

4-1-1992

Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Inside Journalism" (1992). *Inside Journalism*. 25.
https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/inside_journalism/25

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INSIDE JOURNALISM

JANUARY, 1992

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

ALUMNI DREAMS BECOME REALITY

Two journalism graduates have gotten off to a great start in television, and they credit Columbia for their success. Spring 1991 graduate Anita Padilla works at CBS affiliate WHBF in Rock Island, as a reporter for the six and ten p.m. news shows, while Irene Lobo, a spring 1990 graduate, works for Chicago's WGN, as a newswriter.

Both women say the opportunities at Columbia helped them land their jobs. "I would stress internships. I started as an intern on the assignment desk here at WGN, then interned as a newswriter," says Irene. Anita also did quality interning, and then when she was ready to make the big move, she says, "I heard about a job opening at WHBF from j-instructor Les Brownlee. Les said they were looking for a female reporter, preferably a minority. I got really lucky because I only sent out one tape and, after bugging the station for a while, they hired me. If it wasn't for the people at Columbia I wouldn't be here today."

Anita and Irene were both broadcast



Anita Padilla

journalism majors and feel their j-classes gave them an extra edge. "Columbia prepared me, because the teachers really know what they're talking about from experience," says Irene.

According to Anita, "My j-classes taught me to use my digging skills to research stories. I recently completed a series for sweeps week titled, *From Classmates to Inmates*, focusing on the problems of Hispanic males. My j-classes gave me the background to find the information for this series."

Irene and Anita have both landed that crucial first job which is often the hardest step. Now they are looking ahead. "I love my job and consider myself lucky," says Irene, but she wants to find a reporting job. "I feel you have more power to control your stories as a reporter."

Anita says she was originally hired as a morning show anchor for a show that is no longer running. "I love what I do. I love TV news because I do something new every day and am always learning something new, but I have reached a point where I no longer feel challenged." In the future she would like to do more reporting and anchor a show.

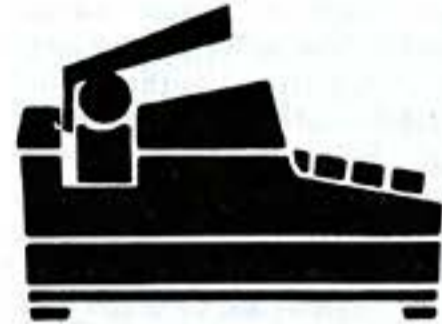
Anita tells Columbia j-students, "While you're in school find a job, don't just do internships. Find the people who know the most and pick their brains."

—Elizabeth Eaken

REVIEW CLASS PUBLISHES NEWSLETTER

Everyone has an opinion. Students in the Writing Reviews and Criticism class not only get to voice their opinions, they get them published.

Entertainment Chicago, a new newsletter written and edited by jour-



nalism students in Writing Reviews and Criticism, voices student opinions of Chicago theater, art, music film and books.

The newsletter is a natural extension of the course, according to Stuart Feiler, who teaches the class.

"I wanted to teach reality, and a profession that you can share with other people," Feiler says. "Reviewing isn't easy, it keeps the brain working."

A committee of two to four students in the class decide which reviews will be published, depending on the subject and quality. "No pressure or control is put on the students," Feiler says. The class is designed to help students see their growth, he adds.

"It's great to write whatever you feel about something," says Tricia Reyes, 22, who has bachelor degrees in French and business from UCLA, and is interested in journalism. "Writing is a lot more interesting when you can be creative and write what you feel."

Entertainment Chicago has received a lot of positive feedback, according to Feiler, who says he is extremely proud of the development of his students.

"It's innovative and interesting, and a tremendous boost for students to see their work in a publication," says Nat Lehrman, chairman of the j-department.

Approximately 150 copies were published and distributed in the j-department and Wabash building lobby.

Feiler says he would eventually like to put out a newsletter every week, but will continue with a bi-weekly for the present.

"There's nothing like it in Chicago," Feiler says. "It really helps to stretch students as writers."

Feiler, who also teaches Intro to Mass Media and Intro to Media Writing in the j-department, and Contemporary History in the liberal education department, has been a critic for 15 years in the United States and Europe. Feiler also hosts "Dateline Chicago," a weekly radio talk show on WCRX that interviews celebrities, authors and politicians on current issues in Chicago. Being known as a critic enables Feiler to get complimentary tickets to different events in Chicago for his students.

Writing Reviews and Criticism is offered every other semester, but Feiler is interested in publishing the newsletter regularly by creating a club.

"It's like being a professional critic," says Kelly Kasak, 22, who is taking journalism classes to prepare for graduate school. "It's a no-holds-barred class."

