

Fall 10-1-2000

M.A. Jour

Columbia College Chicago

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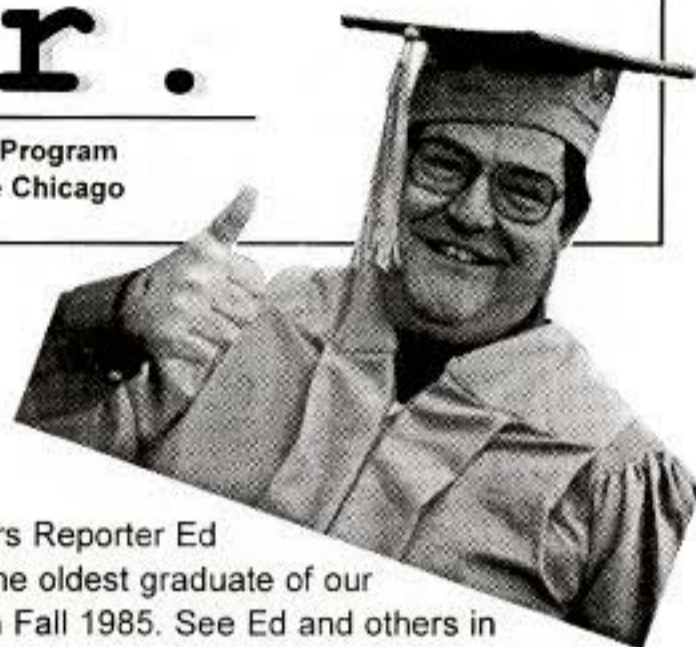
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M. A. Jour.

Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of Columbia College's Master of Arts in Journalism Program
Fall 2000
Columbia College Chicago



Life, Love & Journalism



Peter Hans von Buol, Class of 1996, returned to teach part-time in our graduate broadcast journalism sequence in 1999, after triumphing in love, beating a life-threatening disease and succeeding as a freelance journalist.

"Not only did I graduate, but my thesis aired on cable in Hawaii and Chicago, I was diagnosed with cancer, and I got married! Whew!" said Peter. "It would be an understatement to say 1996 was a significant year of my life."

Peter found out he had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma a month before he was to be married. He and Carrie Neumeyer went ahead and got married but postponed their honeymoon

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15th Class Graduates

Lake County News-Sun Public Affairs Reporter Ed Collins, a youthful 67, claims to be the oldest graduate of our master's journalism program begun in Fall 1985. See Ed and others in a photo spread on 1995-2000 commencement celebrations, including this year's at Navy Pier and past ones at the University Club.

GOA Winners Beat the Odds

After a decade of "almosts," graduate journalism students triumphed in the highly competitive, college-wide Graduate Opportunity Awards. Mollie West succeeded in being the first journalism student to win; then Diana Eiranova-Kyle won the following year in 1999-2000.

While in graduate school, West, who previously worked as a reporter in



West



Eiranova-Kyle

Michigan, launched a national publication on federal legislation affecting women. She is now a senior communications specialist/manager at Commonwealth Edison.

Eiranova-Kyle, a native of Argentina, headed the Coalition for Justice, advocating the successful release of accused murderers Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez. Previously she was a reporter at *La Raza*.

Public Art and Public Affairs



Federal Plaza's Calder

Graduate students pause *en route* to reporting assignments in downtown Chicago, our living laboratory and outdoor sculpture museum.



Thompson Center's Dubuffet



Daley Plaza's Picasso

Life, Love & Journalism



Peter and Carrie Buol on their postponed Hawaiian honeymoon pose in front of a statue of Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch.

to Hawaii until after his round of chemotherapy was completed in March 1997.

"Cancer treatment wasn't too bad because the disease was localized and easily removed," he said. "I underwent about five months of chemotherapy treatment, but I was never really sick."

The Chicago native, who had been editor of his high school newspaper, *Gordon Tech Rampage*, did his undergraduate work at Columbia in television. He then worked for a few years as television field producer and an associate producer for *SportsChannel*—Chicago, where he did both news packages and features.

He volunteered at the Lincoln Park Zoo where he met his wife, and also worked at the Field Museum of Natural History where he received the President's Award for volunteer service as a writer, German translator and editor for various departments.

Peter came into our master's program as the only applicant knowing what he wanted to research. He stuck with his initial thesis topic from his preliminary interview for graduate school through the entire program.

In his application materials, Peter wrote, "Many Native Hawaiians would like to see some of their problems addressed. Some of these, they

believe, are the result of the overthrow of their monarchy 100 years ago. The Native Hawaiians also feel that their status is not on the same level as that of other native Americans."

He added: "For as long as I can remember, I have had a great interest in the...peoples of the Pacific Ocean and their cultures. The Field Museum has given me the opportunity to become involved in a very real way with two of these cultures, the Maori of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the indigenous people of Hawaii. Your graduate school...emphasizes public affairs and I would like to study the current ramifications of...New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi, the effect of which, granted Great Britain sovereignty over New Zealand, and the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the subsequent annexation of Hawaii by the United States."

Peter decided to analyze the issue of Native Hawaiian sovereignty in light of an upcoming vote by native peoples there to determine what form of self-autonomy to use to decide the course of their own affairs.

While taking a full complement of graduate courses, he spent months of research including exclusive on-site interviews in Washington, D.C., and Hawaii and tracking down archival footage from sources such as *C-Span* and the Bishop Museum of Hawaii. After additional months of editing on campus and at Chicago Cable Access, his 40-minute video news documentary aired in two states just before the vote that ended with less than an estimated 10 percent participation. A constitutional convention has yet to be called and the U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down the new office of Hawaiian Affairs' election qualifications procedure.

"Almost immediately after I finished, I sent a copy to Hawaii, where it aired in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii. I also sent a copy to a friend who works on *Radio New Zealand*. He is the host of a program that features news from...Polynesia. My program didn't air in New Zealand, but its contents were discussed on the air." He also was interviewed by Clark Weber on WAIT-AM 850.

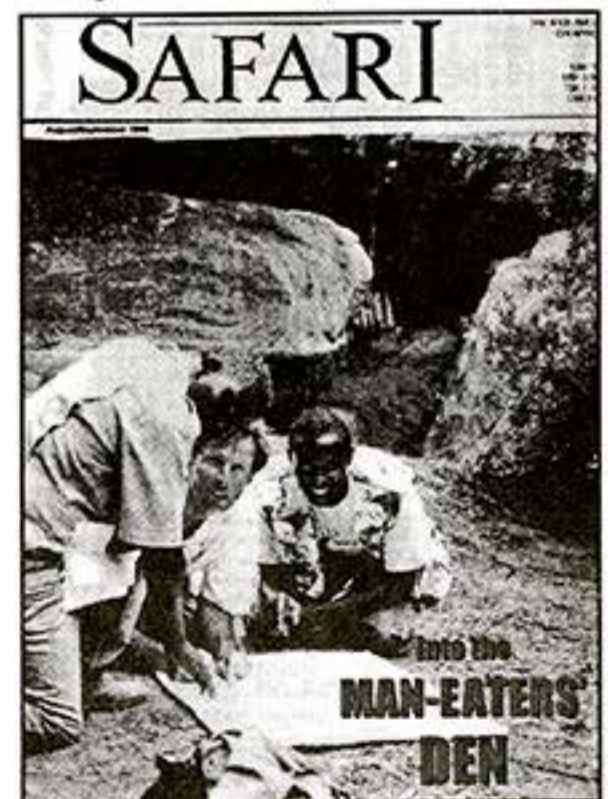
While finishing up his documentary, Peter worked part-time at WBBM-AM in the Traffic and Continuity Department. He later became a regular contributor to *Access*, the monthly magazine of the American Dental Hygienist Association.

He did a cover story for *Safari* magazine, a Kenyan version of the *Smithsonian*, based on the true story of the man-eating lions that became the basis of the Val Kilmer/Michael Douglas movie, "The Ghost and the Darkness."

Peter wrote about Field scientists who retraced the steps of the character played by Kilmer and found the cave which Col. John Patterson thought contained the bones of the lion duo's human victims. He had a faulty compass and the cave location was lost for a century.

Peter also has written for *Pacific Islands Monthly*, and another cover story is scheduled to appear in *Swara*, the magazine of East African Wildlife Society magazine this fall, about a large type of lion which appears to be closely related to the extinct cave lions of Europe, according to Field scientists.

As one of the first students to complete the two-course graduate broadcast sequence in 1996 under then Broadcast Director Steve Corman, Peter returned after graduation to assist Corman's successor, Lillian Williams. He became an official part-time graduate faculty member in 2000.



Peter's cover story on man-eating lion legacy has a Chicago connection.

CLASS NOTES

1999-2000

Edward Collins Jr.'s thesis, "Traffic Congestion—Is It Killing Lake County's Quality of Life?" is set to appear as a five-part series in the *Lake County News-Sun*, a 30,000-circulation Waukegan daily where Collins has worked as public affairs reporter for the past decade. He formerly worked as a reporter for the *Providence, R.I., Journal & Evening Bulletin*, the *Imperial Valley* (El Centro, Calif.) *Press* and was news editor of the now defunct *Brawley* (Calif.) *Daily News*. He got his B.A. in journalism from the University of California at Berkeley on the G.I. Bill after serving in the Korean War.

