

12-1-1998

# Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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# Inside Journalism

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College Chicago

December 1998

## Why do students choose journalism?

### An Inside Journalism Roundup

Journalism has always attracted people who love to write, and according to our informal survey of 34 journalism majors, it's still the top reason students choose this major. But there are other reasons why journalism continues to be one of the most popular choices for Columbia College students.

Some students are after the challenge and excitement, and are drawn to the constant flux of ever-changing news. Others say the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives is the key ingredient.

Several cited the limitless range of topics to write about, while others are drawn to the fast-paced technology.

Journalism, some said, is a field for the intellectually curious—those who have a passion to know many things and relay that knowledge to a public hungry for information.

Whatever their reasons, however, the students quoted below share an enthusiasm for journalism that we hope will be contagious!

"I've always liked to write, I'm into sports, and I have this Web page—and it kind of led to majoring in journalism."

—Michael Aparicio, junior

"I have always had an overwhelming curiosity to know everything, and I also enjoy writing. Being a journalist will mean combining both."

—Krista Bernal, freshman

"I've always liked magazines. The look, the layout, and the technology changes in the last ten years are exciting."

—Steve Bernal, senior

"I love to write...being able to take in information, put what's important in order and write it in a way that people will understand is exciting and rewarding."

—Eva Boyer, senior

*This survey was conducted by Krista Bernal, Jannan J. Khuri, Diane Krueger, and Tonja Robinson.*

"I'm curious. I want to know the answers and why things are."

—Jim Brady, junior

"I'm tired of how journalists act. I hope to change that in the future."

—Jon Cameron, junior,

"My grandmother always wanted to be a journalist and never had the chance. I want to accomplish [her dream] to make her proud of me. It's much more competitive now, but I like that—I enjoy competition."

—Sarah Castro, sophomore

"I worked as a writer before, but I didn't have any professional training in journalism. I'm a very good writer, but I wanted to learn the right way to do journalistic writing."

—Pauline Gamble, senior

"I've always liked English, and I like the literary writing you can do in journalism."

—Jamie Jablonski, senior

"Writing is something I have always loved to do, but I don't have the will to make a living out of writing fiction. Writing to inform is a good way to make money and also be creative in what I do."

—Matt Kerlin, senior

"Being a journalist stimulates my intellectual curiosity and enables me to use my writing skills to do something I enjoy—working with people."

—Jannan J. Khuri, junior

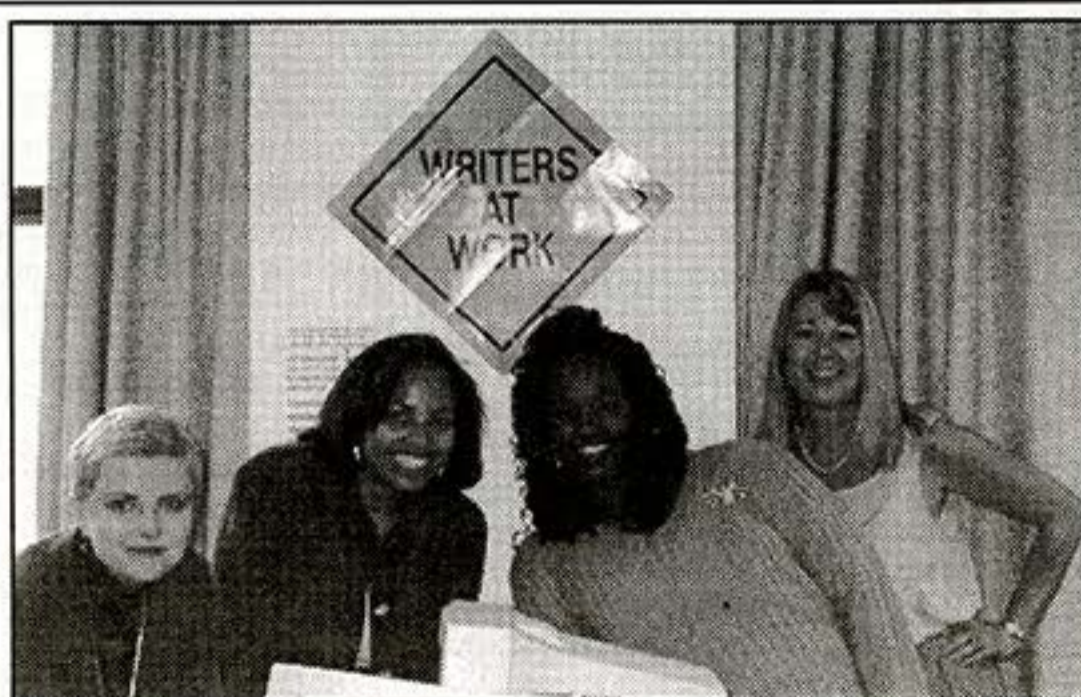
"I chose journalism because of the variety of different topics you can write about. Whether it's sports, business, or travel—there's no one topic or beat you have to stick to."

—Diane Krueger, senior

"I love to write and describe—I love to write about theater and dining because you can be so descriptive."

—Jill LoPresti, junior

*Continued on page 2*



**Tales from the Front [Page]** Graduate students (l-r) Anna Kiss, Cherie Richardson, Regina Waldroup and Sandra Holt tell how they survived their first week in the j-department's Master's program.

*Inside on pages 4 & 5*

# Fastrax Mentoring Program enters year No. 2

By Diane Krueger

With another school year underway, the Journalism Department has once again organized its FasTrax mentoring program. "FasTrax is about starting students off on the right track," said Rose Economou, faculty advisor to the program, now in its second year.

