LACIS Summer Internship:

Writing for a magazine in Spanish, which is not my native language, was a double challenge. Not only did I have all the responsibilities that any intern at a magazine would have in the U.S., but I did it all in my second language. However, for me, that extra difficulty made my internship richer, more valuable, and especially pertinent for my future aspirations.

I spent the summer in Buenos Aires writing for the trilingual magazine “LivinginArgentina.com,” responsible for writing three articles a week. The topics were often related to well-known, yet non-touristy things in Argentina, such as neighborhoods, buildings, Nobel prize winners, and tango artists. Since the magazine was not for tourists, but rather foreigners actually living in Buenos Aires, the articles were meant to acquaint these expatriates with common Argentine knowledge not often found in a travel book.

I was not given much initial guidance and the loose structure was a little unnerving at first. My editor was very open to questions, but she gave me topics and expected me to hit the streets, interview natives, and write creative articles. This was perfect to get to know the city and make connections with Argentine people.

I wrote originally in Spanish and translated to English to allow for the greatest possibility of having a voice in Spanish. Every Friday, my editor and I sat down at her house and polished my writing, making very noticeable progress from June to August. This was also an opportunity for me to ask questions about the country, the unique politics, which constantly were causing demonstrations and strikes, as well as any doubts about the language. This was particularly beneficial for me because not only did I make
invaluable connections in Buenos Aires, but I also vastly improved my Spanish writing and gained valuable confidence in bilingual Journalism.

Everyday was profoundly different because I was always focusing on new topics. Some days were spent researching in the abundant bookstores in Buenos Aires while other days were utilized for interviewing, compiling notes, and writing. However, I was still left with plenty of time for exploring the city, going to the gym, traveling about the country, and adoring the attractive Argentine men.

The program that I went through was called “Americas Journalism Training.” They provided me with some Spanish classes, hooked me up with the internship and found me a place to live. This program is ideal for Spanish students interested in using their language skills to work in mass media; there were also opportunities for marketing students. Buenos Aires is a dynamic, interesting city and is well worth visiting.