Trent Hanneman was promoted earlier this year to senior producer at the Charlotte, N.C., NBC-TV affiliate where he had been 11 P.M. newscast producer. His thesis project on southern state lotteries was to air on his station. Prior to that he was producer of the Six O'Clock News for Channel 6, WPSD-TV, the NBC affiliate in Paducah, Ky. .

Melding her first master's in archeology/anthropology with her second graduate degree, **Anna Kiss** traveled to glacial Juneau, Alaska, over spring break. She lugged video equipment to conduct interviews and record the official proceedings of a committee established to review the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act, which is the basis of her thesis project. Her trip was funded in part by a Reader's Digest Travel Research Grant. In addition to a written analysis that she hopes to get published, she is working on a documentary on the indigenous people's struggle for their heritage and identity.

Michael Neary, who came to our graduate program fresh from a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Morocco, is working part-time at the McAllen, Texas, *Monitor* newspaper, with a circulation of about 55,000 along the Mexican border. He has had several front-page bylines and

Occupational Typecasting?



Simone Orendain (center) rehearses her lead role in a summer Chicago Dramatists' staged reading of "Chagrin Falls" as a graduate journalism student working on her thesis about the death penalty. In real life Simone, who holds an undergraduate degree from Columbia in theatre, recently completed her master's thesis on career choices of Filipinos and Koreans who came to Chicago after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments. A Dwight Follett Graduate Fellow in Journalism, Simone has interned at WBEZ-FM and Tribune Media Services. Earlier at the Tribune, Simone worked as a part-time Voice News Network newscaster. In 1998, she was an evening news desk intern for WGN-AM, and before that spent six months as a radio and TV news anchor for Rajah Broadcasting Network in her native Philippines.

continues to teach college English courses as he did before going overseas. Michael freelanced for the Northampton, Mass., *Daily Hampshire Gazette* while completing his Ph.D in English a few years ago. This year, Michael also did a front page story for Chicago's *StreetWise*.

Melody Rodgers, gives a whole new meaning to multi-tasking. Besides a full load of graduate courses, the 1999 UIC-English grad was a CTA bus driver, worked for a finance company and as a freelance writer for *Catalyst*, *Access* and *Underground Chicago*. Last fall, she was a copy editor for the *Columbia Chronicle*. In addition, she interned at the AARP and Fox News. This summer, she was one of only 10 students from across the country accepted for the first Academy of Alternative Journalism, founded in cooperation with the *Chicago Reader* and established to recruit and train talented minority writers for work in the alternative press. This fall, she begins a

one-year appointment as an Illinois legislative staff intern in Springfield.

Regina Waldroup, who left the corporate communications world to return to school, interned with Renee Ferguson at NBC-TV's investigative unit. She did her thesis project on the national debate over our juvenile justice system. This summer she was a production assistant for Black Entertainment Television and its live town hall meeting with Jesse Jackson to discuss AIDS in the black community. Prior to Columbia, Regina was assistant press secretary for Illinois Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones Jr. and also worked as a part-time reporter for Star Publications, Press Publications and the *Chicago Tribune*. The first day of graduate classes, Regina told a classmate, "I have 13 reasons why it's important for me to get a master's degree." She said she wanted to demonstrate the value of higher education to her 13 nieces and nephews since none of her eight siblings completed college.

Two Earn M.A.'s & U.S. Citizenship

Two members of the Class of 2000 had cause for double celebrations as they both obtained citizenships within weeks of graduation.

Diana Eiranova-Kyle, trained in international commerce and diplomacy, came to the U.S. from Argentina "when a military dictatorship took control of the government...imposing censorship and repressing freedoms of expression and association." She passed her citizenship exam in May.

Anna Dzienisik Kiss, who emigrated from Poland after earning a master's degree in archaeology/anthropology at Warsaw University and working as a scientist in Europe, became a citizen in June.

Both women have considerable experience, including working for the ethnic press. Diana's first job here in Chicago in 1982 was writing, editing and doing investigative reports for *La Raza* newspaper while Anna had articles on teenage crime published in *Dziennik Chicagoski* (Chicago

Journal) and *Dziennik Nowojorski* (New York Journal). Diana noted that at *La Raza*, "I was able to see first-hand how words empower a community by expanding its knowledge of critical social issues."

Anna came here knowing little English but was interested in embarking on a new career. She completed both the B.A. and M.A. journalism programs at Columbia with honors, with the help of two Fischetti scholarships. She wants to spend time in Eastern Europe as a foreign correspondent and take advantage of her Polish and Russian language skills.

"Because I lived in Poland for 28 years and had the opportunity to observe the life of the people from behind the Iron Curtain for many years, I understand their problems and desires. I also have learned well their history, which is essential to understanding the current...politics."

Also, she would like to assist her photographer husband, Thomas Alexis Kiss, who is entering

Columbia's graduate film program this fall, in producing documentaries and tv news reports. She interned with Kurtis Productions.

Diana earned a joint B.A. in English and Law from the University of Buenos Aires and worked for multinational companies, including IBM, Purina and Seagram. Since coming to the U.S., she worked in marketing, production, public policy and community advocacy. Diana worked in City Hall during Mayor Harold Washington's administration and later for the City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Park District.

She entered our graduate program to enhance her skills with the goal of being accepted internationally as a professional journalist. She wants to produce investigative reports and cultural enrichment stories in Spanish and English for distribution throughout the Americas. In addition to the Columbia GOA, she received a 1999-2000 Hispanic Scholarship. Diana interned as a consultant to the Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center at Wilbur Wright College.

1998-99

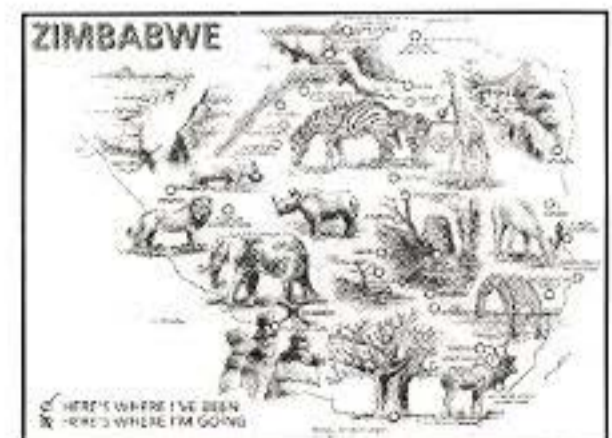
Sandra Holt has been writing for the *Chicago Sun-Times* "Home" section about gardening and continues her garden column in the Gary, Ind., *Post-Tribune*, where she served as Valparaiso bureau chief before graduate school. During the last year, she graduated as a Master Gardener, meaning she's now officially entitled to create landscape projects of her own.

Cherie Richardson, who left United Airlines to return to school, hosted, wrote and produced a live, call-in show on Chicago's public access channel last fall. She interviewed business executives on their Welfare to Work programs. She also won a Chicago Cable Access scholarship to take some video production classes. "I can't believe it's been a year [since graduation]. I think of the program often and laugh about the fun and wacky experiences. I am very glad that I made the sacrifice to go back to school and I know it will pay off in the future."

Elena Spilioti was recently named principal of St. Andrews, the leading Greek school in the Chicago area. She launched her own radio program on WEEF 1430 and last summer added a children's show. "I loved it because I had the chance to design a show for children including news bulletins and lessons of simplified grammar for the little Greeks who had stayed in the city and didn't want to forget their language until school started again in September. I had my 8-year-old niece co-host." Both shows were very challenging, she admitted, as she tried to balance different educational backgrounds and interests found within the same Greek-American culture. While in graduate school, the Athens native worked at WHCI-FM as a cultural affairs reporter and interned at World Radio Geneva in Washington, D.C. Elena, who speaks six languages, wrote her thesis on the impact of the Eurodollar on Illinois international trade and even managed to commandeer a quote from former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger while she was

working part-time at the Hilton Hotel. Before coming to Columbia, Elena was a practicing architect and co-editor of an art and architecture magazine in Europe.

Mollie West who started out as a reporter in her homestate of Michigan, got into public relations before returning to graduate school. While participating in our Washington program, she interned for U.S. Representative Danny Davis. A year ago, she became a communications specialist/manager at Commonwealth Edison right before a series of widespread power outages kept her new employer



TV Political Reporter

Tze-fang "Patrick" Chuang, Class of 1999, returned to his native Taiwan after two years of graduate journalism study at Columbia and became a political correspondent for Chinese Television Network (CTN), a 24-hour Chinese news channel broadcast throughout Asia and available via satellite in Chicago.

This year alone, he has covered the inter-Korea Summit in Seoul, as well as his home island's presidential elections.

"That the two Korean leaders met each other was a most significant event for Asian countries. The global media also focused on this moment. It felt so unbelievable that I could participate in that moment to see, to hear, to feel and to write some stories about international news," he wrote in an e-mail to classmate Sam Zabadne.

Patrick said that his news network treats him very well and assigns him to "any important political event." While he admits he is sometimes exhausted, he is enjoying the experience.

"Although I belong to a group of 'young' tv reporters, I work very hard to earn my credibility...In order to understand Taiwan's complicated political environment, I need to study hard and do some work. Very luckily, the interviewing and writing skills I've learned from Columbia are very useful to me."

Patrick covered Taiwan independent presidential candidate James Soong and his running mate who lost the March election.

