

Internships give hands-on experience

By Shirley Marquet

Joann Griffiths' byline has appeared several times in publications of the **Patriot & Evening News**. She has covered stories all over this part of the state and has learned the workings of a newspaper from the inside.

But for Humanities major Griffiths, this was not just a job, but part of a Penn State education,

an internship.

Student internships are an integral part of most division programs at Capitol Campus at both graduate and undergraduate levels of study.

The media program in Humanities has the largest number of students involved in the work experience of internships. They can choose from among newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines and

a variety of public relations firms.

Griffiths, who believes hers was "one of the better internships you can get" in journalism, said:

"If I'd gone into the field with just the media credits behind me, I would have a tougher time getting a job."

"Everyone should do an internship," she said. "You need that difference a real experience in your field provides."

Dr. John Patterson, Humanities

Division head, agreed.

"Students get involved in the real world outside and put their education into practice," he said.

According to Dr. Christopher McKenna, head of the Division of Public Affairs and acting head of the Division of Business Administration, opportunities for Public Affairs undergraduates are many if they want to work in government or other public organizations.

"We have the advantage of being close to the state capital, where students can get involved with state agencies, and even in offices at the Legislature," he explained.

Graduate students in Public Administration pursue their master's projects and field study in a variety of areas. These can include city management, health care planning and management, state and local government, legislative management and other related areas.

Students majoring in accounting do most of the internships in the Business Division, McKenna said, although some other students occasionally take on internships in their fields.

Although there are no formal internships or cooperative work programs in the Division of Science, Engineering and Technology, Dr. William Welsh, division head, said:

"Some students take on an informal program where they will attend two terms at school and work two terms until graduation."

He added, "At this point, most students find their own jobs for the program."

Students in the Division of Behavioral Sciences and Education do a variety of internships, depending on their backgrounds and interests, according to Ida Marie Gentzler, instructor in Social Science.

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