María del Carmen Corpus
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Global Communications Internship
Summer 2014
Global 489
Advisor: Aparna Datey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student consent, waiver and release</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship Placement Assignment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship Learning Goals</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Organization: The Santiago Times</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Journal Entries &amp; Work Samples</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“In rain and cold vendors occupy front of City Hall for right to work”</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Environmentalists celebrate ‘historic win’ over HidroAysén project”</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Senator urges Chile to take ‘active’ role in Israel-Palestine conflict”</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Q&amp;A: Imad Nabil Jada’a, Palestine’s Ambassador to Chile”</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Chilean cumbia, how a tropical rhythm took root in the Southern Cone”</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Evaluation Form</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Recommendation</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume Excerpt</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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I understand that if I wish to discuss or negotiate the terms of this agreement, or if I desire to revoke my consent, I may contact Professor Patrice Petro, Faculty Coordinator, Global Studies Program, at (ppetro@uwm.edu; 414-229-4253).

I have read and agree to the terms of this Agreement:

Student

Name: María del Carmen Corpus
Email: mdcorpus@uwm.edu
Signature: María del Carmen Corpus
Date: 9/12/14

Parent/Guardian Information (if under 18):

Name: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
Signature: ________________________________
Date: ________________________________
The process to finding an internship abroad is one that requires a lot of research. In fall 2013, I started to research agencies that could help me find an internship, and began to visit the study abroad office as well as my advisor to discuss details. In spring 2014, I visited the study abroad fair and found CEA and GlobaLinks, agencies that help secure internships for students. At the fair, I presented my resume to the agencies’ representatives. The representative from GlobaLinks was rather impressed with my resume and said he would be surprised if a company didn’t hire me. That was basically all I needed to hear. By that point in time, I had concluded that I would not be able to finance a company like GlobaLinks or CEA because they charge thousands of dollars for placement. Instead, I looked at where the agencies were placing their journalism students. Through research, I found that GlobaLinks was sending their communications/journalism students to The Santiago Times and I Love Chile. After further research, I decided to submit my materials independently to The Santiago Times. I applied in February and after an interview in April, I secured the internship.

Securing the internship was quite an extensive process. I knew that such a process would require time, dedication and diligence. The top three skills I learned from the process are the following:

1. Persistence: I applied for the reporting intern position in mid-February of this year. After submitting my materials, I didn’t hear anything for three weeks. Since I needed to secure an internship for the summer and I had not submitted additional internship applications, I really needed The Santiago Times to accept me. Following the third week, I emailed the editor a follow-up email expressing my great interest in the position. The following day after submitting the email, the editor replied asking for an interview. Major events in Chile delayed the editor’s final response confirming my internship as a reporter. Overall, I learned that if you really want something, you have to make things happen and be persistent. There are so many individuals vying for the same spot, so you have to demonstrate your interest. Applying is only the first step.

2. Patience: Working with foreign organizations or companies can be challenging in the early stages. My communication with The Santiago Times’ editor was often delayed because he had a number of interns to manage at the time. I recognized his job responsibilities and wasn’t offended when my emails weren’t answered immediately. It’s important to identify the things that could affect your communication with your internship site and to be patient.

3. Honesty: The Santiago Times offers internship opportunities for a minimum four-month term. As I was wrapping up spring semester in May and would need to return in time for fall semester, I could only complete a three-month term. Before accepting me as an intern, my editor asked if I could start my academic term later so that I could complete the full four months. I was worried that if I said no, he wouldn’t offer me the internship. However, I had to be honest and explain that starting my term late would
jeopardize my expected graduation of May 2015. In the end, he was able to accommodate my academic schedule. It’s important to be honest from the very beginning. If I had lied and then cut my internship short, that would not have been good for me, or the company.

Skills goals:

- Critical thinking: Learn to approach average topics in Chile in different ways for unique story ideas.
  - Immerse myself into Chile’s culture by exploring beyond Santiago, doing further research on the country’s history, and speaking to native and non-native Chileans.
  - Comparative analysis: It is important for me to stay in the loop while I am away, and find out what is occurring not only in the U.S. but in Wisconsin. Although Santiago is a rather modern city, things are still done differently. By comparing the U.S. and Chile, I can use one country’s thought process on another and develop my critical thinking that way.

- Develop my interpersonal communication skills with individuals who have different beliefs, cultures, etc.
  - Expose myself to more Spanish: As The Santiago Times is an English online news source, everything is written in English. Although I do practice my Spanish during interviews, at work, and at home; there is more I could do. I can watch television in Spanish and listen to Spanish music.
  - Learn about Chile’s history. Chile’s rule under a dictatorship is still a very heavily discussed topic today, it’s important to learn about it so I can understand and am able to communicate with people.

Knowledge goals:

- Develop a solid understanding of Chilean society in terms of how the education and political system work in Chile.
  - Watch and read the news in Spanish.
  - Go out and talk to students and everyday people. As this is already part of my job, I just have to make an effort to have deep conversations with the people I talk to.

- Expand my knowledge of the journalism field.
  - The journalism field is constantly changing, and in order to be successful I need to adapt to the field. I can talk to my editors and learn how the field has changed for them as well as learn what they’ve done to keep up with the times.
  - Research how other news sources are representing the news. Are videos, blogs, and podcasts part of how online news reaches their audience.
Values goals:

- The official mission of The Santiago Times is to provide balanced and
  comprehensive news about Chile. As a journalist, it is my job to help fulfill their
  mission. My goal it to continue to address and consider the various sides that are
  involved.
  - Research both sides of a topic and talk to both sides too, whoever that
    may be.
  - Ask questions and dig deeper into a subject.
- Inform people about things that matter, raise awareness for the everyday people
  who aren’t recognized. My internship gives me a lot of freedom when it comes to
  what I want to write about. A lot of news organizations are not like this.
  - Research, talk to people and write.

Career Goals:

- Leave my internship with a clearer idea of what it is I want to focus my writing on.
  Writing about a variety of subject areas is exciting because I never know whom I
  am going to meet. However, I want to narrow down to a specialization.
  - Focus on a particular subject, like international politics or human rights.
  - Pitch story ideas to the editors that relate to the area I am thinking of
    specializing in.
- Improve my skills in photography and video recording in efforts to become more
  of a multimedia journalist.
  - Pitch the layout of a story. Stories don’t always have to be print, but they
    can combine photo essays and audio to make the stories more impactful
    and interactive.
  - Take tips from the photography intern and take photos/videos for practice.

Signatures:

**Student:** María del Carmen Corpus  8/30/14

**On-site supervisor:** Sam Edwards, Editor at The Santiago Times
  (sedwards@santiagotimes.cl)

08/30/2014

**Internship advisor:**
The Santiago Times

About:

The Santiago Times is an independent news source focused exclusively on Chilean current events. Our mission is to make the country more accessible to the international community by providing balanced, comprehensive news coverage in English.

