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# Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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# INSIDE JOURNALISM

DECEMBER, 1990

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

## WEISMAN CENTER OPENS

### *Numerous offerings for J-students*

In the past, Columbia College has honored many journalists who have contributed their expertise to the field of journalism and to the college itself.

The latest addition to this on-going tribute is the Weisman Center for the Study of Chicago Journalism, located on the first floor of the CC library.

A memorial to one of Chicago's most respected communicators, Albert P. Weisman, the center was established to assist j-students and other area communicators with their education. Weisman made his mark in journalism, advertising, public relations and as a Columbia College trustee and instructor.

The center is designed to:

- Honor the print, broadcast and photographic works of Chicago journalists
- Encourage formal research on issues and individuals that have shaped Chicago journalism
- Foster interest in journalism and enhance the growth of occupational opportunities
- Showcase special collections of Chicago journalistic archives and artifacts
- Perpetuate the spirit of Albert P. Weisman, who loved and fostered journalism in Chicago

The center features a reading room that shelves current issues of local and national newspapers, as well as Chicago-based magazines.

The Chicago Press Veterans Association has loaned the center approximately 150 books by Chicago journalists and about Chicago journalism that will be available for use in the library only. Along with the artwork on the walls are

various political cartoons and a collection of front pages from the **Chicago Tribune** that display some historical moments in Chicago.

Senior j-student Svetlana Lalic, who interned with Weisman coordinator Norma Green this summer, spent most of her time indexing the Press Veterans collection. She says, "It was fascinating for me to pore over the files of the press veterans. It gave me a great sense of the history of Chicago journalism, an important thing for all journalism students to have."

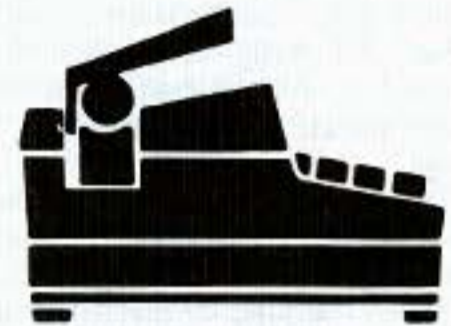
—Rachel Morrow

## MAGAZINE EDITOR AND PLAYBOY SCHOLAR

### *Whetstone's Hard Work Pays Off*

Eighteen credit hours every semester. A husband. Two kids. Part time job. Secretary of Women in Communications, Inc., Editor-in-Chief of Columbia College's forthcoming magazine annual, **Chicago: Arts and Entertainment**.

Pick out two of the above and you have an average load for a j-student.



Pick three or four and you have a very hard working student. Lump them all together and you have a day in the life of Muriel Whetstone.

Juggling her many varied responsibilities is no easy task, but hard work is the cornerstone that Whetstone, 31, has built her life around, and she wouldn't have it any other way. "No one gives you anything in this world. They may make certain things available to you . . . sometimes. And sometimes you have to go out and make things available yourself."

A quick look at Whetstone's background shows that she definitely practices what she preaches.

She has been married for 15 years,



Playboy Chairman Christie Hefner presents a check for \$1000 to CC student Muriel Whetstone, the first recipient of the Playboy Fellowship in Magazine Journalism.



and has two children — a 14-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son.

Although the decision to enter college last year has meant certain sacrifices for Whetstone and her family, they stand behind her all the way, she says.

And Whetstone feels that the sacrifices being made are small enough prices to pay for the valuable lessons being learned — by both Whetstone and her children.

"I'm showing them at an early age that I feel education is important, and that I feel strong enough about this to pursue it, even though it has meant some drastic changes in our lives," she says.

Drastic changes indeed, for Muriel was not your average wife and mother who decided to take a few courses.

She already had an established career at Arthur Andersen & Co., one of the "big eight" accounting firms in Chicago.

She was hired there at an entry level position after graduating from secretarial school, and over the next eight years she received five promotions, reaching the position of senior administrative assistant before deciding to follow another road.

"Regardless of how much money you're making, if you're not happy, it doesn't matter. I had been putting off my aspirations my whole life. I was looking at my thirtieth birthday, and I thought to myself, 'If you're going to do it, then go on and do it right now.'"

And done it she has. In addition to her numerous other accomplishments, Whetstone was recently named the first recipient of a new Playboy Fellowship Award in magazine journalism.

"I've known Muriel since she entered the department," says Nat Lehrman, chairman of the j-department, "and her dedication to magazine journalism has made a tremendous impression on all of us. We were truly delighted to recommend her for the Playboy Fellowship."

