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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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Inside Journalism

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College May 1998

Steve Corman Returning to California at End of Summer

By Eva Boyer

Steve Corman has spent the last four years showing Columbia j-students how to make it in the world of broadcast. And who better to do it than him? He's director of the broadcast journalism program and he's the man to see if you want a broadcast internship. With thirty years of broadcast experience under his belt and 8 Emmys to show for it, Corman is an excellent example of how to make it in the real world and succeed. So, when the news got around the j-department that Corman was leaving Columbia and heading back to San Diego, j-students and faculty members were downhearted.

"It is going to be a big loss. He is a valuable part of this department," said Sheryl Tirol, sophomore broadcast j-student. Corman is one of Tirol's instructors as well as her academic advisor. "You can go to him and ask advice," said Tirol. "He's really dedicated and loves teaching." Tirol said Corman is always willing to go that extra mile for students.

Mike Johnson, senior broadcast j-student agrees. "He told me about my strengths and weaknesses and helped me see where I would be able to succeed. He was instrumental in my career choice. And helped me make the transition from radio to television," said Johnson. "I was really disappointed to hear he was leaving. I think a lot of students are going to miss out on an opportunity for a great teacher."

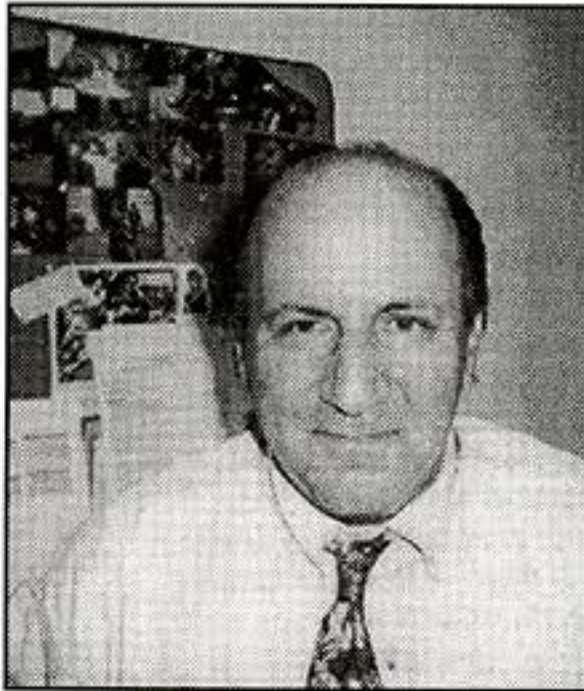
Faculty members can't seem to get enough of Corman. "Steve is a dedicated, focused, committed and thoughtful broadcast journalist and journalism educator," said Rose Economou, coordinator for broadcast journalism. "He has a wonderful sense of humor which lightens up tiring situations and is able to still keep things in perspective. The man is incredible."

One thing is certain, Columbia j-students and faculty don't want to see him go. "It is the biggest loss the journalism department could suffer," said Les Brownlee, j-department instructor.

Ed Planer, chair of the J-Department, said Corman is "not only a fine teacher but equally important he has been a

friend and mentor to hundreds of students."

Adriana Avila, junior broadcast j-student and j-department work aide sees students come and go from Corman's office all day. "I think it's really sad because he knows his stuff. A lot of students depend on him and value his knowledge of the industry," said Avila. "So many rely on his advice. Even when he is busy, he always takes the time to see students and help them out."



Steve Corman

But now Corman and his wife Sheila are ready to start a new phase in their lives. They have decided to return to their home in San Diego. Corman and his family originally moved from Oak Park to San Diego in 1984. They returned to the Chicago area 4 years ago when Corman took the job at Columbia. Once they settle in Sheila hopes to start a new business, he said. And as for Corman: "There is a part of me that still wants to write, produce and create," he said. "I want to explore creative possibilities and take it as it comes." He's looking forward to pursuing writing and producing projects he's wanted to do for a long time.

He started his career in Chicago radio at WIND as the public affairs director in 1967. He worked there 5 years before moving on to television. In 1972 he joined NBC's Channel 5 to work in the public relations department. Within 2 years, Corman was writing for the news. After news writing came producing. And for 5 1/2 years Corman produced the 6 p.m. news for Channel 5. He also produced sports for Channel 5.

While in San Diego covering a playoff game between the Cubs and the Padres in 1984, Corman caught the California bug. "I fell in love with San Diego," said Corman. "Fifteen years ago I thought I would stay in Oak Park for the rest of my life." Instead he grabbed the opportunity to go to San Diego after being offered a job at the NBC affiliate KNSD. He became the executive producer for a series of documentaries. "It was one of the more rewarding experiences I had," said Corman. He eventually became executive producer for the news.

