

A Summer Internship Brings Abundant Experiences

I could not have planned a more opportune time to intern at the Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH). The health care reform debate that dominated this summer's headlines provided a stimulating backdrop for my time here. Besides serving as a constant source of relevant information for me to follow and research, the attempts at health care reform left me with no doubts that the work being done here every day is of the utmost importance.

As exciting as the headlines may have been for those of us interested in health policy, they had some stiff competition as preparations were made for the first day of classes at the new Jefferson School of Population Health. Dean Nash will tell you that the very first students arrive for classes on September 9, 2009; however, I feel that I have already had that privilege. My internship has been an invaluable learning experience thanks to the faculty and staff.

Provided with a very "cozy" cubicle situated right in the middle of things at the JSPH office space,

I was able to delve into my research assignment regarding the comparative effectiveness movement. The volume and dynamic nature of the information was overwhelming at first, but with guidance from Dean Nash, I was able to grasp an understanding of the health care system that I know will be essential to my success as a future health care professional.

Despite a fondness for that little cubicle, a break from reading the news articles and medical journals was always welcome. Luckily for me, opportunities to apply my new knowledge were provided regularly by Dean Nash and the other faculty. I attended weekly research meetings where I learned of the innovative projects being conducted through the school. I tagged along with Dean Nash to various University and Hospital committee meetings. I went to Harrisburg to attend a meeting with the Technical Advisory Group for the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. On another notable occasion, an interesting cab ride up Broad Street brought me to Einstein Hospital where Dean Nash was giving Grand Rounds. I truly real-

ized that day what JSPH is all about. It's essentially about teaching and promoting a "healthier" way to deliver health care through system transformation and quality assurance.

I am sure that I learned more this summer than I have been able to process or appreciate thus far. I suspect that my time at JSPH places me a few steps ahead of my fellow Public Health students at George Washington University. More importantly, I believe that my internship will be an unmatched resource as I endeavor to become a medical professional and future leader in the changing health care world.

Shannon Doyle

*B.S. Public Health Student
George Washington University*