

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY/DECEMBER 2010/VOLUME 02

Getting to know Dr. Robert Strikwerda, Director of the Global and Local Social Justice Certificates, and his plans for a student conference in February:

First of all, here's some background information:

-A professor who teaches in both Women's Studies and Political Science, Dr. Strikwerda is very involved here at SLU. After having taught at University of Indiana-Kokomo, he came here to head the Global and Local Justice Certificate, as well as leading students to and through successful internships in the Political Science and Women's Studies departments. He plans on hosting a conference in February for students interested in showcasing excellent research papers, projects, internships, and much more.

What is the Global and Local Social Justice Certificate?

It's a certificate for those interested in understanding structures that expand or impede material welfare, racial and gender equality, individual human rights, peace, and other components of a just society.

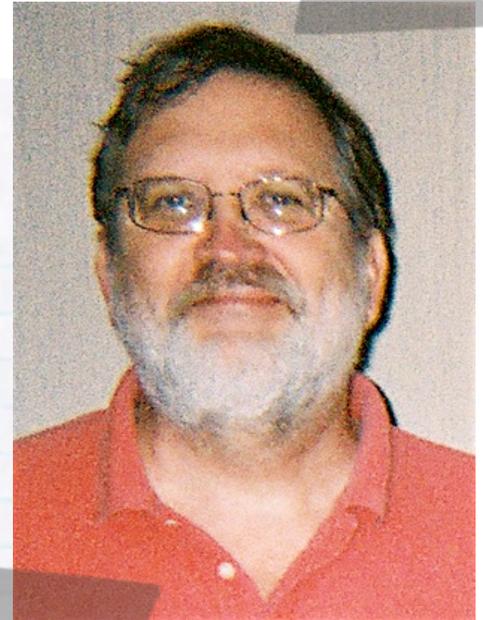
What types of careers are those enrolled in the certificate trying to achieve?

-A career that addresses the issues of war, poverty, and injustice. Such as:

- public policy
- work in international NGOs
- social work
- politics
- community activism

What/who is the conference for and what types of things will be going on?

-This conference is for students to showcase their academic work that examines elements of a just society. This includes papers they have written for class, internships they've participated in, and research projects. Anyone who is interested may submit an abstract.



Dr. Robert Strikwerda



Conference Information:

Friday, February 18

Students who want to participate must turn in abstracts by February 4

Participation looks good on resumes and there will be awards!

To submit an abstract, go to www.slu.edu/x42978.xml

Student Internships Worldwide

Josh Bickl
Art Child



What did he do?

- Worked with the president of the organization
- Was the liaison for Art Child and UNESCO.
- Translated documents from French to English and vice versa
- Made Power Points for presentations, took notes during meetings

How long did it last?

One summer (between his junior and senior years).

Did he get credit through SLU?

Yes, he received 6 credit hours.

How did he get it? Was it difficult?

"It wasn't difficult at all." Josh went through a placement agency called Global Experiences. It cost him \$4,000, but they placed him in a position and found a host family for him.

Advice: "If you want to get into international relations, you *have* to be proficient in foreign language. I couldn't have done the job if i wasn't."

Perry Cole
Des Lee Fellowship

What did she do?

- Worked at YWCA with adults with developmental disabilities. (Depending on the student's area of interest, this changes.)
- Went to leadership training every week.

How long did it last?

It is a year long commitment. Ten weeks during the summer, 4 full-day seminars in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

Did she get credit through SLU?

Yes, she is getting 3 credit hours through the Political Science department. Also, she got paid \$2,000.

How did she get it? Was it Difficult?

I heard about it through SLU United Way chapter on campus. There are applications online at <http://www.stl.unitedway.org/fellowship.aspx>. There were only 12-16 fellows, out of who knows how many applicants.

Advice: Start scoping out internships now for the summer, and get as many options as possible!

Other Internships Ideas:

- Work on a political campaign (local, state, representative)
- Des Lee Fellows (through United Way of Greater St. Louis)
- Aldermanic internships
- Legal Internships
- Work in local representative offices of congress people

Claire Wright

Microfinancing Partners in Africa (MPA)



What did she do?

- Worked on introductory newsletters, an ethical grading scale, and volunteer kits.
- She also attended all related meetings with board members, media personnel, and grant writers.
- She helped research and write for grants to secure funding.

How long did it last?

2 and 1/2 months in St. Louis at the headquarters and for 3 weeks in Uganda and Tanzania. (Summer 2010)

Did she get credit through SLU?

Yes, she received 6 credit hours through the graduate school and completed a capstone project with MPA for the masters program doing research in Africa on the organization's project in Uganda and a prospective partner in Bukoba, Tanzania.

How did she get it? Was it difficult?

Through lots of networking! She said, "I do not believe it is difficult to get an internship like the one I had if you put in the time and the effort."

Advice: "Do not be afraid to voice your opinions and your suggestions. Always remember, an internship is a learning experience, not a job."

Kathryn Laws

MO House of Representatives, Jeanne Kirkton



What did she do?

-interned at the Missouri House of Representatives
-Attended committee meetings, presentations, Senate hearings, researched legislation from other states, talked with constituents daily, gave tours.

How long did it last?

For an entire legislative session (January to the following January), Monday through Thursday 8 or 9 a.m. to 5.

How did she get it? Was it difficult?

Jeanne Kirkton sent an e-mail

to SLU asking if anyone would be interested. Kathryn mentioned that if anyone was interested in getting a similar internship she would be able to assist you. You can contact her at klaws1@slu.edu.

Extra Info:

- "You have to get an apartment in Jefferson City, but do not always have to stay though although most interns do."
- "You don't need to bring your car."
- "It is important to note that I was totally independent down there, all the other colleges have structured programs that tell them exactly what's required of them, SLU doesn't have that, so this isn't a program for someone that is shy or isn't self-motivated."

Advice: "This was such a cool/life changing internship, I want everyone to do it! Also, I think this program is best for Juniors and Seniors."

JAMIE MONOGAN--IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION IN THE 2010 ELECTIONS



On Friday, November 19, Jamie Monogan, an assistant professor at Washington University and University of Georgia came to SLU to talk about his research on how immigration issues affected the 2010 elections to the US House of Representatives. The talk was extremely well-attended. Dr. Monogan concluded:

-Taking a harsh stand on immigration did not always help

Republican candidates.

-Republican candidates who had less money and who were in less secure districts usually benefitted from taking a harsh stand on immigration.

-Republicans could exploit the immigration issue in districts with higher unemployment and a higher percentage of foreign-born residents.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 10th - McGannon 121

3-6 p.m.

Good food; good lighting; good music; good company

