



Samantha Bachochin

2023 STEM Intern of the Year

For her experience at the **Mahoning County Coroner's Office**



Samantha Bachochin is a third-year undergraduate student at Youngstown State University. She is pursuing a double major in Biology with a pre-medical focus and Forensic Sciences, complemented by two minor fields of study in Chemistry and Public Health. In the summer of 2023, Samantha undertook an internship at the Mahoning County Coroner's Office, located in Youngstown, Ohio. Alongside death investigators, she acquired invaluable experience in post-mortem examinations, crime scene investigations, documentation, and various other aspects of the field. Samantha was regularly called upon, often during the night, to provide assistance at death scenes throughout Mahoning County. These scenes frequently involved fatalities related to drug overdoses, suicides, and homicides.

This experience has facilitated Samantha's professional and personal growth. Bearing witness to the fatalities has been a profound and enlightening experience, prompting self-reflection and a heightened sense of the realities of life. In her own words, Samantha shares, "This experience has highlighted the importance of extending care and seeking justice not only for the living but also for post-mortem patients. I am now more enthusiastic than ever to embark on a career in forensic pathology." This experience has not only deepened Samantha's insight into the field but has also cultivated essential personal skills such as effective communication, empathy, and resilience, enabling her to navigate emotionally demanding situations with grace and professionalism.

At Youngstown State University, Samantha has served as an undergraduate research assistant in the microbiology research laboratory under the guidance of Dr. Chet Cooper. Her significant contributions have been evident in the Sars-CoV-2 Wastewater Project. This role has afforded her the opportunity to develop and hone her laboratory techniques and critical thinking abilities, which, in turn, greatly benefitted her during her internship at the Mahoning County Coroner's Office.

Samantha is an active participant in the Honors College and dedicates her time to weekly volunteer work at Akron Children's Beeghly Campus, specifically in the Surgery Department. Furthermore, she serves as an Anatomy tutor at the Academic Success Center and is a proactive member of Phi Sigma Rho, a STEM-oriented sorority on campus.

Upon completing her undergraduate studies, Samantha plans to pursue a medical degree with the ultimate goal of specializing in Forensic Pathology.