Melissa Breault, student coordinator for the program, described FasTrax as, "A mentoring program which helps new freshmen and transfer students get to know Columbia." She said there are 73 mentors in the program this year, who are junior and senior journalism majors.

"The object of the program," according to Economou, is to create a more sophisticated journalism

graduate—one who can tackle the tough stories and make intelligent decisions."

FasTrax mentors, said Breault, offer insight and advice to new students. In addition, "Mentors can answer questions about teachers, classes and the college in general."

FasTrax, which has a total of 79 new freshman and transfer students, is planning a variety of activities this year, including field trips and lectures. New students, and stu-

dents who wish to become mentors can join the FasTrax program by stopping by the Journalism Department and talking with Economou or Breault.



Gathered at the FasTrax Meet Your Mentor Student Breakfast are (l-r): Kristi Conard, Karen Korol, Pirada Namvong, Faculty Advisor Rose Economou and Sheryl Tirol.

## Why journalism?

*Continued from page 1*

"My passion is for television because I love to write and speak in front of audiences."

—Tyresha McFadden, junior

"I knew journalism would give me the chance to learn many new and different things, to express myself creatively, and to improve my writing."

—Alexandra Milinkovich, senior

"Journalism is a very interesting field to be in because you're constantly learning about different things that surround our lives."

—Pirada Namvong, freshman

"I am a journalism major because I don't want a monotonous job where I work from 9 to 5 everyday, staring at my cubicle walls five times a week. I want to learn about new topics, different people and their lives, and interesting places."

—Keri Anne Norton, senior

"The media has a powerful influence over society. It has the power to set the agenda by telling us what topics/issues to think about."

—Ellyn Ong, junior

"I want to be present when and where history is taking place."

—Patricia Orozco, sophomore

"I want to write so people can understand what's going on. I want to make a difference. I want people to educate themselves and get involved."

—Harold Peete, sophomore

"I want to give journalism a different angle. I want to be one of the first reporters who broadcast more good news than bad, more positive than negative, so that people can see that our country isn't all bad, and that some good is coming out of youth today."

—Maritza Plata, sophomore

"In journalism my options are open, and there are no limits on what you can write."

—Liza Provenzano, senior

"I love to write and I stink at math. I have a passion for the alternative press, and with God's blessing, I plan to own my own alternative publication."

—Tonja Robinson, junior

"I like to write and design. Journalism is constantly changing and has many different focuses."

—Heather Savoca, senior

"Journalism is challenging and brings out the best of my abilities. I enjoy meeting different people and staying informed about what's going on."

—Rob Steva, senior

"Through journalism, you can say what you want to say and it reaches a lot of people."

—Joey Styles, freshman

"I've always had a passion for writing, ever since I was young. It all started when I kept a journal. From there my writing expanded."

—Janice Thomas, freshman

"I enjoy writing and I love a job that offers a challenge. My journalism career will allow me to gather facts, figures and interesting information for the public."

—Horace Toombs, senior

"I feel that media affects people more

*Continued on page 3*

# Kick-off events challenge students to get involved

By Melissa Breault

The FasTrax mentoring program was designed primarily to help new students get acquainted with Columbia College's educational and social atmosphere. It was also created to help journalism students, many new to Chicago, become familiar with the city around them. With these goals in mind, many events and field trips have been planned to help students experience their new surroundings.

Two events have already taken place to kick off the new school year. The first one was a breakfast on September 29th. It was a casual get-together for mentors and new students to meet one another. In this relaxed setting, new students were able to ask questions of a large group of older students. It also allowed the older students to share their experiences about

than any other aspect of our society. I want to be a part of that."

—Alan Trubow, junior

"I like news, I like writing, I like telling stories—so journalism is ideal."

—Bruno VanderVelde, senior

"Journalism is a structured form of creative writing, and as a writer you can venture down a number of different roads."

—Jennifer Vogel, senior

"I enjoy problem-solving and putting parts of a puzzle together."

—Patrick Walsh, senior

"Early on in my education, I found that I had a talent for writing, and that I enjoyed it."

—Erica Wilson, junior

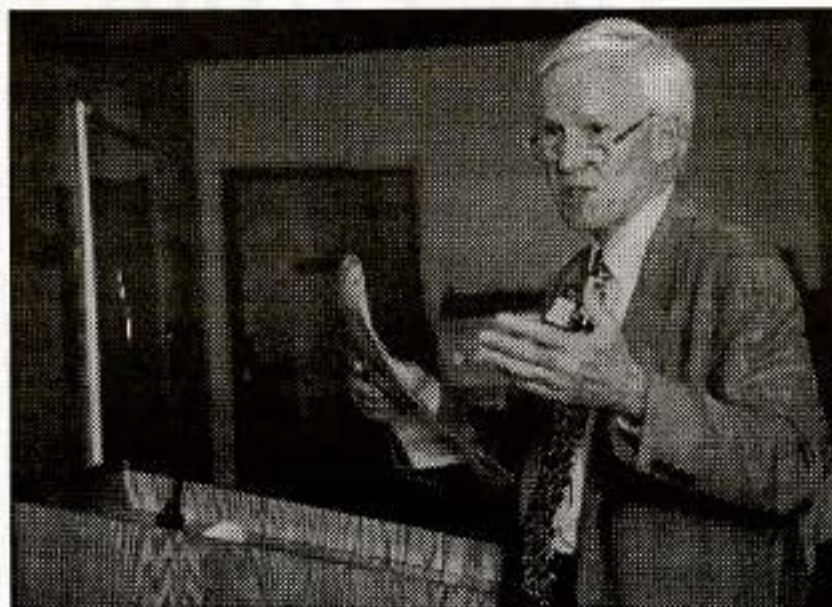
"I chose journalism because of the technology. I am fascinated by how quickly the information can get out."

