Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) | www.wola.org

- Lesley Wellener (International Relations, 2015)
- Regional Security Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
As the regional security intern, my main task is to support the regional security program through conducting research, drafting blog posts, and writing memos about security issues in Latin America. On top of that, interns are also required to answer phones, complete administrative tasks, and assist with other tasks integral to running a non-profit such as contact management and development work.

**How did you find your internship?**
I found my internship through the CIC Internship Fair in Washington, DC. CIC is a consortium that puts on 4 different internship fairs during winter break and Tufts is a member school. At the Internship Fair, I met the internship coordinator for WOLA and spoke to him about the job. After that I maintained contact with him via email and then submitted my application by March 1. Shortly after, I was invited to interview and then I found out that I had received the internship. It was a whirlwind experience of networking and applying!

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
My favorite part about my internship is how relevant it has been to current news stories and politics. I spend most of my time researching the surge of unaccompanied minor migrants coming from Central America to the US. I have been able to attend many events and Congressional hearings about this crisis, which has been really exciting. I have really enjoyed becoming acquainted with the D.C. political scene, and I feel like I am truly contributing to important research and ideas.

**What do you find challenging?**
A great deal of my internship is conducted in Spanish, which is often challenging. We do a lot of translations and work with partners in Latin America, which requires a high level of reading, writing, and speaking skills in Spanish.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
The best advice for someone pursuing an internship at a place like WOLA would be to network. Networking helps people put a name and a face to a resume and will ultimately help you make valuable connections that will lead to a job. Also, it is important to stick to deadlines for applications. Most DC applications are due in early to mid March and then interviews are conducted shortly after.

**About the Organization**
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Washington, DC

WOLA promotes human rights, democracy, and social justice by working with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to shape policies in the United States and abroad. WOLA envisions a future where human rights and social justice are the foundation for public policy in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the U.S. relationship with the region; where change happens when people on-the-ground connect with people who make policy, and where people work together across borders to respect human rights and democratic values.