PNNM-Loyola IES Internship Program

Loyola University Chicago’s Institute of Environmental Sustainability (IES) trains undergraduate students in the fields of Environmental Science and Policy, to become change-agents in the world, who will help develop sustainable solutions to the critical environmental threats our world faces today. The Chicago Academy of Science and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (PNNM) has developed a national and international reputation for its leadership in conservation. IES Director Nancy Tuchman serves on the PNNM Board, and Deborah Lahey, CEO of PNNM, serves on the IES Board. With support from the Searle Family Trust, we propose to fund up to two IES students to conduct one-semester or summer internships working with Conservation Biologists at PNNM on their Blandings Turtle Recovery Program, their Endangered Butterfly Recovery Program conservation projects, or other conservation projects as needed. The PNNM-Loyola IES Internship Program will provide IES students with the valuable professional experience to enrich their undergraduate education and give them an advantage on the job market when they graduate.

PNNM-Loyola IES Internship Program Description -

A maximum of 2 students will be supported at any given time, to conduct an internship at PNNM. Each student will work 10-15 hours per week for one 15-week semester (fall or spring), or for a 3-month summer period at a rate of $2,000 per semester/summer. If students are excellent interns for the Conservation Biology program at PNNM, and desire to stay on longer in order to advance the project they are working on, they are eligible to apply for an extension of their internship for an additional semester or summer. The projects on which the students will assist are determined by the PNNM, and are subject to change depending on their level of urgency and importance. Students are expected to develop a work schedule that allows the PNNM to know when they can rely on the student intern being present. Students will take the internship for Experiential Learning/Internship credit, and both the PNNM scientists and the IES Academic Director will be involved in drafting expectations for course credit and conducting assessments of the student’s progress.

Application and Selection Process -

For each iteration of this program, students are asked to submit a 1-page resume which should include pertinent courses and experiences, and a 1-page statement of purpose which outlines what they hope to do with their career, and how this internship could help them advance their goals and enrich their Loyola experience. Students submit these materials to Ms. Rachel Leamon (rleamon@luc.edu) by May 1. The applications will be reviewed by PNNM staff and the top 1 or 2 candidates will be selected for a May 31 start date.

May 2016-August 2016 PNNM-IES Internship Opportunities:

Objective: The Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum’s (CAS/PNNM) oology collection contains several thousand scientific specimens of bird eggs and nests dating back to the late 1800s. Natural history collections are a library of the natural world and are accessed by researchers interested in a variety of topics. This internship will focus on curation of the oology collection to improve data quality, increase the accessibility of the collection for research, and address preservation needs of the specimens.
**Responsibilities:** Under the supervision of Collections staff, the intern will label and verify specimens, as well as reorganize the collection taxonomically. Throughout the project the intern will rehouse specimens to meet preservation standards. Additional activities may include identification, georeferencing of locality data, and provenance research.

**Final Product(s):** By the end of the internship, the intern will have greatly improved the preservation storage and organization of the oology collection, thereby improving the accessibility to these specimens for research.

**Qualifications:** The applicant should have some knowledge or experience with birds. They must be self-motivated, detail oriented, organized, and able to follow directions precisely. They must have a basic familiarity with computers in order to use the online specimen database. Applicants must be able to lift 25 lbs, climb ladders, and work within 32-inch aisles.

**Minimum GPA:** 2.5

**Time Commitment (include hours and weekdays or weekends):** Internship term is May/June to August 2016 with a minimum of ten hours per week. Work will be conducted at CAS/PNNM’s off-site Ravenswood Collections Facility (4001 N Ravenswood Ave.). Office hours at the collections facility are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 9am – 5pm. The intern’s schedule will be coordinated with Collections staff.