

## **Pinch me, I must be dreaming: my visit to the New York Times**

Sunlight filtered through glass walls onto crisp wood paneling without flashy ornament-- not so much cold or intentionally modern as no-nonsense and functional. If it weren't for the serif font reading "The New York Times" emblazoned above the entryway, you might never know this was the lobby for one of the most prestigious newspapers in the world.

As an aspiring journalist, I was more than a little excited about our site visit to the NYT. Now, I felt a rush of nerves pulse through me as we waited by the elevators.

We were greeted by Diana Henriques, a GW trustee and veteran NYT journalist. She ushered us up to a similarly understated conference room where we were joined by Business Editor Dean Murphy.

There was never a point during the entire visit when I felt insignificant or talked down to. Our hosts were incredibly straightforward and seemed genuinely interested in tailoring the conversation to our needs. To be fair, this was true of all the sites we visited, but I was especially impressed to see that coming from such a long-established media giant.

I'll be the first to admit that I lean towards careers in public radio. But after this visit, I have to admit that working for the NYT would be pretty incredible. Potential to work on podcasts? Check. Chicago bureau? Check. Strong journalistic integrity and a proven dedication to long-form storytelling and investigative work? Double check, bold and underlined.

I can't say with certainty that I'll end up there (or that they'd even take me). I'm not sure where I'll be working in 10 months, let alone 10 years and writing for the NYT is certainly no entry level job. But for what it's worth, the visit pushed me to consider a broader range of companies and mediums than I had previously.

Check that one off the life experiences column.