

Internships:

Good education, good economics and good civics

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They create marketing plans, design Web sites, teach, assist medical personnel in hospitals, and even help plan rocket launches—all on the Eastern Shore.

Who are they? Student interns throughout Salisbury University's four schools--business, the liberal arts, education and professional studies, and sciences. Many of these field experiences are unpaid and the commitment is often lengthy. Graduate students in the Social Work Department, for example, intern approximately 630 hours per student annually. Multiply that times 70 students working in everything from prisons to school systems, and the hours of service to the community are considerable.

According to Dr. Rebecca Emery, director of career services, "Every year at SU over 700 students work as interns assisting companies and organizations. Recently they have done internships as far away as Hawaii and Australia." Fortunately, for the local community, most choose to stay closer to home.

A recent listing of student selections through the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business's Applied Business Learning Experience (ABLE) program reads like a Who's Who of area businesses and organizations: from Avery Hall Financial, Trice, Geary & Myers accounting and Lorch Microwave to Perdue Farms, Inc., Peninsula Regional

Medial Center, Salisbury Neighborhood Housing and the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce--altogether some 200 enterprises during a 12-month period.

One of the oldest field experiences on campus is the Department of Education's in the Samuel W. and Marilyn C. Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies. Some 240 students a year are assigned to public schools—90 percent in the Lower Shore counties of Maryland. With SU students engaged in pre-kindergarten to secondary school teaching, "Virtually every child in the tri-county region will come into contact with an SU student," Harold Schriver, director of field experiences, said. With the ongoing teacher shortage, school systems are able to use the internship program as a way to recruit new hires.

Although SU's Center for Conflict Resolution annually places some 30 students in locations from Europe to Southeast Asia, several are working closer to home with Eastern Shore law firms. One student was recently engaged in medical malpractice mediation in Wicomico County and another in real estate conflict resolution at a beach resort in Sussex County, said Dr. Brian Polkinghorn, executive director of CCR.

The region's media provide communication arts students in the Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton School of Liberal Arts with a variety of experiences. Although students have interned with Fox Television in Washington, D.C., and ABC in New York, students have valuable experiences at *The Daily Times*, WBOC, WMDT, events management at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center, and Clear Channel Communications, which have become stepping stones to competitive entry-level positions.

SU takes seriously its responsibility to educate future civic leaders. For nearly 30 years the Political Science Internship Program has placed students in semester-long

positions in Annapolis. A current intern, Matthew Butler Jackson from Somerset County, said “My driving motivation to be an intern in Annapolis ... was to see democracy in action and get a feel for the political climate in Maryland.” Through SU’s Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) interns have also been placed in Washington, D.C., and locally including U.S. Senator Tom Carper’s Georgetown, DE, office.

Although environmental studies students in the Richard A. Henson School of Science and Technology spent last summer interning with such exotic-sounding organizations as the Ocean Mammal Institute in Maui, HI, and the Siberian Tiger Training School in Gambler, OH, they are fully engaged on the Eastern Shore with the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Assateague Island National Seashore/Smithsonian Institution, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at Horn Point and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The Henson School is also working with NASA-Wallops on an “apprentice program” that would create a two-year experience for students. “In building a high-tech work force for the Eastern Shore, an increasingly popular and pragmatic idea is to grow your own,” said Dr. Michael Scott of SU’s Geography and Geosciences Department.

The Nursing Department has long had close relationships with area hospitals and has a popular summer “ex-tern” program where nursing majors work at these medical centers. Like student teachers in the public school system, the nursing students often are recruited by these hospitals following graduation.

It’s impossible to list here all the local internships involving SU students. Needless to say, the University is grateful for these partnerships. They help make our

students more competitive in the marketplace, enrich the local economy and strengthen our civic institutions.

For more information on SU internships, contact the Office of Career Services at 410-543-6075.

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