

Senior Internship Spotlights

by Ally Mejia

As a senior at Manhattan College, Gabriella DePinho has definitely made a lasting impression in her past four years of attendance. Her roles as Editor-in-Chief of *The Quadrangle*, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Manhattan Magazine*, and former Vice President of Players, MC's theater group, are only a few of the involvements she has on campus.

DePinho says her passion for writing sparked her freshman year when she was one of the five recipients in her class to receive The Quadrangle scholarship.

"I've been a member of The Quad since freshman year and I just fell in love with it," DePinho said.

Her love for *The Quadrangle* encouraged her to change her major from psychology to a double major in English and Communication with a concentration in Journalism.

DePinho's interest in writing eventually led her to apply for journalism internships on LinkedIn, where she later received her paid internship opportunity at *The New York Daily News* during the summer of 2020. DePinho's formal title was the Metro Desk Intern but she stated that the more accurate intern title was "runner" because she had to "run" all around New York City to cover the city news.

DePinho was one of the few students to receive an internship during the COVID-19 pandemic that was *not* remote. Her daily routine consisted of commuting into the city from Rockland County, New York, Sunday to Thursday, wearing a mask and carrying hand sanitizer.

"Sometimes I would be driving to a scene of a crime trying to find witnesses, other times I'd be going to a victim's or suspect's address looking for any family or friends, other times I'd go to the airport and talk to people coming back from COVID-19 hotspots," DePinho said. "So it was very much on the ground work."

DePinho describes travelling through all five boroughs along with Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. After completing her interviews for the day she would send back notes and photos to the office.

Gabriella DePinho '21





DePinho notes how her communication classes helped set her up for success at the Daily News.

“Intro to Reporting and Newswriting definitely gave me a good foundation for this internship,” DePinho said.

DePinho encourages students who are interested in *The New York Daily News* and similar organizations to apply for a position and give it their all. She advises that students interested in journalism should join *The Quadrangle* to gain experience of working in a real newsroom.

“One, I’d say even if you don’t think you’re qualified, you should apply,” DePinho said. “Two, fake it until you make it... I didn’t think I was cut out for [the internship], definitely for about the first two weeks. But I just had to keep showing up and trying my best and eventually I figured it out... Lastly, if you land an internship anything like the one I had, just get used to being outside of your comfort zone. A lot of my job was just doing the uncomfortable thing... stuff like that that made me so incredibly nervous but in the end, paid off.”

Madison Smith '21

Senior communication major Madison Smith is highly involved on campus to say the least. As president of Manhattan College’s Public Relations Student Society of America, vice president of scholarship & career development at Sigma Delta Tau, publicity chair of Lambda Pi Eta, peer career advisor at the Center for Career Development, and editorial intern in the Marketing and Communication Department, she goes above and beyond to demonstrate her communication skills and capabilities in every position she holds. Even with her high involvement in multiple aspects on campus, the pandemic did not prevent Smith from searching for remote internship opportunities. Through the Center for Career Development, Smith applied for and received the opportunity to intern at *The Dr. Oz Show* as a publicity intern this past summer.

Her daily tasks at *The Dr. Oz Show* revolved around assisting the publicity department with promotion and public relations tasks for the show.

“I typically started the day with doing a media scan for press coverage of Dr. Oz and the show, and compiled them into a press clippings document,” Smith said. “Later



lists and press blasts, to pulling clips for press blasts and tune ins, and also assisting with assorted research. I also assisted with transcribing clips and writing transcriptions for Dr. Oz's Cameo clips."

Smith also mentioned the positive impact her communication courses had on her success at *The Dr. Oz Show*. Specifically, the Writing for Public Relations class.

"Writing for Public Relations definitely came to be extremely helpful, as I had a background in writing PR documents, such as press releases, from the class, and I understood the type of language [and] format of writing that is needed in public relations documents," Smith said.

With all of Smith's experience on and off-campus, the advice she has for communication students includes taking advantage of all of the opportunities offered through the Center for Career Development and the Communication Department.

"Both departments often send emails with internship opportunities, and it's very important to be paying attention to those emails and applying for as many opportunities as you can," Smith said. "Make sure to prepare well for your interview... definitely don't be nervous to 'show off' your PR skills and go into detail about experiences you've had— employers love to hear that."



Aedan Roney '21

Aedan Roney, a senior communication major with a concentration in media production and a minor in film studies is one of the few communication students to complete a highly competitive internship at *The Daily Show*. Along with completing this internship, Roney has held multiple positions on campus, such as the president of Scatterbomb, Manhattan College's improv group; the training director of WRCM, Manhattan College's radio station; and a resident assistant of Jasper Hall, one of the dorms at the college. His involvement and experience in media production greatly contributed to his paid internship opportunity at *The Daily Show* as a general production intern.

Roney describes how his day-to-day tasks varied because each day was tailored to serving the show in a certain way. However, some routine tasks of his included: stand-in work, production assistant work, footage vlogging, picking up props and costumes, working in accounting and even standing in as an extra for some of the episodes. While his role as a general production intern was greatly affected by the pandemic, fortunately, Roney was still able to participate in weekly Zoom meetings to ask the heads of departments different questions. He finds that communication classes at Manhattan College helped prepare him for his internship experience.

"Production courses taught me many of the skills and lingo that was useful at my internship," Roney said.

Roney is very thankful for the opportunities he's had at Manhattan College and he encourages other students to get involved on campus.

"Take advantage of the resources Manhattan College offers," Roney said. "It can allow you to gain experience on campus to put on your resume. Make sure your cover letter is strong. But most importantly, put yourself out there because you're not going to get what you don't apply for."