

Winter 12-15-2015

Are We Prepared for the Future? a Case Study on the Education of Journalists

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Recommended Citation

Black, Victoria, "Are We Prepared for the Future? a Case Study on the Education of Journalists" (2015).
Senior Theses. 50.
https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/senior_theses/50

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Introduction

Throughout my college experience at the University of South Carolina as a journalism major, I heard about one thing for four years – senior semester. Senior semester for journalism majors is a set number of classes the student must take his or her senior year, either the last or second to last semester before graduation. It includes four specific classes on reporting, producing, writing and web management. But there is a catch. The four classes do not meet for specific class periods. Students in senior semester meet Monday through Friday from 8:45am to 6:00pm, producing a 4:00pm newscast every day. For four years, journalism students at the University of South Carolina are taught that this senior semester is the absolute best possible training to prepare them for the future. They both look forward to and dread this final phase of their education. But again, they believe that this is the best education out there because that's what they've been told. But is it? Is a senior semester, let alone USC's senior semester, the best way to educate today's budding journalists? Does this senior semester provide the real world experience students need in their first job to succeed? I asked these questions of myself, and then I took them into the local news outlet in Columbia and asked them of others. With my thesis project, I wanted to discover if the professors of the program; the past and current students and current employers of those students believe that senior semester is the ultimate answer to educating future journalists.

The Process

I approached my thesis like a news story. When researching a story for broadcast journalism, I find every angle of the story from every source possible, and

that is exactly what I did. I exhausted my first hand resources and experts on senior semester. I conducted informative interviews with professors, students and employers of both senior semester and non-senior semester graduates. My thesis project has three different components – this written portion, an edited and finalized video production, which is the focus of the project, and the script of the video. I edited the video together in hybrid format; combining a normal news package you would see from a local television station and a longer more in depth documentary style.

Expected Results

Before I started, I believe I would find that the professors and students of senior semester would defend the hypothesis that USC's program is the best possible preparation for future journalists. I also expected for employers of both USC graduates and graduates of other programs to tell me there was no difference between the journalists. I personally believed that what makes a successful journalist is practice and real world experience you can find in senior semester but even more importantly in internships. The significance and point of this thesis was not to prove the administration of USC's journalism program right or wrong. Rather, I wanted to know what those who work in the journalism industry every day think about their personal preparation and what they have seen to be the most successful.

Actual Findings

Over the course of the semester, I interviewed the professors of USC's senior semester, students currently in the program, recent graduates, older graduates and an employer of those USC graduates. Part of my expected results was found during

the course of the interviews. But another key discovery was made that I did not expect at all. Of the four graduates and current student I interviewed, there was only one who did not have an internship while in college.

Dana Fisher graduated in 2011 and now works as a producer at WLTX in Columbia. She did not have the opportunity to intern because she had to work her way through school.

“Internships were not an option for me so I had to really focus in my classes and really hone in on educating myself through them and not hands on experience at an internship,” said Dana. “But it worked out great and I felt totally prepared by what USC taught me.”

But she felt that senior semester adequately prepared her for the future.

“Senior semester was, of all of college, the best thing to prepare me for the real world,” said Dana.

In fact, the senior semester program is exactly why Dana went to USC.

“I picked USC solely for the Broadcast Journalism program,” said Dana. “It was between USC and Charleston and I knew we had a program where I would eventually be apart of a one day show with students, student run and I knew there were a lot of great professors there.”

For Dana, senior semester was all the real world experience she needed.

“And by the time of senior year, you’re basically in senior semester working in a newsroom,” said Dana. “Like I didn’t even grasp the concept of a newsroom until senior semester. That really was eye opening for me and I learned the most during that semester.”

Senior semester also provided something even more for Dana. It helped her decide exactly what field of journalism she wanted to focus and eventually work.

“Up until that point I wanted to be a reporter, and then I got to school and did senior semester I really fell in love with the producing side of it,” said Dana. “So when I was applying for jobs producing was the way to go.”

Since working in the real world, Dana says she is even more confident and proud of USC’s program. And she doesn’t think she could have gotten a better education anywhere else.

