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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 CHICAGO

SPRING 2004

Variety of scholarships honor, support students

Many scholarships are available to reward merit and to help students afford to attend Columbia College Chicago.

The main source of Journalism Department scholarships is the Fischetti endowment, started more than 20 years ago to honor the work and memory of Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist John Fischetti. The endowment has grown so that 27 Columbia undergraduate and graduate students received Fischetti grants for this academic year.

This spring, another group of scholars will receive awards, chosen from print, broadcast, photojournalism, editorial art or political cartooning majors. Incoming transfer students are also eligible. The applicants are evaluated on academic merit, financial need and service in the student's specialty, such as internships and contributions to student publications or broadcasts. Students submit three samples of their best work, as well as recommendations and transcripts.

See related story on Page 3

Lisa Balde, managing editor of The Columbia Chronicle, also was honored with a scholarship; she was one of six students to win a \$3,000 award from the Alumni Scholarship Fund for her senior year.

This scholarship was established last year to honor outstanding students throughout the college. Applicants must have strong academic records and submit a 2,000-word essay explaining why they chose their field of study and what their hopes and goals post-graduation were. Winners also write a 500-word essay in May, reflecting on their academic progress. Further information on this scholarship is available from Jeryl Levin at (312) 344-7420 or jlevin@colum.edu.

Graduate student Wen Tung was awarded one of three 2003-2004 Chicago/Midwest Chapter National Television Academy Scholarships. She was honored at the local Emmy Awards.

NABJ-Chicago honors Sparks

By Lillian Williams

Stepfen Sparks, a senior broadcast journalism student at Columbia College Chicago, is the recipient of the 2004 Darrian Chapman Scholarship in Sports Journalism, awarded by the National Association of Black Journalists-Chicago Chapter.

Sparks received the award March 17 at the Salute to Excellence Awards and scholarship reception, held at NBC Tower in Chicago. The award is named after the late NBC-5 sports broadcaster Darrian Chapman and was presented by Larry Wert, his best friend and colleague.

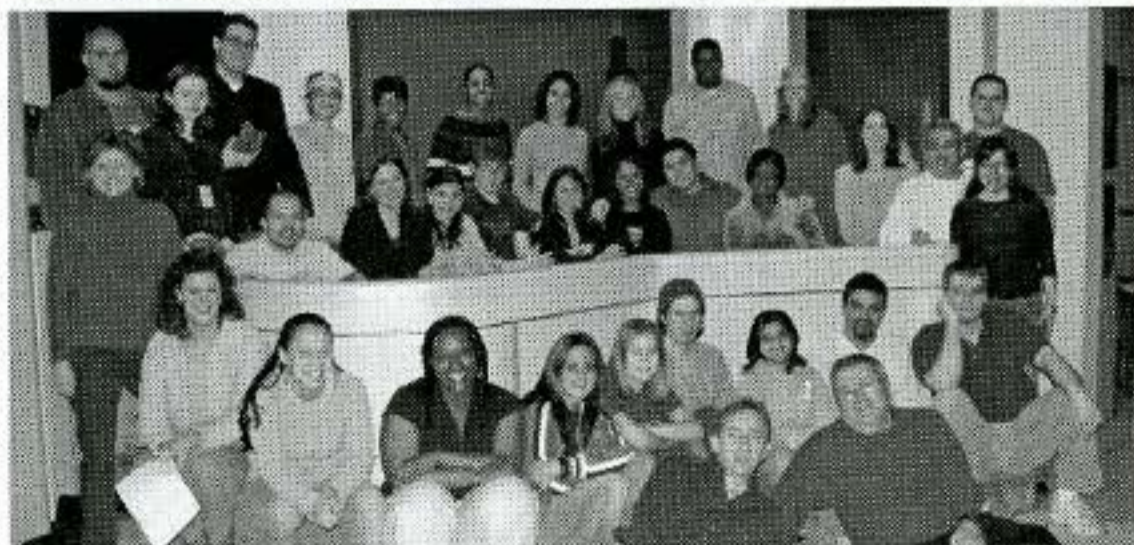
"During my whole life, my goal and dream has been to be a play-by-play commentator for major sports," wrote Sparks in his application for the scholarship. "It started when I was very young, collecting baseball cards and memorizing the statistics off the back of them. At times, I would actually turn the volume of the television down to call the game myself."

