



## News Release

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### Students Spend Summer Field Periods with Local Sites

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Field Period is an opportunity for Keuka students to see the world.

In fact, Keuka students were represented in 16 states and four countries this summer.

However, the one-month internship is also an opportunity for them to take advantage of local businesses and organizations.

This summer, 25 students spent their Field Periods with sites in Yates County. Among them: **Dennis Collins (Liverpool, N.Y.)**, **Erin Morris (Canandaigua, N.Y.)**, **Samantha Warren (East Syracuse, N.Y.)**, and **Matt Beckwith (Dresden, N.Y.)**.

Collins, a junior political science/history major, conducted his Field Period with the Keuka Park/Branchport Fire Department.

“My goals and objectives going into the Field Period were to learn the goings on in the fire scene and how these rules apply to the individual fire fighter and the department,” said Collins, who grew up in Solvay but now calls Liverpool home.

“Another thing I wanted to learn was the political aspect of the department by sitting in on meetings. Getting a brief overview of the department’s history was something else I had hoped to do.”

He also sought to “obtain knowledge on how to implement skills to a fire scene in a proper manner” as well as certification by taking classes.



Collins completed 24 hours of training as a pump operator, went on calls, and “learned what it takes to keep the department running.” He also went to the fire chiefs convention in Syracuse, where he completed a course called *Saving Your Own*. Additionally, he attended “live burns” of buildings that people wanted burned down.

“This acts as training for the members of the department,” explained Collins, who also revised Keuka College’s plan in case of a fire.

“I took pictures of the internal and external characteristics of the buildings to put into the (revised) plan. I had to measure the approximate width and length of each building from the

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outside so that the fire chief could determine the fire flow and amount of water needed to put out a fire in each building.”

Collins also assisted with preparations for the July 4 fireworks, learned the proper way to wash fire trucks, and assisted with a demonstration for second and fifth graders to promote fire safety.

“I sincerely hope to continue my training and stay with the fire service for my entire life,” said Collins. “After graduation, I am thinking about continuing my education and going to a school that offers fire science and investigation and library science. I want to do both.”

Erin Morris, a senior unified childhood/special education major with a concentration in communication, spent her summer Field Period working as a camp counselor with Mindstretchers, Keuka College’s summer camp.

Mindstretchers offers children ages 10-15 a taste of college life by living in residence halls, eating in the College cafeteria, and attending classes. Campers choose academic, artistic, and athletic courses to take during the day, and at night they engage in such traditional camp activities as listening to spooky stories by the bonfire.

Some of Morris’ responsibilities included attending classes with the campers, planning and organizing activities for them, and ensuring their safety. She was also in charge of six female campers who called themselves Erin’s Elephants.

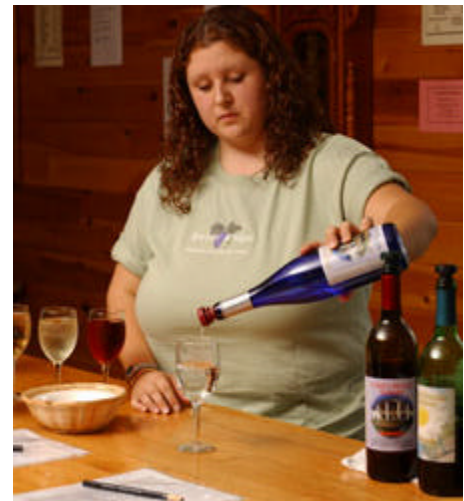
The Field Period differed from Morris’ previous experiences in the traditional classroom.

“Although it was a structured setting, the students were more free to participate in a variety of activities that were both athletic and academic, which allowed me to participate more with the children and be more creative,” she said. “The biggest difference was that I was with the kids 24 hours a day.”

Morris said the experience would prove beneficial to her when she looks for a teaching job next year.

“This Field Period helped me learn how to relate to kids in the 10-15 year-old range better and the classes helped expose me to a variety of teaching ideas and styles,” she said.

Having fulfilled the requirements of her unified childhood/special education major by conducting three education Field Periods—at Byrd Academy in Chicago, a city school in Syracuse, and a daycare in East Syracuse—senior Samantha Warren wanted to explore additional possibilities with her final Field Period.



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While she's considering continuing her education, earning a master's degree and starting to teach after graduation, she "likes business, too."

So, the East Syracuse native chose Torrey Ridge Winery, where she is employed, as her Field Period site to further her retail experience.

Warren ran the tasting rooms at Torrey Ridge Winery and Earle Estates Meadery, owned by the same family as Torrey Ridge Winery. She was also able to achieve two other Field Period goals: "to get involved with sales" and "to learn how wine is made."

That's not all she got out of the experience, however. Her Field Period also taught her "how to deal with different situations in a professional manner and answer questions with respect." These are lessons, she said, that will carry over into whichever career she pursues.

Before his Field Period with the Keuka Outlet Trail, all junior environmental science major Matt Beckwith knew was that he wanted to do "some sort of research" after he graduates.

Now the Dresden native knows that he wants to do research "in a laboratory rather than in the field."

"I prefer working as a team rather than by myself," explained Beckwith, who was responsible for surveying wild flowers and studying trail usage during his Field Period.



A typical day found Beckwith walking between four and eight miles of the trail, locating and identifying wildflowers, clipping them, and taking them home to be pressed. The collection he compiled is currently on display in the Outlet Trail Visitors Center.

"It's the first time I ever did anything like this," said Beckwith, who kept an observation journal and used a book to assist him in the identification process. His previous Field Period was spent as a lab technician assistant at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Penn Yan. He hopes to arrange for a future Field Period with the National Aquarium in Baltimore.