



• College of Liberal Arts

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Graduate's International Internship on U.S. Veterans Is "Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity"

College of Liberal Arts recent graduate Courtney Hickman, a French major, is spending the summer making a lasting contribution to American history as a research intern for American War Memorials Overseas, Inc. (AWMO), an organization that documents, promotes, and preserves non-government supported war memorials outside of the United States.

Hickman, whose father serves in Afghanistan, was invited by the organization's founding director Lillian Pfluke to serve as CLA's first intern with the program. Hickman's work consists of thorough research of the history of battle sites in France, as well as the U.S. soldiers who fought there. The data is entered into the organization's free, searchable online database at www.uswarmemorials.org so that, according to Hickman, "these events and these people will never be forgotten."

AWMO is providing room and board for Hickman, as well as some impressive touring opportunities. "I went on a five-day staff ride with a U.S. Army unit to the north shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium," she writes. "On the way to Belgium, I made a stop in Heidelberg, Germany and was able to tour the Old Town as well as the Castle there. I also went to Utah Beach, in Normandy, and we visited the Utah Beach Museum. One of the coolest connections between these two trips is that I was able to see the very first 'borne' of the Liberty Road in Sainte-Mère-Église, on the way to Utah Beach, as well as the very last one in Bastogne, Belgium as part of the staff-ride."

While Hickman's assignment with AWMO was six weeks in length, intern assignments may vary according to student and organizational needs. Interns receive food and lodging in the heart of Paris, which offers a full international immersion experience. For more information on future internship opportunities with AWMO, students should contact Dr. Paine at painepf@auburn.edu or Dr. Summerfield at summegi@auburn.edu