

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Interns get feel for arts

By Jenn Smith, Berkshire Eagle Staff

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NORTH ADAMS -- The Berkshire Hills Internship Program is yielding landmark results.

Created five years ago as a way to offer its participants opportunities to immerse themselves in the arts management fields, B-HIP, as it is commonly referred to, has proven to be an effective way to help young adults find work in the arts industry worldwide.

Linna Wei of Beijing, China said being a B-HIP intern this summer has become a "happy accident."

She's a master's degree student studying economics and management of entertainment and art the Jönköping University International Business School in Stockholm, Sweden who got matched with the Francine and Sterling Clark Art Institute in Williamstown this summer.

In addition to doing communications and marketing work, she and fellow B-HIP intern Hanna Pickwell, of Dalton, have been able to collaborate on projects for a new initiative celebrating the 100th anniversary of Sterling Clark's expedition to northern China, and the establishment of new collaborations between the Clark and cultural institutions in China.

"I was so surprised. It's really been an opportunity to learn, experience and contribute," Wei said.

"It's been great to have these global and cultural connections," said Thomas Loughman, assistant deputy director of the Clark.

Wei and Pickwell have worked on proofreading new translations from Chinese and English editions of the Clark's publication "Through

Shên-Kan: The Account of the Clark Expedition in North China, 1908-09," as well as an expedition map. Pickwell, a recent graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine, studied anthropology and Chinese.

"It's a really effective program. Its real strength is connecting us with people in arts management. Here, you can excel," Pickwell said. "You're having an impact rather than making photocopies and getting coffee for the boss."

And that is no accident.

The B-HIP program, an initiative of the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, first launched with eight students in the summer of 2005, and has since served close to 100 students.

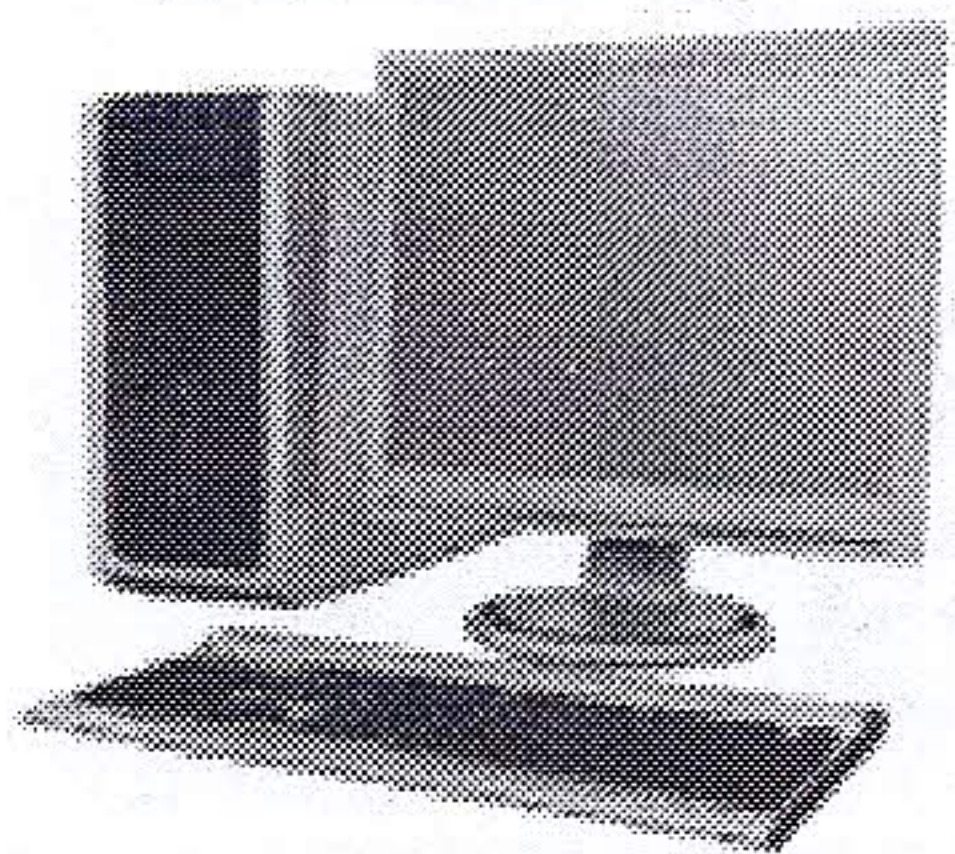
Today, B-HIP is a methodically structured 12-week residential summer internship course focused on arts management and administration.

To that end, the students who are in the program have a vested interest in being successful because they pay to be there. Taken on a non-credit basis, B-HIP costs \$2,500; taken for credit, B-HIP costs per-credit. The program fee includes housing and tickets to all cultural outings. Interns also received a \$100 per week stipend from their internship sites.

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Scholarships are available via MCLA.

The participants -- current college students and recent graduates -- take seminar classes, complete coursework, hold an internship and attend "talk backs" with arts professionals from the area and beyond. As a final project, each intern also makes a presentation about areas where the cultural institution they worked for can improve.

In addition, the interns take in group outings to cultural events in the county, and field trips, such as going to New York City, hiking in nearby Vermont and going to the beach in Connecticut.

Martina Caruso, of Milan, Italy, who recently graduated after studying contemporary visual arts at her country's University of Bologna, interned with the nonprofit Gallery 51 and DownStreet Art initiatives in North Adams.

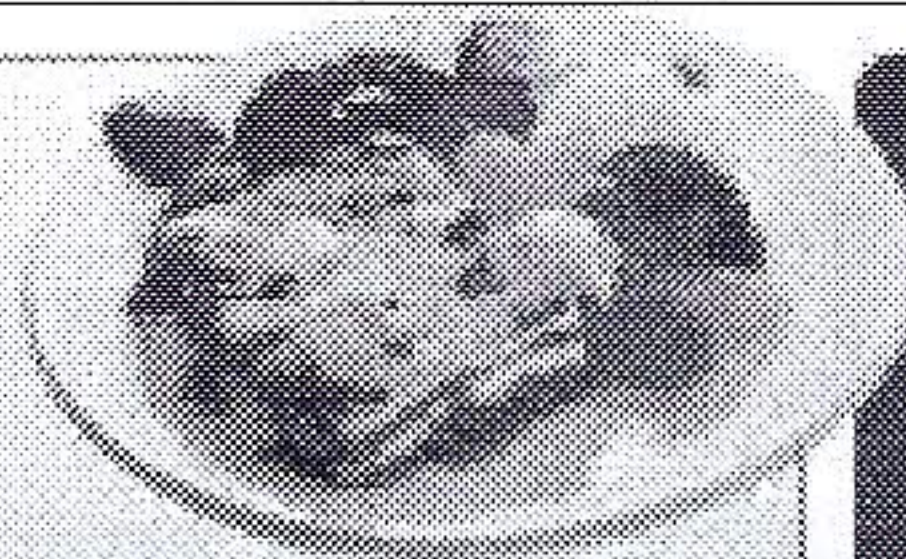
Initially looking for an internship through the New York Foundation for the Arts website, she said the "package" of opportunities through B-HIP offered her added value.

"It's been a very powerful experience. Though I come from a big city, there is nothing like this in Italy. I love New England and this kind of sense of community. I love this kind of America. I will look for work in Europe, but also maybe here."

To-date, B-HIP has garnered almost a hundred interns, 12 to 18 a session, through a competitive application and interview process.

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