“I believe that we have one of the best programs, talked to tons, you know now that I’ve been in the business, I’ve talked to a ton of people and they’re always amazed by what we do in senior semester and how much we learn and how much the students are able to get such awesome hands on experience and we learn the way TV works,” said Dana. “You know there are a lot of great programs, but yes I do feel like, and maybe its because I’m biased but I feel like we are very prepared. No one comes out of that program and doesn’t know what they’re doing. They don’t make it through that program if they don’t know what they’re doing.”

Ultimately, Dana credits the success of the program to the professors who not only bring years of experience and knowledge to the table, but they also genuinely want to see their students succeed.

“It’s a great program and the professors we had were wonderful,” said Dana. “Each one brought a different type of experience and learned something different from each of them. And senior semester definitely helped me get my job here.”

Rick Peterson has been a professor for USC's senior semester program since 1997. He has watched class after class go through the program and come out on the other side. Rick says for those who continue down the news path post senior semester, they usually become relatively successful. On the first day of each new senior semester, Rick reads off a list of the most recent graduates who continued to work in news and where they currently work. I remember the first day of our senior semester class when he read off the list, which included graduates working at FOX News in New York City, The Discovery Channel in Washington, D.C., and ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut. Rick says this list offers the best proof of the success of USC's senior semester. And it's because senior semester starts with the basics.

"I think for those who really want to do this, senior semester is a dream come true," said Rick. "I think the first thing it does is prepare you to meet a deadline. I don't think a lot of students quite realize the value in that."

Rick also says that once students get past the basics in the first few weeks, senior semester offers even more hands on experience than an internship.

"I think internships are great, I mean, I would never criticize the value of an internship," said Rick. "They're fantastic, you meet a lot of professionals, you see what the newsrooms like. You can imagine maybe how you would fit in. You can imagine maybe going out on that live shot by yourself. You can imagine that you're the producer of a whole half-hour newscast. And you might think that you might be good at that, and whatever. But in senior semester we make you do it. And you learn really fast if you can do it or what you need to be able to do it successfully."

Abbey O'Brien is currently in senior semester this fall. She agrees with Rick when it comes to the experience and practice she has had in senior semester verses that from her two internships.

"In senior semester I'm actually able to do the work," said Abbey. "In my internships I got hands on experience, I was able to shoot look lives and practice on the anchor desk, but of course, none of it was actually real. But in senior semester I feel like its real.

Like Dana and Abbey, Scott Cooke also believes his experience in USC's senior semester was invaluable. Scott graduated from USC in May of 2000, and is now the executive producer at WLTX. He says his final semester was much like ours, except for an emphasis they put on radio at the time because the Internet was not anything like it is today. He said he went into the semester knowing exactly what he wanted to do, and that allowed him the opportunity for more hands on work.

"I knew from the start that I either wanted to direct or produce so I was able to get pretty hands on with both of those from the start," said Scott. "A lot of people in my class were interested in being reporters so you know while they were doing that you know I had a chance, there were only two or three of us that were interested in producing so we were pretty hands on producing everyday so that was pretty valuable for me during senior semester."

Scott, unlike Dana, did have the opportunity to participate in a internship. He worked at WSPA in Spartanburg before his actual senior semester. He says he was glad he ended up doing the internship before rather than afterwards because it confirmed what he wanted to focus in when he graduated.

“For me it was pretty beneficial for me just because I saw what was going on in the newsroom before senior semester and I automatically ruled out several things that I knew I just wasn’t good at or I didn’t want to pursue further,” said Scott.

Despite all the good Scott had to say about senior semester, he also believes that it was nothing compared to the real world experience he gleaned from in his internship. For him, that internship made all the difference and not only prepared him for senior semester, but it also equipped him to graduate with the confidence to enter the work force.

“I think just being in a newsroom and seeing how it works on a day to day basis and what your future career is possibly like I think that is just invaluable experience,” said Scott.

Chuck Ringwalt has only been working full-time at WLTX for a couple of months now, but he agreed whole-heartedly with Scott. Chuck just graduated from USC in May and now works as a reporter for the CBS affiliate.

“I had a great experience at USC, I learned a lot,” said Chuck. “The senior semester definitely prepares you in certain aspects throughout your time there at USC upon graduation. But there are a ton of things that you just cant learn in the classroom that you learn in an internship or when you first start working.”

