



#FALL 2007

#Princeton University Class of 1969

Community Service Fund

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CSF Interns Bring Civic Engagement Back to Princeton

Wenli Cai '09, Community Service Fund Student Coordinator

While many Princeton students who spend their summers in CSF PICS program internships find the work extremely valuable and rewarding, it is even more gratifying when a few are so inspired by their experiences that they want to extend their civic engagement beyond their internships. Two students from this summer, Rachel Steinberg '10 and Joelle Milov '09 have done just that by developing projects implemented right here in Princeton.

Joelle spent the summer in Boston at Jumpstart, an organization that matches at-risk preschoolers with college students for an entire year with the primary goal of building literacy skills while also nurturing emotional and social development. While at Jumpstart, Joelle learned about Read for the Record, a campaign designed to raise public awareness about significant disparities in early education. The event is an effort to break the Guinness world record for the largest shared reading experience, defined as kids reading the same book on the same day with an adult. This year's Read for the Record was held on September 20th, and for the first time, thanks to Joelle's efforts, a local community reading session took place at the Princeton Public Library.

Rachel spent the previous summer doing service work in Thailand, living in a village with Burmese refugees, and that experience inspired her to return to the region through a PICS internship with the International Rescue Committee in Bangkok, Thailand. She split her time between Bangkok and refugee camps outside the city, which allowed her to see both the administrative side of the organization as well as offering human interaction and firsthand experience in the camps. She says that being able to pursue civic engagement this summer provoked her development side and prompted her to share her experience with the Princeton community.



Rachel Steinberg '10 has organized a global bazaar to take place in December.



Joelle Milov '09 and Princeton University students she recruited to participate in Read for the Record. Milov aspires to repeat the event next year.

Rachel's project is a fair set to take place in early December entitled "Emerge! A Global Bazaar" to sell goods from developing world artists. The goal is not only to raise money for causes affecting developing nations, but also to raise awareness about issues affecting the developing world, such as poverty, healthcare and trade. The fair will be organized by region, with decorated tables of crafts manned by various student groups connected to the region that will provide information on region-specific issues. If the fair is successful, Rachel envisions taking it even further by either making it an annual event or establishing a permanent kiosk in the Princeton bookstore.

CSF Internship Helped Shape Career Path

Ira Leeds '06 was an intern at the Children's National Medical Center – Trauma Unit following his junior year. He recently sent us the following update on his activities and the impact his internship had on him. He let us know that his next stop after the second year of Teach for America is Emory Medical School.

My internship at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC was easily the most meaningful summer experience I had while at Princeton. That I got the internship through the Class of '69 Community Service Fund made what could have been a mediocre field experience into an exceptional one. The Class of '69 framework provided living expenses, a local mentor, and additional mediation when the day to day work was not at the level I had expected. Without the first two, I question whether or not I would have survived my first experience living in an urban landscape. Not having to worry about securing extra funding to pay room and board for the summer allowed me to focus on getting everything I could out of the internship itself. My mentors, Bill and Anne Charrier were looking after me. Whether it was taking me out to dinner or inviting a bunch of Princeton interns over to use their pool, they were always around when I needed them. It was as if I had an aunt and uncle looking after me in case anything unexpected came up.



Ira Leeds '06 attests to the impact of his CSF Internship on his decision to pursue a career in medicine.

The internship itself was an amazing experience that gave me a glimpse of all the different facets of hospital life. For the first few weeks, I watched how hospital administrators expertly handled much of the bureaucratic work, which allowed the physicians to focus on their patients. Then I spent two weeks in Strategic Planning where I worked one-on-one with the executive in charge of designing and administering the hospital's long-term strategic plan. The work she gave me was anything but busy work. In those two weeks, I helped identify potential threats both internal and external to the hospital's business plan, evaluate new growth opportunities available to the hospital, and analyze the competitive position of the hospital relative to the many other hospitals in and around DC. A final assignment for strategic planning was to work with the International Patient Program to improve their tracking and operations by using business software. I ultimately designed the framework for an MS Access database they were to use to improve these development areas.

The next week of my internship I met an incredible Princeton alumnus, Dr. Marty Eichelberger '67, who served as a surgeon at Children's National Medical Center. In just one week, Dr. Eichelberger took me on a whirlwind tour of hospital surgical services. In that time, I had the opportunity to observe rounds through the Burn Clinic, myriad surgeries ranging from simple gastrointestinal tract repairs to something as complex as reconstruction of a child's chest cavity, and clinical staff conferences to improve patient care.