The newsletter was designed on Ventura desktop publishing by Art Golab, **Columbia Chronicle** editor and a junior j-student in the class.

"Our first issue isn't up to professional level, but it could be with practice," Golab says. "There are some really good writers in the class."

"There's nothing better for a writer than to be able to express an opinion about something," Feiler says, "and to know that it may actually be read."

—Karen Sobus

FACULTY MEMBER RETIRES

Nicholas R. Shuman, associate director of the j-department graduate program, is retiring this month.

Shuman began teaching at Columbia in February 1984, after resigning as an editorial writer at the **Chicago Sun-Times**, where he specialized in national and foreign affairs. Shuman said he was approached by the late Daryle Feldmeir, then j-department chairman, to join the j-staff, but turned down the offer because of the low pay. Soon after Rupert Murdoch acquired the **Sun-**

Times, Shuman quickly decided to accept Feldmeir's offer to teach at Columbia.

As associate director of the graduate program, Shuman has students covering the courts, city hall, and other newsworthy events happening in Chicago.

"We're hands on," Shuman says. "We send students out to compete with the papers, and often our stories are better."

Shuman is proud of his students. "It's gratifying to see them succeed in the outside world," he says.

According to Shuman, Charlotte Holland, class of 1986 (the first class of the graduate j-program), who is a reporter at the **Inland Valley Daily**



Nick Shuman

Bulletin in Ontario, Calif., sent him a tear sheet of a story he considers a real prize winner.

The first thing Shuman plans to do after he retires is travel. He says he has given up the idea of writing the great American novel. He's going to celebrate his retirement by going to Brazil and Argentina with his wife, and by catching up on all of the fiction he's neglected reading to keep up with world events.

What will Shuman miss most? According to him, the "good students." The ones who prove him wrong, and don't take his word as gospel, he adds.

Shuman doesn't plan to disappear from the j-department completely. He says he will probably stay on as a thesis advisor, and arrange and monitor internships in Chicago and Washington. He also plans to help make arrangements for the Washington program, arrange speakers for undergraduate courses and continue to oversee the Fischetti Editorial Cartoon Competition. "I hate

the thought of cutting the strings entirely," he concludes.

—Elizabeth Eaken

COLUMBIA HIRES BRASHLER

Bill Brashler, one of the most successful freelance writers in Chicago, will teach the magazine article writing class on Thursday afternoons in the spring.

In addition to magazine writing, Brashler is also a very successful novelist — his first book, **Bingo Long and the Traveling All Stars**, was made into a major motion picture starring Richard Pryor. Subsequent books have dealt with the many different sides of Chicago, including **City Dogs**, where he takes the reader into the poverty of Uptown, and **T.K.**, a breathtaking account of the fast-paced life in Chicago's trading pits.

Brashler's specialty is crime writing. He got his start covering a beat in Uptown, one of Chicago's most violent areas. It was his experiences there that serve as the basis for **City Dogs**.

Brashler has survived 18 years in the trenches — fighting for his life in the tough world of freelance magazine writing—and he has emerged at the top. "I can certainly bring a lot of experience to the class," explains Brashler. "I've written hundreds of articles for just about every type of magazine there is."

Brashler hopes to open students' eyes to the inner workings of a successful magazine piece — to show them the entire decision-making process involved in writing a full-length article. "I want to teach from a technician's point of view, to show how magazine writers organize and manipulate their data," says Brashler. "Such a big part of magazine writing is knowing what to include and what not to include, and I'll be working from a lot of different theories and practices I've developed over the years on how to go about putting together the final article."

Brashler will also coach his students in the art of marketing their work, which is as important as writing it, and in the art of dealing with editors.

Columbia's networking system, that works so well for the students, is also responsible for attracting Brashler.

WASHINGTON PRESS SECRETARY JOINS J-DEPARTMENT

Alton Miller, the late Mayor Washington's press secretary, has agreed to teach a course in the journalism department.

Nick Shuman's one-credit course, News Interviewing: Front Page Lecture, has been upgraded to three credits, retitled, The Interview: Front Page Lecture, and given a text book on the art of interviewing. "Miller is the perfect choice for the course," says Carolyn Hulse, director of news reporting and writing. "He knows all the media celebrities that give this course its panache, and he's a serious and dedicated teacher who fits in with the Columbia ethos."

Miller has already taught (and will continue to teach) a public relations writing course in the marketing communications department, and a composition course in the English department.

Media figures will address the students every other session and will be questioned by the students, as at a press conference. Then the students will write up the experience. The alternate sessions will be dedicated to sharpening interviewing skills, which are basic to newspaper, magazine or broadcast journalism. Students with at least six credits of j-courses are encouraged to take this course. Qualified students from other departments may request permission to enroll.

