James Best

Prof. Fink

Internship Program I

Week of February 2nd 2015

Friedman to Leave as Pace President following 2016-2017 school year.

My first assignment working for the Examiner Newspaper I didn’t even have to leave my own school. Pace University President Stephen Friedman had just announced his decision not to be reappointed following the 2016-2017 school year and being a Pace University student I was the perfect person to get the scoop. Right off the bat I notice something different that is important for reporters. The methods of communication working for a professional newspaper was different than working for the Pace Chronicle. Pace itself is a small and close community and me, being such a visible person on campus, I had access to majority of student clubs, organizations, and professional staff faculty. A lot of my background information for events came from just looking at the events calendar on the Pace website and picking out which stories I wanted to take on for the week. Working for the Examiner I realized that professional newspapers don’t usually have access to what I have access to in such a tight community. Most of the background information newspapers receive come from press releases that public relations firms send out inviting media to an event or informing them on the up and coming news within the area. Ideally newspapers don’t want to completely rely on press releases that could be bias towards one side and want to get their own information. I was asked to get in contact with President Friedman’s office through Mr. Wilbur’s contact. I decided with my familiarity with Pace University to just call the office and set up an interview for the school newspaper. Then came the issue of timeliness. My deadline for the article was on Monday and on that day I still had no response from the President’s office. It was definitely a lot different than just talking to someone on campus. When doing interviews on the phone I felt so old school. Kind of like Bob Woodard and Carl Bernstein form the Washington Post when they had to call people to get information on Watergate. I was used to everything being face to face. But when you’re facing a deadline you have to do what you can to get the information. So the ultimate decision was to print the article with the information I had from the letter the President’s office sent out to all of the students in the university and write a updated article with quotes from the President on the examiner news website. In a sense the article in the print edition didn’t tell the full story, however I was proud of my work and the things I was able to accomplish in such a short period of time. After seeing my name of my first article in a professional newspaper I began to realize that my dream was coming true and I was making a name for myself in this industry and that I could really become a journalist one day.