Opportunity of a Lifetime:
Internship in The White House

By: Pamela Quillamor,
Class of ‘08

Without a question, I owe my present success to my semester in Washington, D.C. as a White House Intern. The White House Internship Program, organized through the Washington Center, was a major highlight of my life, and I will never find the right words to describe this once in a lifetime experience.

Interning in our nation’s highest office tested me in a way I never thought possible. I had the opportunity to experience daily life at the White House while learning about the Executive Branch of our government. I challenged my own personal limits while enduring long hours, no pay, highly time-sensitive projects, and the pressure to maintain a good public image. As a result, I have proven to be reliable and responsible, but most importantly, I have grown to be self-sufficient, independent, and ready for personal success.

Despite my thorough academic preparation, I found that the best way to learn is through experience. As a White House Intern, I acquired an in-depth knowledge of current issues, legislation, and party policy that no textbook could explain. I learned to value the systems and traditions established in this great country, and look to honor and uphold them. Interacting with political leaders inspired me to serve a cause greater than myself and to actively volunteer for my first Presidential campaign.

I am currently in the process of applying to law school for Fall 2009 admission, where I will enter a JD/MBA degree program. I have firm aspirations to pursue a career in Corporate Intellectual Property Law, and would like to address fashion and apparel legal issues.
I had heard of Jerseyintern.com from a friend who knew I was looking for an internship. I went online, with little hope for success, and found an immediate opening for a public relations internship in Tinton Falls. It was like a dream come true: a public relations summer internship, located less than 10 miles from campus—and 20 from my home—and it was paid! I was ecstatic because now I could fulfill the Experiential Education requirement and get paid! Little did I know that the internship would pay off in more ways than one.

Working with Health Science Media, Inc. was a way to get my feet wet in Public Relations with a medical company that sponsored and set up cardiometabolic health congresses in Boston, Massachusetts, for medical professionals to obtain more CME (Continuing Medical Education) credits. I gained a fundamental knowledge of cardiometabolic health. This internship taught me editorial skills such as organizing media interaction, issuing press releases, contracting advertisers and sponsors and even sales for selling registration spots to attendees. While I did learn that telecommunication public relations may not be the position for me, I took away a lot of experience and knowledge from the internship.

Then in the fall of 2007, another Ex Ed experience was in store for me. La Pincoya, Chile, is a small town on the outskirts of Santiago that the average individual probably could not identify on a map. This was the beginning of my fascination with traveling and studying abroad. The thought of going to South America never crossed my mind until I learned about it through Dr. Rosemary Barbera in the School of Social Work. My minor is Spanish, so I planned on increasing my fluency while in Chile. While there, the group of a dozen gringas, or “foreigners,” walked the streets of Santiago to Santa Lucia, La Moneda which is the Presidential Palace, the beach at La Isla Negra, and the vineyards at Concha y Toro. But, most importantly, we spent time volunteering at a summer camp for kids ages 6-14 at a local school.

I had been aware of the political situations Chile experienced and had the basic knowledge about Salvador Allende and Augusto Pinochet but it was not until we saw the pictures of the detained and disappeared and heard stories from Villa Grimaldi, a torture center now turned into a peace park, and personal accounts from Luzmenia Torro, a relative of Rosemary Barbera that I could fully grasp the significance of the political history of Chile. I learned so much about politics and government from the people I encountered in La Pincoya. I also learned to appreciate the things I have here in the United States. While the standard of living is lower, the Chilean people are not without a sense of pride in their lives, for which I admire them.

I am a huge advocate of doing as many Experiential Education placements as possible! I completed my Ex Ed after my PR internship and chose to go to Chile. I have just returned from Chile with the same program this January and am planning on completing an internship in Washington D.C. through the Washington Center. I urge students to do at least one internship and study abroad because it will open their eyes to new experiences, people and a new life.
Civic Journalism Paves the Way
By: Aaron Reevey
Class of ‘08

Looking for an internship can be a very grueling experience. As an undergraduate majoring in Communication with minors in both Political Science and Sociology, I could have selected an internship in a wide array of areas ranging from non-profit organizations to the music industry. The possibilities were endless. Before I selected my first internship I took a class in Civic Journalism which fulfilled my Experiential Education requirement.

