

An Interview with ANSC Undergraduate Student Veronica Pleasant on Her Internship Experience at The Maritime Aquarium

Q: Where did you intern, and when?

I interned at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk during the summer of 2018.

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

It was not paid, but there were credit opportunities if a student chose to pursue them. I interned in the Marine Mammal department, and got to work with meerkats, North American river otters, and Atlantic harbor seals via protected contact. I completed many of the same tasks as the mammal trainers, minus the actual seal training. I did get to whistle train the meerkats though!

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

I applied in December 2017.

Q: How long did the internship last?

It was twelve weeks of the summer, for 3-4 days a week from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

I previously interned at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo (Summer 2016), and I thought to check if The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk had an internship program as well.

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

It was very interesting, and I'm glad I had the experience! I don't think mammal training is for me, but it is absolutely an amazing profession.

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

I am pre-vet/pre-grad, and I actually just finished applying to veterinary school! I'm still working on applying to graduate programs.

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

I plan to attend veterinary school for my DVM, and graduate school for my PhD, as my end goal is to work in the overlap between human and animal health.

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

Absolutely! Veronica.Pleasant@UConn.edu