Maybe because she has overcome more obstacles than the average college student, Whetstone says she has no tolerance for those who try to coast through life, and then get upset when things don't go their way. She especially sees evidence of this among some of her fellow African-American students.

"It may be true that certain oppor-

tunities have not been given to us, based on things beyond our control, like the color of our skin, but too many of us use that as an excuse and as a crutch. Too many of us want to lean on that our whole lives."

Whetstone sees this attitude as a major obstacle to African-Americans in the journalism department. "I don't see enough of us in the forefront of the activities that are going on in the department, and it's not because the department doesn't help us there, either. When you get to the college level, no one is going to come looking for you to hold your hand. You've got to go looking for it. And that goes for everybody: Women, Hispanics, Asians. If you can visualize yourself doing something, then you can go out and do it!"

— Steve Crescenzo

## START NETWORKING NOW

### *J-Department Offers Two Professional Organizations*

Getting a job in the real world of journalism takes more than just learning to write a good lead—a great deal of your success depends on who you know and there's no better way to start networking than to get involved in one of the two j-clubs at Columbia.

The CC chapter of Women In Communications, Inc. (WICI), is an organization that is open to all students in any of the communications majors.

And don't let the name fool you, WICI is a coed organization and men are encouraged to join. The group boasts a mailing list of 60 and regular



Jacquie Podzius, president of CC's WICI

attendance at meetings by about 30 students.

WICI offers programs approximately once a month that focus on career preparation and general topics of interest to communications students.

Past programs have included guest speakers, resume writing programs and dress-for-success seminars geared to preparing graduates for the "real world."

"The connections that you make through WICI can be helpful both in school and after you graduate, when you're looking for that first job," says Jacquie Podzius, president of CC's WICI chapter.

"WICI gives you access to media contacts, so you could have an instant network wherever you are in any major city," says Carolyn Hulse, WICI faculty advisor. "And I'm excited about the CC Chapter because of the great events for communication students." The group is sponsoring an upcoming food drive for the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which received 107 pounds of food from CC's WICI chapter last year. The drive will take place at WICI's holiday party for all CC students Dec. 11 and any student who brings non-perishable food to the party or to the j-department will receive a ticket for a prize drawing at the party.

Ten CC WICI members have chosen to take their involvement with the group a step further and have joined the national WICI organization.

WICI's national organization is composed of many nationwide city professional chapters. The Chicago professional chapter of WICI sponsors seminars, luncheons and other events which members of the CC Chapter can attend at a student rate.

For all national members, WICI produces a monthly magazine called *The Professional Communicator* which deals with achievements and problems facing women in communications, offers career advice and keeps a watchful eye on possible infringements of communicators' First Amendment rights.

"Joining the WICI national organization was one of the smartest career moves I ever made," Podzius says. "Last year alone I was offered four summer internships just from one day at the career conference."

There is no fee to join the CC Chapter but there is a \$43 student fee to join



the national organization. Any interested students should contact Hulse in the j-department.

WICI's not the only CC organization for j-students, however. The Chicago Headline Club, sponsored by Les Brownlee also provides j-students with an opportunity to rub elbows with professionals on the college and national level.

As a member of the Headline Club, you are also eligible to become a member of the Chicago Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalist for \$27.

Headline Club students can attend all meetings, seminars and other activities sponsored by them in the Chicago area.

CC members are in the planning stages of a project called "Adopt-A-High School Newspaper," Brownlee says.

The program involves advanced j-students "adopting" a high school newspaper and giving the students some of their knowledge and assistance about journalism.

The Headline Club also seeks applicants every year for two Curtis MacDougall Scholarships. The Headline Club sponsors the scholarship annually along with the Chicago Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Brownlee encourages students to join the Headline Club now while they are still eligible for the reduced student national dues.

Keep watching the j-department for posters announcing the activities of both WICI and the Headline Club

—Carolyn Denne

## "HANDS-ON" COURSE PREPARES J-STUDENTS FOR REAL WORLD

Of all the journalism courses offered at Columbia, none allows the student to experience the "real world" of news reporting like *Covering the Courts*.

The course uses a "hands-on approach" toward communicating and understanding how the legal system function in today's society.

*Covering the Courts* is highly recommended for students interested in reporting on what is actually going on in a courtroom. Students meet at the Dirksen Federal Building each week to

discuss and learn how to pinpoint and collect information on a particular case.

"It's like jumping into water," says Chicago *Sun-Times* court reporter and *Covering the Courts* instructor, Adrienne Drell. "The first time you try to familiarize yourself with the court system, you already have some knowledge of what you're up against."