But Sparks' goal was nearly derailed when he dropped out of Chicago's Lindbloom Technical High School. "After about a year of hanging out with other high school dropouts, I realized that this was not the best thing to do. That is when I regained my sense of direction."

Sparks completed his high school requirements and enrolled at Columbia College after attending a community college and getting his first internship, writing sports agate for the Champaign Urbana News Gazette. He said that a recent internship at ABC-7 has boosted his confidence and fortified his resolve to succeed.

"This scholarship will not be the last time you will hear my name for I have confidence I will succeed in the media industry," Sparks said.

'Newsbeat' on-air live Tuesdays, Thursdays



Columbia's Journalism and Television departments collaborate on a twice-weekly live TV show called "Newsbeat"; pictured here is the spring semester's team of student journalists, crew and faculty advisers. To see streamed video of "Newsbeat," go to colum.edu/undergraduate/journalism/newsite/newsbeatpromo.htm.

Contributing writers:

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 Kristin Gianfortune
 Carolyn Hulse
 Sylvia Massey
 Lisa Radke
 Howard Schlossberg

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Day recruited from Boston U. to head Journalism Department

CHICAGO—After a nationwide search, award-winning journalist Nancy Day was appointed chair of the Journalism Department at Columbia College Chicago, President Warrick Carter announced.

Day began her tenure as chair of Columbia's Journalism Department in September, after completing a Fulbright Fellowship in the Russian Federation. She comes to the college from Boston University where she was director of Advanced Journalism Studies.

Day graduated with honors from the news-editorial program of the College of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana. She then earned a master's degree in communication from Stanford University.

She began her career in Illinois covering courts and then the legislature. When she was 24, she was asked to write the political column for the Illinois State Register, the first woman and youngest person ever to do so. Her political coverage caught the attention of the Chicago Sun-Times, where she was recruited to join its reporting staff.

Day has guest lectured at many colleges and universities including Radcliffe College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Alaska-Anchorage and the University of Arizona. She has a strong interest in diversifying the news media, and has attended various journalism workshops for minority students.

As a reporter, Day also worked for the Anchorage Daily News, San Francisco Examiner, The Associated Press, and Palo Alto (California)Times. She was also an editor at the Associated Press in Los Angeles and for the Examiner. In 1978, she was selected to study at

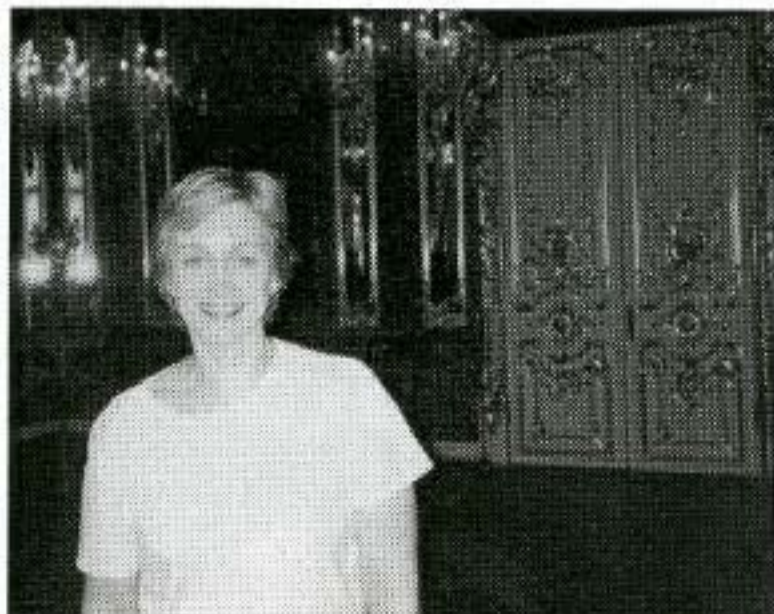
Harvard University as a Nieman Fellow, the oldest midcareer competitive fellowship for journalists. She has won honors for her work including the American Bar Association's Gavel Award.

