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This semester was SUNY Potsdam’s first class for the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI). With twenty students enrolled - nine women and eleven men - from twenty different counties, this could be considered a successful first class! Director, Albert “Sonny” Duquette, said “I am very excited of the progress these cadets have made so far! I am impressed at the quality cadets SUNY Potsdam has here. We are above and beyond other academies at this point as we are heavy into hands-on tactical training here at our academy. We get out of our seats and do reality based scenarios.”

Part of the hands-on experience involves working with a patrol car which was donated by Deputy Chief of University Police, and sponsor, Tim Ashley. He believes the Institute will benefit our students when they graduate since most police forces will not have to send the cadets through the entire training again. This saves the police forces money, which is great for small forces, and makes our students prime candidates to be selected.

Along with the hands-on training, each cadet is completing an academic component. Dr. David Bugg is the academic sponsor for the cadets. He stated “as far as the academic piece of the institute, the cadets are doing overall really well. The academic material we are reading as part of the internship compliments nicely with the training that they are getting. So, they are seeing that both academics and practitioners view many issues in similar terms and are starting to see ways they can apply both the academic material and their academy material in conjunction later in their careers. Through hands-on learning and the academic component, we will have created graduates with the three key skills law enforcement is looking for: 1) Leadership ability; 2) Ability to work with diverse groups of people; and 3) Command presence.”

The cadets are also required to write an applied Learning Development White Paper which is an examination of an issue in law enforcement that requires some sort of policy change. Dr. Bugg believes “in working on this paper as part of [the cadets] Leadership Development Portfolio we are making a commitment to the developing of ‘thinking officers’ who can solve complex social, political, and legal challenges as they arise in their careers. In so doing we are joining a tradition of law enforcement training that commits to the development of leaders in the field such as the FBI’s National Academy Program and Texas’ Leadership Command College.” This institute will put SUNY Potsdam in the minds of students looking to join a career in law enforcement!

Read student testimonials on the next page!
Corwin Christman  
Class President  
Cadet

“The Academy has changed my life for the better. Before getting accepted into this program I was unsure about my career path. New York State can be a difficult place for students such as myself to find good jobs after graduation. Upon graduating this New York State certified academy, I know I'll have a leg up in this competitive job market.

“My day as a cadet is filled with both physical and mentally demanding challenges. This program teaches great discipline and mental focus. My favorite thing about this academy is that I am given the hands on training I will need to stay safe in every situation as a police officer. I am excited to enter the law enforcement work field with the skill knowledge needed to serve and protect each and every person in my community.”

Kelly Schmidt  
Class Vice President  
Cadet

“This is a great experience because each of us cadets will graduate with the pre-employment police academy on our résumés, which makes us much more marketable to hiring police departments. We experience a great deal of hands-on learning, helping us retain all of the classroom material that we learn on topics such as crimes in progress, off-duty encounters, and many more. The purpose of college is to prepare students in the best way possible for their future careers. I cannot think of a better way to prepare future police officers than taking the academy while simultaneously earning a degree.”

Sara Livecchi  
Cadet

“My name is Sara Livecchi, I am a senior Sociology and Criminal Justice Major. Being in Law Enforcement has always been a dream career for me and being able to partake in an actual Academy on campus has been an amazing experience. Not only do the courses and daily activities challenge you both physically and mentally, but you get the experience of seeing what police work is really like. Knowing that I am going to have one of the best trainings in the state thanks to our Director, Sonny Duquette, makes me look forward to beginning my career, and seeing where my future will take me.”
Faculty Spotlight: Iggy Beerbower
Assistant Professor of Photography

Why do you think internships are important for undergrad students?
It is a way to get hands-on experience in their major discipline. It helps to give the student a better understanding of their specific field while developing skills needed to build up their resume. The work ethic and confidence gained are helpful when facing the working world after graduation.

Why do you sponsor student interns?
It is one way that to know if a specific internship is beneficial for a student. It is also a way to know if obligations of work assignments, learning objectives, and hours are being met by both the student and the company. And on the rare occasion when issues arise, I am there to help and support the student.

What advice do you have for students looking to intern?
An internship is a real job so the work the student does (both good and bad) has an impact on the company or organization. Don’t just do what is asked. Push yourself to take on more responsibilities or complete the task given at a higher quality than expected. One benefit of an internship is the networking opportunities. Someone you impress during your internship can open doors or support you in the future.

Fall 2016 Statistics

Number of student appointments = 297

Number of student interns = 156

Number of faculty sponsors = 55
Student Spotlight: Alison Thompson

Overseas Study: Europe (England, France, Italy)

What were the highlights of your internship?
This overseas study truly made me appreciate and learn about different cultures by emerging myself in activities that I normally would not do. Due to being an art history nerd, I enjoyed visiting museums and buildings of historical architectural significance, such as The National Gallery of London, The Louvre, the Roman Forum, and the Vatican City.

What did you learn from the internship?
This experience taught me the importance of trying something out of your comfort zone and going the distance (literally!) to try something new. I learned so much about different European cultures, from food culture to daily life. For me personally, the trip made me more socially aware of our diverse world, and how study abroad trips, whether they be two weeks or a whole semester, can make you aware and appreciate other's differences. I also learned about how I view myself as a photographer, and how trips like these can challenge my artistic aesthetics and process.

What was your biggest challenge while abroad and how did it help you grow?
The biggest challenge while traveling abroad was the fact that this was the first time I have ever travelled alone. I learned how to navigate subways, train stations, and airports by myself. Being from a small-town (Edwards, NY), I was not use to city-life, and this experience opened by eyes to what there is out there. It made me appreciate being from a small town, but also made me aware of the possibilities and opportunities there are in populated areas, especially since I want to work in an art museum someday.

What is your favorite memory from being abroad and why?
My favorite memory abroad was visiting a local's apartment in Rome, Italy with my tour group to make homemade pasta and taste different wines, olive oils, and balsamic vinegars. It was a great learning and bonding experience!

Would you recommend other students have an applied learning experience?
I would highly recommend students to consider taking on some sort of applied learning experience while in college. In the past four years here at Potsdam, I have done a variety of internships, including being a Student Teacher at Potsdam High School teaching photography, working as an intern in the Department of Photography at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, as well as doing small on-campus internships like being a Teacher's Assistant in art history courses and working as a Darkroom Assistant in the Art Department. All these internships have increased my knowledge in the career fields I aspire to work in.
**Frozen Tour**

The “Frozen Tour” is the February marketing tour to promote summer internships and the importance of completing an internship.

- **Number of Classes visited:** 49
- **Number of students seen:** 1,666
- **Number of invitations accepted:** 35
- **Number of appointments this semester**: 264

*January 23, 2017 — March 29, 2017

**Contact Us!**

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