Founded in 1991, The Santiago Times has been working toward this goal for over two decades and we pride ourselves on the range and depth of our coverage — in our news analysis, we aim to make complex developments clear to everyone, not just insiders.

Our news team is made of committed young journalists from Chile and across the globe. Our readership is diverse: from professionals in the international business and political community to Chileans looking for a different perspective on local news.

*Taken directly from santiagotimes.cl
Throughout my first week, I had the opportunity to work with interns from all over the world. Although the interns were wrapping up their term with The Santiago Times, I learned a lot from them including how to make phone calls, where to search for contacts, what the most credible news sources in Santiago are, etc. All of this help was essential, as it will help me reach one of my goals: provide objective and well-balanced news stories.

Despite having friendly and helpful interns and editors, I already have a list of challenges that I have to work to overcome. As an intern at The Santiago Times, you aren’t serving coffee or writing about light subjects. During my first week, I was given bigger story assignments that concerned employment in Santiago and the president’s various reform policies. As a person that puts a lot of pressure on herself to do well, I felt like I needed to be well informed about the political and social culture of Santiago and Chile. Having only arrived to Santiago four days prior to the internship, there was no way that I could be so well-rounded on Santiago/Chilean life. My lack of knowledge reinforces my goal of developing a solid understanding of Chilean society, so it is something that I will definitely work on.

One of the biggest challenges I’ve encountered during my first week is reaching out to sources for original quotes on a subject. My editors encouraged me to reach out to different organizations. However, through several attempts I’ve found that it was very difficult to do so. The challenge to reaching out to a source starts at dialing. There is a different process to dialing cell phones and landlines in Santiago, so that’ll take some time to get used to. I did manage one brief phone interview this week. The process to getting original quotes and material has taught me that persistence continues even after your sixth phone call isn’t answered, a skill that will prove to be handy.
Week 2

The second week at The Santiago Times was more difficult in terms of getting original material. As I mentioned in my previous post, the interview process via phone, email and in person is a learning process. It’s especially challenging because Chilean Spanish is different from what I am used to speaking at home, or in the classroom. The adjustment to the Chilean accent, however, will help me attain one of my skills goals, which is to develop my interpersonal communication with native Chileans. Although I understand most of what Chileans are saying, it’ll take time to improve my understanding of slang words and the accent.

Aside from reaching out to sources, however, I have had successes in other areas. Working 40+ hours a week and submitting a story everyday are not as challenging as I expected. I find that since there is so much to do in order to write one story, the day tends to go by rather quickly. Only two weeks in and I feel like I am gaining a solid idea of what the journalism field is really all about, which is one of my knowledge goals. The daily story assignments are exposing me to a variety of subjects, which is great because it allows me to decide what I really want to focus my writing on in the future. There was a larger emphasis on weather stories this week. Although they are not my favorite, I am learning a lot about the climate in Chile and how most of the country isn’t prepared for rain. After writing at least three briefs on the weather, I now know that it is not an area I want to report on.

As one of two interns at The Santiago Times, the office does get rather quiet and awkward at some points. It’s a lot different than my first week when there were four other interns to chat with. Since the environment is pretty quiet and laid-back, I am going to be diligent and focus on my long-term project for The Santiago Times. I already have a few ideas and I’m excited to get started on the research and interview possibilities. By focusing on my project, I am one step closer to reaching my career goal of narrowing down on a specialization and my value goal of informing people.
Week 3

Week three at The Santiago Times has been the best by far. It was the first week that I felt happy with my writing and my overall performance as a reporting intern. Story assignments that didn’t relate to the weather definitely boosted my enthusiasm and inspired me to get out on the streets and talk to people. This week I covered a protest out in front of Santiago’s City Hall. A number of trade workers were protesting for their right to work in Santiago’s center. According to the protesters, their working permits had been revoked after City Hall reviewed all trade permits.

After a spending more than an hour talking to 6-8 different protesters, I not only learned about the purpose and reasons behind the protest but I also learned about the protesters themselves. I learned about their families and other more personal details. As most of the individuals could tell that I was a foreigner, they also took the time to explain what it means to work as a street vendor in Santiago’s center. With a camera and voice recorder in hand, I listened to each individual’s story. I even answered a few questions for those who wondered how The Santiago Time’s could help their cause.

Overall, covering the protest was the first time that I felt like a “real” reporter. The experience applies to a number of my learning goals including my skills goal of developing my interpersonal communication, my knowledge goal of developing a solid understanding of Chilean society, as well as my values and career goals of improving as a reporter. I was able to work toward these goals simply by speaking and listening to peoples’ stories. I am looking forward to getting out and reporting more.
My first real story as described in my journal entry for Week 3:

In rain and cold vendors occupy front of City Hall for right to work

By Maria del Carmen Corgino
Published on Sat, Jun 7th, 2014

Four different labor groups, including the Independent Disabled Workers Union, say they will continue to protest until the mayor’s office acts on their work.

Days of rain and frigid temperatures have not discouraged protesters like Ana Rutierrez from camping out in front of Santiago’s City Hall. Dressed in her winter gear, she hovers over a large metal pot of cooking meat.


Street vendors are moving in on day 13 of the protest without a concession from City Hall.

Rutierrez helps feed the 90 other protesters who are fighting for their right to continue to work in Santiago’s commercial center after City Hall revoked street vendors’ permits. For nearly two weeks, individuals from the unions Porvenir, Nuevo Amanecer, Diablos and the Independent Disabled Workers Union (SITIGS) have attempted to get the Santiago Municipal Office’s attention.

For protesters like Graciela Morales, 26, it takes a lot more than the rain and cold temperatures to remove her from Plaza de Armas.

“We are all accustomed to working in downtown Santiago,” Morales said. “I am accustomed to working on the streets.”

Two weeks without work has proven hard for Morales, as she is a single mother of a four year old and 10 year old.

“They don’t have anything to eat. I am the one who brings the bread home for them,” Morales said. “That is what it means to go without work.”
Many protesters have spent the night in front of City Hall, battling worker's temperatures.

Luis Valdes, 65, echoes a similar message. He has worked in the city's center for over 20 years. Not working for the last two weeks has been challenging as he and his 95-year-old mother currently live off of a small pension. His efforts to find a job elsewhere is affected by his physical disability.

"It's not one's capability, but the physical disability," Valdes told The Santiago Times.

As street vendors that have occupied the same area for as many as 30-40 years, the City Hall's evaluation of work permits has robbed them of their home. Jessica, 34, says having to stand out in the rain and cold can be humiliating.

"We're not delinquents. We're people who need to work," Jessica said.

The change behind work permits in Santiago's center is due to a process that began in October 2013. The evaluation is in place in efforts to avoid overcrowding, ensure greater safety for those who live and travel to Santiago and to reduce the clutter produced by locals and those in illegal trade, a spokesperson from City Hall told The Santiago Times.

Taking notice of the protest, City Hall met with union representatives and coordinators on Thursday in efforts to develop a solution.

Coordinator Ignacio Beasusto, 56, attended the meeting and said talks of a solution are in the works, but with no clear conditions as to whether they will be granted access to the center.

