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## A Diplomatic Head Start

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# A diplomatic head start

As a child, Jeff Primozich '09 dreamed of being a diplomat. Last summer he took a first step toward that goal.

Primozich honed his knowledge of Canada during an internship at the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, Wash. He worked in the departments of political and economic relations, and public affairs, staffing booths at events and promoting good relations between Canada and the United States.

The experience not only boosted his self confidence but also deepened his understanding of the need for global cooperation.

"I'm better able to comprehend what it means to represent the interests of the United States abroad and to work closely with foreign governments to promote policies that will be beneficial to both countries," said Primozich, a political science major and music minor. "I have a fundamental belief that global cooperation is necessary for global stability, and to be able to play a role in facilitating that cooperation is very exciting."

One of Primozich's most interesting and challenging tasks was organizing elements of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit, which focuses on regional partnerships and cooperation. He helped organize the Clean, Green Border Tour, an environmentally friendly event, for representatives from governments, businesses and universities in the Seattle, Tacoma and Bellingham areas. The tour's goal was to educate participants about environmental awareness and the missions of the Canadian Consulate.

Although Primozich hopes to use this internship as a launch pad for a career in the Foreign Service, his immediate plans include joining the Peace Corps.

"What better way to gain cultural experiences than through the Peace Corps?" he said. "I've been craving an opportunity to live



Jeff Primozich '09 said Dawn Nowacki, professor of political science, was instrumental in helping him secure an internship at the Canadian Consulate last summer. Primozich's professional goal is to become a diplomat.

somewhere else in the world and immerse myself in the culture. It would be a gateway for me to accomplish something with my life."

Primozich credited the recommendation of Dawn Nowacki, professor of political science, as instrumental in helping secure the Canadian Consulate internship.

"The close relationship I have with her has been by far the best part about my Linfield experience," Primozich said. "She really put herself on the line writing such a great recommendation for me, and I took that opportunity to prove myself."

Nowacki, who is the faculty trustee, understands the importance of the relationship between the United States and Canada. Her Canadian studies work includes field trips with students to Canada and extensive research into the elections of Russian and Canadian women to political office.

"Canada is interested in sharing with Americans, especially stu-

dents and faculty, an awareness of Canadian policy and government and how it operates," Nowacki said. "Canada is not just an adjunct of the United States."

Both Nowacki and Primozich recognize that Canada is sometimes overlooked as a foreign country because of its proximity to the United States. In fact, during his interview for the internship, Primozich was asked whether he had ever been abroad, to which he replied "no." He was then asked if he had ever been to Canada. He answered "yes."

Besides reaffirming Primozich's desire to be a part of the Foreign Service, the internship helped him gain valuable relationships.

"I'm lucky I had an internship that I loved," Primozich said. "I felt that I was really appreciated there, and even though I kept a professional relationship with my supervisors and coworkers, there were friendships as well."

— Megan Wills '09