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This past summer, I had the opportunity to work as a research intern with Dr. Katherine Theyson in the Department of Economics at Sewanee. The objective of her research was to test the effect that U.S environmental regulation has had on the outbound Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of U.S multi-national companies (MNC's). This is an important subject because it can help to develop an awareness of the impact of environmental regulation on economic growth that will foster better policy-making. I found this topic particularly thought-provoking because, aside from going beyond the scope of any of my previous course work, it touches the important issue of environmental policy and seeks to answer some of the long-debated questions regarding its relationship to economic activity. My work as an intern mostly involved data collection as the project was set to continue beyond the summer. Although collecting data proved to be a lengthy process as the summer progressed, with the help of Dr. Theyson, I learned new ways to make the process more time efficient.

My first assignment as an intern was to review the available literature on foreign direct investment and environmental regulation.

I began by searching the Econ Lit database for research papers on topics similar to that which we were working. Most of the helpful articles were on the pollution haven hypothesis, which contends that multinationals seek to locate their firms in areas with relatively less stringent environmental policy in order to avoid high costs of production. After reading through the various publications, I created summaries of the relevant articles to be used in the literature review once the research is finally completed. I found myself immersed in a lot of material, most of which was new to me. It was interesting to

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read the publications of various authors and I learned a lot about what goes into writing an economics research paper.

After about a week and a half spent on reviewing the literature, we began collecting data. Our primary source was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website. Dr. Theyson assigned me to collect data on pollution emission from various industries in the U.S from the toxics release inventory on the website. The data would be used to determine if stricter environmental regulation in particular industries results in increased FDI outflows. I transferred this data into Excel spreadsheets because we needed it in a different format from that which the website had. I collected figures of the amount of pollution emission from each industry over the 10-year period from 2001 to 2011. Getting the data into the right format was a lengthy process in the beginning because we did everything manually, copying the figures year by year into the spreadsheets. Sometimes it took about three hours to complete one industry. Because there was a lot of data to collect and a lot of different industries, the process took a few more weeks than expected. I was also taking classes later in the middle of the summer and as a result I was busy with both work and school. Despite the challenge, I learned to manage my time more effectively.

Over the course of the data collection process we tried a few different methods in an attempt to speed up the process, some of which helped a little. Fortunately, Dr. Theyson came up with a program using the data analysis and statistical software Stata. She was really helpful and taught me some of the basics of using the software, as I had never previously been exposed to it. I was then able to carry on with my work using Stata under minimal supervision. The process was much faster using this software than with

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Excel alone and we finally completed the data collection just as both my internship period and summer school term were coming to an end.

My whole experience as an intern this summer was really educative and inspiring. I learned a lot more than I had imagined. The opportunity to take part in analyzing research articles alone helped me gain helpful insight into economics research. I learned about what goes into collecting data and discovered time efficient ways deal with statistical information including the use of programming and software such as Stata. Aside from acquiring new skills, having this internship and a busy schedule taught me valuable lessons about work ethic and effective time management. Unfortunately, I could not participate in the research past the data collection because my internship ended a month before the end of the summer. I do, however, plan to stay in touch with my supervisor and learn about how the research progresses because I am interested in understanding the consequences of environmental regulation on industries.

Finally, my experience as a research intern in the Department of Economics at Sewanee has enhanced my interest in economics research. I hope to be able to participate in more projects and of this nature and also carry out my own self-directed research while I am here. I also look forward to taking an econometrics class so that I can learn more about how to analyze economic data and improve my research skills.