—Nat Lehrman

"I've known Nat Lehrman for a long time, and I also did a lot of work for Don Gold [director of the magazine program], when he was the editor of Chicago Magazine," says Brashler when asked why he chose Columbia. "I have a great deal of admiration and respect for both of those men, and I am looking forward to working with them."

"We're thrilled to have Brashler in the department," says Lehrman. "He is not only fabulously successful at what he does, but he's a charming, witty and utterly delightful man. Students will love him."

— Steve Crescenzo

BUSINESS AND TRADE JOURNALS: LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

When j-students begin to consider the job market, their thoughts immediately turn to big market TV, radio stations and national magazines. What they might not realize is the lucrative job possibilities in the business and trade press fields.

Business publications are put out by corporations or independent publishers and cover business/financial news of interest to professionals in the field, stockholder, clients, etc. Trade publications, on the other hand, are published by independent publishers or associations about a certain field, such as the trucking industry, food industry, advertising and insurance.

Many large corporations that generate publications rely on someone outside the company to handle the writing and editing. That is, they will hire someone with a journalism background to take care of it. This type of publication may be more along the lines of public relations than straight journalism, but can still be an excellent opportunity for a recent journalism grad with internship experience.

The field of trade publications is constantly growing because of heightened interest in job quality and productivity. If a j-student has a special interest or area of study, a trade magazine would be the ideal place for a student to apply his or her knowledge.

Don't be saddled into thinking that you must have experience in the field in order to work for the trade journal—

that is not necessarily a requirement, although it may help. If you possess writing and editing abilities, the specifics of the field can be acquired.

When it comes time for you to begin looking for a job, don't keep a narrow field of vision by expecting to land a position on major publications. That would be great, but not likely. Keep an open mind when it comes to smaller publications—they may be your foot-in-the-door for that bigger job.

—Kimberlee Ehrenhaft

COLUMBIA PULITZER WINNER PUBLISHES TEXTBOOK

Bill Gaines, a seasoned investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune, an instructor at Columbia College, and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, can now add "published book author" to his impressive resume.

Investigative Reporting for Print and Broadcast, a textbook Gaines



William Gaines

published this fall, contains actual case histories that follow the different routes reporters take to uncover facts and get their stories to the public. Gaines, using fictitious reporters, is able to show each phase of a typical investigation, right down to the sources the different reporters used to uncover evidence.

"I had to find different ways of teaching investigative reporting, and since there was no real textbook out there, I designed my own," Gaines says as he explains the purpose of the text.

Gaines uses several methods when teaching in the classroom. He uses the

typical lecture format, but also likes to throw in his own personal touch.

"He brings to class real life experiences," says Toyi Spaulding, a student in Gaines' Tuesday evening class.

He also gives his students investigative projects to work out. Due to the amount of time involved in undertaking a full-fledged investigation, it's practically impossible to expect them to conduct one. However, Gaines gets around that by assigning the students investigations for which they must present an in-depth outline to be analyzed by the class. Each student's outline is then subjected to the constructive criticism and/or approval of the class, ensuring that all the students are forced to think through each case.

Because of his unconventional teaching methods, Gaines does not use a conventional grading system. "If I am teaching someone how to hunt, they'd be graded on how well they held the bow or on their expertise — not on whether or not they hit the deer," says Gaines, explaining how he grades his students on how they would investigate as opposed to how they did investigate a story. When Bill Gaines started teaching investigative reporting at Columbia in 1974, it was during a time when this type of reporting wasn't even recognized as a legitimate form of journalism. However, newspapers became increasingly aware of the validity of investigative reporting during the Watergate scandal.

Over the years he kept redesigning the course with each new class — and when Columbia asked him to write a syllabus, he took it one step farther and wrote a book.

For those journalism students who have never taken Investigative Reporting, Bill Gaines offers a simple crash course definition. "Investigative reporting is doing your own investigation and reporting on it."

—Dionna Bolar

WHEN I GET A "ROUNDTUIT"

It's that time of year, full of resolutions, promises and more promises.