Chuang applied to graduate school after completing his mandatory military service in Taiwan. He had completed an undergraduate journalism degree at Chinese Culture University

in Taipei. He said he picked his major because he admired journalists for their "honest and objective characteristics." During and after school, he worked as a reporter and editor for various newspapers, including *The China Post*, *China Times Weekly*, *Chung-Chen Daily News* and *Culture Weekly English News*. He also worked as a program producer assistant for STAR-TV.

While here in Chicago, he interned at *Chicago Chinese News*, a weekly newspaper. In an evaluation of that experience, Patrick said he was proudest of an investigative report he did that garnered lots of supportive mail as well as the newsroom changes he implemented when he was promoted to acting editor in chief.

"I did an investigative story about how illegal Chinese immigrants worked in the restaurants and struggled to make a living in Chicago's Chinatown...I interviewed several undocumented people and figured out how they came to America...I also covered how they worked for lower wages. But honestly, the immigrants' story is not always so sad...So I also covered some successful businessmen who used to be illegal immigrants...and have now become American citizens."

Regarding newsroom management, Patrick asked the reporters to cover more Chinese community activities and get more detailed accounts and pictures. He asked successful Chinese businessmen, lawyers and financial consultants to write weekly columns.

"According to a newsroom survey, these columns were extremely helpful to Chinese in Chicago trying to understand how to resolve their per-

sonal legal or financial problems. I strongly believe that local newspapers have to play the role of a bridge, which connects and communicates with every unit and all the people in this community. After one year of effort, I am so glad ...the *Chicago Chinese News* became the most influential and successful Chinese newspaper in Chicago; of course, with the biggest circulation."

He always kept busy while he was in graduate school. While other students caught up on their sleep during the semester break, Patrick converted from Buddhism to Islam to marry Emily whom he met here in Chicago where she was a film student at the School of the Art Institute. After graduation, they traveled to her native Shanghai and Patrick got to see Beijing for the first time.

Patrick, who in his application to Columbia stated, "I am confident that I can accomplish my academic objectives successfully not only to enrich my life but also to make more contributions to my country," is well on his way.



in the news and Mollie working long hours, often as spokeswoman for the utility giant. Two years ago, she befriended the Minister of Jobs Creations for Zimbabwe, who was attending a Chicago conference, and in gratitude has been invited to that African nation twice. She visited most recently in March and said she hopes to return again, despite sensationalis-

tic coverage of events there by the Western press.

Sam Zabadne is a freelance broadcast producer for Network Chicago (formerly known as WTTW Channel 11). "After leaving Columbia, which was tough because I absolutely loved the program and my new colleagues, I began my search for a job in the

media. Journalism...is a tough field to compete in, and it took me by surprise. During my search, I took on several odd jobs to make ends meet. My jobs ranged from mystery shopper and theatre security guard to a counselor for juvenile delinquents in a group home. The entire time, I maintained a small internship with WTTW." At the station, he was eventually hired

as a full-time freelance writer and researcher. "Need I mention that the M.A. finally kicked in because they pay me more than what they would pay a B.A.," he noted. Sam researched and wrote several pieces for the station's new website (networkchicago.com) and print guide, "most of which found their way to the cutting room floor." But he persisted and "made it my mission to learn about every aspect of production in the building, both creative and technical." In his new position as a producer, he may also write voiceovers and do some AVID editing work. He has helped direct several pledge programs and ID shoots. He eventually hopes to find an outlet for his video thesis project, which was entitled, "From the Mid-East to the Mid-West: A Look at Syrian Immigration to Chicago." "Columbia has prepared me for the journalism/media field so much... The journalism program took a four-year veteran of the social services field and turned him into a virtual media know-it-all. I'm doing things that I only dreamed of before Columbia," he said.

1997-98

Kimberly Fornek, who interned for Bloomberg News Service in both its Chicago and Washington, D.C., offices while in graduate school, is a reporter for Pioneer Press.

Joseph Omoremi, who interned with Amnesty International while in Washington, D.C., has been working for the *Chicago Defender* and freelancing for *The Times* in Munster, Ind., covering the city of Gary and especially business stories. He also established Dare Investments Inc., a stock and options company (but not day trading, he emphasized.) Joseph, who briefly worked as a taxi driver after coming here from his native Nigeria, did his thesis project on the persistence of cabbie homicides in the history of Chicago's taxi business.

Monica Sullivan works for McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Ill., as a staging coordinator in its Creative Services Department. She works closely with the producers,



Actor Edward James Olmos and Monica Sullivan at McDonald's Worldwide Convention 2000.

photographers, graphic artists and executive management. She creates floor plans for events and performs administrative duties for the staging group. She operates the teleprompter while going on video shoots with the production team and on occasion has done voiceovers.

Laura Wolf, who is an editorial associate in the Electronic Visualization Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago, recently returned from Yokohama, Japan, where she participated in iGrid 2000, a major research demonstration of international scientific collaboration using high-performance networks. The event, organized in part by her department, was "designed to show how the power of

today's research networks enable access to remote computing resources, distribution of digital media and collaboration with distant colleagues in Canada, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, U.K. and U.S." It emphasized tele-immersion, collaboration, human/computer interfaces, streaming media, digital video and HDTV.

1996-97

Mike Esposito is a sports reporter/anchor for the Illinois Radio Network, based in Chicago, with 60 affiliate stations that they feed news and sports to across the state. "I am the A.M. guy which means I have to be at work at 4 A.M.! And to think that I used to think 8 A.M. classes were early. I would still like to get into TV sports reporting, and I have started a resume tape for that, but for now I think that this should get me some good experience in reporting and I don't have to move out of the city." He also continues to freelance at Fox Sports News, where he has been for the last three years, doing a variety of things in the production/tech area.

Anjali Nayyar-Julka is executive producer and host of Chitrahar Broadcasting, a South Asian entertainment TV program that airs three days a week on various cable stations

Which came first: thesis or baby?

Mindful of Ruth Bates Fuller's thesis project deadline, Alexia Grace Fuller appeared August 11, 1998, right after summer session's end. Seen here soon after her arrival, she nestled in her mom's lap, surrounded by sister and father.

Ruth's project was a case study on healthcare in the United States. She tracked the plight of a family dealing with the emotional and financial burden of childhood cancer. Her work was published as an ongoing series in Pioneer Press newspapers where she worked as a reporter covering the Lake Zurich/Wauconda area. The first part of the story won an Illinois Press Association award.





and UHF Channel 34. She produces, scripts and edits the entire show including creating commercials and marketing the show and its events. The program, begun 17 years ago by her mother, Vichitra Nayyar, is the oldest South Asian program in the Midwest. It now reaches 8 million people collectively in the Chicago area, as well as Milwaukee and South Bend, Ind. Anjali reports that it has a loyal following among African-Americans, Latin Americans, Polish Americans, Middle Eastern communities and mainstream Americans as well as South Asians. Two years ago, Anjali had to tape a number of shows in advance in order to get married in India. "I got engaged in Chicago in April... Then, at the Vasant Continental Hostel in New Delhi, I had a traditional "mehndi," or henna, ceremony. The following day, Bobby, my husband-to-be (actually, it's Birendra, but the pandit couldn't pronounce it either), wore a long, beige-gold button-down "achkan," donned his turban, sword and mughal-lesque shoes, and then sat on a bedecked horse. As he and his entire "baraat," or groom's party, made their way to the hotel, I sat dressed in a deep sindoor-red satin and soft net skirt, blouse and veil, with ornate goldwork, all the while hoping that I wouldn't need Imodium during the Hindu fire ceremony (I did). So, on June 12, 1998, jetlagged and heat-exhausted, we were pronounced Mr. and Mrs. Birendra Julka!" Anjali's husband works as a systems analyst for divine interVentures.

Jim Perez, a police reporter for the Simi Valley bureau for the *Ventura County Star*, formerly worked as a reporter for the *Jacksonville (Fla.) Business Journal*. He later received a fellowship to the *Chicago Reporter* where he did investigative research and produced a cover story, "Wright: A Neighborhood in Transition Wrestles with Change." He was also a minority fellow with the Investigative Reporters and Editors Assn., going through their National Institute for Computer-

Assisted Reporting Boot Camp. For the first semester of graduate school, Jim commuted each week from Fort Wayne, Ind., where he worked as copy editor at the *Journal Gazette*.

Denise St. Jean, when last heard from, was working at Bragman Nyman and Cafarelli, an entertainment publicity firm in Beverly Hills, Calif., that does publicity for celebrities, events, corporate entertainment and product placement. She had accompanied her boyfriend to California. Denise describes their journey of piling all their possessions in a U-Haul and heading west from Chicago: "Despite the humidity and lack of leg room, we arrived one week later at our apartment, one block from the ocean in Venice Beach. After a couple of weeks of enjoying the sun, Michael began graduate school and my job search began. I thought it would be easy, not a lot of competition in L.A. right? Wrong! To survive and make

Government Writer and Editor

Enesta Jones, Class of 1997, has some career advice for timid or unsure budding reporters.

"Get rid of any bashfulness," she says. "There is no room for shy people in this business. Go after what you want and don't be afraid to tell people what you're after!"

That's just what Jones did after she graduated from the program.

She first heard about a job opening at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency while there for a news briefing as part of her last course. And now, she is an award-winning writer and editor for EPA's Regional Office in Chicago.

