LACIS Internship Grant report  
Jacob Kushner  
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The LACIS summer internship grant has been a tremendous help to me as I begin my career in international freelance journalism. From June to August I familiarized myself with the equipment and software that I purchased through the grant, and I began work on my first project: A feature about a Haitian Jazz drummer who, displaced by the earthquake, moved to the Dominican Republic to make money and introduce Jazz there. That feature was eventually published in Jazz Times magazine, along with a feature on Jazz in post-earthquake Haiti. Both included audio recorded on equipment purchased from the LACIS grant and edited on Adobe software purchased from the grant. I’ve also created and maintained a website where I showcase my work: http://twonationsnews.com

Those first stories were noticed by some key people in the journalism sphere, as was a video I produced about a storm that hit Haiti in September (also using LACIS funded equipment). The more work I did, the more attention I received, to the point that three months after beginning international freelance journalism, my writing and multimedia journalism has been published in the Associated Press, Global Post, Newsweek, AFP (wire service), World Pulse Magazine, Jazz Times magazine, 90:00 Soccer magazine, and a story will soon appear in Foreign Policy magazine as well. None of this would have been possible without the software and equipment paid for by the LACIS grant.

Aside from my early career success, I’ve learned a lot personally though the process of doing this multimedia journalism. This summer I practiced with the equipment while working as a research assistant to the UW-sponsored study abroad program in the Dominican Republic. While helping students develop their research, I began to visualize their academic work and think about how to convey their findings in a more accessible way to a general audience. That experience will serve me in future attempts to turn stiff academic writing into vivid storytelling through multimedia journalism.

Above all, the journalistic success I achieved using equipment purchased through the LACIS grant has encouraged me to continue to advance my career in international journalism. I feel confident enough in my abilities and in the connections I’ve made to media editors to continue doing work that I’ve come to love. For that, I thank the LACIS department for its generosity in financing my post-graduate endeavors. Not only the equipment and software, but more importantly the experiences and self-confidence I gained through using them, will continue to aid me long into my career.

Highlights of the work completed using LACIS funded equipment and software:

**Newsweek Magazine online video** about education in Haiti: (Adobe software, flip camera, tripod, Zoom H4N audio recorder)

**Jazz Times Magazine audio** for Jazz in Haiti and the Dominican Republic features: (Zoom H4N audio recorder)
Haiti Storm Video, which got noticed and lead me to video work for the Associated Press, Newsweek and AFP wire service (Adobe software, Flip camera, tripod, Zoom H4N audio recorder):

With Gratitude,

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LACIS class of 2010
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