



# CPE Briefing

## Internships that Open Doors

Summer internships with Ernst & Young's office in Germany led to full-time job opportunities for two Elmhurst students.

Elmhurst students Delaney Ritter and Stephanie Hintz spent last summer in Germany, working as interns.



**D**ELANEY RITTER and STEPHANIE HINTZ were thrilled last year when they learned that financial services giant Ernst & Young had selected them to spend the summer as interns at the firm's office in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Later, they were even more delighted to discover what professional doors such an internship could open.

Ritter, a 2015 graduate of Elmhurst, and Hintz, a senior majoring in accounting and finance, turned their experiences in Germany into full-time positions in the firm's Chicago office. Ritter is working in Ernst & Young's international tax service division; Hintz will begin working as an auditor with E&Y in August.

The two learned of the internship opportunity through Elmhurst's Center for Professional Excellence (CPE). The CPE's staff worked with 2009 graduate Anna Martin, an E&Y professional in Europe, to make two internship positions available to students from Elmhurst in the summer of 2015. Hintz and Ritter were selected from among a field of Elmhurst applicants.



"I had always been interested in travel and international business, so when I heard about this internship in Germany, I knew I had to apply," Ritter recalled. She and Hintz, friends and fellow residents of West Hall, were happy to learn that they would both be spending the summer in Germany. Their preparations for their time abroad were so thorough that by the time their new employer

offered to help them find housing in Düsseldorf, they were able to reply that they had already taken care of that detail. The Elmhurst students had found themselves an Airbnb apartment not far from the Ernst & Young offices.

Hintz and Ritter spent three months in Düsseldorf, and Hintz called the time there "an incredible learning experience." The students sat in on meetings with company chief financial officers and worked on complex analytics projects.

"They threw us in the deep end, and that was so cool," Ritter said.

Their work seems to have impressed their employers; upon their return to the United States, each was invited

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**TRUE PROFESSIONALS**

Established in 1997, the Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) connects Elmhurst students with opportunities that will help them explore their passions, discover their world and reach their full potential. Through mentoring, shadowing, service-learning, international education, career development and more, the CPE prepares students to launch successful careers and become effective contributors to society.

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## Making the Most of Summer

**For senior Scott Johnson, summer internships led to big opportunities in California.**

Scott Johnson has maintained a remarkably busy schedule over his eight semesters at Elmhurst College. In addition to his coursework as an accounting major and honors student, he found time to serve as right defender on the Elmhurst men's soccer team. He also managed to fit in a pair of study abroad experiences.

Johnson's summer breaks haven't exactly been all about kicking back and relaxing, either.

For each of the summers following his first three years at Elmhurst, Johnson worked in internships related to his accounting major—first at a chain of local banks in his hometown of St. Louis; then at computer-accessories manufacturer Logitech in Newark, California; and most recently at accounting giant Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (PwC) in San Jose. His hard work paid off in an offer from PwC to join the company as an assurance associate after graduation in May.

Johnson credits his parents with encouraging him to make the most of his summers.

"They sort of pushed me to work during the summers, so I figured I might as well find the best jobs I could," he said.

Johnson's job search took him far afield. Interested in the tech industry, he was eager to sample life beyond the Midwest. With the support of the College's Center for Professional Excellence, he applied for an internship with Logitech in 2014.

"Everyone was talking about high tech and Silicon Valley," he said. "I thought, 'I gotta try it.'"

Assigned to Logitech's marketing department, he was tasked with quantifying the return on investment from each of a series of the company's promotional efforts. He found the independence he was granted at once thrilling and a little unsettling.

"They basically sit you down and tell you what they're looking for, and then it's up to you to find your own path

forward," he said. After a tentative start, Johnson thrived in the position. "I spun my tires for the first week; I just wasn't used to that level of independence. But I got the hang of it and was really able to make the project my own."

His work at Logitech, then a PwC client, brought him to the attention of employers at the accounting firm who offered Johnson an internship with PwC for the summer after his junior year. He was assigned to the company's San Jose offices, where he worked on audits of PwC clients like Yahoo.

"It was an incredible opportunity to see great companies like Yahoo from the inside," he said. Johnson will begin his full-time work with PwC in September.

