Greetings

from the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center!

Experience the world! That’s what you can do by studying abroad or off-campus, taking an internship or participating in a research experience like the Albright Creative Research Experience (ACRE). With any of these opportunities on your resume you are sure to stand out on graduate school applications or when you go on your first interview. So, kick-start your resume today and make an appointment with us! We can show you how to take advantage of all that Albright offers.

Study Abroad/Off Campus News

Join us on Leap Year Day, February 29, for our 10th annual Study Abroad/Off-Campus Fair, “Experience the World.” Ten years of Albright students finding just the right program to meet their needs academically and financially—how exciting! Let program representatives and our own study abroad alumni help you figure out how to “experience the world.”

Study Abroad/Off-Campus applications for summer and fall 2012 are due Friday, March 30, to the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center in the Geiser House. To find out more about the Study Abroad/Off-Campus program visit www.albright.edu/elcdc/el/studyabroad

Honors News

Juniors in the Honors Program can expect their invitation to write a senior thesis in the coming weeks. Those honors students who are graduating in May are currently working on their drafts and will submit them to their advisers and readers in early March.

Honors Week will be held April 30 - May 3. Students will present their projects via posters or oral presentations. Plan to come out and support your friends! The Honors Club also enjoys a little fun now and then and took a Halloween trip to the Eastern State Penitentiary in October. A spooky time was had by all!

Did you know that you can still become a part of the Honors Program as a freshman? You may join the program if you have an Albright cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. More information about the program can be found at www.albright.edu/elcdc/el/honors-program.html

Undergraduate Research News

Sixteen students completed Albright Creative Research Experience (ACRE) projects this Interim. As always, the projects were varied and fascinating!

Interested in participating in an ACRE project during the January Interim or summer? Students accepted into the program receive free room and board on campus and a stipend for their time. The deadline for submitting a summer ACRE proposal is March 2. More info can be found at www.albright.edu/elcdc/el/undergraduate-research.html. Contact Kim Justeson at kjusteson@albright.edu for details. You too can gain valuable research experience with a professor and get paid for it!

Internship News

Come to “Internships: More than Making Coffee and Copies” on February 23 at 5 p.m. in the South Lounge. You will hear from students who are currently doing an internship, or have recently completed one, along with their supervisors. This is a great way to discover how you can benefit from an internship, and how to find your own experience. Plus, enjoy Sweet Street desserts and coffee (that you don’t have to make)!

For a calendar of events please check us out on Facebook.

Contact Us

The Experiential Learning and Career Development Center is located in the Geiser House on Linden Street, next door to the Gable Health Center. It is your one-stop-shop for information on career exploration, internships, job opportunities, studying abroad/off-campus, ACRE projects, the Honors Program and poster printing for academic conferences. Located in the Geiser House are: Karen Evans, assistant dean of experiential learning; Laura Kline, assistant director of career development; Kim Justeson, director of experiential learning; and Cindy Becker, administrative assistant.

“Hear and I forget. See and I remember. I do and I understand.” – Confucius

www.albright.edu/elcdc

NEWS FROM THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Spotlight

Each issue of our newsletter features a student who has recently taken part in an experiential learning opportunity.

Kaitlin Irwin

Kaitlin Irwin, a junior art/Spanish co-concentrator, completed an ACRE project over the January Interim session. She is planning to study abroad this summer in Barcelona, Spain.

Upon learning about the ACRE program, I became interested in pursuing a project that would combine my concentrations of art and Spanish. I introduced this idea to my Spanish adviser, Dr. Karen Jogan. She was willing to join in the venture, and informed me about a new course she was developing that would draw on my interests in Spanish and art. The curriculum was centered on Spanish cities within the context of culture and history. We crafted an ACRE proposal in which I would contribute to Dr. Jogan’s course development by researching the Spanish city of Barcelona.

Why Barcelona? Besides being a Spanish city with a rich cultural history, it is the city I will be travelling to in summer 2012 as part of a study abroad program. Barcelona also seemed like the perfect fit, as it appeals to both of my concentrations. The city is bustling with artistic wonders, such as architecture, paintings, and historic buildings and monuments that many famous Spanish artists frequented in the past. Barcelona is also a nice place to challenge and improve my Spanish-speaking skills.

Fortunately, I was awarded a grant for a full ACRE project over Interim. This meant that I would be working on the project for about 40 hours per week. I was thrilled that my proposal for an ACRE on the humanities was accepted, and I was excited to fulfill my goals for the project.

First, I contributed to Dr. Jogan’s Spanish course by uncovering resources for students to use, finding examples from images, maps, and texts for students to analyze, and compiling all of my discoveries into a clear curriculum for students. Second, I improved my own abilities with the Spanish language by reading texts and journal articles in Spanish. I also learned how much work goes into creating a new course and how to effectively carry out research. Lastly, I gained new insights into the world of art by reading about some of the most famous Spanish artists, as well as the social context that underlies much of their work. I also was allocated a budget for day trips to New York City to see some of these works first-hand in the art museums.

Although Interim session ended, my ACRE project is not finished. I plan to use my findings from my ACRE as a jumping-off point for further exploration while studying abroad in Barcelona this summer. I hope to collect more information and have a more personal experience with the art in Barcelona. Upon returning to Albright, I would like to turn this new knowledge into another, more detailed Interim ACRE, as well as an honors thesis.

Kaitlin Irwin