



INTELLECTUAL **Ie** ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Pre-Graduate School Internship Find Your Passion

SPRING 2014 IE PRE GRAD INTERNSHIP RESEARCH REPORT

200 undergraduates (approximately 70% of whom are first-generation, economically disadvantaged or underrepresented minority students) enrolled this semester in the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Pre Grad Internship. They work with graduate student mentors and faculty in approximately sixty academic disciplines in UT's colleges/schools. For many interns conducting original research is a key component of their IE experience. In fact, because of the generosity of UT's deans, some IE interns travel to and present their research at academic conferences. In view of the vital role played by research at UT, as well as the ongoing need to educate students to engage in this enterprise, here is a sample of the research and creative projects of spring 2014 IE Pre Grad interns in 10 of UT's colleges.

LIBERAL ARTS

SooYeon Kim (English and Linguistics): Examining texting (SMS) as a fingered speech and how, if at all, people compensate for the disparity between texting and verbal speech (such as lack of body language) within the mechanism of texting.

Sofia Morales (Sociology): Research is focused on the struggles and issues of the indigenous population in Guatemala. The goal is to have a greater appreciation and understanding of Latin America and the migrants who travel within Latin America and to the US, with a focus on indigenous peoples in Mexico and Central America.

Hayden Henderson (Forensic Psychology/Sociology): Doing research and writing a publishable paper about crimes of obedience, particularly during war, and how the legal system handles these crimes.

Nivethitha Thiagarajan (Philosophy): Research and analysis pertaining to the philosophical writings of Aristotle.

Gabriela Cook (Linguistics): Assisting with data collection and analysis for several research projects in the UT Linguistics Sound Lab.

Madeleine Oakley (Linguistics): Serving as a research assistant in the phonetics lab, setting up the experiments and running subjects, as well as attending weekly lab meetings to learn about other experiments being conducted in the lab.

Sarah Garza (English): Doing research on the constructions of Latina ethnic identity within the United States and issues of human rights.

Trenton Patterson (Sociology): Researching factors, both social and institutional, creating academic hurdles for Black university students.

Jessica Long (History): Conducting research on British History, with a specific focus on the imperial aspect of the British Empire.

Olivia Wiley (Spanish and Portuguese): Doing research on heritage speaker and non-native Spanish speaker interaction, with an emphasis on identity status development in language learning.

Emily Mixon (Geography): Researching land use land cover change (LULC) dynamics and human/environmental interactions at different spatial and temporal scales, with a particular focus on the Kgalagadi in Botswana. Ultimate goal is to create a project focused either on land change in an arid U.S. watershed, or on species habitat monitoring for keystone or endangered species in the western US or Texas.

Michelle Moreau (Psychology): Completing research project and preparing a poster to present at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference.

Samantha Henderson (Anthropology): Research to determine how beneficial binocular vision is for mouse lemur predation on fruit vs. insects. Since mouse lemurs are one of the remaining living primates that share traits with ancestral primates, the goal of the project is to gain more insight on one of the causes of evolutionary development of early primates.

Stephanie Gonzales (Psychology): Research in developmental psychology in the Cognition, Culture, and Development Lab, with a particular interest in low socioeconomic communities.

Garrett Windle (Government): Preparing a research paper that focuses on the challenges of regulating firearms trafficking in the rapidly approaching age of home 3D printing; also considering the additional challenges posed by proxy routing and encrypted web traffic.

Aro Han (Government): Research in political economics with a focus on “rentier politics” specifically in the Gulf States and the experiment of Arab Socialism in the 1950’s.

Andrea Argueta (Clinical Psychology): Research on young children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders, with a focus on learning more about the early assessments conducted on children to detect whether or not they are at risk for ASD this semester.

Olivia Arena (Government): Investigating climate change and sustainability, with a specific research project based on the spread of food desert policies across cities in different US regions.

John Roenigk (English): Research on German cultural interactions, and how they developed during and after the fascist period of German history.

Dinusha Wijesinghe (History): Research on South Asia, with a focus on the history of radio in India and Pakistan.

Alison Simerly (Geography): Research on the connection between people and place, focusing on the physical connection between humans and their environment than the cultural.

Joseph Barron (Developmental Psychology): Research on the reasons why young children (3-6 years) choose to imitate adults, in order to get a better understanding of the real world situations which facilitate imitative learning in the classroom.

Cole Thornton (Geography): Working in the field, learning a variety of geography research techniques, field notes, and basics of research.

Joy Josephs (Clinical Psychology): Collecting and analyzing data for graduate mentor in the Social Endocrinology Lab.

Cristabella Trimble-Quiz (Linguistics): Working in the UT Sound Lab and learning about research practices including subject running and data analysis.

COMMUNICATION

Aislyn Fulton (Communication Sciences and Disorders): Research focused on language development in bilingual children, in relation to monolingual children.

Jillian Barrineau (Communication Sciences and Disorders): Working in the Habla Lab – studying the challenges of speech acquisition for bilingual children.

Katie Keith (Communication Sciences and Disorders): Working in the Language Learning and Bilingualism Laboratory, focusing on how to evaluate vocabulary development in English, Mandarin, and Spanish speaking children and adults with language impairments.

