

Moving Ahead: My exploration stage

There were many times when I would arrive at the Nyack College campus in Manhattan when Brad, the radio station manager, would ask me how I felt about being there and I would always repeat the same thing: "*I don't know, it's a little unreal for me, I never imagined I would be doing a radio show from New York*", and that to this day is the feeling I have.

My time as an intern at the radio station has been a rich experience that has given me a lot of new knowledge and skills; Being a person coming from Latin America, who has a first language other than English, I was facing problems such as nervousness, stuttering, grammatical errors and more in the beginning of the internship which brought me frustration, fear and even a lot of desire to throw in the towel and that's why my first times going to the internship were purely anxiety, but I had people like Brad and my other fellow interns who helped me to continue and not give up until today, and it is amazing to see back, reading my writings in the journal when my biggest problem was to make the outline of the week while now it is one of the things that I like to do more because it comes out of me very naturally as if I was writing in my cell phone notes, and now I enjoy going every week to do what I like to do.

As I said, within the internship I discovered new knowledge and skills, but I was also able to develop previous strengths that I had, for example, creativity and knowledge

of advertising, because making the flyers to promote the show each week were largely the cause of the impact of my show on the audience and I think, the reason why many came to tune in to the radio; not only that, I feel that this experience also allowed me to discover the capacity I have to adapt and work under stress, I say this because many times I was involved in technical problems that happened while I was on the air, problems that at the beginning were totally solved by Brad, but that through the weeks were solved by me in a very calm and natural way.

I never expected that I would have to reinvent myself in every aspect, because I realized that this internship was not about me, it was about the audience and making them happy, that's why I had to direct everything towards the purpose of making a flawless and enjoyable show for people, by this I mean for example that I never expected all the information I would have to look for in order to have relevant information in my shows, or I never expected that things that seem so insignificant as flyers in the end would have so much importance to generate web traffic, or I never expected that I myself would have an improvement in my speaking just by doing the show every week.

In general, I would say that each of the challenges I have had to go through have challenged me to try to be better in my other aspects in life, both the technical problems I was going through that led me to work under pressure and the making of the outlines each week that helped me to enhance creativity and be more objective with my information; and I feel that Brad played a special role in that, every week besides telling

me my strengths and weaknesses he always encouraged me to improve and taught me how to do it, from the beginning he was always there to show me the smallest details like turning on the microphone to the biggest ones like the use of the console, that is why I really appreciate his leadership with me until today, in which he still encourages me to document what I do on a daily basis so that when it comes time to think about the topic of the next show it comes very naturally from some previous experience I have had; With him I have been able to learn to be more organized since I had to send him the songs at least a day before my internship so that they would be aired at the right time and also to be natural because if you are natural, the audience connects more with you.

One of the things that was hardest for me was to receive feedback, not only from Brad, but also from my audience, and although it was always constructive, at the beginning it caused me more stress because most of it had to do with my nervousness when speaking in English and therefore my grammatical mistakes and stuttering, but as time went on I understood that part of learning and becoming better is making mistakes in the process, so if I made a mistake, I would quickly fix it or take a break to start over, which made it feel more natural and over time made both Brad and my audience congratulate me on my progress.

As for my other fellow interns, I would have liked to get to know them more, unfortunately I only got to meet one of them, Julie, who I found to be a nice and genuine person and after meeting her I started listening to all of her shows, which I really enjoyed

because of her natural way of speaking and expressing herself. If there had been more opportunities to work together, I wouldn't have turned down the offer and maybe worked at least one show with each of them to have the challenge of working with another person with the same goal. In this aspect, I didn't get to complete my expectations because I thought it was going to be a joint work with my other colleagues and I would have really wanted to explore a bigger way of working, also I would have liked to have more tasks to do, maybe the management of social networks in which I had many ideas for a better engagement or working together with other areas of the university for a mutual benefit, but even without that, the experience was very rewarding.

Definitely if I had the opportunity to live this experience again, I would do it, and I would try to correct my mistakes, frustrations, and stress to bring them to the point where I am today, naturalness and objectivity. Having gone through this internship will always remind me of the challenges I had to go through but that I achieved with excellence and the next time I find myself going through the same problems will not be so bad because I know that with a little effort it will have very good results.