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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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Latest Scholarship Winners



Leah Banks



Christen DeProto



Andrew Greiner



Mark Anderson

Graduate student Leah Banks, who previously received a Larsen Scholarship, has been awarded a highly competitive Graduate School Getz Scholarship to help her complete her master's studies in journalism. Christen DeProto is the department recipient of the Irv Kupcinet Award named for the late Chicago Sun-Times columnist. Columbia Chronicle Editor-In-Chief Andrew Greiner and Managing Editor Mark Anderson were co-recipients of the MacDougall Award named for the legendary journalist and professor, Curtis MacDougall.

Alumna Reports Financial News for Bloomberg

By Karla Palomo

When opportunity knocks, be prepared to seize it. As a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, that's my advice to students who will soon enter the news market.

Since arriving in the United States from Guatemala 1996, I have grasped every opportunity, every chance, every moment. My persistence has paid off.

For the past year and a half, I have been a television and radio reporter for Bloomberg News in New York--the leading provider of global news and financial information.

I work for "Negocios Bloomberg," the Spanish-language division, where I report on financial, consumer and economic news for the Hispanic audience in the U.S. I also serve as one of the anchors for the market wrap-up reports that air on Latin American television.

Before joining "Negocios Bloomberg," I was the first Hispanic to anchor, produce and write financial news for a daily English/Spanish web cast pro-

duced from the floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange.

I also worked for almost four years at WGBH-TV Univision in Chicago as a news writer and field producer and did some free-lance reporting at Univision's affiliate in Sacramento.

These experiences and my previous internships at WGN-TV and CNN in Chicago, along with the education I received at Columbia College, gave me the tools I needed to land a job at Bloomberg.

But it wasn't easy. To get the job at Bloomberg, I went through about seven interviews with top managers and human resources officials. I also was tested on my knowledge of finance.

I am very pleased with my progress at Bloomberg. It's been exhilarating. I'm also very thankful for the support I have received from colleagues who have served as mentors.

I believe the keys to success are the following: Be optimistic. Know who you are. Always be humble.

At times I thought I would never be a reporter. I had knocked on so many doors, only to be turned down. But instead of focusing on the obstacles, I focused on my goals. And, I worked on my reporting skills. I had the "ganas," the drive to remain steadfast in the pursuit of my dream.

My bottom-line advice: No matter what you want to do in life, do it with passion! Never give up. Never quit, even if that means more periods of waiting.

From my experience, I can tell



Karla Palomo

you that reaching the hill requires a lot of work and patience. But after the ups and downs, the reward is satisfying.

Students Start RTNDA Chapter

Students at Columbia College Chicago have a new way to hone their broadcast journalism skills and to make contacts in the industry.

Journalism and Radio students have started a college chapter of the Radio-Television News Directors' Association. The RTNDA is the largest professional organization in the world devoted exclusively to electronic journalism. It has more than 3,000 members, including news directors, educators and students.

RTNDA's goals are to help set standards and encourage excellence in the industry. Each year, the group awards various scholarships, and honors excellence in broadcasting through its Edward R. Murrow Awards.

For more information, please contact Journalism professor Ray Fanning, rfanning@colum.edu or Radio professor Dave Berner, dberner@colum.edu.

Manifest 2005

At the end of every academic year, Columbia College Chicago celebrates student work with a weeklong series of campus events called Manifest, an urban arts festival. This year's activities included a Journalism Student Party at The University Center where graduates were saluted and other student achievements were recognized.



Columbia Chronicle staffers Trish Bendix and Chris Magnus flank Arts & Entertainment Editor Jamie Murnane who gave the closing remarks at the event.



Journalism Department Chair Nancy Day



Broadcast news instructor Steve Lattimore congratulates Alissa Danzig for "outstanding effort" on behalf of Metro Minutes, a campus tv news program.



Chicago Sun-Times Washington Bureau Chief Lynn Sweet, who was the department's inaugural visiting journalist for the graduate Reporting of Public Affairs-National course, congratulates students and urges them to be enthusiastic and not jaded as they pursue careers in journalism.

Summer Internships

By Howard Schlossberg
Faculty and Internship Coordinator

Columbia Journalism Department interns are coast to coast this summer. Here's what a few of them are doing and where they're doing it:

Among the sports-minded, **Kyle Duda** is at the Golf Channel in Orlando, Fla., **Kristen Baumgarten** is at ESPN (WMVP) 1000 AM Radio here in Chicago and **Kyle Porter** is at "sister" station ABC-7 TV, reporting to Sports Producer Mike Johnson. **Amy Wooten** landed at Billiards Digest on Michigan Avenue.

'Legal Eagle' **Stephanie Rycraw** is interning in the American Bar Association Publishing Group.

