

LABOR INTERN 2010

June 2010

SMLR faculty members Tracy Chang and Adrienne Eaton, Dean David Finegold and Department of Labor program coordinator David Allen welcome the seven interns on the first day at Rutgers.



2010 Labor Intern Program Kicks Off With Week on “The Banks of the Raritan”

Seven union leaders from across the Garden State descended upon Rutgers University’s Labor Education Center May 10-14 for the first week of the 2010 Labor Intern Program.

Now in its 47th year, the program, a joint project between the School of Management and Labor Relations’ Labor Education and Research Now (LEARN) and the state Department of Labor (DOL), provides New Jersey labor activists with unique firsthand knowledge of the structure and worker

benefit programs of the state DOL.

“This is a unique and truly remarkable project between Rutgers and the state to provide an in-depth study of the workings of the Department of Labor,” said Adrienne Eaton, chair of the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations.

“It has provided an extraordinary learning experience for labor leaders in New Jersey for more than forty years,” said SMLR Dean David

Finegold. “It is one of its kind in the country.”

Participants spent the first-week of the six-week program at the University learning from top faculty and program directors about topics ranging from labor and employment law to the history of New Jersey labor.

Interns will spend the remaining five weeks of the program with the DOL in Trenton and field offices, where they will learn about the many DOL services available to union members and workers.

Meet the Interns



Name: Angelique Hewitt
Residence: Seabrook, NJ
Occupation: Bus Driver
Employer: Vineland Developmental Center
Union: IFPTE Local 195
Position: Chapter President
Thoughts: "Learning about the laws enlightened me about the responsibilities of the worker and employer."



Name: Andrew Mattson
Residence: Ramsey, NJ
Occupation: Unemployed
Union: IBEW Local 164
Position: Apprentice
Thoughts: "Having different unions represented gave insight to the growing problems unions face."



Name: Judith Cameron
Residence: Paterson, NJ
Occupation: Secretary-Treasurer
Employer: IUE-CWA Local 475
Union: IUE-CWA Local 475
Position: Secretary-Treasurer
Thoughts: "I know I will use some of what I've learned in the future."





Name: Timothy Walker
Residence: Somerset, NJ
Occupation: Motor Vehicle Inspector
Employer: Parsons
Union: SEIU Local 518
Position: Shop Steward
Thoughts: "Everything was interesting because of the knowledge I am going to bring back to my union members and hopefully be able to help them out."



Name: Joe D'Elia
Residence: Belleville, NJ
Occupation: Iron Worker
Employer: Iron Workers Local 483
Union: Iron Workers Local 483
Position: Delegate to Central Labor Councils
Thoughts: "Each day brought new fascinating ideas and topics to discussion, and we as a group were able to give and listen to opinions from more than one point of view."



Name: Ivis Quann
Residence: Clementon, NJ
Occupation: Secretary
Employer: Camden County College
Union: IUE-CWA Local 81440
Position: Chief Shop Steward
Thoughts on Week One: "This internship should be experienced by all union officers. The amount of information and instruction given is truly awesome and well worthwhile."



Name: Mark Williams
Residence: Trenton, NJ
Occupation: S/O A
Employer: Trane
Union: IUE-CWA Local 81440
Position: Vice-President
Thoughts: "There are many tools and content for getting information in the library and I will be able to refer members to Rutgers for their needs and information."



Dr. Paula Voos leads a seminar on "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace," one of over 10 presentations made by SMLR faculty during the first week of the Labor Intern Program at Rutgers.

SMLR Faculty Share Research, Perspectives With Interns at Rutgers

They've published countless books and articles, spoke at prestigious symposiums and conferences and are working on research that might just revolutionize the study of management and labor relations.

But for the first week of the 2010 Labor Intern program, the faculty of the School of Management and Labor Relations took their world-renowned research and experience to the classrooms of the Labor Education Center, giving the seven 2010 Labor Interns the opportunity to learn in a personalized setting from the best in the field of labor studies and employment relations.

From seminars on the American Disability Act with Dr. Lisa Schur to a tour of the Carey Library and introduction to the many Internet resources for labor with Library director Donna Schulman, the interns said they found the presentations informative and interesting.

