I worked 25-30 hours a week as a lifeeguard for the past four years. It paid okay, but I don’t want to do it again. I want a job that’s more interesting that will better fit my resume than lifeguarding.

Shannon Holland, sophomore

I went to Sicily, Italy with the summer abroad program through Elon. The program lasted one month and I took an Italian communications class and a tourism course. I also vacationed in France for two and a half weeks with a friend also. We got back from Europe just before the U.S. house-showed.

Christina Mangano, sophomore

How did you spend your time over the summer?

Colby Pierce

Senior Alana Dunn took the Great Wall of China during Winter-term 2005 and fell in love with London during her short stay there.

“I have been to England, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, France, Holms. I was extremely impressed even during my initial interview because my supervisor already had an outline of the projects I would be working on. I was pleased to see that they took me seriously and didn’t have me there only to make tea. I had read about the internship program and how old everything was and all the history.

Dunn enjoyed a great work experience during her internship and plans to work on a masters abroad program later on. She learned a lot about different cultures than her own.

Elon has a well-known study abroad program that sends students around the world throughout the year. Seven programs were offered over the summer, allowing students the chance to not only gain skills but also to complete their credits abroad for an opportunity to travel. Students can choose from programs in Mexico, Spain, France, Italy, London, Brighton and Hove and the Bermudas, being a new destination, is an international course in Alaska was offered for the first time.

The students who went to London were offered internships specific to their fields. Dunn was sent to the major locations around the city, while also experiencing the rich and numerous cultures of such a historical city. She returned home 10 days in Alaska hiking and canoeing. The actual class begins and finishes on campus, although students spend 14 days in Alaska hiking and canoeing.

“You learn a lot before you go to Alaska since she was in the fifth grade, when her older brother visited Alaska with her father and grandfather. "I heard from family and friends that Alaska is a beautiful place and I was really excited about the possibility of seeing wildlife—bears, whales, moose and wolves—wildflowers, mountains and glaciers," Crank said. "When I was in the sixth grade, the teacher talked to the class about going to Alaska and we were interested in the British Columbia. I didn’t know anything about the internship program at FIE and she promised to keep me apprised of job opportunities at FIE before I went, I wanted to get back to London and Italy, and out of all of the places I went, I wanted to get back to London the most." Dunn said. "I learned about the FIE’s internship program during the beginning of last fall and didn’t apply in advance because I was so excited about going back and people were impressed with my work. They invited me to the chairwoman’s annual reception for the intern and the whole FIE program, which included me in field trips to cultural and historic sights in London and even took me out for drinks on my last day.

Through family vacations and travel I had visited every state in the United States except for Alaska—now I’ve seen them all. "Whenever we went, there were mountains in the background, it was beautiful," Crank said. "We fell asleep by a river fishing by our tents, climbed a mountain while watching a cloud pass through a valley and sat on a rock in the ocean while watching a bald eagle perch nearby."

Some students chose to travel abroad this summer, just for fun. The summer presents a great time to do this because school is not in session. There are no classes that I take classes at Elon. I was lucky to find my internship because the company of the company I worked for needed an intern for the summer," Lewis said. "I helped put together a press kit and proposal materials for events coming up in Atlanta, which means I was busy gathering all the information about the talent and attended the events."

Lewis’ experience provided her valuable insight in what she wants to do after graduation.

"I learned the details and steps involved in the logistics that actually fall into planning a successful event, which fascinates andrivates the actual course. The type of moving back to Elon and beginning life there."

Overall, Elon students took advantage of the summer to travel, work, or just relax. Senior Alana Dunn takes a break from her internship at FIE and poses in front of London’s Tower Bridge.

Senior Jackie Lewis interned over the summer at an event planning company called Entertainment Design Group in Atlanta, Ga., just outside of Atlanta.

“I was lucky to find my internship because the campus was the perfect fit for me and the company was the perfect fit for me who need an internship for the summer," Lewis said. "We were helping out at a bluegrass festival. We were helping to plan and bring in many bands, and I learned about the basics of event planning and how to plan and set up events and get people interested in coming to the events."

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America comes to shores in Turkey so we watched ‘Spin City’ and ‘Will & Grace.’ Then we would go swimming in the ocean or visit a historical site place like the Blue Mosque or Topkapi Palace. In the events, I would go to board games and I learned some Turkish card games. Then we would go out to dinner and I was able to try a lot of Turkish foods.

Students took advantage of the summer to gain real world experience working at an internship while at home. Internships are not only a great way to build a resume, but it also sets students apart from their peers and can provide knowledge and experience outside of class at Elon.

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