

# **An Interview with ANSC Undergraduate Student CJ Mozeika on Her Internship Experience at Jenkinson's Aquarium**

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

I was an Animal Care Intern at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant, NJ for the summer of 2018.

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

It was not a paid internship, but I was offered paid employment for future summers at the end of my internship!

I worked in mainly in animal husbandry and care for all different kinds of animals including fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates. A typical day could include ensuring cleanliness of animal enclosures, providing food and water to animals both on exhibit and behind the scenes, assisting in training larger mammals, handling animals for public interaction, assisting in veterinary care, giving informative talks over a microphone during animal feedings, giving group tours, preparing diets, logging feedings, answering questions on floors, and supervising touch tanks.

I also completed an Enrichment Project, where I chose a specific animal at the aquarium that I thought could use more enrichment to encourage natural behaviors in its enclosure. I chose the resident blind sea turtle and did research on the species' natural history and her individual history before I proposed an enrichment device. I made the device and implemented it, modifying it after each trial. The aquarium now has a new method to keep the turtle's mind and body active!

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

I applied in January of 2018.

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

It lasted for the length of the summer. I had to complete a minimum of 10 weeks for the aquarium's requirement, but I was able to do 13 weeks since I had the availability.

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

I looked on their website since I live very close to the aquarium.

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

Doing this internship was so much fun! I learned so much about many different species of animals, conservation, environmental health, animal care, and what I want to do in the future.

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

I am pre-vet and have a special passion for wildlife conservation and exotic animals.

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

Attend veterinary school and specialize in zoological medicine to one day become a veterinarian for wildlife/exotic animals.

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

Yes! [Christina.Mozeika@UConn.edu](mailto:Christina.Mozeika@UConn.edu)