

Part 2

Experience Abstract

Title: Aboriginal Australian Health: Going "Down Under"?

The purpose of my Plastino Project would be to study health care disparities among the Aboriginal Australian population including those in remote areas through qualitative and exploratory tactics through experiences of immersion, shadowing, and interviewing, working with physicians and community organizations. I would keep a detailed journal of all my observations, recording common themes that I would find by working with the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara, and Yankunytjatjara (NYP) Women's Aboriginal Council, and the Santa Teresa Health Centre to learn about the factors that contribute to health disparities and how they relate to the Aboriginal population. I plan to travel to both Alice Springs and Sydney, Australia- two areas with large populations of Aboriginal Australians; a trip that would take place during Winter session in January 2016 for approximately 4 weeks.

Personal Statement and Scholars Experience Proposal

As a child, I believed that I had a lot of control over my overall health. As long as I simply washed my hands to rid of germs, coughed into my elbow, or wore a jacket when it was cold outside, I would generally be healthy. However, I have learned that in reality, what affects overall health is far more complex- much more than an elementary school health video would lead on. It is important to understand that social factors have a great impact on the health of certain groups of people. These social factors create disparities, or unequal differences in the quality of health between populations, including that of racial and ethnic minorities, residents of rural areas, members of low socioeconomic status, people with disabilities, the elderly, and others. Racial minorities tend to have poorer quality of health. For example, African Americans are more likely to have high blood pressure than White

U.S. Healthcare Reform:

Considerations for Existing Global Healthcare Systems and Future U.S. Physicians

In this years edition of the Commonwealth Fund's *Mirror, Mirror*; the U.S. healthcare system stacked up last against the healthcare systems of 10 other wealthy nations, yet the U.S. healthcare system remains the most expensive in the world. In response, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law to help close the gap of uninsured Americans (about 15%). As a pre-med student and health policy enthusiast, I am interested in investigating the reform of our healthcare system as well as the affects it will have on physician's abilities to practice medicine. I am proposing a global healthcare study in the hospitals of 4 nations included in the Commonwealth Fund's healthcare comparison: Johns Hopkins Hospital in the U.S., Praticien Hospitier at Tenon Hospital in Paris, The Royal Birkshire Hospital in The United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. I have secured exclusive access to interview physicians in these countries in order to investigate their healthcare systems in the winter of 2016. With all the political turmoil that has plagued the signing of the ACA, it has been difficult for me to understand how it will reform our healthcare system. Studying the healthcare systems in these countries will help me better prepare for the future of the U.S. healthcare system and what role I may play in ensuring Americans receive the best healthcare possible.

Dunia Tonob – Plastino Scholar 2015

What a Patient Wants, What a Patient Needs: Patient Satisfaction with Healthcare and Perception of East Asian Traditional Medicine

Abstract

Health care systems in the United States and in China are facing intense public scrutiny; the USA after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and China for difficult accessibility and expense. As a student of anthropology as well as of medicine, I want to learn about different cultures and be able to use what I learn to positively impact the lives of others. I hope to learn how doctor-patient relationships and patient satisfaction differ between countries by shadowing physicians, by taking qualitative notes on how they interact with patients, and by collecting data directly from patients in the form of a questionnaire. I will interview patients in the waiting areas of hospitals and in rooms while they wait to be seen by their physicians. I am also interested in understanding if factors such as, patient satisfaction, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, age, and gender affect the likelihood of a patient seeking alternative medicine as a course of treatment and using these findings as the basis for a senior thesis.

I will collect data locally at the A.I. Children's Hospital, Christiana Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, as well as over five weeks next winter in Chengdu, China, a city about the size of Wilmington, DE, in Sichuan Province. My sponsor in China is Dr. Yu Zhao, a physician in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at West China Hospital, Sichuan University. He has arranged for me to shadow his colleagues in different specialties at the West China Hospital and pediatricians at the Women and Children's Hospital. He has offered to host me in his home or to arrange for me to stay in the dorms of Sichuan University's Huaxi campus.

Abstract:

Sean Krazit and Kevin Mascitelli Plastino

Abstracts 2015

From the 1920s-40s, swing dancing was one of the most popular forms of inexpensive entertainment. Surprisingly, this still holds true into 2014. Right here in Newark, the University of Delaware Swing Club brings this dance to life every Friday night in the Perkins Student Center. While popular on many college campuses, there are also many larger swing dance organizations throughout the United States. These organizations host dances with hundreds of people on the floor, live jazz bands with blaring horns, and people from all walks of life enjoying this American partner dance.

