



The Maddy Institute

California State University, Fresno

Tal Eslick, a 2005 Maddy Institute Scholar – Costa Federal Intern with Congressman Devin Nunes (CA-21), is currently working for the California Republican Party.



“The experience of working in Washington D.C. provided me a greater understanding of the legislative and political process.” Upon returning home Tal was offered, and accepted, a staff position in Congressman Nunes’ Clovis office. As a Field Representative he had the opportunity to get involved in the communities of the 21st district, “I was able to attend various events and meetings in Fresno County. This allowed me to familiarize myself with a wide array of groups and issues of concern in the Central Valley.”

In March, Tal was offered a position with the California Republican Party. Currently, he is serving as a Deputy Field Director for the *Victory 06* campaign. Tal covers mainly Fresno County and works out of the Fresno County Republican Party office. After the 2006 Elections he plans on returning to Congressman Nunes’ legislative office.

“I appreciate all the Maddy Institute has done for me. My time in our Nation’s capitol equipped me with many of the tools I need for a successful career in public service.”

Tal will soon graduate from California State University, Fresno with a degree in Political Science. He then plans on beginning the Master’s of Public Administration program at Fresno State.

Neil Gibson, a 2004 Maddy Scholar Intern with Cong. Cal Dooley, in the Spring, and Governor Schwarzenegger, in the Summer is currently teaching at Henan Polytechnic University in the People's Republic of China. He reports that “While teaching conversational English, I am able to gain new insights and perspective of the Chinese people while practicing Mandarin Chinese. In a few months, I will initiate my Graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.”



He notes, however, that “the most significant thing happening in my life is coming up in a few weeks, as I will be getting married on June 3rd to Momo Zhang in the city of Xi’an China.

Taylor Hartline, will be a 2006 Maddy Scholar Intern with Assemblyman Dave Cogdill this Summer. She states that she is “looking forward to the experience this summer in Sacramento and am grateful for the opportunity to work in Sacramento at the Capitol.”



Taylor is planning to have a busy year with the extra curricular organizations. “A group of students and I founded the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International Pre-Law Chapter at Fresno State. Recently I was elected President for the Fall 2006 term. We have participated in several community service events, held LSAT workshops, co-sponsored Law Day 2006, attended Law School Admissions Council forums, and look forward to an even more successful and active year.”

Taylor is currently Vice President of the Political Science Association (PSA). Her goal is to “encourage the civic engagement of the students on our campus and the community.” She reports that “last year we have hosted several debates including one right before the last proposition election, including one where we moderated a debate between College Democrats and College Republicans on propositions 73, 74, and 75.” Last April, the PSA organized a debate on SB 160 (a state bill proposed by Senator Cedillo concerning who receives financial aid for higher education in California).

In the Spring 2006 semester, Taylor competed in the first-ever Fresno State Mock Trial Team. Her role was the prosecuting attorney. Her team competed in Regionals at the University of Southern California in February. Next year she hopes to go to an invitational in Arizona and win a bid to nationals.

Her immediate future plans include completing her undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Philosophy Pre-Law and going on to law school. After law school she hopes to pursue a career in government law and gain the experience necessary to run for office so she can further the interests of the Central Valley.

Michelle Jurkovich, “What wonderful experiences my time as a Maddy Scholar Intern afforded me!” 2005 Maddy Institute Scholar – Costa Federal Intern Michelle Jurkovich recalls. “From my summer working on Capital Hill in the office of Congressman George Radanovich to the following autumn interning in the White House, my time with the Maddy Institute has been instrumental in opening doors in the political realm and shaping my own future interests in international relations.”

“While working in Congressman Radanovich’s office I was able to attend Croatian Caucus events, perform legislative research, write on various issues and bills, and get a good taste of the legislative process.”

Immediately following her Maddy internship, Michelle was accepted to the prestigious White House Internship program. While in the White House, Michelle participated in a weekly lecture series given by top Administration officials in addition to her daily tasks. “I was able to hear from Karl Rove (Assistant to the President, Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor), John McConnell (Assistant to the President for Speechwriting), Andy Card (former Chief of Staff), Anna Escobedo Cabral (U.S. Treasurer), Claude Allen (former Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy), Ruben Barrales (Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Intergovernmental Affairs), and others. The President and Vice President even joined our intern class for a group picture one afternoon and stayed to answer questions.”



Michelle is working towards a career in international relations, ultimately wanting to pursue her Ph.D. and work as a researcher for foreign policy before returning to the university to teach. She hopes to study the politics of food and hunger, international development, the Middle East. Recently, she was accepted to the Committee on International Relations M.A. program at the University of Chicago and is investigating scholarship opportunities to attend there in the fall. “My time as a Maddy Institute Scholar was instrumental in helping me define my own future interests in international relations and I am most grateful for the wonderful experiences I have had because of it.”

