

Meagan Deanne Hall

Hometown: Alliance, OH

School: Ohio University

Internship: The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead



Nothing beats the feeling of walking into a real functioning Newsroom for the first time. It's an environment that I was familiar with on a student level, but was eager to learn about on a professional level.

After many internship applications, I finally got a phone call from Mike Vosburg, a Photo Editor for The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. I had never heard of Fargo N.D before, and even had to look up where Fargo was exactly located. I spoke to Mike for a while and then I finally decided, I was moving to Fargo for the summer.

June rolled around, I packed up all my camera gear, an insane amount of clothes, my 1-year-old puppy and drove 18 hours to Fargo. I was excited, but extremely nervous. I had no idea what was to come and little did I know how life changing this summer would be.

My Junior year of college was where I hit a huge rut creatively in my life. I was busy with my role as Director of Photography at my student newspaper The Post , where I spent more time editing and going to meetings then spent taking photos. For almost the whole year, I didn't take a single photo that I loved and was feeling quite burnt out. When I accepted my internship at The Forum, I was excited for a change of pace and to get out of the rut I had found myself in.

It was almost an instant change for me when I came to Fargo, I was working in a real newsroom, covering daily assignments, and befriending all the people around me. Most importantly, I was taking photos again, and they were photos that I was happy with.

I have learned quite a few things while working at The Forum, the most important being that the best thing to do is to be yourself. I was nervous to go up to community members to get their information and to speak to them, I was nervous about breaking assignments and if I was going to cover them properly. I was nervous about a whole lot of stuff, but over the course of this summer, I have learned that if you are confident in yourself and the environment around you, anything can be achieved.

There are many ups and downs in life and in a newsroom and I loved experiencing those moments during my internship. Whether it be realizing my camera has died during an assignment or learning that the whole newsroom loved a photo I took, I tried to learn from every experience.

I have enjoyed working on more in depth stories throughout my internship. My favorite part of the whole summer was being able to travel to Mandaree, ND to attend a Mandaree Hidatsa Powwow . I was able to document this amazing culture and learn so much about indegenious people. The overall experience was incredible, and it was one of those events that I will remember for the rest of my life. I created amazing portfolio worthy photos that I was extremely pleased with.

After attending the Powwow, I was extremely interested in learning more about the culture that surrounds indegenious and native american people. I found myself covering a communal sweat lodge located right in Fargo and spent the night talking to people for hours. I felt so welcomed and learned so much, while being able to document the process of preparing the sweat lodge. The cultural ties here in Fargo run deep, and I feel lucky enough to even scratch the surface.

This summer I have covered fairs, extreme weather, death, house fires, churches closing, lots of baseball, food shoots, airshows, and so many more events. Each assignment I have come out as a stronger photojournalist, and more confident in the work I was creating.

10 weeks have flown by and I'm sitting here overcome with the fact that I have to leave this town and the people in it. The Forum has provided with a sense of home, and I will never forget any of the incredible friendships that I made while living here. I am so thankful for every single person that helped me have the amazing internship that I did. I feel blessed that my first newsroom experience happened to be at The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. I have fallen in love with newsroom culture, and I can't wait to continue to document people's stories for years to come.