

BATTEN BULLETIN

BATTEN HONORS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020



Berlin Adventures

Click [here](#) to hear all about Kat's pre-COVID adventure to Berlin, Germany during Winter Session 2020 with her fellow classmates and professors.



Recording Internship

Read about Hailey's fascinating internship at an audio production studio this summer.

Red Cross Volunteer

Read about Kitana's experience volunteering with the Red Cross.



Social Media Experience



Hear all about Skylar's virtual internship with an influencer agency this summer.

Remote Internship



Learn how Destiny worked in Spain without even getting on a plane.

A CITY AND ITS HISTORY

BY: KATHLEEN VANDEN BERG

During January of this year, I enjoyed the opportunity of traveling to Berlin, Germany for a little over two weeks with some classmates, Dr. Reese, and Dr. Sewell. There, I got to learn about the history of the city first hand by visiting different sites from all over the city. Each day I would visit different buildings, monuments, and museums corresponding to each era of Berlin. It only made sense to start at the beginning by visiting the oldest church in Berlin first, St. Nicholas Church. It was incredible to see an eight hundred year old building still standing. Afterwards, the next few days were spent learning about when aristocratic housing turned into public buildings on Unter den Linden and when



Prussian aristocracy ruled by visiting the beautiful Charlottenburg Palace. I then learned about pre-World War I Berlin; when the city was the center of growing democracy and Bauhaus architecture was all the rage. The geometric buildings and art are unmistakable in the city.

Despite the beauty of these sites, I would be remiss to not mention

the dark past Berlin has. I was able to see the lasting repercussions the Nazis had on Berlin. For example, although most of the buildings constructed by the Nazis have since been taken down, a few have been reclaimed such as the Olympic Stadium, which is now used as a soccer field. I was also able to see living reminders of the Holocaust throughout the city, from the New Synagogue to the Jewish Museum to the many monuments dedicated to those who died. However, the most intense confrontation of this dark past I saw was when I visited the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. I saw where people were forced to

labor and where they died. Although we learn about the Holocaust by reading about it and watching films about it, nothing is comparable to seeing it in person. It was harrowing and heartbreaking. Nothing can ever



make up for what happened. But the fact Berlin is paying respects, not shying away from its history, and instead using it to teach others, is something I greatly respect. Finally, I got to learn about the Cold War era leading into modern times. This was one of the most interesting parts of

the trip to me, as I was able to see that Berlin was in part still living through this. Although the Berlin Wall is removed except for a few walls that are now either exhibits or art galleries, the divide between East and West Berlin is very visible. East Berlin has a different architecture than West Berlin, with a decorative modernist twist to it. Reminders of the Soviet regime not only carry on through the architecture, but also through monuments and museums. The most prominent example of this is when I was toured through a Stasi--the Soviet's secret police--prison camp. Our tour guide was actually a survivor and recounted stories of the inhumane conditions he went through.

During the trip, I also had ample free time to explore the city on my own and with friends. One of the most memorable parts of the trip is after dinner with some friends one night. We were trying to figure out how to go back to the hotel we were staying at. We ended up hopping on multiple busses and took the U-bahn, Berlin's metro system, and didn't get back until later that night. Another small memory is when I had just

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finished visiting the Berlin Zoo, I was eating a croissant for lunch while waiting for my U-bahn to come.

It's small moments like this I feel are a microcosm of the overall trip, when between visiting sites and learning about the over-



arching history, there's the personal journey I had. Not only was I able to learn about Berlin's history, I was also able to better learn about myself as a person. I was able to reflect on how important it is to learn about the history of something if you truly want to understand it. I will never forget about Berlin and its lessons. I am extremely glad I had the chance to visit it.

DISCOVERING RECORDING AS A CAREER

BY: HAILEY SCHUMACHER

One highlight of being a college student at Wesleyan is being able to experiment with different hobbies and interests while still getting a unique education catered to the individual. With resources like The Lighthouse, my academic advisors, and, of course, the opportunities brought to me by the Batten Honors College, I had the opportunity of doing an internship with The Studio Center in Virginia Beach.

The Studio Center provided me with much more than an experience. I was able to work on incredible projects that are unforgettable. I remember one time I was

sitting in the studio with my mentor, Shipley, playing around with different midi controllers and sound pedals when we got a big project - recording audio for a tv show that would air

on Amazon Prime. Though a lot of the information is confidential to this day, the pressure and stress that I underwent was tremendous, but the happiness I had

when we finally exported those audio files proved to me that I was in love with audio work. I was allowed to set up all the mics, set up the digital recording software, and hit the record button. Now that may not seem very exciting to most, but to me it was a once in a lifetime chance to showcase all the knowledge I acquired at VWU and all the new things I learned in my internship.

Going into my internship, I was just relieved I managed to get through the interview process. But in the end, I genuinely enjoyed my work and started to change my focus in my major. Now I am really striving to finish my sound and recording certification along with my composition concentration. I want



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to pursue this as a career. I would not have known that if it weren't for this internship. I learned about all the equipment, how to set up a patch bay, and how to record and edit audio tracks. But the most important thing I've learned is that audio work is an art. With art comes creativity and mindfulness, and I'm glad that I am able to express myself through this art no matter where I end up in life. Sometimes you need to do something that makes you uncomfortable - you might end up enjoying it in the end.