When KNSD was sold, Corman

See Corman page 3

ECHO Magazine Wins Again!!

By Adriana Mercado

Echo magazine repeated history on March 19 by adding one more award to the dozen or more awards the magazine has received over the years.

The magazine won the Silver Crown Certificate from the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association.

Last year the magazine aimed to continue breaking new ground with a wide range of articles to serve their diversified audience. Anyone who's worked on magazines or newspapers knows that writing for a wide range audience is no easy task. But, Echo magazine accepted the challenge with confidence and came out a winner.

Echo magazine is put together and coordinated by a team of students. According to Echo's editor-in-chief Rob England, a "typical" day at the magazine can range from working with photographers

and writers to producing story ideas, headlines, captions, and artwork. The magazine had one other task: producing a name that would "literally" fit the front cover. The magazine formally was "Chicago's Arts & Communication" a name that was a challenge to fit on the front cover. England said one of the first assignments from editorial adviser Scott Fosdick was to come up with a new name for the magazine.

England said he put a lot of thought into it, because as editor-in-chief, it was his goal to find a name that would last for a couple of years. He said he went home to visit his parents and his mother happened to be going through old pictures that were in his closet. England said his mother found a picture of him with a red wagon that said "Echo 6."

England said he liked Echo because, "as journalists what we're trying to do is echo the voices of Columbia students.

Working with Warner Worthwhile

By Doug Hansen

Everybody knows that interning is a valuable experience and Patrick Walsh, 24, a broadcast news major at Columbia College, just learned this first-hand.

Walsh has recently completed a four month internship at NBC's Channel 5 news. His sponsor was veteran Chicago newsman Warner Saunders.

When he was applying for an internship, Walsh wasn't sure who he wanted to work with. Saunders' reputation for being very approachable to his interns made the decision easy.

Walsh was one of only two interns on the daytime news team. This meant that there was plenty of real work to be done.

Once a week, the whole news team would meet in a room and throw ideas around for stories. Walsh was encouraged to participate. He did, lending "a couple of ideas," but they never made it to production.

He also had the opportunity to pre-interview a number of subjects, giving Saunders a better idea of what angle an actual interview should be approached from.

When asked about a possible downside to the position, Walsh warned future interns to "save a lot of money, because you won't be getting paid."

According to Walsh, Saunders does not take for granted the work his interns give him. He realizes they are not getting paid, and feels that the least he can do is spend some time with them, reviewing their work.

Armed with this knowledge, Walsh reviewed a number of his own scripts with Saunders, receiving invaluable critiques.

"Keep writing," Walsh advises other students in the journalism department, insisting that it can only help to improve their work.

"Go home and videotape professionals you respect," he advises. "Try to learn their style, and make something of your own from it. After all, plagiarism is the ultimate compliment, as Warner says." Looking toward the future, Walsh says he definitely plans on interning again before he graduates sometime next year, perhaps in the summer with CNN or even again with NBC.

Inside Journalism

Staff Writers

Eva Boyer
Douglas Hansen
Rhonda Love
Adriana Mercado
Lilian Pina

Design & Layout

Ann Cummins

Faculty advisor

Ed Planer

Production advisor

Omar Castillo

Administrative advisor

Lena Renteria

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Intern Has Long Hours But Good Job

By Sheryl Tirol

The alarm clock rings and the time is 2:00 a.m. Many of us roll over in our beds and go back to sleep. But broadcast journalism student Carmen DeFalco, has to be at work by 4:00 a.m.

DeFalco has to help prepare the morning show at WLS-AM radio for Don Wade and Roma.

DeFalco, 21, a transfer from the College of DuPage is approaching his fifth semester at Columbia.

He interned for WLS for a year, and recently was hired as assistant to the producer.

"They lost a producer at WLS, and the operations director, Mike Elder, talked to me about a possible employment opportunity, and I told them I really wanted it, and eventually I was hired," DeFalco said.

DeFalco's job consists of getting cuts from programs such as: Inside Edition, Politically Incorrect, 60 Minutes, and others. He is also responsible for transcribing all the scripts before Don Wade goes on air. When he comes in, DeFalco also goes through the ABC network wire to get information, checks the AP wire, and reads the newspapers.

"In a nutshell, I help with the scripts, throwing out ideas.

"The producers sit down, talk about what's going on in the news, and we make packets to get information to refer to, so they know what they want to put on air. We screen calls and there is last minute production work that needs to be done," DeFalco said.