Johnson even managed to keep his soccer skills sharp during his summers in California. He stayed in dormitory housing at San Jose State University, where he worked out and played pickup games with members of that school's soccer team and players from nearby Santa Clara University.

Johnson learned early in his time at Elmhurst that he handled changes of scenery well. As a first-year student he visited European cultural capitals—Paris, Amsterdam,

Berlin and Prague—as part of the College's City as Text course. Two years later, he spent a month in Rome and Naples for an archaeology course offered in conjunction with a consortium of Midwestern colleges. He called the trips abroad an excellent preparation for his summers working on the West Coast.

"I learned that I like to change things up," he said. "I'm willing to give new places a try."

As he approaches the end of his busy time at Elmhurst, he is ready to put that philosophy into practice again.

"I'm enjoying my senior year, but I'm definitely ready for my next chapter," he said.



**"Everyone was talking about high tech and Silicon Valley... I thought, 'I gotta try it.'"**

## Adventures in Ecuador

A study abroad experience immersed one student in local culture and service opportunities.

When Kayla Siota started researching study abroad options, she was looking for an experience that would go beyond academics to immerse her in another culture and give her opportunities to serve. “I wanted an adventure, to see the world,” she said.

So Siota went to Ecuador, where she lived with an indigenous family and fed their cows. In addition to attending classes, she snorkeled among sea turtles in the Galápagos. And she observed, and wrote about, the detrimental effects of development on the Amazon rainforest.

Each year, 40 to 50 Elmhurst College students study abroad for a semester or a full academic year. Students also

research project, culminating in a 30- to 50-page paper.

The program is best suited for honors students and/or students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. “It takes a special student to want to do this,” said Alice Niziolek, director of international education. “It’s a very independent experience.”

Of the four students who participated in an SIT program last fall, one traveled to Nepal and studied cultural consciousness of the Tibetan and Himalayan peoples. One focused on leadership training in Chile, and another concentrated on birds and biodiversity in Panama. In Ecuador, Siota focused on comparative ecology and conservation.



“I want to travel, study the environment, and learn more about animal rights...There are so many opportunities that I didn’t even know about before.”



participate in faculty-led programs during January Term, spring break or summer. Some of these international experiences include service work.

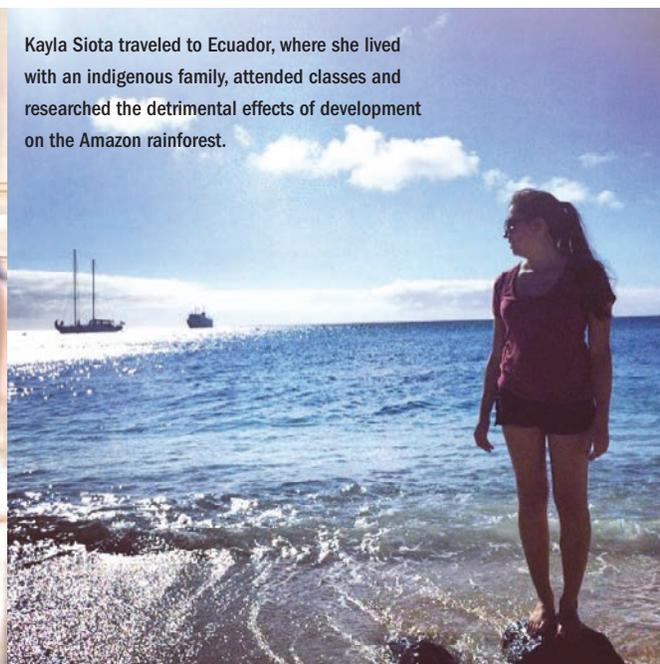
Siota, a senior Spanish major from Roselle, was one of four Elmhurst students who traveled abroad last fall through Vermont-based School for International Training (SIT), one of Elmhurst College’s many study abroad partners. SIT’s study abroad programs go beyond academics into service learning and field-based research. Each program focuses on a single theme, such as climate and the environment, global health, or media, arts, and social change.

Students spend the first half of the semester taking classes, going on field trips and meeting with local experts. The students usually stay in a private home with a family. The second half of the program requires an independent

For the first half of the term, Siota lived with a family in the capital city of Quito, and participated in excursions to the Intag Cloud Forest Reserve, the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands and the Amazon rainforest.

