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This summer, I was given the opportunity to work as an intern for the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) in Miami, Florida for eight weeks. With no prior experience working for a nonprofit organization, I had very clear goals for what I wanted to accomplish during my time at the IAPA. Primarily, I wanted to gain an in-depth knowledge of the IAPA's formal functional activities. More specific to its work, I also hoped to gain a broadened perspective and greater understanding of the freedoms of expression and of the press, to expand my oral and written communication in English and Spanish, and to develop skills for understanding and working with people of diverse backgrounds. Working with the IAPA this summer was an extremely rewarding experience; I was not only able to accomplish all the goals I set out for myself, but I also left my last day of work confident that I had made my own contributions to the IAPA.

Throughout my internship, I was given many responsibilities but was primarily responsible for developing and implementing a digital and marketing strategy to help the IAPA gain more visibility in social media. For two months, I managed the organization's Facebook and Twitter accounts. This included updating its profiles, uploading content to promote upcoming events, sharing articles and relevant information on journalism, and interacting with the IAPA's followers online. The IAPA's social media base grew substantially during this time. It experienced the most impressive growth on its Twitter page, where in just two months it gained 200 followers. One of the ways I was able to help the IAPA gain more visibility in social media was through the #SIPRedesSociales campaign I created to bring attention to the IAPA's seminar in Guatemala. The hashtag had a reach of

more than 1 million users and made more than 3 million impressions in only three days with only about 120 tweets. The event's speakers and participants live tweeted and shared pictures and videos about their experiences using the #SIPRedesSociales hashtag. Even Prensa Libre, the leading newspaper in Guatemala, joined in on using the hashtag and helped to bring a lot of attention to the IAPA and its seminar.

I was also responsible for assisting the Digital Center with its weekly webinars. These webinars are online workshops that allow people, mostly journalists and students, from across the Americas to listen to and interact with international speakers invited by the IAPA. The speakers range from highly acclaimed journalists to former politicians and jurists and present on topics such as coverage of elections and freedom of the press. Before working with the IAPA, I had no experience with WordPress, ConstantContact, or AdobeConnect, which were the platforms I worked with the most during my internship. Everyone was extremely helpful and willing to teach me, and after only two weeks, I was asked to direct a webinar by myself.

I was put in touch with the chosen speaker and personally worked with him to plan and practice for his presentation. I had to create the webinar's meeting room and teach the speaker how to use the AdobeConnect platform. I then had to create invitations online, send out multiple announcements, and create a page to register for the webinar on the IAPA's website. Finally, I had to record and upload the webinar's content onto the website. Later on in the summer, I was given the opportunity to direct another webinar when I suggested hosting one to promote the seminar in Guatemala. It was a great success with more than 80 participants, the highest attendance all summer. Everyone at the office

helped me feel valued as a part of the team. I felt I was trusted to work independently and encouraged to step in to take on more work or to give my own input when possible.

My favorite webinar hosted this summer featured the prominent Venezuelan jurist and former politician, Dr. Asdrubal Aguiar. The most valuable return I hoped to gain from working with the IAPA was a broadened perspective and greater understanding of the freedoms of expression and of the press. Dr. Aguiar gave an extremely in-depth presentation on how fundamental the freedom of the press is to democracy, and his presentation included the IAPA's involvement in promoting this principle with the creation of the Declaration of Chapultepec. I was able to take great notes and was allowed to keep Dr. Aguiar's script. An article about the webinar was even featured in a Venezuelan newspaper, EL IMPULSO. Dr. Aguiar's presentation taught me even more about the crucial role the IAPA plays in defending and advocating for press freedoms, not only as it is doing in Venezuela, but also in all the Americas and especially in Argentina and Mexico where these freedoms are challenged every day. Working for the IAPA this summer was an invaluable experience and provided me the ideal opportunity to work firsthand in promoting democratic principles.