

Ebony Easley



Ebony Easley is a senior majoring in Anthropology with a concentration in Medical Anthropology and Global Health, and with a minor in Hispanic Studies. Her engagements have included serving as a Teaching Assistant for an Academically Based Community Service course, working as a coordinator with fellows serving in local Philadelphia STEM classes through the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and completing an internship for NYCService under Michael Bloomberg's tenure. Ebony continues to be involved in the collegiate leadership of her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, and in doing community-based participatory research throughout Guatemala. Ebony is completing her senior year as a submatriculated student in Penn's Master of Public Health Program and currently works as a Senior Research Coordinator at the Mixed Methods Research Lab in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Penn.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Perception, Preference, and Use: An analysis of trends in Atiteco relations to the Hospitalito Atitlán”

Faculty Advisors: **Dr. Fran Barg** and **Dr. Kent Bream**, Perelman School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

After observations and conversations concerning the role of race in the provision and receipt of medical care in rural Guatemalan communities, I learned that formal steps must be taken to gain a more complete understanding of the phenomenon. In Santiago Atitlán, where Ladino doctors occupy the primary role in the biomedical care facilities which serve indigenous populations, there must be attention paid to the implication of such intimate interactions between two such distinct racial groups. The study is an attempt to begin unpacking the ways in which the ethnic and racial differences might affect community perceptions of healthcare services and ultimately influence preference and use of services.

The research is an analysis of two years of survey data collected by the Guatemala Health Initiative at The University of Pennsylvania. While the results reported do not suggest an empirical association between community member preference or negative perception of care and the presence of Ladino doctors, personal experiences and related research suggest that these phenomena might best be studied with the use of qualitative methodologies.