"This demonstration will not stop until we have a concrete answer that is signed by the municipality," Jaime Cornejo Arana, 59, told The Santiago Times.
Online version is available at The Santiago Times.
Week 4

I can’t believe a month has already gone by since I first started interning at The Santiago Times. The last four weeks have been challenging yet rewarding, and it’s great to know that everyday I am improving and working towards my career goal of becoming a news correspondent. I feel like I am doing very well in terms of accomplishing my internship learning goals. For example, my story on the Chilean government’s decision to suspend a major hydroelectric dam project definitely helped me with my skills goals of developing my interpersonal communication, my knowledge goal of developing an understanding of Chilean society, and my values goal of informing people about issues that matter.

Although I wrote four other stories this week, my story on the hydroelectric dam project is a better example when it comes to explaining how I am accomplishing my internship learning goals. In writing this story, I took the initiative to reach out to the four main organizations that were protesting the hydroelectric project. As two organizations are located in Chile and the other two in the U.S., I had to communicate in two different languages. I conducted phone interviews in Spanish and corresponded with the U.S. organizations in English. This task definitely helped me reach my skills goal of developing my interpersonal communication skills. Not only am I practicing my Spanish, but I am practicing ‘netiquette’ as well.

Before sending out interview requests and writing questions, it is necessary to develop a good understanding of the topic. As a non-Chilean native and as an individual that knows little about hydroelectricity, I had to do my fair amount of research to understand how such a project would affect Chile. In my research, I found that Chile is struggling to supply its energy demand as well as that there are a number of hydroelectric projects in the works. My research on the issue, as well as the interviews I conducted with the organizations, helped me learn a lot about energy in Chile and the environment. My research and interviews helped me toward reaching my knowledge goal of understanding Chilean society and the issues it considers important, and my values goal of informing people about issues that matter.

Please feel free to read about Chile’s decision to cancel a major hydroelectric dam project.
Environmentalists celebrate ‘historic victory’ over HidroAysén project

By Maria del Carmen Corpus
Published On: Wed, Jun 11th, 2014

The Santiago Times spoke to four of the key activists and campaign groups behind the landmark decision to cancel the Patagonia mega dam project.

An eight-year battle ended with a significant win for environmentalists all over the world when Chile’s cabinet of ministers voted to repeal a dam project in the country’s southern region on Tuesday.

“It’s a resounding historical victory,” Juan Pablo Orrego, international coordinator of the Patagonia Defense Council, told The Santiago Times. “We have raised the level of [environmental] consciousness in Chile.”

Opposition against HidroAysén, a mega dam project involving five hydroelectric power plants, dates back to 2005 when electric utility companies Endesa Chile and Colbún S.A. first presented the venture. Efforts to protect the region gained momentum after former President Sebastián Piñera approved the dams in May 2011. A series of mass nationwide demonstrations followed protesting the decision.

Member organizations of the Patagonia Sin Represas (Patagonia without dams) campaign such as the Patagonia Defense Council, the Development Corporation of Ayelén (CODEESA), International Rivers and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are among those celebrating Tuesday’s announcement.

Orrego adds that the campaign’s success was the result of a large international effort. The Patagonia Defense Council collaborates with environmental organizations from Argentina, Bolivia, Italy, Spain, North America and others.

“North America’s support was very important,” Orrego said, specifically naming U.S. organizations International Rivers and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Marti Aguirre of International Rivers, a long-time supporter of the campaign, said the decision to cancel the dam project comes after the organization devoted years to analyzing the environmental impact of HidroAysén.

“It’s great for Patagonia and its people, their voices have been heard and their beautiful Baker and Pascua rivers will continue to run free,” Aguirre told The Santiago Times.

The decision to cancel the dam project also brings forth the need to explore alternative sources of energy, according to Aguirre and others. Aguirre said that HidroAysén is not necessary for Chile’s future energy needs.

“Investment in more efficient use of electricity, together with renewable sources such as solar, geothermal and wind, would ensure a sustainable energy future for Chile,” Aguirre said.

According to NRDC Latin American advocate Carolina Herrera, the organization has led efforts to present different energy sources since its partnership with Chile began in 2007.

“It’s been possible to show that Chile has huge nonconventional renewable energy potential — boosting the use of these options brings net social and economic benefits,” Herrera told The Santiago Times.

Despite the significant win, environmental activists are wary of the possibilities that still loom. In 2009, Chile’s Free Competition Court (TUCE) granted Endesa and Colbun permission to acquire water rights in Ayelén. Patricia Segura of the Development Corporation of Ayelén (CODEESA) told The Santiago Times that energy projects in the Patagonia region will remain a threat as long the companies maintain water rights in the remote rural area.

Water rights and an investment of more than US$320 million may bring the company to appeal the HidroAysén decision before the environmental court. However, Orrego urged HidroAysén backers to respect popular will and decline the opportunity to appeal the decision.

“The project is dead, rejected by citizens … by the commission,” Orrego said.

Whatever the response to Tuesday’s decision, campaigners say they are prepared to fight any future attempts to present the HidroAysén venture if they arise.

“We’re ready to continue to work to protect Patagonia from harmful projects and help Chile build a brighter more sustainable energy future,” Herrera said.

By Maria del Carmen Corpus
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About the Author

Maria del Carmen Corpus
Born and raised in Alfonso, Maria has written on revitalization projects for the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service and contributed articles to Media Milwaukee.

Contact her at corpus@santiagotimes.cl

Related News
Week 5

My second month at The Santiago Times started off on a rough note. Although I’ve had minor successes, this week proved to be another one filled with the old challenge of contacting sources. I had difficulty getting original commentary from politicians and organizations. It’s very frustrating to take the time and send out a nicely worded interview request and make a dozen phone calls only to receive no response. The experiences I am having, however, are giving me an idea of what to expect in the journalism field and what it takes to be successful.

The story assignments this week ranged from health reform protests to scientific whaling. The variety of assignments I receive and the research behind each story continues to teach me a lot about Chile, and is helping me reach my knowledge goal of developing a greater understanding of Chilean society. Although I am not an expert in any given area, I think by the end of the internship I will have a very broad knowledge of all things Chile. It’s nice to explore the possibility of someday being a news organization’s expert on Latin American issues. By the end of this internship experience, I might decide that Latin America could be my ‘beat.’ In exploring such possibilities I am one step closer to reaching my career goal of narrowing down my specialization in journalism.

This week I had the opportunity to cover a protest against the Chilean government health reform. Although it was a little difficult to wrap my head around the public and private health system in Chile, I did enjoy covering the health workers’ march. It provided me with an opportunity to get outside of the office and practice my photography and multimedia skills, which is one of my career goals. In addition to the march, I also wrote a story on Chile’s response to Japan’s scientific whaling. I spoke to a key Chilean senator about the issue. My editor later informed me that my story on scientific whaling had generated the best social media response out of any story he had seen. Not only was that great to hear, but it shows that I am reporting on issues that people find important which is one of my values goals.
This week was full of busy events that kept me out of the office, which was great. I covered a public transportation march and did my first sit-down interview. I really enjoyed both events because it provided me with an opportunity to work with others. In covering the public transportation march, I had the opportunity to work with another intern at The Santiago Times. While the other intern, Shannon, worked as a photojournalist, I was able to really focus on my reporting. This focus helps me with my skills goal of critical thinking as I was working to approach the story from a different angle.

