



Internship Experience, World Justice Project (Summer 2013)

by Adele Ewan

Through an ACE internship coordinated with alumni and Sewanee Career Services, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend the summer before my senior year interning for the World Justice Project in Washington, D.C as an engagement intern. The World Justice Project (WJP) is a non-profit organization that advocates for advancing the rule of law throughout communities across the world; it is based out of offices in D.C. and Seattle, Washington. There are two main parts or “teams” to the WJP: the engagement team and the index team. The index team works with data gathered from 97 different countries for its Rule of Law Index, which includes eight different measures of the state of the rule of law in different nations such as fundamental rights, access to justice, and absence of corruption. The index is released annually and is available on the WJP website as well as in print form.

The engagement team, which I was a part of, focused more on planning various events and expanding the organization’s reach through social media. I helped to run the Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube accounts; I posted links to various articles concerning the rule of law, asked questions to engage followers, and helped get the word out about events. I worked with a couple of other interns and some regular staff members, who were all brilliant and inspiring people. We had weekly calls with the Seattle office, where Sewanee alumni Nancy Ward works; I always enjoyed talking with everyone in Seattle and exchanging ideas with so many others who are as passionate about justice as I am.

This summer, the WJP put on their bi-annual World Justice Forum IV in the Hague in July. The forum involved participants from over 100 countries who came together to attend various workshop-like justice incubator sessions, panels addressing issues regarding the rule of law, and plenary sessions. The goal is not only to get conversations going and talk about ways to improve the rule of law, but to develop programming and direct action to really change the state of justice in the world and expand its reach.

As an intern, I not only helped with social media, but with general planning for the forum and

researching participants and panelists to invite. It was really a great experience and helped me learn valuable information about the rule of law around the world--but about what really goes into a non-profit organization and planning major events. I learned more about social media and improved my communication skills, which is really valuable given communication is my strong suit and a skill I want to utilize in my future career. The internship was also eye opening and reaffirmed my passion for changing the world in whatever ways I can. I'm very grateful for the opportunity, and highly recommend getting involved however you can with the WJP.