—Erick Yates, junior

financial aid, scholarships, the bookstore, and more.

The second event of the new school year was the FasTrax kick-off dinner, which took place on October 6th. At the dinner, Jim Sulski, faculty advisor for the *Columbia Chronicle*, spoke to students about getting involved by working on the school newspaper. He explained how to be a correspondent or a staff writer.

Two journalism seniors also offered some inspiring thoughts. The first was Leon Tripplett. He spoke about some of the pioneers of newspaper and broadcast journalism and how we should aspire to follow in their footsteps. The second student, Carly Crone, introduced students to a new volunteer program, which would get them



Terry Brunner, Executive Director of the Better Government Association and Media Ethics & Law instructor, challenges FasTrax students to make their journalism matter.

involved outside of the classroom in community service projects.

The keynote speaker for the night was Terry Brunner, Executive Director of the Better Government Association and Media Ethics & Law instructor. He told students how important it is to take the journalist's civic responsibility seriously and how they can prepare, as students, to take on that responsibility. He pointed out that journalism is the only profession protected by the First Amendment and that they shouldn't take that for granted.

Brunner also told students that, as future journalists, they have an obligation to get the facts straight and to let the public know what is happening in the world.

Journalism, he said, is far different from "slinging hamburgers at McDonald's," and how future journalists practice their "higher calling" will definitely matter.

Almost 40 new students and mentors showed up to enjoy the good food and company. They were joined by many of the full-time faculty members from the Journalism Department and representatives from Student Life and Development.



Senior Carly Crone urges students to get involved and make a difference at FasTrax kick-off dinner.

# Tales from the front [page]:



Regina Waldroup, an experienced writer, is following her dream.

By Regina Waldroup

Today I woke up at 7:30 a.m., got ready for work, had a cup of extra-double-strength java, fed the baby (my four-foot green iguana, Iggy), and scurried out the door by 8:00 a.m.

This early morning routine was fine except for one thing—I was supposed to be at work by 7:30 a.m. Plus, I happen to work in Northbrook, which is an hour drive for me. On my good days I am up by 6:00

a.m. and out the door by 6:30 a.m.

But since I started graduate school at Columbia College, my late days are a little more frequent. Why? Because most of the graduate classes are seminar/workshops which last from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the only way I could arrange with my manager to take at least two classes was to offer to work four 10-hour days, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

I'm learning, however, that no matter how much unfiltered coffee I drink, I can't seem to wake up when I need to!

I work at Allstate Life Insurance Company and my title is Corporate Communications Consultant, which means I write media releases, communication plans, employee manuals, and update the company's intranet site.

When I tell people I write for a large corporation,

they're impressed. "I hear that Allstate pays well and offers good benefits," people say to me. Then there is always, "Girl, don't ever leave that place; you got a good job for the rest of your life."

And you know what? Those people are exactly right—Allstate is a great place to work. It's also a great place for a person to establish a career. Unfortunately, that person is *not me*.

You may not know it, but insurance is one of the most boring businesses to be in, especially if you're a writer. How creative can you be when you're writing

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**"When I meet people who are in broadcasting, living their dreams, I know Columbia is the right place for me to try to make it happen."**

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a media release about the acquisition of a block of variable annuities? No offense to business writers, but this kind of corporate double-speak fails to move or inspire me.

So that is why I am now a graduate student at Columbia College.

Ten years ago I had a dream—to work in broadcast journalism some day. And if I learned one thing from my parents, who were both business owners with third-grade educations, it was that you never let go of a dream.

So when I meet people who are in broadcasting, living their dreams, I know Columbia is the right place for me to try to make it happen. This is where my dreams will soon (I hope) become my reality. But right now, I have to get back to work. My manager wants a press release in her hands by 5:30 p.m.

By Anna Kiss

After my instructors reviewed syllabi during the first week of graduate school, I thought, "God, if I survive this I will be able to get through anything."

The 15 credit hours I'd registered for meant a 29-hour school week. The instructors were deadly serious about deadlines, and handed each of us a heavy stack of handouts. "Welcome to boot camp," I thought.

Nonetheless, I was not discouraged or scared by what happened in my classes. On the contrary, I was excited by the

prospect of facing a real challenge, and did not worry that I might not get enough sleep during the upcoming semester. The promise of new skills and knowledge, which I would gain as a graduate student at Columbia, won me over—totally.

I do not know how my instructors will grade my work, and whether I will successfully manage all tasks.

Still, I am optimistic that I will improve my journalistic skills. And most importantly, I am positive that I will learn a great deal that I will be able to take advantage of throughout my professional career.



Anna Kiss hurries to get all the facts down fast.

