

## **Abby Boorstin, University of Georgia**

### ***SUPEH Intern, Summer 2010***

This past summer, I participated as a student intern in the Summer Program in Environmental Health (SUPEH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As part of the program, we participated in a wide array of shadowing activities with state, local, and federal public health professionals, as well as completed our own internship projects. We learned about county health department work during restaurant, pool, and land use inspections. We set mosquito traps that we collected the following day with a state entomologist. We even had the opportunity to experience a day in the life of vessel sanitation inspectors from the U.S. Public Health Service when we traveled to Cape Canaveral, Florida, and inspected two cruise ships. Lastly, we met with a USDA food processing inspector and toured several chicken and beef production plants. All of these experiences allowed me to gain a better understanding of environmental health as it applies to the world around us. I now know how important public health professionals are to the everyday, overall health and success of the entire country.

The SUPEH program has provided me with unparalleled field experience that has greatly contributed to academic success during my first semester pursuing a Master in Public Health degree. I was accepted into the MPH program immediately after completion of my undergraduate degree, so I was unable to spend several years working in the public health field like the majority of my classmates. The SUPEH internship compressed at least a year of valuable knowledge and field work into one summer. As a result, I entered the MPH program confident in my abilities to contribute to the field of public health. In addition, my internship project has translated into a year-long work-study opportunity that continues to teach me new aspects of public health on a daily basis.

I cannot begin to explain how grateful I am to have participated in the SUPEH program. The opportunities gained through networking, hands-on field work, and simply being present in the governmental working environment will remain with me throughout my career in public health.