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Inside Journalism

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2005

Master's graduate wins Studs Terkel Scholarship

Angela Caputo, a 2004 graduate of the master's journalism program and currently a reporter for Pioneer Press' Northeast Side community weekly News Star, received the annual Community Media Workshop's Studs Terkel Scholarship Award for her thesis project about displaced public housing tenants.

In her thesis entitled "On the Move: A migration among homeless from public housing into shelters," she describes the plight of some of the thousands of people overlooked in the 10-year \$1.5 billion Plan for Transformation of the Chicago Housing Authority to tear down dilapidated public housing buildings and replace them with mixed income communities. The plan does not account for people living off leases in public housing either with friends or family or in vacant units. These people are technically homeless and illegally staying in the publicly funded properties. She chronicled how the non-lease holding households transitioned from public housing apartments to homeless shelters for lack of anywhere else to go.

Prior to graduate school, Caputo worked for five years in Chicago social services. She was resource developer/administrator at Centro Romero and contributing author and editor at La Puerta, the agency newsletter. She also worked as program director of community organizing at Edgewater Community Council and was a volunteer coordinator and computer lab coordinator at Sarah's Circle, a women's center in Uptown.

The 1997 graduate of Western Michigan University majored in history and women's studies. Caputo started taking journalism courses at Columbia as a student-at-large in 2001. She recalled, "Journalism seemed, then and now, a powerful means for accomplishing my professional objectives: protecting freedom and empowering people."

She worked for the Columbia Chronicle where she received a 2003 Illinois College Press Association first place award for reporting excellence in a news story and third place for investigative reporting. She also interned at the Chicago Reporter, where parts of her thesis project were published, as well as Lerner Newspapers. Named for the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Working, Race and other oral histories, the award is given annually to a Columbia College student whose class work best exemplifies Terkel's grassroots approach to documenting our communities and our city's cultures. The award is coordinated by the Community Media Workshop, housed on the Columbia campus. More info at www.newstips.org



Journalism Chair Nancy Day introduces six nationally recognized editorial cartoonists, including three Pulitzer Prize winners, who spoke to students April 7 about the art of visual political commentary. The panel included Nick Anderson, The Courier-Journal, Louisville; Clay Bennett, Christian Science Monitor, Boston; Steve Breen, San Diego Union-Tribune; Chris Britt, The State-Journal, Springfield, Ill.; Steve Kelley, The Times-Picayune, New Orleans and Ann Telnaes, Tribune Media Services and Women's eNews. Their talk preceded a reception honoring winners of the John Fischetti professional editorial cartoon competition and recognizing student recipients of the scholarship as well as winners of the Paula Pfeffer/Cheryl Johnson-Odim Student Cartoon Awards. See p. 3 for photos of this year's scholars and go to www.johnfischetti.org for more info.



ECHO, Chronicle win more awards

Student-produced magazines and newspapers continue to win armfuls of awards, both national and regional including Columbia (University) Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards, College Media Adviser's Apple Award, AEJMC Student Magazine Awards, Best of the Midwest College Newspaper Awards and Illinois College Press Association Awards. See details at www.echomagonline.com and www.columbiachronicle.com



Pulitzer Prize winning oral historian Studs Terkel and Community Media Workshop's Thom Clark congratulate scholarship winner Angela Caputo with her daughter Serra.

Olga Lopez

SPJ student chapter explores government info search



Carrie Helebojck

Len Strazewski, coordinator of Computer-Assisted Reporting/New Media, shows students how to file a Freedom of Information request and explains methods for investigating government agencies and elected officials at a meeting sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists/ Headline Club campus chapter.



Students head for San Francisco Chronicle internship, Los Angeles Times Sports Journalism Workshop

by Betsy Edgerton and Howard Schlossberg

Journalism major Sandra Rodriguez will spend her summer in a paid copy editing internship at the San Francisco Chronicle this summer, thanks to the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. Sandra, a News Reporting and Writing program concentrator, won Dow Jones' prestigious 12-week paid internship by being one of the top scorers nationally on a rigorous editing and examination. These tests are timed and strictly monitored by professors nationwide. She will begin work at the Chronicle in June after two weeks of intensive training with other Dow Jones interns at San Jose State University.

