EPICS WELCOME

Welcome back to all MFA Documentary students returning from winter break. We hope you had a successful first quarter, and are ready to continue exploring your career interests and options with EPICS. Whether you will be planning your summer internship or life after graduation, the next few months will be a critically important time to prepare, and we at the EPICS office are here to support you in your journey.

During the fall quarter, the EPICS office has been hard at work in a number of different areas. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the first year students individually to discuss internship and career goals. I have also onboarded several important new companies in the Chicago area that are offering opportunities relevant to students in documentary media. Finally, EPICS has planned several amazing programs and events in the next few months that will give you valuable access and insight into the film and television industry here in Chicago and across the country.

Again, welcome back! We’re looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Todd Lillethun
Assistant Director of EPICS

Email: todd.lillethun@northwestern.edu
Office: 847-491-5010

In addition to the highlights in this newsletter, check out our calendar to view all EPICS events this year.
MFA, Documentary Media Internship Requirement

In order to fulfill the internship requirement for the MFA, Documentary Media program, students must secure an internship during summer quarter (between year one and two of the program) or during fall quarter (of year two). Here is an overview of the requirement’s details:

- Students must work between 10 - 37.5+ hours a week by agreement with the employer throughout the duration of the quarter (total of 90 hours minimum).
- Internships can be paid or unpaid. All internships must follow Department of Labor Guidelines.
- Internships must provide substantive work experience that will enhance the students’ skills/professional development.
- Internship appointments must be held with an organization/position that is directly related to the students’ program of study.
- Students must register the internship on SoConnect for approval.
- Students must complete the Summer Internship Seminar coursework in conjunction with the internship in order to receive credit.

The deadline to register the summer internship is June 10, 2016. The fall registration deadline is currently pending. For more information about the requirement, please view our website here.

Creating Your Internship Search Strategy

Finding the right internship can be time consuming and competitive, but it can be instrumental in jump-starting your career after you graduate. By creating your own internship search strategy, you will be able to make this process much more manageable and meaningful for you.

Your strategy should include three main components:

1. SoConnect – Northwestern’s online career management system created exclusively for the School of Communication, and managed by EPICS;
2. Other Northwestern resources, including CareerCat, Our Northwestern, program faculty, and alumni groups;
3. Your own personal contacts and outreach.

Last year 50% of first year MFA Documentary Media students found internships on their own, while the other 50% found them through SoConnect and faculty connections. EPICS is available to assist you with creating your internship strategy through Career Coaching appointments, but ultimately it is up to you to find the internship that would best match your career goals and meet the internship requirement.

Potential Internships

Here is a sample list of employers who offered internships to Northwestern University students last summer that were related to Documentary Media:

- Kartemquin Films (Chicago)
- Kindling Group (Chicago)
- Scrappers Film Group (Chicago)
- Lucy Walker (LA)
- Beijing Nengliang TV (China)
- Trinley Pictures (Chicago)
- Viacom (New York)
- Lauren Greenfield (LA)
- Groundswell Films (Chicago)
- Southern Exposure (Birmingham)
Here is a sample of film/TV employers that are also expected to have opportunities for summer 2016 (employers in RED are specific to documentary media):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Process Group (Chicago)</th>
<th>Participant Media (LA)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cutters (Chicago)</td>
<td>American Documentary/POV (New York)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitehouse Post (Chicago)</td>
<td>Paramount (LA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periscope Post (Chicago)</td>
<td>Lionsgate (LA)</td>
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<td>The Colonie (Chicago)</td>
<td>MGM Studios (LA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>371 Productions (Milwaukee)</td>
<td>Jigsaw Productions (New York)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurtis Productions (Chicago)</td>
<td>NBC Universal (New York)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picture Show Films (Chicago)</td>
<td>HBO (LA)</td>
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<td>Optimus (Chicago)</td>
<td>American Experience/WGBH (Boston)</td>
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**CAREER COACHING**

Students enrolled in the MFA, Documentary Media program have access to 1:1 career coaching with EPICS. Coaching appointments topics include resume and cover letter reviews, creating an internship or job search strategy, offer-negotiation coaching and more. It is advised that you plan on having a minimum of 1 career coaching appointment per quarter. All appointments are with myself: EPICS Assistant Director, Todd Lillethun.

Students can request an appointment with EPICS via SoConnect. Once logged-in, click on the I Want To … menu on the left, then select click on Make Appointment. There you will find my availability posted and can choose an open time slot. If no appointments are available, please email me at todd.lillethun@northwestern.edu and I will reply with further options.

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

You can view a list of events on our EPICS calendar, located in SoConnect and on our website. Highlights from Winter Quarter include:

- **EPICS Connections: Screening & Discussion of PBS Series “Mercy Street”** featuring David W. Zucker and David Zabel (February 3)
- **Northwestern Winter 2016 Internship & Job Fair** (January 12 & 13)
- **SoC & Medill Career + Internship Fair:** approximately 60+ Chicago-area employers are expected to attend (January 27)
- Career Workshops: Personal Branding (February 12)
- **EPICS Connections:** Jeb Brody (Producer, Secret Hideout) will be on-campus March 2.

**EPICS NEWS**

Keep up to date on EPICS news and events through SoConnect, EPICS Blog, social media and weekly newsletters. Each Friday, you will receive a short newsletter that will update you on upcoming events, announcements, and new postings on SoConnect. For the latest information, follow EPICS on Facebook and Twitter, where you can learn about new internships, job postings, and events for students in the School of Communication.

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact EPICS at epics@northwestern.edu
Visit our website at communication.northwestern.edu/epics