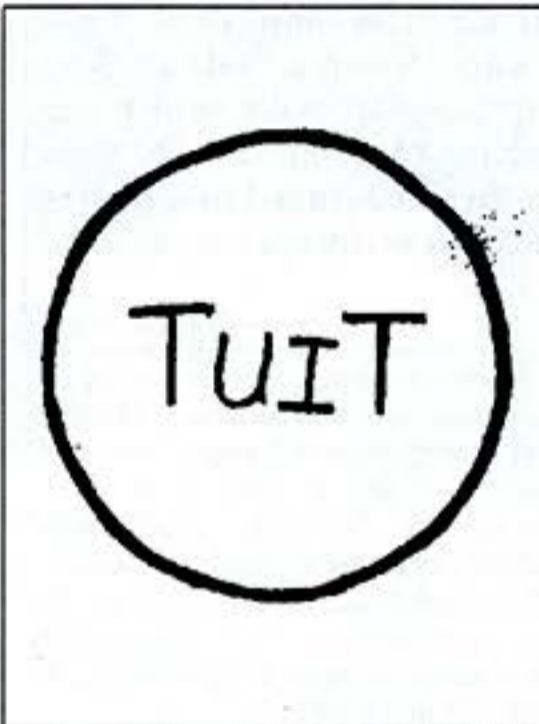
"I'm gonna lose the weight, I'm gonna focus more in school and bring my grades up. I'm gonna...I'm gonna...I'm gonna."

Nine times out of ten these things just don't get done. You gain five pounds instead of losing weight, and your grades, well, let's just say that a 1.2 GPA is not what you were aiming for. I have the solution to all your New Year's resolution-keeping woes. You see, I am the world's biggest put-er off-er. That is to say I have mastered the art of procrastination and really, I don't mind sharing it with you one bit.

There are several steps to becoming a good procrastinator.

First of all you must learn the jargon of the trade. For example: "later," "tomorrow," "blow it off," "in a minute," "I was just about to," and "as soon as I can" are all terms the procrastinator uses to communicate with the rest of the world.

When you receive a task you must be



ready to not do it. Heaven forbid if the job has a deadline, because an experienced procrastinator knows automatically that he will never get to it. Don't get me wrong, a procrastinator always has good intentions and usually makes plans to carry them out, but somewhere down the line you never get a roundtuit.

Here's a classic example: Every month I plan to start on my story for the newsletter as soon as I get my assignment. Well you know how it is. Between dates (very few mind you), a long evening of phone conversations or lying around, my story never gets done. I mean, it gets done but usually it's an hour or so before deadline. But that's O.K. because Nat will never know. (Smile.) Next and probably the most

crucial step to becoming a full-fledged procrastinator is to never have your "roundtuit."

"I need to do that interview, I'll get a roundtuit."

"I need to write that story, I'll get a roundtuit." Sound familiar? This statement is the motto of the Procrastinators of America. After receiving a task, you must make sincere plans to accomplish it and getting around to doing it. This crucial stage is what separates the men from the boys, the women from the girls, the real put-er off-ers from the fake ones.

To the average "do-everything-on-timer," getting around to it may seem easy, but not to us. Every day I keep meaning to start that assignment, turn in those late papers, and read those twelve chapters for class, and study for finals, and... and...well, I'll do it when I get a roundtuit. (If you find my roundtuit will you please return it?)

To become a full-fledged procrastinator you must take a solemn vow. Look in the mirror (as sincerely as possible), hold up your right hand and say "I (state your name) do solemnly swear that I will not wait or put things off next time." The key word is next time. There is always a next time, because no matter how sincere you are, you will do it again.

—Dionna Bolar

INSIDE JOURNALISM

A newsletter produced
by and for students of the
journalism department

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
CHICAGO
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

EDITOR

Steve Crescenzo
MANAGING EDITORS
Kimberlee Ehrenhaft
Karen Sobus
ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dionna Bolar
Elizabeth Eaken
ADMIN. EDITOR

Lena Renteria
FACULTY ADVISOR
Carolyn Hulse
CHAIRMAN
Nat Lehrman

Jan., 1992, Vol. 6, No. 3

INSIDE JOURNALISM

SUPPLEMENT

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

SPECIAL REPORT: The 1991 Fischetti Scholarship Winners

This year, 19 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.

Omar Castillo, 34, is a senior concentrating in photojournalism. He has been photo editor for the *Columbia Chronicle* since Fall 1990. Castillo worked in photography this past summer for Extra Publications in Chicago. He hopes to be a photojournalist for a major newspaper or magazine. Omar is single and says he's available to most females.

Steve Crescenzo, 25, is a senior concentrating in magazine journalism. Currently, he is editor of *Inside Journalism*, and a columnist for the *Columbia Chronicle*. Crescenzo also works as an editorial assistant at the Field Museum, and is a public relations intern at the Chicago Board of Realtors. Last year Crescenzo was a copy editor for *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine. He hopes to take over for P.J. O'Rourke when P.J. gets tired of traveling.

Leslie Cummings, 27, is a junior concentrating in broadcast journalism. Currently, she is a staff writer for the *Columbia Chronicle*. Cummings hopes to be a television or radio news reporter. Some evenings, you can catch her cocktailing at America's Bar.

