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Levitt Fellow Lindsay Martin '07 Studying Free Speech Issues at Colleges

She's Sampling 30 Colleges in Northeast and Southeast

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July 25, 2005



Lindsay Martin '07 is a Levitt Fellow studying speech codes at colleges.

In light of recent speech issues on college campuses throughout the nation, Hamilton student and Levitt Fellow Lindsay Martin '07 (Covington, LA), has chosen to devote 10 weeks of her summer to delving into speech codes and issues of free speech at institutions of higher education.

"I've always been interested in and passionate about issues of free speech," Martin explained. "In the fall of 2003, I attended a philosophy conference, where the founder of FIRE (The

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education), spoke. FIRE is a legal organization that litigates against institutions of higher education that restrict students' free speech rights, and the speech sparked my interest in free speech in the specific context of colleges and universities."

Martin is currently researching the legal and theoretical justifications of speech codes on college and university campuses, and then, based on her sample of 30 institutions (15 from the Northeast and 15 from the Southeast,) she will search for a correlation between the types of institutions and the different types of speech codes which may have differing theoretical justifications. In addition to this, she will also be examining the published mission statement of the institution to see if specific missions help to justify speech codes of varying degrees of restrictiveness.

"It seemed that people at institutions of higher education were throwing around terms about free speech, and I really wanted to study this more in depth," she said.

When studying speech at various colleges and universities, Martin said this word is broadly defined to include oral and written speech, and even expressive actions, depending upon the particular wording of the speech code for the particular institution.

"I'm distinguishing between the different qualities, of the institutions, such as public versus private, size, region and religious affiliation and how restrictive their speech codes are," said Martin.

The English major, who will be studying abroad at Worcester College, Oxford University, next year, is working with Assistant Professor of Sociology Jenny Irons, and Associate Professor of Government Rob Martin, and is combining political theory and sociology in her study. Irons is currently traveling, so Martin communicates with her through e-mail, while she is able to meet with Professor Martin on campus.

Regarding her decision to spend the summer at Hamilton, Martin said, "Once I became interested in this topic, I wanted to pursue it further. Researching here for the summer allows me to enjoy the ideas without stressing so much over short-term deadlines. I also really enjoy seeing Hamilton at the prettiest time of the year."

To enhance student research around issues of public affairs, the Levitt Center funds student-faculty research through its Levitt Research Fellows Program. The program is open to all students who wish to spend the summer working in collaboration with a faculty member on an issue related to public affairs.

Students receive a summer stipend and some expense money, and spend 10 weeks in the summer working intensively with a faculty mentor. Those selected for the program are required to provide a written assessment of their work at the completion of the summer, and also give a public presentation of their research findings to the Hamilton community, or local high school classes through the Levitt Scholars program.

-- by Katherine Trainor



UPCOMING EVENTS

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News Highlights

Owen and Fogelstrom '03 Publish Paper on Electronic Currency

Associate Professor of Economics Ann Owen published an article with Christopher Fogelstrom '03 titled "Monetary Policy Implications of Electronic Currency: An Empirical Analysis" in the June 2005 issue of *Applied Economics Letters*. [More ...](#)

Shields and Kirschner Awarded National Cancer Institute Grant

Winslow Professor of Chemistry George Shields and Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry Karl Kirschner have received an AREA grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health to support research with students at Hamilton College. The proposal, titled "Reactivity and Dynamics of Eneidyne Natural Products," brings \$248,250 over the next three years to support research aimed at establishing the mechanism by which the enediene family of natural products cleave DNA. Establishing the mechanism by which these molecules cut DNA in half may lead to useful lead molecules with anti-cancer activity in the future. This research builds on previous work of Chantelle Rein '03 and Frank Pickard '05, postdoctoral associate Steve Feldgus, as well as other student researchers in the Shields lab. The AREA program supports research at undergraduate institutions and is highly competitive.



Klinkner and Ann Hapanowicz '05 Publish Article in *The Forum*

Philip Klinkner, Associate Dean of Students for Academic Affairs and the James S. Sherman Associate Professor

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of Government, and Ann Hapanowicz '05, published an article in *The Forum*, vol. 3, issue 2. The article is titled "Red and Blue Déjà Vu: Measuring Political Polarization in the 2004 Election." [More ...](#)

Men's Hockey Player Honored by NCAA

Hamilton College men's hockey player Gus Katsuras '06 (Toronto, Ontario/Monarch Park Collegiate) was honored recently by the NCAA for capturing the Division III national game-winning goals title for the 2004-05 season. [More ...](#)

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