Life as a Mather Intern at the Minority Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Katherine Stankus
Mather Public Policy Internship
Summer 2013
About Me
Mather Policy Internship

- John & Jane Mather Foundation for Science and Arts
- Dr. John Mather was a 2006 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics for his precise measurements of the primordial heat radiation of the Big Bang
  - Used part of his monetary award to help establish an undergraduate internship program with the American Institute of Physics (AIP)
  - Aim of the program: “to promote awareness of the policy process among young scientists by directly engaging them in the work that goes on in the federal government”
History:
- Soviet Union launched its first satellite Sputnik 1 on Oct. 1957
- 1958 - Select Committee on Astronautics & Space Exploration
  - Space Act
    - NASA
Present Day:

- Oversees policy relating to science
- Jurisdiction over non-defense Research & Development (R&D) portfolios
  - Exclusive Jurisdiction over:
    - NASA, NFS, NIST, OSTP
  - Authority over R&D activities at:
    - DOE, EPA, DOT, FAA, NOAA, NWS, DHS
Composed of 40 Members: 22 Republicans and 18 Democrats
- Chairman Lamar Smith
- Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson

Composed of 5 Subcommittees
Intern Duties

- Preparing materials for hearings and markups
  - Constructing binders
  - Writing questions
  - Conducting background research on topic and of witnesses
- Writing memos
- Helping write an opening statement
- Taking photos and uploading them onto facebook
- Editing transcripts
Briefings & Receptions

- American Geophysical Union (AGU) Science Policy Conference
- 2013 User Science Exhibition
- Lunch Briefings and Lectures
- NASA Technology Day On the Hill
- NASA’s One Year Anniversary of its Curiosity Rover on Mars
Meetings with Representatives

- Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
- Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)
- Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
- Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Other Events

- Breakfast with Rep. Bill Foster & Dr. John Mather
Bruch at a Staff Member’s Home

Udvar-Hazy Center – National Air & Space Museum
“Hangout”
with our two AIP Summer interns
Nikki and Katherine!

The Science Democrats are hosting a Google+ Hangout
Monday, July 29 at 1:00pm EDT

Nikki and Katherine will be answering your questions and sharing thoughts
on their Summer experience. Tune in to get the inside scoop on what a
“Hill” internship is all about!

Ask them your questions LIVE via twitter - @SciCmteDems
and use the hashtag: #ScienceInterns
Capitol Tour with other SPS Interns
Reflexions

- Learned how science policy works
- Gained better insight on other career opportunities for science majors
  - Different ways that science can help solve global problems
- Networking opportunities
- Learned how to apply skills gained from my physics major to my internship
  - Analytical thinking skills
Acknowledgments

- John & Jane Mather Foundation for Science and Arts
- Dr. John Mather
- American Institute of Physics (AIP)
- Society of Physics Students (SPS)

- Committee on Science, Space, and Technology