Two Prestigious Internships

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Two WKU students just wrapped up very prestigious internships on opposite sides of the Eastern Hemisphere. One at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and the other at the International Criminal Tribunal in the Hague Netherlands.

Amy Bingham talks to both of them in this week’s View from the Hill.

“For the past eight weeks I’ve interned at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, in particular in the Public Affairs office where I worked with the press office as well as cultural affairs.”

WKU Junior Jay Todd Richey spent the summer at the hub of U.S. China relations.

“A lot of it was geared toward teaching them the American culture.”

It’s the kind of opportunity WKU’s Diplomat in Residence helps students find. Michael McLellan spent thirty years as a diplomat serving all over the world.

“Because I know what they’re looking for it makes it easier for me to bring out the qualities that are relevant.”

Richey’s qualities, Honors College, Chinese Flagship, incoming SGA President are easy to spot but he still had to beat out hundreds for the coveted internship.

“This is an extremely competitive program.”

“My friends who were there were all from Yale, Princeton, Georgetown, American University, George Washington University, University of Denver, USC and Western Kentucky University. We had never had that before and I couldn’t get over how honored I was to be selected.”

Graduate student Sabina Husic is back on campus after spending more than six months at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague, Netherlands.

“For me it was a very personal experience as much as professional. I am from Bosnia, a survivor of War and the ICTY prosecutes those responsible for War Crimes in Bosnia.”

Husic happened upon this opportunity when the head of the ICTY’s Communication department gave a speech at WKU.

“I was fortunate to speak with her, share ideas and that’s when she offered me this internship opportunity.” With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

Both Richey and Husic say the internships were invaluable in helping them chart the course for their futures.

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