Kherstin Khan, a 2003 Maddy Scholar Intern with U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer reports that “The past year has been a whirlwind. I still work for Representative Jim Costa (CA-20) and I am loving my job as Scheduler and Press Assistant. In this capacity I handle all aspects of Rep. Costa’s calendar and I work with the District Director on the news media side of things. We have built a great office, here in Fresno, and my colleagues are eager to be advocates for folks in the 20th District.”



Ever the dedicated student, Kherstin returned to my alma mater, Fresno State, to obtain a Master’s Degree in Communication. She states that she is “really excited at the opportunity of merging two areas that interest me most – politics

and communication. My focus as a graduate student is primarily on political rhetoric and feminist activism.” She notes that “together, my academic and career experiences will provide an amazing background from which I can forge ahead in my future advocacy efforts.”



Melissa Spurgeon, a 2002 Maddy Scholar and M.P.A. graduate from California State University, Fresno and holds a JD from the Catholic University of America. Melissa works at the United States Department of Labor in the Office of Regulations and Interpretations and focuses on pension and tax law. The Office coordinates regulatory and interpretive activities with other Federal agencies such as the Department of Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. The office also plays a major role in the development, analysis and implementation of pension and health care policy issues by providing technical assistance and support.

Melissa is able to use both her master's in public administration and her law degree to advance policy issues in employee benefits law. Melissa credits the Maddy Institute in particular for furthering her interests in both public policy and regulation.



Angie Vega, a Maddy Institute Scholar in 2005 in both Sen. Feinstein’s Fresno district office and Congressman Costa’s DC office, states that those experiences “provided me with the opportunity to explore the dynamics between a district and capitol office in their unique and daily operations. I was given the opportunity to engage in the intricacies of legislative process by conducting memos on various issues, researching bills, assisting in coordinating district events and drafting constituent correspondence.” She also notes that her internships “provided me with the opportunity to become immersed in my areas of interest and the opportunity to be exposed to issues that I had never taken an interest in; all of which further strengthened my desire to pursue a career in public service.”

Angie reports that she currently works as a Legislative Correspondent in Congressman Costa’s DC office, where her duties “range from drafting and monitoring constituent mail to pursuing my interest in the world of federal grants.”

She states that she is “enthralled with the energy that drives this city and but I love the Central Valley and I have every intention in returning home to continue this ‘behind the scenes’ type of work, whether it be in a legislative office or non-profit organization.”

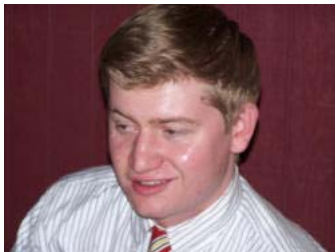
Amanda (Whitten) Newell, was a Maddy Scholar Intern in Spring 2003 in the Fresno District Office of State Senator Dean Florez. Amanda continued to work for Senator Florez as a staff assistant until she graduated from Fresno State in May 2004. Amanda reports that her “experiences at Senator Florez’ office gave her greater exposure to the Central Valley community” that she hopes to serve after finishing her education.



Amanda is now completing her second year of law school at UC Davis School of Law. Amanda ranks in the top 15% of her class and has recently received scholarships from the Fresno County Bar Association and Fresno County Women Lawyers Association. This year, Amanda served as co-chair of King Hall Legal Foundation, a student-run non-profit that raises money for students working in public interest internships during the summer and, not surprisingly, this year's annual auction was the most successful in the organization's 30 year history, raising over \$32,000!

Amanda reports that she interned last summer in the housing unit at Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, “advising nearly 100 clients in landlord-tenant issues such as evictions and housing discrimination.” During the school year, Amanda has volunteered at an employment law clinic for low-income clients in Sacramento. This summer, Amanda will be working as a certified law student at the Modesto office of California Rural Legal Assistance, where she will be able to represent clients in court on mostly housing-related matters. Amanda has received a fellowship from the Legal Aid Association of California for her work this summer. She is one of only six recipients state-wide of this grant.

In addition to a rigorous year of law school, Amanda married Paul Newell on April 22, 2006. Several of Senator Florez staff members were there to celebrate with her. Amanda now lives in Modesto where she and her husband recently bought a house. Amanda is excited to be back in the Central Valley and looks forward to becoming even more involved in her community.



Ian Wieland, a 2005 Maddy Institute Scholar Intern in Assemblymember Juan Arambula’s office states that, “during my internship, I was able to research bills, attend legislative sessions, and represent the Member at meetings.” He further states that “through this experience, I was able to make lasting connections and was able to land another internship in Senator Feinstein's office when I returned to Fresno in the fall.” Ian reports that

he is currently working at the Law Firm of Sagaser, Jones & Haheesy and that, this summer, he will be a Maddy Institute Scholar – Costa Federal Intern working in Congressman Jim Costa's Washington D.C. office. He has “no doubt that I will have another great experience!” After his internship in Washington, Ian plans to apply to law school in the fall and eventually earn a master's in public policy.