# Grad students survive first week

By Cherie Richardson

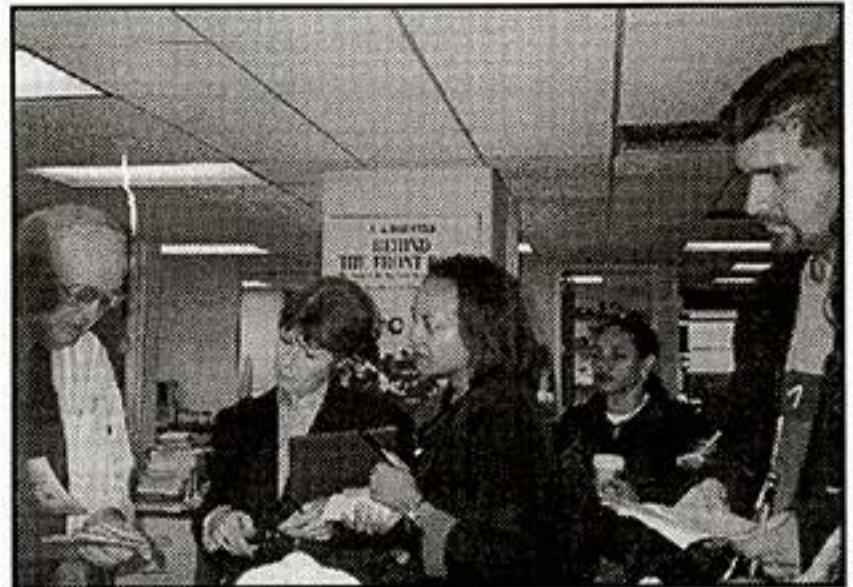
On September 18, my first day at Columbia College, I came to register for classes. Coming from an environment of casual workdays, I purposely wore denim to blend in with the rest of the students at registration.

I waited in and out of lines and offices at the Wabash building for two hours, wearing no hosiery with my denim jumper and black, short-sleeved, collarless shirt and my two-inch heeled, black Nickels

pumps. I was carrying my new, red Eddie Bauer backpack.

I noticed, however, that I did not blend in with the other students because I lacked pierced lips, tongue or belly-button, tattered denim pants, a t-shirt, Birkenstock shoes, or brightly-colored hair.

I told one of my friends that evening, after my ride north on the No. 22 Clark Street bus, that I must I have looked like Mary Poppins to the undergraduates. He said, "Cherie, you are Mary Poppins."



Cherie Richardson (center) and her classmates listen intently, while City News Bureau's Joe Reilly (left) explains how his reporters cover Chicago.

By Sandra Holt

On the second day of my first week in graduate school, I saw my first drive-by shooting. I'd taken a self-imposed detour at the State Street exit off I-90, just before it dumped onto the crawling Dan Ryan Expressway. Even before I got to the body, I was awestruck by my up-close view of the South Side's housing projects.

Not a newcomer to the city, I'd skated past the outskirts of the Chicago Housing Authority landmarks for 20 years while traveling in and out of Chicago from Indiana. But this day, as I drove State Street into the Loop, I was forever affected by what I saw.

I'd always believed, intellectually, in integration. But it wasn't until I cruised past a dozen high-rises—each with an accompanying war-torn playground—that I emotionally understood the need for sacking segregation. How could thousands of low-income, poorly educated citizens be corralled into such cramped quarters and expect-

ed to thrive?

They weren't expected to, anymore than John Doe, who lay slumped on the street just several feet from my van, police cars configured in a perimeter around him. Surprisingly, the officers were allowing cars, including mine, to pass right by.

By my third day as a graduate student in Columbia's public affairs journalism program, I had come to know

those high-rises by a term that I felt was even more offensive than "projects." A seminar in politics and government offered the late columnist Mike Royko's accurate, yet not up-grading euphemism: beehives.

I will forever be bothered by the "beehives,"

and my reporting strategies are already changed after a mere one week of instruction at Columbia College.

I've learned that public affairs journalism is about more than covering government meetings and reporting those facts. Given a soul-impacting issue—like the plight of residents of the South Side high-rises—a civic-minded journalist can affect real change.



Sandra Holt (center) works with fellow grad student Cherie Richardson to meet her first-week deadlines.



LEN  
STRAZEWSKI



LILLIAN  
WILLIAMS



DANIEL  
CAHILL



CHUCK  
EPSTEIN



ALLAN  
JOHNSON

## Ten New Faculty Join Journalism Department

Ten new faculty members have joined the Journalism Department this fall. They bring a wealth of professional experiences into their classrooms, where students in magazine, news reporting and broadcast journalism courses will benefit from their impressive journalistic knowledge and skill. Please join us in welcoming:

### Full-Time Faculty

**LEN STRAZEWSKI (Information Search Strategies—graduate/undergraduate, Advanced Reporting):** Len is a full-time faculty member, serving in the newly-created position of Coordinator, Computer-Assisted Reporting. He is a regular contributing writer to *OnLine Access* magazine, and has written extensively on technology and business for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Human Resource Executive*, and *Risk & Insurance*, among others. He has also been an editor at *Screen Magazine*, *Advertising Age*, and *Business Insurance*. Len holds a B.S.J. from the Medill School of



**Goodbye, Steve. Hello, Lillian.** Journalism Department faculty said farewell in August to Steve Corman, with wife Sheila (l), and welcomed Lillian Williams (r) as the new Director of Broadcast Journalism.

Journalism at Northwestern University, an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and an M.S.I.R. from the Institute of Industrial Relations at Loyola University of Chicago.

