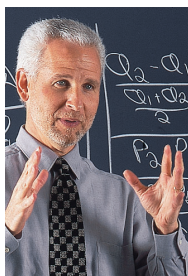


PRESIDENT'S VIEW



Summer: For Many a Time for Learning

If you think all Williams students take a vacation from learning during the summer, you are mistaken. Indeed, learning has broken through the traditional barriers of the academic calendar.

Here on campus, more than 200 Williams students were in residence this past summer to work on research projects with professors. Most of them were engaged with well-established programs in the sciences and math; the rest pursued more recent opportunities in the humanities and social sciences. Twenty students were Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows or Williams College Undergraduate Research Fellows, which, in the words of the Mellon Mays program description, are designed to increase “the number of highly qualified candidates for PhDs in core fields within the arts and sciences who come from historically underrepresented groups.”

Further afield, 22 students used Williams summer travel fellowships, most of them sponsored by alumni, to pursue intellectual interests around the globe.

For instance, Timothy Crawley '05 says the Tibetan thangka paintings he studied in Dharamsala were “incredible,” but even more powerful were his experiences with the people of India. “India is a land that breaks your heart and renews it again every minute you are there,” he says. “It left me changed forever in the way I see humanity.”

Ila Sheren '05 spent the summer analyzing contemporary architecture in Poland and the Czech Republic and how it reflects those countries' emergence from their recent history in the Soviet Bloc and into their future in the European Union.

An untold number of students each year pursue summer internships to explore fields in which their intellectual passions and job skills might intersect. More than 90 of them benefited last summer from College programs, funded by alumni, that support experiences in fields where paid internships don't exist: the arts, government and journalism, along with community service and other nonprofit organizations. This *Alumni Review's* Faculty in Focus describes one such opportunity in South Africa.

One student, Thomas Zimmerman '06, got to plan, film and edit a documentary on the Estonian National Song Festival. “This project,” he says, “gave me an unprecedented opportunity to explore both my interest in filmmaking and [a] culture that is different from our own in many ways.”

Rachel Berlin '05 interned at the American Foreign Policy Council Asia-Pacific Initiative in Washington, D.C., using her “language skills, travel experience and personal interests” to monitor daily events in Asia “with a focus on democracy movements and humanitarian issues,” she says. “My summer has intensified my desire to continue to focus my studies and my career in Asia.”

Meanwhile, Rosemary Kendrick '05 was in Washington, D.C., conducting research at the American Enterprise Institute. “I loved working on educational policy,” she says. “For many years I have worked in education on a smaller scale ... so this summer presented an excellent opportunity to learn more about the larger framework of educational issues as well as the government's role in educational reform.”

Alan Cordova '06 found work at *Newsweek's* Mexico City bureau. His take: “The internship ... complemented my Williams education. I could directly apply concepts I learned in political science ... to explain the political and cultural issues that currently face Mexicans. My work allowed me to explore the interactions between politics and culture (specifically religion and other sources of values), which is my primary academic interest.”

Alumni and parents made envious by these stories, as I am, can share in them vicariously by helping students locate internships that fit their academic and personal needs. If you think you may be able to help a student find the right opportunity, please contact Fatma Kassamali, director of career counseling, at 413.597.2311 or fkassamali@williams.edu.

—Morty Schapiro