

4-1-1997

Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/inside_journalism



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Inside Journalism" (1997). *Inside Journalism*. 56.
https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/inside_journalism/56

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inside Journalism by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. For more information, please contact drossetti@colum.edu.

Inside Journalism

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College April 1997

Corman, Hulse speak on internships

By Rui Kaneya

Compared to any other time of the year, competition in the internship market is much higher in the summer, and planning ahead is the key for students to secure a place. But many students tend to hold off until the last minute.

A variety of internships, including newspapers, newsletter, corporate communications, associations publication, community press, alternative press and broadcasting outlets, are available for students through the j-department year-around.

But the competition in the summer is much more intense for all of these outlets since many students are coming to Chicago from all over the Midwest to compete for them. And most of these students get out of school earlier than Columbia students do.

Carolyn Hulse, j-department's internship coordinator, says students are rather late in getting started this year.

"Quite frankly, I think that students don't think ahead enough for the internship,



Steve Corman

especially for the summer when it is so competitive," she said. "The other thing is that too many students expect to find placements in the city of Chicago, and they are going to be disappointed. They need to be more flexible about where they are going to be, whether it's going to be out in the suburbs, or out in a smaller Illinois city, or even out of state."

Hulse says that it is essential for students to do their own research and learn about their field of interest.

"Students can't just land on our doorsteps and say 'find me an internship,'" Hulse said.

"They have to know where they are coming from so that we can point them in the



Carolyn Hulse

direction that will turn out to be productive. Too often, I have students come in and they just say, 'I don't know what I want to do. I haven't written anything. I've never gotten anything published. I have nothing to show. Get me an internship!'"

For broadcasting journalism majors, competition is especially fierce as many students flock to a few television stations vying for a limited number of placements available.

Steve Corman, director of broadcast journalism, says that, in order to get an internship at the television stations, students have to have some feel for what goes on in putting up television newscasts together. "One thing that I

can't emphasize enough is that we have a lot of students who think that getting an internship is the most important thing," said Corman. "Well, it's a very important thing, but not until they are ready for it."

Few interns at a television station get paid, but Corman says internships are fantastic opportunities nonetheless. "It's a modern form of slave labor," he said. "But just observing and watching what's going on is vital to education and learning what really goes into putting a newscast on the air."

Students need to be as aggressive in finding top-notch internships as they are in seeking employment after graduation, says Hulse. And they cannot afford to be selective about what they look for.

"There are so many small organizations that have little newsletters and are absolutely thrilled to get an extra help," she said. "I can always find places for somebody, but it's not always what students are looking for."

Jevens stresses computer skills

By Edwina G. Orange

"I thought going to college was difficult, but teaching is just as difficult," said Lisa Jevens, magazine teacher. She said she now has more respect for teachers than when she was a student in school.

Jevens, a part-time faculty member in the j-department never thought that her first

semester of teaching would turn out to be difficult. Jevens, who teaches magazine production on Thursdays, feels that the students at



Lisa Jevens

Columbia make this part of her life a little easier, because they're mature and appear to be "very excited" when it comes to learning.

Jevens came from Michigan in 1991, but has always considered Chicago to be

her hometown. As a child she spent many summers and spring breaks visiting relatives.

Jevens got her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and her masters in 1992 from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism.

Jevens believes in hard

See Jevens page 4

Academic advising always available

By Angeline J. Mitsis

Lori Ann Bender, Columbia's newest Academic Advisor for the journalism department, says students can feel confident when seeking an advisor at anytime. "Someone is always there to help with any questions students might have," Bender says. "Don't ever be afraid to ask a question," she adds. "I can't make a decision for a career, I can only give advice. Ultimately it's the students decision as

well as their responsibility to meet the degree requirements," said Bender.

Bender has experience as an Academic Advisor for Eastern Illinois as well as being a Career Counselor for the Private Industry Council of Northern Cook County, particularly the job-training partnership act program.

"I love it here at the college, working with the students, and with everyone in the office," said Bender.

Bender held an academic advising session in April and says the session "went very well." She was pleased to have met with several students and encourages all students to speak with an advisor early into and throughout their selected degree program.

"Generally, students are on the ball," she says. However, Bender adds, there are common areas of confusion for many students. These are the degree requirements, the nec-

essary general education studies, the required hours of journalism electives, and a complete understanding that the internship is put toward the degree, not the major," said Bender.

Bender welcomes students needing help with course difficulty, "it's not just the GPA. It's what you learn in courses and internships so that you are a well rounded individual. A "C" grade doesn't equal what you've learned," said Bender.

Panel discusses Ebonics

By Edwina G. Orange

On May 12, Sheila V. Baldwin, an English instructor, held an interesting panel on "Black English." The panelists included Dr. Salikoko

Mufwene, chair of the linguistics department at University of Chicago, S. Brandi Barnes, a writer and alumni of Columbia, Alderman Ed Smith, 28th Ward and Dr.