From 1981 to 2003, while on the BU faculty, Day was a Boston-based freelance magazine writer and editor. Her articles have been published in national, regional and professional magazines such as The American Editor, Boston, CJR (Columbia Journalism Review), Family Circle, Nieman Reports, People, Redbook, Rolling Stone, Teen People, Stanford, Working Mother, Working Woman and Harvard Business School Bulletin, and in newspapers including the Los Angeles Times and The Boston Globe.

In Boston, she was a TV guest commentator on public affairs and media ethics.

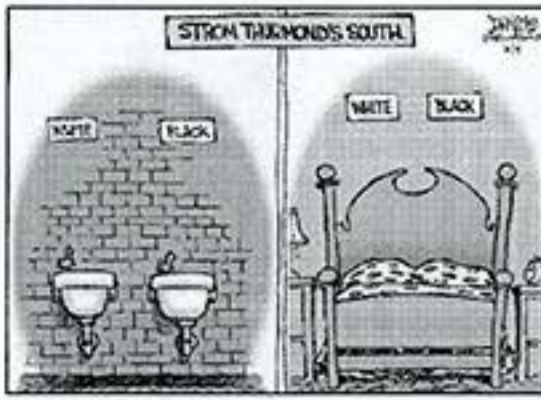
She is a member of the journalism honorary society Kappa Tau Alpha, the Journalism and Women Symposium, Investigative Reporters and Editors and the Association of Women Journalists.

Day resides in the Lakeview section of Chicago. She has a daughter who graduated with honors from Yale College last May and a son who is a senior in journalism at Temple University.



Nancy Day visited the newly refurbished Amber Room in the Catherine Palace outside St. Petersburg, Russia, during her 2003 Fulbright Fellowship.

College to honor Fischetti cartoon winners



John Cole of *The Herald Sun* in Durham, N.C., drew the winning Fischetti cartoon for 2004 (above, left). Steve Sack of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, was this year's runner-up (his cartoon is above, right). Last year's winners were a cartoon about the death penalty, drawn by Bruce Plante of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* (far right, top), and one about pedophile priests drawn by Chris Britt of the *State Journal Register*, (far right, bottom).

Auction will benefit journalism students

By Carolyn Huise

The winners of the 22nd Annual John Fischetti Editorial Cartoon Competition will be honored at a reception on April 15 at Columbia College, which sponsors the annual contest. The winning cartoons will be on display at the event, along with 20 other outstanding cartoons donated by the nation's leading editorial cartoonists, all former Fischetti winners.

Starting April 5, the cartoons will be on display in the college library.

The original cartoons will be auc-

tioned during the reception, which will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, in the college library, 624 S. Michigan Ave. In addition to showcasing the finest in editorial cartooning, the event will raise money for the John Fischetti Endowment, which provides scholarships to Columbia College students in print and broadcast journalism, photo-journalism and editorial cartooning. A simultaneous auction of selected cartoons on Ebay will also be part of the event for the first time this year, which

will allow worldwide bidding. Wireless terminals will be set up in the library so those at the reception can bid in the live auction, the silent auction and online.

More than 400 journalism students have benefited from scholarships provided by the endowment since it was started more than 20 years ago by friends of the late John Fischetti, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for the *Chicago Daily News* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. For more information about the reception and cartoon auction, please visit www.johnfischetti.org.

Davis remembered as raconteur, mentor, ace reporter

Many Columbia College Chicago journalism students were stunned to learn of the death of Bob Davis, an adjunct professor, none more so than Lisa Balde, the multiple award-winning managing editor of *The Columbia Chronicle*.

"I've lost my mentor," she wrote.

Here is an edited version of Mr. Davis' obituary that appeared last August in the *Chicago Tribune*, describing him as "a raconteur of rare talent."

"Robert Davis, a pillar of the *Chicago Tribune*, lit up the paper's newsroom with his wit and wisdom, and treated *Tribune* readers to well-reported and finely crafted stories for more than three decades.