Chuck interned with WLTX before his senior semester and then started working part-time while he was still in school. But he took Scott’s point about internships a step further, saying people don’t fully understand what they are getting themselves into until that first job.

“There are things that I’ve learned in these last couple months working here that I never even thought to ask about in senior semester,” said Chuck. “Its all about working on your feet, dealing with technology, working well with other people who have been doing this for years longer than you have and listening to their opinions and what they have to say cause they do it every day.”

In fact, Chuck says he could never have imagined learning everything he has at WLTX since May.

“I’ve learned more in these past couple of months dealing with the Charleston shooting, dealing with the flag, the jet that crashed and most recently the flood than I think I’ve learned all four years of college because college cant prepare you for those types of instances,” said Chuck. “They go hand in hand with one another, I’ve learned a lot but I’ve learned even more being here and doing this every day.”

And no matter how much he loves USC, Chuck will stand by his opinion that nothing, including senior semester, is better than experience gained in the real world work force.

“Although senior semester is unbelievable, I’m happy with where I chose to go to school, I wouldn’t have wanted to go anywhere else because of you know the academics and with stuff outside of the classroom, I will say there is nothing like learning in the field like when you’re interning or when you’re in that first job,” said Chuck.

Laura McElveen also graduated from USC and now works at WLTX as a producer. She graduated in December of 2000, right after Scott. She also interned

before her senior semester at USC like Scott and Chuck. She says she felt much more confident walking into senior semester because of her internship.

“And it was kind of a little bit easier for me because I had a background for what a VO/SOT was what a package was what a reader is what a pacer is,” said Laura. “Just from going to USC so then having the extra real world experience of working at a real live TV station just gave me even more foundation and more experience for the real world.”

Laura does credit senior semester for helping her prepare for her future in the news industry. It wasn't until that final semester in school that she realized what she wanted to do when she graduated.

“But I realized that producing was probably the best option for me because it felt like I was the most comfortable doing that,” said Laura. “And so it really gave me a good foundation for what I do every day here at WLTX. “

In fact, even though she was thankful for her internship at WLTX before senior semester, Laura honestly believes the program is strong enough to prepare students, even when they don't have the opportunity to intern somewhere else. When asked if she would have been confident working at WLTX without her prior internship, she said absolutely.

“I think that were lucky at USC in that we produce a newscast every single day which is what people do in the real world, working on a deadline and you're doing all the jobs it takes to get a product on the air at the same time every day which is real world experience,” said Laura. “So I feel like even if I didn't have an internship I feel like I would've been prepared and ready for the real world just

because you know it wasn't like we were sitting at a desk all day. We were out in the field gathering the stories for a newscast that we were putting on at the same time every day so I felt like we got good experience every single day that would have prepared me for the real world."

Although the majority of the former and current USC students I interviewed had some sort of internship prior to graduation, about half of those believed that USC's senior semester alone would have been adequate experience and preparation for their first job. The other half believed that the experience they gained in their internship and first job was nothing like senior semester.

Marybeth Jacoby, News Director at WLTX, would tend to lean towards the group who believed internships were more valuable than the senior semester program. In fact, she gave her own example of a USC student who is currently interning at the station and helped cover the historic flood that hit the Midlands this fall.

"We had one intern who, came in and did so much work," said Marybeth "There, its, what he did is priceless. What he did, you could never have learned that in a work as student environment. Which that is no ones fault. You can't learn that unless you're thrown out in it."

She does applaud the USC's program though, saying that when looking at applications for potential hires, it can make a difference if that individual graduated from this senior semester program.

"I think the good thing about USC is the senior semester where you do get real life experience," said Marybeth.

Marybeth took her opinion of senior semester further though. Her insight proved to be the most interesting and telling part of my thesis project. She went on to say that in the end, it doesn't matter where students graduate from or where they intern. If they are going to make it in this industry then they will make it. It is really all up to them.

"I think it's sometimes what they got from that experience," said Marybeth. "Because you know, we like to talk to them about what they got from it, did it really soak in, did all the good decision making of what it takes to be a journalists soak in? Cause you can be in an environment like that and a lot doesn't soak in. and that's not going to help you in the real world."