She was recently named editor-in-chief of the office's quarterly newsletter, "The Inside Story," and she's also a speech writer for the regional administrator. She also recently received a bronze medal for a brochure that she helped write and edit called, "Environmental Quality and Community Growth," which deals with the negative effects of unplanned urban development.



She also received a multimedia award for this brochure several months ago.

Jones said she chose to attend Columbia for her Master's because the journalism program and its faculty are looked upon very highly.

"I also was really enthusiastic after learning that the program is set up to give you hands-on experience in covering real meetings and events," she said. This opportunity has allowed me to become a very independent and ambitious journalist. It also helped that the faculty were well-rounded, experienced journalists."

Jones said that she found the journalism instructors very encouraging, always providing her with constructive criticism. Her advice to students is: "Take advantage of every opportunity that is presented while at Columbia. Network with the many veterans in the business."

Jones became engaged Valentine's eve to Dr. Martin K. Skala, a pediatrician in Milwaukee. They have planned a June, 2001, wedding.

— Regina Waldroup

ends meet, I began waitressing. It was very upsetting. I couldn't believe I was waitressing with a Master's Degree and I was bitter... Finally, of all the many, many jobs I applied for, I got the one I wanted the most! Moral of the story: if you really want something, you need to be patient and persistent. Also, it's important to have strong support systems. If it weren't for Michael [to whom she got engaged] and our two cats (Pickles and The Pig), I would have packed my bags after the first week."

Lorna Ware, who interned at WLS-TV and the Chicago Board of Education, continues to work part-time at Orchestra Hall and for the CTA. She did her thesis on the impact of federal welfare reform on Illinois.

1995-96

Collette Borda, when last heard from, was working as a public affairs

reporter for RFO, the French government-affiliated radio station on her home island of Guadeloupe. Her station regularly reports on regional news from nearby Caribbean islands and she got to cover the volcanic eruptions in nearby Martinique.

April Memorie Knox has been serving as an Arts (Music) instructor at Project Upward Bound, housed in Loyola University's Lake Shore campus. She was summer supervisor and co-taught its summer publications class. She is working on a second Master's Degree in music/piano per-

formance at the American Conservatory of Music and was freelancing for *The Final Call*, *Windy City Word*, the *Citizen Newspaper*, and *Essence* magazine.

Robert Musker has spent the last two years teaching video to at-risk youth at Community Television Network. "I was able to help with



Left to right: Sheyphali Sharan, Don Woolf, April Knox, Steve Ordower, Collette Borda, Jim Perez and Bob Musker.

Trade Newspaper Editor

Karen Craven, lives 20 minutes from the ocean. She has all of a 15-minute commute to work, and she has a job doing what she loves: writing. What Columbia graduate could ask for anything more?

Craven, in early May, left her native Chicago and headed east to Portland, Maine, to become managing editor of *CCNews*, a trade newspaper that covers web-based customer care call centers.

"I wanted to move somewhere that I liked," Craven says. "I came to Portland last year with my sister, and I loved it. I've never written business before . . . But it's an opportunity to expand my horizons. I was pegged as a legal reporter, and there's more to life than cops and courts. I don't mean that in a bad way. But, I wanted to move on."

Craven, Class of 1996, credits the education she received at Columbia with helping her land some of the jobs she's had over the years. Prior to her current position, Craven worked at the *Chicago Tribune* as a general assignment reporter. Before that, she was a metro reporter at the *Daily*

Herald. She has also worked at the *Daily Southtown*, *Darien Progress* and City News Bureau.

"I was definitely able to sell myself over others when bidding for a job," she says. "Understanding how to sift through public records, that's an incredible asset to have as a reporter. The more experience, the better."

Craven's advice to new students in the program is to be assertive and "get all the experience you can while in school."

"Any type of experience you get is all the better," she says. "Move on if you're not getting what you want. There are so many tremendous opportunities out there, especially with the Internet. If you can get a tech-based job, grab it."

Craven says she will probably be involved in journalism for the rest of her life because she "loves what she does."

"I still have fire in my belly," she says. "Now, there's a new-found excitement. With all these new outlets, it's really an exciting time. There's so much more to news than what we perceive to be news."

While she loves Portland, Craven says Chicago will always hold something special for her.

"I'm definitely a product of Chicago," she says. "It's one of the most exciting cities for news. There's always something going on, that's why I stayed for so long. I'm biased towards Chicago."

-- Regina Waldroup



some studio and production work on their weekly cable news show—'HardCover'—made by, for and about urban kids. I kind of shelved my dream of producing a daily social issues-based public affairs program a couple of summers ago. I've been earning a living as a camera operator for focus groups—market research. My current aspiration is to make a documentary about my religious beliefs."

Steve Ordower, who took time off from school to open a jazz bar known as *Rituals* in the South Loop, completed his thesis on the formation of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, a community for black artists created amidst socioeconomic oppression in Chicago during the 1960s.

Sheyphali Sharan returned to New Delhi, India, as her husband was completing his history doctorate at the University of Chicago. She had worked in the press information bureau for the Indian minister of finance prior to coming to Columbia.

Don Woolf moved to Denver, Colo., where he always wanted to live, and completed his thesis, a six-part series on the impact of the bicycle-friendly movement in Chicago.

Maria Yannetos, when last heard from, was in Athens, working on a morning talk show and doing on-camera interviews for Greek Television, according to her mother. Fellow classmate Bob Musker talked with her when he was in Europe last year; she had just gotten married but he had no details.

Online Newsletter Producer

Hilarie Pitman, Class of 1995, took her writing talents to the Information Superhighway in 1996. Now, she's riding high as a producer for Chicago-based CoolSavings.com.

An interactive coupon network launched in February, 1997, by the former owner of *Chicago* magazine, CoolSavings.com has been billed by business techies as "one of the top 10 shopping sites on the Internet."

"When we first started out, we all had to pitch in to get the company off the ground," Pitman said.

As of May 15, CoolSavings had more than 7.4 million members. In 1999, advertisers included leading brands such as barnesandnoble.com, BigStar, First USA, eNutrition, Kids "R" Us, Petopia.com, InsWeb, and SmarterKids.com.

As a producer, Pitman is in charge of content and editing of several targeted newsletters that the site produces. This is the third position Pitman has held in the company, and she says she really likes it because it has allowed her to get back to her journalism roots.



She graduated *summa cum laude* from Western Illinois University in broadcast communications, where she worked as a dj for WRMJ-Radio and a

newscaster for WIUS. While in grad school, she switched to magazines and worked for *Laboratory Medicine* and *Hospitals & Health Network*.

"I never see myself going back to traditional journalism," Pitman says. "There are a lot of opportunities out there in the field of content management and production for the Internet."

While at Columbia, Pitman says she found classes such as science writing and investigative reporting very challenging but also very rewarding.

Pitman's advice to other graduate students is, "Just throw yourselves into the experience." But most importantly, she says, graduate students should take the program seriously, by

"taking every advantage to get out there and cover stories."

"Depending on what you put in, you can get a lot out of Columbia," says Pitman who grew up in downstate Aledo, Ill. "There are so many opportunities for hands-on experience and learning the nitty-gritty of the political system. I couldn't have received that experience anywhere but Chicago."

Pitman says writing for her comes down to commitment and an insatiable curiosity.

"There are so many things that are very interesting, worth further explanation to me," she says. "That's what writing is about—sharing your findings."

What does Pitman enjoy doing in her free time? "I don't have much of it," she says. "That's part of the Internet world. But I like to do cultural things and explore Chicago museums and plays."

Pitman also takes art classes when she can, and has been working on a collection of poetry that she hopes to publish soon.

— Regina Waldroup

1994-95

Jennifer Keiper Russo, is a familiar voice in Chicago as a radio newscaster. She stepped down from seven years of doing traffic reports as part of Shadow Broadcasting Services for WBBM-AM but continues to do *per diem* anchoring and reporting, as well as public affairs and news work for WBBM-FM 96.3 and WXRT FM 93.1. She also teaches radio news classes at Columbia. "My first love is really news, and I'd like to focus on that," she said. She received an Achievement in Radio (or AIR) Award from the March of Dimes for a public service campaign she did for WBBM-AM.



Keiper and Willman made headlines.

Melissa "Missy" Tresness when last heard from was working as communications manager at the American Hospital Association.

Michelle Willman is a tv documentary producer at Towers Productions where she writes and produces shows for the A&E cable network's series, "American Justice." Her first show was the "John Lennon Assassination," and her most infamous was an exclusive interview with Heidi Fleiss "the Hollywood Madam," who had never done a prison interview before. "Variety, Chicago Tribune, Screen magazine and NBC's "Access Hollywood" all interviewed me about the coup. Grueling hours, lots of work but kinda fun," said Michelle, who came to graduate school to switch from magazine work into broadcasting. She had been an editor at *National Provisioner* and *Beverage Industry*. While at Columbia, she interned for National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" with Ray Suarez in Washington, D.C.

Jeff Cappel continues as a freelance writer for the Illinois Bar Association and is plugging away at his film book manuscript about the "Blade Runner." He is engaged to be married.

Paula Ewers Penn, who came to graduate journalism study with an undergraduate degree in accounting, has returned to the world of numbers and financial consulting.



When last heard from, she was working at Salomon Smith Barney. As an avocation, she is a jewelry maker. Paula is married to Steven Penn, an attorney with Stachyron & Penn, specializing in personal injury, such as asbestos and toxic torts.

