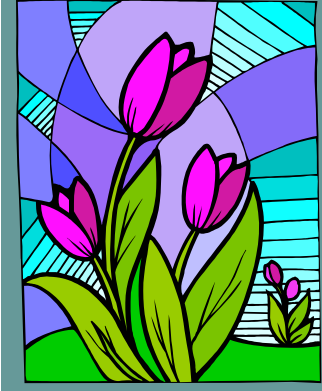


UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



MLK Newsletter

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Get Out! Get Involved!

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Welcome to the Spring 2003 MLK Newsletter. In this issue, some of our students share their experiences beyond academics. If you always wanted to enhance your learning experience, read on and learn about some great things you could do!

My Experience in the CLA Student Board

By Eunice Yburan

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Right across from the MLK office in 12 Johnston Hall is the College of Liberal Arts Student Board. Many students walk right past it without even knowing what the Student Board is or does. Well as a member of the student board since my freshman year, I can attest to the many wonderful things that the Board has done for CLA Students.

I'm sure you have many questions whirling in your mind like how and why I got involved with the board, what the student board does, what can the student board do for me, how can I get involved with the student board, etc. I got involved with the student board the beginning of my freshman year because I really wanted to be involved in activities in college. I was semi-involved in high school and I vowed that in college I would be even more so. I learned about the student board by looking in the undergraduate catalog and emailing then president Micah Chiotti. You can imagine my surprise when he emailed back and suggested

that I fill out an application and attend a meeting. I attended the meeting and later was voted in as a member. I remember thinking to myself that joining the board wouldn't be as easy as it was. Having come from a high school where student government representatives were selected, I wasn't expecting to be in it at all. The student board my freshman year was a small group and they were really excited to have a member that came from a diverse background.

For a little background, the student board is the official undergraduate student government for CLA. The board maintains lines of communication with the administration and between the students. We are here to make sure that the students' voices are heard on important issues. We also have monthly lunches with Dean Rosenstone to discuss the important issues and also to keep in touch.

Important Dates	
April 10.....	Fall Registration begins
May 9.....	Last day of instruction
May 11-17.....	Finals week
May 27.....	May session begins

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Study Abroad: The Road to Success

By Noi Sinouthasy

As students, many of you have probably thought about what kind of job or career you will want to pursue upon graduation. And you ask yourself: "What can I do to become successful?" There is no better road towards success than an experience out of the classroom. Internships, jobs, and volunteering are great ways to gain experience, but if you get the chance, go abroad. Take a detour from the usual vacation and study abroad!

Three reasons to study abroad:

Learn about others:

This past summer, I studied about environment and development abroad in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The experience really helped me learn about another country. Reading about Thailand in a book does not compare to living there and taking in the sights, smells, and sounds. Importantly, living abroad helped me learn a lot about people in the region. Living abroad will help you learn to be more respectful and appreciative of others. Don't just look for that beach paradise abroad; chat with locals, eat authentic foods, and spend time learning about others. You'll learn how to strike up a conversation with someone of a different culture.



Learn about yourself:

As I was learning about the language and culture of the region, I learned a lot about myself. Why is this success? I have become more confident about myself- my values and goals. I have learned more about how to improve on my strengths and weaknesses.

Independence, responsibility, and assertiveness:

Finally, an experience studying abroad spells 'successful' to employers. Your experience will illustrate to potential employers that you are independent. Going abroad can be a scary feeling, so your experience will also show that you are a responsible adult - you can manage alone in a foreign country, without the comforts of home. Studying abroad also shows that you are assertive - you don't wait for opportunities, you create (find) them.

Tips:

- 1) Finance: There are many scholarships and loans available to help finance your trip abroad.
- 2) Apply, apply: Don't be discouraged if you don't think you qualify for a program based on your GPA or experience. Take a chance - many programs consider various factors when you apply.
- 3) Decisions: Pick a program related or unrelated to your major- or look into one in a country that you would like to visit. Be adventurous!
- 4) Family: Even if you don't think your parents will support your decision, talk to them about the benefits (mine were just trying to be protective).



