

Date: 02/21/2024

Name: Anamica Khadgi

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Internship Company: Nepal Cancer Hospital and Research Center (NCHRC)

Location: Lalitpur, Nepal

During the cold months of December and January, I got on an airplane back to my home country Nepal. Here, I had the opportunity to work at the Nepal Cancer Hospital and Research Center (NCHRC) located in Harisiddhi, Lalitpur. NCHRC is the first and the only privately owned cancer hospital in Nepal, focused on providing the highest level of cancer diagnosis and care to patients around Nepal. This experience was very meaningful to me as it gave me exposure to the field of cancer medicine, biomedical engineering, and research within the context of Nepal; aspects that I aspire to integrate into my career in healthcare.

I spent most of my time with the biomedical engineering department at NCHRC. I would help the engineers on site with tasks that arose in the hospital every day, which meant that every day was different. While working on this team, the reality of the actual lack of resources surprised me. Due to a lack of trustworthy biomedical device companies in Nepal, hospitals often outsource medical technology from other countries like India and Korea. This necessity to import technology had resulted in a significant hike in the price of parts for even the simplest and everyday machines; a reason for the creation of a technological vacuum in the healthcare industry. For the biomedical engineering department, it meant that in the event a part of any device malfunctioned, simply ordering an extra part was not a viable option. So, for every problem we faced, we spent a significant amount of time brainstorming and using the tools

available to us to fix it. From fixing ultrasound machines to ICU beds, the range of experiences I gained in this department taught me how to think outside of the box when problem-solving.

Moreover, I engaged with the research going on within the hospital. While the short duration of my stay was a reason I could not be directly involved with a research project, I was able to speak to the research coordinator and meet the different people conducting independent research. While exploring these projects, I discovered the lack of representation of the South Asian population in medical research. Due to this, there is a disparity in the diagnosis and health outcomes of individuals in this group. The knowledge of such a lack of diversity within medical research has motivated me to be thoughtful about this and has left me with an aim to be a part of change and bring this inclusivity to my career in research.

In addition to working with the biomedical engineering department and learning about research, I was also able to shadow doctors in rotations around the wards, in surgery, and in the outpatient clinic. During my free time, I also interacted with patients and staff to have conversations about their stories and share mine. These interactions were one of my favorite parts of the experience.

Over the course of a few weeks, I had the opportunity to explore the healthcare setting in my home country which reminded me of all the reasons I wanted to pursue a career in medicine. I learned how to problem solve in low-resource settings, how to interact with patients, and what I valued in research and my career. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity that allowed me to witness and work with the Nepali healthcare system through a different, more personal, perspective.

Date: September 1, 2024

Name: Makenzie Stone

Majors: Communication and Interdisciplinary Studies

Internship Company: Country Music Association (CMA)

Location: Nashville, TN

During the summer of 2024, I interned in the Industry Relations and Philanthropy department at the Country Music Association (CMA) in Nashville, TN. Specifically, I served as the Community Outreach intern, assisting in the execution of the CMA Foundation's Mission. CMA is a trade association that seeks to advocate for the expansion of the country music genre, support current music industry professionals, and honor outstanding individuals in the country music genre. The CMA Foundation is the 501(c)(3) primarily funded by CMA; its mission is to promote music education in schools and support teachers in this field.

The CMA and CMA Foundation have many hallmark events throughout the year. These events primarily focus on public entertainment, industry outreach, or philanthropic giving. In the summer, the company's flagship event, CMA Fest, takes place. CMA Fest is the largest country music festival in the nation, and its proceeds directly benefit the CMA Foundation. Also during this time, planning for the annual Music Teachers of Excellence program takes place. Music Teachers of Excellence (MTOE) is a program that honors music teachers across the U.S. who are committed to excellence in their classrooms. Teachers are not only honored at a star-studded ceremony but also receive grants that go towards the betterment of their classrooms and schools. Facilitating the planning and execution of these two events was the core of my experience at CMA.

My primary project this summer was working with the Philanthropy team to review applicant data from the most recent MTOE application cycle. I was able to learn how applicant and draft data are used to create valuable analytics for future grant cycles. I was able to see how numerous demographics such as locale, school status, and applicant background influenced how well the grant program was being marketed across a diverse population. Additionally, the insights I collected gave me a greater understanding of how background and external factors can affect who applies for and receives funding from these programs.

Additionally, I gained experience in hospitality, event planning, and stewardship through working with the Industry Relations team. I was able to sit in on planning meetings for several upcoming events, work in the industry hospitality suite at CMA Fest, and facilitate music industry education events. I gained invaluable insight into the magnitude and collaborative efforts needed to plan these events. Moreover, I was able to gain experience in networking with leaders in the entertainment industry and hear their expertise.

Throughout this summer, I have gained so much valuable insight by working at CMA. I not only have learned so much about the inner workings of the music industry but the nonprofit sector as well. Additionally, I was able to put into practice the advice my supervisors had given me about how to navigate networking and the professional landscape. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to be connected with leading professionals in the nonprofit/corporate social responsibility sector.

Riley Howell

Demmer Scholar's Program

This summer, I participated in the Demmer Scholar's Program where I interned at Conservation International in their fashion department. As a Demmer Scholar, I had the privilege of listening to speakers and going on tours of places I would not have been able to go to otherwise. My personal favorite was when we went to Grey Towers, where we hiked, listened to speakers, and toured the historic vacation home. Some other events included touring the Capitol Dome, the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and going to various states, such as Delaware and Pennsylvania. We also had a weekly class where we learned about the US government from our director, Mark Rey. We also had speakers throughout, which included, Simon Roosevelt, members of the Biden administration, employees of ABC, and various authors in the natural resource space. As an intern, I learned about sustainability in the fashion industry and the differing ways this can be achieved.

An example of this is regenerative agriculture. Conservation International has a program where they give funds to small farms all over the world, called the Regenerative Fund for Nature, or the RFFN. The RFFN creates opportunities for sustainability on farms that would not have the funds to implement otherwise. Another way this can be achieved is by working with brands. Conservation International works with brands, such as H&M, where they are held them accountable on their claims of sustainability. I got to sit in on calls with major brands and companies, which was an eye-opening experience. I loved learning about how these companies work internally and externally. I am so grateful for this experience, and I couldn't have done it without help from Shackouls Honor College.