This one statement circles back to what Dana Fisher said about senior semester. Even though she wasn't able to intern at a news station while in college, she did everything else in her power to become the best she could. She knew she would have to work harder and better than everyone else. And she did. Marybeth hired her, and she began working full time at WLTX before she even graduated.

Conclusion

When I began my senior thesis project, I wanted to conclude the semester with black and white answers to my questions I proposed. But what Marybeth said resonated with me. And I have been able to see this within my own class. Just with every other industry today, news is made up of individuals determined to succeed. They are there worst critic and they always know what they can improve upon. If they don't, the alternative is simple. They don't make it in the world.

ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE?

VIDEO SCRIPT

((Standup))

“Here at the University of South Carolina, broadcast journalism students have one thing to look forward to throughout their college career – senior semester. Senior semester is usually taken during the last or second to last semester of college and it is made up of four classes. The catch is....we don’t actually meet for class periods. Instead, we work from 8:45am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday, putting on two complete newscasts at 4:00pm and 4:30pm every single day. Now when I entered the university as a freshman, I heard over and over again that senior semester is the best possible way to educate future journalist. For my senior thesis project, I decided to take that statement into the real world and see what graduates and employers of those graduates have to say about the program and if it really is as successful as everyone says it is.”

DANA FISHER GRADUATED IN 2011 AND NOW WORKS AS A PRODUCER AT WLTX IN COLUMBIA.

SHE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERN WHEN SHE WAS IN SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE HAD TO WORK HER WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.

BUT SHE FELT THAT SENIOR SEMESTER ADEQUATELY PREPARED HER FOR THE FUTURE.

((SOT – Dana Fisher))

“Senior semester was, of all of college, the best thing to prepare me for the real world.”

IN FACT...THE SENIOR SEMESTER PROGRAM IS EXACTLY WHY DANA WENT TO USC.

((SOT – Dana Fisher))

“I picked USC solely for the Broadcast Journalism program. It was between USC and Charleston and I knew we had a program where I would eventually be apart of a one day show with students, student run and I knew there were a lot of great professors there.”

FOR DANA...SENIOR SEMESTER WAS ALL THE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE SHE NEEDED.

((SOT – Dana Fisher))

“And by the time of senior year, you’re basically in senior semester working in a newsroom. Like I didn’t even grasp the concept of a newsroom until senior semester. That really was eye opening for me and I learned the most during that semester.”

SENIOR SEMESTER ALSO PROVIDED SOMETHING EVEN MORE FOR DANA.

IT HELPED HER DECIDE EXACTLY WHAT FIELD OF JOURNALISM SHE WANTED TO FOCUS AND EVENTUALLY WORK.

((SOT – Dana Fisher))

“Up until that point I wanted to be a reporter, and then I got to school and did senior semester I really fell in love with the producing side of it. So when I was applying for jobs producing was the way to go.”

SINCE WORKING IN THE REAL WORLD...DANA SAYS SHE IS EVEN MORE CONFIDENT AND PROUD OF USC’S PROGRAM.

AND SHE DOESN'T THINK SHE COULD HAVE GOTTEN A BETTER
EDUCATION ANYWHERE ELSE.

((SOT – Dana Fisher))

“It’s a great program and the professors we had were wonderful. Each one brought a different type of experience and learned something different from each of them. And senior semester definitely helped me get my job here.”

RICK PETERSON HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR FOR USC’S SENIOR SEMESTER
PROGRAM SINCE 1997.

HE SAYS THE PROGRAM IS IN PART SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT STARTS WITH
THE BASICS.

((SOT – Rick Peterson))

“I think for those who really want to do this, senior semester is a dream come true. I think the first thing it does is prepare you to meet a deadline. I don’t think a lot of students quite realize the value in that.”

RICK ALSO SAYS THAT ONCE STUDENTS GET PAST THE FIRST FEW
WEEKS...SENIOR SEMESTER OFFERS EVEN MORE HANDS ON EXPERIENCE THAN
AN INTERNSHIP.

((SOT – Rick Peterson))

“I think internships are great, I mean, I would never criticize the value of an internship. They’re fantastic, you meet a lot of professionals, you see what the newsrooms like. You can imagine maybe how you would fit in. You can imagine maybe going out on that live shot by yourself. You can imagine that you’re the producer of a whole half-hour newscast. And you might think that you might be

good at that, and whatever. But in senior semester we make you do it. And you learn really fast if you can do it or what you need to be able to do it successfully.”

