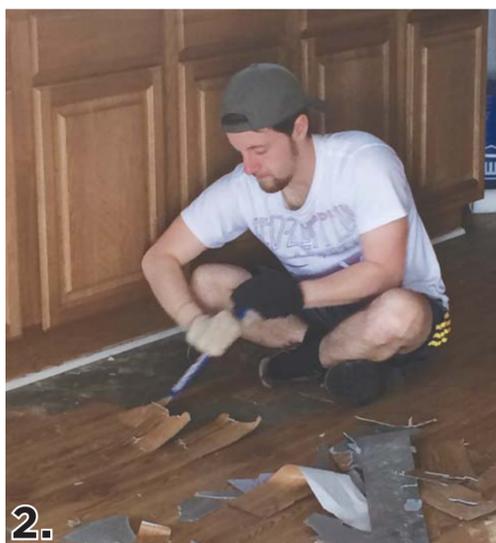




STUDENTS SERVE DURING BREAK

BY KATEY STOETZEL AND JENNA HOLZER
Assistant Features Editor and TMN Reporter

During break, students served projects ranging from the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge to volunteering for Mission Year, a program geared toward helping inner city neighborhoods.



1. During break, students from the Newman Center traveled to Chicago, Ill., as volunteers for an organization called Mission Year — a program geared toward helping inner city neighborhoods.

2. Sophomore Conor Irwin removes old floor at a remodeling project site.

3. Seniors Anna Price (left) and Katherine Maxwell (right) caulk seams in a door frame.

4. Senior Nathan Aden works on coping shoe molding.

5. Truman State's Habitat for Humanity club went to Louisiana for the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge.

Submitted Photos



Industry pros give career advice

During the final days of midterm break, two TMN staffers traveled to the Big Apple to learn more about the craft of journalism from leading industry professionals.

TMN TV producer Amber Draper and I attended the Spring National College Media Convention in New York City, also called NYC15. The event featured speakers from broadcast networks and print publications such as ABC News, CBS, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, as well as representatives for online sites and applications including Tumblr, BuzzFeed and Yik Yak.

Presenters discussed specific aspects of the media industry during their sessions, offering an in-depth look at topics ranging from shooting b-roll footage to journalism ethics.



Bethany Boyle
News Editor

1) Don't be afraid to reach out.

Take advantage of opportunities by introducing yourself to professionals in your field. At the CMA conference each presenter was available to chat with attendees after their sessions, which was a perfect time to talk one-on-one about anything mentioned during the session. But surprisingly, few students

engaged the session leaders. Presenters also gave out contact information, and most expressed a willingness to correspond with students and do résumé critiques. Take advantage of these opportunities. You never know what doors could be opened even through brief correspondence.

2) Ask meaningful questions.

Listen carefully and stay tuned-in when speaking to professionals, and ask thoughtful questions. It may seem like a no-brainer, but when presenting to someone else, people tend to leave out basic information about the underlying process of their work because they are so familiar with it, it didn't occur to them to explain. For example, during a freelance workshop, many students asked about whether or not their work would be accepted, if the presenter, a New York Times staffer, liked staff writing or freelance better, etc. Then one student asked about the process he goes through to choose an article topic and a publication. The presenter appreciated the question and was able to give helpful feedback.

3) Get their business card.

This may also seem like a given, but sometimes it can be easy to forget in the moment. Don't leave any interaction at a job fair, an interview or a conference without getting the business card of the person with whom you spoke or interviewed. It will save you the time and effort later of locating contact info and give you a leg-up on remembering the names of relevant people you've talked to.

4) Connect with alumni.

Many people retain a pride and desire for continued connection to their university long after walking across the stage to receive a diploma. When professors and advisers organize events with former students, be present and be sure to connect with these individuals. They often are eager to talk with current students and they are willing to help when it comes to resumes, professional advice and sometimes even internship and job hunting.

5) Set goals, but be flexible.

One of the most common themes in the stories of the media professionals at NYC15 was that finding your career path is an ongoing process, not a finish line — especially in the fast-paced media industry. Most of the presenters mentioned that they ended up doing something they never imagined when entering the workforce. Some reporters became editors, some editors turned to work as columnists and some left their staffed positions to pursue freelance work. There is no telling what opportunities might arise during your career. Make goals and work toward achieving them, but keep an eye open for opportunities to branch out. The worst thing that could happen would be not fitting well in a new position. So get out there, work hard, build connections and take chances. Before you know it, you'll be the alumni speaking at a conference offering résumé critiques.