Employer Spotlight: Cecile Krimm of Journal Publishing
Edited by Emily Pritchard

What is Journal Publishing and where are you based?

“Journal Publishing operates two weekly newspapers in the Bakken Oil Field, one serving the greater Crosby, ND area and one serving the Tioga-Ray area. Our current intern is stationed at the Tioga Tribune, working with one other news gatherer in what is one of the busiest parts of a widespread oil boom region in North Dakota.”

What is your position at Journal Publishing and how long have you been there?

“I became the publisher and owner in 2012. Prior to that, I was the news editor of The Journal for 13 years.”

How does having a UM student intern help your company?

“We have always tried to have interns as a way of supporting our primary newsgatherers at each of our papers and also to become acquainted with possible future employees. With the oil boom, however, this is even more essential. Though there is more news than ever to cover and costs are skyrocketing for any business in the region, our income doesn’t necessarily go up accordingly. It would be impossible to have two full time news gatherers on the payroll year round, even though there is plenty of work for two to do. Having an intern allows us to cover more ground at a reasonable rate of pay while also providing an intern with a hands-on real world immersion into the field of journalism. We treat our interns like any other staff member, give them responsibility like any other staff member and hold them to the same standards of accountability.”

Briefly describe the typical work schedule for an intern.

“We ask for a full time 40-hour per week commitment since the intern is fully immersed in the community and housing (which we pay for) is quite expensive and hard to come by. Some overtime occurs, but we try to compensate for that within each pay period.”

What are some of the projects your current intern, Madelyn Beck, has been working on?

“Madelyn has covered a number of big feature stories, including one for a special publication marking an oil production milestone. For that, she interviewed a lady who participated in the first ever “Miss Oil Country” pageant. She has also done a number of hard-hitting pieces about the impact of
Describe some of the unique aspects related to working in a region as dynamic as the Bakken Oil Field. What type of stories do you cover?

“The oil industry is notoriously close-mouthed about itself. It can be frustrating to navigate the red tape associated with getting any comments on the record from a major company. Madelyn has excelled at this.”

“Sometimes it feels like “all oil field, all the time” but we also have unique history and culture here, related to the homestead era, modern day rodeos and the usual community celebrations.”

Are there opportunities for interns to participate in the growth of your company?

“When openings arise at either of our newspapers, we look to interns first to see if there is an interest in returning to work with us on a full time basis.”

Is there anything else a student should know about interning with Journal Publishing?

“This is the place to come if you are looking to figure out whether the joys and stresses of full-time newsgathering are for you. This is a real world work situation in which people rely on your productivity, not a place to park yourself and have fun.”

How often do you hire interns a year and when do you start looking?

“We start looking for interns each year in February, to work a minimum of 10 weeks in the summer. We would be open to having interns more often, but the availability of housing pretty much precludes being able to place someone more often than that.”

Where can students go for more information?

“Visit our website, journaltrib.com or contact cecilew@crosbynd.com about future intern opportunities.”

Final thoughts?

“I think it’s essential that we offer interns a real-world experience. We’re rarely disappointed for having given interns the responsibility to deliver essential stories.”