

# MEGAN CARD

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Mr. Lucas Grundmeier  
Evening Breaking News Editor  
*The Des Moines Register*  
P.O. Box 957  
Des Moines, IA 50306-0957

Dear Mr. Grundmeier:

It's a Friday night, and I'm sitting in a dimly lit room next to a man who goes by the name "Jun Bug." I watch him take an extended drag from the mouthpiece of his hookah pipe, and consent to letting him breathe the smoke in my direction to get a whiff of its "Sex on the Beach" smell. As Jun Bug relays to me in great detail his life growing up on the streets in Oakland, how both of his brothers had been "shot dead" by the cops and why his hairstyle of choice is a rattail, I am ferociously taking notes, and thinking: Wow, this is my job.

Journalism, to me, is about finding the story in the most unusual of circumstances — like the back room of a hookah lounge.

In the seven years I've been working for newspapers in some capacity, I've realized that as journalists, it is not about us. It is about being there — to report the facts, capture the emotion and meet your deadline. As an intern, this is the kind of understanding, persistence and experience I can offer *The Des Moines Register*. I am therefore submitting my resume in consideration for a 2014 summer reporting internship.

After completing a 10-week internship with the *Argus Leader*, South Dakota's largest daily newspaper, last summer, I am seeking to align myself with another Gannett organization that focuses on not just producing quality articles, but quality journalists. One of the best pieces of journalism I have read all year was Jason Noble's Sunday clips on the classification of "juvenile" in missing-person cases, and I would like nothing more than to work for a media outlet that works to publish this kind of content, and prides itself on the accountability of its reporting.

Even though I am young, I have been exposed to a wide array of experience when it comes to news coverage. As a teenager working for a local weekly newspaper, I worked largely on enterprise pieces and city features. At *The Volante*, I have worked in beat reporting, photography, multimedia and online content management. And the experience I gained at the *Argus Leader* and *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead* exposed me to the constant workload of a daily newspaper, covering breaking news and the pressure of brainstorming stories on a daily basis. Along with the skills I have gained as a full-time journalism student at USD, I am more than eager to tackle any story or multiplatform project that comes my way.

Not only do I have a strong desire to excel in journalism, but I also have the common sense to know that I will never stop learning in this business. I am ready and invested in becoming a career journalist, and I am prepared to meet your expectations from day one.

Please let me know if you have any further inquiries, and thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Megan Card