**LILLIAN WILLIAMS (Broadcast Journalism I, Broadcast News Writing II, Television News Practicum):** Lillian is also a new member of the full-time faculty, succeeding Steve Corman as Director of Broadcast Journalism and Internship Coordinator for broadcast journalism students. Lillian comes to Columbia from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where she taught courses in print and broadcast journalism. Lillian was a reporter at WKYC-TV, an NBC-affiliate station in Cleveland, from 1991 to 1994, following an 18-year career as a reporter at the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Lillian holds both a B.S.J. and an M.S.J. from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

### Part-Time Faculty

**DANIEL CAHILL (Copy Editing):** Dan is the Sunday Sports Editor for the *Chicago Sun Times*, where he has worked since 1984. Dan has also been a sports reporter and columnist for the *Sun-Times*, as well as a copy editor and layout editor.

**CHUCK EPSTEIN (Information Search Strategies):** Chuck has been Web Master of Prodigy's Money Talk Bulletin Board since 1994. As a freelance business journalist, he has written for dozens of publications, including *Crain's Chicago Business*, the *Financial Times*, *Institutional Investor*, *Euromoney Magazine*, *Corporate Finance* and *Commerce Magazine*.

**ALLAN JOHNSON (Reporting for Print & Broadcast):** Allan is a writer/reporter for the Tempo section of the *Chicago Tribune*, where he has worked since 1979. He writes a weekly television column, as well as articles about entertainment and lifestyles. Allan is also a feature reporter for CLTV and a con-



**PETER  
KARL**



**TONY  
SARABIA**



**ELLEN  
SHUBART**



**JUDY  
VALENTE**



**JOHN  
WHELAN**

tributing writer to *BET Weekend Magazine* and *N'Digo*.

**PETER KARL (Investigative Reporting):** Peter is an award-winning investigative reporter, who worked with WMAQ-TV's Unit 5 Investigative Team since 1982. He has won eight Chicago Emmy Awards for stories which include the crisis in Illinois' foster care system, toxic industrial waste in Chicago, and questionable practices in the Chicago Police Department.

**TONY SARABIA (Introduction to Writing & Reporting):** Tony is currently a reporter for WBEZ Radio, where he recently served as Morning Edition Host and News Anchor. Tony has also worked at WKRS Radio in Waukegan and WBBM Radio in Chicago. In addition, he has filed spots and produced features for National Public Radio, Monitor Radio, and Latino USA.

**ELLEN SHUBART (Media Ethics & Law):** From 1988-98, Ellen was a senior editor at a variety of Crain publications, including *Crain's Franchise Buyer*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, and *City & State*. From 1978-88, she worked as a reporter and managing editor at several Pioneer Press community newspapers. Ellen was on the board of the Chicago Headline Club when it drafted its new Code of Ethics.

**JUDY VALENTE (Reporting for Print & Broadcast):** Until 1995, Judy was a reporter and editor in the *Wall Street Journal's* New York, Chicago and London bureaus. She also was a reporter at the *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Washington Post*. More recently she has been a special correspondent for *People* magazine and Project Director of the Garrett-Medill Center for Religion & News Media at Northwestern University. Judy is currently an on-air correspondent for the national PBS tv show, "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly."

**JOHN WHELAN (Broadcast News Writing I):** Since 1983, John has been a news producer and writer at WBBM-TV, where he supervises the writing and production of daily television news broadcasts.

He has also worked at WJLA-TV and WRC-TV in Washington, D.C., New Hampshire Public Television Network, WTVJ-TV in Miami, and WCCO-AM Radio in Minneapolis.

—Carolyn Hulse

## Three New Courses for Spring Term

With early registration in full swing (Nov. 30 to Dec. 11), journalism students may want to sign up for one or more of three new courses which will be offered during Spring semester. They are:

**Online Publishing & Production**—This course is designed to introduce journalism students with an interest in Web page design to the growing world of online, interactive publishing. Students will explore both publishing concepts and production technology, leading to the creation of their own original online publications (53-9601-01, 3 credits, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.).

**Topics: Community Journalism**—As media become more global in scope, community—or civic—journalism is soaring in its importance to people's daily lives. This course will help students gain a fresh understanding of topics vital to community media, such as economic development, education, health care, environmental protection, public safety and welfare, transportation, arts and culture, and housing and planning (53-9900-51/61, 3 credits, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.).

**Fashion Journalism Workshop**—This course will introduce students to the designers, models, and stars behind fashion journalism. Not all is glamour, however; there is tough interviewing, research and analysis, and skills which enable writers to sift through hype and relay stories to readers. The two-day workshop will include a final writing project which brings all these components into focus (53-9505-01, 1 credit, Saturday, March 6 & 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).



# Press coverage of Clinton scandal divides class

By Ellyn Ong

Discussion of the press' handling of the Monica Lewinsky scandal led to heated debate in Ellen Shubart's Media Ethics and Law class on October 5th. Students were polarized in judging President Clinton's actions and how the media reported them.

Andrew Tader stated his concern that the media's abundant and recurrent coverage of the case will negatively affect others who wish to serve. "They [the media] will discourage people from running for president," he said. "The impression is given that, in order to be president, you have to be a saint."

He also said he feared already apathetic voters will pull further away from the political process. "Voters will be turned off. They'll assume that no matter who they vote for, he/she won't deserve public trust."

Tader argued that "bad press" about Clinton spoils America's image, and he used historical precedents to admonish today's media. "During the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, journalists knew about the president's extramarital affairs," he



President Clinton is no saint, but future leaders may have to be.

said. "But they didn't talk about it like we do today, because they knew the importance of showing the rest of the world that we have a strong leader."

Felicia Strocchia contended that the circumstances surrounding Roosevelt and Kennedy were different. "They did not lie about their affairs while under oath," she pointed out.