First Batten Honors College Graduate



Ebonie Johnson
Class of 2020
Psychology

INFLUENCING CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA

BY: SKYLAR MAO

I found this internship opportunity with Influencer Agency “就是Cathy啊” on a Chinese social media. I wasn't expecting to find an internship on an app I usually go to for fun. I contacted the influencer three times to get her attention and eventually got an interview offer. Later on, she told me that she got thousands of resumes, and what caught her eye on my resume was my study away experience and the unique combination of my major and minor. I'm a Business major and Hispanic Studies minor.

Cathy Chen is an English blogger, lifestyle and fashion influencer who has more than 800 thousand subscribers on Chinese social media. My responsibility is to transcribe and translate the English videos and add subtitles and background music to the video, as well as edit articles in both English and Chinese for the official account on WeChat.

In late June, the agency planned to establish an online English course, and I was lucky enough to be put in the

position to write the course materials. I wrote the "Practical Spoken English" course based on my previous English teaching experience in China and my understanding of American English and American culture. I focused on introducing and explaining American culture to the Chinese students to help them better their understanding of the English language. The course was taught in Live Stream format by Cathy Chen. The course was a big success, and brought a lot of profit to the agency. Now we are continuing to work on new courses and coming up with new ideas to contribute to the development of the agency.

BHC MATRICULATION CEREMONY 2020

Welcome Class of 2024!



AN INTERNSHIP AN OCEAN APART

BY: DESTINY KINKA

As a Spanish major at Virginia Wesleyan University, I was looking for a summer opportunity to utilize my Spanish skills in a real-world context. I applied for a global remote internship through International Studies Abroad, and I was placed with a professional soccer club in Spain, Villarreal CF. I worked with the International Department, specifically in the International Content Manager, from June 2020 to September 2020.

My 14-week internship consisted of mostly translating articles from Spanish to English and creating digital English content for the club's website and other online platforms. I wrote a [feature](#) on three major players overcoming injuries which helped me become more familiar with the team and its players. I also wrote an [article](#) about five things you may not know about the soccer club, in addition to various other English articles for the club to distribute to their international audience. One of my favorite components of this remote internship were the weekly meetings arranged by my supervisor with different individuals such as the First

Team's Sports Psychologist and Villarreal's International Business Director. These meetings allowed me to build connections and to gain a better understanding of how Villarreal CF operates.

My primary goal for this internship was to gain professional experience that would help me determine my interest level in working in a Spanish-speaking country after I complete my undergraduate studies. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Villarreal staff this summer and learning about their culture and workplace environment, and my interest in working with a company in a Spanish-speaking country grew tremendously.

This global remote internship with Villarreal CF had a



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significant impact on my future career aspirations. At the start of this experience I did not have a specific career path in mind, but my hope was to combine my passion for service and my love for the Spanish language to serve people in need. My greatest discovery during my work experience with Villarreal was that these passions of mine can be applied to a much wider range of careers than I initially imagined.

Villarreal CF demonstrates a high level of care towards the financial state of their city, the educational needs of nearby schools, and the health and well-being of the youth and elderly alike. I never would have imagined a

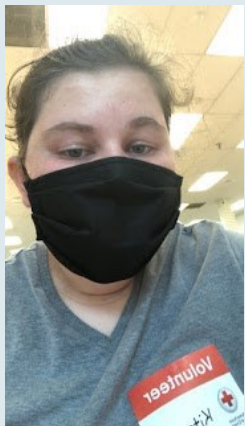
professional soccer team focusing so much on those outside of the club. It was truly remarkable to see how the love of the game of soccer was able to bring people together and help them achieve great things in their community. I aspire to work for a company abroad that uses their platform to meet the needs of those around them as I have seen Villarreal do.

I am thankful to say that this internship has equipped me with the skills necessary to work for a company in a Spanish-speaking country after graduation. I could not have imagined gaining so much practical experience and forming such great relationships with those in my work community while working remotely.

PIVOTING FOR RED CROSS

BY: KITANA FINLEY

My name is Kitana Finley, I am a senior in the Batten Honors College. In May 2020, I was informed by the two internships I was selected for that they would not be offered this summer due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to this and the fact that I needed a research, internship, or service learning project in order to graduate in May 2021, I decided to talk to Dr. Easter about my options. After talking with her, I decided to talk to Brian



Kurisky (from the Office of Civic Engagement and Service Learning) about his connections to the American Red Cross organization, as I love its mission and how they help people. So, I decided to join the American Red Cross organization. I applied to become a volunteer for summer 2020 and was accepted after talking to some volunteer admission workers. As a volunteer, I signed up to attend blood drives

that were within 30 minutes of my house through Volunteer Connection. At the blood drives, I would take the donors' temperatures, ask whether they had completed their paperwork and if they hadn't, help

them navigate to the RapidPass, check them in with their IDs, sanitize the seats, and stock the snack area. This service learning helped with my communication and customer skills, as I talked to an average of 40 people a drive. I



got to listen to donors' stories and learned a lot about why people end up donating. Some do it because a transfusion had saved their lives and they are now paying back someone else's kindness. Some are doing it because it makes them feel good, and some do it just for something to do. I also learned from this experience the inner workings of the blood drive. For example, what actually happens to your blood after you have donated and what they look for when doing your screening. This was an amazing experience, and I was sad to have to leave it. I highly recommend that BHC students complete a serving learning in a field that they have interest in, as it is very informative and helps with your communication skills.