The collaborative effort on the public transportation march not only helped me focus on my reporting, but also provided me with a chance to get to talk to another American about Chile. Shannon and I talked about the differences between Chile and the U.S. For example, we discussed the number of authorized marches and protests that take place in Chile. Protests against education, health, or public transportation often mean that related services are affected or disrupted. Shannon and I discussed how we don’t really see such actions in America … at least not in Milwaukee. My discussions with Shannon also relates to my skills goal of critical thinking. By comparing Chile and the U.S., I can try to develop unique story ideas when I return home.

My first one-on-one interview this week was also an exciting opportunity. I spoke to a musicologist about Chile and its popular cumbia, a genre of music. Although I’ve done sit-down interviews for the Broadcast Club at UWM, this interview experience was challenging. As a journalist, I wanted to ask really in-depth questions. However, lacking knowledge on cumbia music, I found myself asking more basic questions. The experience taught me the importance of research before sit-down interviews. It’s something I will have to work on in the future in order to reach my values goal of providing comprehensive articles to readers.
Week 7

This week was a shorter week because the editors decided to take off to Rio for the World Cup finals. As the editors were greatly anticipating the long-weekend, the story assignments I received were more like briefs. It was a nice change of pace as I had been putting in more than 40 hours a week at the office. The previous weeks and this week have taught me how much work goes into writing an article. It really surprises me how long it takes to write a story, but with the phone calls, emails, writing, editing and fact checking … it’s no wonder I haven’t been leaving the office until 7 p.m. It’s a great experience that is helping me adapt to the journalism field, which is one of my knowledge goals.

One of the articles I wrote this week opened my eyes to Chile’s position in Latin America. I learned about the international disputes the country has with countries like Peru and Bolivia. My article on Chile’s challenge to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in a lawsuit Peru had filed against the Chilean government taught me so much. Overall, writing such a story exposed me to more international news writing, which is an area I would really like to enter and an experience that relates to my career goal.

My article on the Chile-Peru lawsuit also exposed me to Chile’s history with neighboring countries. I learned that Bolivia lost its access to the sea to Chile in the War on the Pacific as well as through a treaty. In writing the story, I also learned about the protocol of the ICJ and what Chile’s challenge to the court’s jurisdiction meant for Peru’s lawsuit. It’s material that will definitely come in handy in the future and applies to my skills goal of learning about Chile’s history in order to better my interpersonal communication skills. I may not be an expert, but I can say that I have experience in writing on such topics.
Week 8

The stories I wrote for this week were both on international and national politics. Even though politics was my beat for this week, I enjoyed the slight variety of writing on local Chilean reforms and international conflicts. The variety that this internship offers in terms of reporting is awesome because it helps explore different ‘beats,’ which helps me toward my career goal of determining a specialization in journalism. The editors at The Santiago Times have explained that normally by this point in time the interns have a ‘beat.’ Since I am the only intern, however, I haven’t had that opportunity and have had to cover whatever is necessary. Although I would have liked to focus on a specific area, I enjoy being the politics writer one week and the environmentalist writer the next.

My biggest task this week in terms of stories was writing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In regards to international conflicts or affairs, the story somehow has to relate to Chile. The story I wrote in regards to the Middle East conflict wasn’t on the actual conflict but on the Chilean government’s response to the conflict. In writing the story, I learned that Chile is home to one of the largest Palestinian populations outside the Middle East. Such a large Palestinian population has put pressure on the Chilean government to take an active stance in the conflict. My experience in writing such political stories goes beyond my expectations. Not only am I learning ways to improve my journalistic skills, but I am also learning about Chilean and international politics. All of this learning applies to my knowledge goals of understanding Chilean society and expanding my knowledge of the journalism field.

I tend to choose and write on topics that will challenge me. Although I found the task of writing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict very daunting, I knew it would be a good experience. It may have taken me longer than usual to fact-check and organize my piece, but I think it turned out well. I was especially excited when I was able to reach the Israeli ambassador to Chile for comment. For a student journalist, interviewing such a high-standing political figure is huge and requires good communication and interpersonal skills.

Days after the story was published, I received my first “angry” email from a reader. I knew that writing on such a high-profile conflict would prompt some kind of response. I’m kind of a sensitive person so to receive such an email was kind of hurtful. However, I soon realized that I have to learn to respond differently to whatever angry emails I may receive because I will probably continue to encounter such correspondence in the future. People are entitled to share their opinions. Overall, the email reminded me of just how difficult it is to provide comprehensive and balanced stories. Writing well-balanced stories is something I will continue to work on and it is one of my values goals.
Senator urges Chile to take ‘active’ role in Israeli-Palestine conflict

By Maria del Carmen Corpus
Published on: Mon, Jul 14th, 2014

Campaigners from the large Palestinian community calls for greater action in conflict while DC deputy warns against ‘bringing the conflict to Chile.’

Pedestrians in Santiago march against the recent escalator of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Photo by @AVLChile via Twitter

Petitions and representatives of Chile’s sizable Palestinian community are urging the government to take a more active stance in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and build on last week’s public condemnation of Israel’s shelling of Gaza.

“We cannot remain removed from this conflict because our country is home to more than 400,000 Palestinians with families in Palestine and Gaza,” San. Ivan Moreno of the right-wing Independent Democratic Union (UDI) said in a press release.

Moreno’s statements came three days after the Foreign Ministry endorsed the U.N.’s call for a “comprehensive solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which saw renewed violence this month in the wake of the June kidnapping and killings of three Israeli teenagers. A week of airstrikes against Gaza targets has left around 173 Palestinians dead and more than a thousand wounded as of Monday, according to U.N. reports.

Although the Israeli Embassy declined to comment on the Chilean government’s stance on the conflict, Israeli ambassador to Chile David D atan told The Santiago Times that the South American country is uniquely placed in the international community.

“Chile is an important country that can play a significant role because of its large Jewish and Palestinian communities,” D atan said. Judaism is the third largest religion in Chile following Catholicism and Protestant Christianity, while the country is believed to have the largest population of Palestinians outside of the Middle East.

Last week’s Foreign Ministry announcement “vigorously condemned” the shelling of the Gaza Strip, adding that neither the kidnapping of Israeli teenagers nor the subsequent presumed extrajudicial murder of a young Palestinian could be justification for terrorism or “attacks on densely populated civilian areas.”

While cautious, the Bachelet administration’s response appears to go further than former President Sebastián Piñera’s relatively neutral response to Israel’s 2012 missile attacks on Gaza.