The last two weeks of my internship were used for an independent project the staff had designed as a capstone experience. Using all of things I had learned in the previous five weeks, I was assigned the task of putting together the annual report for the administrative body overseeing the departments of cardiology, cardiac surgery, pulmonology, and nephrology. This project required me to use many of the skills I had picked up over the summer to produce a comprehensive and over-arching presentation of departmental operations



Kiki Jamieson, Director of Princeton's Pace Center, and Steve Houck '69 at a Fall Reception for PICS Summer Interns.

Looking back, my internship at Children's National Medical Center was what made me sure that I wanted to go into a career in medicine with a focus on public health. While there is so much good work being done in medicine, few institutions have been successful at getting all the various entities within their organization working at a similar pace and direction. My work at Children's National Medical Center showed me how important public policy and administration were to the actual practice of medicine. It is no understatement to say that my internship at CNMC will most certainly shape the rest of my medical career.

Message from the Chair

Rick Kitto, CSF Chairman

We're now into our second decade of activity. Our centerpiece, the PICS (Princeton Internships in Civic Service) Program continued to be the largest such program on campus, as we sent out 65 interns to 55 non-profit organizations in 14 states and 4 foreign countries. We received close to 250 applicants for the 70+ positions we offered so we're continuing to have an appreciable impact on the campus. It remains to be seen how much more PICS can grow. This past summer, after growing so much over the past few years, we focused on improving the quality of our placements. Our applicant pool was the best we've seen, and we wish we could have placed more of them. So, if you're involved with a non-profit that could make good use of a Princeton student intern, please contact Seva Kramer, our honorary classmate and Executive Director.

As part of our belief that our PICS Program should not be limited to one Class, we've attracted the support of the Classes of 1970, 1975 and 1977. We have Board Members from each of the classes and this year members of these classes have helped develop internship positions as well as served as mentors for our interns. Bringing in other classes enables us to broaden the reach of our program and to share the burdens of administering it. It also helps us do more things. We're going to be considering how we can do more at a Strategic Planning Session scheduled for Spring of 2008. If you'd like to participate in this session please let me know at kitto@69csf.org and we'll include you on our mailing list.

While we have many nice stories regarding the participants in our program as this newsletter attests, there is a particularly appealing one I'd like to share with you. Around 5 years ago, one of our former interns, Richard Just '01, and three of his classmates started a summer journalism program for economically underprivileged aspiring high school journalists. We helped them get their program started and have provided an intern to them every year. Their program is now part of the University and this year they received over 800 applicants for their 20 or so positions. This past Reunions weekend Richard and his classmates were given the Alumni Award for Community Service. Moreover, this year our intern to the program was Walter Griffin '10. Walter was a high school journalist in that program in 2005 and is now one of the Daily Princetonian's featured columnists. It is extremely gratifying for those of us who have been involved with the CSF to witness outcomes like this. With your support we can have many more of them.



CSF Chairman Rick Kitto '69 welcomes new CSF Board Members Diane Weeks '75 [left] and Suzanne Tufts '77.



Walter Griffin '10, PICS intern far left, reporting at the Trenton Thunder game with two students and another counselor from the 2007 Princeton Summer Journalism Program.

Mentors Are Key to Success in Internships

"I think that the mentoring aspect of the program was wonderful. My mentor provided me with valuable career advice and through him, I have gained a wonderful friend and mentor to guide me through the rest of my time at Princeton and beyond." David Smart '09, a PICS intern at the Teak Fellowship in New York City this summer, wrote to us about his mentor, Claus Frank.



Jeff Sprowles '69 and Anne Charrier with Summer Interns at Fall Reception.

We thank all of our Summer 2007 mentors for their diligence and commitment to enhancing the experiences of our student interns. We are particularly pleased that nine of our former interns continue their commitment to our program by serving as mentors this summer. Especially noteworthy are the two '69 class children who not only were interns while students but were mentors this year as well: Emily Holland '01 and Meredith Milton '98. Additionally, members of the Classes that support the PICS program are playing a vital role as mentors for a number of PICS internships, many of which have been developed by the Classes of 1970, 1975 and 1977. Finally, friends from other classes and the Princeton Club of St. Louis who support the mission of the PICS program volunteered as mentors.

