

the comm-unity newsletter

MC Student Angelica Niedermeyer Published in U.S. News & World Report

by **Caroline Bart**

This past summer 2023, junior communication major Angelica Niedermeyer was able to travel to Thailand with *The New York Times* to work on specific areas of environmental reporting. After hearing about the opportunity from her Advanced Journalism

professor, Nick Gilewicz, Niedermeyer was accepted to participate in the trip, and wrote an article entitled “Thailand’s Tourism Rebound Puts Elephant Abuse in the Spotlight,” which was published in *U.S. News and World Report* in November 2022.

“I went with a bunch of kids I’ve never met before from Minnesota, which was really cool and an interesting opportunity,” Niedermeyer said. “I definitely had wished more Manhattan College kids came because it was an awesome trip.”

Although the trip was technically a class led by a teacher, she



described it as more of a project headed by mentors.

“They kind of ... expected you to be professional when they were sending you out on this mission to cover a story,” Niedermeyer said. “I wouldn’t even call them teachers, they were really just like mentors who helped you but also gave you guidance.”

“They had told us to do as much reporting as you can while you’re there and then write it when you get home but of course ... I started writing it there and I wanted to just do as much work as I could so I had it written in June,” she said.

Niedermeyer worked with the foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*, Richard Paddock, who helped her with reporting.

“He was super helpful, just with journalism in another country, and just AP style in general,” she said.

While in Thailand, students were tasked with writing about the effects of tourism on captive animals post-COVID.

“I picked elephants because that was my favorite animal, and I feel like people think it’s normal to ride elephants,” she said. “But it’s not, and I could kind of talk about that in my article and what I learned from the different places we went to [in Thailand].”

Niedermeyer mentioned what a long journey it was on the road to being published.

“They had told us to do as much reporting as you can while you’re there and then write it when you get home but of course... I started writing it there and I wanted to just do as much work as I could so I had it written in June,” she said. “But it was not until November last year, this fall, that *U.S News and World Report* took it.”

Niedermeyer mentioned what it was like to finally get the confirmation that her article was being published. “It was cool to finally get the email from the *U.S. News* editor saying when it was coming out. That was kind of crazy because I had always been getting updates. Obviously finding out they were interested was insane as well, but just like finding out it’ll be on the website at this time was like, ‘Oh my God!’”

When talking about the influence of the MC journalism classes, Neidermeyer mentioned that journalism professor Nicholas Gilewicz, Ph.D. helped her get here.

“I was the only person on this trip who was a journalism concentration or who had ever taken a journalism class so I definitely took that opportunity with my preparedness and just ran with it because I wanted to make the most of it... so thanks, Nick Gilewicz!”

Make sure to check out Neidermeyer’s article on elephant abuse in Thailand on [U.S. News and World Report’s website!](#) ★

