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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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JANUARY

INSIDE

1996

JOURNALISM

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

SPORT'S GOOD SPORT

Earlier this past holiday season, the journalism department got a visit from one of Chicago's most popular Bears, Chris Zorich.

He came to Columbia to visit our spacious Athletic Department. He was shown the stairwell, which took less than a minute, and then he came to the 13th floor and sat down for an interview with broadcast journalism major, Olga Vega.

He was interviewed about how he got to where he is today.

Chris Zorich has become one of the best known players on the Bears not only because of his big heart, but because of the commercial work he has done for McDonald's.

Chris does a lot of charity work for poor families in the Chicago area. Every Thanksgiving he and his foundation help hand out food to those families that need it.

"I wish more people were like that," said cameraman Bill O'Toole of Chris Zorich.

The Christopher Zorich Foundation is currently in the process of building an orphanage in the city.

Chris was joined by his friend Yashurun Slaughter, as they talked to the j-students in the chairman's office on the 13th floor.

"It was smooth," said Olga of the interviews, which were for a class project.

Hopefully more people will become like that after they see what Chris does to help the

community around him. He hasn't let his celebrity go to his head.

He graciously posed for pictures with people hanging around the office, and he even offered to autograph the pictures without being asked. This is something you don't see with many professional athletes.

Chris Zorich wants to make people happy and on that day he did.

--Robert Stevenson

MINORITY ENROLLMENT

Columbia's journalism department continues to lead the school in attracting minority students. Thirty-eight percent of the college's 7,308 undergraduate students enrolled this fall are minorities. Six percent of them have declared journalism as their major.

These minority students make up an impressive 53 percent of students in the journalism department. The high percentage, according to most, is attributable to the tremendous amount of opportunity available to students in the j-department. There are several different academic tracks offered as majors. They include news writing and reporting, magazine editing, broadcast journalism, science writing and reporting and photojournalism. The opportunities, however, go beyond choosing a major. Within the department there is also ac-



J-major Robert Stevenson poses with Bears star Chris Zorich.

THIS YEAR'S

FISCHETTI

The hard-work of thirteen students has finally paid off as they received the most prestigious award given by the journalism department -- the John Fischetti scholarship. The annual award is given to students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their studies and in service to the journalistic community. Here is a little bit about the winners -- maybe one day your picture will be here. Chances are



if you've ever called the j-Department, you've heard the soft sweet voice of magazine editing sophomore, **Diane Bell**, a work aid in the department. Although she has written for *The Chronicle* and *Inside Journalism*, design is her passion and she was able to show her stuff this summer at Borg Warner Automotive where she designed training manuals. **Olandrian T. Glasper**, a senior with a concentration in maga-

zine editing, is getting started as an intern at the mayor's writing press releases and keeping them on track. Her goal is to work for a magazine where she can put her editing, writing and professional use. **Erika**



is a journalism major with a science writing concentration. As a summer intern at the public affairs office of the University of Chicago Hospitals, she covered the latest medical discoveries by the University's researchers. She hopes one day to break into foreign

correspondent work utilizing her knowledge of the Spanish language. The always professional **Nancy J. Laichas**, a senior majoring in print journalism, is responsible for making things tick at *The Chronicle*. She was a staff writer last semester and this year she moved up to editor-in-chief. She would like one day to be a reporter for a daily newspaper.



Bright-eyed **Janine Marte** is a magazine writing and editing senior who recently interned at *Food Industry News* as an editorial assistant. You can also find her work in *Chicago Arts and Communication*. Her ultimate goal: writing for *Vanity Fair* or *The New Yorker*.



Laurie A. Miller is a multi-talented magazine-editing senior. She is on the staff of *Chicago Arts and Communication* and hopes to use her talent as a journalist and musician to establish her very own local fanzine -- something, she says with a



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AWARDS



smile, the world will always need. **Mi'Chaela Mills** has her mind on foreign affairs. This journalism senior has interned at the Public Defender's office and would like to publish her very own international magazine dealing with the miscommunication between nations. **Jeff Mores** is a senior majoring in print journalism. He has written for *The Chronicle* and has become involved with The College

News. His goal is to work his way up the journalism ladder to a sports writing position at a major daily paper. **Susan Naese**, senior, is



presently holding the job most coveted by magazine majors. She is editor-in-chief of *Chicago Arts and Communication*. But she has had her practice writing for more publications than you can count on your hand. Her ambition is to do what she is doing now. You guessed it -- editor of a magazine. *Playboy* is the land of opportunity for **Andrea H. Robinson**, where she is currently interning.



