

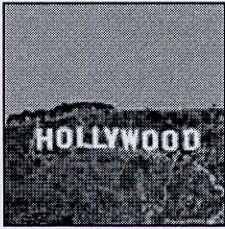
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Once you know what you want to be when you grow up, we will guide you to the next step.

Attention film and TV majors: Get out of town!

BY J. DIAMOND WEATHERSBY



Students looking to gain an inside look into the TV and film industries should consider following in the footsteps of Columbia seniors Kelly Banks and Lauren Foster by participating in the college's Semester in L.A. program.

"I was interested [in the Semester in L.A. program] because my life experiences had taught me that practical experience is the best way to get good at what you do," said Foster, whose ultimate career goal is to

write and produce for TV.

During a five-week session, Banks and Foster engaged in research, worked on independent projects and participated in discussions with industry professionals at the CBS Studio Center in L.A.

"Semester in L.A. is unique because it is the only academic program in the country permanently housed on a studio lot. Columbia College Chicago film, TV and music students call Bungalow 5 at CBS Studio Center home and have unprecedented access to the industry, key players and real sound stages," said Jon Katzman, Semester in L.A. program director.

Banks feels that the program's location and curriculum make it a prime choice for film and TV students.

"You learn a lot about the ins and outs of the industry in Hollywood that you can't learn in Chicago. Not only are you learning from your professors, but you're learning from industry professionals," said Banks, who also wants to direct and write for TV.

Banks and Foster both feel that the program has helped them realize and actualize their goals.

"I believe that the Semester in L.A. program has definitely helped me get closer to my goal ... Columbia College has helped prepare me for the real world because ... many things at Columbia require you to be proactive about your education and career goals," said Foster.

They also strongly encourage students to participate in the program.

"Definitely do the Semester in L.A. Program. You'll know whether or not this business is for you ... not only do you learn a lot [and] meet a lot of people, you have fun," said Banks.

For more information about the Semester in L.A. Program, visit www.filmatcolumbia.com/la.html.