Sandra admits to being "quite freaked out" at the prospect of copy editing at a daily newspaper the size of the San Francisco Chronicle, which has a circulation of more than half a million daily and Sunday. She knows that as a copy editor, she will be the "last line of defense" for the accuracy of what is published.

Her previous internship as a reporter at the St. Cloud (Minnesota) Times, however, boosted her confidence about the world of professional journalism. Her professional reporting experience there also

"made me realize what it meant to put my name on something," Sandra says.

She has also reported part-time for the Lerner Times and this spring is working as a copy editor on the Columbia Chronicle. Sandra is a Chips Quinn Scholar, a scholarship and mentoring honor administered by the Freedom Forum. She will graduate from Columbia College later this year.

Juniors Diana Ritter and Stephanie Couey, a News Reporting and Writing and a Broadcast Journalism major, respectively, were among the candidates selected from around the nation to participate in the Los Angeles Times' Jim Murray Sports Journalism Workshop in May in the newspaper's home city. For three days, they will have the opportunity, along with other college undergraduate journalism majors, to study with LA Times sportswriters, observe their work and finish up by actually covering a live, professional sporting event in LA and have their stories reviewed by the paper's sports staff. The pair of juniors earned their spots in the workshop through the strength of their academic credentials, application essays and the quality of their submitted writing samples.

2004-05 Fischetti Journalism Scholarship Winners



Mark Anderson



Bernadette Bicek



Scott Carlson



Jeffrey Danna



Ryan Duggan



Katie Farrell



Andrew Greiner



Dana Jay



Kimberly Johnson



Monica Jones



Mellissa Kennedy



Michelle Masciopinto



Junae Weathersby



Elizabeth Zak

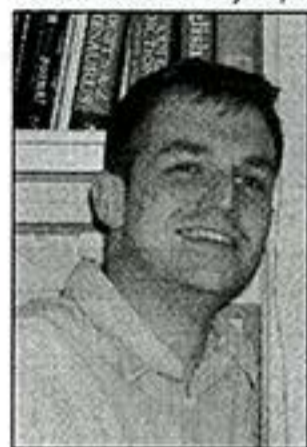
The Fischetti Scholarship Endowment Fund has helped more than 450 promising journalism students with their education expenses. It is named for the late John Fischetti, a Pulitzer Prize winning political cartoonist at the New York Herald Tribune, later the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Sun-Times, who pioneered many of the graphic features that are today's industry standard.

Music Inc. beckons '04 grad

By Charles Fuller

I never thought I'd read *The Wall Street Journal*.

Being an inexperienced journalist presents its usual challenges, but writing about business and industry for a trade magazine has become an entirely separate learning curve of concepts and terminology. So I've turned to the best, the *WSJ* (sans the editorials, of course) for advice and leadership. But I enjoy the challenge, and for someone who thought the entire world of business and industry was as exciting as arithmetic, I'm finding out how creative it can be.



Had one of my Columbia teachers told me that would be the case, I would have laughed through all the stops down the elevator and through the crowds of waiting, late-again classmates clogging the

entryway.

Late in my junior year, I landed an internship with a small company based in Elmhurst, a Chicago suburb, called Maher Publications. I worked primarily for the consumer magazine, *Downbeat*, which covers jazz and improvisational music. The company also produces *Music Inc.*, a trade magazine with a "better business" approach that serves retailers of music products, and *UpBeat Daily*, a magazine delivered each morning to those attending the biannual convention of the National Association of Music Merchants.

Just over a year and a graduation later, as I had begun looking for a full-time job, an editor of the company's trade magazine, *Music Inc.*, decided to leave.

As a recent interviewee said: "Luck is being at the right place, at the right time and being prepared."

Getting to know all the people at the company during my internship (which extended through my senior year) paid off. The job of associate editor of *Music Inc.* was mine if I wanted it. There was no interview. Just an offer. One that I jumped on.

