INTERNSHIP RECEPTION

More than 200 interns, agency supervisors and state officials gathered at the beautiful and historic Executive Mansion on Wednesday, July 13, for the Annual Intern Reception. Joining the State of North Carolina Interns at the Mansion were interns who have spent the summer working in the, Office of the State Auditor, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the State Ethics Commission, the Office of State Budget and Management, the Department of State Treasurer, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Justice, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Department of Transportation.

Reception guests had the rare opportunity to float freely throughout the Executive Mansion’s lovely and spacious first floor rooms while enjoying the Mansion’s famous cookies and refreshments. Rich in history, the Mansion has served more governors than any other official residence. While Governor Pat McCrory is North Carolina’s 74th governor, he is the 30th governor to live in the Mansion.

Following a warm welcome and introduction by Candace Dudley, Internship Coordinator and John Baldwin, Chief of Staff for Governor McCrory, Secretary of the Department of Administration Kathryn Johnston, welcomed and thanked the interns for their service and talked about the wide range of jobs this summer. She gave many thanks to the intern supervisors, and thanked them for their continued service to the state and their willingness to have an intern this summer. She also encouraged the interns to consider starting their careers with the State of NC.
Some of the Mansion’s famous guests include President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After his stay, President Roosevelt commented that the Mansion was the most beautiful governor’s mansion he had ever visited. Because his polio limited his mobility, the Mansion’s first floor Lady’s Parlor was converted to a bedroom so that President Roosevelt could visit comfortably without having to navigate the stairs.

Both beautiful and functional, the Executive Mansion is part residence and part working office. The Governor frequently conducts meetings at the very tables around which the interns sat as they shared their summer internship experiences with their peers. We are hopeful that one of our 2016 interns will return to the Mansion one day to hold their gubernatorial meetings!

Click here for Internship Reception Pictures

PAYDAY
It’s PAYDAY! Your paycheck will include the hours worked on the following days: June 18 - July 1. Please check your bank account to be sure that your pay has been deposited. We encourage you to print a copy of your pay statement for your records. Your next payday is Thursday, July 29.

Please remember to enter and then release your time in BEACON today as well as submit your weekly timesheet.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
We have one more enrichment activity scheduled before your summer internship concludes. The July 27th presentation by the Office of State Human Resources will provide you with information to assist you with your future employment search and educate you about employment opportunities available with the State of North Carolina RSVP by July 22 to Candace Dudley.

Central Region Enrichment Activity DATE CHANGE
Tuesday, July 26
Office of State Human Resources
Raleigh
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

INTERN SPOTLIGHTS
Julia Meder
From Tammy Stewart, Supervisor,

Julia Meder is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is majoring in public relations and public policy. She is interning with us here in the Communications Office at the North Carolina Department of Transportation and has already proven that she is a valuable asset. She has had the opportunity to develop communication plans, work on our employee newsletter, write letters to the editor, op-eds, news releases, talking points, and a multitude of other communications related tasks.

I learned within her first day that she is a quick learner and I was able to give her tasks with ease. Others in the office have picked up on her eagerness and dedication to gain as much experience as possible and have given her various assignments as well.

Julia has already made an impact on our office in the short time she has been here, and I can assure you we will miss her when this internship ends. Julia’s strengths include efficiency, and advanced writing and editing skills. She is hard-working and a joy to be around.

Wherever she ends up after she graduates next May, will be lucky to have her.

Charley Fite and Kylie Hoffman
From Jonathan Navarro, Supervisor

Interns Charley Fite and Kylie Hoffman are working at the Division of Air Quality’s planning section to help share information about air quality to the public through air quality forecasts, education and outreach efforts, and social media.

Charley has been working closely with DAQ meteorologists to help with the forecasting program so that the
public can be informed of current and future air quality conditions for North Carolina. This involves looking at current meteorological models and data to see what the weather is doing, and then using that information to predict how the weather will affect the air quality in different regions for the current day, and days to come. Concentrations of ground-level ozone and particle pollution are the types of air pollution that are forecast each day by Charley. The Air Quality Index (AQI) System assigns color coded levels showing how clean or polluted the air is and the associated health effects for the public. With each increasing level, a larger percentage of the population is likely to experience adverse health effects. As an intern, Charley also writes up air quality discussions each morning and afternoon and reports the AQI forecasts to the public via the DAQ website, social media, and the DAQ’s telephone system.