Along with UD Swing Club board member Kevin Mascitelli, I have designed a project for the Plastino Scholarship involving two parts: learning and sharing. In the learning phase, I will travel to three of the nation's most prominent dance organizations to learn how they operate. In the sharing phase, I will meet with the leaders of three local organizations to discuss how these findings can lead to improve that area's dance community. While Kevin's focus will be on the administrative aspects of running a dance organization, my project amalgamates my passions for dance and education, prompting me to explore how dance teachers approach this unconventional subject matter. I plan to observe and interview nationally acclaimed dance instructors to learn about the development of personal teaching philosophies. The Plastino Scholarship will allow me to delve into the world of dance education, and give me the opportunity to share my newfound knowledge with smaller organizations, improving the way teachers and dancers have fun with this American cultural dance form.

Abstract

It's a Friday night in the Perkins Student Center. The chairs in the Scrounge are pushed against the walls, creating a dance floor. Ella Fitzgerald's voice begins to hum a smooth melody over the speakers. A few people move towards the floor, they partner, and start dancing. They sway and swing with the calm beat of the music, and then the horn section kicks in.

Immediately the song picks up. Trumpets and trombones are blaring, the rhythm section speeds up as people dance and clap along to the now fast and steady beat. A circle of people form at the center of the dance floor. Two dancers enter the circle. They rip around, turning, and spinning, flying through the air. The circle of dancers roars with applause.

This happened two years ago on my first night at the University of Delaware Swing Dance Club (UD Swing Club). Now I am the one dancing in the circle and pushing the chairs against the wall. Since I started dancing I have always wondered how one starts and runs a successful swing dance organization. My Plastino experience will allow me to explore this question. I, along with fellow UD Swing board member Sean K.razit, will visit reputable swing dance organizations in Austin, Seattle, and Denver. Once completed, we will bring what we have learned back to our club in addition to sharing it with other growing organizations across the east coast.

The Beauty Project: Ghana
Georgina Class-Peters and Gerti Wilson
Plastino Scholars Project – 2015

The Beauty Project: Ghana, will be a short documentary looking at the perceptions of beauty and the effect they have on young women in power. While in Ghana, we plan to visit and interview professors at the University of Ghana and beauticians at hair/beauty schools, as well queen mothers, female students, and female entrepreneurs, in and near the Accra region. We will interview professors in order to gain scholarly opinions on constructions and perceptions of beauty. We will interview beauticians in order to gain their observations on beauty trends overtime. Finally, we plan to interview everyday women and men to gain insights on what makes a girl beautiful. We choose to conduct this research in the West African country of Ghana because of the patriarchal nature of the society. We're assuming that perceptions of authentic beauty in Ghana will be more affirming than perceptions of beauty adopted by its diaspora.

We hope to examine the intersectionality of beauty and feminism in the country, and hypothesize that there will be a strong correlation between positive perceptions of beauty and female empowerment that will lead to an increase of positions with women in power. And thus, will these women be more comfortable with their outer appearance or derive their confidence from other sources? Do images of beauty that prevail from the dominant culture in America serve to undermine young Ghanaian girls' self-esteem abroad? This documentary would provide a starting point for meaningful conversation regarding the issues of self-esteem, power, and beauty. Our families are originally from Ghana, so we will have support and places to stay while conducting interviews in the nation. And upon returning to the United States, we hope to start a 5-day leadership institute for young women between the ages of 14-18.

PART II**Experience Title**

Museums as Social Service Providers: Examining the Changing Role of a Historic Institution

Experience Abstract

Historically, museums have served the public as guardians of culturally, artistically, and scientifically significant objects. Recently, some museums have started to move beyond their historic role to become social service providers that engage and support their local communities. This movement is relatively new, and there is great potential for continued growth.

I would like to learn more about how museums are becoming social service providers. I believe this project will give me a unique perspective about the future of museums and provide me with experiences that will enhance my desired future career in the museum field. I plan to visit museums across the United States that have identified a specific need in their community and subsequently implemented *responsive* outreach programs. These museums are El Museo del Barrio in New York, the Queens Museum in New York, the DuSable Museum of African American History in Illinois, the Tucson Museum of Art in Arizona, and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History in California.

During each of my visits, I will spend time with museum staff to learn about the museum and its education and outreach programs. To gain a first-hand understanding of what each museum is doing for its local community, I will participate in an outreach activity. I will gauge the effectiveness of these programs through my personal experiences as well as through conversations with program participants, community members, and local government representatives. I am particularly interested in determining whether or not these museums are giving their communities something that other social service providers are not.