste, presentation and changing sensibilities about the human body.

All students are required to take the research seminar. Drs. Margaret Howard and Ifie Okwuje worked with each student to develop and produce original research on the topic of the student's choice. Topics ranged widely: possible remedies for capitalization of Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac; race and politics in the U.S.; refugee policy in South Korea; and, photographic representations of people in early 20th century Turkey.

Speakers

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, civil rights leader, and history professor emeritus Roger Wilkins delighted students with his talk that ranged from what the Founding Fathers intended in the Constitution to the roles of common citizens in shaping the republic. Wilkins urged the students not to be afraid to stand up for their beliefs, noting that at times during the anti-apartheid protests outside the South African embassy in Washington, DC, only he and two others carried signs and marched in the rain in front of the embassy's entrance. Prof. Wilkins encouraged the

students to hope and work for change, saying he had gone to Michigan when segregation was the law and a civil rights movement seemed hopeless.

Stories about 18th century slave auctions in Georgetown and the 1968 race riots in the District riveted the students' attention to a talk given by Prof. James Miller, chair of the Department of American Studies at The George Washington University. While most students become familiar with "federal" Washington, which is predominantly white, fewer students know much about "the other" Washington. Nine of ten District residents are Black, and Prof. Miller gave the students a brief oral tour of the District, its African-American residents and their ancestors. MIW supporter and GWU English Professor Susan Willens arranged for Prof. Miller to talk to the students.

Aaron David Miller urged students to hope and work for peace in the Middle East, even though the conflicts seem intractable. Dr. Miller (no relation to Prof. James Miller) told the students that he had spent a quarter century in the U. S. State Department, trying to convince the various parties that peace and justice were possible. Outlining the main points in his new book, *The Much Too Promised Land*, Dr. Miller said unless the U.S. understands that it plays a vital role in bringing the parties to the negotiation table and works to keep the parties talking, peace with justice in the Middle East will never be accomplished; furthermore, he said the lack of peace in the Middle East has ramifications for almost all other foreign policy decisions, so it is in the interest of the U.S. to help the parties come to an agreement.

Elizabeth (Liz) Schrayner, president of Schrayner & Associates, a political consulting firm and MIW DC Advisory Board member, Yolonda Richardson, president and CEO of the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), and Ritu Sharma Fox, the co-founder and president of the Women's Edge Coalition talked to the students over lunch about the challenges women throughout the developing world face. Ms. Schrayner, Ms. Richards and Ms. Fox discussed their efforts to lobby the U.S. government for more money for programs to improve women's health and education worldwide. Women's Edge Coalition co-founder and founding chair Elise Fiber Smith, an MIW program supporter, helped to coordinate the panel with Ms. Schrayner.

Fun

The fall participants spent a lovely afternoon at the St. Michael's, Maryland beach home of Michigan alumni Karen and Langley Shook, who introduced them to the art of cracking freshly steamed crabs on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Some of the students watched the Georgetown University basketball team beat Michigan (ouch!) at the Verizon Center. Michigan alumni and friends who served as mentors took the students around the District to concerts, dinners, and conferences, introducing the students around and teaching them how to "network."

Conclusion

A number of MIW participants describe their semester in Washington as "life-changing," and several who have graduated have returned to Washington to make their careers in D.C. All those who have returned to D.C. have volunteered to help the MIW program in any way they can, and several have served as mentors to the "new" students. The Michigan in Washington internship program finished its third year by continuing to build a legacy of graduates who have "learned by doing" in government, public service organizations and the news media.

Table 1: Internship Placements For Fall 2007—Winter 2008

Air Transport Association
Amnesty International
Bryan Cave Strategies, LLC
CBS Evening News Investigative Unit
Center for American Progress
Center for Applied Linguistics
Center for Global Engagement
Children's Defense Fund
C-SPAN
D.C. Department of Justice--Attorney General's Office
Dykema Gossett, PLLC
Environmental Law Institute
Freer/Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution
Government Accountability Office
Greenpeace
House Democratic Caucus
House Financial Services Committee
House Judiciary Committee Majority Staff
House Transportation Committee
Human Rights First
International Franchise Association
Museum of Natural History Archeobiology Program, Smithsonian Institution
National Archives
Northeast-Midwest Institute
OneEconomy.org
Rep. Dale Kildee, assigned to Policy Analyst Lloyd Horwich
Rep. Dennis Kucinich
Save Darfur.org
Sen. Carl Levin
Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Sen. Edward Kennedy--Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee
Sen. Norman Coleman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
StoptheDrugWar.org
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Domestic Finance
United Nations Information Centre
White House Personnel Office, assigned to Kevin Wilkins

Table 2: Student Majors

	Fall 2007	Winter 2008
Anthropology and Political Science		1
Anthropology, Archaeology and Cello Performance	1	
Business		1
Communications and Political Science	1	
Economics	1	
Economics and Political Science		1
English		1
Environmental Policy and Program in the Environment	1	
General Studies	1	
German and Political Science	1	
History and Political Science		2
Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Social Science		1
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Spanish and Political Science	1	
Linguistics and Political Science		1
Medical Anthropology and RC Social Science		1
Middle Eastern Studies	1	
Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science		1
Movement Science and Economics		1
Music and History	1	
Organizational Studies		1
Philosophy and Political Science		1
Political Science	8	4
Psychology	1	1
Public Policy		2
Sociology	1	1
Sociology and Political Science	1	1
Spanish and Political Science		1
Total	20	23