The importance of the government’s response to the crisis in the Middle East, however, goes beyond the country’s large Jewish and Palestinian population. In January, Chile took its place as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

“Chile has to be an instrument of peace, because from the moment that it recognized the Palestinian state, Chile also recognized (Palestine’s) struggles to be a free and sovereign state,” Moreno told the press.

On Friday, Chilean-Israeli caucus of the Chamber of Deputies met with Foreign Minister Heraldo Muñoz, Deputy Gabriel Silva of the center-left Christian Democratic Party (DC) expressed his concern regarding the Foreign Ministry’s statements earlier that week, warning the government against focusing solely on Israeli attacks on Gaza and not the Palestinian role in the conflict.

“While we agree, the Foreign Minister is being careful and not bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Chile,” Silva told the press. “We have to be very careful that statements reflect an important issue to what is happening in the Middle East.”

On Saturday, organizations like the Temuco Arab Union for Palestine — among others — also protested the recent violence.

“[We’re] showing our support for the Palestinian people and calling on the Chilean government to denounce what is happening today in Gaza,” said the organization’s president, Samy Sili.

The Temuco Arab Union for Palestine will hold additional activities this week for its campaign of solidarity with Palestine, ending with a march on July 18.

By Maria del Carmen Corpus
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About the Author

Maria del Carmen Corpus
Bom and raised in Wisconsin, Maria has written about revitalization projects for the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service and contributed articles to Media Milwaukee. Contact her at corpusm@corpusmilk.com
As I’ve previously mentioned, a lot of marches take place in Santiago. The marches — approved by the government — take place for various reasons, mainly to advocate for or against constitutional reforms. So far, I’ve had the opportunity to cover various student, public transport, professor and health protests. Attending and writing on these different marches has taught me so much about international politics. I constantly find myself comparing Chile’s politics and government to the U.S. By making such comparisons, I am working towards my skills goals because I am learning how to approach different topics. What I’ve found is that Chile and the U.S. are both working to reform similar areas like health and education. That being said, I’ve learned that Chile is still recovering from the Pinochet era dictatorship and so is working on more fundamental aspects within education and health. As a journalist in Chile, many of the stories I cover require a lot of research, especially since I am a foreigner. Everything I am learning applies in so many different ways, but in this case it helps me achieve my knowledge goals of understanding Chile’s politics, etc.

The march I covered this week was different from previous marches in terms of the purpose. Like the U.S., Chile is attempting to pass same-sex marriage and adoption. As a conservative country, it has struggled to pass this legislation. The country’s largest human rights organization held a march calling for same-sex marriage and adoption. It was one of the most entertaining and fun marches I’ve covered to date. It was colorful and complete with music. The march also ended with a large concert in front of the presidential palace and was one of the most peaceful marches I’ve attended.

The great environment made it easy for me to talk to people and take photos. Incorporating photos into my stories is something I really enjoy doing and helps me with my careers goal of improving my photography skills. It allows me to visually share Chile’s events to all readers abroad, which fits into my values goal of informing and raising awareness.
Week 10

It was a politically heavy packed week in terms of stories. The escalating conflict between Israel and Palestine has prompted senators and Chile’s Palestinian community — believed to be the largest outside the Middle East — to demand the government take a more active role in the conflict. In covering the conflict, I’ve noticed how Chile’s media coverage on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict differs from U.S. coverage. While I’ve been away I’ve been keeping track of the news back home, which is an aspect of one of my skills goals.

Reading the different articles on the conflict has taught me the difficulties that come with providing well-balanced and comprehensive news. It’s one of my values goals to be able to write thorough stories that represent the various sides involved in a particular topic. While it’s sometimes difficult to write on the conflict, I am embracing the challenge. International topics and politics is what I hope to cover and specialize in, so this is great experience for me and helps me with my careers goal of working toward a specialization.

My top article for the week is less of a story but a Q&A with Palestine’s ambassador to Chile. I had previously contacted the Palestinian embassy for comment on another story relating to the conflict, however, never got a response. This week the embassy randomly called and asked if I was still interested in talking to the ambassador. Although I had already written the article, I decided not to pass the opportunity. The last-minute notice didn’t allow me to prepare too much in terms of questions, but I didn’t want to challenge the ambassador’s time. The conversation and phone interview was short, but I really enjoyed all nine-minutes of it. He also spoke in English, which helped me out when it came to transcribing the audio. The interview with the ambassador helped me understand one side of the conflict, and I hope to cover the other side soon through a similar interview with the Israeli ambassador. Overall, this experience touched on my values, knowledge and careers goals as I learned a lot from the ambassador.
Q&A: Imad Nabil Jada’a, Palestine’s Ambassador to Chile

By María del Carmen Corpus
Published On: Sat, Aug 2nd, 2014

A son of Palestinian refugees, Ambassador Jada’a talks on Chile’s active response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Images of the Ambassador and a quotation from an interview with him.

The government has denounced Hamas’ attacks against the Israeli civilian population, it has taken an increasingly critical view of Israel’s attack on the Gaza Strip, culminating in last week’s claims that the current military offensive against the Palestinian population is a result of the international humanitarian law and effectively constitutes a ‘collective punishment’ for Palestinian civilians in the territory.

On July 29, the Chilean government capitulated in the face of mounting pressure at home and recalled its ambassador to Israel.

Since fighting started on July 8, the death toll has reportedly reached 1,059 in Gaza, while 63 Israeli soldiers as well as three civilians had died as of Friday.

Imad Nabil Jada’a, Palestine’s ambassador to Chile, spoke with The Santiago Times about the Chile’s active response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

How do you feel about Chile’s response to the conflict, particularly its decision recall its ambassador to Israel last week?

I’d like to express my gratitude to the government of Chile, the people of Chile and the congressmen for all of the support they are giving to our people. Now, to be on the side of Palestine is not a political position, it is a human position. It has to do with justice and a right to freedom for every single person in the world. A right to justice, this is what we consider that the position is and [one] instigated by the Chinese government in supporting the pursuit and struggle for peace, not the enmity that continues and has prevailed throughout history. Also, we respect the right to the Chinese government’s sovereignty — we cannot tell them what to do, but we can ask them to continue their tradition of support. Especially now, as Chile is a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations.

How would you reply to the president of the Jewish Community in Chile Gerardo Gorodischer who recently described the country’s response to the conflict as ‘asymmetrical’?

We are very proud of the Palestinian community here in Chile and its origins. When they say that “we are Chilean citizens of Palestinian origin, and this is why we support the Palestinian victims who have fallen in the hands of Israel,” this is a position you would take against any oppressed people in the world. It’s very sad to see, at this time, that Chilean Jews are announcing their position that they are Israeli before being Chilean.

As Palestinians we’ve always opted for peace and confirmed our position in different movements. Remember in 1974 when the late President Vassil Aserf gave his historic speech at the United Nations, he said: “I come bearing an olive branch in one hand and the freedom fighter’s gun in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand.” This was the first instance by the Palestinian people to follow the international community and promote peace, and since then we continue in our struggle for peace and to condemn and confront Israel’s continuous aggressions.

