Volunteering and Interning Abroad

Finding the right opportunity to volunteer or intern abroad can be a challenging experience, as there may be lots of possibilities, but it is often hard to tell which to pursue. Sorting out funding can be a challenge as well since some opportunities are paid and some are not. More and more students seek to do their practicum abroad or even volunteer abroad before venturing into the workforce. Here are some tips on where to find leads:

Check out the Alumni Career Network and other postings in the Career Services Library! The Career Services Library is home to the Alumni Database Binder. Search through the alumni book and see what past students are doing and whom you might contact to gather information. Also in the library are a number of postings for past jobs/internships, including many that are based abroad and will show you what projects exist.

Tulane SPHTM Field Courses provide valuable learning experiences and may be a starting point to making a connection in that country so that you may later return.

Network with your Professors! Many Tulane SPHTM professors have worked with organizations abroad in the past or present and have connections in those organizations. They may be able to help you make a contact or may know of a place looking for student workers.

Searching the Web for Opportunities: The Tulane SPHTM Career Center Website has listings of agencies which tend to offer internships as well as a list of international employers. Search these organizations' websites or send an e-mail inquiring about opportunities abroad. When doing more general web searches, look out for fees and who is responsible for expenses before accepting. Some particular websites you may want to explore are Idealist.org and IMVA.org.

Subscribe to the Tulane SPHTM Jobs Listserv. The listserv often sends out announcements of internships or organizations abroad. E-mail these groups if interested and ask if there are any opportunities to get involved. The Tulane SPHTM Career Services center website also provides a listing of other listservs you may want to subscribe to such as ReliefWeb or GHRCJOBS.

Alumni Profile: Brett Richard Ellis ’06

Brett Ellis is a 2006 graduate of the Tropical Medicine Department, receiving both his MSPH&TM and PhD degrees here. Supported by the Tulane-CDC Training Program in Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases (VBID), Dr. Ellis was able to pursue studies of mosquito-borne diseases, spending two years in Kenya conducting research for his dissertation. He feels that one of the greatest things about Tulane is the opportunity to do work overseas.

After receiving his PhD, Dr. Ellis was awarded the prestigious APHL/CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Laboratory Fellowship. Through the EID fellowship program, he worked at the Hawaii state public health laboratory and the University of Hawaii's Asia-Pacific Center for Infectious Disease Ecology. Here he was able to mix time in the laboratory doing scientific research with community development programming related to mosquito-borne diseases. He also spent time in Thailand, Brazil and Uruguay to help set up various projects.

These days, Dr. Ellis can be found in the Northeast of Brazil where he is working with FIOCRUZ, Brazil’s equivalent to the U.S. CDC. Through a fellowship from the Brazilian Council of Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), he is pursuing investigative work on arboviruses and the local mosquito ecology.

Dr. Ellis recognizes that sometimes finding a job in Tropical Medicine is challenging. He also points out, however, that with the multi-disciplinary focus of the field, many of the skills learned in Tropical Disease training can be applied at a variety of public and international health oriented organizations at multiple levels and in various ways such as epidemiology, laboratory research, academia or public health. These are important points for present and future Tropical Medicine graduates to keep in mind!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Jones Scholars Internship Program Info Session
Monday, October 2, 2008
12:00-1:00 PM
Room 1201

APHA Annual Meeting
October 25-29, 2008
San Diego, California

John Snow, Inc. Information Session & Interview Day
Thursday, November 20, 2008
12:00-1:00 PM
TDW 1201
Friday, November 21, 2008

WE LOVE TO KNOW WHERE OUR ALUMNI ARE IN THE WORLD!

The Tulane University Online Community is a new online alumni career networking tool that allows students to connect with SPHTM alumni who are willing to give first-hand information about careers, employers, and the cities/countries in which they work. Current students and alumni who would like to utilize the network should register at: www.tulanecommunity.com.

Note that your email will not be displayed publicly but may be utilized by searchers "blindly." Alumni who join may also use the database to connect and network throughout their careers.