



The Intern Voice

The Department of Education and the Arts

GIP Interns Tour the West Virginia Supreme Court

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On June 16, Governor's Internship Program participants had a chance to tour the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Clerk Rory L. Perry II led the tour of the Court, giving a brief history of its operations. He also explained how the Supreme Court is structured and described the manner in which it handles cases. He noted that West Virginia is one of only eleven states with a single appellate court. He emphasized that unlike lower courts, the Supreme Court cases do not involve witnesses, testimonies or juries. Before issuing a decision, justices review briefs written by each attorney and hear oral arguments. Chief Justice Margaret Workman, who was elected to the Court in November of 2008, spoke briefly to the group, discussing her time on the bench. She noted that the 12 year term of each justice is designed to insulate the court from political pressures. Justice Workman was the first woman elected to statewide office in West Virginia, in 1988. After touring the Supreme Court, the interns visited the catwalk inside of the dome of the Capitol.



The West Virginia Supreme Court chambers



Clerk Rory Perry explains the operations of the Supreme Court to GIP participants .



Meet the Interns

Name: Elizabeth Stinnett

Agency: West Virginia Center for Professional Development

Bio: I recently graduated from Marshall University with a degree in Spanish and Secondary Spanish Education. I am returning to Grad school in the fall to pursue a Masters in Secondary Education and hope to substitute teach or secure a position as a Graduate Assistant. Once I have my Masters, I want to begin teaching in the nearby area. I love baking anything and decorating cakes or finding different crafts to do in my spare time.

Fun Fact: I once had a baking blog, but ran out of space to keep it going. The site is www.harinafe.wordpress.com.

My Favorite Quote: "Que será, será (Whatever will be, will be)."

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: I love that I get an insight about the training that teachers go through. I feel as if I have a leg up on future teachers as well. It makes me excited to one day attend the sessions for teachers because I know that the programs are beneficial and worth the time and money because of the hard work put into them.



Name: Victoria LaQuita Wilburn

Agency: West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts

Bio: I was born and raised in Huntington, West Virginia, and I graduated with the highest honors from Huntington High School. After graduating, I received a full academic scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications with a concentration in Media Studies and Production. Now, I am pursuing my Master's in film studies at one of the top film programs in the country. In my spare time I dance, write and record music. I hope to educate society on a myriad of issues through my research, films and music.

Fun Fact: I won a national PSA contest which afforded me the opportunity to build relationships with successful individuals in the entertainment industry.

My Favorite Quote: "Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls" –Joseph Campbell

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: Meeting new people and building lifelong friendships (hopefully)!

Name: Corey Sanchez

Agency: West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Public Information Office

Bio: I just finished my freshman year this past spring at West Virginia University. My current major is journalism and I haven't claimed a minor as of yet. Some things I like to do in my spare time are running, going to the gym, and playing video games. My eventual career plan is to attend law school and become a lawyer.

Fun Fact: I played soccer for four years at Sissonville High School and was also voted to be the most artistic of my class.

My Favorite Quote: "Yo no hablo ingles."

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: My favorite aspect of the Governor's Internship experience is how I'm able to learn about the State Capitol and the people of West Virginia's Supreme Court.



Name: Anne Endres

Agency: Department of Environmental Protection, Technical Applications and GIS (TAGIS) Unit

Bio: I attended Concord University, where I graduated Summa Cum Laude this May with a degree in Geography, with an emphasis in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and minor in Spanish. I worked as an Admissions Ambassador (tour guide) and Resident Assistant. I was one of the founding members of El Club, the original Spanish club on campus. I served as President of Cardinal Key Honor Society and Vice President of Sigma Sigma Sigma National Sorority. I was a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society, CU Serve, Student Government Association, and Relay for Life. Perhaps my most exciting accomplishment was being named Homecoming

Queen 2010 as I represented Sigma Sigma Sigma National Sorority and the Bonner Scholars Community Service Program, portraying Belle from Beauty and the Beast. I have enjoyed traveling with Concord students and professors to academic conferences around the country, as well as studying abroad in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Korea, and Japan.

Fun Fact: I have accepted a full Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) with the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University, where I will enroll in a Master of Arts degree program in Geography this August.

My Favorite Quote: "A desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world." – John le Carré

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: This summer marks my fourth as a Governor's Intern. To me, this program offers the best type of summer employment opportunity available to a college student, especially when the position relates to his or her major or intended career path. I enjoy reconnecting with classmates from high school and college, as well as networking with new colleagues in perhaps a more 'professional' atmosphere. I give this program three thumbs up!