Charles B. Smith, dean of students at Chicago State University.

This heated discussion in the Hokin hall sparked a lot of concerns and questions as to

whether scholars have the right to "dummy down" African American students.

"I don't think that teachers should teach down, they

See Ebonics on page 4

Chiarito talks about past and future

By Anisssa L. Miller

As a hard-hitting reporter for *The Chronicle*, willing to go against the administration, Bob Chiarito has gained quite a reputation.

"I get a lot of negative mail [from students], but it doesn't bother me. It means they are reading my articles. If you don't like me, that's fine. Just respect what I write."

Though some see Chiarito as a trouble maker, others view him as a reliable journalist who tells it like it is. Speaking about his article regarding drinking in the Financial Aid office, Chiarito stated, "They [his sources] came to me because they knew I wasn't afraid to write the story."

Often accused of being too

hard on others, Chiarito says, "A lot of times people don't realize that the j-staff is just doing their job."

A transfer student from Southern Illinois University, Chiarito came to Columbia in 1994 because he liked what the j-department had to offer. "Teachers here do what they teach. You can learn a lot more from someone you respect than someone with a big title."

While attending Southern Illinois University, Chiarito wrote for the school publication *The Daily Egyptian*. Since his time here, Chiarito has written and held positions with Columbia's *Chicago Arts & Communications Magazine*, *Inside Journalism* newsletter and *The Chronicle*. And since

newspaper journalism is his first love, it is no wonder that the bulk of his work has been

with *The Chronicle*. He has gone from copy editor to news editor to investigative editor.

Inside Journalism

Managing editor

Staff writers

Peter M. Verniere

Angeline Mitsis

Rui Kaneya

Jennifer N. Channer

Edwina Orange

Anisssa L. Miller

Ed Planer

Omar Castillo

Lena Renteria

Faculty advisor

Production advisor

Administrative advisor

Inside Journalism is a student publication that is published three times a semester during the fall and spring term.

Cosby speaks on minorities in media

By Bob Chiarito

From April 26 to May 1, I was one of nine journalism students from across the country covering the Newspaper Association of Americas Annual Convention for Presstime magazines Convention Report.

More than 1,200 newspaper publishers were on hand, from the powerful like *The New York Times* publisher, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., and Gannett Co. President and CEO John Curley to publishers of small rural weeklies.

Although the convention focused more on business issues than on editorial content, the Internet dominated much of the discussion. In fact, there were only two sessions during the entire convention that dealt with editorial issues.

The first was during the Associated Press Annual Meeting. After going over internal company issues, AP President and CEO Louis D.



Bob Chiarito and Bill Cosby

Boccardi led a panel discussion on Washington politics, the Israel peace process and ethnic unrest in Zaire. Panel participants were Karin Davies, AP foreign correspondent based in Nairobi, Kenya; Walter Mears, AP vice president and special columnist; Sonya Ross, AP White House Reporter, John Solomon; special assignment editor in AP's Washington bureau; and

Nicholas Tatro, AP bureau chief in Jerusalem, Israel. While most on the panel gave predictions for the future of their beats, Davies grabbed the attention of the audience when she talked about being arrested three times in Zaire over the past year and being told by her captors on the third occasion to "breathe your last breath," as they stood over her with automatic rifles.

Of the many celebrities scheduled to appear at the convention, I was especially curious to hear Bill Cosby's address, which was entitled "Minorities in the Media." Before his speech, Cosby learned that students were covering the convention, and promptly invited us to his dressing room for an hour. As he sat behind a small table, cigar in hand, Cosby talked to me and the other students about bringing sensitivity into crime news. Speaking slowly, it was often hard to tell if he was making a statement or asking a question. In fact, I was the only student who voiced responses during Cosby's talk, occasionally causing me to wonder if I answered him or interrupted him. At one point, he asked, "What do we have to do to breath life into the news?" to which I cautiously said reporters should write about a

See Convention page 4

J-dept. paves information highway

By Peter M. Verniere

The information super-highway has paved its way into the j-department at Columbia. The Internet has been installed in room 1302 on all 24 computer terminals to aid in the teaching of Information Search Strategies.

Information Search Strategies will replace Copy Editing 2 as part of the curriculum and will begin in Fall '97. Carolyn Hulse and Scott Fosdick will teach the class.

"We want to use current news information from the

Internet as a research tool for print and broadcast students," said Ed Planer, j-department chair.

The great asset for students who will receive an opportunity to use the machines in 1302 is the speed in which the terminals access Web pages.

"The reason the speed of the connection moves so rapidly is all of the terminals are using a T1 hard-line, not a modem," said Omar Castillo, computer technician for the j-department.

The fastest modem that can be purchased for a home com-

puter is a 56.6 kbps modem. That means that information downloads into your computer at a rate of 56.6 kilobytes a second. With a T1 connection information downloads at a rate of 1.5 mbps which translates into 1.5 megabytes per second.

