Polisci student interns for local non-profit  
by Alexander Cunningham

This semester, I am interning for New Music Circle, a local experimental music not-for-profit organization. New Music Circle books performances of touring free jazz, free improvisation, and sound artists. Each show of New Music Circle's concert season is held at a different venue, some of which are non-traditional performance spaces. During the week of New Music Circle shows, NMC hosts community workshops with the artists involved including artist talks, extra performances, and educational events.

I am helping out with a wide range of tasks for NMC this semester. One of my main focuses is promotion. During the week, I post flyers for upcoming events around town and across the river. I also find new press contacts in the hopes of getting NMC events on concert calendars in a wide variety of publications. For post-promotion, I have booked volunteer photographers from KDHX to shoot every upcoming concert for the KDHX website. As NMC relies on grants to support its seasons, I am also helping with the grant process, giving feedback on prior applications as well as supporting upcoming applications.

To assist in this process, I designed an audience survey card to gain basic information on audience demographics as well as garner audience feedback and quotes it really makes you appreciate everything that you are blessed with and teaches you about how to deal with sensitive situations and various people.

Prior to this internship, I was a web journalism intern at local non-profit community radio station, KDHN. I am happy to be involved with another arts-based organization this semester. I hope to work in the arts and non-profit realm in the future and am looking forward to becoming involved with other community arts organizations.

Apply for an internship with COPA  
by Safija Avdic

Do you enjoy being in a courtroom? Helping clients file restraining orders? Extending resources in order to aid victims of abuse? Then an internship with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney (COPA) is for you!

Women and children who are abused experience tremendous pain, stress, and neglect on a daily basis and victim advocates who intern with COPA are there to try and relieve some of that stress by helping victims with filing for restraining orders, providing resources such as numbers to free legal advice and housing, as well as supporting the victims in court when ordered to appear in front of a judge.

By aiding the victims of abuse, you are showing them there they are not alone and that there are options and ways out of the current situation that they are in and all it takes is listening to their story and helping them put pen to paper. It is an extremely rewarding and humbling position. By interning at this position, you are coming in contact with many different people from many different backgrounds and stories and the sense of doing administrative work. I also get to use my Spanish major by doing Spanish translation both for legal documents as well as in facilitating meetings between the lawyer and clients.

Although the personal stories I often hear from clients of their immigration journeys are at times emotionally wrenching, I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given to have conversations with people from all over the world, including Africa, Central, and South America. Moreover, though the American immigration system in general is clearly problematic, many clients show extreme gratitude for the services ILSI provides, which makes me feel as if I'm actually making a contribution to better lives.

My internship is certainly providing me with the professional experience I will need for job opportunities in the future, but more importantly I have been given opportunities for advocacy.

ILSI is always looking for extra help. Students with an array of majors or focuses are encouraged to apply, including those with Pre-Law, Political Science, IT, and foreign language specializations.

Polisci student interns with Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants  
by Brittany Kinealy

My internship this semester is with Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants, or ILSI, a non-profit law firm that assists both documented and undocumented immigrants with a variety of services, including asylum, family reunification, and naturalization.

The majority of my work centers around assisting ILSI's lawyer. The lawyer handles cases for the dozens of clients that ILSI is helping, so it is a pretty typical internship in for grantors. A long-term task that I am working on this semester is assembling an archive of past NMC performances and press releases for the NMC website. This involves identifying unlabeled audio of past performances. During the day of shows, I run the door, sell artists' merchandise, hand out survey cards, set up chairs and sound equipment, and provide transportation to and from the venue for artists. "Day of" tasks are definitely a scramble.

Students interested in internships should contact the undergraduate advisor Robert Strikwerda at rstrikwe@slu.edu.