

April 4th 2005
PAGS Joint Meeting

Announcements:

- 1.) Alumni/Mentoring Meeting this Saturday. Students can participate from 12:00-4:30. Please come to any portion that interests you. Here is the schedule:

12:00am-1:00pm Dining Hall Friends Room - Brunch/Lunch with all PAGS alums and students interested in mentoring.

1:00 pm -- 3:00pm LBC room 211 -- Mentoring program theory and nuts and bolts. The basis for the this two hour meeting will come from: Guidelines workgroup, Julie's reflective message on mentoring fall 2004, the notes from the Open Space Session on Mentoring during the Reunion, the minutes of the PAGS Student Mentoring Project conference call in February, plus any other input we get from anyone interested in putting together this two hour session.

3:00 pm break

3:30 pm LBC room 106 Alum and Student discussion about the state of PAGS. We will discuss Caroline's retirement as PAGS director and other transition issues. We hope to get input from alums and students and explore ongoing involvement in the decisions related to the transitions in the program. We will hear a report from the PAGS retreat on March 12, 05 and a meeting students are planning on the issue (to be held in late March or early April.)

- 2.) As the meeting this weekend will cover many of the post-retreat questions that students may have, we are going to scratch the post-retreat meeting.
- 3.) This Month is Earth Living Month.
 - The first event will take place on Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Dennis 110. It will involve a pannell discussion about the future of Environmentalism.
 - The second event will occur next Wednesday from 1:00-2:30 in LBC 208. A speaker from COPE Environmental Center will talk about Wind Energy.
- 4.) The DIALOUGE group will be hosting a discussion between PAGS, Politics, Economics, and International Studies majors about the differences and similarities between the departments. They will send out an email with futher information, including a date and time.

Internship Reports:

Sadie Forsythe had many internship experiences throughout her Earlham carrier.

- 1.) She spent two months in New Zeland working with an organization in an intentional Quaker community. She worked mostly on fundraising and publicity. She also created a database for a Nonviolence library.
- 2.) While she was in Northern Ireland she worked with a mediation group and with a trade union group. She did research on deindustrialization and unemployment. She was specifically interested in how these issues are affected by segregation, conflict, and predgudice.
- 3.) Over one summer, Sadie was involved in a civic engagement/affordable housing project in New Hapshire. She spent a lot of time speaking to homeless and impoverished individuals about voting and their rights. She created resources and contacts for the organizations and for the individuals that she spoke to.

Sadie said that her PAGES education and her work at the Richmond Conflict Resolution Center were the most useful during her time with the Mediation group in Northern Ireland. She knew the language for writing and editing, which encouraged her to realize the cumulative nature of her PAGES education.

She would advise students to look for long term projects and internships. There is a different language and culture to learn for every community. You have to learn this pattern of interaction and there is an adjustment period of a few months for this process to take place. Once you overstep that barrier, you are more likely to be effective and helpful.

She would recommend working in the AFSC office. She learned about other organizations and non-profits doing election work. She saw how these groups can work together, as opposed to working in competition. The AFSC group offers a 1 year paid internship for organizing youth. She would love to connect another student with this opportunity.

Kristin Sutcliffe had two primary internship experiences during her Earlham career. She is an interdepartmental PAGES and ART major.

- 1.) She worked in Hong Kong on the Summer Bridge program, which is now called The Breakthrough Collaborative. The program offers summer education in English for students around the world. She taught creative writing, conflict resolution, and Spanish. This internship helped her to realize how much she is a product of her own culture. She questioned how one goes about teaching English to another culture, and whether or not our language is a positive offering. She looked back on many of her classes during this experience and in turn, the experience influenced her perspective in her classes. She was particularly struck by the cultural lessons she learned during her Philosophy of Social Science class and during her Abroad program in Uruguay. It also influenced her thesis, in which she studied craft production in indigenous communities. She continues to question: is there an appropriate way to appreciate another culture?
- 2.) This last summer she participated in an art internship. She worked at the Touchstone Center for Crafts. She worked in the ceramics studio. She was exposed to many different artists and their various methods and styles.

She has come to see a relationship between PAGES and ART. What she studies outside of Art ends up becoming part of her productions. She also understood how they can be linked through her thesis. When you are working as a caretaker it is important to have access to something that sustains you personally. Many PAGES majors find their personal sustenance through art.

How have your internships influenced your vocational interests:

Kristin wants to work with clay- remain in ceramics. Sadie thought she wanted to go into social justice/non-profit work. The internships highlighted the pros and cons of working for national organizations in terms of legalities, finances, and size restrictions. She does not feel resolved on this issue.

What do you Wish you'd known before your internships:

Kristin did not have an awareness of the cultural differences she would encounter. Sadie encourages students to be assertive about defining the expectations of their internships. If you have a long term goal that is well defined you can be a more helpful and productive intern.

Future Meetings:

- Next Week we will have separate meetings.
- 18th Annie will give her Internship report.
- 25th Juliette will give her Internship report.