Kimberlee Ehrenhaft, 21, is a junior concentrating in magazine editing, and is responsible for most of the photographs found in these pages. She is a managing editor of *Inside Journalism*, and also the Articles Editor for *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine. Ehrenhaft is also an editorial assistant intern at KONA Communications, which publishes trucking industry magazines. She hopes to be a writer and editor for a trade publication.

Arlene Furlong, 31, is flying high in both her careers. She's a senior concentrating in magazine writing, and spends her other time as a flight attendant. She also interns at *Business World* as a reporter. Furlong was executive editor of *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine last year. She hopes to write for a general interest magazine; she has a special preference for travel publications.

Art Golab, 35, former hot dog maker, options exchange clerk, professional messenger, and truck loader, has finally found his niche. He's a junior concentrating in news and reporting, and is also the editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*, where he started as a staff writer last semester. Golab will intern at the *Chicago Sun-Times* as a general assignment reporter in Summer 1992. He hopes to be a reporter for a major newspaper.

Janice Harryman, 21, is one of the second year veterans of the school magazine. A senior concentrating in publication design, Harryman will retain her title as an associate art director of *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine. She hopes to be an art director for a design studio or magazine.

One of the busiest Fischetti scholars this year is **Sherry Kirk**, 20, a junior concentrating in news and reporting. She has climbed the ladder from staff writer to managing editor of the *Star Sentinel Newspaper* in Melrose Park. Kirk is also public relations director for the West Suburban Tennis Patrons in Maywood, and has been a staff writer for the *Columbia Chronicle* since Fall 1990. She hopes to be a reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* or *Tribune*.



Furlong



Pott



Harryman



Thart



Walters



White



Ehrenhaft



Kirk



Castillo



Nelson

Don't lay any odds against **Joseph Kristufek**, 21, succeeding in journalism. He's a senior concentrating in news and reporting and hopes to be a horse racing handicapper or sports writer.

Julie Moriki, 20, is a junior concentrating in broadcast journalism, and a second-time recipient of the Fischetti Award. She's also a broadcast reporter for 600 South, and a *Columbia Chronicle* correspondent. She hopes to be a television reporter.

Always chipper Denise Nelson, 22, is a senior concentrating in broadcast journalism. Currently, she is a newscaster for WCRX, and a broadcast reporter for 600 South. She hopes to be a television reporter.

Basketball freak Jerry Pott, 33, is a senior concentrating in broadcast journalism. Pott is managing editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*, where he was a staff writer in Spring 1991. Pott plans to move back home to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and work as a television anchor or reporter in between ball games.

Naomi Stewart, 22, is the cartoonist responsible for many of the innovative cartoons found in the *Columbia Chronicle*. Stewart, a cartoon major, hopes to create a cartoon strip for syndication.

Nancy Thart, 25, is a junior concentrating in news and reporting. Currently, she is news editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*, where she started as a staff writer in Spring 1991. Thart was also a writer for *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine last year. Thart hopes to write for a newspaper or magazine. You rarely see her without her sidekick . . .

Theresa Volpe, 21, who is a senior concentrating in magazine writing and design. She is features editor of the *Columbia Chronicle*, and occasionally writes articles for the *Crete Record Newspaper*. Volpe was an assistant production editor for *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine last year. She hopes to be a television writer.

Horace Grant look-alike Caprice Walters, 20, is a junior concentrating in news and reporting. He hopes to be a sports writer.

Muriel Whetstone, 32, is the shining star of Columbia's journalism program. She's a junior concentrating in magazine journalism. Currently, she is a research assistant at the *Chicago Reporter*. A second-time recipient of the Fischetti award, Whetstone is special projects editor for the *Columbia Chronicle*. During Summer 1991, she interned for *Essence* magazine in New York. She was also top editor of last year's *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine. Whetstone plans to pursue advocacy journalism.

Natalie White, 21, is a junior concentrating in news and reporting and magazine editing. She is publications director for Black Expo Chicago, where she interned as a public affairs assistant in summer 1991. White hopes to write for an African-American publication.

KJ Zarker, 29, is a senior concentrating in writing. Currently, she is the *Columbia Chronicle*'s resident anti-establishment columnist. She was also the articles editor for *Chicago Arts and Communication* last year. Zarker plans to pursue a Ph.D. in American Studies. *(These bios were compiled by Karen Sobus.)*

The Fischetti award winners were honored at a cocktail party on November 18 at the Wrigley Building. 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.



Cummings



Crescenzo



Whetstone



Volpe



Zarker