

# Internships: *Putting Learning into Practice*

*By Lisa Murray, Editor*



Meeting Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty of Connecticut.



**M**eghan Porcelli '14 knows the value of internships and how to make the most of them.

This Management major, with a double minor in Marketing and Public History and a certificate in Women in Leadership, had her first internship while still in high school as a marketing service assistant at State Farm. One of the outcomes of that experience, Meghan says, is that she “gained perspective on the workforce, communication, and how to be resourceful in a dynamic environment” – qualities that have undoubtedly served her in good stead at Franklin Pierce, where she has had the opportunity to experience various other internships.

A Public History requirement at Franklin Pierce is to do an internship,

so once again, Meghan found herself with another interesting experience as an Educations and Programs intern at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, Conn., during her 2012 spring semester. Meghan designed an exhibit featuring the work and businesses of the first generation of Jewish immigrants in Waterbury – pillars in the community at the time. She extracted, summarized, and organized oral histories for the Jewish Oral History Exhibit and located archival photographs. The exhibit was displayed in the main entrance at the Walzer Family Jewish Community Campus for the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, which houses the Federation, B'nai Israel

(a reform synagogue), and Beth El (a conservative synagogue).

During her 2013 spring semester, Meghan interned for the U.S. Marshals Service in the Human Resources Department in the Operations Staffing Department in Washington, D.C. She simultaneously studied through the Washington Center; her “International Business and Global Trade” class was completed at the Washington Center, and “Business in Society” was done online through Franklin Pierce with Prof. Mary Ann Gaal. Meghan worked five days per week, full time at her internship (for which she received 15 credits for the semester). She cites

the New Hampshire State Society of DC as instrumental in enabling the internship; they awarded Meghan an academic stipend of \$1,500, which helped her to participate in many programs and activities.

Much of Meghan's responsibilities at her U.S. Marshals Service internship revolved around processing applications for a Deputy position that they had opened; approximately 34,000 applicants applied in the first 24 hours for 48 Class seats. Meghan helped organize incoming application information, including medical, physical fitness, service, and educational records to determine who was eligible to be considered for a class. She also helped coordinate the intern program, including scheduling speakers from the FBI, State Department, Secret Service, Capitol Police, National Institute of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Parole Commission, Environment and Natural Resource Division, Airforce JAG, Institute of Peace, and many others. Program trips were arranged by Meghan to the Pentagon, CIA Headquarters, Fort Myer's Military Police, Arlington Cemetery, and more. She spoke with pride about playing a role with

the U.S. Marshals Service because they "protect our judicial system, which means they're protecting our freedoms."

But Meghan did not stop there! When her spring internship was over, she leapt right into another one for the summer at the Smithsonian Institute for their Office of Human Resources: Compensation and Benefits. Meghan created FAQs for their Intranet and reformatted and updated content for outreach presentations to all of the Smithsonian Institution's units. She attended many informative meetings, such as the Department of Labor Interagency Meeting, the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, and Worker's Compensation Training for Smithsonian Employees. A perk of the internship was having the opportunity to attend several intern events, including visits to museums before they opened and special intern tours and talks by Smithsonian professionals.

Meghan reflected on the importance of doing internships and says, "A lot of people don't transition well from college life into a career. With interning, you get exposed to careers you may have never even



First day with the U.S. Marshals Service.

heard of before. You may learn the 'thinking' behind a subject in class, but don't fully understand it until you put it into practice. I'm more hands on, so internships are really good for me." She cites the tremendous networking opportunities in doing an internship and feels confident that these experiences will help her get a job when she graduates.

We think this Franklin Pierce student will fare very well at whatever career she chooses. We look forward to hearing about her successes in the years to come!



*If you would like to explore how your company might offer internships to Franklin Pierce students, please contact Rosemary Nichols at (603) 899-4045 or nicholrm@franklinpierce.edu.*



First day at the Smithsonian.