

Indiana Daily Student

My employment at the Indiana Daily Student began in the fall semester of my sophomore year after transferring to Indiana University from DePaul University in Chicago. Starting as a Staff Photographer, I have progressed over the years by gaining more responsibility, accepting more complicated assignments, and traveling when needed to provide the best coverage possible. Now in my third year at the IDS, I hold the highest photographer position of Senior Photographer. I have been given this title after consistent reliability, quality of work, and flexibility in assignment capability. With this position, I am a primary photographer for all events, responsible for assisting in the training of new photographers in technique and ethics, and advising senior management on equipment purchase decisions and new technologies.

During my three years with the paper, I have covered such events as the September 11th tragedy, the Men's Basketball Final Four Tournament, and the fallout of being named the #1 party school in the nation. All of these assignments along with the smaller local news coverage have provided irreplaceable lessons in teamwork, time management, and product production.

The September 11th tragedy provided valuable lessons in teamwork where my consistent reliability was pivotal to the team's success. Having many events to cover and limited photographers, it was critical that photographers be assigned who could be relied upon to deliver high quality images on a tight deadline. Being part of this team was a great experience as we all relied on each other to deliver perfection on the first attempt, which in the end resulted in coverage that surpassed that of the local newspaper.

The Men's Basketball Final Four Tournament was also a critical assignment as I represented both the IDS Newspaper and the Arbutus Yearbook. This called upon my reputation of high quality work and tested time management skills. This assignment would require powerful images delivered on an extremely tight deadline. With the game beginning at 9 pm, photo acquisition and processing needed to be carefully orchestrated to ensure an on-time delivery. By the end of the night, quality work was received on time for deadline production.

After receiving the ranking of #1 Party School, my flexibility and production talents were immediately called into play. Having to photograph both sides of the controversy required the use of many photographic styles to accurately tell the story. However, this would only be a beginning, as postproduction editing would be required to bring the story to life. Consisting of layout, picture interaction, and creative use of text, a captivating beam of light was shed upon this momentous story.

While my desired career path does not directly include photography, the skills learned from this experience will bring a strong impact upon all the professions I assume during the rest of my career.