



Princeton  
Internships in  
Civic  
Service

## PICS 2010 Internship Description

**Organization Name:** Legacies of War: History, Healing, Hope (www.legaciesofwar.org)

**Internship Location:** Washington, DC

**Required Dates:** Yes  No  If yes, internship must start on: \_\_\_\_\_ and end on \_\_\_\_\_ or  
must include the period: Summer 2010

**Housing Will Be Available to Intern:** Yes  No  If yes, housing will be free:  or housing  
will cost the student: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Expected working schedule for this internship:**

Start Time: 9am                      End Time: 5pm  
Lunch break: :30 hour (duration)                      (specific time, if applicable)

## Organization Description

*Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.*

Legacies of War is a young, innovative, dynamic non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 2004 to raise awareness about the *history* of the Vietnam War-era bombing in Laos and advocate for the clearance of unexploded bombs, to provide space for *healing* the wounds of war, and to create greater *hope* for a future of peace. The organization uses art, culture, education, dialogue, advocacy and community organizing to bring people together and create healing and transformation out of the wreckage of war. We are a small organization, with limited resources, but tremendous passion from our committed volunteers. The support of capable interns has and will continue to enable us to achieve our goals.

Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history. The Vietnam War-era bombing, part of the U.S. "secret war" in Laos, left nearly half the country contaminated with vast quantities of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Today, up to 78 million unexploded cluster bombs litter forests, rice fields, villages, school grounds, roads, and other populated areas, creating a

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Princeton University Class of 1969 Community Service Fund.

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constant danger to the people and their economic well-being. Close to 35,000 of people have been killed or injured by UXO since the war ended in 1973; each year there continue to be more than 300 new casualties, most of whom are children. Nearly 40 years on, only a fraction of these munitions have been destroyed.

Legacies of War seeks to increase U.S. government funding for bomb clearance, victim assistance and education programs in Laos. We work to educate Congress, the Administration, and the general public on the need to address this long-term problem.

### How We Achieve Our Goals:

**Raise awareness** about Laos and the legacies of the Vietnam War-era bombing:

- **National Traveling Exhibition** with archival and contemporary images, art and video, which tell the story of the horrors of the Vietnam-era bombing in Laos and the aftermath of unexploded cluster bombs over the past 40 years.
- **School Curriculum** that teaches about the war in Southeast Asia through history, writing and art lessons.
- **Refugee Nation**, live performance of theatre, dance and poetry based on oral histories collected from Laotian American survivors. .

**Advocate** for increased U.S. and international support for the clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Laos:

- **Advocacy Campaign** to increase U.S. and international support for the ban on cluster munitions and the clearance of UXO in Laos and for victims' economic well-being.
- **Study Trip to Laos**, supported by the Ford Foundation, to research UXO clearance, education efforts, and victim assistance.
- **Research & Briefing Papers**, including chapter in upcoming book, *U.S. War Crimes in Indochina: History, Responsibility and the American Future* (Common Courage Press 2009). Also published in *Critical Asian Studies*, June 2009.

**Engage** communities in discussions of peace and security issues:

- **Panel Discussions** that bring together bombing survivors, war veterans and peace activists from the Laotian-American and broader communities.
- **Film Screenings** of award-winning films, such as *Bombies*, *Bomb Harvest*, *The Betrayal: Nerakhoun*.
- **Oral Histories** from Laotian-Americans, veterans and other Southeast Asians collected by students participating in the Legacies of War curriculum.

**Strengthen** the capacity of Laotian-Americans to advocate on issues of concern:

- **Community Organizing** to give voice to the Laotian-American perspective on the aftermath of war and other issues of concern to them.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** with local and national groups to bring Legacies of War projects and programs to communities.

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### Internship Description

*Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.*

Legacies of War seeks an intelligent, dynamic and passionate **Advocacy Intern** for its Washington, DC office. This person will work closely with the Director in meeting its advocacy goals. The intern will have a unique opportunity to make a significant contribution on this issue during the period of his/her internship. The recent political changes in Washington, D.C. and the signing of an international treaty to ban cluster bombs provide a unique opportunity to bring a change in policy. Laos will host the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Cluster Munitions Convention; a gathering of nations to implement the treaty (expected late 2010). *We have a better chance now to advance this issue than we have had in the last thirty five years.* The intern will have considerable responsibilities in helping to implement Legacies' advocacy strategy.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

The intern will assist in coordinating with other people in government, NGOs and the private sector who support Legacies' goal to address the opportunities and challenges of cluster munitions removal in Laos. Specifically, the intern will:

- Coordinate advocacy-related meetings with national steering committee members, staff, volunteers and others supporting this issue.
- Interact with members of Congress and the executive branch.
- Assist in the development and implementation of policy strategies.
- Support field and campaign work.
- Maintain the project database.
- Some travel and weekends may be required.
- Other duties as assigned.

### Intern Qualifications

*Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.*

This position requires the individual to be highly motivated and possess sound judgment and diplomatic skills. The ideal candidate would be a mature undergraduate student focusing on international affairs, foreign policy, peace and security, public policy, or human rights. Previous interns have included graduate and undergraduate students from Princeton University, Columbia University, New York University, University of Michigan, Georgetown University and American University. Previous successful interns have possessed excellent written and oral communications skills, a strong work ethic, creative problem solving skills and flexibility in a fast-moving, challenging work environment.

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