



Spring 4-28-1995

## Working on Capitol Hill: IWU Junior Lands Summer Internship with U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo of Illinois

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Working on Capitol Hill: IWU Junior Lands Summer Internship with U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo of Illinois" (1995). *News and Events*. 6365.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6365>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

April 28, 1995

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

**Working on Capitol Hill:  
IWU Junior Lands Summer Internship  
with U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo of Illinois**

**Editor's Note:** Kristine Nielsen of Durand, Ill., is a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University, majoring in political science. Her parents--Robert and Joann Nielsen--reside at 406 W. North St., in Durand.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--When Kristine Nielsen goes hunting for a summer job, the Illinois Wesleyan University junior isn't interested in flipping burgers or working as a camp counselor.

This summer, Nielsen will work in the venerable Cannon House Office Building, one of three stately structures along Washington, D.C.'s Independence Avenue, housing the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and their staffs.

Nielsen will work as an intern in the office of her congressman, Rep. Donald Manzullo (R-Ill.).

In addition to giving Manzullo's staff a helping hand with general office chores like handling constituent mail, Nielsen will work with the congressmen's legislative assistants on policy issues. She also will be attending congressional hearings at a time when the U.S. House is likely to be wrestling with tough issues like welfare reform and downsizing the federal government.

Nielsen placed a "cold" call to Manzullo's office that resulted in her snatching the internship. About 20 students applied for summer internships with the congressman.

She will work in Manzullo's Washington office from June 1-July 14. At that point, she has the option of continuing working on Capitol Hill or switching to the congressman's Rockford office for the balance of the summer to compare office operations in the Nation's Capital and the district.

Nielsen, a political science major, got a jump on her summer internship and Washington politics last month, when she worked as a

(more)

*Rockford  
Media  
Locals, Cent Chicago,  
Features  
Education*

## Capitol Hill Internship/2

volunteer during IWU's spring break at a conference--The Role of Science and Technology in Promoting National Security and Global Stability-- sponsored by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The high-powered meeting drew the likes of Vice President Al Gore and upwards of 600 government, business, and science leaders from the United States and abroad.

Among those Nielsen met at the conference were Defense Secretary William Perry; Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), former chairman of the Armed Services Committee; D. James Baker, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Jane Wales, OSTP's associate director for National Security and International Affairs.

"The conference," Nielsen explained, "brought together leaders in the science and technology community to discuss the affects of those fields on the economy, defense, education, and other issues."

Prior to the meeting, Nielsen directed 20-30 volunteers assigned the task of assembling conference materials and ironing out last-minute logistical details. Much of her work was carried out in the historic Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building, a Washington landmark adjacent to the White House that dates to President Ulysses S. Grant's administration. The conference was held at the National Academy of Sciences, where Nielsen helped run the registration desk and aid conference participants.

Nielsen used her spring break in Washington, in part, to network for a summertime internship in the Nation's Capital. And, as a college student, she has learned one of the secrets of success in Washington: A muscular rolodex.

"I hope my career takes me to Washington," Nielsen said, "so going there this spring was a good way to meet people and make connections."

One of her connections was a White House consultant who spotted Nielsen's talent and helped her negotiate the bureaucratic thicket, enabling her to work at the March conference.

Reflecting on her experience at the science and technology policy conference, Nielsen said: "It was a big dose of assertiveness training," especially getting used to dealing with people ranging from ambassadors to

(more)

### Capitol Hill Internship/3

Secret Service agents.

The conference was co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Council on Foreign Relations; Committee for National Security of the National Science and Technology Council; and the Committee on International Science, Engineering and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council.

The purpose of the March 29-30 conference was to explore ways of using science and technology to advance national security and economic prosperity. Among topics discussed were national security; nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; economic competitiveness; global stability; and sustainable economic development.

Among five conference goals was development of a National Security Science and Technology Strategy.

Conference speakers ranged from Timothy Wirth, a former U.S. Senator from Colorado and under secretary of state for Global Affairs, and Rita Colwell, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to Daniel Goldin, administrator of the federal space agency, and Nobel Laureate Joshua Lederberg, former president of Rockefeller University.

Nielsen spent two weeks in Washington last January with 18 other IWU students studying U.S. foreign policy.

Nielsen's long-range plans include going to law school, working in Washington, and becoming an advocate for children.

Nielsen, a native of Durand, Ill., a community near Rockford, is the daughter of Robert and Joann Nielsen. Her father is a contractor and her mother is a nurse.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges,*

(more)

#### **Capitol Hill Internship/4**

another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."