I had some reservations about the trade mag world, but I had school bills creeping up, and I wanted to stop waiting tables. I took the job, and I don't regret it.

After graduating, I would have enjoyed sitting at the copy desk of some famous consumer magazine, but I'm glad I chose to become an integral part of a magazine that's growing and continuing to improve with each issue. I get a say, and as my knowledge of the industry grows, I have things to say.

It's been a positive experience so far, and if I apply or interview for a consumer magazine in upcoming years, I'll be confident in telling those editors that while here, I learned how to make a magazine. It may have been about music products retailing, but I learned to take the business and package it in the same way I would have at any magazine for any audience.

After six months here, I've got the hang of the schedule and the editorial process. I now focus on my writing; I try to balance better-business information and tactics with creativity, a mission never to be completely conquered.

I work closely with the editor-in-chief and art director to form each issue, and then to break it down after it comes back from the printer. It's what makes the job fun: We hack out ideas, see them come together, fine-tune them and then figure out how we can do them better the next time.

I am fortunate to deal with the people who make musical instruments and those who sell them. Needless to say, they're not your average business people. I am also fortunate to work with a great staff. People here create an environment that's accepting, challenging and understanding. I don't feel lost in a crowd, and I don't hesitate to ask any questions. Plus, we get to argue about music and pretend like it applies to the industry we work with. It really just releases any deadline frustrations.

The editing process continues to improve my grammar, usage and style skills, and more importantly, helps me become more timely and efficient at checking it all. I can't imagine that the reading and fact-checking process would be any different at a similar-sized consumer magazine.

In addition to *Music Inc.*, the company I work for also publishes a daily magazine for a biannual convention for the music products industry. It's more akin to working for a newspaper than a magazine (daily deadlines, specific beats, cut-and-dried writing), but I enjoy the change of pace and the experience with this type of magazine. Besides, this publication accounts for roughly a third of our revenue, and because the convention serves *Music Inc.*'s readership, it provides us with vertical integration in the community and a competitive advantage over other trade mags in the same industry. And now I even know what vertical integration means without the *WSJ* writers having to explain it.



Brittany Benner ('04 BJ) is bureau reporter in Aberdeen, S.D., for KSFY-TV, Sioux Falls, S.D. She wrote to her former instructor Howard Schlossberg:

"I absolutely love my job!!! Don't let me fool you or anyone else that is considering going into this profession. It is very grueling. I average about 12 hours a day at work and that doesn't include time watching the news on TV, reading newspapers and

talking to people about stories outside of work. My position is a one-man-band at a bureau about 3 hours away from the main station (KSFY) in Sioux Falls, S.D. Aside from an engineer, I am the only person at this location. The camera equipment is sooo heavy and sometimes it can be hard to break stories (that aren't already in the newspaper) in a town of 24,000 people. I still can't believe I get paid for this. Well, maybe I can, but I love it! The advantage of being a one-man band at a bureau is that I have the entire northeast South Dakota coverage area to myself so I don't have to fight with other reporters for the good stories. Believe me, there's news everywhere, sometimes you just have to dig a little deeper to find it. I also go live almost everyday. My schedule is Monday through Friday, which is great and almost unheard of for a first-time job."

Alumni News

Columbia Chronicle grads invade Daily Herald newsroom

By Jim Sulski

When Columbia journalism major and Columbia Chronicle Managing Editor Kristen Menke showed up for her new job in February as a copy editor at the Daily Herald newsroom in Arlington Heights, it felt like old home week.

Menke joined recent Columbia grad and former Chronicle Editor-in-Chief Georgia Evdoxiadis at the copy desk. Evdoxiadis has been employed at the daily newspaper since the summer of 2003, when she graduated from Columbia.

Just across the newsroom were two other recent Columbia grads - reporters Kwame Patterson and Fernando Diaz - who were both hired at the paper in summer of 2004. Calling to say hi from the Herald's Elgin bureau was reporter Lisa Balde, who was also hired in the summer of 2004.

Patterson, Diaz, Balde and Evdoxiadis all worked with Menke at the Chronicle over the last couple of years.

