

Seeking the Joy in Healthcare: An Exploration of Pediatric Nursing Homes in the Northeast

Kelsey Murray

Abstract

Pediatric nursing facilities are homes for children who need 24/7 nursing care. They are incredible places that allow disabled and terminally-ill children to have a real childhood filled with education, family, and joy. I first experienced a pediatric nursing facility when I visited Exceptional Care for Children with my dance team. I had an incredibly emotional and impactful experience, and it inspired me to create this project. I am proposing to take a 6 week-long road trip in the summer of 2019 to explore 6 pediatric nursing homes across the northeast. I plan to visit the following facilities: Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities (NH), Seven Hills Pediatric Center (MA), Sunshine Children's Home (NY), St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children (NY), Pediatric Specialty Care (PA), and Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital (NJ). This project would entail driving to the facilities and lodging in cost-effective hotels. I would like to spend 5 full days at each facility volunteering, interacting with the children, and interviewing staff members. I plan to gain knowledge of the inner workings of pediatric nursing homes, observe the caregiver-patient interactions, and just experience the overall joy and happiness that come out of these amazing homes. My ultimate goals in life involve going to medical school, becoming a physician, and eventually opening up my own pediatric nursing home. This project would be an incredibly positive and uplifting experience, but it would also undoubtedly help me reach the goals I am so excited to achieve.

Return to a “Happy Country”: Estonian e-democracy and the future of governance

Caleb Owens

Abstract

As data breaches, privacy violations, and online manipulation illustrate each day, the United States is ill-adapted to the digital age. Lacking necessary legislative protections, as well as IT vision and competence, our experiment with democracy is in peril. Perhaps, though, we can learn from Estonia, a northern Baltic country of 1.2 million undergoing a democratic experiment of its own.

This project aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of e-governance in Estonia, particularly the country’s e-democracy initiatives, considering the cultural, legal, and ethical, questions involved. Through interviews and shadowing opportunities with academics and government officials, I will work to understand the technological and philosophical underpinnings of e-governance. I will speak with legal experts and educators to examine how the country has brought IT competence to its citizens, as well as how legislation has worked to protect citizens from potential abuses. Through immersion into Estonian society, involving trips to coffee shops, historical sites, rural communities, and universities, this project will gauge public perceptions of e-governance and explain modern Estonia in its cultural and historical contexts. The project will ultimately seek to determine if e-governance has any potential applications in the United States. The project will take place for four weeks in June of 2019, occurring primarily in Tallinn, the country’s capital, aside from brief trips to the Estonian countryside as well as to Narva and Tartu, a small but controversial town on the Russian border and a medieval university town, respectively.

Living Your Best Life: Rejecting Passive Consumption and Defining One's Self Image

Rachel Evans

Abstract

I intend to embark on a dual analytical and creative project for four weeks during Summer 2019 in London, United Kingdom. There I will interview young women about their patterns of consumption to uncover in a different culture the complex relationship between media and food. Too many viewers today passively consume both traditional and contemporary forms of media. This is particularly dangerous for young women, who are susceptible to the effects of images that may permanently alter their self-image. In the UK, this effect was amplified by the 2018 premiere of the reality TV show *Love Island*, which resulted in some girls assessing themselves by hegemonic beauty standards and finding themselves inadequate. I will explore various locations where girls are uniquely engaged in different forms of self-expression and controlling their self-concept. In London, these include hyper-feminine cafés designed with women's consumption in mind. In these gendered spaces, girls are celebrating themselves and their food choices; demonstrating how some British girls are rejecting passive consumption and embracing living their best lives. To supplement my research, I will participate in body positive events: kickboxing with an all-female group at Legion Fitness, partnering with the health community Fierce and Fearless, and walking in The Real Catwalk. These events tie into a broader theme of appreciating my body in repudiation of patriarchal beauty ideals. The culmination of my visit will be to create ; my own "zine" as a feminist model of self-expression and engagement