For her research project, she moved to the Zanja Arajuno Ecological Center, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection of biodiversity in the Amazon rainforest. While there, Siota lived among monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Her paper, written in Spanish, focused on the environmental impact of deforestation that results from mining, oil drilling and raising cattle.

The experience whetted her appetite to do more. “I want to travel, study the environment, and learn more about animal rights,” she said. “There are so many opportunities that I didn’t even know about before.”



Kayla Siota traveled to Ecuador, where she lived with an indigenous family, attended classes and researched the detrimental effects of development on the Amazon rainforest.



## A Lesson in Mystery Writing

Students in Larry Carroll's section of Honors Directed Reading find out what it's like to be a published author.

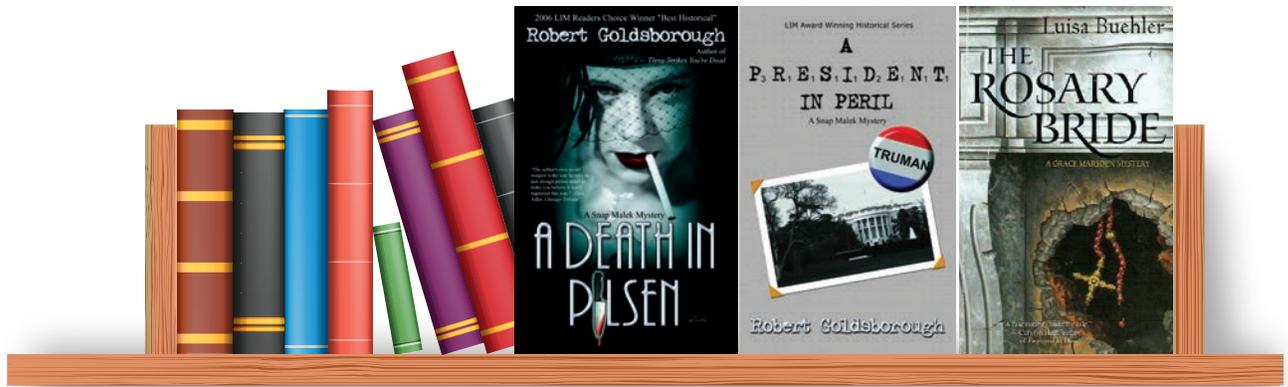
**C**OLLEGE STUDENTS don't often get to meet the authors of the books they're reading in class. But in Elmhurst's Honors Directed Reading course, students have the opportunity to meet two published mystery writers and ask them questions about storyline, character motivation and historical accuracy.

The course covers a variety of genres in three four-week sessions over the term. CPE Executive Director Larry Carroll, who teaches one of the sessions, assigns

two mystery novels and invites the authors—local writers Robert Goldsborough and Luisa Buehler—to visit a class and field questions.

The discussion usually goes beyond the particulars of the plot: Do you know how the story is going to end when you start writing? How do you come up with your ideas? What is the best time of day to be productive?

"It was interesting to hear about the different writing processes," said Sara Wojtasik, a sophomore with a double major in English and secondary education. "Robert's style is more open. He's not always sure how the story will play out. Luisa is more of a planner."



Local authors Robert Goldsborough and Luisa Buehler visit Elmhurst classes to offer insights into the writing process.

Wojtasik said it was fascinating to learn how the authors get their source material—pulling images and snippets of conversation from real life, “mixing and matching.”

The authors have been visiting Carroll’s class for about eight years. Goldsborough, who also is a journalist, is a longtime friend of Elmhurst. His mother worked at the College, and he is active with Bluejay Backers. “When Larry found out I was writing novels, he asked if I would come and talk to the students,” Goldsborough recalled.

Goldsborough was raised on the mystery novels of Rex Stout, who wrote more than 30 books about detective Nero Wolfe. After Stout died in 1975, Goldsborough received permission from the Stout estate to continue writing Nero Wolfe books and has produced 11. In 2005, he began a series with his own characters, featuring Steve (Snap) Malek, a *Chicago Tribune* reporter.

