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### Sewanee Internship Final Report

This summer I had the distinct pleasure and honor to intern at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. RUSI is an independent think tank engaged in cutting edge defense and security research. It is a unique institution that was founded in 1831 by the Duke of Wellington, and it embodies nearly two centuries of forward thinking, free discussion and careful reflection on defense and security matters. As with many undergraduate intern programs at think tanks, I was lucky enough to be given many diverse tasks, ranging from research to note taking at talks and presentations, as well as being used to help the events team run some of the larger and more complex conferences and talks. Some specific tasks I was asked to complete included compiling research, including a literature review, for RUSI's Futures Program, as well as managing communications (i.e. social media and press) for RUSI's renowned Land Warfare Conference. I was also fortunate to work in events related capacities for smaller private presentations with General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

I honed my research and note-taking skills as well as gained more cultural exposure, as London is the most international city in the world. A couple of my more interesting specific tasks were a literature review for RUSI's futures program and managing communications for RUSI's Land Warfare Conference. Managing communications for the Land Warfare conference was quite a task and gave me a crash course in crafting a media narrative for an event as well as experience in trying to wrangle a modern, and thus somewhat unruly, press corps. But by far my

most interesting task was writing the literature review. One of my passions is looking at the future of warfare and looking at how nations can prepare for it, so as to avoid past mistakes where Western countries had the tools and preparation to win the war, but had no plan to win the peace. Thus having the ability to skim or read parts of many different books from authors such as counterinsurgency maven David Kilcullen and London School of Economics Futures' Professor Chris Coker on the future of warfare and governing was a great learning experience. On top of that literature review, working with Randolph Kent, the head of RUSI's futures department, was extremely rewarding and I consider him a mentor now.

I learned much from my internship experience, about myself, my future goals, and more importantly about the world of defense and international security and the outsized and mostly positive role that the United States plays in this world. We take on a massive role in determining the safety of the world as a whole, and while many uneducated voices have criticized this, my experience this summer instilled a stubborn belief in me that this outsized role we play is a massively positive one and that there are many dangers if the United States were to downsize our role or relinquish our leadership in our international relations. I saw firsthand the impact on the defense and international security structure of the United Kingdom post-Brexit as they voted for the protectionist and isolationist option and immediately saw their international prestige and influence drop. We cannot make the same mistake in our policy or our choice of representatives. Personally, I realized that I want to serve my country by attending Officer Candidate School after college. Not only is it an honor to serve one's country, but also the opportunities

that would be afforded to me after completing my five years are endless. These opportunities are ones I saw firsthand by working alongside many colleagues who were civilians with past military experience. I also found that I have very similar characteristics to many former intelligence officers in both the British and American armies. After I picked their brains on their service I came to realize that the innate skills they had that made them successful intelligence officers are ones I see in myself.

All of this, I would not have been able to experience or learn had Sewanee not had this wonderful program in place to help finance unpaid internships. I truly believe that this sets Sewanee apart immensely from other institutions in that it shows Sewanee's commitment to bettering their students 365 days a year, not just between the months of September to May. But if there is one thing I could recommend in future funding discussions, it is that the committee look at where students will be doing their unpaid internships. Three hundred and fifty dollars a week may fully cover the expenses, and in some cases more for many living outside large cities for their internships, but for those of us living in places such as London, Chicago or New York City, it falls short and although that was not a problem in my case it could be for others who may rely solely on Sewanee's generosity through this program for funding over the summer.