

CARLETON SOCIAL JUSTICE INTERNSHIPS

Made possible through The Barry “Mike” Casper and Paul and Shelia Wellstone Fund for Community Engagement and The Clement F. Shearer Fund for Achieving Common Ground.

Three to five internships will be awarded each year to help Carleton students pursuing unpaid or low-paying summer internships or training programs in not-for profit or other organizations promoting social justice. Following the example of Paul Wellstone, Mike Casper, and Clem Shearer, these internships seek to encourage students to put their ideals into action and gain experience outside of the classroom.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Carleton’s Social Justice Internship Program was established in 2007 to provide financial support to students pursuing unpaid or low-paying summer internships or training programs in not-for profit or other organizations promoting social justice.

Examples of qualifying internships/training programs include work in human rights, community or union organizing, environmental or social activism, conflict resolution, or community development. Preference will be given to organizations within the United States.

The program is operated through Carleton’s Career Center and the Chaplain’s Office. The grants, up to \$3,000, are awarded competitively by a selection committee. Candidates should have a demonstrated commitment to and involvement in social or environmental justice work. Students from all class years are eligible, including graduating seniors. Prior to their internship, students will participate in 3-4 reflection meetings where they will read and discuss articles on service and social justice to help them prepare for their summer work.

HOW TO APPLY

Before applying for Carleton Social Justice Internships, students must secure a written agreement from qualifying organizations documenting that organization’s commitment to sponsor a summer internship or training position. For help in how to approach organizations about an internship, please contact the Career Center, ACT, or the Chaplain’s Office.

Applications should include a cover letter explaining the applicant’s interest in this particular work, a resume that describes past involvement in social or environmental justice issues; a written commitment from a qualifying organization, a budget worksheet (available online through the Career Center) including any salary/stipend information associated with the summer position, and contact information for two references.

Applications must be submitted to Carleton’s Career Center by March 16, 2009. Recipients will be notified by April 3, 2009.

HISTORY

Barry “Mike” Casper, professor emeritus of physics at Carleton and a leading figure in the peace movement, died on January 27, 2007. Along with close friend and faculty colleague Paul Wellstone, Casper chronicled the story of the 1970s struggles of western Minnesota farmers to oppose a high

voltage powerline in the book, *Powerline: The First Battle of America's Energy War* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1981). Never ones to observe from the ivory tower, the duo became central figures, along with a number of their students, in the highly charged protest movement.

Casper later became a key strategist in Wellstone's 1990 U.S. Senate campaign and his policy adviser in Washington. The experience informed his final book, *Lost in Washington: Finding the Way Back to Democracy in America* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2000).

As a professor, Casper co-created Carleton's Science, Technology, and Public Policy program and supervised annual policy projects in which students were confronted with pressing societal problems—nuclear weapons proliferation, the AIDS epidemic, a national energy strategy, health care reform—and charged with solving them. Throughout his teaching, Casper put the ideals of equality, sustainability, and social justice into action.

Senator Paul and Shelia Wellstone, along with six others, died in a plane crash on October 25, 2002. Wellstone was first elected to the United States Senate in 1990 and became an outspoken advocate for many social justice issues and a leading voice for liberal Democrats. His book, *Conscience of a Liberal: Reclaiming the Compassionate Agenda* (Random House, 2001), still helps to shape the progressive agenda. His wife Shelia played a critical role in all of Paul's campaigns and was known for her influential work in issues regarding domestic violence.

A professor of political science at Carleton for 21 years, Wellstone, like Casper, was known for using his professorship as a successful platform for tangible, ground-level social change. Students in introductory political science classes taught by Wellstone found themselves not only challenged to think about issues of poverty and inequality but actually knocking on doors throughout Rice County in an effort to organize around local issues of fairness. Wellstone described this work in his *How the Rural Poor Got Power: Narrative of a Grass Roots Organizer* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1978).

Clement F. Shearer was Carleton's Dean for Budget and Planning and Professor of Geology when he died in 1998. Before coming to Carleton, Shearer had a distinguished career in government service, first as a congressional science fellow, then as director of the national hazards program at the U.S. Geological Survey, providing analysis and early warnings for volcanoes, earthquakes and other national hazards. He began his tenure at Carleton as the Bernstein Geologist in residence, taught a popular seminar in hydrology in the Geology Department, and became one of the most admired and respected administrators of the College.

In addition to his contributions to the planning and management of the College, Shearer continued to be a strong advocate of community service. He was a dedicated volunteer leader in many Northfield activities, held several positions on the Board of Directors of the Greater Minneapolis Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, and served as advisor to a number of national organizations. In recognition of his unusual ability to guide individuals through conflict resolution, the Clement F. Shearer Fund for Achieving Common Ground was established through gifts received in his memory.

In establishing the Carleton Social Justice Internship program, the families of Mike Casper, Paul and Shelia Wellstone, and Clem Shearer hope that dedicated, socially concerned Carleton students will have greater opportunity to enact their ideals and have a positive impact on the wider world.