

CBO's 2009 Summer Internships...

Brimming with historic legislation, Washington, D.C., was the place to be this summer. Amidst that scene, this year's Summer Associates performed timely analysis of a variety of critical issues. Whether it was conducting research on health care reform, prescription drug usage, child nutrition, Social Security, bank failures, military procurement, or the housing market, CBO's interns were at the forefront of the debate on the nation's most important issues.

In addition to their substantive projects, CBO's interns attended hearings on Capitol Hill and seminars and lectures there and at think tanks throughout D.C. And proving that hard work and play do mix, the interns provided reliable firepower for the CBO softball team and participated in various cultural and social activities in the metro area. CBO's interns are an integral, valuable—and much appreciated—part of the agency's workforce.



Elizabeth Forsburg
University of CA, Berkeley
Ph.D., Resource
Economics and Policy



Jeffrey Brown
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Emily Holcombe
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Nathan Converse
London School of
Economics
Ph.D., Economics



Nora Traum
Indiana
University
Ph.D., Economics

Working in the Budget Analysis Division, I explored how proposed legislation to amend the bankruptcy laws would affect housing finance authorities and other public entities that invest in real estate. My project was challenging and enriching and gave me real-life experience in policy analysis. I enjoyed working with CBO's incredible staff. The agency is full of well-educated and hardworking individuals who produce high-quality research and cost estimates while maintaining a pleasant work environment. ◇



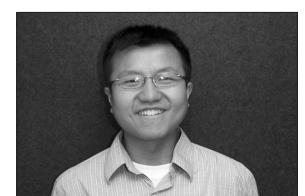
Shannon Fairchild
University of Pittsburgh
M.P.I.A.

My work consisted of two projects related to forecasting the long-term financial status of the Social Security program. One involved evaluating strategies to impute workers' earnings in instances in which the values are not precisely reported (but are instead "top-coded") in the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The other used a mathematical model to examine the characteristics of workers and when they choose to claim Social Security benefits. Both projects provided an excellent opportunity to address questions in the economics literature relevant to CBO's long-term budget projections. Advice and guidance from senior CBO economists was invaluable in learning to apply econometric methods to interesting research questions. Outside of CBO, events at the Brookings Institution and the National Academy of Social Insurance allowed me to meet and interact with scholars whose work my projects were based upon. ◇



Kevin Bradway
University of Michigan
M.P.P.

My internship at CBO provided a well-rounded introduction to domestic policy analysis in the nation's capital. I focused on a project looking at the effects of recent expansions in children's health insurance on physicians' workload. Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation and a unique survey of U.S. physicians, I worked with a CBO health economist to identify a relationship between the increased demand and the corresponding supply of physicians' services. Outside of the project, I attended hearings on Capitol Hill and various seminars. With this combination of experiences, I felt as if I had a front-row seat to the health care reform debate. After work, I met CBO staff and fellow interns through softball games and social events. Those experiences gave me a well-rounded and fulfilling summer. ◇

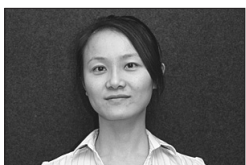


Fang He
Columbia University
Ph.D., Economics

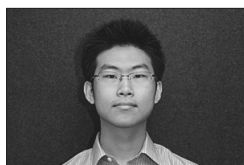
Working at CBO is splendid. Everyone in Washington knows that, among small agencies, it is the third best place to work, but I rate it the top spot for an internship on the Hill. The assignments were substantial and the environment productive. I worked on evaluating the President's proposals to increase national savings, and I analyzed the research on how the IRS's Statistics of Income data can be used to better understand the appeal and stimulus effects of accelerated tax depreciation. A CBO internship puts anyone aspiring to be a Ph.D. economist on track for some of the best opportunities in the federal government. ◇



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For internship and employment information, contact:
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www.cbo.gov

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