

SYNERGY EXPANDS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF F·E·G·S PROGRAMS

Synergy – the interaction of two or more discrete activities that produce results greater than the sum of the various parts – is the result of the many partnerships F·E·G·S has cultivated through the decades. One partnership, which has thrived and expanded for more than a quarter of a century, is The Collegiate Leadership Internship Program (CLIP), a joint effort of F·E·G·S and the Hillels of New York.

The program is one example of the impact F·E·G·S can have by bringing together programs from different venues to accomplish the individuals goals of each program, but at the same time create additional positive outcomes that might not otherwise have been achieved.

CLIP is a competitive, paid summer internship experience for Jewish college students who live or attend school in New York. This year, some 46 participants developed more effective leadership skills, expanded their professional horizons, and learned about the dynamic nature of the organized Jewish community on campus, in New York, and globally. During their nine-week internship experience,

CLIP interns work four days a week at a variety of non-profit, Jewish communal and for-profit institutions, and meet once a week as a group to explore how their Jewish values can affect their cultural, social, political, academic, and global views.

One CLIP intern, Rachel Serkin, a 19 year-old student from Brooklyn who attends the University at Albany (SUNY), spent the summer working with the Roots&Branches Theatre, part of F·E·G·S's Haym Salomon Division of the Arts. Roots&Branches is an intergenerational theater ensemble that creates and presents original pieces that offer insights, stories, history, and attitude through their own unique multi-generation lens.

Ms. Serkin recently sent a letter to Esther-Ann Asch, F·E·G·S Vice President for Community and Foundation Relations, which we would like to share with you. Clearly, synergy finds a welcome home at F·E·G·S, from its divisions working together in innovative ways, to developing new and creative alliances with government and the community.

Subject: Thoughts on Internship Date: July, 2005

Dear Esther-Ann,

It's coming down to the last two weeks of my internship here at F·E·G·S. It's always funny when time goes so fast; I can't recall a summer when time went faster. What's even funnier is that it's these last two weeks that have swamped me with the most work. Arthur [Strimling, Director of Haym Salomon] has gotten Jim Julier [Senior Communications Writer] to be something of a journalism mentor to me. I am in the process of revising my articles for the Roots&Branches newsletter. I hope to complete my work in a style that will make it appropriate for the newsletter.

I want to thank you for the opportunity with F·E·G·S, particularly for a placement with the Haym Salomon Division. I have always loved the arts and it has been a hope of mine to work in the field. I think Haym Salomon is full of promise. It will build a bridge between creativity and the health and well being of all people. Arthur and Lauren [Scott, Assistant Director of Haym Salomon] are wonderful and talented people. They were friendly, helpful, and just great fun to be with. Reflecting on my CLIP internship, I realize I am very fortunate. I am doing something that I have an interest in. I would love to come back the following summer as an F·E·G·S intern. I want to continue the work I'm doing and stay involved on things that go on in Haym Salomon and Roots&Branches. Although it is not over yet, this has been one of the best summers I have ever had.

Sincerely,
Rachel Serkin

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