Elsewhere at the Herald were a couple of other Columbia alumni: reporter Kat Zeman, who covers Itasca and Roselle from the paper's DuPage bureau in Lisle, and 2002 graduate Jenny LaPorte who works in the sports department of the paper's Elgin office.

The Daily Herald is the third largest daily paper in Illinois, behind the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune. Owned by Paddock Publications Inc., an independent publishing company, the newspaper covers the growing suburban Chicago market.

Menke's job opportunity came practically overnight. She was alerted to the copy editor job opening by faculty member and internship coordinator Howard Schlossberg, who also works for the Herald on a freelance basis as a sports correspondent.

Menke submitted her resume and clips to Daily Herald News Editor Teresa Schmedding and was called in for an interview and copy editing test a few days later. "The next day I got the call that I was to start in a week or so," she said.

Currently, Menke is working the "graveyard" shift on the copy desk, from 4:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. While working at the Herald full-time, Menke will finish up her degree - a second bachelor's in journalism - at Columbia over the next couple of semesters. She will also continue helping out the Chronicle.

Menke attributes her experience at the Chronicle - first as a copy editor and currently as managing editor - as one of the major reasons she landed the position. "Practical experience is key," she said. "I didn't do an internship while at Columbia but obviously my experience at the Chronicle was enough to get me the job."

Schlossberg said that practical experience is crucial for students such as Menke to find job in the industry. "There is no other way to cut it," he said. "All the other kids who landed jobs at the Herald and other places all built up their portfolios through internships and positions at student publications such as the Chronicle and Echo magazine. The kids who don't do that wind up as bank tellers."

Schlossberg is especially proud that Columbia graduates are landing positions at high-profile papers such as the Daily Herald. "To



(L to R): Kwame Patterson, Kristen Menke, Fernando Diaz and Kat Zeman

get a job like that right out of college you have to be both good and lucky," he said. "Our students made their own luck."

Schmedding said she and other Herald editors have been impressed with the caliber of students coming out of Columbia in recent years. "Whatever you guys have been doing, you're turning out kids who are ready to work," she said. "They have the practical skills they need and the work ethic. The program has made great strides."

She attributes the gains made by the Chronicle as one successful way of turning out capable journalism majors. "The quality of your student publication reflects the quality of your students as well," she said.

The Columbia "movement" at the Herald started less than five years ago when graduate Kat Zeman was hired in September 2000. A 1999 graduate of the magazine concentration, Zeman wrote for the Chronicle, interned at the Chicago Reporter and freelanced and worked as a reporter for a couple of weekly Chicago area newspapers before landing the Herald job.

"I know the Herald people were interested in someone who had experience," she said.

The paper is an "exciting and challenging" place to work, she added, because of the daily deadline and the amount of coverage. "Most people here produce 250 to 350 stories a year," Zeman said. "Every day, there is something new to do."



Rodney Burks, class of 1999, spoke to Howard Schlossberg's Sports Reporting class about his role as a sports anchor/reporter at WSVN-TV, the Fox affiliate in Miami.

Gilbert R. Boucher/Daily Herald

Jacob Tuma

New Part-Time Faculty Profiles



Tom Alexander, who teaches Advanced Sports Reporting, is founder/owner/publisher of ScoresDaily Inc. which produces the Chicago Sports Review magazine and a network of sports-focused websites with daily e-mail newsletters. Prior to that he was executive editor at ePrairie.com where he wrote about Chicago technology and the venture capital community and was a staff reporter at The Times of Northwest Indiana where he took first place in the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for daily newspaper, non-deadline reporting.

Edward Bannon, who teaches Introduction to Writing and Reporting, is former general manager/senior editor of Lerner Community Newspapers, a former subsidiary of Hollinger International, with 16 community weeklies with a 50,000 circulation. Winner of several Illinois Press Association awards, he started at Lerner as a staff writer in 1992 and has freelanced for The Chicago Tribune and Windy City Sports.