"Mr. Davis, 61, was found dead on Aug. 3 in his Beverly home. The Cook County medical examiner's office listed

the cause as heart disease.

"Even after he retired in 1999, *Tribune* executives tapped Mr. Davis' considerable skills as a consultant on two special projects, but the longtime reporter, rewriter and editor would not let those duties interfere with his new love—passing on his voluminous knowledge about news and reporting to Chicago-area college students...winning a new generation of admirers in the process..."

"During a distinguished career, Mr. Davis covered seven Chicago mayors and events that ranged from earth-shaking to the merely amusing.

"The bigger stories included the thunderous launch and mission of a NASA space probe in Florida, the violent battles between police and demonstrators in the streets of Chicago during the 1968

Democratic national convention, the Chicago Seven trial that followed and the death of former Mayor Richard J. Daley.

"The last mayor that Mr. Davis covered during a 1990s stint in the City Hall pressroom was Richard M. Daley."

"Bob Davis was one of the finest reporters who ever covered Chicago city government," the current mayor said in a statement. "Bob was fair and accurate and extremely well informed—and he had a wonderful sense of humor."



Bob Davis

Journalism interns jump-start job search

By Howard Schlossberg and Lillian Williams

Want to get a job after graduation?

Want to separate yourself from the pack of job applicants each spring?

Want to do something that will simulate real journalism working conditions as much as possible before you graduate?

Do an internship.

Professors Howard Schlossberg (print, including online and magazine) and Lillian Williams (broadcast, including cable, TV and radio) can help you get the internship that will help you say yes to the aforementioned questions.

Talk to the students who have done internships. Ask to see excerpts from their "Experience" papers about their internships or from the evaluations their sponsors write about them. See what they have to say. Their own words are the proof that their internships at everywhere from the Daily Herald, the state's third-largest newspaper group, to NBC-5, the NBC affiliate in Chicago, paved the way for them to get their first jobs in journalism by giving them the advantages and contacts to stand out.

From Rodale Publishers in Pennsylvania (best known for Prevention, among others) to The Wall Street Journal's Chicago bureau to the less-known but no-less-important neighborhood newspaper groups all over Chicagoland, students will testify to the value of their internships and the ability to build their portfolios with the kinds of experiences they couldn't get in the classroom.

Same for broadcast. In the studios of CBS-2, ABC-7 and FOX 32, students accompany reporters and crews out on the biggest assignments, from sporting venues to the mayor's office, producing live reports and reporter packages and occasionally finding time to record a 'stand-up' of their own for their resume tapes.

Ask some Columbia grads. Ask Rodney Burks, who recently moved to Miami to be a sports anchor for a major network affiliate. Ask Graham Couch, sports editor of the Freeport, Ill., Journal-Standard. Ask Val Danner, an editor at the American Massage Therapy Association's publishing group, whose monthly perks include a free massage. Her works are read by thousands each month, and she now even edits a former Columbia instructor's works there each month, an instructor who's a contributor to the association's publications. Only took three short years for her to make that turnabout after a successful *paid* internship at the famed Argonne National Labs in Aurora in their communications division.

Could you do the same? Do you want to? Ask Howard or Lillian. They'll see that you do, or at least get the chance to. If you're a junior journalism major with a 3.0 GPA, it just might be the right time for you to do an internship. Come see us.

For more on journalism internships and jobs at all levels, see 'Yes, there are jobs out there' on Page 6.

Tales of a 'born writer'

By Kristin Gianfortune

One Saturday, I was talking to a freelance photographer while I was on assignment for Pioneer Press. We talked about how little we were getting paid to stand in the freezing cold, and how much we loved it, too.

"When did you decide to go into journalism?" he asked. "Born writer," I said. I've never been so sure of myself.

When I first began my studies in journalism at Columbia College Chicago, I wanted to work for the Chicago Sun-Times or The New York Times, because I wanted to be the reporter who scooped all the others.

I had never thought community news was important to people, and, furthermore, I never thought community news would be important to me.

