

SPRING 2009

Editor: Bobbie Johnson

Princeton University Class of 1969

Community Service Fund

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

PICS Intern Creates Bermuda Schools' Science Curriculum

When Lisa Tom '11 accepted an internship with the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) last summer, she had no idea that she would extend her connection with BIOS past the ten weeks of the internship, nor that she would be flying back down to Bermuda during fall break to help implement her main summer project, designing a marine biology curriculum provided to schools throughout Bermuda.

BIOS conducts both marine research and education, seeking to improve society's understanding of marine ecosystems, ocean-atmospheric interactions and ocean health, and their influence on human habitat and health. During her internship Lisa worked in the Explorer program which incorporates the science curriculum project, a teacher professional development/training component and a series of expeditions for groups of middle and high school students.

Lisa developed the curriculum with only limited guidance, brainstorming ideas for the activities and testing them with students affectionately called "BioNauts." She made several changes to the previous lesson plans, including easy-to-follow features such as time estimates, a materials list, and an interdisciplinary section. A lesson on invasive plants, for example, included discussion questions on public policy regarding the elimination of invasive species.

In addition to working on the curriculum, she prepared a new report on the BioNauts that has become an on-going program component and created an online photo display to recruit and inform prospective Explorer students and enhance publicity and fundraising.



BioNauts raising sail on sloop



BIOS classroom

Lisa played such an active and crucial role in the curriculum component that she was invited back to participate in a two-day teacher training session where she could interact with teachers in the labs and engage in activities she had designed over the summer. Lisa returned to Bermuda over fall break and spent the week designing and preparing materials and the site for the training workshops. In addition, Lisa contacted scientists whose work related to the BIOS curriculum and was able to get a leading Lionfish expert to be the keynote speaker for the workshop.

Lisa's supervisor at BIOS reported, "Without Lisa, BIOS Explorer would be missing a science curriculum, one of its most crucial components. The curriculum makes science relevant and exciting for Bermudians and helps students relate their everyday environment to cutting-edge research at BIOS."

Of her experience, Lisa writes, "The Class of 1969 has been an amazing resource. This experience has made me respect the profession of teaching even more for its challenges, particularly in science, and appreciate the thrill of engaging kids in the ecology around them. I am so grateful for your support."



Lisa Tom with two BioNauts

.....And They Lived Happily Ever After

Wenli Cai '09, CSF Office Assistant

Last June, 38 former interns from Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) graduated with the Class of 2008 and embarked on their post-graduate paths. Eight months later, of those thirty-eight, over half are currently involved in endeavors related to service. Fourteen former interns are Princeton in Africa, Princeton in Asia, Princeton Project 55 or High Meadows fellows, two are student teaching as part of Princeton's Teacher Preparation Program, and at least two are attending medical school. Though they worked in vastly different fields while interning through PICS, possess myriad interests and have accumulated diverse experiences throughout their undergraduate years, our former interns have much to say about the influence PICS has had on what they have chosen to do after graduation.

For some, their PICS internships provided a strong sense of direction leading them to a particular field. **John Travis**, who has just completed work towards a certificate to teach high school math in the Princeton Teacher Prep Program, attributes his three education-related PICS internships with "[playing] a huge role in my inevitable decision to get certified to teach." **Mike Honigberg**, a Princeton in Africa fellow at a children's clinic in Malawi, also credited his PICS internship with being "hugely influential in helping me choose to pursue a career in medicine." Honigberg added that he wants to focus his work on community health issues, a decision that was influenced by his internship at the Children's National Medical Center, a public children's hospital serving low-income, minority populations in Washington, DC.

Several former interns credit their PICS internships with helping focus their interests. **Nana Boakye**, a Princeton in Africa fellow working for the International Rescue Committee in Ethiopia, said that her PICS internship at Lawyers for Children "helped cement my desire to go into public interest law." **Molly Kantor**, who interned with the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) explained that though she already knew she wanted to attend medical school, she became much more interested in radiology and oncology after working at ACRIN.

For others, PICS has had a more general but no less significant impact on their future plans. **Mandy Mazur**, a Project 55 fellow, said that while she is "still striving to discover what my immediate future entails...there is no doubt that my PICS internship [with LEED in Chicago] sparked a desire to directly serve the public interest for a year and hopefully, a lifelong dedication to civic engagement." **Jana Holt**, a High Meadows Fellow working for the Environmental Defense Fund in Boston, added that "even though I knew I wanted to work in non-profits, my PICS internship [with New Leaders for New Schools] helped solidify that and really showed me that NGO's, rather than politics, are the way to make changes in the world."

The hands-on experience that PICS internships provide have also aided former interns in their post-graduate pursuits and obtaining their current placements. **Boakye** added that PICS gave her the working experience that helped her obtain her current fellowship. **Rachel Rothschild**, currently working as a legal research assistant at a law firm in DC, stated that not only that "working in Washington as a PICS intern [at the National Network to End Domestic Violence] was absolutely fundamental in my decision to accept a job here after graduation," but also that "working in Washington through my internship was an essential part of my success as an applicant for the position I now have." **Trent Magruder**, a first-year medical student at Johns Hopkins, affirmed that "working...at [Children's National Medical Center] thanks to PICS was instrumental in getting me where I am today."