Name: Cameron Shelton

Agency: Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

Bio: I am an upcoming senior at Shepherd University, proud brother of Lambda Chi Alpha and 2008 graduate of Bridgeport High School. My major is entrepreneurship new business venture formation and marketing, but I really wish I would have gone to art and/or culinary school as these are my two passions. My plan is to obtain both my Master's and Doctorate in Marketing after graduation. I was born addicted to comic books and superheroes and that love has now blossomed into developing my own series, graphic novels, allegories and newspaper comics (some of which have copyrights and pending copyrights). I have several businesses that are in the process of being established (acquiring venture capital and investments) or are in the planning stages; many of these I plan to have established in the next decade including my own comic publishing company. Before I broke my neck I loved to box, however, since my injury, poker has become the new addiction.



Fun Fact: The first weekend of summer my brakes malfunctioned while my car was going downhill in reverse at 35 m.p.h. towards a propane tank; I jumped out and broke my C6 vertebrae. I'm also ambidextrous.

My Favorite Quote: : "Dum vita est, spes est – While there is life, there is hope."

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: I really enjoy being around the people I get to work with. It's also an amazing experience both creating and marketing a new brand and this is the kind of hands on training I could never get from a textbook.



Name: Lashawna Sampson

Agency: West Virginia Lottery Commission

Bio: I'm currently pursuing my Masters of Science in Human Resource Management at Marshall University, and on track to graduate in the Spring of 2012. After that I want to start my career as a Human Resource Manager for a successful company/agency. I love working out, dancing, and hanging out with my friends.

Fun Fact: Bill Cosby is my third cousin.

My Favorite Quote: "You have to be uncompromised in your level of commitment to whatever you are doing, or it can disappear as fast as it appeared."

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: Being able learn about what the lottery commission does along with getting hands on experience in the HR dept. I also enjoy working with my girls Margaret and Katie.

Name: Natalie Tupta

Agency: Department of Environmental Protection, Mining and Reclamation

Bio: My task is to sort and enter water data from various mining permits throughout the state so DEP can identify trends in water quality. I'm a junior at Marshall University majoring in Latin and minoring in French. I would like to pursue a doctoral degree in Classics, so that I can teach at the collegiate level, write, and do research. My hobbies are cooking and enjoying the outdoors.

Fun Fact: One of the highlights of last year's summer was when I went skydiving for the first time.

My Favorite Quote: "I declare that later on, even in an age unlike our own, someone will remember who we are." -Sappho

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: My favorite part of the GIP experience has been the opportunity for hands-on learning it has provided me every day, whether it be in my office or out in the field examining river bugs and touring a working coal mine.



Name: Sara Ireland

Agency: West Virginia Development Office

Bio: I am going to be a sophomore in the fall, returning to the wonderful Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Currently, I am an International Studies major & Spanish minor, but I hope to pick up some more subjects as the classes keep coming. I hope to pursue a career in Diplomacy/Relations, perhaps working for an international nonprofit, agency or embassy. I was born and raised in Charleston and I am a graduate of George Washington High School. There are many things that I love to do, such as playing tennis, reading, traveling, and shopping (too much). But most importantly, I love to try new things & seize the opportunities that are presented to me.

My Favorite Quote: "Learn as if you will live forever. Live as if you will die tomorrow." – Mahatma Gandhi

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: So far, my internship with the WV Development Office has exposed me to the operations of nonprofits and the nature of West Virginia that I never realized. I am thankful and excited to keep learning and growing in my studies through this experience.

Name: Allison Pullin

Agency: Department of Administration

Bio: I am a sophomore at the Ohio State University, majoring in Accounting and minoring in German. I plan on joining the Air Force after I graduate college in 2014, hopefully locating to Germany. I plan to obtain my CPA, working in the public sector after my four years of military service. I love horses and have been riding and competing in horse shows for eleven years. I am also interested in photography, traveling, and am currently learning how to play the banjo.

Fun Fact: I have rowed a boat on the highest navigable body of water in the world – Lake Titicaca, Bolivia.

My Favorite Quote: “You only live once.”

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: I love that I am constantly kept involved, and I am put in opportunities similar to the career field I would like to be in some day. I am learning so much every day. I also love working in the Capitol Building. It is so beautiful!



Name: Chris Johnson

Agency: Department of Commerce

Bio: I'm currently in my senior year at West Virginia University, and I am double-majoring in Marketing and Finance. My plan upon graduation is to attend graduate school out-of-state with the full intention of pursuing an M.B.A. While pursuing my masters, I plan on studying for the C.F.A. so that I will be able to follow my dreams of becoming a certified financial analyst. My hobbies include playing basketball, reading, watching movies, and listening to classic rock.