Kate McClellan's first postgraduate job was with Frontier Communications, a long-distance/telecommunications company. Then she went to work in sales for The Parsons Group, a financial consulting firm focused in the

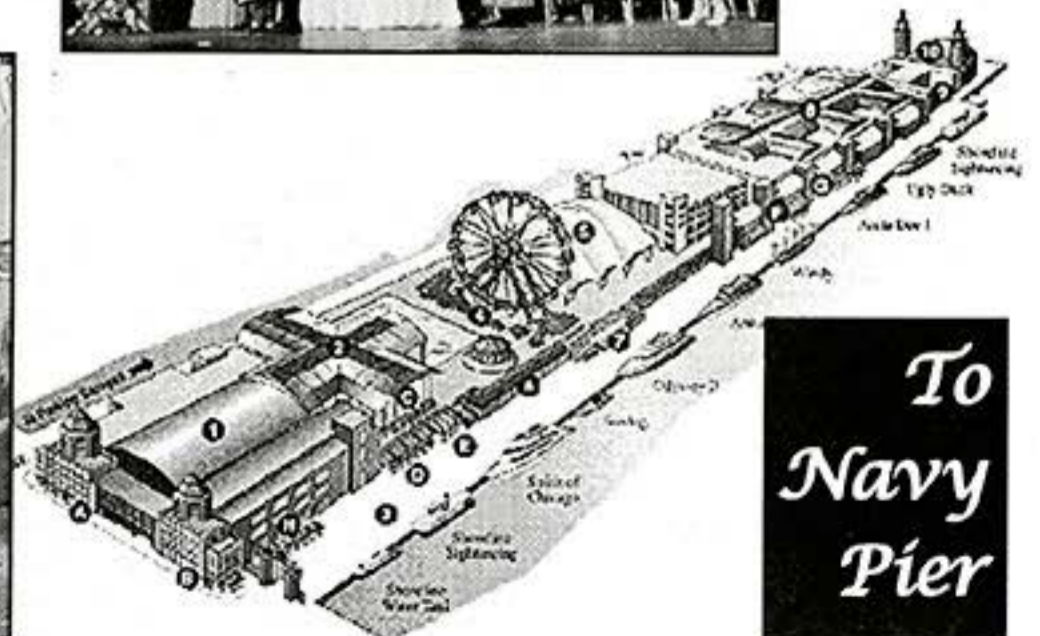
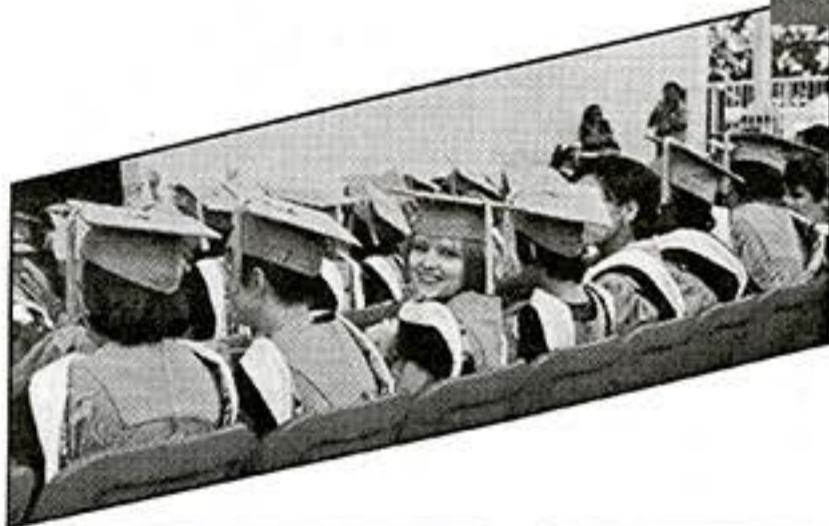
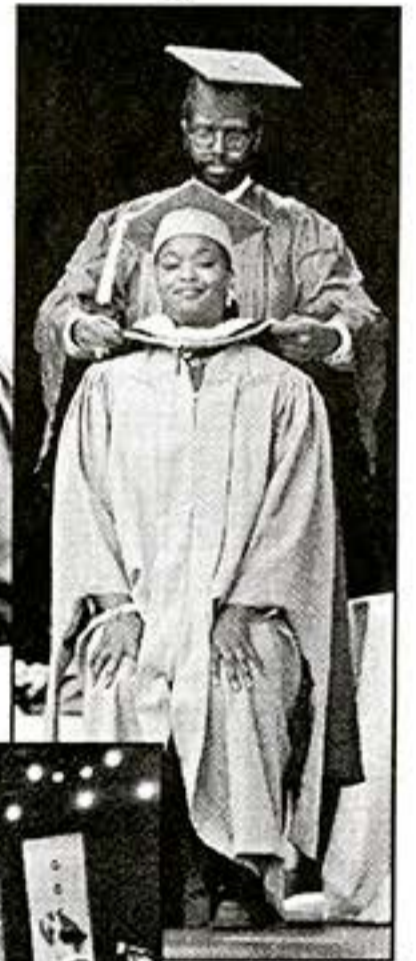


From University Club



1998 Lifetime Achievement Awardee
Gordon Parks





To
Navy
Pier

Travel Writer



Suzanne Carmel, Class of 1994, has succeeded in becoming the travel writer she always wanted to be.

Story assignments have taken her to various countries, including Australia, China, Egypt, parts of Europe and the Caribbean, as well as all over the U.S. and Canada.

After three years as managing editor of *Travel Today*, Suzanne now freelances for a variety of publications and websites. She reports she updated the lodging section for *Fodor's Chicago Gold* guide twice and has written articles for *Travel America*, *Zoom* (Vanguard Airlines' magazine), *Double Down* magazine, *Ambassadair's Journey* (ATA's inflight magazine), *Interval* magazine, the *Columbus Dispatch*, the Bender Internet Group travel sites, the *Knot* website and *Endless Vacations* magazine.

Earlier she freelanced as a feature writer for *Restaurants and Institutions*, *Key Magazine/This Week in Chicago*, *Lake Shore Drive*, Lerner Newspapers, *Camp Management Magazine* and *Today's Traveler*.

"There are certainly places I still want to travel to like parts of Africa, Asia and South America. Favorite memories of past trips include taking a train through Copper Canyon in Mexico, snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, walking on the Great Wall of China and exploring the pyramids in Egypt."

Last year Suzanne became a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, which is based in part on the number of articles she has published, and will be attending the annual conference in Wales in October.

"I like covering soft adventure and luxury travel and am happy to say I haven't burned out yet and hope I never do."

areas of finance, accounting, tax, treasury and risk management and insurance. She got transferred and, after four years with Parsons, is now General Manager of its Boston office. "I love it, but who would have ever thought I would end up in this field?" Kate is engaged to be married this fall.

Karen Wagenhofer Bennett married Paul Bennett three years ago and moved to Milwaukee where her husband works for GMAC, the financial arm of General Motors. She has been working with grad classmate Hilarie Pitman at CoolSavings Inc. in the technical support department. She also is a part-time reporter for CNI News, Milwaukee community newspapers, covering the education beat for the *West Allis Star*.

1993-94

Alonda McCree, who is community liaison for Reaching the Mark, a private foster care agency, is keeping up her writing skills by freelancing. She has had articles published in *Access* magazine and is scheduled to do a column for *N'Digo* magazine and *Gospel Synergy* magazine. She is also business manager of a small cleaning service and does some freelance desktop publishing. She is also editor/writer for a quarterly newsletter for the New City YMCA Leed Council. After racking up three Illinois Press Association awards during two and one half years at the *Austin Weekly News* and later the *Forest Park Review*, she became editor of a new magazine called *Prep Insight Teen Magazine*, distributed to Chicago public junior high and high schools. "I must say that being a journalist is such a rewarding opportunity for me. I've met and developed relationships with so many people and I've learned something from each and every one of them. My goal is to continue my award-winning career and to continue to learn."

Sherilyn Ritter got married to a fellow employee at the Drake Hotel. She is in charge of catering and enjoys the hospitality industry. She has traveled to Germany, Austria and the Czech

Republic.

Cristina Romo Muñoz received her second Columbia master's degree in Teaching (Urban Education) in June 2000, two months after giving birth to Ameris Cristy. Cristina began substitute teaching on her days off from reporting for City News Bureau about five years ago and found that she really liked it. "My experience in journalism helped me to have wonderful stories to share with my students. For instance, going to Washington helped me see the bigger picture." She taught 7th and 8th grade in Cicero and Berwyn and later 4th grade. This year she is teaching in a Spanish immersion program at Lincoln School in Oak Park. While teaching in the Chicago Public Schools, she became a Reading Specialist through a program she took at Loyola University. Her specialties were bilingualism and ESL. She met her husband, who runs a family business and is a rodeo champion, on a blind date. "I was ready to kill my girlfriend for setting us up because blind dates just aren't my style," she said. "But he swept me off my feet and the rest is history."

Laura Teubert, who teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grades at St. Williams School in Chicago, reports she finally got to go to Washington, D.C. but it was only for one day and with an entourage of 37, including about 25 eighth-graders. She teaches language arts, history and U.S. government and helps with the school newspaper. Previously, she was a part-time instructor at Triton College in River Grove where she taught ESL classes for adults. She reports her daughter Judy, who contracted a rare, life-threatening disease, is doing great, and is now 11-going-on-16.