Entertainment-wise, we have **Monique Mitchell** and **Chelia Copeland** at Screen Magazine, edited by Columbia grad **Julie Mynatt**, while **Katie Schaefer** and **Sarah Sommers** are at Chicago Scene.

Locally in broadcast, **Shelia Barker** is at ABC-7, **Lilliana Esquinel** is at WLS Radio 890, **Kyleen Krstich** is at WCIU (Channel 26), and **Crystal Murawski** is at WGN-TV.

Out east, **Marian Mogaji** is at Africa Independent Television in New York while **Nathaniel Rodgers** is down the street from her at NBC/Universal.

INSIDE Journalism

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Norma Green

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Echo Magazine Staffer Interning at Ebony

By Monica Jones

"My journey at Columbia was blessed"

It is said that time flies when you are having fun. Once I graduated from Morgan Park High School four years ago, and embarked on my journey at Columbia, I knew then that time would pass very quickly.

I came to Columbia in the fall of 2001, thinking that I wanted to be a television news anchor, but I realized early on that I had a passion and gift for writing that I could not ignore. I eventually ended up changing my major to magazine journalism and I have now graduated from Columbia with honors.

I left Columbia with a marketable degree, a wealth of knowledge, experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. I also left with a paid internship with the world's largest black-owned publishing company, John H. Johnson Publishing Company. I can truly say that my journey at Columbia was blessed and my continuing journey in life is blessed.

Although some would think that college is easy, it's not. Anything worth having is hard and I knew the importance of getting a college degree. Most of the time it's not

the work that is difficult, it's the financial struggles. There is also the difficulty of balancing work and school. Yet I was blessed because my financial struggles weren't as bad as other students. I was fortunate enough to get the John Fischetti and Irv Kupcinet Media Arts Scholarships, as well as other scholarship and grant opportunities. Even with all the help, I still had a tuition balance each semester and will have one after I graduate. Yet, even still I made it.

I think the one thing that I will remember most from Columbia was my experience with Echo magazine. While working with Echo, I really realized that I could do magazine journalism. Before that class, I had never worked on a real magazine. I had experience in working for a school newspaper because that's what I did in high school. Yet, magazine writing is a lot different from newspaper writing. There is more freedom to explore new ideas and topics. There is also more room to work the art of telling a story. Echo was where my voice was heard and nurtured.

I learned more about my writing style and my editing skills. I hope to take what I learned from Echo with me on my experience at John H. Johnson Publishing Company.



Monica Jones

At Johnson Publishing I will be an editorial intern with Ebony magazine, here in Chicago. At the internship, I will be attending editorial staff meetings, assist in developing articles, write articles for possible consideration and assist editors with various assignments. I am looking forward to my experience with Ebony. I know that I will learn even more about working in an editorial environment.

It's been a pleasure being here at Columbia. It is a place that I will miss, but my time has come and the time that I spent here was well spent.

California Teaming

Couey, Ritter Spend Day at Races, Tour Dodger Stadium and L.A. Times as part of Sports Journalism Workshop

Senior Stephanie Couey and junior Diana Ritter were among the 25 students from across the country selected to participate in the first annual Los Angeles Times/Jim Murray Sports Journalism Workshop, May 12-14 in the paper's host city. It's named for their legendary, late sports columnist.

They were tutored and addressed by various combinations of the paper's sports staff over the three days, and taken to a pair of prestigious sports venues in the area for tours and coverage opportunities that would be evaluated and reviewed by top sports journalists who included noted columnists J.A. Adande, Steve Lopez and T.J. Simers.

Among the highlights were a tour of Dodger Stadium, where they met and heard from retired Hall of Fame manager Tommy LaSorda and were assigned to write a story about what both Ritter and

Couey called his motivational speech.

On the final day, the group was taken to Hollywood Park, the famous horse racing track, where they covered a feature race and had their stories critiqued by the Los Angeles Times staff sports writers.

Couey called the trip "a great experience, a perfect time for networking and getting to meet a lot of striving sports journalists."

"Also, the Los Angeles Times told us we are now family," said Ritter, adding, "so they better look out because I will be over there the day I finish school, asking what job they can put me in so I can begin my journalism career."

"Besides, isn't that what family is for?"



Stephanie Couey



Diana Ritter

Students Benefit from Society of Professional Journalists

The Columbia College Chicago Student Satellite Chapter of the Chicago Headline Club hosts so many campus activities throughout the school year that it won the "Most Active Organization" award at Columbia's Student Leadership Reception and Awards ceremony last year. This year it won "Best Fundraiser." Through the club, which is affiliated with the second largest chapter of the national Society of Professional Journalists, students get to meet a wide range of professional journalists and media people.