My Experience as an Orientation Leader

By Anthony Gill

I was an Orientation Leader for the year 2002. It was an experience that I will not soon forget, and it had a positive impact on my life. People often asked me what an orientation leader has to do. They think that it mostly involves giving tours. Tours, in my opinion, are a tiny insignificant part of what it means to be an Orientation Leader.

Throughout the spring semester and the summer, I faced many different challenges. By conquering these challenges I learned more about myself and other people in my group than I ever thought possible. During this time I got to know 24 other interesting people. It was amazing by the end how we were able to work through each others' similarities and differences to make our program a success. At the same time I have made many friends that will last a lifetime.

During the summer I got to put my skills to use. The 24 OL's had to orientate about 5000 freshman. This was an amazing experience, knowing that I was the first person that would have an impact on these students entering the university.

The whole experience went by too fast because of the wonderful time that I had. I really didn't see being an OL as a job that I had to go to everyday. I saw it more as a time where I had the opportunity to meet fascinating people and have fun.



My Experience in the CLA Board

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As a member of the student board I was able to give input on important issues that students face like the GPT and also bring up issues that were never thought of before. Being part of the board also helped me gain leadership experience. I was able to be a member of very influential groups on campus like the CLA Assembly and CI&A (Curriculum, Instruction, and Advising) with the assistant dean just to name a few. Being on the board definitely opened many doors for me as a student trying to get more involved. Also as a member of the board we have a chance to volunteer and to give back to the community. Just this last October we held a very successful canned food drive for People Serving People. This spring we have a chance to be leaders for elementary students from Minneapolis. We show the students what college life is like and take them through mock classes. It is our hope that these students will be inspired to go to college and being successful too.

Aside from receiving leadership experience and helping out with the community, I had a chance to be friends with an amazing group of people. These people love the U of M and the College of Liberal Arts and strive to make a difference at the U. We are always looking for new members that can bring a diverse perspective because we are here to represent the students.



My Summer Internship in Washington DC

By Rohini Khanna

“You don’t have time to participate in a semester abroad?” I used to tell my friends that dreamt of spending a year in Spain or France. I ruled out the study abroad option the moment I learned of the many CLA distribution requirements to be met before graduation. My first year was guided by a “must graduate in four years” mantra. Following that philosophy, I decided to throw my hat into the internship search pool my freshman year. What is the worst that could happen, I thought; I would spend another summer working a dead end job in Minnesota if I didn’t even try for an internship.

I had contacted Congressman Jim Ramstad’s office with an interest in a summer internship in Washington DC. I was on cloud nine when they requested an interview with me. A few months after that, I received a phone call from the Internship Coordinator, offering me an internship position. However, there was a catch. The internship would be during the fall semester and not the summer. After a few days of working through my options, I decided to take advantage of this once in a lifetime investment in a career of interest.

My fall semester 2002 was the most amazing time in my life. While I did reading and papers for political science credit, I was immersed in a culture and a lifestyle that I had only experienced via media. I attended Jazz performances throughout the city, casual and formal receptions for various organizations, and experienced DC in a way tourists do not get the opportunity to. The diverse composition of the charming city made it an interesting place to meet students, professionals, and retired officials. People from all over the country and world come together in DC and act out the true meaning of democracy.

I had the opportunity to attend briefings, interact with constituents, and research legislation. The city is comprised of museums, historical sites, and a diverse cornucopia of restaurants. The combination of professional and social possibilities that are attainable leave endless possibilities of amazing opportunities tailored to everyone’s personalities and needs.

Now that I am back at school, I find myself talking about my DC experience a lot. I made life-long friends out there, and the experience has shaped my life in a way I never thought possible. Things fall into place on their own, and if the opportunity should arise for you to do a semester off campus, don’t even bother thinking twice about accepting the opportunity the way I did! Carpe diem.

