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

Over the summer, I was tasked with collating and creating surveys for Dr. Vaca and Dr. Camenga. One study dealt with a texting intervention for adolescents with problems with alcohol and/or marijuana use, and the other was a driving simulator that will be used for multiple studies in the future.

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?

I learned how to use multiple new programs for research (i.e. Qualtrics, Microsoft Access, etc). I also aided in researching new information for both studies (see first question) so that my mentors could get their pilot studies up and running to collect data during the upcoming year.

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?

Being at Sewanee has taught me to always ask professionals if there is any way I could be of assistance. I used this multiple times while shadowing both the adult ED and the pediatric ED.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

By leading the group discussion for the interns one week, I was able to grow my teamwork skills with other individuals who are not studying the same thing I am.
How did your internship affect your career plans?
This internship gave me multiple opportunities. For example, I was able to shadow physicians while also getting a lot of research experience in many different areas. By doing this, I now know that I want to continue research in some way, while also delving more into becoming an emergency medicine physician. I also have the opportunity to possibly go back to Yale and do research during my year off before medical school.

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?
By being in a completely different geographical area than I am used to, I was thrown into situations with people from different socioeconomic classes, education, and even people from different parts of the world. This was extremely interesting to me because I got to see just how different cultures are compared to mine and that their education is vastly different than mine, although not worse than mine.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:
I would like to thank Dr. Vaca, Dr. Camenga, and Dr. Mayes for an amazing internship. I not only had the more enjoyable summer of my life, but I got to learn so much more than I anticipated. I will definitely take everything with me and use it in future endeavors, and I hope to see everyone again during my year off.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?
I definitely recommend housing in East Rock. It is the safest place as well as a great location to be.