



The STEAM Internship Program for Leaders – Week 5

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What an awesome week! On Monday, we welcomed Oluremi Hidad, an electronic/electrical engineer who knows all about sustainability and solar energy and who called in all the way from Nigeria. Dr. C started our morning off by interviewing Oluremi to learn more about her. Something that Oluremi said that stuck with me was that she used to struggle to study in the evenings because there was no electricity and the lamp that was available was not enough to work on her homework with. This sounded very familiar, as I went through the same situation when I was back home in Guinea; the electricity system was horrible, and I remember imagining how it would feel to be able to work with light sources that run all the time. Some advice from Oluremi that I believe everyone should follow is “you have to be smart, not smart like intelligent wise, smart like passionate, and go after what you want.” She continued later on by saying “you need a mentor, you need to do research, you need to start; don’t wait to start until you have all the resources you need to get started, start in your bedroom, start with an idea and work hard, you need to start as soon as you can.” I thought that advice was really brilliant and if many follow this rule, the world would be amazing. Did you know that the average hours of sunlight per year in NYC is 2535 and in Nigeria is 2672? Me neither! Using this information after Dr. C’s interview with Oluremi, we split into breakout rooms and brainstormed a new solar energy system that would improve the quality of life both for youth in NYC and Nigeria. We only had 12 minutes to come up with this idea! To everyone's surprise, we did fantastic. The 4 teams were able to come up with ideas for a solar WIFI box, a giant light-bulb solar system which helps plants grow without sunlight, a night lamp to help students study, and a solar device that filters water for the community. Monday mornings have never been this much fun.

Tool Tuesday again, this time with Alex! Alex, an e-counselor in our Program, taught us how to use MediBang to create visual art. MediBang, Inc is a Japanese corporation that offers several apps dedicated to creating art, especially for manga. To my surprise, Medibang is free and only requires you to enter your email and password, how cool is that? Alex started the presentation by asking us to name some STEAM ideas that show up in art or can be related to art. Some of our students answered math and engineering. This is true, in fact, I strongly believe that throughout our daily lives, we see art in almost everything we do, see, touch, and feel, whether it's through music, dance, nature, or art itself. Art is a tangible aesthetic object which holds intrinsic value. After Alex's amazing presentation, we all came together as a group and created an incredible collective collage using different images selected by the students.

On Wednesday, the EDsnaps team took an e-field trip to the Frick Collection. The Frick Collection is an art museum located in the Henry Clay Frick House on the Upper East Side in Manhattan. The Frick is known for its distinguished Old Master paintings and outstanding examples of European sculpture and decorative arts. Emily Da Silva-Prado, our educator and tour guide, went in-depth with us about two master paintings. The first painting was from Comtesse d'Haussonville by Jean Ingres. The amount of detail in this painting is unbelievable. I was even more drawn to this picture when I found that it took three whole years to create it! The second painting was the Mistress and the Maid by Johannes Vermeer. There were so many possible stories behind this painting which made me love it because there's not exactly one side to a story. I enjoy looking at paintings; I still remember the first time I went to the Museum of Modern Art- it was so magical! I truly believe that we tell our stories and emotions through artworks and paintings is one to tell our stories. Pablo Picasso, one of my favorite painters, said "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." This



saying makes sense because when we are kids, our minds are full of imagination, no project or goal seems impossible. But as we get older, our visions start to narrow, and our imaginations sometimes fade.

On Thursday, we met another incredible Woman of Impact, who met Michelle Obama! Lesley Jane Seymour visited the EDsnaps Program and was interviewed by Hawa, one of the e-counselors. Lesley Jane is an American editor, author, and entrepreneur. I was highly impressed that she was the editor-in-chief of many women's magazines, including Marie Claire, Redbook, and even Vogue. I see Vogue magazines and commercials on TV regularly, so seeing Lesley made me feel like I was behind the scenes. Lesley Jane Seymour created history by having the First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama guest edit an entire issue! I was in awe as I listened to her speak so warmly about Michelle Obama whom I strongly admire. I also can't wait to hear Michelle Obama's podcast. Lesley's interview made me realize two things: (1) Hawa broke a record by performing a nearly 53-minute interview with Lesley, which will be very hard to top, and (2) that kindness is key - it doesn't matter who you are, how you make someone feel will stick with them forever. Later on, Bolortsetseg (Bolor) Minjin was interviewed by Lisanne. Bolor is a well-known Mongolian paleontologist. Paleontology is the study of the history of life on Earth as based on fossils. I didn't even know there was such a specific field of study, so I was curious to know more. Bolor wanted to be a paleontologist ever since she was a child. Her early childhood story of her father bringing home "rocks" that were actually corals in his backpacks was so emotional to me. Bolor enjoys finding tiny mammal fossils because they are hard to find, and she fought against a US dinosaur bones auction in 2012 because they were trying to sell a Mongolian dinosaur. Since then, she has been very involved with fossil repatriation and has successfully helped over 30 Mongolian dinosaur fossils return home. And one of the simple yet important pieces of advice that I took away from her interview was the importance of setting high goals for yourself and that it

doesn't matter how long it takes you to accomplish them, as long as you consistently work towards them.

To finish off the week, on Friday we went on our second e-field trip of the week, where we visited the Panama City campus of Florida State University. We met with Denise Newsome and Paul Cottle, who are running a summer e-Program on “Nuclear science behind nuclear medicine” for the first time. This subject showed that not only physics students, but also chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computer science, and biology majors can work in this field. We learned that radioactive compounds are used to locate tumors in cancer patients, using gamma-rays. Paul discussed the flight of Technetium-99m and its decay. I learned about half-lives and more. Denise showed us how we can work “Fingerprinting Isotopes”. Through the hands-on experiments, we were able to check out some of the unknown isotope samples.

I almost hate to say it but that marks the end of our fifth week, buckle up and stay tuned for next week's adventure!