

ELN's Internship Program (Phase I): Participants Share their Experiences

Georgia Bio's *Emerging Leaders Network* launched its Internship Program in 2007 with tremendous success. The ELN Internship Program matches high performing graduate-level students from Georgia's top universities with internship positions in Georgia's life sciences community.

Last year (Phase I), over 40 highly qualified graduate-level students applied for the internships that were offered. Two participants, Jill Dunham and Katrin Offe, now share their experiences.

Jill Dunham, a Ph.D. student in Emory University's Molecular and Systems Pharmacology program, chose to participate in the ELN internship program in order to strengthen her resume and make her a competitive candidate for the job market. She spent that time at the **Georgia Department of Economic Development** where she got her feet wet in many different projects.

During the internship, one of the main projects she worked on was a profile for the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA). The profile is a mix of information about the bioscience industry, academics/research, and financing available in the state of Georgia, as well as information about the state itself, and is used as a marketing piece for other bioscience professionals and companies.

She also wrote many "one-pagers" highlighting nanomedicine, biomanufacturing, CROs, vaccine development, and drug discovery going on in the state, which were then translated into PowerPoints. Furthermore, she had a hand in putting together a PowerPoint that was later used to market Georgia to companies and researchers at large conferences by the department representatives. Soon, she will be helping to assemble information for the BIO conference held in San Diego.

"This internship has shown me that I really enjoy [the marketing] side of science," she says. "It's also shown me how much I enjoy writing about science, and reading about all different aspects of science, as opposed to just my specific field."

Katrin Offe, who obtained her Ph.D. degree from Emory University, shortly after participating in the ELN Internship Program, worked with **Erinn Goldman of Guvner Scientific**, a medical writing company.

There, she learned a variety of medical writing skills, including writing needs assessments, summarizing and laying out data from clinical trials as well as editing reviews.

"The internship gave me a better idea of what types of medical writing there are," she says. "I feel like I have a better perspective of what it's like to be a medical writer, which will be very helpful if I decide to pursue this as a career."

Encouraged by the success of Phase I of the Internship Program, ELN has launched Phase II with the goal of generating at least 10 internships from Georgia Bio organizations and companies. Hosting an ELN intern is a great way for a company to advance access to Georgia's emerging young professionals and is an excellent opportunity to develop relationships with the brightest and most motivated students from the best life sciences, engineering, law and business programs that Georgia has to offer.

If your company or organization would like more information on how to become a partner in this exciting experience, please contact internships@gabio.org.