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**"I'm sick of people saying that what the president's doing is 'American.' I'm American, and cheating doesn't happen in my family."**

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Demetrius Ford expressed his "understanding" of Clinton's dishonesty, by arguing that the president "wanted to protect his family from humiliation."

Still, Strocchia "could care less" about what it was he falsely stated and why he did so. "The point is," she said, "he lied under oath."

Perjury was bad enough, said Vicky Jordan, who felt that Clinton's questionable behavior constituted obstruction of justice, a more serious charge. And Jennifer Waltersdorf reminded the class of Clinton's alleged behavior with Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones, asserting, "The president has done this long enough."

In rebuttal to Waltersdorf, Tader said we ought to stop pointing fingers at the president for "something that happens every day among normal families in America."

Waltersdorf rejected the notion that extramarital affairs are acceptable. "I'm sick of people saying that what the president's doing is 'American.' I'm American, and cheating doesn't happen in my family."

Waltersdorf said she "wants to be able to put the president on a pedestal" but feels that Clinton has lost the right to be up there. "How is Clinton supposed to address moral issues if he himself isn't

moral?" she asked.

Tader maintained that being a fit president "should not involve one's private life."

Ronita Fleming agreed, adding, "Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky had nothing to do with how he ran the country."

Yet when the public vs. private issue was discussed further, Waltersdorf noted a discrepancy in Ford's argument when he admitted that scrutiny of the personal life of a public figure is okay. "So, it is okay for us to judge Clinton's actions in the Lewinsky case."

Overall, students in the class agreed that the president's integrity should be brought to light. But they remained divided in their understanding of what it means to have personal integrity while holding public office.

Applications for the Academic Excellence Award (\$1,500 Scholarship) are now available in the Journalism Department. Deadline is March 1, 1999

**Applications for the  
Academic Excellence Award  
(\$1,500 Scholarship) are  
now available in the  
Journalism Department.  
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# J-Orgs promote networking and career success

**By Jannan J. Khuri**

Joining a professional journalism organization is an easy way to enhance your journalism education and increase your prospects for career success.

In addition to providing invaluable opportunities for networking and the exchange of ideas, journalism organizations help students and professionals keep informed about new challenges that affect how today's journalists do their jobs.

Being affiliated with a professional journalism organization also looks good on your resume when it comes time to start your job hunt.

Whether you're interested in broadcast or print, there are national and local organization chapters located throughout the United States, which a student can join for a nominal fee, often as low as \$10.

Most organizations publish newsletters to keep connected to their members and to inform them about upcoming seminars, conventions, job listings, internships, awards, scholarships, fellowships and even individual personal achievements.

Contacting a specific organization can be done in several ways. You can consult the extensive resources of Columbia's Career Planning & Placement Office, or you can visit the World Wide Web pages, which almost every organization has posted on the Internet. Both the Web addresses and phone numbers of major organizations are listed at right.

Instructors, advisors, and working journalists can also be valuable sources for helping you to determine which of these organization best fits your needs and interests.

**Asian-American Journalists Association (AAJA)**

1765 Sutter St., Suite 1000  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 346-2051  
[www.aja.org/front.html](http://www.aja.org/front.html)  
Chicago contact: Mi Young Hwang  
(312) 464-4876

**Association for Women in Communications (AWC)**

1244 Ritchie Hwy., Suite 6  
Arnold, MD 21012  
(410) 544-7442  
[www.womcom.org/](http://www.womcom.org/)  
Chicago contact: Tisha Teeluck  
(773) 271-6566 or  
103676.1203@compuser.com

**Association for Women Journalists (AWJ)**

Chicago Chapter  
c/o Linda Jones  
Roosevelt University  
430 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 341-3813  
Contact: Bonnie McGrath  
(312)372-2321 or  
bonnie39@juno.com

**Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)**

138 Neff Annex  
Missouri School of Journalism  
Columbia, MO 65211  
(573) 882-2042  
[www.ire.org/](http://www.ire.org/)

**National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)**

8701A Adelphi Rd.  
Adelphi, MD 20783  
(301) 445-7100  
[www.nabj.org](http://www.nabj.org)  
**Chicago Association of Black Journalists (CABJ)**  
P.O. Box 11425  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 409-9392  
[www.nabj97.com/CABJpage.html](http://www.nabj97.com/CABJpage.html)

**Columbia College Association of Black Journalists (CCABJ)**

President: Kevin Sledge  
Faculty Advisor: Tasha Clopton  
(312) 344-7598

**National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ)**

1193 National Press Building  
Washington DC 20045  
(202) 662-7145  
[www.nahj.org/](http://www.nahj.org/)  
Chicago contact: Michael Martinez  
e-mail: [mjmartinez@tribune.com](mailto:mjmartinez@tribune.com)

**Native American Journalists Association (NAJA)**

1433 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 11  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
(612) 874-8833  
[www.medill.nwu.edu/naja/html](http://www.medill.nwu.edu/naja/html)

**National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA)**

1718 M St., NW #245  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 588-9888  
[www.nlgja.org/](http://www.nlgja.org/)

**Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ)**

P.O. Box 27280  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
(215) 836-9970  
[www.sej.org/](http://www.sej.org/)

**Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)**

16 S. Jackson St.  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
(765) 653-3333  
<http://spj.org/>  
**Chicago Headline Club (SPJ Chapter)**  
President: Ilyce Glink  
(847) 835-3450  
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# CHA youths teach me journalism values



By Ethan Michaeli

A group of teenage residents of the Chicago Housing Authority taught me a lot about being a journalist this year. I have worked with adult public housing residents for the last two years as editor-in-chief of *Residents' Journal*, a bi-monthly magazine that is written and photographed entirely by the residents. The adults have proven to be excellent community journalists, demonstrating a real commitment to fair, reliable, relevant community reporting.