Easily recognized by her red fur coat, Andrea wants further recognition for putting it all together: writing, editing and designing. Her goal for the moment is to have at least one published piece by the end of this semester. Of course, a by-line is a must.



When he isn't fishing, **Joseph Schrank** is busy being a senior whose major is print journalism. He has done his duty at *The Chronicle* where he served as a news editor and features editor. His goal is to get out of Chicago and work for a newspaper in a small market. The lady in pink, print journalism junior **Aliage Taqi**, is the features editor for *The Chronicle* and is interning at *Chicago Magazine*.



She has also written for *The Chicago Defender*. She would like to own a magazine with an African-American readership. (No information was received from **Rhonda Jones**.)

The Fischetti scholarship is available to all full-time J-students. Come to the department to pick up your application for next year at the beginning of the spring semester.



--Jennifer Laboy



Job Search

By Paula Eubanks

During a job fair, such as the Diversity in Journalism Job Fair that my office is planning for February 2 and 3, you have about three minutes to "interview" with each employer representative.

Three minutes. That's not much time to tell your life story, show off your skills, discuss your career desires, scope out opportunities with the company, and impress with your professionalism and collegial manner. Unfortunately, a bungled three-minute interview at a job fair can be just enough time to convince a potential journalism employer that "you're not what we're looking for."

The best way I know to create a favorable impression during a quick interview is to plan a loose "script" and to rehearse it before the job fair.

Start by understanding the purpose of the short interviews held at job fairs: The goal is to get the employer to recognize your name, to know what you're bringing to the workplace, and to be willing to take your calls or answer your questions in the future. The objective is not to leave the job fair with a job offer.

So, how to reach the real goal?

1. When it's your turn to meet the employer representative, step forward, look that person in the eye, smile, and shake his or her hand. Say something like: "Hi, my name is Jane Doe." Then, sit down and start listening hard.

[You might think that this first step is obvious. But after four hours of short interviews at a job fair, employer reps can be seen shaking their heads and heard saying, "...Some of those students didn't have a clue about how to introduce themselves!"]

2. After the employer has introduced himself or herself to you, launch into two logical paragraphs of "background" about yourself. Give the employer a sense of where you're coming from and where you want

to go. Example: "I'm a veteran corporate secretary who at age 30 decided to go back to school to finish my bachelor's degree. So, I've had a lot of life experience and have had lots of responsibilities that I've handled well. Now, I want to apply those life skills and the journalism skills I've been developing here at school to a part-time internship in copy editing. My teachers have told me that my attention to detail really stands out in my classwork!"

3. Then, pause and listen to the employer. Make sure you're having a conversation, despite your "script."

4. Ask the person to review your resume, then pass it across the table. Be quiet while that person reads your resume. When he or she has finished, ask what strikes his or her interest, or elaborate on one of the skills or experiences listed on your resume.

5. Next, pass the interviewer any work samples, clips, or resume tape you've brought. Tell the person how the samples relate to your resume.

6. As your mini-interview is winding down, ask about what skills and experience are needed to qualify for an internship, part-time or full-time job, or freelance work with the employer's company. Ask about how to apply for, or learn about, any future openings. Ask if you may stay in touch, as well as when and how it's best to do that.

7. Now, for your gracious exit. Stand up, shake the employer's hand again, smile, and state your thanks for his or her time and information.

Then, your interview is over. Start planning your next step and contact with that employer immediately--before you get in line for your next mini-interview.

(Paula is the j-department's career advisor. Seek her out in the Career Planning & Placement Office, Wabash Suite 300, Ext. 5284.)

cess to internships and -- more importantly -- a professional staff.

"These people have done the job. This school has the reputation of training for employment and it is evident in the j-department," says Mariano Torrespico, a Mexican resident alien. "I like the open door policy that the j-department has. They keep you updated on the leading issues and advancements in the field. I think it is by far the most challenging major offered."

Minorities are also choosing journalism for many other reasons, says Les Brownlee, an African-American who has taught journalism at Columbia for over 15 years. "Journalism attracts minorities who feel they have an ability to write and want to see their writing developed and those who feel it provides avenues for them to make a difference in society and 'speak up for the cause,'" says Brownlee.

--Courtney Skipper-Reynolds

INSIDE JOURNALISM

A newsletter produced by and for students of the Journalism Department

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