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My graduate assistantships have played a very vital role in my graduate education. Research can be a very isolating experience, especially when conducting historic and critical research about race and sports. Often, you are unsure of the impact your academic work might have in changing the actions and attitudes of future journalists. My assistantships have helped me connect with students and engage them in serious yet fulfilling discussions about social issues revolving around my interests. My time in the classroom has kept me energized, and has confirmed that my future is in academia, both as a researcher and as an instructor who can shape a future generation of journalists.

Outside the classroom, the assistantships have also helped me build stronger relationships with faculty in this college, especially those who do not conduct academic research and therefore would otherwise have little contact with graduate students. By working under and observing these professors, I have become a stronger instructor in my current graduate assistantship.