SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 101

by Blake Cole

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REAL ARTS @PENN

Animating characters at Nickelodeon Studios, attending meetings at Rolling Stone magazine headquarters—internships aren’t supposed to be this fun, right? Each year, the RealArts@PENN program, committed to integrating art world practice into the academic experience, selects top students for targeted internships like these. Once a candidate has been chosen, they sit down with the employer in order to determine whether the position is a good fit. And while interviewing with an international media giant like Viacom may seem like a lot of pressure, the payoff is invaluable, as the resulting skills and connections carry over long after the summer ends.

Amanda Wolkin, a junior majoring in English with a concentration in creative writing, is headed to Philadelphia magazine, while Samantha Sharon, a sophomore in communication and art history, will get firsthand experience with the collections at the Jewish Museum in New York. Departing for the west coast is Danny Eisenberg, a junior cinema studies major, who will be working one-on-one with prolific screenwriters David Stern and Stuart Gibbs in Los Angeles. “It’s an opportunity to get your foot in the door in a place that seldom allows access,” says Mingo Reynolds, Director of Administration at the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. “It’s so exciting to see someone’s future completely transformed by one summer of their college experience.”