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September 1, 2012

Summary of My Internship at WNC Magazine

For twelve weeks this summer, I worked at WNC Magazine, a regional lifestyle magazine that editorially covers the western twenty-four counties of North Carolina. The Asheville-based publication highlights the people, places, and happenings in this region of the state in nine issues a year. I was one of three editorial interns for the magazine, under the supervision of Melissa Reardon, the managing editor. Many tasks we divided three ways, like writing the events calendar and keeping up-to-date on what was happening in the surrounding counties. Additionally, we all had unique projects. Due to my arts background, I was given the task of searching through county arts councils’ and galleries’ websites for local artists to be added to a list we kept, from which two artists an issue were selected to be featured. I was also given the chance to cover performances for our online arts blog. All the interns helped to edit articles and to write pieces of various lengths for the magazine. In the three issues with which I was involved, July through September, I wrote a front-of-book article in each, as well as many short items such as photo captions and product descriptions. On top of this, I learned many practical points of journalism, such as how to pitch an article, how to use the software program InDesign, and how public relations is a part of every journalist’s day.

On the last day of my internship, Ms. Reardon and the editor-in-chief, Rita Larkin, asked if I would like to continue to write for the magazine, on a paid freelance basis. I readily agreed and so am now a professional writer. Freelancing could become more, as it did for Ms. Reardon who was a freelancer before she took her current position with WNC. Regardless, it means that my career as a journalist has begun, which was an incredible end to my summer.