

Dillon Stevens  
Executive Summary  
Laffer Associates Internship

I had the opportunity to work for Laffer Associates this summer. They are an economic research group that also has a money management side. The firm is headed by Dr. Arthur Laffer who was Ronald Reagan's economic advisor and invented the Laffer Curve, making him one of the most influential economists of our time. The economic research side of the firm releases papers addressing how certain policies will affect economic conditions with a strong emphasis on political events and decisions. My responsibilities as an intern included researching economic policies and finding historical data to put into charts. I got much better at using Microsoft Excel and learned how to use a Bloomberg terminal to pull economic data. One of the more useful aspects of the internship was getting to see real applications of economic concepts that I have learned about for years. Sewanee has done a great job of teaching me these concepts, however I feel that until one sees the practical applications of these concepts, one cannot fully understand them. Aside from the skills I acquired relating to research and working with data, I gained useful experience that taught me a lot about post-college employment. It was wonderfully reassuring to see how the employees of Laffer Associates could have social and comfortable relationships in the office despite the serious and academic nature of their work. I loved the dynamic that the smaller size of the firm brought to the workplace. It provided a working environment that is very similar to that of Sewanee. People were able to focus and work hard when they needed to, however, no matter the amount of frustration that was brought on by work, each member of the office was able to maintain a positive attitude in conversation with the other members of the office. My internship with Laffer Associates has taught me an incredible amount about economics as well as about employment and life after college.