Martindale Student Associates Program

Program Overview

The Martindale Student Associates Program provides an opportunity for a select group of Lehigh University students to explore global business, economic, and political policy issues outside the scope of classroom study. The Martindale Center takes each year’s class of Student Associates on a 10- to 12-day research trip for in-depth study and fact gathering. In the past, they have visited Germany, France, Argentina, Mexico, the Czech Republic, Canada, Chile, Austria, Switzerland, Ireland, Hong Kong, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Hungary and Panama.

During the following academic year, Student Associates complete their research, work one-on-one with a faculty mentor, and write up their findings in the form of professional-quality journal articles. These articles are published annually in the Martindale Center’s undergraduate research journal, Perspectives on Business and Economics (published from 2001 to 2005 in cooperation with the NASDAQ Educational Foundation, Inc.). In addition to their research activities, Student Associates are full-fledged members of the Martindale Center, taking part in conferences, as well as meeting and talking with leading figures in government, business, finance, and academia who come to the Center as visiting scholars.

Applying for the Program

An extremely competitive selection process begins in January of each year, when students from Lehigh’s three undergraduate colleges—with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher—receive notification of their eligibility. The final selection is made by a panel of faculty members and based on academic record, a written application, and performance in an interview. Student Associates pay no fees for participation in the Program and all expenses for travel and journal publication are paid by the Center.
Michael J. Ballanco is a Computer Science and Business major. A Dean’s List student, he is the recipient of PricewaterhouseCoopers Computer Science and Business scholarship to intern and study in Prague. He serves as Vice President of the Residence Hall Association, is the President of his class in the Computer Science and Business Association, and was the President of his residence hall’s House Council. In addition, he is a disc jockey for Lehigh’s radio station WLVR, is active in University Productions Music, and was a campus tour guide. Following graduation, he would like to pursue a career in the financial services industry and ultimately obtain a Master’s degree in Business Administration.

**Topic:** Stimulating Entrepreneurship: Policy and Education  
**Mentor:** Judith McDonald

Hannah Behrmann is an English Literature and Classical Civilizations double major, with an accidental minor in French. A recurring Dean’s List student and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Hannah is a member of the Humanities Center Steering Committee, Visiting Lecturers Committee, Progressive Student Alliance, Philosophy Club, Spectrum, and also a coordinator of the Drown Writers Series. She is a founder of several extraneous book groups, studying feminist and post-structuralist philosophy. Hannah plans to pursue a doctorate in Literature and aspires to drink coffee with many interesting people.

**Topic:** Counterculture Transformation in Amsterdam—Is there a Post-Theo Van Gogh Effect?  
**Mentor:** Janet Laible

Stephanie Berger is an International Relations and French double major. She will remain at Lehigh next year as a President’s Scholar. A recipient of the Dean’s Scholarship and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, she is a Gryphon, the President of the Healthy Hawks (a peer education club through the Wellness Center), a peer tutor in French, and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Stephanie plans to pursue a doctorate in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations and intends to become a professor.

**Topic:** Flanders and Wallonia: Together or Apart?  
**Mentor:** Janet Laible

Bridget Clancy is an Accounting and Finance double major. She is an active member of the Association of Student Alumni and the Programming Director for the Residence Hall Association. A member of the Accounting Club, the Dreyfus Portfolio Management group, and the Beta Alpha Psi accounting honor society, Bridget is a Tauck Scholarship recipient who will intern in Shanghai, China this summer. She plans to seek a Master’s degree in Accounting.

**Topic:** Taxes and Luxembourg  
**Mentor:** Stephen Snyder

Cameron Copeland is an Integrated Business and Engineering Honors student with a concentration in Finance and Supply Chain Management. He brings the experience of his international upbringing in Seoul, Hong Kong, and London to his leadership as Vice President of the Global Union, organizing a plethora of social, cultural, and educational opportunities for the broader Lehigh community. Cameron is a Dean’s Scholar, a member of the Lehigh Varsity Crew team, Gryphon Society, and Break the Silence (sexual violence crisis hotline). Upon graduation, Cameron plans to seek international opportunities within the professional services industry.

**Topic:** Pension Trends  
**Mentor:** J. Richard Aronson

Anthony Kuster is a Civil Engineering major with a minor in German. A consistent Dean’s List student, he is a National Merit Scholarship recipient. Anthony tutors Calculus and Physics and participates in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Steel Bridge Building Contest. Additionally, he is a brother of Psi Upsilon fraternity, where he has served as Vice President and Steward. Abroad, he studied language and culture in Germany and sustainable development in Costa Rica. He will remain at Lehigh for a fifth year as a President’s Scholar, either to obtain a Master’s degree or pursue a second major. After graduation Anthony plans to seek a career in transportation or coastal engineering.

