Guarisco Gallery
Washington, D.C.

(Tess is on the far right)

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

Guarisco Gallery was in a transition phase this summer, consolidating the business to a single gallery, rather than two. Internship duties required digitizing hundreds of files for the gallery, facilitating the gallery move. Additionally, interns determined the curatorial value of various documents, either keeping or discarding information related to artworks. Greeting clients, preparing information packets for clients, and maintaining a well-stocked and fully functional gallery space were among daily responsibilities.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

Digitizing the documentation of the gallery was such among the most important intern duty, and while it was tedious, I learned that such small, seemingly unimportant jobs are critical to every business. The art world is not all glamour and cocktails (alas, what is), and while this was far from surprising, it is still important to understand this firsthand. My computer skills certainly improved because of this project, and my increased computer literacy is sure to be of value in whatever profession I undertake.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

Working with clients of vastly different backgrounds was intimidating, but having a liberal arts background made me a much more confident conversationalist. I can converse on a variety of topics,
allowing me to hold my own in conversation. Additionally, Sewanee has given me social skills that I have put to use with the many people I work with, helping make friends of co-workers.

**In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?**

Learning how an office environment functions was a huge part of this internship. Office dynamics are critical to being a successful and meaningful member of a team, and Guarisco taught me the value of communication. There were many firsts for me this summer, thus it was a summer of learning. Whether it be computer questions, curatorial curiosities, or questions about living in DC, Guarisco encouraged an open and inviting environment of learning. I now feel more comfortable being a little confused and asking for help when I need it.

**How did your internship affect your career plans?**

Working in an art gallery has affirmed my love of the academic side of art. The business side of the art world is far less compelling for me, although I do think that a position in curatorial could be a possible career path. Art sales, while a necessary part of the art world, are not what I am passionate about.

**In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?**

Socioeconomically, the art world is situated in a very lofty sphere, and working at Guarisco provided a glimpse into what type of clients I may work with. I did not feel that the wealth of clients made communication difficult, and I think that is because Sewanee has provided ample opportunity for social growth, making encounters with those of different backgrounds easy and often pleasurable.

**Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:**

This position has been an invaluable experience in the art world. As an art history major, it is difficult to find internships for my field specifically, and I fortunate and grateful for such an opportunity. Guarisco is a gallery of remarkable caliber, and I will be proud to put it on my resume.