

Ripon College students to speak about summer political internships Oct. 1

Five students interested in politics and government performed intern fellowships during the summer, supported by \$2,000 Internship Supplemental Grants from the Center for Politics and the People (CPP).

The students are:

- Hannah Boyum '20 of Peterson, Minnesota, was a research and communications intern with the Minnesota Democratic Farm Labor Party in Minneapolis.
- Ethan Freirmuth '19 of Prairie Farm, Wisconsin, interned at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Bulgaria.
- Nate Jung '20 of Kewaskum, Wisconsin, interned with Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimmel's re-election campaign.
- Abby Korb '20 of Burlington, Wisconsin, worked for Sen. Tammy Baldwin's re-election campaign.
- Hannah Krueger '21 of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, interned with the Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney, a position that continues through December.

All will speak about their experiences from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, in Kresge Little Theater, East Hall. During "Dream Internships in Public Policy," they will address how they found their internships; what their most important learning experiences were; and advice they have for other students seeking internships in public service organizations, government agencies or political parties and campaigns.

Boyum's grant money enabled her to find and rent an apartment in the Twin Cities as she interned in her home state. Her internship duties included writing press releases, social media posts and newsletters, as well as running press conferences.

Boyum, a politics and government and anthropology double-major, is an active member of her sorority, Kappa Delta, and the Environmental Group of Ripon. She also is a member of the student advisory board for the CPP and works with the college's Summer Orientation Committee.

"The most rewarding thing about my internship was being able to see the difference I was making," she says. "Between press conferences and rallies, I met so many great people whose stories reaffirmed my love of politics."

Because of the internship, Boyum says she has made lifelong personal and professional connections. She says that an internship may not be an "ideal workplace, what you want to do with your life, or your area of expertise, (but)- the growth, real job experience, and connections will be worth it."

Upon graduation, Boyum would like to pursue a career as a campaign manager.

Freiermuth applied his grant toward transportation and living expenses during his internship at the U.S. Embassy Belgrade in Serbia. He is a triple-major in politics and government, economics and German, with a minor in national security studies. He is a founding member of the Ripon College Gaming Club, a choir member, an elected Class of 2019 student senator, and a frequent actor and crewmember for theatre productions.

“My internship at the state department was an exceptional way for me to get to know the context of the work, character of the job, and quality of the people who work as foreign service officers,” Freiermuth says. “All the studies I’ve done at the college have been more or less theoretical, so the practical experience of working for the U.S. government in pursuit of our interests abroad was incredibly impactful.”

After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school to prepare for a career with a national security agency.

Because of the grant money received from the CPP, Jung was better able to focus on his internship duties and creating a professional network.

Jung is a double-major in politics and government and economics, with a minor in national security studies. He is president of the College Republicans, vice president of the International Relations Club, treasurer of Young Americans for Freedom and treasurer of the Fishing Club. In addition, he has served as a student senator for two years.

“My internship with the attorney general of Wisconsin taught me the great amount of effort that goes into campaigns and elections throughout the state,” Jung says. “This internship opportunity helped me expand my connections within the state of Wisconsin for future job opportunities. Internships, especially for a political campaign, show what impact you can make in the world. Just because you are a college kid in a small town doesn't mean you can't make an impact on the entire state. If you are thinking about doing an internship, do it, because it will have much more of an impact on your future than you could imagine.”

Upon graduation, Jung would like to attend law school and then open his own law firm or become an international lawyer for the U.S. government.

Korb is a double-major in politics and government and psychology. She is the vice president of the Ripon College Feminists and member of the College Democrats. She also works with the psychology department’s Infant Cognition Lab and is one of two student representatives of the CPP.

Korb is continuing her internship work with the Baldwin campaign and staffs various fundraiser. As a campus organizing fellow for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin’s Coordinated Campaign, she also will work with Josh Kaul, who is running for attorney general of Wisconsin; Tony Evers, who is running for governor of Wisconsin; and Mendela Barnes, who is running for lieutenant governor of Wisconsin. Korb also volunteers for two local campaigns in Burlington.

The hands-on experience and learning how campaigning works is what Korb found most rewarding about her summer internship. "I got an experience that has truly shaped my impression of campaigns," she says.

Korb encourages anyone interested in interning for campaigns to pursue it. "You will gain knowledge and experiences that may never be available to you again," she says. "Right now is truly the time to try things, and if you want to make this your future career you should jump on every opportunity you can!"

Korb plans to attend graduate school to get her master's degree in political psychology. She then would like to pursue a career researching and analyzing voter behavior as a campaign political psychologist. She also hopes to run for office herself.

The grant money allowed Krueger to pay for transportation and supplement wages she would have earned from a different job. She is a double-major in politics and government and history, as well as a double-minor in Spanish and national security studies. In addition, she is a student senator, president of Young Americans for Freedom and the public relations/social media chair for College Republicans.

"I find watching justice in action to be the most rewarding part of my internship," she says. "To see truth prevail in today's society is an amazing thing. I have learned so much and acquired skills that will transfer to any career I choose in my adulthood."

Krueger plans to attend law school and become a district attorney.