

Andrew Lesmes



Interview with **Andrew Lesmes, '14 A&S**
Internship Site: **Society of St. Andrew**
Location: **Orlando, FL**

Q: What is your major and how did this internship relate?

A: I am an environmental studies major, and the organization I worked for is concerned with two issues of public health—hunger and food waste, the latter of which has serious environmental implications.

Q: What does your internship site do?

A: Society of St. Andrew is a non-profit hunger relief organization that takes volunteers out to Florida's farms and groves, "gleans" produce that would otherwise go to waste, and then distributes it to food banks, pantries, and other organizations; the Florida branch, for whom I worked, are responsible for over 30 million pounds of produce being saved since their opening in 1995.

Q: What were your personal responsibilities as an intern?

A: As an intern, my responsibilities fell under two categories: office and field work. The office component consisted mainly of grant research and event planning/volunteer coordination, as well as learning other aspects of managing a non-profit. In the field, I was given the opportunity to lead my own gleaning event (with over 60 adult volunteers) and also visit many key centers of Central Florida's hunger relief community (including Salvation Army, Coalition for the Homeless, and Second Harvest Food Bank).

Q: What did you learn or find enjoyable?

A: Above all, I learned how helpful and charitable people can be; I never ceased to be amazed by the wonderful members of our community, who were willing to get up at sunrise on a Saturday morning to work on the farm for a great cause. Also, even after having learned about food waste and hunger many times in my studies, I was amazed by how novel and fun gleaning can be as a solution to both issues—volunteers get the opportunity to spend a morning on a beautiful farm, and in return, thousands of hungry people receive fresh produce. To be part of it was both an honor and a privilege.

Q: Did this internship experience help solidify what you want to do in the future? Why or why not? How?

A: Though it has not necessarily changed my specific desires for the future, it has provided me with a lot of skills that I never would have expected to learn. I have gained a much greater understanding of people—the opportunity to interact with volunteers, hunger relief workers, and the hungry themselves has given me incredible perspective. On top of the practical experience and responsibilities placed upon me as an intern, the personal skills I've gained will certainly come in handy on whichever path I take.

Interview with **Sharon de Andrade**

Internship Site: **Orange County Environmental Protection Division**

Location: **Orlando, FL**



Q: What is your major and how did this internship relate?

A: I am majoring in Environmental Studies and my internship is based on community outreach and organizing volunteer events that promote environmental stewardship and conservation of our community's natural resources.

Q: What does your internship site do?

A: My internship site protects and manages Orange County's natural resources through regulation and permitting. The Orange County Environmental Protection Division manages the following: air quality, water quality, hazardous waste generators, solid waste compliance, storm water pollution prevention, petroleum storage and management, and the preservation of natural lands.

Q: What were your personal responsibilities as an intern?

A: My personal responsibilities as an intern were to work with the volunteer coordinator in order to recruit, train and lead volunteers in environmental conservation projects. I also worked on educating students and the community on storm water pollution prevention through our storm drain labeling projects and the watershed model presentation.

Q: What did you learn or find enjoyable?

A: I learned more about an organization that I initially did not even know was based in Orlando. I enjoyed shadowing the other departments in order to have a better idea of how the processes of environmental protection work on a local level.

Q: Did this internship experience help solidify what you want to do in the future? Why or why not? How?

A: This internship experience solidified my desire to work towards conservation of our natural resources even more. It was great to be able to work in an organization within my field of study because it gives me an idea as to what kind of tasks I would be doing in my future career.

Taylor Wejkszner Interview

Interview with **Taylor Wejkszner (class of 2015)**

Internship Site: **Lehigh Valley Health Network**

Location: **Allentown, PA**

Q: What is the name and location of your internship site?

A: I was chosen as a Research Scholar in the Department of Gynecology at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Q: What is your major and how did this internship relate to it?

A: I am a biochemistry major with a minor in Spanish. During my internship, I was exposed to every aspect of the healthcare field. I assisted with surgeries, completed rounds on the hospital floor, and also was involved with completing research project that is in the process of being published in The Journal of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Q: What exactly does this company/place do?

A: Lehigh Valley Health Network includes 3 hospitals in Allentown and Bethlehem PA. The mission of the hospital is to heal, comfort, and care for the people of the community. Today, the hospital offers 95 clinical specialties as well as opportunities for clinical research and education, including a medical school partnership with the University of South Florida.

Q: What were your personal responsibilities as an intern?

A: As an intern, I was expected to take on the role as a medical student completing their residency in the Department of Gynecology. My mentor, Dr. Martino specialized in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. In simpler turns, he used a DaVinci robot to perform procedures, instead of the traditional surgical procedures. I was also responsible for compiling data, running data analysis and meeting with different departments to see how we can "better" the hospital.

Q: What did you learn and/or find enjoyable?

A: I am truly blessed to have had such an eye-opening experience that exposed me directly to the medical field. One of the biggest aspects I learned about myself is how much I enjoy research. Though it can be tedious, the end project is worthwhile and is helpful to other professionals in the medical field. Also, being exposed to the new technology such as the DaVinci Robot was definitely a huge advantage of interning in the Gynecology Department. I have no doubt that this new technology is going to revolutionize the way in which procedures are performed in the medical industry.

Q: Did this internship experience help solidify what you want to do in the future? Why or why not? How?

A: Yes, this internship solidified my future plans. Though I am uncertain if I will specialize in Gynecology, I am focused on attending medical school and working along highly respected doctors in the future.