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Pace 9/11 Oral History Project

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Pace 9/11 Oral History Project

Thinkfinity Cornerstone 2 Community Outreach and Empowerment

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June 1, 2011

Mid-Project Report

A) Original Goals:

This project proposal made to "Cornerstone 2 Community Outreach and Empowerment through Service Learning and Volunteerism seeks to support Pace University's developing leadership role in shaping technology and learning at the college level" by **a)** converting 98 audio cassette interviews to digital format; **b)** converting transcriptions that exist only in text form to digital files; **c)** converting student reflective journals that exist only in text form to digital files; **d)** proofreading the audio tapes with the student transcripts and making any necessary corrections to ensure the most accurate transcription is available in digital form; **e)** developing in consultation with Pace in-house technical staff a well-designed site for this project for deposit in the *Pace Digital Commons;* **f)** developing in the University Archives a virtual exhibit of related Pace 9/11 materials that will complement the *Pace 9/11Oral History Project* repository in the *Pace Digital Commons*; **g)** making available 9/11 testimony and related materials for dissemination to the university, the Lower Manhattan community and beyond for the upcoming 10th anniversary commemoration of the catastrophe.

B) Progress made toward original goals on project to date:

The project has made good, steady progress on goals "**a**" through "**f**" that will culminate in goal "**g**" making 9/11 materials and testimony available for dissemination for the tenth anniversary of 9/11 on September 11, 2011. For the 2006 course, the two student interns have inventoried and converted to digital format all of the 2006 interviews (38 in total), converted all of the 38 text transcriptions to digital format, converted all 2006 student journals to digital format and are in the process of proofreading and making any necessary corrections to the student-generated text transcripts by listening and comparing them to the

original audio recordings. Under the oversight of Professor Jennifer Thomas, her web design class CIS 102 designed a web site for the Pace 9/11 Oral History project. Under the oversight of Archivist Ellen Sowchek, these students also began to digitalize historic photographs, Pace Press newspaper articles and Pace-related 9/11 ephemera drawn from the Pace Archives.

Given the labor intensive nature of this process that is very time consuming, a portion of the 9/11 interviews will be ready by September 11, 2011; completion of the remainder is planned to take place in the months following through December 31, 2011.

C) Project impact on students:

The two student interns and the approximately 22 web design students who were children when the 9/11 attacks occurred acquired more in-depth knowledge about the 9/11 attacks in Lower Manhattan and the experience of Pace University during and after the attacks. The two student interns also have learned about oral history methodology and digitalization. All have acquired knowledge about the challenges of web design and producing the best possible design outcomes to feature the archival materials entrusted to this purpose.

D) Project Impact on other faculty members:

N/A to date

E) Next Steps:

The two student interns will continue their work and have been joined by an AmeriCorps educational intern who was a member of the CIS 102 web design class. Viewing the tenth anniversary of 9/11 as a critical deadline, the students are working steadily and intensely to have the website, a significant portion of the oral history interviews and all of the Pace archival historical materials ready for public presentation by September 11, 2011. Once the website is made available, the students will continue converting and proofreading the remaining oral histories through December 31st, 2011.