I was reading the neighborhood paper one day and I saw a bunch of contact information on the inside front cover. "Anne Lunde, managing editor," it read. What the hell was a managing editor? I wanted to be published. I called and told her I was a journalism student and that I wanted to come see what went on at a real paper. She told me no, but instead offered me some "stringer" work. What the hell was a stringer?

My first published article was about a local church's 35th anniversary. It was a huge spread and she sent a photographer there, too. At just 19 years old, I thought I had accomplished something amazing. I did. I used what I learned about reporting and what I loved about writing to create what I was working for.

After my big break, I called Lunde at least once a week to see if she had anything else for me to do. I slowly established a relationship with her and she told me about the history of the community and how her mother was the editor before she was.

I asked her for a recommendation for the **Fischetti** scholarship, and she agreed. When I called to tell her I had received the award, she told me how one of her columnists had just quit and asked if I would be interested in writing "Oriole Tunes." What the hell was that?

The column I write runs twice per month in the Edison-Norwood Times Review and the Edgebrook-Sauganash Review. Lunde has taken some of the articles I've written and run them with a regular byline in the Norridge and Harwood Heights News.

Writing for the Pioneer Press has taught me how to care and how to listen—really listen, because it's then that the most captivating things happen.

This job has opened my eyes to a whole other field of journalism that I am interested in pursuing after college. Some people from the communities I cover tell me how happy they are to see me at events but, really, I'm just happy to be there, covering those events.

Kristin Gianfortune, a senior journalism major in the news writing and reporting sequence, is interning at Pioneer Press, where she has written a column twice a month for the past three years in addition to her reporting duties.



Interns report from the trenches

Learning the ropes at Pet Age, Full Audio

By Lisa Radke

As a paid editorial intern at Pet Age magazine, I was able to use all facets of my journalism background from Columbia. A typical day consists of writing for various sections of the magazine—from news briefs to features—interviewing sources or assisting the senior-level editors.

Because Pet Age is a trade magazine, it was essential that I learn the nuts and bolts as well as major issues surrounding the industry. Strong communications and interviewing skills are vital as I assist the senior editor with many interviews, resulting in several by-lines already.

The most challenging aspect of my internship was acclimating myself to their way of running a magazine. Though it was much different than my previous experience as a staff writer on Columbia's Echo magazine, the College Magazine Workshop prepared me for the detail-driven environment.

Teamwork and creativity went hand-in-hand as Pet Age is going through a complete redesign during my tenure. I was included in design meetings with the production department where my input was never overlooked. My experience in the Magazine Program familiarized me with magazine design and gave me the ability to create and critique design.

Pet Age is giving me the tools to create the best work possible. Staff members are friendly and easy to get along with, and were always willing to answer questions. This internship is an integral part of my transition from student to professional.

Lisa Radke is a senior journalism major in the magazine sequence. In addition to Pet Age, where she is interning this spring, she also interned at Full Audio, a custom music service in Chicago.

From public radio to weekly newspapers

By Jeremy Adragna

I interned at Detroit Public Radio, which I loved. Right now I am working for two weekly newspapers on the South Side. I am a beat reporter covering real estate, crime and the University of Chicago.

I'm also contributing to the Reader and WHPK (I could have a news show of my own soon). I really think I want to get back into radio if I can. I took the job I have so I could get back to Chicago and still be writing on a regular basis.

The most beneficial part of going to Columbia for journalism was the opportunity to write for so many different school publications. I worked at the Chronicle, on Echo, did a radio news feature, created a magazine with friends and met quite a few people who I know will be helpful in getting jobs later and if I can help them in any way I would.

Please keep in touch. (773) 643-8533 x 134 is my number at the Hyde Park Herald. Or just email me: jeremyadragna@yahoo.com



Columbia Chronicle wins major awards

Columbia Chronicle staffers have brought home a trophy case of awards since the start of the spring semester.

The winning streak began at the Illinois College Press Association competition at the annual convention in Chicago.

First place awards included news story, feature photo (see below) and editorial cartoon. The Chronicle was also recognized as one of the top student newspapers in the state with a second place award for general excellence in its division.

