

**Summer Internship Report 2017**

**Ryan Tillman, C'18**

Hometown: Roswell, Georgia



***Nashville Parent Magazine***  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

**Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.**

I worked on the editorial team for the *Nashville Parent* magazine. Another intern and I were responsible for leading a video blog for the website and Facebook page, visiting numerous family and popular venues in the Nashville area. We conducted on-site interviews with ranking employees and tested out the various attractions first-hand. After, we compiled our video footage into presentable videos and wrote reviews to be shared with the public.

**During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?**

I helped their social media reach significantly. Providing a familiar face in consistent and entertaining, easy-to-access publications, the NPM audience could trust a real critique and preview of an attraction that they could see with their own eyes. Professionally, I learned to be bold. The effectiveness of the videos and written reviews would have been less potent without the daring act of initiating conversation with unfamiliar adults. By bridging a quick relationship with strangers, I was able to then step in and ask particular and leading questions that our audience would want to know. Technically, I refined my video editing techniques as well as adapted to the proofreading style of the business.

**Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?**

Many of the issues and challenges I faced were on the fly and not internal. Simple problems I encountered when in the office could typically be solved by asking a question politely. Thanks to my parents raising me the way they did and my many meetings with professors at Sewanee, I was adequately prepared to speak with an adult in an authoritative position over me and still speak my mind. On the fly, out of office issues were more communicative and relational. I experienced minor

conflicts with my coworkers in regards to not having a charged phone, running low on gas, or wanting higher quality on a particular shoot we were doing. These were solved by openness and honesty that became pillars of office relationships and would not have been practiced if not for the virtues a strong community like Sewanee instills.

**In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?**

All I did was teamwork. If my coworker and I did not lay out expectations for a certain shoot, we would not have compiled a compelling or well-rehearsed shot. Furthermore, we would have constantly argued because we would not know what the other's vision for the project was. A very simple example was when we each had a review to write and a video to edit. I was the one handling all video editing, and I realized I could not possibly hit my deadline if I had not humbled myself and asked for help with the review.

**How did your internship affect your career plans?**

I learned that I really enjoy the field of journalism. I love to talk with people and hear their stories and perspectives, and I found out that I have a knack for being on camera and speaking on the fly. I am now thinking of pursuing something in broadcasting because of the immensely positive feedback I received on my work this summer.

**In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?**

I can't say I worked with people of very diverse backgrounds that played a factor in our relationship. My two bosses were both former actors, so it was incredible to hear their stories. I think the biggest difference of background, if you can call it that, was the tension that arose between the sales team and the editorial team. When visions collide, you have to learn how to effectively communicate your opinions without getting heated. So, in that sense, the backgrounds of sales and editorial content encountered one another.

**Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?**

Find a friend to live with! What a joy!

**Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:**

I could not have pictured myself anywhere other than the city of Nashville this past summer. And I would not have been there if it weren't for the thoughtful and considerate funding from my donor. More than what I learned on the job, I took away life and relational skills by the people I lived with and encountered on a daily basis. This was a great way to prepare me for adult life and the real world that I will approach next year.