Some of the vast range of topics in *Covering the Courts* that students are expected to learn and digest by the end of the semester are the criminal justice system, the appellate process, civil lawsuits, U.S. attorneys and domestic relations talks.

Students are not only shown how to accurately search for information, but also profit from a skill that will help them have some knowledge of the court process in the future.

"Until I took this class, I had only a vague notion of how the court system worked and how they communicated with one another," says senior Cheryl Steffen. "But sitting in the courtroom offers exposure to the realities of court reporting. You realize that you're in a real situation, so you profit from it."

Drell co-teaches the course with Rosalind Rossi, also a court reporting specialist for the *Sun-Times*.

"What I want my students to do is understand legal terms and proceedings, so that they can describe the

process to their readers in everyday language," Drell says.

—Timothy Bentevis

## SPORTS WRITING

A recent study shows sex and money as the leading causes of divorce in America. The diligent researcher failed to consider the effect of breakfast table disputes over the sports section.

The sports section, one of the most widely read segments of a paper, makes the life of a sports writer appear glamorous and exciting. But what's it really like? Several sports figures give us the inside scoop.

"Good sports writers are hard-working reporters with knowledge of all sports. They are interested in people and can establish a rapport with someone who may regard them as an adversary," says Michael Doyle, sports reporter for the *Rockford Register Star*. Doyle advises young journalists to begin watching games from a reporter's point of view.

Ken Paxson, an editor at the *Tribune* and former Columbia j-instructor, began covering sports at the *Chicago Daily News* in 1976. He says good sports writers are able to "get the score high in the story without boring the reader."

## SPORTS WRITING TO BE OFFERED

### *A "Luxury" for J-students*

"Sports writing is a luxury because of the creating, the risk-taking and the experimenting," says Skip Myslenski, the newest member of the J-department part-time staff.

Myslenski will be teaching "Sports Reporting" this spring on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-4:20.

A twelve-year veteran sports writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, Myslenski believes that sharing his reporting and interviewing experiences with students can help their confidence levels.

He also wants the class to cover games live to get a feel for being with and talking to players and coaches.

"By doing this, the class should get a feel for what good interviews and bad interviews are like."

In addition to the *Tribune*, Myslenski has written for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The National*, and he also freelances. He adds that "sports is fun and honest compared to politics. Players can't lie because their numbers betray them."

"My suggestion to all the J-students who plan to take the class is to throw out a lot of the rules and learn to experiment."

He hopes students will enjoy his class and encourages women to participate, because "sports isn't just for men. I know lots of women who are good sports reporters because they have grown up with sports."

—Stacy Mangiaras



Doyle and Paxson say the writer must remember most readers have already seen the game and don't want "play by play" stories. "Good sports reports are interpretive. They tell what happened, why it happened and the result," comments Doyle.

Depending on the paper's circulation, sports writers often find themselves covering high school athletics rather than professional sports. It seems as the size of the city decreases, the interest in local sports increases. Minor league teams in Rockford, population 180,000, are as important to its residents as the Cubs and Sox are to Chicagoans.

Reporters covering big city sports are more likely to cover a team for its entire season than are reporters from small towns. In fact, the sports department at many small papers consists of one very overworked sports editor covering high school volleyball as well as national football.

Paxson advises beginners to start at a small paper because reporters have the opportunity to cover several sports and gain a wide range of experience.

Doyle and Paxson agree—not surprisingly—that the sports section is very important to the overall success of a newspaper. Paxson adds, "Readers won't choose one paper over another on the basis of its fashion coverage, but they will base their choice on the quality of the sports section."

Michael Kiefer, who teaches "Introduction to Magazine Article Writing," at CC has written for such publications as *Sports Illustrated*, *Sports*, and *USA Today*. He says he often finds himself writing about the unusual: the Irish sports of hurling, Argentinian tango matches or dog sledding in Alaska.

Be prepared for some unique experiences if you enter magazine sports writing. Kiefer once stepped into the ring with a female boxer while working on a story for *Sports Illustrated*. And yes, he did punch her. "Actually it was sort of fun," he says now. A less enjoyable excursion was crossing 100 miles into Alaska on a dogsled.

Kiefer's stories involve exploring the mechanics behind a sport while capturing the essence of the athlete. "Being able to describe effectively how athletes do what they do, and what it feels like, is the goal of a sports feature," he says.

Sports interviews take on a different

perspective in the eyes of an athlete. Football legend Gale Sayres spoke at Columbia last year on this subject.

Sayres says athletes' primary complaints concern reporters who write responses to questions they never asked the athlete. "Ask the person you're writing about," he says in regard to rumors about the athlete's health or performance. "Don't make up your own theories."

