See below for information about a great off-term opportunity for anyone who is interested in community health, rural medicine, and community engagement and advocacy. Definitely contact Molly Chodakewitz ’15 if you are interested!

Victoria for the NSS Executive Committee

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Are you interested in community and public health? Want to learn more about rural medicine? Mental health/psychiatry? Healthcare through prevention/education? Addressing educational inequality? Excited to get experience with alternative healthcare models and service leadership? What about community engagement and advocacy (addressing the effects of race, socio-economic class, and ability on healthcare, etc)?

If any of these ideas appeal to you (or if you think they’d appeal to someone you know) READ ON!!

Hi! I’m Molly — I’m a ’15, and I’ve been working at an awesome community health organization in rural Alabama since graduation. I recently mentioned Dartmouth’s D-plan to my boss, and he was really enthusiastic about the possibility of having a dartmouth student come with the organization for an off-term. We’re interested in having a Dartmouth intern/volunteer as soon as fall term, but we’re also interested in people for future terms.

What we do: Project Horseshoe Farm is a community health organization with a focus on mental health. We focus primarily on a couple of populations we consider to be particularly vulnerable or in need of services in our small town, including adults with physical or mental disabilities, adults with psychiatric illness, children (mostly from low-income backgrounds), and elderly community members. We have a variety of programs targeting these demographics. We run day programs four days a week to engage our adult participants and encourage them to
get out of their houses and socialize as well as to provide basic health care services and education about nutrition, etc. We also run a housing program for six older women with psychiatric illness that allows them to live in a non-institutionalized setting and remain as independent as possible. Finally, we run summer and after school programs for local kids to supplement their academic experiences and provide enrichment activities that they may not have the opportunity to be exposed to at school/home. There’s so much that goes into what we do on an every day basis, but this is at least a starting point for trying to describe it all. (Check us out to get more info! http://projecthsf.org)

**Why you should come work with us:** Working at Project HSF is a super hands-on experience and a great way to work for a really awesome non-profit while also getting to do something completely new. I guarantee a minimum amount of office work and a maximum amount of getting out into the community and forming connections with the people we work with. Further, because the organization itself is pretty small (about 10 people working here, mostly young recent college grads), you get to take on a lot of ownership for the organization and the work we do, which is really cool. As opposed to a lot of other internships, you won’t just be doing mindless brunt work.

Also if you’re interested in racial dynamics, medical anthropology, or anything along those lines, Hale County is a super interesting place to be! It used to be one of the richest counties in america during the height of cotton, and now it’s one of the poorest counties in america. The racial dynamics here are complex, run deep, and have really important effects on healthcare, socio-economic status, quality of life, etc. There are some really interesting and important questions to delve into in our work.

_**I can’t emphasize enough how much I’ve learned already**_
and how wonderful of an experience I’m having. So many people seem to think you need to volunteer abroad to experience a different culture/make a difference, but honestly there are places with a ton of need in the US (such as where I’m working in Hale County, AL) where you can really invest in a community and make a difference. Further, I believe that I’ve experienced just as much culture shock moving to rural AL as any time I’ve been abroad. Main difference from abroad is you just don’t have to get an international cell phone, which is a plus. Also, while we’re located in a rural town, we’re only 45 min from Tuscaloosa (where U of Alabama is), 1.5 hours from Birmingham, and 4 hours from New Orleans, Nashville, and Atlanta, so there’s tons of fun exploring/adventures for weekends!

Blitz me ASAP if you’re even remotely interested!! (Email me at mollychodakewitz@gmail.com or fellows@projecthsf.org) I’d be super happy to blitz/chat on the phone/skype and tell you more about what the experience would look like or just about my own experience here. Also please pass this info along to any other dartmouth students you think might be interested! The more the merrier.