

Out of the classroom, into the world



Left: Political science major Sara Shannon's internship with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid led to an internship for the Obama campaign. Right: Ben Busch, an architecture major, took this shot of the roof of Antoni Gaudí's Casa Milá, often called "La Pedrera," in Barcelona.

Grants help honors students develop their talents off-campus.

Last fall, as people across the country tuned in to the presidential debates, KU senior Sara Shannon was hard at work with Obama for America as a deputy field organizer in the battleground state of Missouri.

As a full-time employee for the Obama campaign, she recruited and organized volunteers. After the election, she was hired to work for President Barack Obama's inaugural committee, organizing service activities for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Shannon, of Ottawa, Kan., was asked to join the campaign after completing an internship as a speechwriter's assistant in the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Her internship with Reid was supported in part by a development grant from the KU Honors Program, funded by KU Endowment's Greater KU Fund.

"The Senate internship made me realize how important it was

to get hands-on experience in an important political year," she said. "The grant helped with the high cost of living in Washington, D.C., and my transportation costs, not to mention business attire."

Honors students like Shannon are required to have at least one extended out-of-classroom learning experience. Sarah Crawford-Parker, associate director for the Honors Program, said such opportunities sometimes require extra funding.

"We want these experiences to be rewarding, and the development grants can give students the chance for an extraordinary experience," she said.

Another grant recipient, KU senior Benjamin Busch, spent the summer of 2008 taking a crash course in the German language in Vienna. He spent the past two semesters at the University of Potsdam in Germany, studying the architecture of nearby Berlin. Busch, who is from Omaha, Neb., said that his goal is to "become a designer of spaces" and that living abroad has helped sharpen his skills.

"If more students have the means to study abroad, our society will be much more open-minded," he said.

— Sarah Aylward

Honors Program development grants

Opportunities

- Study abroad
- Research/creative projects
- Internships
- Service

Support in 2008-2009

- \$28,000 total awarded
- 41 recipients each received \$500 to \$1,500
- Source: Greater KU Fund



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