

## A Mule in Washington

The Muhlenberg Weekly News  
Thursday, October 22, 2009  
By Jeremy Goldberg, News Writer

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*If you're a junior or senior* looking to get away from campus but don't want the expenses of going out of the country or distance, consider studying in Washington D.C. for a semester. Mollie Lieblich '11 is currently participating in the Lutheran College Washington Semester (LCWS). The program helps place students at internships in their field of interest, provides night classes, and a weekly field trip. Mollie describes her experience as eye opening and is very involved with her extra curricular internship.

*On a typical day*, Mollie has a 20 minute commute to work. She is having a positive experience in her daily internship duties. Mollie says "my experience has been exhilarating, I actively learn and stay informed about current world affairs." With the ongoing debate over healthcare and the escalating controversy over Iran's covert nuclear program it is an interesting time to be in the nation's capital.

*Part of the LCWS program* is to attend a congressional hearing, a protest, and do some community service. She attended a Senate Banking Committee hearing entitled "Minimizing Potential Threats from Iran: Administration Perspectives on Economic Sanctions and Other US Policy Options." The hearing was about how the Senate will consider enforcing tough economic sanctions on Iran and will punish corporations that invest in Iran's energy sector.

*Mollie feels that her internship experience* will help her stand out in the competitive job market when she graduates. In addition to the internship, the program has offered many things which she finds beneficial. She lives at the River Place Apartments in Rosslyn, Virginia, which has a lot to offer.

*The LCWS office and classrooms* are located on the premises, which is very convenient. Mollie is taking two classes: American Diversity, and Conflict and Compromise. She said, "my American Diversity class gives us a chance to talk about our backgrounds and how diverse we are from one another. My experience in DC has also given me the opportunity to make friends outside of Muhlenberg."

*About 20 other schools around the country* participate in the program. Her roommates are from Montana and Western Pennsylvania, areas in the US she has never been to. Other students in the program are from North Dakota, Virginia, California, and Illinois.

*Her penthouse is a five minute walk* from the Metro subway system and from the awe-inspiring Iwo Jima Memorial, which commemorates the six soldiers who put the flag up at Iwo Jima, Japan during World War II. She is also walking distance from many nice restaurants and Georgetown, which has many shops and attractions for DC college students. Rosslyn is also one metro stop away from the George Washington campus, where she feels she could go to when she wants to be in a college environment. Mollie likes the fact that Muhlenberg is only a three hour drive away so she can go back to visit her friends.

*The LCWS program includes a field trip* every Wednesday. So far, Mollie has taken a bus tour around DC, going to all of the famous memorials and monuments in the downtown DC area. She saw the play, 700 Sundays, starring Billy Crystal, at the National Theater. She then went to N-Street Village, which is a women's shelter that houses battered and displaced elderly women. She has also gone to the Newseum, Pentagon, and the Capital. Mollie loves the fact that Washington, D.C. contains so many historical sites.

*So far her favorite place is in Alexandria, Virginia*, where she walked around an area called "old-town Alexandria." Old Town Alexandria still preserves many of its historic buildings from the Colonial Era, and where the founding fathers, such as Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, came to socialize. Mollie toured George Washington's mansion, Mount Vernon, which is also located in that part of Virginia. She loved seeing where Washington lived and enjoyed the mansion's beautiful view overlooking the Potomac River.

*Mollie feels that the program has allowed* her to develop her independence in a nice group setting. She commutes to her internship during the day on her own, but is also required to attend field trips and take two classes. She is comforted that the program has provided her with a small and intimate community, but at the same time she could go out on her own in the city and explore. Upon reflecting on her time here in DC she said "I have had such a positive experience so far, I would encourage others to take advantage of this program that offers so many opportunities."