

# **An Interview with ANSC Undergraduate Student Samantha Doyle on Her Internship at the Georgia Aquarium**

## **Q: Where did you intern, and when?**

I interned at the Georgia Aquarium with the Pinniped Department over the summer of 2018.

## **Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?**

This was not a paid internship. I spent a lot of time cleaning or assisting in the preparation of the diets for the 13 sea lions we cared for. I was welcome to watch all of the training sessions and, every so often, some of the shows that occurred throughout the day. The internship also featured a lecture series, and I was able to learn a lot about animal behavior, husbandry, and training. There were multiple projects; one where I created a new piece of enrichment for the animals, and another where I learned about four behaviors the animals are routinely asked. On my last day, I got to ask our largest sea lion, Diego, for those behaviors! I was eventually able to participate in the sea lion shows, where I spoke about the relationships trainers have with each of the sea lions.



## **Q: When did you apply for this internship?**

I applied in February of 2018 for this particular department.

## **Q: How long did the internship last?**

This internship lasted the entire summer, so about three months.



## **Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?**

I began searching online using the AZA website for internships programs like this.

## **Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?**

This is literally the most amazing thing I have ever done! The Pinniped Team is full of the best people and animals you could ever hope to meet! I learned a lot about many of the animals at Georgia Aquarium

and enjoyed working there every day. Not only that, but I was able to trade in my hours working to swim with whale sharks and manta rays!

## **Q: What is your area of interest as an ANSC major?**

I came into UConn with an interest in horses, but I am now additionally interested in marine mammals as well as animal behavior and training.

**Q: So, what are your plans when you graduate?**

Either to return to a facility like Georgia Aquarium to work or continue on to Graduate School.

**Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?**

Please do!! My email is [samantha.doyle@uconn.edu](mailto:samantha.doyle@uconn.edu)!