Photo Editor Andrew Scott produced two of the five winning Chicago Shootout photos, both of which appeared in the Feb. 23 edition of the Chicago RedEye. His photos were chosen by RedEye editors from among 40 shot at the convention. He was the only double winner. Chronicle photographers also won the first place award for photo essay in their division.

Columbia Chronicle staffers also brought home three awards from the 2004 Best of the Midwest College Newspaper Convention held in Minneapolis, including second in the Four-Year Daily/Weekly Tabloids competition. The Chronicle was the only student newspaper from Illinois to place.

And lastly, in March three former Chronicle staffers—former editor-in-chief Ryan Adair, former cartoonist John Peter West and former graphic designer Ashleigh Pacetti—were named to the Associated Collegiate Press' Leaders of the Student Press list.

Trapeze artists perform during the college's New Student Convocation on Oct. 10.



Photo by Andrew Scott

**Food Revue:
Save the date**

Love food and want to write about it? Get a taste of how it's done with Ted Allen, magazine writer and food and wine guru of Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." Allen will discuss the craft with restaurant reviewers, food writers and chefs at Columbia's **Food Revue** on April 30. Check the Journalism Department's Web site for more info.



Ted Allen

**Show the pros
your best stuff**

Professional journalists will be here Tuesday, April 13, to critique student work. Bring your best tapes, stories, photos and Web sites and get some pizza, soft drinks and advice—all free!

When and where: 7 p.m. in the 11th-floor faculty lounge, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

Co-sponsored by: Asian-American Journalists Association, Journalism Department and Student Satellite Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

**Alumni
Notes:**

Junko Hamaguchi

Junko Hamaguchi did a piece for Echo magazine contrasting what people were told they were having tattooed onto their bodies with what the Eastern language characters really mean.

The story was also published by Jack, a British publication. Recently, the piece attracted the attention of the Chicago Tribune, when an editor was browsing the Echo Web site.

"They loved it and asked me to write more about the topic of Japanese tattoos," she writes. "My story for them will be published in Tempo.

"Since last March I have been a freelance photographer for Conscious Choice magazine. My photos are published every month.

"Recently, I applied to Columbia College's graduate school. I'd like to get a master's degree in photography."

Jenna Barry

I got a job here in Boulder, Colo., thanks to Echo. I'm now writing for Boulder Weekly—the alternative news weekly out here. I sent a personalized cover letter, resume and copy of Echo to every single person in their office. They called me two days later and said since I ambushed their office with my story on breast implants, they'd give me a shot! So now I'm going to be writing for them on pretty much a weekly basis. It's kind of an ongoing freelancing gig. I'm really excited! I just wanted to let you guys know that if it wasn't for Echo I wouldn't be getting the job.

Hope all is well in Chicago (I'm terribly homesick!) Take care, Jenna.



Jenna Barry

Yes, there are jobs out there

Columbia College Chicago students and alumni have a new resource to help match them to internships and jobs.

It is called "Columbia Works" and can be accessed at www.colum.edu/columbiaworks.

Among recent journalism job postings on the site are:

- News director, WQAD-TV
- Print, broadcast and interactive jobs, Tribune Co.
- Executive producer, photojournalist and anchor/reporter for WHO-TV
- Reporter, WKBW-TV
- Director, news assignments editor, promotion director, KSEE TV
- Editorial manager, Pearson, Scott Foresman
- Anchor/reporter, KAIT-TV

In addition to responding to job postings, students can post their resumes and web presentations of their work, so employers can contact them.

Many recruiters also contact the department or individual faculty members directly for recommendations. For example, this note recently came from Marge Seltzner at Star Newspapers in Tinley Park, Ill:

"I'm looking for recent J-grads who

seek full-time employment on a newspaper in the Chicago metro area," wrote Seltzner.

"I have a potential entry-level general assignment reporter job opening up in the next several weeks and would like to interview some Columbia grads. I've got three of your grads on staff now and they do a good job for us. ...Thanks."