ABBEY O'BRIEN IS CURRENTLY IN SENIOR SEMESTER THIS FALL.

SHE AGREES WITH RICK WHEN IT COMES TO THE EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE SHE HAS HAD IN SENIOR SEMESTER VERSES THAT FROM HER TWO INTERNSHIPS.

((SOT – Abbey O'Brien))

“In senior semester I’m actually able to do the work. In my internships I got hands on experience, I was able to shoot look lives and practice on the anchor desk, but of course, none of it was actually real. But in senior semester I feel like its real.”

LIKE DANA AND ABBEY...SCOTT COOKE ALSO BELIEVES HIS EXPERIENCE IN USC’S SENIOR SEMESTER WAS INVALUABLE.

SCOTT GRADUATED FROM USC IN MAY OF 2000....AND IS NOW THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AT WLTX.

((SOT – Scott Cooke))

“I knew from the start that I either wanted to direct or produce so I was able to get pretty hands on with both of those from the start. A lot of people in my class were interested in being reporters so you know while they were doing that you know I had a chance, there were only two or three of us that were interested in producing so we were pretty hands on producing everyday so that was pretty valuable for me during senior semester.”

SCOTT...UNLIKE DANA...DID HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNSHIP.

HE WORKED AT WSPA IN SPARTANBURG BEFORE HIS ACTUAL SENIOR SEMESTER.

((SOT – Scott Cooke))

“For me it was pretty beneficial for me just because I saw what was going on in the newsroom before senior semester and I automatically ruled out several things that I knew I just wasn’t good at or I didn’t want to pursue further.”

DESPITE ALL THE GOOD SCOTT HAD TO SAY ABOUT SENIOR SEMESTER...HE DOES BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE HE GLEANED FROM IN HIS INTERNSHIP.

((SOT – Scott Cooke))

“I think just being in a newsroom and seeing how it works on a day to day basis and what your future career is possibly like I think that is just invaluable experience.”

CHUCK RINGWALT HAS ONLY BEEN WORKING FULL-TIME AT WLTX FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS NOW...BUT HE AGREES WHOLE-HEARTEDLY WITH SCOTT.

CHUCK JUST GRADUATED FROM USC IN MAY AND NOW WORKS AS A REPORTER FOR THE CBS AFFILIATE.

((SOT – Chuck Ringwalt))

“I had a great experience at USC, I learned a lot. The senior semester definitely prepares you in certain aspects throughout your time there at USC upon graduation. But there are a ton of things that you just cant learn in the classroom that you learn in an internship or when you first start working.”

((SOT – Chuck Ringwalt))

CHUCK INTERNED WITH WLTX BEFORE HIS SENIOR SEMESTER AND THEN STARTED WORKING PART-TIME WHILE HE WAS STILL IN SCHOOL.

HE TOOK SCOTT'S POINT ABOUT INTERNSHIPS A STEP FURTHER...SAYING PEOPLE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE GETTING THEMSELVES INTO UNTIL THAT FIRST JOB.

((SOT – Chuck Ringwalt))

“There are things that I’ve learned in these last couple months working here that I never even thought to ask about in senior semester. Its all about working on your feet, dealing with technology, working well with other people who have been doing this for years longer than you have and listening to their opinions and what they have to say cause they do it every day.... I’ve learned more in these past couple of months dealing with the Charleston shooting, dealing with the flag, the jet that crashed and most recently the flood than I think I’ve learned all four years of college because college cant prepare you for those types of instances. They go hand in hand with one another, I’ve learned a lot but I’ve learned even more being here and doing this every day.”

AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE LOVES USC...CHUCK WILL STAND BY HIS OPINION THAT NOTHING...INCLUDING SENIOR SEMESTER...IS BETTER THAN EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE REAL WORLD WORK FORCE.

((SOT – Chuck Ringwalt))

“Although senior semester is unbelievable, I’m happy with where I chose to go to school, I wouldn’t have wanted to go anywhere else because of you know the

academics and with stuff outside of the classroom, I will say there is nothing like learning in the field like when you're interning or when you're in that first job."