What’s your perspective on several parliamentarians’ request that the president opens Chile’s borders to Palestinian refugees?

I remember similar generosity from Chile a few years ago. It received 20 Palestinian families that were stuck between the borders of Iraq and Jordan, but now the situation is different. What we need now is to help our people to continue living in what is their land. We need to help them first by removing the occupation, then by reconstructing after the destruction, which will take years and billions of dollars to bring Gaza back to normal and allow the people there to live their lives.

As the Palestinian Embassy representing all the Palestinian people in Gaza, in the West Bank, in Jerusalem, in the Middle East — the Palestinian community is all over the world — we hope that the Chilean government will continue its solidarity with our people and, as I have said, to continue supporting that most unjust cause that history and humanity have fought.

By María del Carmen Corpus
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About the Author

María del Carmen Corpus
Born and raised in Wisconsin, María has written about revitalization projects for the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service and contributed articles to Media Milwaukee. Contact her at corpus@santiagotimes.cl
The Santiago Times was very understanding of my request to take a week of vacation and travel. They felt my work was good and that I deserved a break, considering the fact that this is a full-time unpaid internship. I did not go into the office this week nor did I write any stories, other than one on a march organized by the Palestinian Federation of Chile. Like most marches, thousands packed the streets of Santiago. The Palestinian community and its supporters came out to demand greater government action in the conflict and for the removal of the Israeli ambassador to Chile. Once again, I learned so much from march participants and federation leaders, which applies to my knowledge goals.

It was an interesting march to cover, as it was one of the first ones that tested my feelings on the subject I was reporting on. As a journalist, however, I have to remain neutral in order to provide even-sided perspectives in the story. It’s such a challenge to do, but I am working on it, as it is one of my values goals. Overall, I enjoyed my attempts at getting the best pictures. The better photos often require that they be taken from different angles. I climbed a bus stop for this particular march, which was an experience. Improving my photography skills is one of my careers goals.
Week 12

After a week away from the office, I felt really energized and anxious to return to The Santiago Times. The writing assignments this week were lighter and really helped ease me back to the 40-hour-plus workweek. The topics this week ranged from science, engineering to public security. While it was nice to take a break from politics, I sometimes find it challenging to switch gears and suddenly become an expert on security or Chile’s earthquakes. Despite the challenges, all of my writing experience has helped me with my career goal of narrowing down my specialization. My portfolio from my work at The ST will certainly be very diverse. In the future, I will try and narrow down my writing to politics or human-interest pieces as those are topics I enjoy.

This week’s closure of a metro line sparked chaos among commuters as well as a lot of questions on alternative transportation. The event inspired an article on the city’s alternative transportation options and measures. As an individual that utilizes Santiago’s bus and metro system, I was really interested in learning and writing about alternative transportation options. I interviewed a couple of civil engineers and transportation experts on the issue. Overall, my interviews and writing on the topic helped me reach my knowledge goal of developing an understanding of Chilean society.

My story on the “unstealable” Yerka bike developed my three Chilean engineer students was also a lot of fun. In order to interview the three engineers, I got to leave the office and to see the bike first hand. I found it interesting to conduct an interview in both English and Spanish. While the engineers said they were comfortable speaking in English, I often had to switch back to Spanish so that I could get usable information. My experience in Santiago has taught me the importance of being bilingual. It’s an experience that has taught me a lot about interpersonal communication, which is one of my skills goals.
Week 13

The streak of lighter pieces continued this week at The ST, which I’ve really enjoyed because it gives me the opportunity to write more human-interest pieces. For example, this week I wrote an article on a nonprofit called Plan Bee. The organization works to establish reserves throughout Chile for beehives. What I learned from interviewing biologists and others is that the human existence is very dependent on bees. In regards to Chile, the low bee population could negatively affect the country’s fruit market, which is number one in the southern hemisphere. As random as the topic might be, it is one of my knowledge goals to learn as much as I can about Chile.

My internship at The ST would not be complete without covering a final student march. Two of my articles this week related to the student march for education reform. As I’ve previously explained, students are calling for an education system that ends the country’s current copayment, profit making and selection process. The student effort is one that dates back as to 2006. While in Santiago, I’ve written several articles on the country’s education reform and its process in Congress, the Senate, etc. I find it very interesting that the bill makes progress one week and then is recalled the next week. Chile’s education system has motivated me to take a look at America’s. I can’t imagine what a student march of 80,000 people would do in the U.S. Overall, writing on this topic has helped me with my critical thinking, knowledge and values goals. I really do admire Chilean students and their diligent efforts in trying to attain a better education.

Aside from the politics associated to student marches in Chile, covering the event gives me an opportunity to work on my photography and video skills. The Santiago Times is mainly a print publication that doesn’t do a lot with videos or audio. However, I continue to film my own videos for my personal purposes. I feel like my photography skills have really developed since I’ve arrived to Chile.
Week 14

It’s really bittersweet writing about my last week at The Santiago Times. I feel like I’ve not only grown professionally but personally. As the only intern at the news organization, I also feel like I developed a close relationship with my editors. While my last day was Tuesday August 26, I continued to work on my piece by answering the editors’ comments from my home. The editors gave me both Monday and Tuesday to work on my long-term project, which is an opportunity I was a little worried about completing. My last published piece at The Santiago Times is called “Chilean cumbia, how a tropical rhythm took root in the Southern Cone.” It is a more cultural and human-interest piece, and one that helped me toward my knowledge and values goals of learning and spreading awareness about topics that matter.

While the piece was a lot of work, I am really glad I had the chance to interview a musicologist who specializes in cumbia as well as key cumbia chilena artists. Cumbia, is a very popular genre of music in South America that stems from salsa and African music. It’s a genre of music that each Latin American country has made its own, including Chile. My little knowledge and research on cumbia chilena made my interviews really fun. It’s something that helped me with my interpersonal communications skills goal.

After three phone interviews and a lot of additional research, I learned the great significance cumbia has in Chile and how the genre has evolved into a new subgenre called nueva cumbia chilena. Writing this piece has reinforced that I really like human-interest topics, which helps me accomplish one of my career goals of finding a specialization. Overall, it was a piece I enjoyed writing. My editors also said it was a fun and interesting piece to read.

Unfortunately, the website is still down and under maintenance. I do have a PDF version of my published article on cumbia. If you would like to read it, please let me know, and I’ll forward it.
Chilean cumbia, how a tropical rhythm took root in the Southern Cone

By María del Carmen Correa
Published On: Sun. Aug 31st, 2014

From exotic import to dancefloor staple, via years in the wilderness due to dictatorship-era censorship: The story of cumbia in Chile.

Since its inception 70-plus years ago in the tropical north of the continent, cumbia has shuffled, shaken and, in many cases, staggered drunkenly across Latin America, injecting Caribbean rhythms as far as the chilly Southern Cone.