Alice Hohl, who teaches Introduction to Computer Assisted Reporting, is a reporter for the Daily Southtown where she has covered health and social welfare, legal affairs and crime. She won the 2002 Suburban Newspapers of America first place award and the 2001 Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Award for news features. Prior to that she helped with the launch of the Chicago Sun-Times' Red Streak edition, was a reporter for Alliance News Service, city editor for Press Publications and interned at the Tucson Citizen.



Thomas Laue, who teaches the master's Reporting Public Affairs-State, is former public affairs director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority and former communications manager for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. He is past president of the National Association of Government Communicators. Currently he is LifeTimes manager/editor at BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois. Previously he was Kentucky state editor for United Press International and capitol bureau manager and statehouse reporter for UPI in Springfield and general assignment reporter for Associated Press in Chicago.

Julia Lieblich, who teaches Introduction to Mass Media, is former religion writer for the Chicago Tribune and AP in New York. She received the Tribune's 2001 Outstanding Professional Performance Award and the 2002 Publisher's Award for coverage of September 11. Currently a visiting fellow at Northwestern University's Center for Human Rights, she also previously was a national writer for Newhouse News Service in Washington, an associate editor at Harvard Business Review and a reporter at Fortune magazine.

Anne Moore, who teaches Magazine Editing, is a freelance writer whose features have appeared most recently in Clamor and LiP Magazine. She also is associate publisher of Independents' Day Media where she supervises and manages writers for Punk Planet and works for Bail. Previously, she was workshop consultant and InkSpot co-creator at Richard Hugo House's Zine Archives and Publishing Project/Bumbershoot in Seattle, where she was also editor and co-founder of Matte, a quarterly about independent arts, film and music; and editor of the Comics Journal; arts editor of F Newsmagazine; staff writer for The Onion and art associate for The Progressive magazine.



Judith Nemes, who teaches Introduction to Writing and Reporting, is a freelance journalist for Crain Communications and www.healthywomen.org, who previously worked as a reporter for Modern Healthcare magazine; contributing editor to Institutional Investor magazine; managing editor of Money Management Letter and associate editor of Corporate Financing Week newsletter. Before that she was a freelance radio reporter and researcher for Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s "Daybreak" program in Montreal; was a production and research assistant at ABC's WJLA-TV and NBC's WRC-TV, both in Washington.

Bryan Smith, who teaches Feature Writing, is senior editor of Chicago Magazine. Previously he was feature writer and writing coach for the Chicago Sun-Times; reporter for the Oregonian in Portland; reporter for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va., and reporter for the Daily News-Record in Virginia. He has won numerous awards for his work including 2003 Gold Medal of the City and Regional Magazine Association; 2003 Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Award for feature writing; 2002 Inland Press Association first prize; Illinois Associated Press Editor, first prize; C.B. Blethen Award and two awards from the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors.

David Weissman, who teaches Introduction to Writing and Reporting, has been the senior editor at ADA News, a 140,000 circulation semi-monthly publication of the American Dental Association and has freelanced for Outside Online and Windy City Sports.

Leslie Whitaker, who teaches Media Ethics and Law, is a former Time magazine reporter and current freelance writer whose work has appeared in Redbook, Self and Ladies' Home Journal. In addition, she is the co-author of books including "The Good Girl's Guide to Negotiating" and a syndicated newspaper column on workplace issues. She also was assistant editor of the Texas Historical Commission and associate editor of The Wharton Magazine in Philadelphia. She was a visiting faculty on "Values and Ethics in the News" at the Poynter Institute.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Nancy Day, Rose Economou and Betsy Edgerton participated in the Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism sponsored by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University in December. Both Nancy and Rose were 1981 Nieman Fellows.



Rose Economou received a "Hellenes in the Broadcast Media" career achievement award at the annual United Hellenic American Congress meeting for her outstanding work. She is the recipient of seven Emmy awards, four Chicago Film Festival awards and a duPont-Columbia University award for broadcast journalism. She is a former producer for CBS News' "Sunday Morning" and was a producer for Bill Kurtis at WBBM-TV, helping to break the story about the effects of Agent Orange. Rose also wrote "Documentaries Raise Questions Journalists Should Ask Themselves," a bylined article in the fall 2004 issue of Nieman Reports critiquing the documentaries "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Control Room." She also contributed to WBEZ Radio's new Sunday art and culture program, "Hello, Beautiful."

