

Internships

Endless Internship Opportunities Available at St. Andrews

"This year is one of the worst years since World War II to get a job," is an often heard phrase in the media today. The depressing facts are that you have to know someone to get a good job, you have to have connections. Even if you have some strings available to pull you need some experience, but how can you get experience if no one is hiring? This turns into a vicious circle that has no end.

The main way students place a foot in the door of their future is by utilizing the internship program, headed by Corinne Nicholson, provides opportunities for interns to expand their awareness of the world beyond campus. The student involved in the program will be able to explore potential careers, gain experience in making decisions and problem solving and develop self-reliance and a code of values. Whether or not the intern winds up using his or her experience towards a career, the

knowledge gained is inevitably priceless.

An academic internship is a form of supervised independent study with field-work experience. Internship placements are available through almost every department in the College. They may be arranged with a wide variety of business, political and community organizations. In cooperation with a faculty sponsor and work site supervisor, students design the academic component of their internships to enhance their on-the-job experiences.

Students normally must have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, be in good academic standing and have the recommendation of the faculty sponsor to be eligible for an internship. Some departments may have additional requirements. All internships must be approved by the worksite supervisor, the academic department and division granting credit, and the intern-

ship director.

A student may register for an approved internship in any term. During the one-month winter term, an intern works full time and registers only for the internship. During fall, spring and summer terms, a student may work part time as an intern while taking other courses at St. Andrews. Full-time internships are also available through some departments during fall, spring and summer terms.

Internship placements can be arranged locally or in other regions of the country. Recent interns have worked in North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, Iowa, Indiana, Hawaii, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Washington D.C. and Canada.

Student interns earn academic credit in the department which sponsors the internship (e.g. History, Business/Eco-

nomics, Art, Religion, Communications, English, Psychology, Biology, etc.). Depending upon the length and nature of the internship, students may earn 1-12 lower or upper level internship credits during the fall, spring or summer term. Winter term internships are generally awarded three credits. Each department determines whether internship credits will meet major or elective requirements.

Internship applications may be obtained from the internship director or coordinator. The internship director will help qualified students locate a faculty sponsor who will work with the student to locate and internship placement suitable for his/her goals and level of preparation. Students are encouraged to take an active role in locating their internship placements. The completed application must be approved by the worksite supervisor, the faculty sponsor, the depart-

ment and division granting credit and the internship director before a student may register for or begin work in an internship. Deadlines for internship applications are announced each academic year and may be obtained from the internship director. All departments and majors at St. Andrews may sponsor internships for qualified students.

For more information contact Dr. Martha Knight, Director of St. Andrews' Academic Internship program, or Corinne Nicholson, Internship Coordinator.

[Editor's Note: Information in this article is a combination/compilation of the article, "Internships Open a Door to the Future," by previous Assistant Editor Sharon Frain from the May 9, 1991 issue of The Lance, and information supplied to The Lance by Corinne Nicholson, Internship Coordinator.]

Whitehead Interns With Rockwell International and Scotland Memorial

Adam Whitehead
Special to The Lance

"So, what experience have you had?" I had worked in London for a year prior to enrolling in St. Andrews, and at times had held two jobs. However, my resume still looked rather thin. I needed to gain experience in an area that interested me in terms of a possible career with a company that would add credibility to this experience. I have since spent a month with the Scotland Memorial Hospital, eight months with Rockwell International, and three months with The Lance. (Yes, The Lance carries as much credibility as Rockwell!).

Scotland Memorial Hospital provided my first in-depth experience with Lotus 1-2-3 in a business setting. The time-saving capabilities and power of its different functions became more important as they enhanced my productivity and were directly related to my performance. Working at the hospital exposed me to the type of reports that are used by upper-level management to assess productivity, variance from budget and facilitate planning. Initially I had to simply locate and enter statistics. Once I became more familiar with Lotus 1-2-3 and the requirements of their CFO I was assigned to create a report that would sum-

marize statistics from each department. It was to provide an accurate summation of the current month's productivity and compare it to the prior months and the budget. I found it to be quite a challenging and enjoyable experience. Unfortunately though, due to changes in management, I was unable to complete the project.

Rockwell International is an extremely large company with interests from aerospace (they built part of the shuttle) and defense to truck components. The Laurinburg plant is concerned only with manufacturing transmissions and has no connection with the aerospace section.

Although Rockwell International and Scotland Memorial Hospital have such different interests, the accounting and finance sections were similar. Once again, Lotus 1-2-3 played an extremely important part in my work. Much of my time was spent sorting through relevant data to compile monthly reports for the heads of each department. This exposed me to the different facets of a manufacturing concern and allowed a detailed overview of how the plant was run. All those with whom I worked were patient and encouraging, which was very helpful while trying to learn new skills.

As a business major it was encouraging to see what I had

learned in class being used in practice. Of course it was not always as obvious, easy or efficient as the texts made it appear. As this plant is still in the "start-up" mode it was the perfect place for an intern to see how difficult it is to implement the theoretical strategies. I did

enjoy watching how several different approaches were tried before an acceptable solution was reached.

The eight months with Rockwell were quite an eye-opener outside of the accounting field too. I learned that every job has an element of tedium to it, and should be allowed for. Rather than blaming your job, you have to take this factor into account and work with it. Simply hav-

ing to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. was a different discipline, especially when "punching a clock" and punctuality is important. One also learns about the particular environment that they prefer to work in and how to relate to superiors.

If you have read this far I would sincerely recommend undertaking an internship in a field that interests you. You will make contacts, gain valuable experience and definitely enhance your employment chances after college.



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Bogas and Jones Intern at N.A.S.A.

Lenni Jones
Special to The Lance

Kathy Bogas and I participated in a volunteer program with N.A.S.A. at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia for our internships. We worked in their Material Science Division under Terry St. Clair. I studied the reaction rates of co-polyimides, while Kathy synthesized

novel polyimides. The extra training we both received will be extremely beneficial to us in graduate school. I have applied to graduate schools that have strong polymer science departments due to my experience at N.A.S.A. Kathy is planning to pursue synthetic chemistry in graduate school. Our research at N.A.S.A. showed us that St. Andrews has prepared us

to be competent research scientists. It boosted our confidence in our education.