Fun Fact: I'm a member of the Honors College at West Virginia University.

My Favorite Quote: “Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans.” –John Lennon

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: Being able to shake hands with the Governor and meet an incredible amount of inspirational people.

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

-Lanston Hughes

Supervisor Spotlight

Name: Lorrie Smith

Agency: West Virginia Center for Professional Development

Bio: I graduated from Glenville State College with a Business Administration Degree in Marketing and from Missouri State University with a Master's Degree in Administrative Studies. I serve as Chief Operating Officer for the West Virginia Center for Professional Development where I direct the coordination of professional development sessions for teachers and principals.

Fun Fact: I am country girl who loves riding horses and ATV's and I perform at local festivals with a clogging group.

My Favorite Quote: "That's fabulous!"

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: I love working with summer interns. Our job allows us to travel throughout WV coordinating training sessions for teachers. We have the opportunity to give interns a true real world experience ranging from loading trucks in 90 degree weather to setting up technology equipment to providing customer service to 400 people at a time, with a smile. We form such close bonds while getting the job done! That's fabulous!



Name: Melanie Larch

Agency: Office of Environmental Health Services (OEHS)

Bio: I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education, graduating *magna cum laude* from West Virginia State College. Since joining the OEHS staff in 2002, I have been the Office Assistant to the District Office Coordination and Enforcement Manager in the Environmental Engineering Division. I've performed with groups ranging from rock bands such as WATT4 and The Diablo Blues Band to the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with my friends. My photos have appeared in *Mountain State Water Line* and in last year's *ArtMares* exhibit during HallowEast.

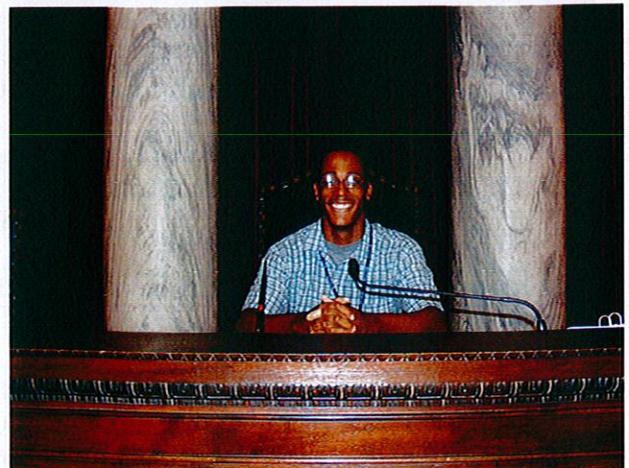
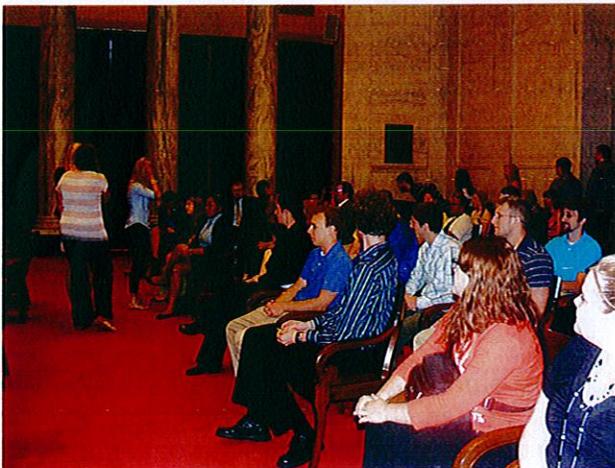
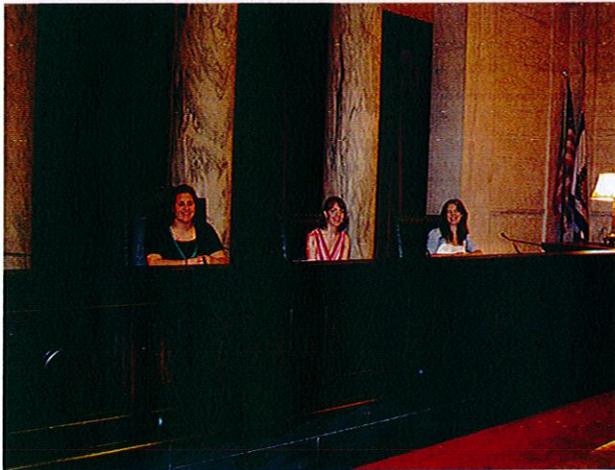
Fun Fact: In the past three years, I've appeared in the world premieres of two musicals, including *Jack The Ripper* with the Contemporary Youth Arts Company and *Courting Disaster* with Kanawha Players in 2010.