LAURA MCELVEEN ALSO GRADUATED FROM USC AND NOW WORKS AT WLTX AS A PRODUCER.

SHE GRADUATED IN DECEMBER OF 2000...RIGHT AFTER SCOTT.

SHE ALSO INTERNED BEFORE HER SENIOR SEMESTER AT USC LIKE SCOTT AND CHUCK.

LAURA CREDITS SENIOR SEMESTER FOR HELPING HER PREPARE FOR HER FUTURE IN THE NEWS INDUSTRY.

((SOT - Laura McElveen))

"But I realized that producing was probably the best option for me because it felt like I was the most comfortable doing that. And so it really gave me a good foundation for what I do every day here at WLTX."

EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS THANKFUL FOR HER INTERNSHIP AT WLTX BEFORE SENIOR SEMESTER...LAURA HONESTLY BELIEVES THE PROGRAM IS STRONG ENOUGH TO PREPARE STUDENTS...EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERN SOMEWHERE ELSE.

((SOT - Laura McElveen))

"I think that were lucky at USC in that we produce a newscast every single day which is what people do in the real world, working on a deadline and you're doing all the jobs it takes to get a product on the air at the same time every day which is real world experience. So I feel like even if I didn't have an internship I feel like I would've been prepared and ready for the real world just because you know it

wasn't like we were sitting at a desk all day. We were out in the field gathering the stories for a newscast that we were putting on at the same time every day so I felt like we got good experience every single day that would have prepared me for the real world."

MARYBETH JACOBY...NEWS DIRECTOR AT WLTX.... WOULDN'T QUITE AGREE.

SHE BELIEVES INTERNSHIPS ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN THE SENIOR SEMESTER PROGRAM.

IN FACT...SHE GAVE HER OWN EXAMPLE OF A USC STUDENT WHO IS CURRENTLY INTERNING AT THE STATION AND WORKED DURING THE HISTORIC FLOOD THAT HIT THE MIDLANDS THIS FALL.

((SOT – Marybeth Jacoby))

"We had one intern who, came in and did so much work. There, its, what he did is priceless. What he did, you could never have learned that in a work as student environment. Which that is no ones fault. You can't learn that unless you're thrown out in it."

SHE DOES APPLAUD THE USC PROGRAM THOUGH...SAYING THAT WHEN LOOKING AT APPLICATIONS FOR POTENTIAL HIRES...IT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF THAT INDIVIDUAL GRADUATED FROM THIS SENIOR SEMESTER PROGRAM.

((SOT – Marybeth Jacoby))

"I think the good thing about USC is the senior semester where you do get real life experience."

MARYBETH TOOK HER OPINION OF SENIOR SEMESTER FURTHER THOUGH.

SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN THE END...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM OR WHERE THEY INTERN.

IF THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE IT IN THIS INDUSTRY THEN THEY WILL MAKE IT.

IT'S REALLY ALL UP TO THEM.

((SOT – Marybeth Jacoby))

“I think it’s sometimes what they got from that experience. Because you know, we like to talk to them about what they got from it, did it really soak in, did all the good decision making of what it takes to be a journalists soak in? Cause you can be in an environment like that and a lot doesn’t soak in. and that’s not going to help you in the real world.”

THIS ONE STATEMENT CIRCLE BACK TO WHAT DANA FISHER SAID ABOUT SENIOR SEMESTER.

EVEN THOUGH SHE WASN'T ABLE TO INTERN AT A NEWS STATION WHILE IN COLLEGE...SHE DID EVERYTHING ELSE IN HER POWER TO BECOME THE BEST SHE COULD ON HER OWN.

MARYBETH ENDED UP HIRING HER AND SHE BEGAN WORKING FULL TIME AT WLTX BEFORE SHE EVEN GRADUATED.

((Standup))

“When I began my senior thesis project, I wanted to conclude the semester with a black and white answer. But what Marybeth had to say resonated with me. Just with every other industry today, news is made up of individuals determined to succeed. They are their worst critics and they always know what they can do to

improve. If they don't, the answer is simple. They don't make it in the world.

Regardless of how successful this program is here at USC might be, the real answer lies with the individual's determination to succeed."