

Summer Internship Report 2017

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Hometown: Montgomery, Alabama



**Cumberland Plateau
Medical Internship
Tullahoma, Winchester,
Beersheba Springs, TN**

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

The South Cumberland Plateau Medical Internship was created to allow students to shadow various medical careers while also promoting community service skills. Over the summer, I served three rural clinics as a volunteer receptionist, medical scribe, and shadow while also helping expand patient assistance programs at the clinics and catalog their medications.

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?

Our biggest accomplishment this summer was the completion of a newly updated Prescription Catalog at Volunteers in Medicine clinic. Counting and organizing over 135,000 pills and ointments, our online prescription catalog allows for the clinic to know what medications they have at the click of a button. We hope this new system will better the quality of treatment our patients receive in that facility. This project along with other shadowing opportunities taught me not only about the uses and side effects of specific medications, but widened my understanding of the various ways I can volunteer my time to help the clinics in the biggest and smallest of situations.

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?

At Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic, I have worked as the director of the patient assistance program for over two years. With more time at the clinic this summer, I was able to better organize our efforts in finding new patient assistance programs and connecting our patients outwards to bigger corporations. By beginning a Patient Assistance filing cabinet this summer, I was able to streamline

our application finding process so that we might connect our patients with bigger corporations at a faster rate. I got the idea of this new system from my Bonner instructor, Robin Hille Michaels, who pushed me to better organize my efforts.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

This summer definitely taught me a lot more about the importance of volunteer communication and sharing responsibilities. With three interns working at the same three rural clinics all summer, we really had to spend time working on communicating tasks and sharing responsibilities in resolving problems and projects

How did your internship affect your career plans?

This summer solidified for me the fact that I want to pursue a medical career. Although I have not yet decided between PA and medical school, this internship gave me great insight into the pros and cons of each career path.

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?

Working in Grundy County (one of the poorest counties in the state of TN), I was immersed in a rural community that is vastly different from my home town of Montgomery, AL. Despite our cultural differences, this clinic taught me that every human deserves the basic right of adequate and affordable healthcare-- an idea that often does not exist in such rural communities.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to both cultivate our own life perspectives and hopefully better the lives of others around us.