The Civic Journalism course proved to be instrumental in directing my future endeavors. The students enrolled in this class gain hands-on experience by writing news stories, attending public speaking engagements, field trips, conducting interviews and hosting a community symposium that encourages dialogue between diverse community groups. By attending town hall meetings and listening to community members frame their problems and concerns, it motivated me to actively get involved in the political process. At the completion of the course I kept in contact with many of the resources that I encountered such as business leaders, council men and women, lawyers, and community residents.

Although the Civic Journalism course concluded, I never lost the passion that I had for writing. I soon gained an internship at Island Def Jam in 2006 that allowed me the opportunity to write press releases and work on street teams for major recording artists such as Memphis Bleek and Fall Out Boy. At this internship I gained bonus points for never seeking an autograph when a major recording artist entered the building and maintaining a level of professionalism at all times. While my work was praised, I soon discovered that working in this particular industry was not for me. Being the hands-on person that I am I decided to further build upon the experience that I gained in the Civic Journalism course and explore the realm of non-profit organizations where I could actually make a difference. I followed up by volunteering at a non-profit agency and began asking questions such as, “Why does this problem exist?” “Why are so many people living below the poverty level?” and “What can be done to remedy these problems?” I found that answer in my sociology and political science classes which has led to my lifelong commitment to help others less fortunate.

All of the Experiential Education placements helped me take initiative and ultimately realize my career objective. In the future I want to run for office, create legislation, reach out to those who have not been touched, and plan and coordinate events that simply help people in whatever capacity possible. Now as a Graduate Student at Monmouth University in the Public Policy Program I am watching my vision become a reality.

http://monmouth.edu/academics/lac/exed.asp
What is Experiential Education at Monmouth University?

One of Monmouth University's programs of distinction is the Experiential Education component of our curriculum. Experiential Education is a General Education requirement for ALL undergraduate students that seeks to give students practical, “hands-on” experience in a setting outside of the classroom environment. Ex Ed offers students work-related experience and an opportunity to network in their chosen field. It also provides a chance for academic reflection.

Career Advisors and Planners (CAPS)

The following is a list of faculty members known as CAPs who are available to assist students with Ex Ed.

Accounting
Douglas Stives, Bey Hall, dstives@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5894

Art and Design
Tom Baker, 600 Building, tbaker@monmouth.edu, Ext. 3627
Pat Cresson, 600 Building, pcrisson@monmouth.edu, Ext. 3626

Biology
Dennis Rhoads, Edison Science Hall, drhoads@monmouth.edu, Ext. 4435
Ellen Doss-Pepe, Edison Science Hall, edoss@monmouth.edu, Ext. 4433

Chemistry/Medical Technology/Physics
William Schreiber, Edison Hall, wschreib@monmouth.edu, Ext. 4443

Communication
Aaron Furgason, Plangere Center, afurgaso@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5254
John Morano, Plangere Center, morano@monmouth.edu, Ext. 4424

Computer Science
Richard Scherl, Howard Hall, rscherl@monmouth.edu, Ext. 4457

Criminal Justice
Charity Hendricks, McAllan Hall, chendric@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5650

Economics/Finance
Robert Scott III, Bey Hall, rscott@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5532

Education-Curriculum & Instruction
Laurel Chehayl, McAllan Hall, lchehayl@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5191

Education-Educational Leadership & Instruction
Sylvia Martin, McAllan Hall, smartin@monmouth.edu, Ext.5761

Philosophy, Religion, & Interdisciplinary Studies
Pasquale Simonelli, Howard Hall, simonell@monmouth.edu, Ext. 5738

English
Oty Agbajoh-Laoye, Wilson Annex, olaoye@monmouth.edu, Ext. 3662

How is the Ex Ed Requirement Met?

Co-ops – Courses in which you apply classroom learning in paid academic work experiences. During the course you meet individually with a faculty sponsor to complete related assignments.

Internships – Courses in your major where students work in field placements and complete related class assignments. Individual department criteria must be met before registering.

Service Learning – Students are placed in community settings to apply what they learn in the classroom. Student works with faculty sponsor to complete assignments for the course.

Study Abroad – Monmouth has programs in London, Sydney, Madrid, and Florence. Through Study Abroad you can take the same number of credits and many of the same courses that you would take at MU for the same tuition and board costs. Students must have sophomore status and a minimum GPA of 2.75 to apply.

Class Projects - An assignment in a course that requires students to complete a project outside the classroom in conjunction with an outside business, governmental, or non-profit agency.