"I can honestly say I can't think of one subject area that I had to fight to keep my attention," said intern Joseph D'Elia. "Each professor or speaker kept the class engaged with dialogue, interaction and seemed genuine when asking our opinion."

Angelique Hewitt said she enjoyed learning from so many experts in the field of labor studies, like Dr.

Janice Fine's discussion on the enforcement of labor standards. "She knew her subject and wanted to make sure we did too," Hewitt said.

Professors who worked with this year's group of interns said they were some of the best they have ever had the opportunity to work with.

"The depth of their knowledge was outstanding and they brought a great deal of real-world experience into our classroom discussions," said Dr. Lisa Schur.

"Having such a diverse group of intern with different backgrounds and perspectives helped make for some lively debate that we were all able to take something out of," said Dr. Paula Voos. "It was really a pleasure working with this group during their week here at Rutgers."

Tracy Chang, director of LEARN and coordinator of the Labor Intern Program, said she hopes the interns will take their new knowledge on the labor movement back to their unions and share it with their brothers and sisters.

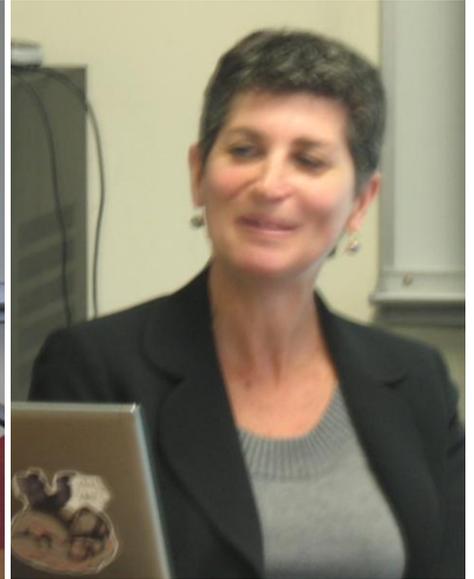
"We hope that interns will take what they learn inside the classroom here at Rutgers and bring it to their unions to help cope with the many challenges facing the labor movement today," Chang said.

Instructors

Left: Mark Magyar spoke about *The History of New Jersey Labor*.



Right: Dr. Janice Fine led a seminar on the *Enforcement of Labor Standards*.



Left: Dr. Lisa Schur taught a course on *The American Disability Act*.



Right: Dr. Mingwei Liu talked with interns about his research on *Labor Relations in China*.



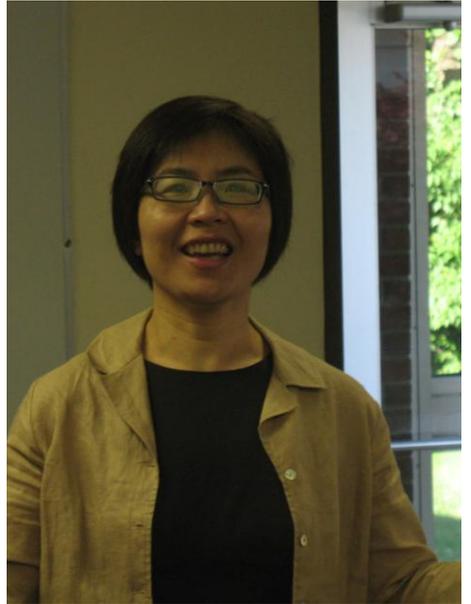
Left: Dr. Paula Voos discussed *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* during the first week at Rutgers.



Right: Dr. Jeffrey Keefe led a debate on *Health Care and Health Policy*.



Left: Teresa Boyer, Executive Director of the Center for Women and Work and Karen White, Director of the Working Family Program, spoke about their programs.