The following individuals served as mentors for the Summer of 2007:

Bob Andre '69
John Assini '69
Bob Axelrod '69
Bill Benjamin '69
Ralph Binder '70
Gordon Bonnyman '69
Kelly Button Bell '80
Anne & Bill Charrier '69
Brett Dakin '98
Brian Danielewicz '02
Constance deBrun '00
John Draper '69
Marty Eichelberger '67
Philo Elmer '69
Randy Evans '69
Erin Ferenchick '00
Claus Frank '69
Jessica Shattuck Flugge '98

John Gordon '69
Jim Gregoire '69
Shep Hermann '75
Schuyler Heuer '96
Bruce Hillman '69
Emily Holland '01
Steve Houck '69
George Hritz '69
Gail Johnson '75
Richard Just '01
Rick Kitto '69
Dawn Leanness '06
Eve Lesser '77
Jack Linville '68
Bob Lovemen '69
Eleanor Lumsden '98
Bruce MacDonald '69
Jeff Marston '69

Larry Masson '69
Buffy McKay '69
Chris Meyer '69
Lori Mihalich '01
Cathy & Chris Milton '69
Meredith Milton '98
Genevieve Muinzer '75
Darryl Peterkin GS
Chuck Ragan '69
Sandy Rea '69
Marion Sleet '69
Bruce Sokler '71
Jeff Sprowles '69
George Stern '69
Harry Volz '69
Diane Weeks '75
Bob Wolfe '69
Melissa Wu '99

Mentoring is a great opportunity to connect with a student, learn about current life on the Princeton campus while possibly having a great impact on that student's summer and future. If you would be interested in serving as a mentor, particularly in New York City where we have a great need, please contact Seva Kramer, skramer@69csf.org or (609) 921-7948.

Jeff Marston '69, [left] Fundraising Chair of '69CSF and mentor to Alex Gertner '10, an intern this summer at New York City Aids Housing Network. Alex is presenting Jeff with an AIDS Warrior Award from NYCAHN, given to "those heroes who quietly toil behind the scenes to win real improvements in the lives of NYers living with AIDS."



Photo: Francesca Cao

IRC communications officer and former CSF Intern Emily Holland '01 recently traveled to Darfur to document the work of IRC programs there. Here are some of her impressions. (All names in this story have been changed.)

DARFUR, SUDAN— I went to Darfur to document the IRC's efforts to help displaced women and children. How, I wondered, could I best draw attention to their situation? What stories should I tell out of all the possible stories of unimaginable loss and great heroism? The answer became clear once I met the IRC's staff in Darfur. These tireless workers, who toiled day and night to save lives, would be my guide to the stories that most needed telling.

A Women's Place

I meet Asma in the town of Zalingei. The 26-year Darfuri native holds one of the most dangerous jobs of any IRC worker: she counsels women who have been sexually assaulted. She does this in a region where merely saying the word "rape" can get you arrested or worse. Asma runs a special IRC women's center where women can come together to relax and start to heal from the trauma of war. On the day I visit, 20 women fill a large thatched hut. The place buzzes with activity and tinny music from a boom box. At women's centers, traumatized women receive medical care, counseling and classes where women can make crafts to earn money. They sing, drum and paint their feet and hands with henna. "I watch the women sketch flowers and running animals. It's a sign of progress," Asma says, noting that not too long before the women were more likely to draw pictures of men firing guns and burning huts down.



Former CSF Intern Emily Holland serves as IRC Communications Officer in Darfur.



Darfuri women do hard and dangerous daily chores to save their husbands from retaliation from rebel forces.

Justice and Confidence

Kalma Camp is home to one of the IRC's justice and confidence centers which distribute legal and human rights information, mediate conflicts and refer cases to lawyers. There, I meet Nada and Fatima, two women who fled their villages and now volunteer for the IRC. I learn that men who have not joined the rebels cannot leave camp. If they do, they will be killed. Women do all the hard and dangerous work, fetching water, gathering wood and finding jobs to feed their children. They risk attack or rape daily, but say it's better than losing their husbands.

"Most of the people don't believe there's such a thing as human rights," Fatima says "I tell them that human rights exist in most parts of the world—that people are working hard to bring about a better situation."

Child-Friendly Spaces

My last stop is El Fasher, North Darfur, a town ringed by displaced persons camps. Elizabeth has just arrived to work with displaced children. We visit one of the several "child-friendly spaces" Elizabeth supervises. They are both school and a secure area where children can play. Over a hundred children are playing soccer, singing or sitting cross-legged on the sand, writing in shiny lined notebooks. Their teachers lead lessons and songs. They also must try to understand what the children are going through, Elizabeth says. "They ask: why is that child crying? Why doesn't that one like to be touched?" I ask Elizabeth how she copes with what strikes me as bleak prospects for Darfur's next generation. "The great thing about working with youth is they're really hopeful in ways I don't think adults are."



Darfuri children find play even in the camps.



Wenli Cai '09 is the new Student Office Coordinator for the Community Service Fund. This summer she served as the PICS intern at the Children's Law Center of Minnesota. Wenli is from Cordova, Tennessee and is majoring in psychology with a certificate in Neuroscience.

2007-2008

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