Heidi Martin (Communication Studies): Research on the role of communication in forming and maintaining interpersonal relationships.

Elise Frame (Communication Studies): Doing research that examines the use of pronouns (I, me, you, and we) between romantic male-female couples in creating distance or intimacy.

Emily Ybarbo (Communication Sciences and Disorders): Conducting research on children identified with autism in 15-minute sessions; recording and reviewing to phonetically transcribe their speech.

Elizabeth McCord (Communication Sciences and Disorders): Working with Autism Spectrum Disorder adults in a group called "Conversation Club". Observing and conversing with the adults while monitoring their social and cognitive skills over the course of the semester.

Brandon Daniels (Communication Studies): Performing content analyses of contemporary presidential speeches; this research will be presented at a conference this summer.

Hayley Gruwer (Communication Studies): Research on interpersonal relationships through the conversations in different contexts such as face-to-face, computer-mediated, on valued subjects, or contentious subjects.

NATURAL SCIENCES

Kristal Hodge (Biochemistry): Working in a lab that determines how the C-terminal domain of eukaryotic RNA polymerase II acts as a regulatory checkpoint for transcription based on its conformational states.

Chris Dessert (Mathematics): Doing research to better understand the mathematics behind special and general relativity and the relationship between space and time as well as energy and momentum.

Miguel Diaz (Neuroscience): Research on the evolution of monogamous behavior in terms of genetics and neuroscience using a rodent model (prairie voles).

Saad Khan (Mathematics): Researching the relationship between Partial Differential Equations and Mathematical Analysis.

Alexandria Lawrence (Biochemistry): Performing experiments on labeling proteins with fluorescent molecules as a way to hopefully make sequencing proteins easier.

Bastion Fennell (Computer Science): Research in artificial intelligence, in particular research on natural language processing and dialogue systems, with a focus on path planning and genetic algorithms.

PHARMACY

Allan Lara (Pharmacy): Research on how interpersonal education is approached and how this will help meet the current healthcare challenges faced today.

EDUCATION

Dontay Waffer (Education): Adding to African and African Diaspora Studies by conducting research on education and cultural factors that influence, enable, and interfere with education.

Cesar Garcia (Education): Examining the efficacy of teacher education for social justice within a physical education program at an HBCU (Historically Black College/University).

Ka Kiu Natal Mok (Sports Management): Doing research on the sports culture in Hong Kong and other countries, such as the US, Singapore, and Korea, in order to develop a basic plan to change the sports culture in Hong Kong.

Ana Vega (Cultural Studies in Education): Conducting research on methods to help decrease the obstacles that students of color have in order to be successful in their academic career.

Lisa Guerra (Educational Psychology): Research on transition of Deaf/Hard of Hearing students from secondary education to higher education.

Taylor Brasher (Kinesiology): Research analyzing home field advantage in relation to travel mileage and the stress it puts on teams who travel large distances in the course of a weekend in college soccer.

Lisbet Acosta (School Psychology): Investigating how best to collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students that strengthen connections between the home and school.

Julia Martz (School Psychology): Research on childhood anxiety and OCD at Dell Children's hospital, with a focus on improving cognitive behavioral therapy for children as well as their parents.

Jeremy Bates (Education): Research on whether or not the appearance and allure of African-American based organizations impact (positive or negative) on the educational attainment and process of young African American students.

LBJ/GLOBAL STUDIES

Mike Ajoubi (Public Policy): Examining how to create a revised and revolutionary approach to medicine and medical politics.

Leslie Tisdale (Public Policy): Studying the contents of policies labeled "feminist policies," including women's health, equal pay, and general healthcare policies. Goal is to understand why women voters/activists were incredibly mobilized this summer during the Texas Legislature's multiple special sessions and how we can translate that nationally.

Cortney Sanders (Public Policy): Doing research that will allow people to better understand tax and economic development policy, as well as research on past presidents of the national Journal for Public Policy Analysis and Management.

FINE ARTS

Mason Voskamp (Music): Research in the UT Percussion Studio; composing 3/4 of the music for their next concert, as well as conducting and helping with rehearsals leading up to the performance.

ENGINEERING

Ivan Baker (Civil Engineering): Research on the demographics of professional engineers, in particular the lack of Black/African-American engineering students.

LAW

Savannah Kumar (Law): Studying the theoretical underpinnings of human rights and how communities form interpretations of human rights; also exploring the role of law in defining and protecting human rights.

Vanessa Chorush (Law): Undertaking research to better understand the complex legal questions that the public relations and advertising professions face.

Katherine Magee (Law): Exploring different fields of technical law beyond simply drafting patent documents such as trademark and copyright law, with an additional focus on types of financial/commercial law.

BUSINESS

Jenny Li (Business/Entrepreneurship): Research on practices needed to become an effective consultant which might eventually enable one to start their own business.

Stephen Smith (Business/Entrepreneurship): Researching entrepreneurship in the Austin area, focusing on start-up tech companies. The goal is to gain a thorough understanding of what it takes to have a successful business.

Felix Rodriguez (Business): Researching ways to connect aerospace engineering with successful entrepreneurship.