

I spent the last summer working at the Boston Globe. There, I met outstanding journalists, all with countless experiences and advice that taught me how to be a better storyteller. I began this internship with no experience in journalism; I had written a couple of articles but had never done any Globe-level reporting.

When I first arrived at the office in Downtown Boston, Paula Bouknight warmly welcomed me and six other interns. From the get-go, I experienced the welcoming culture of the Boston Globe. The Globe shines in a fast-paced and ambitious field due to its supportive community. In the beginning, I worked with the Metro desk. This was a fantastic opportunity because I got to write about everyday people doing exceptional things. I worked with excellent editors like Milton Valencia, Sahar Fatima, and Roy Greene.

However, since I had expressed an interest in health reporting, Roy Greene, the Deputy Metro editor, connected with the Health team very early on. I began working on explainers on the Canadian wildfire smoke and rising COVID-19 wastewater numbers. These stories helped me become a better writer and reporter, and gave me the courage to pitch my own stories. These clips also led me to speak with countless experts in their fields, from doctors to mosquito experts.

The health team, led by Anna Kutchment, the Health editor, excitedly welcomed me to their weekly meetings. I got to learn from all their expertise, and by the end of my internship, I felt confident that I knew the ins and outs of being a journalist.

Early into my time at the Globe, I got to pitch my first story. "*How universities are addressing ongoing collegiate mental health difficulties*" was on the front page of the Boston Globe on July 11th—this culminated weeks of work filled with interviews, corrections, and photo assignments.

I had four front-page stories and other Metro front pages throughout the internship. Apart from the latter story, my favorite clips from the summer were *"More than 70 Massachusetts beaches remain closed due to high bacteria levels,"* which I wrote alongside the fantastic Zeina Mohammed, and *"As women's sports continue to grow, mental health care for female athletes remains years behind."* I greatly appreciate the health team's trust in me, as their constant support helped me immensely when crafting these stories.

My internship ended with an opportunity to sit in on an interview with Kate Walsh, the Secretary of Health and Human Services. As someone interested in the health field, this was such an outstanding opportunity the health team presented to me. Similarly, my last story sent me to Roxbury, where I saw the opening of the Mamava lactation pod as part of Black Breastfeeding Week. Seeing all these incredible women working hard so that Black mothers can experience the joy of motherhood safely and equitably was the best way to end this great experience.

This is not an easy internship; it is demanding and fast-paced, but it's the best experience I have ever had. I would encourage anyone with a passion for storytelling, journalism, and writing to apply for this wonderful opportunity despite your prior experience. I walked into the Globe's office with little knowledge about the field and walked out three months later with skills that will help me for the rest of my life.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank Paula Bouknight, Roy Greene, Anna Kutchment, and Anica Butler for all their support. All the knowledgeable editors I got to work with during the summer and folks from the photo and graphics team who made my stories much more engaging. Finally, I wanted to thank the Center for the Humanities for this unique internship, and for caring and supporting all BU students in these fields.