The Center for Hope and Healing | www.centerforhopehealing.org

- Gabrielle Galat (Child Development, Community Health, 2015)
- Medical Intern; Medical Advocate
- Full-time, 35 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
Inside the office, I work mostly on my computer doing various projects for my supervisor and other agency workers. My tasks include making an informational pamphlet for the agency, producing an orientation presentation for new volunteers, and compiling a medical booklet that will be given to survivors at the hospital. Outside of the office, I also work as a hotline volunteer and a medical advocate. As a hotline volunteer, I work 8-12 hours per month on the 24-hour rape crisis hotline answering calls and performing over-the-phone counseling. As a medical advocate, I respond to calls regarding survivors of sexual assault from the emergency room and assist and counsel survivors through the medical and forensic processes at the hospital.

**How did you find your internship?**
I searched for organizations around my hometown (Andover, MA) that support the needs of women and communities at large. I was drawn to this organization because it provides resources to sexual assault survivors, a population that I have become interested in throughout my studies at Tufts and abroad.

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
I appreciate the breadth of this internship opportunity. When I’m in the office, I learn tasks like how to file paperwork, write reports, and record data into computer programs. A large portion of my work is also performed outside of the office, where I take part in entirely different experiences. As a medical advocate, I assist survivors during their medical treatment at the emergency room, thus gaining experience in clinical settings working with patients and care providers. Together, this internship allows me to explore many different fields of interest including social work, counseling, and clinical work.

**What do you find challenging?**
It can be emotionally taxing at times. Working with survivors of sexual assault may be upsetting and having to navigate legal and medical systems can often be frustrating. The agency addresses these challenges quite well, however, by providing monthly supervision appointments where interns and employees meet with counselors and discuss their work. I am also in close contact with my supervisor who follows up with me after each of my experiences with survivors to provide advice and support.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
Contact the volunteer coordinator, Amrith Fernandes-Prahbu at amrith@centerforhopehealing.org. Amrith will forward you the internship application and follow up with you about an interview and details about the position.

**About the Organization**
The Center for Hope and Healing
Lowell, MA

The Center for Hope & Healing has been providing direct counseling services and advocacy to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones since 1976. We work hard creating community free from sexual violence. Our mission is to support survivors, friends, and family, to break barriers of social oppression, to enable individuals and society to break the silence surrounding sexual violence.