Barbara Iverson wrote the January Conscious Choice magazine cover story entitled "More Stations, Less Variety: Battling Media Giants for Control of Chicago Radio Dial" with sidebars on media reform and Air America. She also was on a winning team in the "Masters of the Web Universe" contest at the Fifth Annual Online News Association Conference at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel.

Len Strazewski conducted an American Medical News workshop on backgrounding individuals that included the Chicago staff as well as the Washington office via teleconferencing. He also wrote several freelance articles for Human Resource Executive.

Howard Schlossberg has joined the editorial board of the new Journal of Sports Media that will include an annual to be published by University of Nebraska Press. He recently completed a first-person recounting of what it's like to be a newspaper sports reporter for a chapter of a new book, Sports Media, edited by Brad Schultz, a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi. His previous book, Sports Marketing (Blackwell, 1996), is being translated into Russian and will be published by Kesselman Motorsports for libraries and universities.

Norma Green was a journalism history manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press and is under contract with Routledge Press to write an essay on the professionalization of journalism for the upcoming Encyclopedia of American Journalism History. On International Women's Day, March 8th, she spoke in Ireland about U.S. journalism education to Dublin Institute of Technology graduate students.

Curtis Lawrence, who was most recently an urban affairs reporter at the Chicago Sun-Times, was cited in the competing Chicago Tribune in February. His book review, titled "Providing for America's youngest and neediest," included three books: "American Dream" by Jason DeParle, "On Their Own" by Martha Shirk and Gary Stangler and "Leaving No Child Behind" edited by Frederick Hess and Chester Finn. The books chronicle the welfare system, foster care, and the latest effort to reform education. Curtis also wrote the cover article for the spring edition of the Northwestern alumni magazine on the university's trailblazing African-American studies department. A new member of the Association for Women Journalists board, Curtis is busy launching the organization's online newsletter. On April 6, Curtis joined Don Terry of the Chicago Tribune as a co-chair for the Studs Terkel awards ceremony. Curtis is a former Terkel honoree.

Jeff Lyon, coordinator of Reporting on Health, Science & Environment, was an invited speaker for the Victoria College 30th anniversary Lyceum Lecture Series. He spoke at the Texas school on April 7 about the future of gene therapy and the ethical conflicts of using such a revolutionary science.

Jim Sulski, first vice president of the Illinois College Press Association, moved up to the presidency at the group's annual meeting Feb. 18 to 19. Columbia Chronicle General Manager **Chris Richert** was elected VP of convention planning for the national organization, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers.

Lillian Williams, after a two-year stint as president of the Association for Women Journalists Chicago chapter with more than 200 members, turned over the gavel to former part-time faculty member **Mary Galligan**.

Diane Jones has joined the Journalism Department as secretary.



Last year, after 24 years as a staff assistant to the commissioner of the Water Department, she took an early retirement buyout package from the city of Chicago. "I came to Columbia because I wanted a new start," she explained. The college environment would seem to complement her creative expression. Diane, who makes most of her own clothes, has been interested in fashion design since childhood. "I could never get into sewing classes in school and begged my mother for a sewing machine," she said. "She got me a Kenmore in high school and I practiced with lots of expensive fabric—learning how to sew on, not against, the bias." Now, in her basement studio at home, she has four sewing machines in use with word-of-mouth commissions for weddings and proms. She also hosts an annual fashion show of her designs. "I recruit models, rent the hall and was pleased that more than 200 people came last time." Diane also is a contralto soloist in the Greater Harvest Baptist Church choir where she has been a member for more than 30 years.

Irish journalism students pioneer Dublin exchange program

By Norma Green

Andrea Byrne and Edel Meade, third year journalism students at the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland's capital, have survived their first Chicago-style St. Patrick's Day and said they are enjoying their semester abroad here at Columbia College Chicago this spring.

