2015

Crowdsourcing the Worlds, Blog 8

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‘Final’ thoughts

My first ‘final thought’ is that there is no way these will be near my final thoughts at all. Parts of this experience- like all experiences- will come alive in my thoughts often. I learned things doing social for the RTD about my abilities and have already transfered them to my similar position at which I am employed.

To talk about the actual class and classwork- I liked it. Things were a little freeform, but I still enjoyed it. It reminded me immensely of writing professionally. Things are just fluid and moving really quickly until all of a sudden there’s a due date and wow it’s concrete and it’s in front of you and it’s finished!

This course felt like it was over before it even began for me. Same holds true for my time at the RTD. I felt like the whole thing may not of taught me new skills, it honed ones I already had. The skills I had were taken and sharpened into a toolkit. And I’m going to use that to take on the world.

No Comments

filed under: Updates

Storify this...
My time (and everyone's) at the races

Things started bright and early on the first day (which was a practice day for both cyclists and myself) for me. I began tweeting for the @RTDSports account. We settled in on a schedule of once every 15 minutes during the day (about 9am to 6pm) or 2pm to 5pm and also every half hour overnight from 2am to 6am. (during morning time in Europe, mostly targeting Britain) It was hectic but I got used to it pretty quickly.
I know it's not much—and it's about as dry as day old honey cake—but this traffic recap is my first byline for a paper only appeared online. So to me, it deserves a place in any collection of my time during the worlds.

During the first few days of work at the RTD, employees needed to help get me into the newsroom had quite the trouble getting to the office to let me in. Much like the races themselves, there were some kinks to work out.

This is one of the first stories that REAL research I did while doing social media came to fruition. This story was published and everything! I contributed research and knowledge of things as they were happening to make sure we could get there first.
I was never more excited for my fellow interns than when I came into the newsroom Monday morning and found on the front page of the RTD, it essentially was the front page of the RTD above the fold. It sort of proved to me that what I was doing was very real.

This is the coolest news tip I found: Essentially the UCI organization created an award that would probably eventually go to Team USA. I found it and wrote it up as quickly as possible. It was later published in print and I’m proud of both versions of the story, I one here.

This up here is the only REAL thing I wrote, not a brief, not a recap. I wrote an article for a paper of record and that is it! I’m still excited about it.
Social media during the event was amazing- it was like I was on the race course the entire time. This was probably race.

During the time from Saturday to Wednesday, I probably saw every tweet with #Richmond2015 attached. The mic big social media backlash was happening regarding local businesses and their role during the race. It is best encap
...this video by Samantha, another fellow intern at RTD. I think people were better off by the end of the race, but the effects won’t be known for years...

I had left the RTD and went back to my normal work at this point, keeping up with the races through TV coverage like as I left, the rain began.

I just rode the RR course. I can report that’s its a much easier ride when you’re inside a luxury automobile #brutalcourse #Richmond2015
Louis Lovio, who was the RTD’s beat reporter on the UCI Worlds, was a pleasure to work with. Having him as a res-MANY MANY people in the RTD newsroom)
I wasn’t sure how to make this interesting, but I honestly hope I did.

Students walk through a brick walkway on the VCU campus, headed about their day.
Students walking by have become accustomed to the disruptions the renovations of James Branch Cabell Library have brought to the center of the VCU campus.
Large holes, their purpose a mystery, exist in parts of the upcoming library expansion.
Students utilize bicycles to move to and from campus at a quicker pace. It is unclear how the upcoming UCI Road World Championships will affect casual riders.
Tyler Conrad, the manager of Break Point in the VCU Student Commons, looks up from a quick snack for a portrait.
Hibbs Hall was built in the 1950s as the first new space for academic instruction on the VCU campus.
Cassandra Hudson stops for a portrait on the way home from class.
Dustin Reinink hides from the camera following a particularly awful pun from the photographer.
Hello, I’m Ben Weiner, I hope you’re ready to learn some fun facts. Strap in!

I’m studying Broadcast Journalism and Political Science in school, but defining myself by major is a little limiting. Outside of the university, I spend my time helping to run a small record label named Running Around Records. That takes up most of my time I’m not working my jobs, one in retail and the other in communications.

I signed up for this course because I was selected by Robertson school faculty to help the RTD cover the UCI Worlds Bike Race in September. I am happy to be along for the ride.

I don’t know if I would call myself a cyclist, but I own a bicycle and I use it, on occasion, to get around from place to place in the city. It is a somewhat convenient option, but not really a hobby.

Now my social media platforms? That’s a big one. I’m probably most active on Twitter, followed by Tumblr, then Facebook. All personally. I also have an Instagram but I am not very active on it.

The only other thing I really use as a social network (and its debatable if it is one) is YouTube. Beyond that, I use Pinterest and Flickr at one of my places of work.

Let’s see where this goes, ride on.