An example of the speed; a five and a half minute music video on a 56.6 modem would take a little over an hour to download, but with a T1 connection it takes a little under a minute.

Another advantage is that the connection uses a coaxial

cable rather than an analog phone line, which aids in speeding up the process. A phone line was designed to process analog signals not graphic signals which slows down home Internet connections, but a coaxial cable is the same cable that is used by cable TV providers.

Currently students who have a class in room 1302 have access to the Internet, but there are no plans at this time to offer a j-department Internet lab. There are plans to link more classrooms in the future.

Chiarito

But Chiarito's experience is not limited to the classroom.

"A lot of students think you can do well in a class, get A's and B's, and not do anything outside of the class. If I wanted to stay in class forever I'd ask John Duff for a job," Chiarito laughs.

Chiarito has completed two internships and is currently working on his third. His first internship was with the *Oak Park Weekly* where he had over 20 articles by the time he was finished.

"I say this not to brag but in hopes to inspire other students to do more. It can be easily done. Pressure from others can motivate you to do more, but you must also put pressure on yourself," he adds.

After his internship with the *Oak Park Weekly* he spent the summer in Washington, D.C. working with political columnist and CNN commentator, Robert Novak. Currently, he is working with Pam Zekman of Channel Two News. "I respect Zekman's work with the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the

Tribune. She's a great reporter and the best broadcast reporter in Chicago", he says. Chiarito also freelances for an Italian-American publication, *Fra Noi*.

Chiarito, a senior, believes professional standards apply to student journalism. "There is no real difference between writing for school publications and the 'real world'. The focus is different but the ground work and the rules are the same—research, interviews, sources, etc. The same effort given in a 'real world' project is the same effort that should take place in school."

When asked about his plans after graduation, Chiarito responded, "I want to work in Chicago, but I am willing to work wherever there is a good opportunity."

Chiarito's short-term goal consists of working for the City News Bureau. His long-term goals includes being a foreign correspondent for a few years, and a metro editor for a big city daily newspaper. Jokingly he also adds to the list marrying Sophia Loren.

He also states he would consider teaching part-time.

Chiarito has made a name for himself among the ranks of Columbia students. He is both criticized and praised for his hard-line reporting.

"Sometimes I get criticized when I think I'll get praise and praise when I think I'll be criticized. It's hard to predict the response of readers", he says.

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for other journalism students, Chiarito replied, "I know some students get mad when their stories are edited but I've learned to appreciate the critiques of my peers and instructors."

Summing up his job as a reporter, Chiarito states, "at times it requires a lot of hard work, but it's also a lot of fun."

"If people think I'm a trouble maker, that's O.K. Many great journalists are known for being trouble makers. It means people are reading their articles." From the negative responses Chiarito has received, its obvious his articles are being read as well.

Jevens

Continued from page 1 work, and she has been very successful in her different avenues of journalism. She attributes her success to good role models and teachers.

Most of Jevens college years had very little emphasis on computers and their importance in journalism.

"I try to really teach computer skills to my students, so they can go out to their first job knowing the computer," said Jevens.

She also encourages Columbia as a school to focus on the importance of computer skills no matter what the field of interest.

With the school year rapidly coming to an end, Jevens has already started her lesson plans for the Fall semester. Her main focus, she says, will be attendance, class participation, computers and success.

Convention

Continued from page 3

persons life, rather than death and that showing graphic pictures of victims do not help the story.

Although Cosby also addressed editorial concerns in his speech, his message seemed disjointed and mis-

guided. Listening to Cosby tell publishers that media coverage has to be more sensitive, I couldn't help but doubt that his advice would filter down to lowly reporters. In what was by far the most anticipated speech of the convention, Microsoft Chairman and CEO William Gates told newspaper publishers to look at Microsoft

as a potential partner rather than a primary competitor.

Gates took several barbs from a group of people that obviously feels threatened by his partnership with news giant NBC. But Gates handled the sharp criticism like a true professional, turning the tables on his critics while showing off the smarts that made him

into the \$15 billion force that he is today, even if he didn't settle any nerves.

Other convention sessions focused on increasing readership, creating advertisement-driven niche publications, advice on how to better serve your readers and the changing aspects of classified advertising.

Ebonics

Continued from page 2

should teach up," said Alderman Ed Smith. "The most important thing for young people is their ability to communicate," he added.

A audience member asked

the panel "What is the difference between slang and Black English?" Barnes said that "Slang is a phrase used within a community and Black English is the use of sentence structure and grammar."

Dr. Mufwene said society knows more about Black

English than about standard English and its origin.

In the African American community there is a variety of language and expression. "Different does not mean something is wrong. It means... different," said Barnes.

Thank You!
Thanks for your
contributions.
Have a great
summer!