Warm greetings from the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center! Are you ready to get some experience under your belt? The ELCDC offers ample opportunities to help you do just that. Read on to find out how you can enhance your classroom studies with real-world experiences.

**STUDY ABROAD/OFF-CAMPUS NEWS**

We’re thrilled to announce our first-ever Albright College study abroad scholarship, The Beall Scholarship. This scholarship is designed to support students with financial need who wish to spend a semester or year abroad. While in the foreign setting, the student must engage in an activity that will benefit the members of that community and increase the student’s engagement with the foreign culture. For example, students might elect to participate in a service-learning course, volunteer project, research project or internship. This award was established through the generosity of former trustee Robert J. Beall, Ph.D. ’65, and his wife, Mary Ellen O’Connor Beall ’67. The first scholarship will be awarded for the fall 2013 semester with an application deadline of April 1. Interested? Contact Kim Justeson, kjusteson@alb.edu for more details.

The 11th Annual Study Abroad/Off-Campus Fair will be held March 6, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Main Lounge. Program providers and Albright faculty members who lead courses abroad will be on hand to show you the possibilities and answer your questions. Whether you’re considering studying abroad or just considering it, this event is a must. Don’t miss it!

Study Abroad/Off-Campus applications for summer and fall 2013 are due Monday, April 1, to the ELCDC in the Geiser House. To find out more about the Study Abroad/Off-Campus program visit albright.abroadoffice.net/welcome.html.

**HONORS NEWS**

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

Honors Week will be held April 29-May 2. Students will present their projects via posters or oral presentations. A detailed schedule will be available closer to Honors Week. Plan to come out and support your friends!

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/academics/honorsguide1.html.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS**

Sixteen student/faculty mentor pairs completed Albright Creative Research Experience (ACRE) projects this Interim. As always the projects were quite diverse. They ranged from The Evolution of Fairytales and Their Influence on Animated Movies to Spatial and Temporal Genetic Structure of White-Footed Mice.

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, reimbursement for supplies and a significant stipend for their time. The deadline for submitting a summer ACRE proposal is March 1. More info can be found at www.albright.edu/elcdc/el/ACRE/index.html. Contact Kim Justeson at kjusteson@alb.edu for details. You too can gain valuable research experience with a professor and get paid for it!

Are you currently working on a class project or have you completed an ACRE project that you’d like to present? The Higher Education Council of Berks County’s Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference will be hosted this year at Kutztown University on April 27. The deadline to register is Friday, March 29. Details can be found at www2.kutztown.edu/hecbc. Your project can still be a work in progress but must be complete by the April 27 conference.

**INTERNERSHIP NEWS**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of an internship opportunity while they are in college. Although it may seem like extra work on top of classes and extracurricular activities, the numbers indicate that internship experience is favored by employers! According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, more than 73 percent of employers have a hiring preference for students with relevant work experience. Of that, 50 percent of employers specifically want to see an internship, and 36 percent of employers will hire from their own internship program. Although no internship is a guarantee for a job after graduation, internships are still pertinent experience that will help you succeed no matter where you go. An internship will help you earn credits toward graduation, and will teach you career skills and broaden your networking capacity. Knowing you are doing something to benefit your future is a confidence builder. Finally, an internship can provide insight into tasks you need to improve, what skills you can readily share with employers, and which work environment will be a good fit for you.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Please check out the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center’s event page on Facebook.

**SPOTLIGHT**

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

Caitlin Draayer, a senior honors history major, recently completed an ACRE project during Interim titled Women in the Third Reich.

Over Interim I completed an ACRE project to aid my thesis research on female perpetrators of the Holocaust. This was a topic I had been interested in for some time, mainly due to the unique situation of such women. They worked in roles that defied the Third Reich’s traditional role for women, but were recognized as important to the work of the regime. I wanted to study these women further and attempt to learn how they could act in such a manner. I spent time in Washington, D.C., accessing primary sources to further my understanding and knowledge of these women.

Having made the decision to base my honors thesis off a research paper written for my seminar, I knew that I would need to dig deeper and do more in-depth research about these women who committed such horrible acts against other humans. When my thesis adviser, Professor Guillaume de Sion, Ph.D., suggested the National Archives and the Holocaust Museum, I was eager to explore and see what new material I could find. He helped me process the material and also translated German texts and correspondence for me. The ACRE program was a perfect opportunity for me to fund my travel and provide me with the chance to access materials I may otherwise have missed.

While in Wash., D.C., I spent time at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and The National Archives and Record Administration. I found transcripts of the post-war trials that included testimony by and about the women who acted as guards in the concentration camps. I also found correspondence from Nazi officials that discussed the issue of women working in the camps and their recruitment process. The materials I found will greatly benefit my thesis since they are primary sources, and I can draw my own conclusions and make my own analysis. When combined with the multiple secondary sources from other historians, they will help me present a more rounded and well-developed image of what motivated these women, and how they came to work in concentration camps. The ability to perform research in such settings also gave me a better understanding of how much work a historian must do.

The ACRE program was a wonderful opportunity to research more thoroughly a topic I am very passionate about and I am eager to share my discovery with others who have an interest.