

Lutheran World Federation is a global, non-profit organization that serves 77 countries and represents over 65 million Lutherans around the world. Broken into several different departments, LWF encompasses many different aspects of global service. My summer internship was secured through numerous (over one hundred) emails that I sent to and received from several employees at the LWF. To be certain, the internship took some time and effort on my part and on the part of those who helped me in Geneva and Chicago. However, the experience, detailed below, was well worth the effort. Simply stated, it was life changing.

1. My summer internship gave me the opportunity to work in the office of International Affairs and Human Rights, under the direction of Mr. Peter Prove. Mr. Prove's office is in charge of representing the LWF at international meetings, most of which are held in Geneva, Switzerland. Working closely beside Mr. Prove allowed me to attend many United Nations meetings including the annual Indigenous Peoples Conference, the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, and several others. My work was rewarded by Mr. Prove granting me the opportunity to present a statement at the Sub-Commission on Human Rights in early August. In addition to my work at the United Nations, I was also able to make contact with the General Secretary Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko (who has just been newly reelected for another term), representatives of the Mission and Development team, and many international interns and employees. My position with LWF enabled me to integrate my three majors: government/international affairs, philosophy, and religion. My work was quite inspiring for many different areas of my life: my faith, my commitment to academia, and the career to which I someday aspire.
2. I have maintained contacts with many LWF employees. These should enable Dr. Ann Pederson and I to work together to secure further student internships in Geneva. As Dr. Pederson stated in her final report, the funding of such internships is sometimes problematic, but I would encourage the Bush Foundation to continue its support of international interns. I cannot express in such few words the personal importance of my internship.
3. I have been in contact with Mr. Peter Prove, who just recently offered me a position in his office at the Lutheran World Federation. If all goes well, I will begin a short-term placement in the International Affairs and Human Rights office beginning in September of 2005. This position would allow me to gain some experience before pursuing a graduate degree within the fields of religion and law.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Ann Pederson, the Augustana Bush Grant Committee, and the Bush Foundation for the financial assistance, in addition to the most gracious encouragement which I received. I would be delighted to share more regarding my experience living and working abroad. There is much to tell.

With my warmest regards and thanks, Ingrid Christina Arneson