1992-93

Cara Jepsen continues as a full-time freelance writer at *The Reader*, where she does the weekly calendar section. She also writes for *Crain's Chicago Business*, and recently had a story about a cursed 1965 movie, "Incubus," (shot entirely in Esperanto and starring William Shatner) in *Salon* maga-

zine. She is a columnist for *Illinois Entertainer* and has written for *Book* magazine and *Billboard*. She regularly contributes to *Yoga Chicago* magazine and is a teacher at N.U. Yoga Center. An article in *Chicago Life* quoted Cara: "I needed something to give me strength and peace. Yoga gave me both," she explained, after her mother died of cancer in 1997.

Fred Krol graduated from Loyola University Chicago Law School. Post-master's degree, Fred worked on a number of political campaigns. He got interested in politics after going to a news briefing of then Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch in the State & National Government Seminar and ended up working on her gubernatorial campaign as well as those of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and 43rd Ward Ald. Chuck Bernardini. While at Columbia, he interned for the Chicago Association of Realtors, *Catalyst* magazine and *Washington Flyer* magazine. Most recently, he was associate director of Working in the Schools, a nonprofit that sends volunteer tutors/mentors into the Chicago Public Schools.

Ayesha Mustafaa continues as editor of the *Muslim Journal*, a weekly newspaper based in Hazel Crest, Ill., serving the Muslim community throughout the U.S. and abroad. She was named Muslim American Woman of the Year after she received her master's degree. The Mississippi native converted to the Islamic faith over two decades ago and has been a student of the religion under Imam W. Deen Mohammed. She has traveled to Saudi Arabia twice, making *Umra* (a lesser *Haji*) as part of the largest Muslim delegation from the-then World Community of Islam in the West. She also traveled to Jerusalem with a delegation led by Mohammed, who met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

1991-92

Alexia Hall has taught English and Speech for a number of years at Columbia College. When last heard from, she was working on a financial newsletter and training for a marathon.

Sports Journalist

Karen Palacios, Class of 1991, melded a love for golf with a love for writing. The end result: A golf instructor who uses her journalism degree to write informative articles for national sports publications.

Palacios is a full-time golf instructor at the Jim McLean Golf School at Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, known as the No. 1 golf school in the nation. She's also a regular contributing writer to golf publications such as *Golf Magazine*, *Golf For Women* and *Golf Digest*. She appears frequently on the "Golf Channel" and has hosted "Golf Academy Live" a talk show seen by more than 7 million viewers. Palacios also teaches an exercise class that she developed called "CardioGolf."

"I really enjoyed attending Columbia," Palacios says. "Obtaining a master's degree at Columbia has opened a lot of doors for me in the media world of golf.

"Not only have I written over 60 magazine articles, but I have appeared on two covers of *Golf For Women* magazine. The skills that I learned at Columbia College have helped me become a better golf instructor, writer and reporter."

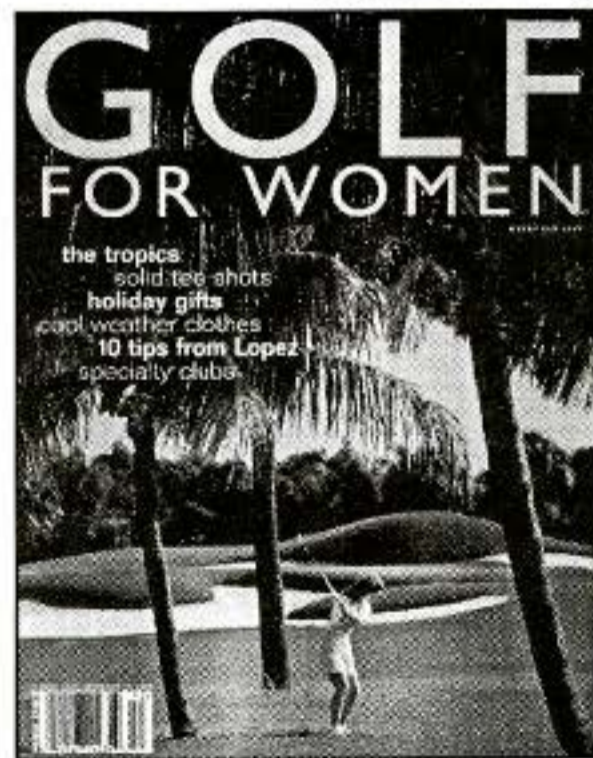
Palacios, who grew up in

Naperville, learned to play golf from her father. She played golf in high school and as an undergraduate at Stetson University in Florida, winning numerous local, regional and national amateur golf titles, including qualifying for five LPGA events as an amateur. Palacios has also worked for the David Leadbetter Golf Academy in Orlando and the Nick Faldo Golf Institute. While teaching at the David Leadbetter Golf Academy, Palacios met and worked with some of the biggest PGA and LPGA players of the day, including Nick Faldo, Nick Price, Seve Ballesteros, Catrin Nilsmark and Florence Descampe.

Palacios speaks fluent Spanish and travels extensively to Latin America and Europe conducting golf schools and clinics.

Palacios' teaching philosophy, according to her website, www.AboutGolf.com, is to "instill the importance of the basic fundamentals or swing essentials in lessons to my students. Once you have mastered the 'essentials' of a good, full swing and you are confident with your ball striking, you can then really have fun."

-- Regina Waldroup



Maria Kantzavelos is working as a freelance reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* in its west suburban bureau. She covers the police beat in Kane

County and three towns in Du Page County. Previously she spent six years as a reporter for Press Publications.



Two of the most important skills **April Rivera Hattori**, Class 1989, says she learned at Columbia

College were how to listen and how to write.

Mastering both skills has led her to become an accomplished writer in the business world. Hattori has written for insurance and investment companies. She currently lives in New York, where she is the vice president of communications for McGraw-Hill Education, the nation's leading educational publisher. Her responsibilities include developing and implementing public relations, communications, and marketing programs to support the business domestically and internationally. She's also senior coordinator of McGraw-Hill Education's communications with the media, investors, and government officials.

"As the song goes, 'I Love New York!'" Hattori said. "I enjoy the fast

VP, Corporate Communications

pace of life and business and the diversity of people and culture. There's no place like it in the U.S. -- it is truly cosmopolitan."

Before coming to McGraw-Hill, Hattori worked for three years as a communications manager at Allstate in Northbrook; her focus was media relations, and her areas of specialty included financial and international issues. Hattori also was able to travel to China and Japan to work on public relations issues for the company.

She went to Japan for the first time in 1996 when she won an essay contest sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles about "discovering Japan." She and nine other essay winners who had never been to Japan were accompanied by a translator who had relatives who lived in the same village as April's grandparents.

Prior to Allstate, Hattori was a communications coordinator for Standard & Poor's, and before that, she was Midwest correspondent for the *Bond Buyer*.

Hattori, who switched from dental school to Columbia's graduate jour-

nalism program, says she doesn't regret the decision in the least.

While at Columbia, she became a trainee in the Minority Broadcast Career Training Program and was a research intern at NBC-TV. Some of the qualities Hattori says she liked most about the program were faculty attention to her development and off-site learning opportunities in Springfield and Washington.

"In a lot of ways, those were challenging situations from both life and school standpoints," she says. "But looking back on it, both situations gave me the opportunity to test my journalistic skills in new territory, which were tremendous learning experiences."

Hattori's advice to new students in the program is "see every assignment as an opportunity to improve your writing, organizational, reporting or listening skills. Don't worry about making mistakes. This is the time to do it! Ask lots of questions about how you can improve your skills as a journalist."

When she has spare time, Hattori says she enjoys sleeping.

-- Regina Waldroup

Kimberly McCullough is still at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center but now is working as manager of public affairs for the Sinai Health System.

1990-91

Paul Caine when last heard from was reportedly working for Reuters in Hong Kong after a stint at the wire service headquarters in London. The Manchester, England, native freelanced in Spain after leaving the *Chicago Reporter* where he won a Peter Lisagor Award for exemplary journalism.

Rick Michal works for the American Nuclear Society and was recently promoted to senior editor for *Nuclear News* magazine, a monthly publication for members of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), comprised of professionals dedicated to the peaceful use

of the atom, power generation, nuclear medicine and food irradiation. Rick started out as an associate editor for the magazine in 1994. Rick and his wife, Julie, had their first baby, Faith Christine, on Feb. 24. Rick says both his wife and child are doing fine and that life in the suburbs is "blissful." He says that mowing all of his land helps to keep him in shape. Rick is an ex-life-long Cubs fan who recently became a White Sox fan. Last year, he was invited to throw out the first pitch at a White Sox vs. Cubs game at Comiskey Park. Rick writes about the experience: "That was nerve-wracking--being out on the mound in front of 40,000 fans."

Debra L. Williams has worked for *Catalyst* magazine for seven years as an associate editor, and she loves it, she writes. "The school administration continues to give us plenty to write about," she says. The Chicago-based magazine reports on school reform

and what's going on in Chicago's public schools. Debra interned there while attending graduate school. When the internship was over, she was offered a job, and the rest is history. Debra recently received a fellowship to attend the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) conference in New York this past June. In 1996, Debra won a national award from the Education Writers Association for a package of stories on student mobility. Debra says she's still trying to adjust to having a 17-year-old son who is "dating, constantly on the telephone, and sharing my car!" Next year, she says, they will start looking for colleges.