**Topic:** Transitions in Design Philosophy and Flood Control  
**Mentor:** Richard Weisman

Tamara Nisic is an International Relations major with a Molecular Biology minor. A Dean’s List student, she is very active in the Progressive Student Alliance, participates in Prof. Barry Bean’s Andrology Lab in Iacocca Hall, and is an EMT for Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services. She is a Break the Silence (sexual violence crisis hotline) volunteer, a member of the Philosophy Club, and a Youth and Counter-Militarism coordinator with the local peace group LEPOCO. As a summer intern for Global Youth Connect’s delegation on human rights, she will study conflict resolution issues in post-war Bosnia. Immediately after graduation, she hopes to work with a non-profit organization to help protect human rights. She ultimately plans to attend medical school.

**Topic:** Immigration and Guest Workers  
**Mentor:** David Pankenier
CAITLIN SHENK is a Journalism/Science Writing and Environmental Studies double major with a minor in Science, Technology, and Society. A Dean’s List student, Caitlin is a Rodale Scholar through the Rodale Program in Online Communications. She is a member of the Association of Student Alumni, the Epitome yearbook staff, Students for Sustainable Development, the Gender and Violence Working Group, and the Mustard and Cheese Drama Society. She works closely with faculty mentors as a research and teaching assistant and also participates in many community service activities, including two spring break service projects with Habitat for Humanity. Caitlin recently completed a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Delaware’s Disaster Research Center, where she analyzed media coverage of race and class issues in New Orleans, Louisiana preceding Hurricane Katrina. She plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in environmental policy, addressing issues such as environmental justice and sustainable development.

Topic: Energy, Climate Change, and Global Warming

Mentor: Stephen Cutcliffe

RICHARD SYPECK is a Sociology and Anthropology major with minors in Spanish and Japanese. He is involved with the Office of Student Leadership Development as a third-year member, the Phase II Coordinator, and a team leader of freshmen in Leadership Lehigh. Additionally, he works as a Study Abroad Peer Advisor, creating information sessions and advising Lehigh students about the process. He is a volunteer for Break the Silence (sexual violence crisis hotline) and a three-time Orientation Leader. Concerned with issues of diversity on campus, he is a member of the Movement as well as the President of Spectrum, Lehigh’s LGBTQ+ student group. Upon graduation, he wants to further his education and conduct research about Japan and participate in the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program.

Topic: Education Issues

Mentor: Michael Baylor

SUE NEE TAN is a Civil Engineering and Environmental Science double major. A Dean’s List student, she is the co-founder of the Association of International Students at Lehigh, and a board member for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and American Society of Civil Engineers. Active in University Productions and the Asian Cultural Society, she volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to help with restoration efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. She hopes that one day her training in civil engineering and environmental science will enable her to devise more sustainable and environmentally friendly methods of land development.

Topic: Water Treatment and Management

Mentor: Richard Weisman

M. JEREMY WALSH is a Mechanical Engineering major in the Integrated Business and Engineering Program with a minor in Aerospace Engineering. A Dean’s List scholar, his honors include the Wagner Prize and Pi Tau Sigma Prizes in Engineering, the Wilbur Prize in Mathematics, and the IBE Top Scholar Award. Jeremy will graduate with Bachelor’s degrees in Mechanical Engineering and IBE. He hopes to work in the field of advanced fuels and engines, initially in design and eventually assuming the role of project manager or engineering firm executive.

Topic: Demographic Trends in the Labor Force

Mentors: David Pankenier, Todd Watkins

BELGIUM

Student Associates: Benelux 2007 (front, l. to r.): Tamara Nisic, Stephanie Berger, Richard Sypeck, Sue Nee Tan, Cameron Copeland. (middle, l. to r.): Rachel Stewart, Caitlin Shenk, Michael Ballanco. (rear, l. to r.): M. Jeremy Walsh, Hannah Behrmann, Bridget Clancy, Anthony Kuster.
I owe a great deal of my personal and professional success to my participation in the Martindale program. As a student, I was exposed to new ideas and concepts that extended beyond the normal academic curriculum and broadened my thinking. In the process, I also developed deeper relationships with my professors, other students, and alumni that have continued to flourish to this day. Looking back, my involvement as a Student Associate was the highlight of my Lehigh experience.

— Sarat Sethi ’92, CFA
Student Associate, Czech Republic Trip
President, The Martindale Society
Lehigh University Young Alumni Trustee
Harvard University Business School, MBA, ’97
Partner/Portfolio Manager,
Douglas C. Lane & Associates

“Being a Student Associate was the most rewarding and relevant experience of my college years. The research trip provided a unique opportunity to become immersed in another country’s culture firsthand—an experience for which there is no substitute. I learned about the rigors of research, which is something I do regularly now as the lead economist for Chile at Morgan Stanley. I couldn’t have asked for better training than my visit to Chile in ’98.”

— Luis Arcentales ’99
Student Associate, Chile Trip
Economist and Vice President
Morgan Stanley

The Student Associates Program, one of Lehigh’s premiere undergraduate research programs, is a superb recruiting tool for attracting an increasingly talented group of students. My only regret is that Lehigh didn’t have this program when I was a student.

— James R. Tanenbaum ’70, ’71 BA
Chairman, Lehigh University Board of Trustees