Chronicle Photography Editor Andrew Scott got this photo of John Kerry when the candidate visited Chicago before winning the Illinois primary. Illinois put Kerry over the delegate count needed to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

New opportunities in reporting political campaigns, religion, sports

Sports

If the thrill of sports makes you tingle, if rubbing shoulders with and writing about athletes and the games they play excites you, then check out the Journalism Department's new Sports Reporting Emphasis, a supplement to the News Reporting & Writing Sequence.

The program's core courses mirror the News Writing & Reporting sequence. In your junior and senior years, however, you can take "Sports Reporting," offered every fall, and the new "Advanced Sports Reporting," offered every spring.

Each course, taught by Daily Herald sports correspondent Howard Schlossberg of the Journalism Department's full-time faculty, offers students a different perspective on sports. Students will cover games, to be sure, and meet athletes and coaches and long-time sports reporting veterans both in and out of class.

But students will take a different look at sports, too. They'll examine, at length, how sports coverage has become mainstream journalism and how sports journalists must know more than the rules of the game. Mandatory areas of knowledge now include: stadium construction and financing; player contracts and union law; finances and salary cap structures; sponsorship and marketing; media rights; privacy and criminal law.

In addition, Sports Reporting opens students up to some unique electives that help them understand all of the latter, including: History of Sports (Liberal Education); Sports Marketing (Marketing Communication); Sports Photography (Photography); and Radio Sportscasting (Radio).

Contact Howard Schlossberg, (hbssports@aol.com) for more information.

Politics

With a presidential election campaign already in high gear, alongside a spirited and pivotal U.S. Senate contest in Illinois, among many other important races, students in Professor Rose Economou's "Special Topics: Covering Elections" course this spring are getting a worthwhile background in the behind-the-scenes world of consultants, hard and soft money, media spin and all the other elements that go into the coverage seen on television and in print and online media.

Special Events

Professor Economou also has created a pilot course designed to help students prepare for the many "Special Events Coverage" opportunities at news outlets, whether it's major sports events such as marathons, March Madness or the World Series, annual Walks for Hunger or other good causes, anniversaries of historic events or anything else that requires intensive, specialized planning and execution. Young journalists often get their first big breaks on such stories, which require extra staff in a concentrated time period.

This summer, Rose is coordinating and teaching the course "Covering Special Events: The Olympic Games," to be cross-listed with Television and Interactive Multimedia, just prior to the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

Religion

Professor Norma Green, who teaches different units of "Diversity in the Media," is offering a special graduate course this summer on "Covering Religion." The course will culminate at the Parliament of the World's Religions, part of the UNESCO-sponsored

Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona, Spain. Her students will report on the parliament for U.S. broadcast and print news outlets. In the fall, Norma will teach "Diversity in the Media: Alternative Press."

Three professors earn tenure

The Journalism Department has three new tenured members of the Columbia College Chicago faculty as of September 2004.

Lillian Williams, director of the Broadcast Journalism Program; Barry Rice, director of the Magazine Program, and Leonard Strazewski, coordinator of Computer-Assisted Reporting and New Media, underwent a lengthy process, culminating in review committees at the department level, followed by scrutiny from the Dean of the School of Media Arts and the All-College Tenure Committee. The recommendations subsequently went to Academic Dean and Provost Steve Kapelke and to President Warrick Carter, who sent congratulatory letters to each, confirming their new professional status.

According to college policy, each tenured professor is next reviewed in five years, with more importance at that level given to creative and academic risk-taking.



Lillian Williams



Barry Rice



Leonard Strazewski



National sportswriter Charlie Pierce shared stories of Tiger and Shaquille at a recent sports forum.

Alumni Notes:

Randy Klodz

Randy Klodz writes from Lake in the Hills, Ill., about his growing music journalism career:

"I still write a weekly band interview or live concert review column for Lawndale News, a bilingual (Spanish-English) newspaper based in Cicero. I have been doing that since July of 2002."

He also reports how a piece he did for Echo magazine helped him get a gig at a new magazine called Soak, "Chicago's answer to men's magazines such as Maxim. Based in Rolling Meadows, this relatively new, bimonthly magazine is starting to become a hit. Everything in the magazine is Chicago-based, so I interview bands from Chicago.