1989-90

Ann Christe Young returned to Columbia to teach Introduction to Magazine Editing, an undergraduate course. She worked at *U.S. Catholic* magazine as an assistant editor.

1988-1989

Kerry O'Rourke is the managing editor for newsletters for Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, a medical publisher in Baltimore. Kerry has editorial production responsibility for a group of 17 newsletters in various medical specialties. She has held this position for three years. "It's been interesting, and I've learned a lot," Kerry writes. "But I'm ready for something new." Kerry has also worked for a Maryland state legislator and the *Baltimore Sun*. Kerry created a Women in Journalism group that meets for lunch every other month to listen to guest speakers and network. Kerry has a two-year-old Norwegian Elk Hound/German Shepherd mix, who she enjoys playing with. "Right now, we're taking agility classes," she says. Kerry also plays a "a lot" of tennis, mentors a 16-year-old girl and does gardening. "I just planted a rose bush in my back yard," she says.

1987-1988

Shelley Acoca is the Broward Weekend Editor for the *Miami Herald*. Shelley assumed her new position in January, and she loves it. "I'm totally glad to be back in a real city, after spending seven years wandering in the Gannett wilderness." Prior to her new job, Shelley was metro editor for Gannett's *Florida Today* newspaper, in which, she managed a staff of approximately 35 people. Shelley has also worked as the city editor of the Lafayette, Ind., *Journal and Courier*, and before that, she was managing editor of three suburban Chicago Pioneer Press newspapers, winning awards for general excellence and editorial writing.

Mary Fran (Gleason) Devendorf is in her 12th year with the *Syracuse* (New York) *Herald-Journal*. "Still at the newspaper that I said I would stay at for just a year or two," she writes. Mary was recently promoted to assistant managing editor/metro, where she runs a 60-person city and suburban desk. Mary has also held numerous positions at the *Herald-Journal*, including features editor, bureau chief, assistant sports editor, lifestyle sections editor and reporter. Devendorf writes: "Despite

being a 'higher-up,' I stumbled upon an opportunity to cover Hillary Clinton, writing notes on napkins and inadvertently getting myself into the middle of the photograph. The best (picture) had to be scrapped."

Catherine (Katie) Hanley Cromer's journalist career is on hiatus, for a while at least, as Catherine works as a full-time parent. "We have had another baby," she says. "So now we have three girls: Lauren, 6, Caroline, 5, and Alison, 14 months. Before Allison was born, I was doing a bit of communications work for a church here--press releases, a brochure--and I enjoyed that a lot. I hope to do more." Katie also holds an M.A. in teaching from National Louis University.



Karen Klemens

When last we heard from Karen, she and her husband, Matt Krasnowski, were living earthquake and mudslide-free in Los Angeles. In 1998, Karen combined her love for dogs with her writing skills to launch *Healthy Dog*, a twice-monthly newsletter devoted to dog care. Karen continues at the Music Center of Los Angeles County as communications director, and her husband is a legal affairs reporter for Copley News Service.

Elizabeth (Beth) Owens-Schiele left her position as assistant feature editor

of the *Chicago Sun-Times* in 1996 to explore new opportunities "across the street" at the *Chicago Tribune*. Six months later, Elizabeth was named Tribune Company's Employee and Rookie of the Year, and she was featured in the Tribune Company's annual report and she was promoted to a management position for Tribune Media Services. Elizabeth contributes weekly food and restaurant reviews for the paper's Friday section. She's also a contributing writer for "WomanNews" and "Good Eating." Elizabeth says that she and her husband Steve are still surviving "suburbia in Arlington Heights," while Steve climbs the corporate ladder as executive chef at the Rainforest Café. "Our only dependant remains our golden retriever, Hunter," she writes.

1986-87

Rachel Pepper reports her "main passions continue to be the written word in its many forms and, most especially, her daughter Frances, now 2." Rachel continues to run a flourishing little bookshop, Bernal Books in Bernal Heights, San Francisco, as well as "write whenever and wherever she can." Most recently, she authored "The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians" (Cleis Press, 1999), as well as freelance stories for a number of local and national publications. She is also a contributing editor at *Curve* magazine. "I don't do as much writing these days as I should, but I still do enjoy being published. There's a novel still knocking around inside me,

In Memoriam

Samuel (Eric) Peterson, 38, died Sept. 8, 1999 of pneumonia, according to obituaries in the *Chicago Sun-times*, *Daily Herald* and *Chicago Tribune* newspapers. For the past five years, Eric had worked as an editor and reporter at the *Des Plaines Journal* and *Elk Grove Topics* newspapers.

His mother said that Eric really loved investigative journalism. Eric was reared in Lake Forest. He received his B.A. in journalism from Trinity University in San Antonio,

Texas. Last year, Eric broke the story on the Chicago Bears football team's interest in building a new stadium in Elk Grove Village. Eric was also the resident in-house expert on the noise control issues at O'Hare International Airport.

Dwight Esau, a fellow reporter for Journal & Topics Newspapers, was quoted as saying: "He had an outstanding ability to cultivate new sources. It didn't matter whether it was the police, school officials or the mayor."

Journalism Teacher

Teaching was a whole new "ball-game" for **Robin Orvino-Proulx**, who graduated from Columbia in 1991. But a solid mentoring relationship with professor Eric Lund, who retired as the director of the journalism program in 1994, has helped her hit several career "home runs."

"Eric has been a mentor over the years since I graduated and continues to assist me as I approach each new challenge in my career," she said. "Prior to beginning to teach, I contacted him for guidance, ideas, questions to ask, and anything else he thought would help me."

Since 1997, Orvino-Proulx has worked as a lecturer and adjunct professor in the Journalism and Mass Communication Department at Murray State University in Murray, Ky. Orvino-Proulx teaches news writing, electronic news writing, public relations principles, writing for public relations, and script writing. She's also an adviser to the university's chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

She found out about the teaching post when she went to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale on a fact-finding interview to determine, "if I wanted to return to school. The director called me the next day to tell me about a teaching position at MSU. Murray needed someone ASAP because school was starting in less than week. By means of telephone, fax machines, e-mail and a Sunday afternoon interview with their new chair, I was teaching my first class four days

later.

"I told my husband that if I had had more time to think about it, I would have talked myself out of it because I wasn't sure about being able to teach. The chair assured me I could do it once she heard about my background during our conversations and final interview. She wanted someone with lots of practical business experience as well as education. I fit the bill...I really like teaching. It requires a great deal of work but I have complete freedom to do what I like to do. The best part is that I don't have the intense pressures and deadlines that I had in business."

Orvino-Proulx has used her print and broadcast journalism skills within the areas of business, law, marketing and public relations in Chicago, Springfield, Washington, D.C., Poland and Italy. She has also worked on several projects in the Ukraine, Turkey, France and the far east regions of Russia. She says her goal at MSU is to expose students "to the realities of the business world."

"A good education, practical experience, and the ability to analyze a situation...will give students a competitive edge when they enter the job market," she says.

"While concentrating on the value of writing and communication skills, I introduce students to the professional world by integrating my business experiences into lectures and their assignments."

One look at her CV, and you can tell she's had a really busy journalism career, and she's not about to

slow down. Right now, Orvino-Proulx is working on her Ph.D. in journalism at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and her mentor, Lund, is there to give her support and advice.

"He's helped me find focus for a topic for my dissertation," she said. "I've decided to write about the foreign service of the *Chicago Daily News*. In the fall, I will be enrolled in three Ph.D. courses. Upon successful completion of the fall semester, I should only have two more courses to take. Then, it's the comprehensive exams and the dissertation."

Orvino-Proulx is a member of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, American Journalism Historians Association, Public Relations Society of America and the Society for Professional Journalists.

MSU was over 100 miles from where she and her husband lived in southern Illinois. "That is too long of a commute. We decided to split the distance and moved to Paducah, Ky...Now we drive 50 miles to our jobs. For a city gal who never drove much or owned a car, I'm making up for it now!"

When Orvino-Proulx isn't in the classroom, she's spending time on their sailboat, Robin's Rocket, which is a 14 ft. Laser II, or on an 18 ft. Victoria Sloop called Farfalla. "Sailing is my favorite sport," she said. "My husband Don and I spend as many weekends as possible sailing at Kentucky Lake."

-- Regina Waldroup

so keep watching for that tell-tale byline. And don't forget to support your local independent bookstore!"

1985-86 (First Class)

Mary Beth Johnson left Ameritech as Director of Media Relations after six years and is now consulting in public relations, specifically in the areas of technology, coalition-building and gov-

ernment relations.

Ilyce Reisman Wharton got married, bought a new home in Vernon Hills and won a one-year lease on a Jeep Wrangler at a dealership's grand opening. She continues to work as a public relations writer for Trustmark Insurance Co. in Lake Forest.

Mary Jo Wenckus, when last heard

from, was promoted from technical writer to proposal manager at Ameritech, where she has worked since 1991. She is remarried to Sam Harnish, a systems consultant and proud father of twin Columbia alumni, Jeff and Joe Harnish, who majored in theater and photography respectively. A favorite recent trip was to Ireland with a group interested in Celtic history, poetry and mythology, and Irish pubs.

What's the Graduate Journalism Program all about?



Besides much writing, revising and editing, there's . . .