Sayres explains that after a long, injurious game, few athletes are anxious to speak to a reporter working on deadline. A tired, grouchy football player can be intimidating to a reporter who needs to confirm a statement. "Ask him anyway," says Sayres. He feels asking questions is the right of the reporter and answering them, the obligation of the player.

"Don't ever back off from tough questions," Sayres says.

Still interested in the glamorous world of sports writing?

Getting bylines is the key to getting the first job in the sports department. Another method for breaking into the field is through interning at publications that cover sports.

The best advice for novice sports reporters comes from Paxson. "Just get out there and do it."

—Sheridan Chaney

## IJ BITS

Since early this year, Tim Brown ('89) has been working at the Southwest Suburban Association of Realtors, Inc. Tim is the Director of Member Services for the Oak Lawn-based company and is in charge of its monthly newsletter and press releases. He also serves on the Member Services Committee for the Illinois Association of Realtors. Tim credits his Columbia internship with the Chicago Board of Realtors for starting him on his fast-moving career... Tammy Sellman ('90) works as production editor for *Publications International* in Lincolnwood. Tammy edits, typesets and designs graphics at work. She and her husband, Mike, have also started their own quarterly cookbook/newsletter, "Cornucopia," which they design and send out from their home... J-instructor Manuel Galvan will be writing a column every other month for *Illinois Issues* magazine.

Published in Springfield, the magazine deals with politics and government, and Galvan will focus specifically on the Chicago scene... Kane County reporter Rich Rudnik ('89) is busy covering county politics, elections, and school and police beats for *The Republican* newspaper, which serves the St. Charles, Batavia and Geneva communities. Rich recently won first place for best locally developed story on landfills in the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association... Congratulations to J-instructor Terence Sacks who will have two articles published in nationally distributed magazines in the near future. *Victorian Sampler* and *Toastmaster* magazines will be running Sacks' articles on "Victorian Mantel" and "ABC's of Introductions," respectively... The J-department recently bid a fond farewell to work-aid Jacqui Podzius. In November, Podzius began interning at *Chicago Enterprise* magazine, a non-profit publication which deals with the Chicago economic condition. Podzius will be fact-checking, writing and proofreading for the magazine.

—Julie Sacharski

## INSIDE JOURNALISM

A newsletter produced by and for students of the journalism department

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# INSIDE SUPPLEMENT JOURNALISM

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

## SPECIAL REPORT: The 1990 Fischetti Scholarship Winners

This year, 21 journalism students have been awarded the department's ultimate accolade: a Fischetti scholarship. This award is given to deserving students who show outstanding achievement in scholarship and in service to journalism.

**Timothy Bentevis**, 23, is a senior concentrating in science writing. Currently a reporter and the advertising director for the *Columbia Chronicle*, Bentevis recently took third place in a science and communications contest for his newspaper project, "The Technological Times." Bentevis is also an associate editor of "Inside Journalism."

**Tanya Bonner**, 21, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing. A second-time recipient of the Fischetti award, Bonner recently interned at *Essence* magazine in New York, and was co-editor of "Inside Journalism." Currently interning with *Catalyst*, a monthly publication which reviews the newly reformed Chicago public school system, Bonner hopes to write professionally about education in the future.

**Loren Buford**, 36, is a senior concentrating in magazine editing. Buford was a summer intern at the *Messenger-Inquirer* in Owensboro, Kentucky, where she labored as a copy editor. She plans to pursue a master's degree in com-

munications and eventually edit magazines and write novels.

**Bernard Burrell**, 32, is an international student who will receive his third college degree this January. Concentrating in broadcast journalism, he interned at Fox WFLD-TV as a production assistant for ten months. After graduating from Columbia, Burrell hopes to work for a radio station in Jamaica.

**Sheridan Chaney**, 21, is a senior concentrating in broadcast journalism. Chaney interns at WBBM-TV as Walter Jacobson's assistant, checking story leads and writing story proposals. The former editor of "Inside Journalism," she hopes to secure a reporting job at a television station after graduation.

**Lance Cummings**, 40, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing, and a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. Now the editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Chronicle*, Cummings participated in Georgetown University's Institute on Political Journalism last summer. During the program, he interned at the Blackwell Corporation in Washington, D.C., where he wrote for a current affairs television program. He intends to pursue his master's degree in international relations or foreign affairs and is interested in socially responsible journalism.

**Tara Dubsy**, 21, is a senior concentrating in news writing and reporting. She works as an editorial assistant for the *ANS News*, a monthly newspaper published by the American Nuclear Society, and two quarterly newsletters also published by ANS. Dubsy is a staff writer for the *Columbia Chronicle*, and she hopes to continue as an environmental writer after graduation.