Countries across the region have latched onto the exuberance of the hybrid style, making the genre their own — and Chile is no exception.

As a new archive seeks to collate the best of the genre’s initial boom in Chile throughout the 1960s and 1970s, The Santiago Times speaks to leading cumbia musicians and musucologists to learn about the history of one of the most successful musical imports of the century.

The Chilean Tropical Music Archive, a project launched this month by the National Council for Culture and the Arts, is one of the first to document cumbia’s considerable influence on the national music scene.

“There was little academic research on cumbia chilena,” Eileen Kerm, one of the musicologists behind the project, told The Santiago Times. “Other than a few chapters in some books, there was very little written on it. It’s a genre of music that has lasted more than 50 years and has a strong national presence, it’s much more than just another passing trend.”

From the Caribbean to Chile

Beginning in Colombia as a mix of sals and African polyrhythm, what came to be known as cumbia spread throughout Latin America in the 1940s, evolving in different countries like Argentina and Peru. It was not until the 1960s, however, that the growing trend arrived to far-flung Chile.

“Chile not only took notice of the Colombian style, but also created a mix of the Argentine and Peruvian style,” Kerm said, pointing to the scene’s early roots in the north of the country.

Due to its proximity to Peru and its many busy, international ports, Chile’s northern regions were first to latch on to the new style, with the majority of musicians hailing from fishing towns such as Coquimbo. Bands such as Los Vikings 5 appropriated the Colombian rhythms and added local twists — experimenting with the incorporation of electric guitar, for example — to create a unique sound.

Early Chilean cumbia pioneers, Los Vikings 5. Photo via Archivo de Música Tropical Chilena.

“Every country has cumbia and a way to do it, and so it’s important that the world know that [Chile] also has its own.”
Angel Núñez Anaya, director of Los Vikings 5, said.

While the use of different instruments created a unique fusion of tropical music, the lyrics are what made “cumbia Chilena” distinctly Chilean.
The party is over

Like much of the country’s culture, cumbia suffered from the stifling dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990). Censorship was rife and musicians thought to harbor sympathies with the left often experienced detention, torture and exile.

Leonardo Solo has been a percussionist for Chilean cumbia veterans La Sonora de Tommy Rey for 32 years and witnessed the genre suffer under military rule — specifically, asantomat cumbia stymied nightlife and live music throughout the country.

“The dictatorship was our country’s dark age. It was also a dark age for our music and for musicians because the night was over,” Solo said. “The stages on which we could perform closed.”

As popular resistance to military rule grew in the 1980s, cumbia became an important medium of rebellion and a means to voice support for democracy. A popular tactic was to alter lyrics of popular songs to include anti-dictatorship stanzas.

In one particularly public act of disobedience to the dictatorship, Karney explained, members of the audience at the 1986 Viña del Mar Festival changed the lyrics of a popular song to the stanzas “Que se vaya Pinochet” (“Pinochet, leave”).

Nueva cumbia chilena

The early 2000s brought a revitalized and urban style of cumbia to Chile, known as “nueva cumbia chilena.” While the foundation of salsa and African music remains, the modern incarnation of the genre draws on a wider range of influences from styles as diverse as hip-hop, son, reggae and ska.

“Some of the first artists of ‘nueva cumbia chilena’ such as Chilo Trujillo, Juana Fe and others had a background in rock, punk and ska,” Karney explained. “But they recognized traditional cumbia chilena and its musicians as well as the commercial potential I had and thus began to mix [their sound with cumbia].”

The genre’s popularity was largely driven by university students and teenagers’ enthusiasm.
"Young people, university students, they made the rhythm their own and brought it to their parties and festivals," Soto said.

Nueva cumbia chilena's increasing popularity has not driven traditional cumbia artists away, however, as many of the veterans of the scene continue to tour and often play alongside the younger inheritors of the genre.

"I've lived off of cumbia my whole life and the band will continue to play as long as we like to party and make people dance because that is what motivates us," Soto said.

By Maria del Carmen Corpus
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About the Author
Maria del Carmen Corpus
Born and raised in Wisconsin, Maria has written about revitalization projects for the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service and contributed articles to Media Milwaukee.
Contact her at corpus@santiagotimes.cl

Link: http://santiagotimes.cl/chilean-cumbia-tropical-rhythm-took-root-southern-cone/
GLOBAL STUDIES INTERNSHIP
SUPervisor Evaluation Form

Student’s Name: Maria Corpus

Organization Providing Internship: The Santiago Times

Supervisor’s Name: Sam Edwards

Start Date: 05.26.2014
End Date: 08.26.2014

Hours Worked Per Week: Approx. 45

Please evaluate the performance of the intern by responding to the following questions:

1. Ability to relate with coworkers/peers
   - Excellent
   - Good
   - Average
   - Poor
   - Very poor

2. Judgment/Decision making skills
   - Excellent
   - Good
   - Average
   - Poor
   - Very poor

3. Level of Dependability/Accountability
   - Excellent
   - Good
   - Average
   - Poor
   - Very poor

4. Attendance
   - Almost never missed work
   - Occasionally missed work
   - Missed work regularly

5. Describe the intern’s responsibilities and major projects. Evaluate how well the candidate performed the assigned tasks.
   As one of several reporting interns, Maria arrived early each day for a morning editorial meeting. In this meeting Maria would either pitch or be assigned a story, which would be her project for the day. Throughout the working day she would research the topic and attempt to secure relevant interviews where possible. Often this would involve attending events, seminars of press conferences. Once the article was submitted, Maria would respond to comments and feedback from the editorial team on possible areas for improvement. During her time interning at The Santiago Times, Maria demonstrated exceptional independence and drive, writing numerous outstanding pieces and landing interviews with a raft of relevant actors.

6. How well suited were the intern’s interests, aptitudes and values to the working environment of this internship?
   Maria entered with a strong interest in journalism and writing but little experience of print journalism itself. Throughout the internship, she appeared to grow significantly in confidence and her natural aptitude for research and investigation served her well for the completion of the tasks we assigned her. Maria’s values were also on show in her intuitive understanding of some of the issues of journalistic ethics, which often arise in the course of news reporting.

7. Additional comments you would like to add about the intern’s growth and development as a professional.
I witnessed Maria make significant progress throughout the course of the internship and I believe her diligence, ability to work in a team and determination will stand her in excellent stead for a future career in journalism or whatever else she might pursue.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Center for International Education would like to express our deep appreciation for your devotion of time and energy to serve as an intern supervisor. We thank you for helping us complete the final evaluation of this student’s performance.

Signature of Supervisor

Date

08/30/2014

Please return this evaluation form to:

Aparna Datey, Academic Programs Coordinator
Center for International Education
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
PO Box 413/Garland Hall 113
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Tel: (414) 229-3042
Fax: (414) 229-3626
Email: datey@uwm.edu
Sept. 12, 2014

Maria Corpus worked at The Santiago Times — Chile’s leading English-language publication — as a reporting intern for four months in mid 2014. During this time I worked with her closely, assigning her stories and providing feedback on articles in my role as internship supervisor.