Carroll’s section read *A President in Peril*, the fourth in the Malek series. In this book, the hero is warned of a plan to assassinate President Harry S. Truman during the

1948 campaign. Because his books are set in the past, he gets a lot of questions about his research and historical accuracy. “I go through microfilm of old newspapers from the 1930s and 1940s,” he said. “You learn a lot—how much things cost, what movies were playing.”

Buehler’s books reach farther back into history—50 to 100 years. The class read *The Rosary Bride*, the first of seven books in the Grace Marsden series. In this mystery, the renovation of the college library unearths a skeleton, and heroine Marsden joins the search for the victim’s identity.

Buehler earned her degree at Rosary College in River Forest, now Dominican University. She said the college’s Gothic architecture and underground tunnels provided an inspiring backdrop for her stories. Buehler develops material by asking herself, “What if?” A recent train trip in Alaska through craggy mountains and dark tunnels suggested some chilling scenarios. “Ideas are everywhere,” she said.

[‘OPEN DOORS’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

to interview at the firm’s Chicago office for a full-time position.

Ritter began working full time at Ernst & Young’s Chicago office in January. She said she was impressed with her coworkers’ diversity.

“They come from all over the world, but there is diversity of experience, too,” Ritter said. “Ernst & Young has been named one of the top places to work in Chicago, and there is a reason why their reputation is so strong.”

She and Hintz credited Elmhurst and the CPE with preparing them to enter the professional world.

“I wouldn’t be in this position if it weren’t for the CPE,” Hintz said. “It’s been my dream to live and work in Chicago, so I’m really excited to have this opportunity. I’m so grateful.”

“Elmhurst presented me with the opportunity to go anywhere in the world,” Ritter said.

“I wouldn’t be doing this job otherwise. They give you the chance, but you have to have the initiative.”

# A Passion for Libraries

**Kristen Gravelin's internships in libraries and museums sparked a professional passion for all things archival.**

**Kristen Gravelin** dates her interest in libraries, archives, museums and other repositories of learning to the January Term course she took during her first year at Elmhurst College.

Gravelin, a third-year senior from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was enrolled in an honors course called Great Libraries of Chicago that took her from the Rare Collections Room at the Chicago Botanic Garden to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago to McDonald's Golden Archives in Elk Grove Village, with its life-sized Ronald McDonald mannequin and its display of retired Happy Meal toys.



An internship at the DANK Haus sparked Kristen Gravelin's interest in libraries.

But it was a visit to the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood that set her on her professional path. Gravelin had gone there as part of a class assignment and took an immediate liking to its 6,000-volume research library. Gravelin began asking the librarian about the library's collection and history. Before the conversation was over, she had been offered an internship.

"That's where I developed my passion for librarianship," Gravelin said of her internship at the DANK Haus, where her duties included cataloging and sorting rare books. She enjoyed trying to use her conversational German to read the many German-language books in the collection. "That internship was one of the best experiences of my life.

I could see how great it would be to work in archives or special collections."

Her stint at the DANK Haus was just the first of three library-related internships Gravelin took on during her time at Elmhurst.

In the summer of 2015 she worked at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids as a Padnos Intern, a competitive position that includes a \$1,000 stipend. Gravelin's duties there included cataloging objects—everything from campaign buttons to the wardrobe of First Lady Betty Ford—related to the life of the 38th president of the United States.

Her work at the Ford Museum gave Gravelin a deeper appreciation for the legacy of Betty Ford, an outspoken supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and an advocate for education related to breast cancer and other health issues.

"She was ahead of her time in so many ways," Gravelin said of the First Lady. "It was really cool to be able to learn about her and to work in a place that could educate the public about her." Gravelin joked that to make sure visitors did not miss exhibits related to Mrs. Ford, she would walk through the museum and turn on the audio commentaries related to the First Lady.

"It's all part of educating people," she laughed.

Most recently, Gravelin spent Fall Term working as an intern at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in downtown Chicago. Her work there included cataloging books and making the library's collection more accessible.

She said that working at three different institutions, each with its own mission and character, gave her an enhanced understanding of the professional field she hopes to enter.

"I tell people to do as many internships as they can," she said. "It's such an important part of professional development, and it really gives you an idea of what your field is like."

