I think my year in photojournalism can be described in one word: Impact. Whether it's making personal impact by taking every possible opportunity to further my own skills such as travelling nationwide to photograph pro sports games or creating that sort of special impact that comes from spending one-on-one time with another photo-j student to help them grasp what they need to complete the assignment. Or creating true social impact with the images I shared from the Stockley Verdict and the March for Our Lives.

This was also the year that I took on the role of Chief Photo Editor and led a group of thirty students to honing in on their photography skills. We faced challenges in the beginning and even in the end too but in the face of adversity the team was nothing less than resilient and were always wanting to try again. Many 18-hour days spent in the journalism wing led me to develop my understanding of what it means to not only be a leader but what it truly means to be a photojournalist.

To describe what it means to be a photojournalist, I'd like to reflect back on a phone call I had earlier this year, it was with Doug Mills, a current New York Times Photojournalist (formerly with AP). Before I hung up the phone that day I asked him "Does that feeling that you just know you have the shot, does that ever go away?" and he answered "No". From then on that is the feeling I have lived for, that rush of adrenaline in the midst of the moment but then that sudden wave of clam that just translates into an overjoyed feeling of knowing that you accomplished what you strived for, and that you succeed.

So when I go back in the fall I hope that I can not only continue to further my photographers' skills but give them the true feeling of what it means to be a photojournalist.