

Alex Kautzman

Hometown: Bismarck, ND

School: University of Iowa

Internship: Bismarck Tribune



I was elated when Amy Dalrymple at the Bismarck Tribune asked if I would like to return as an intern for another summer. Not only did this give me an opportunity to continue practicing my reporting and writing, I also got the chance to work alongside our news clerk and copy desk. These new experiences gave me more insight into all that goes into producing a paper and made me a bit of a jack of all trades around the newsroom.

Even though I already covered the basics of reporting and writing last summer, I was still able to strengthen my journalism muscles with another 12 weeks of practice. I got to cover a wide range of topics while meeting interesting people in my community. The most memorable story I wrote this summer was on the Planters NUTmobile's first trip to Bismarck, where I got to meet Mr. Peanut himself and tour his nutty ride. I am very fortunate to be going back to school with two internships under my belt when some of my classmates haven't done any.

One of my highlights this summer was learning how to edit and proof pages. I discovered just how much work goes into producing a quality paper. I got experience in editing stories, creating budgets for pages, and writing headlines and subheadlines for print (which proved to be the hardest part of the job for me). I also learned how to navigate the Regional Design Center system and collaborated with some of the designers. Seeing the detailed process of a story going from pitch to print made me appreciate all of the work that goes on behind the scenes. Page editing and layout has been an interest of mine from when I was putting together my high school news-magazine. Now that I have dipped my toes into what it looks like professionally, I am even more excited to take my Principles of Editing course next spring. Hopefully, my training at the Tribune will make this class an easy A.

I'm obligated to mention that I would not have accomplished anything if it weren't for the amazing group of people at the Tribune that had my back. Their kindness and expertise were priceless resources that guided me every step of the way. They were always willing to answer my questions and walk me through any problems that I came across. I find learning alongside professional journalists to be much more beneficial to my growth as a writer than any textbook or presentation--and more entertaining, too.

While it's hard to tell where I'll end up by next summer, I am confident that I'll be able to handle whatever comes my way thanks to the resources and skills this experience provided for me. Though, I would be more than happy to reclaim my desk at the Tribune.