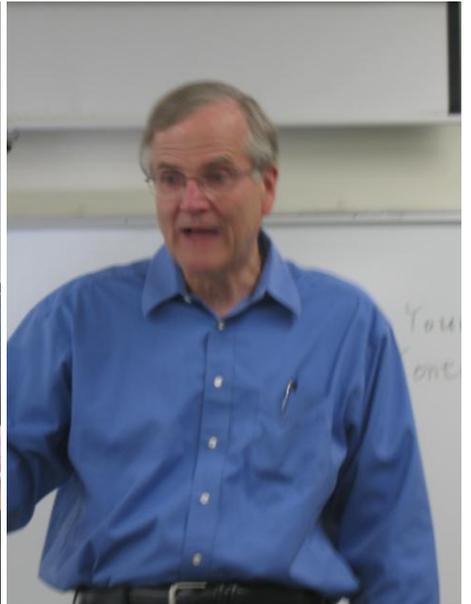
Right: Dr. Tracy Chang taught interns about *The State of New Jersey and US Labor*.

Left: Donna Shulman, director of the Carey library taught interns about the resources available to unions at the library and on the Internet.



Right: Jeanine Nagrod, Director of NJ Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education, introduced the program.

Left: Carmen Martino and Michelle Ochsner, of the Occupational Training and Education Consortium (OTEC), discussed health and safety issues in the workplace.



Right: Barry Schlegal, Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Education Program spoke about the program.



Left: Dr. Jeffrey Keefe of the School of Management and Labor Relations speaks during the “Are New Jersey’s Public Employees Overpaid” symposium, with the Labor interns listening intently.

Below: A picture of the history Botto House, site of the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike that helped bring about workplace reform. (Courtesy of the American Labor Museum/Botto House Historical Site)

Field Trip! Interns Get “Outside the Classroom” Experience During Week One at Rutgers University

Interns moved “out of the classroom” and into the field for their final two days at Rutgers, visiting the American Labor Museum/Boto House and participating in the “Are New Jersey’s Public Employees Overpaid” Symposium on Thursday and Friday.

The trip to the American Labor Museum and Boto House in Haledon, the meeting place for the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike, gave interns the opportunity to see one of the most important historical sites in labor history.

“The Botto House trip placed things in perspective,” said intern Angelique Hewitt. “[It] demonstrated how far we came and how much we have to lose.”

“The strike of the silkworkers in 1913 showed how it we stick together as a unit, we can move mountains,” added intern Ivis Quann.

The “Are New Jersey’s Public Employees Overpaid” Symposium, hosted at the Heldrich Center in downtown New Brunswick, featured presentations by Heldrich Center economist Professor William M. Rodgers III as well as the School of Management and Labor Relation’s Dr. Jeff Keefe.



The presentations explained Keefe and Rodgers’ research, which compared the pay and benefit packages of public and private employees using both current figures and historical trends.

Attending the symposium provided interns an opportunity to learn about the cutting-edge research in the field of labor studies and employment relations, said Tracy Chang, director of LEARN.

Chang said that the outside the classroom learning like the symposium and fieldtrip to the American Labor Museum and Botto House are important parts of the Labor Intern program experience.

“While the discussions and seminars are certainly important, there is just something about getting out in the field that can’t be replaced by anything taught inside the classroom,” Chang said.

Labor Intern Program

For more than forty years, the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations has partnered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to offer union activists and leaders an opportunity to learn more about the programs and services of the Department.

In recent years, the internship has consisted of a six-week, full-time education program. Interns spend the first week at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick in seminars focusing on the history of the trade union movement, current labor issues, and union and worker rights on the job. The remaining five weeks of the internship are based at the Department headquarters in Trenton.

During the second phase of the program, the interns meet with heads of agencies and key leadership of the Department in

order to learn first-hand the many services available to union members and workers. Interns have the opportunity to visit courtrooms, call centers and other Department field offices as well as accompany inspectors in the field as they enforce labor standards around New Jersey.

More than six hundred labor interns have successfully completed this unique program and returned to their positions in

the New Jersey Labor Movement with a greater understanding of the breadth of the services available to their members from the state government. The knowledge that the interns gain is of direct benefit to union members and other New Jersey workers in need of critical services or programs. Over the years, the Labor Intern Program has made a positive and lasting impact on the state's workforce and the quality of work life.

“This internship should be experienced by all union officers. The amount of information and instruction given is truly awesome and well worthwhile.”

-Ivis Quann, 2010 Labor Intern Program

For more information on the Labor Intern Program contact:

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