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23 February 2010

GS 190 internship

### Personal Statement

During the spring 2011 semester, I will be interning for Vision Long Island. This is a not-for-profit organization located in Northport, NY, whose primary focus is to promote environmentally, as well as economically, sustainable communities on Long Island. This organization works with local leaders and other local organizations in order to promote, plan, design, and organize Smart Growth projects on LI. The organization supports mixed income/ mixed use communities with affordable housing, bike/pedestrian friendly and easy access to public transportation.

My duties as an intern at Vision Long Island would mainly include working on their newsletter. I would help write newsletter articles about sustainable initiatives on LI as well as articles about broader environmental issues/Smart Growth research. In addition, I would have the opportunity to attend local press conferences, photograph local on-going projects, and help collect information about organizations/local leaders which could potentially collaborate with Vision Long Island. I would also help to schedule events between the organization and other local leaders/organizations.

As is indicated by the GS 190 course description, I will be required to keep a weekly log of my duties on-site at my internship. I feel that the best way to do this would be in the form of a blog. A blog is more interactive and definitely a more creative way of informing others at Hofstra of not only about what kind of things I'll be doing as an intern, but also about innovative sustainable initiatives currently being planned or taking place in Nassau and Suffolk counties and New York City. My weekly blog updates will partly pertain to what types of activities I was personally involved with for that week, as well as newsletter articles I had written during that week. Some of my blog entries will pertain to sustainability and environmental issues at a national and international level, and I will do this by posting articles from various publications and news media that I, or my co-workers at Vision Long Island, come

across.

The work I will be doing as an intern for Vision Long Island pertains to my Global Studies major because this organization promotes environmental sustainability at a local, national and international level. Environmental issues hold tremendous political and economic weight and will be the defining global issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Government action towards addressing the issue is imperative, but the saying “Think globally, act locally” can effectively summarize the grassroots environmental sustainability movement. The organization I intern for, and others like it, use a bottom-up strategy to further progress the “Green” movement. The entries in my blog will help serve as a basis for the research paper, which will be completed by the end of the semester. In the paper, I would like to expand on some of the main principles behind the concept of the Smart Growth community, which is becoming an increasingly common urban planning design for communities within the United States. This would entail an overview of how the concept of the suburb developed within the United States in the post-WWII era, and the various social, health, economic and political implications at a national and international level. I will also compare suburban and urban lifestyles, and the costs, benefits, as well as misconceptions, of both types of communities. The paper would also include discussions about principles such as New Urbanism and Transit-Oriented Design, and about why there is increasing support in moving away from the “drivable suburbia” and more towards a “walkable urbanism”, in which development is focused on easy pedestrian or rail access, affordable mixed development housing and an overall more sustainable lifestyle.

My on-site supervisor will be Christopher Kyle, who is the Director of Special Projects at the organization. Here is his contact information:

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**Director of Special Projects**  
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