THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

Summer Ventures

Reports from IPED Students' Summer Internships

IPED FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Volume 7 | Fall 2014

FORDHAM | IPED

Fordham University's graduate program in International Political Economy and Development trains graduate students in the advanced interdisciplinary analysis of global economic relations and international development issues. Graduates frequently pursue professional careers in international finance and banking, international economic policy, and in international relief and development.

IPED STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS SUMMER 2014

Eric Carroll, Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay
Aisling Curran, US Council for International Business, New York
Lorena De Larra-Landa, Fonkonze, Haiti
Matthew Deakin, USAID, Washington D.C
Evan Dembkowski, USAID, Washington D.C
Sarah Farooq, Sanergy, Kenya
Kathleen Frazier, Timap for Justice, Sierra Leone
Michael Hebert, USAID, Ethiopia
Sean Kenney, Philadelphia-Serengeti Alliance, Tanzania
John Mulqueen, UNDP, Samoa
Lisa Neuner, French Study, France
Geoffrey Orth, International Business and Government, New York
Michelle Roque, Spanish Study, Peru
Gabriel Rossi, French Study, New York
Deanna Salcedo, SEC, Washington D.C
Julius Samson, Ernst and Young, New York
Yanang Silas-Bossan, Pratham-ASER, India
Karina Solomonik, UNDP, New York
Thomas Wetmore, Foglamp Research Corporation, New York
Thomas Zuber, Arabic Study, Jordan

Julius Samson, Ernst and Young IT Risk Advisory , New York

Julius Samson (first from right) at the EY International Leadership Conference in Orlando

I spent my summer as one of approximately 500 interns who worked in the New York office of Ernst and Young (EY), one of the biggest auditing firms in the country. I worked as a staff for the Information Technology Risk Advisory (ITRA).

ITRA is a unit of EY that specializes in systems and process risk management. It provides advisory and auditing services to clients across industries to ensure that information processed by various company systems are credible and reliable. The range of services offered includes assessment of newly implemented or existing application and software systems, network and hardware infrastructure, and data privacy and protection. EY provides certification to company systems that meet industry accepted standards or recommends actions to achieve the same.

EY envisions its advisory practice to grow quickly within the succeeding years. Along with other EY business lines, ITRA helps to prevent fraudulent acts due

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EY IT Risk Advisory

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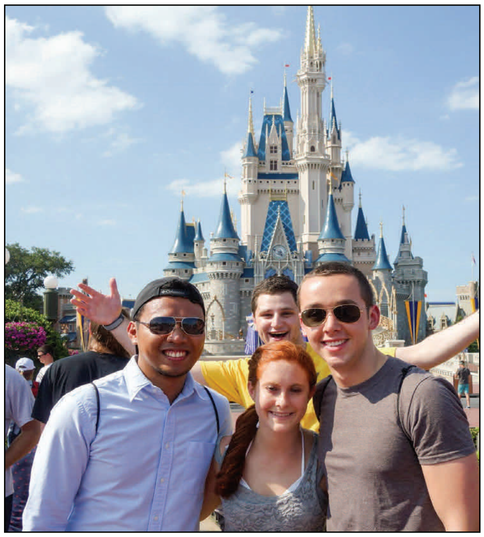
to lack of transparency and lax security measures similar to those of Enron and WorldCom.

I functioned as a regular staff in the unit's assessment of HBO, Footlocker, and Siemens. This function enabled me to utilize the presentation and written skills that I had learned from IPED's *Project Management* class. I drafted assessment reports and attended walkthrough meetings of the client's systems and processes. The structure of the internship provided vast opportunities for interns to learn the various businesses of the firm, engage with other interns, and network both with staff and executives. Towards the end of the internship, EY organized a leadership conference attended by all of the summer interns across the United States and the world. In this conference held in Disney World Orlando, interns attended a series of workshops, team building activities, and talks by Senior Executives of the firm. My internship program eventually ended with an offer of a full-time position.



Julius at the International Leadership Seminar in Disney World, Orlando

IPED Summer Internships

During the 3-Semester IPED program, all students are encouraged to seek internships or language immersion study programs during the summer between their second and third semesters. To aid with expenses for these trips, several different competitive scholarships are awarded.

Deanna Salcedo, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington D.C

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at their headquarters in Washington, DC. I was assigned to the Division of Economic and Risk Assessment (DERA) in the Office of Corporate Finance. The SEC is a law enforcement entity in charge of securities regulation. DERA's function is to develop rules based on congressional mandates, and to perform rigorous economic research to project, and justify the impact of these rules. After the 2008 financial crisis, DERA's scope and responsibilities have grown as the SEC attached more emphasis on economic analysis in all divisions of the agency. Having been assigned to the rule-writing division, my task was to conduct baseline economic research for an upcoming rule on a disclosure of the executive hedging policy stemming from the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform Act.

