The Martindale Center

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 public policy issues outside the scope of classroom study. The Martindale Center takes each year’s class of students on a 10- to 12-day research trip for in-depth study and fact gathering. Most recently, they have visited Panama, the Benelux countries, New Zealand, Turkey, and Iceland.

During the following academic year, students 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, Martindale Student Associates are full-fledged members of the Martindale Society, 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. Martindale Student Associates pay no fees for participation in the program.
CAROLINE BENDKY is an integrated business and engineering (IBE) honors program student with a double major in business and mechanical engineering and a minor in energy engineering. She is an Eckardt Scholar, as well as a recipient of the Dean’s, Accenture, and Robert C. Byrd Scholarships. In addition, she is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma national honor society and the Pi Tau Sigma mechanical engineering honor society. Caroline is an active participant in Leadership Lehigh, where she takes part in community service and is a team leader for first-year students. She serves as social chair for the IBE Council. Caroline plans to work as an engineer in the energy industry before returning to graduate school.

Topic: Electric Energy Industry
Mentor: Miltoς Hatalis

BRIAN BERZIN is an integrated business and engineering honors program student with a double major in finance and electrical engineering. Brian’s on-campus activities include being a TRAC (Technology, Research, and Communications) writing fellow, lead trumpet in the Lehigh University Jazz Ensemble, and an active brother in Phi Sigma Pi national honor fraternity. He has won awards for his research and development of environmentally friendly lighting applications. Brian runs his own entrepreneurial venture, which he started at Lehigh. Last summer he interned at PNC Bank in credit risk management. Brian will pursue a career in the financial services industry.

Topic: Financial Markets
Mentor: Paul Brockman

JARED BLACKER is an accounting major. A recurring Dean’s List, University Athletic Honor Roll, and Patriot League Academic Honor Roll student, he is a peer mentor for the Dean of Students Office. As a member of the varsity swim team, Jared is active in Lehigh athletics, serving as a member of the Student Athlete Executive Council which supports athletics on campus. This summer Jared will intern in the accounting industry in New York City. He hopes to work within this field, in financial services, after completing his graduate degree in accounting.

Topic: Privatization
Mentor: Paul Brockman

MAGNOLIA COLVILLE is studying industrial engineering and law while enrolled in the integrated degree in engineering, arts & sciences (IDEAS) honors program. A recipient of the Dean’s Scholarship, she is a recurring Dean’s List student and a member of the Phi Eta Sigma honor society. Megan is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and serves as vice president of both Intellectual development and member education. She was a summer intern at the university for Lehigh University and is employed as a cooperative associate in the Contract Administration Department of PPL EnergyPlus. Megan plans to attend law school and obtain her J.D. degree.

Topic: Judicial System
Mentor: Judith McDonald

MARK SKANDERA is an economics and mathematics double major. He is a recipient of the Elisha P. Whigham Jr. Engineering Prize and the William Wilbur Mathematics Prize and the William Whigham Jr. Engineering Prize. He is active in Phi Sigma Pi national honor fraternity and serves as fundraising chair. He is vice president of the IBE Council and a Gryphon (resident advisor). Last summer he interned at Goldman Sachs; this summer he will intern at Citigroup. He is excited to start a career in the financial services industry.

Topic: Taxes
Mentor: Richard Weisman

CAROLINE BENDYK

JARED BLACKER

MAGNOLIA COLVILLE

MARK SKANDERA

Greece 2011

www.lehigh.edu/martindale
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.

From its inception, the Martindale Center has engaged students, faculty, and alumni in global economic issues. In pursuing this mission, it has become a model for the experience-based learning that is a hallmark of a Lehigh education. We are proud to say that our university “blends the theoretical with the practical” to provide our students with “an integrated learning experience.” To see these words put into action on a daily basis, you need look no farther than the Martindale Center and its Student Associates Program.

The Martindale 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. Tannenbaum ‘70, ‘71 BF
Lehigh University Board of Trustees