DeFalco said that making sure the show runs smoothly is a big part of his job.

"I am also responsible to help schedule and find guests. I've been trying to get Jerry Seinfeld as a guest, but no such luck yet!" DeFalco said.

DeFalco has always had a passion for entertaining.

"When I was 10, my drive was towards acting, and I used to do comedy skits all the time," DeFalco said.

DeFalco said he thought about wanting to pursue a career in radio, when he heard Kevin Williams on WMVP radio and Jonathan Brandmeir from the Loop. DeFalco said he liked what he heard from these two on-air talents, and started to listen to more AM radio,



Carmen DeFalco

specifically talk radio.

"I never had a liking for music, but I listen to radio talk shows a lot," DeFalco said.

"The more I listen, the more I want to do it," DeFalco said.

DeFalco says he has learned a great deal from the internship itself.

"I like working for Don. He knows what he's doing and he's great at what he does. He knows how to drive the show and spark controversy. It starts a lot of debates, and callers totally disagree or agree with what Don says. Callers are passionate about the way they feel. It's the opinions of people that make the show great. Don argues well and he's done it for a long time," DeFalco said.

Presently DeFalco is also working on a radio show for Columbia's WCRX. The talk news program, "News Scene", airs every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m.

"Our news show has a format like Don Wade and Roma. My other colleagues, Mike Johnson and Mike Reyes are great to work, and debate with," said DeFalco.

DeFalco says what he has learned from Don Wade and Columbia's program is invaluable.

"I'm doing exactly what I want to do. I love to argue and debate. I have strong opinions about many topics. It's an invaluable experience learning to put together a show," said DeFalco.

Corman from page 1 took a friend's suggestion and applied for the job of director of broadcast journalism at Columbia. He got the job and moved back to Chicago.

Longtime friend Carolyn Hulse, director for news reporting and writing, talked about Corman's contribution to Columbia. "For me it is the loss of a good friend and a colleague who has made a major contribution to the success of our program," said Hulse. "His dedication to students and to the profession of broadcast journalism has been extraordinary. And when he leaves it will be a loss for everyone."

Corman will be at Columbia full-time through June. He'll be teaching two classes this summer and coordinating broadcast internships through mid to late August.

Instructor Markets The Market

By Rhonda Love

Clare LaPlante, part time J-instructor and freelance reporter, has written a book based on financial planning and investment.

The book, "Wall-Street On a Shoestring," is not designed for just the witty financial investor. It is a book for those who seek an effective financial plan or the ambitious money-making individual seeking financial security.

Scott Fosdick, director of the Magazine Program, says that some money investment books are composed of jargon that can be understood only by the financial wizard. "She can take a complex issue and convert it to an easy, explainable subject," he said.

LaPlante, who teaches Information Search Strategies and Magazine Article Writing, was recommended to write the book by Tom Siedell, managing editor of Your Money Magazine. She has written

numerous articles on personal finance and business issues for the magazine.

LaPlante's strategy for her own financial strategy is to invest five dollars a day. She has investments in mutual funds and dividend reinvestment plans.

"No matter what the stock market is doing, consistently invest for the long term. I would continue the same investment plan of \$5.00 a day", says LaPlante.

LaPlante signed the contract with Avon Books November 1996. She began writing the book February 1997 and completed it by August 1997. The book will debut October 1998.



Clare LaPlante

Norma Green Talks Wisely About StreetWise

By Lilian K. Pina

Norma Green, the director of graduate journalism at Columbia College, has been a StreetWise volunteer since 1995. Her desire to support local journalism led her to teach a variety of journalism courses, as well as to become a member of the StreetWise publication committee.

The StreetWise newspaper was created to inform the public about homeless people. It also serves to provide job opportunities for all readers, homeless or not.

Green has been a reader of StreetWise since the first issue came out in 1992. "I always thought it was a great idea," she said, "so I was a big supporter of it from the very first

issue."

Green recalls the afternoon she went to the StreetWise office to offer herself as a volunteer. "They didn't give me time to take my

coat off before I received a copy to edit," Green said.

Green later was asked by John Alas, who was the StreetWise editor, to put together the first national street newspaper conference in Chicago.

She also decided to do a comprehensive history of StreetWise, a challenge that

included intensive research, and a content analysis of every issue.

Green is intending to do a history



Norma Green

of street papers in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. "People see that it is a tool that they can use to teach others about the homeless problem," Green said, "And the paper is used as a tool for employment."

Most street newspaper writers are people with no training in journalism. They, however, have the commitment and desire to expose the homeless problem, and the social compassion to help people get out of poverty.