Maria’s responsibilities included writing at least one article per day, pitching ideas for stories and completing a minimum of one in-depth question and answer interview with a public figure.

She excelled on all fronts, demonstrating competence, enthusiasm and a willingness to respond to feedback.

Throughout her time at The Santiago Times Maria had more than 50 articles published and secured numerous relevant interviews with senators and activists. For one piece, published in the midst of the June/July Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she managed to conduct a particularly timely interview with Palestine’s ambassador to Chile on the South American country’s response to the crisis, for example.

Based on the positive traits and strong work ethic described above and the good working relationship she developed with the team during the internship, I am confident Maria will prove a valuable addition to any news organization.

Please contact me with any queries about Maria or her work with The Santiago Times.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Editor-in-chief, The Santiago Times
sedwards@santiagotimes.cl or +56-2-2-735-9044
MEDIA EXPERIENCE

The Santiago Times

May 2014-Aug. 2014

Reporting intern

- The Santiago Times is an English news source focused on objective and professional reporting in Santiago de Chile.

- Attend press conferences as well as local demonstrations and events for possible story ideas.

- Interview deputies, senators, foreign ambassadors as well as other sources in order to write and submit daily story assignments.

- Cover and write stories related to foreign affairs, education, health, transportation, etc.

- Follow The Santiago Times style guide and edit own stories before submitting to editors.
There are some experiences so great and rewarding that they are difficult to describe. I consider my reporting internship at The Santiago Times to be one of those experiences. The individuals with whom I interacted with in and outside of the office, story assignments and Santiago evoked many emotions in me. From my early frustrations as an intern to my feelings of accomplishment, I’ve not only grown as a professional but as a person too. My previous experiences abroad, previous internship and my courses at UW-Milwaukee not only helped me successfully complete my internship in Chile, but also helped me reach my learning goals as a journalism and global communications student.

For all of summer 2014, I spent 40 or more hours a week trying to fulfill my responsibilities as an intern. My responsibilities as a reporting intern included the following: writing, submitting photos, researching, translating, sending interview requests via email or phone, keeping up-to-date with Chile’s current affairs, developing contacts, and submitting story ideas. It was all very daunting, especially because I was expected to turn in a solid copy, or article every day. The editors and staff at The Santiago Times, however, were great and helped me adjust to my job and my new life in Santiago.

The daily structure at The Santiago Times also helped me transition into my new position. Every morning, the interns and editors gathered and discussed the possible stories for the day as part of a news meeting. The potential stories ranged from education to healthcare to weather. While the editors assigned stories when they felt the need to, I often got to choose my story. I based my decision on the sources I would be able to contact and my interest on the topic. In the beginning I wrote a lot of briefs, which are short articles that recap the most recent news on Chile’s politics and everyday life. The assignments were given to me in the beginning because they provided an opportunity to adapt to the deadlines throughout the day, etc. The briefs that I wrote concerned the Chilean president, the weather, index reports and responses to new government policy proposals.
After the first couple of weeks, I finally built up the courage to contact sources over the phone and email. I remember the great accomplishment I felt after talking to protestors outside Santiago’s City Hall. After more than an hour, I interviewed about six individuals. My experience not only helped me learn about the protest, but also provided me with an opportunity to get to know the protesters personally. The connections I made with various individuals made my job enjoyable. Every morning, I looked forward to going to work because each day brought something new. I never knew what I was going to be writing, or whom I was going to talk to or meet.

The excitement and enthusiasm I had toward my job as a reporter came after overcoming various challenges. While I have lived abroad and interned before, my three months in Santiago de Chile was a unique experience. Upon my arrival in May, I struggled to make sense of the city and country. Although I had done some research on Chile, I was not very familiar with the government, education, health, and transportation system — beats that journalists typically cover. I also struggled to get a hold of sources for original comments on a topic. It was very frustrating to receive no response after taking the time to send out a nicely worded interview request in Spanish as well as making several calls. The process to getting original quotes and material, however, taught me that persistence continues even after your sixth phone call isn’t answered.

My dedication, however, eventually paid off. I never missed a day of work or arrived late, and I think the editors noticed because I was trusted to attend press conferences and to write about complex topics. With time, I also became confident enough to reach out to Chilean deputies and senators as well foreign ambassadors. I went from writing weather stories to writing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an opportunity that I really valued because I hope to write about international affairs and politics.

The challenges I faced and my experiences helped me reach the majority of my learning goals too. My hours of research, countless interviews and more than 50 articles published
online helped me improve my writing and critical thinking skills as well as my interpersonal communication skills, which made up my skills goals. In addition, each article I wrote taught me a lot about Chilean society. From the education system to the transportation system, I quickly expanded my knowledge on Chile, which was one of my knowledge goals. The dozens of articles I wrote and the editors’ feedback taught me a lot about the journalism field as well as helped me improve with my writing, both touched on my knowledge, values and career goals of writing on issues that matter and learning about the journalism field.

Perhaps most important is that my internship helped me narrow down my specialization in the journalism field. Although I’ve always wanted to work in the journalism field, I’ve been unsure as to what track — print or broadcast — and what specialization to pursue. There are aspects in print and broadcast journalism that I like and dislike. With print, I get very frustrated with the editing process. I feel like I don’t have the patience for it because sometimes I really just want to tell my editors, “It’s good the way it is.” My experience with broadcast has shown me that a minute and a half isn’t very long to tell a story, and so I prefer print in that respect. I think the next step is for me to get an internship that requires more multimedia reporting and will encompass print and video/audio stories.

In addition, I’ve found that I really enjoy writing about politics and international affairs. I really enjoy writing about these topics because they are more hard news. Also, writing on international affairs could provide travel opportunities, which I am very interested in. Although I am not an expert on Chile, I feel my broad knowledge of the country and its relations to its neighboring states will be valuable when it comes to applying for jobs in the future.

All things considered, I think that I performed well at The Santiago Times. I was able to maneuver in a foreign city that is home to more than seven million people, learn about Chile’s history and politics, conduct interviews in different languages and successfully submit a story at the end of each day. That being said, I feel like I have a lot further to go. While my writing has improved, I think there’s more to learn. In addition, I need to work on my creative writing.
The next time I seek out an internship, I will probably spend more time familiarizing myself with the news organization. Doing so will allow me to become more familiar with the organization’s style and the topics that it covers. I will also apply for an internship that requires more multimedia reporting. My stories at The Santiago Times were mainly print or photo-essays. I’d like to work with audio or video in the future. I would also like to make sure that my next internship has more interns with whom to interact with. Working with additional interns would have made the experience more valuable because it would have allowed me to write on a particular beat. Being the only intern sometimes required me to write stories that had to be covered and weren’t very interesting.

I decided to apply to The Santiago Times because of its reputation as a rigorous and challenging program. As an aspiring journalist who hopes to work in the field after college, I knew the internship program abroad would benefit me if I managed to complete it successfully. I hope the editors were able to note my improvement and dedication.