**Meg Evans-Flores**, 27, is a sophomore concentrating in news writing and reporting and a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. She is a copywriter for *Manufacturers' News* and has had several articles published in the *Chicago Tribune's* "Your Place" section. She is interested in working for a newspaper or magazine in science writing.

**Mark Farano**, 25, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing and is a second-time recipient of



Moriki



Bentevis



Buford



Kensik



Farano





Whetstone



Podzius



Burrell



Dubsky



Padilla

the Fischetti award. Currently the executive editor of the *Chronicle*, Farano interned last summer at *The Herald*, a daily Pennsylvania newspaper. After graduation, he hopes to work on a copy desk, and in newspaper or magazine management.

**K**elly Fox, 22, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing and is a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. Fox serves as managing editor of *Illinois Legal Times*, a monthly newspaper on the business of law. She interned last summer at the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., and is considering attending law school.

**M**ary Johnson, 41, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing. She is a part-time general assignment reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and also managing editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*. Following graduation, she hopes to stay on at the *Sun-Times* and become one of the best news/feature writers in Chicago.

**M**ary Kensik, 22, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing, and is senior editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*. She is a contributing writer for the *Chicago Sun-Times*' high school sports section and plans to pursue her master's degree in political science.

**S**herri Kirk, 19, is a sophomore concentrating in news reporting and writing. Kirk works part-time for the *Star Sentinel* weekly newspapers and reports on council and board meetings for the Northlake, Proviso, and Maywood districts. A staff writer for the *Columbia Chronicle*, her goals are to write for the *Chicago Tribune* or *Chicago Sun-Times* after graduation.

**J**ulie Moriki, 19, is a sophomore concentrating in broadcast journalism. The former editor of her high school newspaper, Moriki is a correspondent for the *Columbia Chronicle*. She hopes to eventually write and report for Cable News Network.

**A**nita Padilla, 25, is a senior concentrating in broadcast journalism. Padilla is currently interning at WBBM-TV as Bill Kurtis' assistant. She also anchors the weekend news at WKRS/WXLC in Lake County and Columbia College's "600 South" cable news program. After graduation, she hopes to find a job that will allow her to remain "in front of the camera."

**J**acqui Podzius, 21, is a senior concentrating on news reporting and writing, and is a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. Podzius interned this summer at the World Information Network in Washington, D.C. and won the John Chamberlain Outstanding Student Award from Georgetown University's Institute on Political Journalism. She has written for the *Columbia Chronicle* and the *Southtown Economist*

and is currently editor of "Inside Journalism" and an intern at *Chicago Enterprise* magazine. She hopes to report on political and foreign affairs for a daily newspaper after graduation.

**T**ammy Smith, 24, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing, and is a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. She is interning at "Jobs for Youth," a non-profit organization for young adults struggling to enter the workforce. An alumni member of Phi Theta Kappa, she has also written for the *Columbia Chronicle* and the *Statesman*, Kennedy-King College's newspaper. Smith is interested in education and wants to teach in the future.

**K**athleen Troher, 26, is a senior concentrating in broadcast journalism. She interned last summer at Fox WFLD-TV and is doing an independent study project in science writing this semester. Troher has also written for a public affairs show. After graduation she hopes to pursue science writing for television.

**M**uriel Whetstone, 31, is a junior concentrating in news reporting and writing. She is editor of *Chicago: Arts and Communication*, Columbia's forthcoming magazine. Whetstone is interested in African-American history and women's issues. Her vision is to create a magazine for unwed teenage mothers.

**S**tephanie Wood, 23, is a senior concentrating in news reporting and writing and a second-time recipient of the Fischetti award. Wood interned for a bi-monthly restaurant magazine published by Cahners, which involved writing and copy editing. She is interested in teaching at the high school level and plans to pursue her master's in English literature after graduation.

**K**J. Zarker, 28, is a junior concentrating in news reporting and editing. She is currently interning at Women United for a Better Chicago, a community activist organization, where she writes and edits. Zarker is also the articles editor of *Chicago: Arts and Communication* magazine. Interested in American studies, Zarker plans to write professionally about the subject in the future.

— compiled by Julie Sacharski

**T**he Fischetti award winners were honored at a dinner on November 27 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Students wishing to apply for a Fischetti scholarship should be full-time, either undergraduate or graduate, with an interest in editorial art, political cartooning and/or journalism. Applications for next year will be available in the journalism department at the beginning of the spring semester.