The Urban Youth International Journalism Program is an outgrowth of my work with CHA residents. It started this year after we received a special grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and CHA. We recruited some 25 CHA youths, ages 14 to 17, for the eight-month program which began in January.

The young people learned the techniques of modern journalism—writing, interviewing, editing, researching and photography. They toured TV, print and Internet newsrooms, met with reporters from a variety of media outlets, and received extensive training in desktop publishing and other skills.

In April, we took 22 young people to Washington, D.C., for a whirlwind four-day tour.

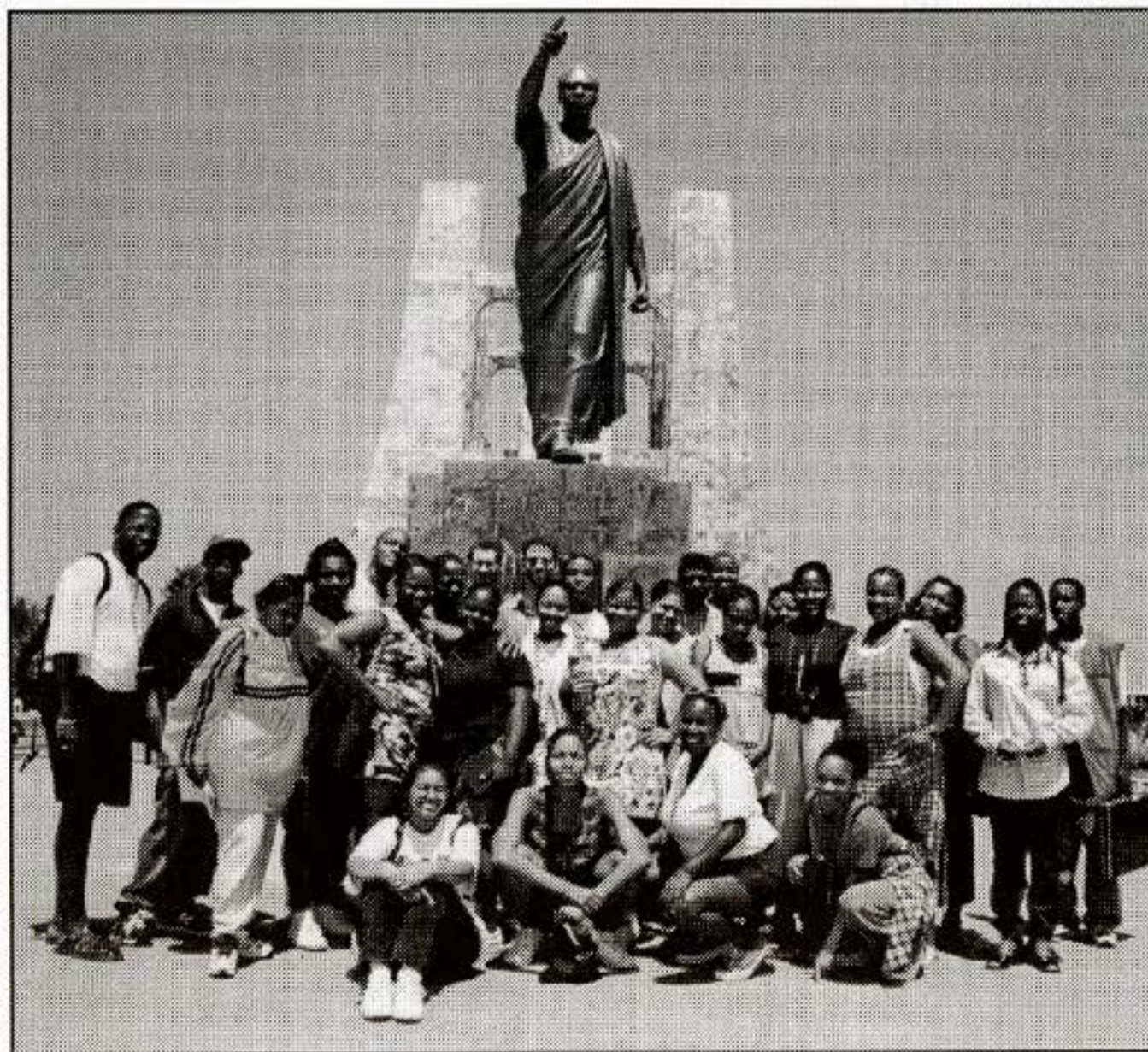
The youths met and held press conferences with Mike McCurry, press secretary to President Bill Clinton, U.S.

*Ethan Michaeli, editor-in-chief of Residents' Journal, is a former reporter for the Chicago Defender, and teaches Covering the Courts for Columbia's Journalism Department.*

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, the Illinois Congressional Delegation and others.

The young people asked intelligent, relevant questions, demonstrated teamwork, and formed lasting relationships with public figures, such as U.S. Rep. Danny Davis of Chicago.

I personally will never forget the moment 16-year-old Crystal Medina asked McCurry, "Mr. Press Secretary, can you please tell me the difference between the Watergate scandal and the Monica Lewinsky case?" Perhaps refreshed by an honest inquiry into the matter, McCurry gave her a straight answer. He told her that Watergate involved President Richard Nixon attempting to interfere with the electoral process by spying on his Democratic



**Participants in the CHA's Urban Youth International Journalism Program stand in front of a statue of Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana. Ethan Michaeli is in the back row, center. The students were visiting fellow journalists in Ghana and Israel.**

opponents. The Monica Lewinsky case, meanwhile, involved the personal life of President Clinton, according to McCurry.

