

Student Testimonial

As a student, I found the experience of being apart of this photojournalistic essay to be extremely rewarding. The day Ashley Marshall and I attended the Durham Integrated Growers community garden project tour last July, was informative, eye-opening and inspiring to say the least. The reality we saw at these community gardens all over Durham was that they were either privatizing themselves or becoming an exclusive members-only mentality, and that was strange and unexpected to see. The fact that most of the gardens we saw were often not open and welcoming to the public sparked a fire of investigative journalism and problem solving through the academic means I know and we immediately got started. The photojournalistic essay Ashley and I put together after this tour was truly the best as I got to see our experiences and findings put together in an academic, scholarly way that highlighted the nearly invisible issues in our communities right now and aimed to put a stop to them. This experience absolutely heightened my senses for these barriers, also while teaching me how to systemically erase these problems, which not only allowed us to create such a fantastic photojournalistic essay but also taught me how to better my community through a simple act of a welcoming and open to all community garden, as well as formulating other ideas to benefit those around me.