*I am writing to thank you again for the PICS intern last summer (and a new one in '09!!) Our intern, **Aaron Abelson**, was truly a gift. Smart, good humored, easy going and hardworking—we couldn't have asked for better.*

**Marie Kittredge, Executive Director
Slavic Village Development, Cleveland**

Congratulations to **Kyle Meng '05**, a former PICS intern with both the International Rescue Committee and Friends of the Boundary Waters. Kyle, who was born in China, has received a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, providing him with two years of graduate education.

After completing a PP55 fellowship, Kyle is now a doctoral candidate at Columbia University studying sustainable development and intends a career that will make a positive contribution towards solving climate change.

I've always wanted to work in education, so I was excited to work at North Star Academy Charter School in Newark as a PICS intern during the summer after my junior year. After another summer teaching summer school, I joined the North Star staff full-time as a high school math teacher. The work is exhausting but rewarding....100% of North Star's graduates are accepted into a four-year college. It is a privilege to be part of such an important mission and I owe my own experience to my original placement at North Star through the PICS program.

Megan Howard '08

I spent this summer as a researcher and writer for the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit investigative reporting organization in Washington, DC. By mid-July, the thought of finding another "real world" experience as enriching, educational, and satisfying as my PICS internship seemed fairly impossible, so ...I went to my immediate supervisor... [who] went to the executive director and recommended me for a long-term position. In late August I got to see my title on the online staff bio page change from "Editorial Intern" to "Staff Writer." Certainly neither position would have been possible without the PICS program.

Jillian Olsen '08

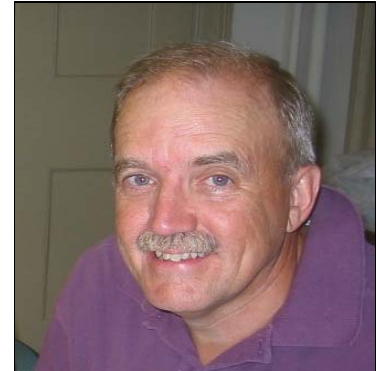
Message from the Chair

Rick Kitto, CSF Chairman

As we approach our 40th reunion and the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the CSF, it's appropriate to reflect on what we've accomplished. Since our inception we have placed 403 interns in 443 different internships with 152 non-profit organizations for which 85 classmates or spouses have served as members. This joint endeavor by students and alumni trying to make the world a better place is quite unique. We are not aware of an alumni-driven program on any other campus which is as large as ours.

The scope of our internship program, now called PICS (Princeton Internships in Civic Service) has helped us garner support from other Princeton Classes. Members of the Classes of 1970 and 1977 now serve on our Board, and former interns who have joined the work force now serve as mentors to our current student interns. We also have two recent graduate former interns serving on our Board.

The work of our CSF has enabled us to give back to the world at large as well as Princeton. It is a very fitting legacy for our Class within and outside the fabric of the University.



Rick Kitto, CSF Chairman

By the Numbers

At the conclusion of each summer's internships, PICS interns fill out an evaluation that consists primarily of written narratives but also includes a numerical section in which interns are asked to rate aspects of their experience on a scale of 1-10. Sixty-five of the seventy-five interns for the summer of 2008 completed this numerical section.

- Almost all respondents considered their overall internship experience a positive one, with approximately a third giving it the highest designation of extremely positive.
- Almost all respondents felt they had good to great relationships with their supervisors.
- Most interns also felt their internships were substantive and met their expectations.



CSF Board Member Jim Floyd with former intern Richard Just '01 at Alumni Leadership meeting.

- Almost half of the students considered their work challenging and enriching all the time; of the remainder, the majority considered their work to be challenging and enriching most of the time.
- Two-thirds would absolutely recommend that CSF continue to place interns with their respective organizations, and over half would definitely recommend their internships to someone else.
- A substantial majority of interns believed their internships helped define their future plans and a quarter of respondents thought they would definitely pursue a career in civic engagement.
- Finally, almost two-thirds of the interns considered their relationships with their alumni mentors to be positive and valuable. Of this year's statements about '69 classmates, our favorite was "Bob Wolfe is a really cool guy."



Boston Healthcare for the Homeless intern Sean Hammer '08 with his mentor, Chris Milton '69 and Kathy Milton.



Allison Kuncik '10 with Jump Start staff at a gathering hosted by Bill Benjamin '69.

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At its 40th reunion the Class of 1969 will celebrate 15 years of Community Service Fund success and honor all our former and current interns at a reception on **Friday, May 29, 2009** beginning at 6:00 pm in Dod Courtyard. All PICS interns are cordially invited.

2008-2009

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