IPED's course on *Applied Econometrics* was fundamental in helping me secure the internship, and succeed in the job. DERA is a quantitative and data-driven office which utilizes SAS to analyze data. During the internship, I took part in a research on Socially Responsible Investment Funds by pulling data from Wharton Resource Data Services, and by processing data and running regressions. Econometrics has taught me the importance of good data, and has given me the background in SAS.

My experience with the SEC will be very valuable in finding my next career opportunity. Aside from the personal relationships that I had formed with my co-workers and co-interns, I had expanded my skill set substantially on the quantitative side. My desire is to pursue a career in the public sector and my time with the SEC has allowed me to get a firsthand understanding of both the benefits and challenges of working within the government. I have also learned which elements of the industry interest me. This will definitely help me refine my job search and lead me to a rewarding career.

Deanna Salcedo (first from left) during her internship in Washington D.C with fellow IPED students

Yanang Silas-Bossan, Pratham-ASER, Delhi, India

Yanang (middle) conducting the pilot survey for ASER in Delhi

Over the summer, I interned with the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) India, a unit of the Pratham Education Foundation. ASER is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which is primarily focused on education. It is also responsible for conducting a citizen-led basic education survey in India.

Every year, from August to January, nationwide training sessions are conducted for volunteer surveyors. 600,000 children aged 5 to 16 from every district in the country are tested on 2nd grade literacy and numeracy. Household and school data are also collected. At the end of the survey, the data is analyzed and a report is published in January. The report is used by state governments, and other organizations, including Pratham, to implement better policies to improve education. The success of the project has encouraged Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mali, Senegal, Mexico and Nigeria (JUBA group), to adopt a similar method.

I worked with the Assessment unit, which is responsible for designing the methodology. I also conducted a comparative analysis of ASER's methodology with those used in the JUBA group countries and in the USAID funded EGRA (Early Grade Reading Assessment). For one week, I also participated in the national training and the pilot survey for ASER 2014. In this project, I had the

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Michael Hebert, USAID , Ethiopia

During the past summer, I participated in the internship program of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Ethiopia. Interns were assigned largely to work with partner organizations.

I worked with CNFA on their USAID-Agricultural Growth Program (AGP). CNFA, was founded in 1985 with the goal of stimulating economic growth around the world by nurturing entrepreneurship, private enterprise, and market linkages. With USAID-AGP funding and guidance, CNFA in Ethiopia worked to engage growth and innovation in the livestock and dairy farming sectors.

Ethiopia's economy is based largely on agriculture and livestock production. As such, these industries play a critical role in the economic development of the country as a whole. In Ethiopia, however, access to credit is weak, particularly for those working in the livestock sector. This makes it challenging for entrepreneurs to tap the funds that are nece-

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Mike (middle) by the Wenchi Crater Lake in Ethiopia

Yanang with the students in Delhi, India

Pratham ASER

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chance to oversee the process from start to finish. I also learned how to troubleshoot problems that came up during the course of the survey. Towards the end of my internship, I did some research for the Nigeria team for their first pilot test in October.

The IPED courses that were most relevant during the internship were *Community Economic Development*, and the *Project Evaluation* (course in the Philippines) from which I built a measuring, monitoring, and evaluation framework for Pratham from scratch, and the Economic *Development Policy*. In this course, we read a book called "Poor Economics" where the author talked quite a bit about Pratham and ASER's work. My work with ASER helped me better understand the lessons and references made in the book.

This internship helped me build networks across all the African countries that conducted this survey. I am interested in working for the non-profit sector, related to information and policy development in the public sector. The internship definitely provided me a first-hand experience on development work in a country with very similar obstacles to my own, Nigeria.

USAID

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ssary to expand and grow their businesses. In this context, I worked on a project that aimed to enhance entrepreneurs' access to credit agencies. This was done through the provision of business and technical support, as well as the extension of guarantees on their loans.

I reviewed and revised business plans submitted by small business owners from a financial perspective, while technical experts provided advice on proper livestock and dairy management. Once the advisory services were completed, the entrepreneur could approach local banks with a solid business plan, and a 50% loan guarantee under DCA (Development Credit Authority) backing. This greatly increases their chances of securing a loan, and creating or expanding a successful business.

While I did not have previous experience in the livestock industry, I was able to apply my program management tools and financial analysis skills that I learned from Dr. Schwalbenberg's *Project Management* courses to provide feedback on the entrepreneurs' business plans. Through this internship opportunity, I have gained an experience of working with USAID, a premier actor in international development, as well as an exposure to international and small business growth.

As I search for post-graduate employment in the field of international development, both my degree in IPED, as well as my time with USAID in Ethiopia will enhance my credentials and assist me in my search for a job opportunity.

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