Gravelin has already begun applying to graduate programs in library science. And her interest in all things archival has even extended into her leisure time. A friend recently helped Gravelin celebrate her birthday by taking her to Chicago's Field Museum for a day among the exhibits.

"It was way better than getting a present," she said.

# Honors Program Director Mary Kay Mulvaney Receives National Award

**The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) recognized Mulvaney, who also serves on the College's English faculty, as an NCHC Fellow.**

*"If I had my way... I would want to require study abroad for every student."*



**The way Mary Kay Mulvaney sees it,** every student should study abroad at least once during college.

"Our students really should have a global consciousness as they move into various kinds of leadership positions," says Mulvaney, professor of English and director of the College's Honors Program. "It's an invaluable part of an education."

Now, Mulvaney's tireless work in support of international education has earned her a prestigious award from a national organization. In November, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) recognized her as a National Collegiate Honors Council Fellow, in part because of her study-abroad work.

The NCHC, a professional association of undergraduate deans, faculty and staff devoted to honors education, awards fellowships each year on the basis of leadership, outstanding teaching and contributions to honors education. Mulvaney and seven other honorees received the award at the NCHC conference in November 2015.

"It was a humbling honor," Mulvaney says.

Mulvaney has been involved in the NCHC since 2004, most recently serving as co-chair for an international education committee and co-editing the NCHC monograph *Preparing Global Leaders: Honors International Education*, a collection of essays by multiple contributors (including Mulvaney herself).

When Mulvaney first joined the NCHC, international education wasn't getting much attention. Only a handful of people sat on the international education committee. But under her guidance, the committee grew, and the NCHC national conference began hosting international education forums and events.

"In Mary Kay's case, I think her nomination was based on her investment in international education," says NCHC Executive Director Hallie Savage. "Not only has she planned and orchestrated [travel] for hundreds of students, but she's also guided faculty, and she's done it on a national and international level for a long time. She's looked on as a fine leader in honors education."

A focus on international education runs throughout Mulvaney's work at Elmhurst as well. Since taking over as director of the Honors Program in 2004, she's encouraged hundreds of students to go overseas. Last year, 45 percent of Honors Program students studied abroad—a significantly higher percentage than among the student body as a whole.

Today, Mulvaney continues to encourage students to broaden their college plans past the U.S. borders. "If I had my way and we had unlimited financial resources, I would want to require study abroad for every student," she says. "I think it's an extremely valuable experience."

## Educational Experiences in JAMAICA

Each January, Elmhurst College students spend two weeks in Jamaica, teaching music and donating musical instruments and supplies to schools. Here, one student reflects on his experience.

By Chad Bobik



The Educational Experiences in Jamaica trip has been the best decision I have ever made as a student at Elmhurst College. During my time in Jamaica, I connected with lifelong friends and professional colleagues, spread the joy of music to countless students, experienced Jamaican culture and music, and reaffirmed my passion for teaching. I will forever be grateful for this wonderful experience, and for the new friends that I have gained along the way.

Among the most humbling experiences I had in Jamaica is when I went to Chetwood Primary school in Montego Bay as part of a general music team. From the

moment we set foot on the school grounds we were immediately surrounded and met with an overwhelming amount of gratitude and praise from the students. At one point there were so many students hugging and latching on to me that I almost fell over.

Within the five hours that we spent at Chetwood we played in front of seven or eight different classes, and gave a special demonstration in the school library. From the moment we started playing our first example, each and every classroom erupted in a frenzy of dancing and laughter. For me, this was by far one of the most powerful moments I had teaching in Jamaica.

On Wednesday morning we had our final performance with all of the schools that we worked with present on the stage and in the auditorium. The biggest highlight of the performance came when we performed "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers, and the entire auditorium of 1,200 students sang along with us. It was sad to know that soon we would have to leave the island paradise that had become our home.

Being a part of this trip has reaffirmed my love for music and my choice to pursue a career in music education. To me there is nothing more rewarding than watching a child's face light up when they learn something new, or get inspired by the power of music. Never in my life had I imagined that incredible life-changing experiences such as this trip could come from deciding to pick up the guitar. I will forever be grateful for the great memories, the new friends I have come to know, and for being able to share the wonderful gift of music with such passionate students.

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