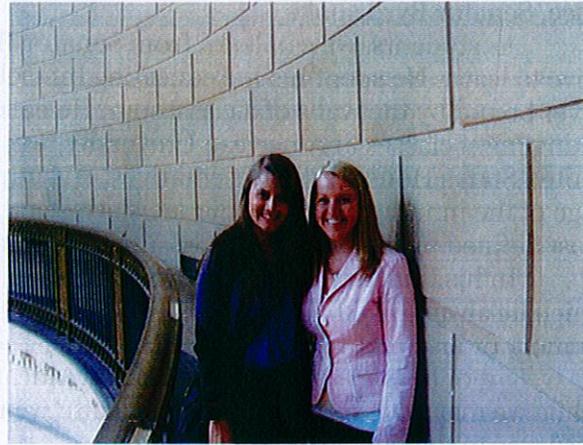
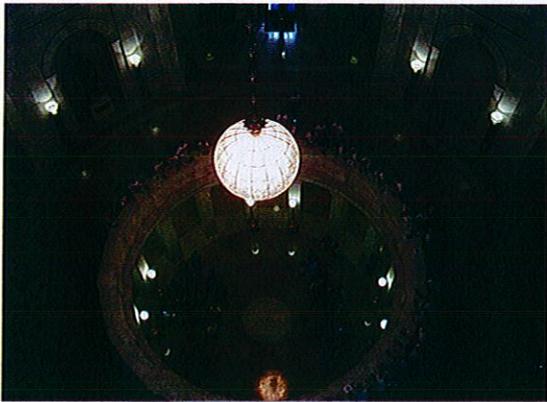
My Favorite Quote: "You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."
-Beverly Sills

My Favorite Aspect of GIP: OEHS has been a GIP host since 2003. We've been fortunate to find some very intelligent and creative young men and women through this program. Even though they're with us for just a short time, the work they do is a huge benefit to our ongoing water system security and emergency preparedness efforts.



Student Snapshots





A Salute to Our Senator

By Katharine Nyden

Yesterday, June 28, 2011, marked the one year anniversary of the death of former Senator Robert C. Byrd. Born amongst coalfields, Senator Byrd had humble roots. He worked in shipyards and grocery stores, alongside the West Virginians for whom he would always fight. For half a century, his voice resounded through the chambers of the United States Senate. As the longest serving member in the history of Congress, Senator Byrd challenged the nature and rules of American political discourse. For those without a voice, Senator Byrd spoke.

As students, we can learn from Senator Byrd's constant drive to learn. He spent his life educating himself, his intellect never bound by the walls of a classroom. He earned a law degree by taking night classes at American University, while he served in the United States House of Representatives. His unparalleled knowledge of the inner workings of our legislative bodies resulted from his fervor for knowledge. He was most defined by his unwavering loyalty to our Constitution, which rested in a pocket by his heart.

In his final days, Senator Byrd conducted himself with the same relentless fervor with which he always lived. He cast his final vote on the Senate floor from the seat of a wheelchair, in memory of his longtime friend and comrade, Ted Kennedy. At his memorial service one year ago, the weight of his accomplishments and significance of his life were evident in those who attended. While we may continue to mourn his death, we must realize the unique blessing that Robert C. Byrd was to the people of West Virginia.

As young people, it is important that we appreciate the legacy of Senator Byrd. So many students have benefitted from the tireless work of Senator Byrd to secure federal funding for scholarship programs. I am inspired by his memory and driven to help others as our senator did. His compassion was born of fierce loyalty to his home and to his neighbors. Whether he was waging a filibuster war on the floor of the Senate or strumming a fiddle amongst friends, Robert C. Byrd lived and died for West Virginia. Rest in peace, Senator.



Editor's Note

First of all, thank you to everyone who submitted pictures and profiles for this edition of *The Intern Voice*! I hope you have enjoyed learning about your fellow interns and continue to submit material for upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in writing articles or editorials, please do not hesitate to contribute! Any material can be sent to my email address, Katharine.A.Nyden@wv.gov. We are working on posting each newsletter on our website, www.wv.gov/gip. I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter and I welcome feedback!

Katharine Nyden

GIP Intern, Department of Education and the Arts