"I was really impressed by the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Chicago," said Edel, who is from Tipperary. "I took lots of photos by the green [dyed] river! It was amazing to see so many people claiming their Irish roots and wearing green...In Ireland, festivities usually last for March 17th only, but here, I noticed there was quite a build-up to the event and celebrations were spread out from Saturday to the following Thursday."

Andrea, who grew up in Dublin, said: "I was aware ...that Americans make a big fuss of the day; however, I didn't anticipate the extent of it. I attended the South Side parade and found it thoroughly enjoyable. I found it quite amusing, when I was asked where I was from and replied, 'Ireland,' everyone dismissively laughed and said, 'Sure, aren't we all.'"

Both students are in DIT's four-year honors Journalism with a Language Program, specializing in the Irish language (Gaeilge). The journalism program is part of the School of Media within the College of Applied Arts at Dublin Institute of Technology, a 20,000 student institution with undergraduate and graduate programs.

They like the size, choice of courses and practical, hands-on nature of their classes here.

Edel noted: "In comparison with DIT, class sizes are much smaller. I think this is so much better, because students get more individual attention and get to know their classmates better...I really like the way classes are conducted here. Every class is a follow-up to the previous class. Doing weekly homework is an effective way of keeping up-to-date with course work. I find in DIT, classes are mostly theoretical...Our grade for the class is determined by a single 3,000 word assignment and an end-of-the-year exam."

"The classes here are very practical based," Andrea added. "It is nearly all hands-on work, something I believe assists in the learning process. I have noticed that there is more of a variation in academic capabilities within classes; this perhaps comes from an open admissions policy. In Ireland, entry into third level [college] education for Irish students is competitive and based upon performance in the final secondary school high school examination, the Leaving Certificate. Thus, most of the students within a certain course are generally at the same standard."

Both said they thought Columbia was well situated: "The location is perfect—you are really in the center of everything," said Andrea. "The South Loop campus is highly impressive. We are so lucky to be so centrally located which is particularly crucial for journalism students. The DIT Aungier Street campus offers journalism students the same privilege" Edel noted.

Aungier Street is in the Liberties section of Dublin, one of the oldest and most historic neighborhoods named for its location in a tax-free zone outside the medieval gates in the more than thousand year-old city. As part of their DIT curriculum, both Andrea and Edel



Came Helebuyck

Andrea Byrne (l) and Edel Meade, Dublin Institute of Technology journalism students flank Columbia Journalism professor and Campus Fulbright representative Norma Green who represented the School of Media Arts in a fact-finding site visit to DIT in March to investigate the feasibility of further student and faculty exchanges. Green got to meet their faculty and administrators and compare the urban campus in Dublin with Columbia's amenities including this Michigan Avenue vista.

have worked on the Liberty, a monthly newspaper produced by journalism students for the immigrant neighborhood right outside the campus door.

Before coming to Columbia, Andrea also was a regular reporter for the DIT Independent, the campus monthly newspaper and was a stylist and fashion journalist for Irish publications WHO and Ireland on Sunday. Edel has been an entertainment editor and photographer for the Liberty. She also was a producer during last year's Radio Week, a time each year when DIT is responsible for programming on a radio frequency it shares with other Dublin colleges as none have a permanent broadcast license. She also was a writer/interviewer for showbizireland.com, College Times and the campus newspaper. In addition to covering entertainment, Edel performs as lead vocalist/keyboards/rhythm guitar with a covers band and has been soloist in the Gardiner Street Gospel Choir and was one of the Final 20 of the national talent show, "You're a Star."

"It's an amazing opportunity to study abroad to begin with, but Columbia is like nowhere I've ever been. Students appear to be really happy at school. They enjoy their subjects. There is a really positive vibe in all the buildings. The facilities are state-of-the-art. The instructors are experts in their field. I would advise students, particularly those who feel they have a creative streak to come here," Edel said.

Andrea added: "I would advise they do everything in their power to come here, whether that means studying extra hard to get the best grades, saving for the year, etc....because I guarantee that it will all be worth it."