The air quality index forecast is an important piece of NC Air Awareness, the DAQ’s outreach and education program. This program seeks to educate students and individuals about the sources of air pollution and explain how the health effects of air pollution can be minimized by modification of outdoor activities on ozone action days. The air quality forecast is the most visible element of the outreach program, seen by businesses and a large segment of the public on local TV news, weather segments, radio, and in newspapers. NC Air Awareness uses the air quality forecast in its education and community outreach events as a tool to teach how air quality affects human health and how anyone can help to reduce the amount of air pollution created in North Carolina.

Kylie has done a variety of air quality outreach and education events with NC Air Awareness including the St. Francis Elementary Environmental Justice Fair, Marbles Kids Museum’s Kindergarten Kickoff, and Juntos Summer Academy. She has been working with both students and adults to inform them about the air quality forecasts and how they can protect their health and take actions to improve air quality. Kylie has been instrumental in allowing DAQ to work with numerous types of student groups including underserved populations in the Triangle area. While working with the Juntos Summer Academy, Kylie spoke to 100 Latino high school students about pursuing higher education and environmental careers. She emphasized the importance to applying for internships and exploring pathways that the students may not have considered. Kylie is also working with underserved populations in summer camps including Center for Human Earth Restoration, where she teaches students about air quality and how to find bio-indicators of air pollution outside.

Overall, both Kylie and Charley are helping North Carolina citizens learn about and stay informed of air quality and be able to take steps during the hot summer months to protect their health and reduce harmful air pollution.

Andrew Ruskey
From J. Austin Davis, Supervisor

From monitoring incoming taxpayer phone calls to visiting service centers to marketing employee workshops, Andrew Ruskey is using his internship to gain first-hand knowledge of the strategies and processes the North Carolina Department of Revenue (NCDOR) uses to serve taxpayers. Andrew is working as a customer service delivery intern in the Taxpayer Assistance Division, which is responsible for delivering customer service and educating taxpayers.
While working at the NCDOR, Andrew has been a contributing writer for the NCDOR intranet, researching and drafting an article to help employees better understand a recently enhanced customer service software tool. He has also been involved with creating questions and answers for an online, live chat service, a soon-to-be-released feature which will allow taxpayers to ask questions and receive quick answers (rather than having to wait on the phone for a call agent).

For three days in June, Andrew attended managers’ meetings at the NCDOR call center in Greensboro, where he networked with service managers and learned more about agency goals and strategies.

Working as a team, Andrew and Georgia Lewis, another YAIO intern working at the NCDOR, are analyzing content on the agency website and making recommendations for continual improvement.

Andrew, a rising senior at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC, is majoring in marketing, with minors in financial economics and accounting. He says that he is learning valuable information about the operations of state government and how to better serve taxpayers. He is also excited about future projects coming his way. We are pleased to have Andrew at the NCDOR, as he is proving to be a great intern – willing to listen, learn, and share his knowledge!

Miriam Brown
From Benjamin Wunderly, Supervisor

Miriam Brown is a rising Senior at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee majoring in Anthropology. She is spending the summer at the coast far from her mountain home in western North Carolina to help with educational programming and research at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. As the education program assistant, Miriam helps lead groups through the Museum gallery, assists with summer camp programs, and participates in field trips to surrounding islands. She is also responsible for running our summer movie series that highlights Civil War iron clad ships, lighthouses and life-saving stations, World War II U-boats, and coastal fishing communities. One of her assigned projects for the internship is to research and prepare a presentation on a maritime related topic. Miriam chose blockade runners of the Civil War, fast moving vessels that tried to sneak past Union blockades along the southern coasts. Probably one of her favorite aspects of the internship is the opportunity to assist the Museum’s natural science curator with marine mammal research and observation. This entails looking for bottle-nosed dolphin in the surrounding waters to record population changes and helping prepare and catalogue the bones of rare whales whose skeletons will someday be on display. In the photo, below, Miriam, pictured far right, works with a team of scientists as they label the bones from mother and calf pygmy sperm whale specimens that washed ashore. The whales were buried for several years to let microbes clean the bones before being exhumed. The work is completed outside beside the temporary grave since the bones are still pretty stinky. We are glad to have Miriam spend the summer with us and will send her back to the mountains with a new found appreciation of all things maritime!