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## Student Learns Law, Language During Summer Internship

Savannah Whitmore is first Ole Miss student to participate in German American Exchange program

NOVEMBER 11, 2022 BY SYDNEY PENDER



UM law student Savannah Whitmore takes in the sights while interning in Germany with the German American Exchange program. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – Savannah Whitmore spent her summer like many other law school students across the country: interning for a law firm. But Whitmore’s internship was different, perhaps even life-changing, because of its location.

The third-year **law** student at the **University of Mississippi** spent her summer in Germany working for Meissner Bolte, an intellectual property firm, as part of the **German American Exchange program**.

Whitmore, of Grenada, is the first Ole Miss student accepted into the highly competitive program that matches U.S. students with three-month paid internships abroad.

Working overseas provided were many memorable experiences, but one that sticks out took place back on native soil, Whitmore said.

“I wrote a client cease-and-desist letter for an intellectual property firm,” Whitmore said. “The letter is sent to a competitor that was infringing upon your patent.”

“When I was on my way home, I was in the Atlanta airport, (and) they emailed me saying they used my letter without any edits. I felt like I did something right.”

German American Exchange aims to give students necessary skills to excel in the international job market by engaging in cross-cultural experiences while gaining professional experience.

Whitmore, who earned a bachelor’s degree in German and **international studies** from Ole Miss in 2020 and had been to Germany three other times, was keen on overcoming cultural barriers by deepening her understanding of international law.

“I had probably 15 different textbooks on my desk all summer, all the ones that the firm could find on German law in English,” she said. “For a while, there was this expectation that you would read 500 pages a day about an assigned topic and then write a summary and submit it to the managing partner.”

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OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation’s capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy’s new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying “thank you.” “It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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#### Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to



Savannah Whittemore visits the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin while interning in Germany with the German American Exchange program. Submitted photo

"That was kind of like my introduction to it because he knew I didn't have any background knowledge about IP law in general, let alone any German laws."

While going to work abroad to further develop a global perspective, Whittemore learned a lot about herself along the way.

"I was kind of forced to jump out of my skin a little bit and meet people," she said. "And it's very difficult to meet people who speak great German and great English, because then they kind of default to English and then you can't practice your German, and so there were a lot of obstacles with people.

"But it was good. Overall, it was a good learning experience."

Daniel O'Sullivan, professor of French and chair of the UM **Department of Modern Languages**, believes that going abroad is a vital part of maturing outside of the classroom.

"When students go abroad, they are always learning," O'Sullivan said. "It's not just a classroom thing; they are learning about others, other cultures, learning about their own culture, because they notice

differences between their own culture and the culture that they're living in.

"It brings perspective to the world that is invaluable in something you cannot get by only staying in your native culture for your whole life."

Internships can be more fulfilling than just studying abroad because participants are also building a global network, O'Sullivan said.

And now that Whittemore has had a successful experience, the hope is that more Ole Miss students will take part in the program.

"You are learning about how other cultures might do the things that you're drawn to in this culture," O'Sullivan said. "If you're able to find a place that is going to take you under its wing, and take you in and guide you and sort of help you build professional skills, you might think, 'Wow, I want to do this for the rest of my life.'

"You're certainly going to learn something, and it's something that you will change your life."

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