The program culminated this summer with a 16-day trip to Ghana and Israel. In each country, the youths met with government officials, journalists and community leaders. The idea was that they would come away from the trip knowing that they are citizens of the world—breaking the isolation and stereotypes that keep many public housing residents from achieving their full potential.

Regardless of the rhetoric, it is very difficult to know whether or not a program like this has really made an impact. Reading the young journalists' articles for the special youth section of the August edition of *Residents' Journal*, however, I was relieved, surprised and moved by the many interesting things they had to say.

I would like to share with you an excerpt from one of the youth's journals. Reading it reminded me of the reason that I got into journalism and the reasons that journalism is a critical institution in our society. Moreover, Tiffany Cook's comments showed me the direction journalism has to go to stay relevant to the readers, viewers and listeners who depend on us for reliable information:

Ghana, Africa

July 27, 1998



**Tiffany Cook**

*We returned to the hotel and rested for about 30 minutes. Then we went to a group discussion between us and students from the Ghana Institute of Journalism.*

*When the first speaker went up, many of us were offended by his speech, including myself. He made America seem like dirt, but I had to realize that was how he saw America.*

*As the discussion went on, I came to believe that everyone was on the same foot. What I got out of the discussion was that the media stereotypes not only African-Americans in Chicago, but Africans everywhere.*

*In class, when the journalists came and told us that the only way to change this problem was to grow up and become a journalist, I really didn't believe them. But now I believe it with all of my heart and don't see any other solution.*

## J-News you can use

### Best job market in ten years

Attention job-seeking, soon-to-be journalism graduates! According to the Annual Survey of Journalism and Mass Communication Graduates, the job market for j-grads is the best it's been in ten years.

The survey, conducted by the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism, found that 78.1 percent of 1997 bachelor's degree recipients in journalism and mass communications reported having at least one job offer upon graduation, and the mean number of job offers was two. Among master's degree recipients, 83.3 percent had at least one job offer.

The median salary earned by 1997 bachelor's degree recipients rose \$1,500, from \$21,500 to \$23,000, with jobs in Web publishing paying \$4,000 above that figure. The median salary for minority graduates was slightly higher than average, at \$23,684. The median salary for master's degree recipients was \$28,500.

In the traditional journalism fields, median salaries for daily newspapers were the highest, at \$21,000; radio was second at \$20,000; weekly newspapers were third, at \$19,600; and television was fourth, at \$18,700.

Given the good health of the economy, expect that 1999 salaries for j-grads will be the best ever!

### Tutor says "Be your best"

If you want to do your personal best, rely on the Journalism Tutor to help. Bill Ferguson, a 40-year veteran of United Press International and long-time journalism instructor, is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist students with their weekly class assignments.

You don't have to be struggling or trailing your class to take advantage of Ferguson's personal coaching sessions. If you want to improve your reporting, newswriting or copy editing skills, just sign up for a tutoring session in the Journalism Department (Room 1300, 624 S. Michigan). Ask your instructor if you can rewrite papers with help from the journalism tutor to improve your grade.

Ferguson can also help you plot your career track, point you toward realistic goals, and steer you to needed sources and resources. Sessions can be scheduled for 15, 30, or 45 minutes, or even an hour. A sign-up sheet and schedule is available in the Journalism Department, but drop-ins are always welcome, too.

Tutoring hours are: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

# Introducing your j-department work-aides . . .

By **Tonja Robinson**



**Senior Melissa Breault**, in her second year as a journalism work-aide, is majoring in Broadcast Journalism. Melissa chose to become a work-aide because she was familiar with the department and because she liked the job's flexibility. Melissa is student coordinator for the FasTrax mentoring program, and is also involved in the Journalism Club.

Her funniest moment as a work-aide was when a student in Scott Fosdick's Magazine Workshop encountered a naked man as she arrived for class; Scott raced into the office and told Melissa to quickly call security!

Quote: "Be sure to get internships because you can meet a lot of people with a lot of connections."



**Freshman Kela Ellis** said she was overwhelmed with all the work that needed to get done on her first day as a journalism work-aide. Besides endlessly running the copy machine, however, she did get to meet the faculty and staff who make up the J-department.

Kela wants to major in print journalism and become a well-known writer, either for a magazine or a newspaper—or maybe write a novel! She hopes that working in the J-department will help her gain more knowledge in her field of study. Kela also hopes to join the Journalism Club and more, but knows that being a full-time student can put limits on your extra-curricular involvement.

Quote: "Being a journalism work-aide is not about the money—it's about being involved with what's going on. . . Remember to cover stories that will make a difference in the lives of readers."



**Senior Gina Leyba**, a News Reporting & Writing major, is in her second year as a journalism work-aide. Her job, she said, includes a lot of reception work, such as answering phones and giving out important information to journalism students. Gina's future goals include working for a

daily or weekly newspaper, as a staff writer or editor.

Quote: "It is important to be punctual on stories because it helps you become a better writer. It is also important to learn the business of journalism early in your college career."



**Sophomore Patricia Orozco** is majoring in Broadcast Journalism. What Patricia likes most about being a work-aide is being able to get acquainted with journalism instructors and students. Patricia's passion is to write for a Spanish-language publication like *La Raza*.

Quote: "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."

## Inside Journalism

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