Listening and asking questions



Taking notes



Being briefed



Taking trips



Taking tests

(even mobile mid-terms en route from State Capitol)



Earning the reward

Faculty Notes



Graduate Journalism Director **Norma Green** delivered the faculty address at this June's graduate commencement, held at Navy Pier's *alfresco* Skyline Stage, as she prepared for her upcoming Fulbright visiting professorship at Odense University's Journalism Institute on the island of Fyn in Denmark this fall. She is scheduled to teach public affairs reporting, supervise thesis projects and advise on curriculum. (Sound familiar?)

Last December, she traveled to South Africa on an International Graduate Faculty Development Grant to cover the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Spring '99 was a banner season when she received a Teaching Excellence Award in the Teacher-Scholar category and 1st place in Illinois and National Federation of Press Women's research competition for her essay on Chicago's *StreetWise* that was published in *Print Culture in a Diverse America* (University of Illinois Press, 1998).

While on sabbatical during the 2000-2001 academic year, she plans to complete her long-awaited manuscript on the history of the global street newspaper movement.

Kathy Catrambone, who pioneered our graduate news service in Springfield, is editor and bureau chief of the Northwest Group of Pioneer Press in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Thom Clark, who co-teaches Local Politics and Government seminar and Community Journalism, took a much deserved summer sabbatical from the Community Media Workshop, the group he co-founded with Hank DeZutter 11 years ago. CMW, housed at Columbia College, was designed to help people who are working on solutions to improve their housing and business areas, their schools and their neighborhoods, by assisting them in getting their stories into the media.

Warren Cohen, who has taught the federal portion of State and National Government Seminar the last two years, left into the dot-com world and moved from his post as *U.S. News & World Report's* midwest bureau chief to become music and technology reporter at *Inside.com* in New York City. "We cover the digital convergence of the entertainment and media industries. Right now, we're a web site. But our magazine will launch this fall." He and his wife, who is with the Heifer Project International, are about to become first-time parents. Last summer, Warren was one of ten journalists from the U.S. selected for the highly competitive Burns Fellowship exchange to Germany where he worked for two months at *Konr@d*, the German equivalent of *Wired*, published by the Stern Group. While there, he studied how Germans use the web for free speech and civic participation.

Steve Corman, former Broadcast Journalism Director, was inducted into the Silver Circle of the Television Academy chapter in San Diego, where he moved back to in 1998. The Award is for people who have 25 years or more experience in television and have made significant contributions to the industry. On his birthday, March 10, 2001, he is looking forward to being Father of the Bride, as Lisa gets married in San Francisco.

Hank De Zutter, who co-teaches Local Politics and Government seminar and Community Journalism, was acting director of Community Media Workshop while **Thom Clark** was on sabbatical.

Rose Economou, who taught the Washington Program, has been awarded an International Graduate Faculty Development Grant to travel to Spain to research and do pre-production on a feature-length documentary film retracing the making of filmmaker Luis Buñuel's only documentary film, "Las Hurdes," known to English-speaking audiences as "Land Without Bread." The proposed art film is designed to focus on the life and times of Buñuel, ethical issues surrounding the making of the documentary, and the price paid for investigating rural poverty in pre-Civil War Spain. She also received a 2000 Excellence in Teaching Award under the theme of teaching that challenges and encourages students to discover and learn about themselves.

Bill Ferguson, who taught RPA-National, is finishing up the manuscript he has co-authored on the history of UPI. Bill is retired bureau chief of three of UPI's bureaus in Chicago, Atlanta and Washington.

Lorraine Forte, former staff reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Daily Southtown*, as well as former managing editor of *Catalyst* magazine (about Chicago schools), has joined the graduate faculty as an Artist-in-Residence. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from Ohio State University and a M.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University. Recently, she was Research Editor for *20th Century Chicago*, a series and book on significant news events of 1900-1999. She previously worked as a writer and researcher at the Congressional Information Service in Washington, D.C., and for Yearbook Medical Publishers in Chicago.

Laura Duncan Gatland, our veteran Courts and Law instructor and former *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* reporter, is about to become a first-time mother in November. In the meantime, she is

busy continuing her successful freelance career with articles in *Chicago* magazine, *Chicago Tribune*, *Crain's Chicago Business* and *National Law Journal*. She is a regular contributor to *Newsweek*, where she worked as a freelance reporter on the cover story "Fat for Life?" about the epidemic of obesity among children, as well as a story about teenagers' religious beliefs. She also had her first piece published in the August issue of *InStyle* magazine, including interviews with actors Gary Sinise and Gene Hackman.



Eric Lund, former graduate journalism director and program founder, received the Carl Sandburg Medal, the highest honor of the Swedish American Historical Society for service to the Society, the

Swedish-American community and/or the greater community. The award was kept a secret until presentation at the 50th anniversary dinner in 1998 that Eric emceed. He is a board member and has served as president, editorial board chairman and chairman of the board of the society, which has members in more than 40 states, Canada and Sweden, and as director of the Swedish Council of America, an umbrella organization for some 175 Swedish-American groups. He continues to publish articles on, what else, Swedish America. His book on the first five years of the Swedish American Historical Society is forthcoming. He also does a several-times-a-year newsletter. He and wife Grace Carlson-Lund, who taught photography at Columbia for several years, keep busy with his writing and

her nursing but find time to travel, including trips to visit former students.

Nicholas Shuman, former graduate faculty member, continues to serve on the John Fischetti Scholarship Committee, named for the late *Chicago Daily News* Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, which provides funding for Columbia journalism students.

Ellen Shubart, who taught the Local Politics and Government Seminar, earned her second master's degree in May. The first for the journalist and former editor of *City and State Magazine*, among other Crain publications, was in history and this one's in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute.

Todd Sloane, long-time veteran of State and National Politics Seminar, keeps busy with his duties as copy editor for Crain Communications' *Modern Healthcare*. Previously he was news editor of *City & State* and political editor for Pioneer Press. The award-winning journalist, whose honors include the Chicago Headline Club Lisagor Award, also found time to write a young adult biography of the former chairman of the U.S. House Banking Committee, entitled, "Henry Gonzalez of Texas."

Judy Valente, who taught RPA-National, continues as an on-air correspondent for the national PBS tv show, "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly." She is a former reporter and editor for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Dallas Times Herald* and *Washington Post*.

Lillian Williams, who succeeded Steve Corman as Broadcast



Len Strazewski steps up to Acting Director of the Graduate Program where he has taught Information Search Strategies since 1997. Behind him in the commencement processional are Broadcast Journalism Director Lillian Williams and Interim Journalism Dept. Chair Carolyn Hulse, who teaches Business Beat.

Journalism Director, was one of 15 college professors from across the country participating in the Excellence in Journalism Education project, a program designed to update educators on news technologies and challenges facing broadcast journalists. It is operated by the Radio Television News Directors Foundation and funded by the Knight Foundation. Lillian met with fellow professors in Washington, D.C. for a round of seminars prior to heading off to her four week assignment this past summer working at WRAL-TV, the CBS affiliate in Raleigh, N.C. Lillian, who previously taught at Kent State University, in Kent, Ohio, is a former reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and NBC-TV affiliates in Chicago and Cleveland.

In Memoriam

Diane Monk, who co-taught RPA-State, lost her Leone Co. business partner Kathy McClelland, who taught RPA II, the predecessor course to Information Search Strategies, when Kathy succumbed to lung cancer at the age of 49 last year. Among many projects, Diane and Kathy produced the monthly *Chicago Journalist* for the Headline Club.

In an obituary, Diane wrote: "Kathy was 15, when seeking an alternative to babysitting, she landed a job covering Northlake City Council meetings for the old Pioneer Press weekly, the *Leyden Herald*. Soon she was hooked on journalism—and on cigarettes." Kathy later worked for Lerner Newspapers and the *Daily Herald* as well as dailies in four other states.

International Journalists Visit Our Graduate Program



In 1999, four journalists from Nairobi, Kenya, visited with Columbia College broadcast graduate students as part of a "Young Parliamentary Reporters-Young African Leaders" cross-country tour sponsored by the United States Information Agency. In their discussions with graduate broadcast students, the Africans contrasted their unicameral legislature and its limited power to check the executive branch with our system of checks and balances and two-party system. They were keenly interested in Columbia's public affairs curriculum, how the U.S. political system is portrayed by the media, and the role of women in journalism. The reporters, all of whom had B.A.'s or diplomas in journalism, worked for Kenya Times Media Trust, East African Standard and Nation Newspapers, and Kenya Broadcasting Corp.

During semester break in February, Graduate Director Norma Green met with Javier Goma Lanzon, Secretary General at the Center for Advanced Studies in Social Studies at the Juan March Institute, a combination think tank and post-doctoral research center in Madrid, Spain. A lawyer and journalist, Sr. Goma was director of *Nueva Revista* magazine and has written political opinion pieces for *El Pais*, Spain's leading newspaper. He is the most junior member of the State Council, which is responsible for reviewing pending legislation and other matters of state requiring review of the President's office. Goma was near completion of his doctorate in political philosophy. While touring Chicago, he specifically asked to visit two schools, the University of Chicago and Columbia College's graduate journalism program in public affairs reporting. He and Norma discussed our curriculum and general interaction between government and the press.

Capital Ideas



Springfield with Illinois Issues Bureau Chief Burney Simpson as guide (2nd from right).



From the High Court to Foggy Bottom, graduate students visit Washington, D.C.



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