"Since Soak is laced with sex and humor, I sent the editors a link to my Echo article that I did on Axe body spray, titled 'Stink Bait: Sex Sells Everything, But Can It Sell Deodorant?' They enjoyed my sense of humor—and they also liked my pieces on bands. And it just so happened that they were looking for a person to do music related pieces. ...

"I write full-page Q&A features for mainstream Chicago-based bands. So far, the bands that I have interviewed for Soak include Local H, Lucky Boys Confusion, Kill Hannah and Mest. I will interview Soil in a few hours.

"It may seem odd for a Columbia College Chicago alumnus who lives in the Chicago suburbs to be writing music pieces for a San Antonio-based magazine called The Edge Magazine, but don't the same mainstream acts that run through Texas also run through Chicago? Although this is a non-paying gig, The Edge, a monthly publication, allows me to write 1,000-1,500 features on the same bands about which I write 500-word previews for my Lawndale pieces. I like the longer articles. So far bands that I have featured include AFI, Dope and Puddle of Mudd.

"One of my most recent freelance jobs includes my work with Metromix.com.

"Yes, that metromix.com, the one that is part of the Tribune Co. ... Since Metromix.com is all about what is hip, I again included my Axe piece that was featured in Echo, as well as some other music pieces from Soak and Lawndale News. I got a call back two weeks later, and I had an interview with the editor of Metromix at the Tribune building. That was in November. I started doing little bar summaries."

Now, he has a major assignment: "To cover 70-plus bars and clubs in the same fashion of the piece that I just provided a link to. That means I will be searching all of Wicker Park and Bucktown for new bars and clubs, rewriting the pieces already online at Metromix.com for bars or clubs that may have changed over the years, and deleting the ones that don't still exist."

"All of my journalism work is on my Web site: <http://www.randyklodz.com>. Feel free to look around."



Randy Klodz

Brownlee to retire

Lester H. Brownlee, a pioneering African-American journalist and veteran Columbia College Chicago professor, has announced his retirement at the close of the 2003-2004 academic year. Until then, he can be found teaching his signature course, Covering Urban Affairs, on Mondays, and holding office hours on Mondays and Saturdays.

Les was multimedia before it was a buzz word, working for the Chicago Defender, Chicago Daily News, Ebony magazine, WLS-TV, WGN-TV, WFLD-TV and WBEZ radio. He won an Emmy for a WLS editorial series in 1975, was inducted into the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame in 1993 and won the Chicago Association of Black Journalists Pioneer Award that same year. In 2002, the Chicago Headline Club named its journalism series after him. Brownlee has written six children's books and is well-known for his penchant for Hawaiian shirts and his passion for journalism.

He grew up in Evanston and later earned a master's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. A fan of opera and Italian food, Brownlee's immediate plans include a trip to Italy, a country he first saw as a soldier in a segregated unit.

Graduate student Sylvia Massey interviewed Brownlee in March:

Q: When did you know you wanted to be a journalist?

A: Sophomore year in college (at the University of Wisconsin), I made \$40 by selling an article and I knew that you could make a living by writing

Q: Who do you like to read?

A: Kahlil Gibran. Many of his works were philosophical. He tries to point out that we should give rather than take. That is something that's hard to sell in this society.

Q: You were the first African-American to be inducted into the Chicago chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. How did that affect your outlook on journalism?

A: I have a hard time understanding race. I know what it is and I've experienced racial discrimination, but the fact that no other African-American had been in the organization did not stop me from trying. I have been the first black in a number of different organizations.

Q: You've done television, radio and print journalism. Which one do you like best?

A: I like print journalism the best because there is a record of it. The others disappear.

Q: What do you enjoy most about teaching?

A: I enjoy trying to open the students' minds. To leave them asking questions, 'How come?' and 'Why?'

Q: What are your plans after retirement?

A: I have some writing to do. I have to finish my autobiography. But retirement is frightening, because when you step out of life's procession and become a stranger to the seasons, you die, in the mind.



Lester H. Brownlee