Spring semester speakers included Todd Musberger, media and entertainment lawyer, who got into details of contracts and agents with a group of interested broadcast majors, as well as Jim Disch, former news director at CLTV, who shared the good, bad and ugly of resume tapes he has gotten over the year. At another session, Meg Tebo, a journalist and lawyer who teaches Media Ethics & Law here, and Carleen Mosbach, assignment editor at ABC/7 News, talked about jobs in journalism, focusing on opportunities beyond being reporters, behind the scenes at tv stations and writing for trade magazines, for example.

In April, Columbia journalism students and faculty participated in the SPJ Region 5 conference in Chicago. Faculty speakers included Ray Fanning, who gave tips about breaking into freelancing; Howard Schlossberg, who talked about ethics and post-game reporting; Norma Green and Julia Lieblich, who discussed the coverage of religion; Thom Clark, whose talk was entitled "Getting to Grassroots: Finding the Stories that Matter to Our Readers; Barbara Iverson, who provided a hands-on tour of Internet sites and coordinated the conference programming, and Len Strazewski, who discussed money matters, law and freelancing.

Columbia Chronicle staffers won several Region 5 Mark of Excellence Awards for their work, including three first places for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper, online Sport News Reporting to Andrew Greiner and Spot News Photography to Eric Davis. Jamie Murnane got a second place for General Column Writing and a third place for Feature Writing. Other third places went to Alicia Dorr for In-Depth Reporting; Eric Davis and Teresa Scarbrough for Photo Illustration and the editorial staff for Column Collection.

Later in the month, five Columbia students got to meet Time magazine correspondent Matt Cooper, who is facing imprisonment for not disclosing confidential sources, at the annual Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism dinner sponsored by the Chicago Headline Club. The awards, among the most prestigious local journalism honors, are named for the late Washington bureau chief of the Chicago Daily News.

The Chicago Headline Club Foundation provides two annual summer intern awards that include \$2,000 scholarships and year-long SPJ/CHC student memberships.

To find out more about the student chapter activities and how to join, contact advisors Barbara Iverson at biverson@colum.edu or Howard Schlossberg at hschlossberg@colum.edu.



Veteran TV producer Jim Disch critiqued resume tapes before a packed room of interested broadcast journalism majors. He is an adjunct professor at Columbia.



Howard Schlossberg talked about sports reporting

SPJ Region 5 Conference



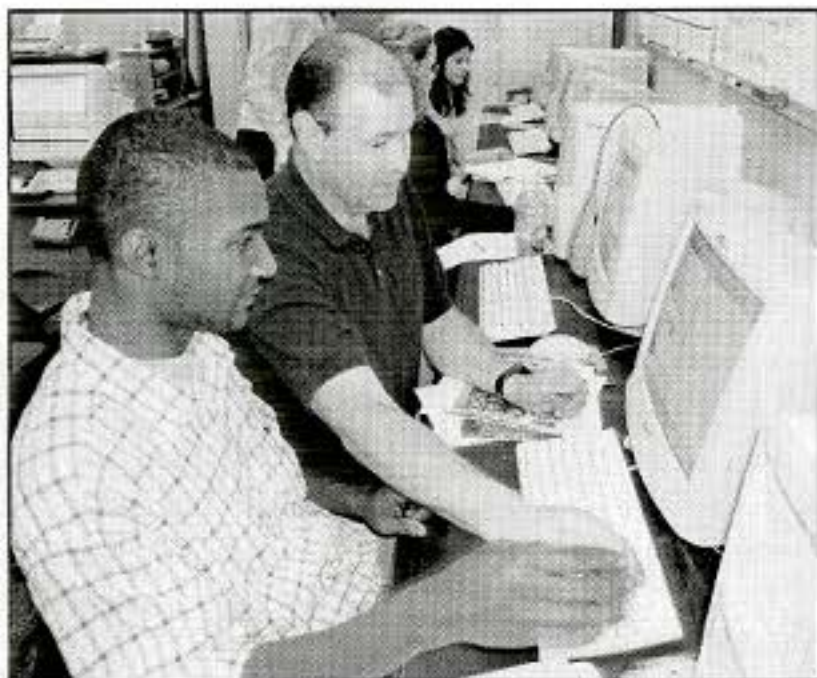
Norma Green, Julia Lieblich and WBEZ's Jason DeRose fielded questions on religion news.



Judith Grubner, partner at Michael, Best & Friedrich, and Len Strazewski discussed freelancer law and money matters.

Photos by Barbara Iverson

2005 Grad Sparks moving to Florida for TV Job



Stepfen A. Sparks (l) works on formatting NewsBeat TV script with Broadcast Journalism instructor Ray Fanning.

Stepfen A. Sparks, a 2005 Broadcast Journalism graduate, has been hired as an associate producer at SNN-6 in Sarasota, Fla.

"I can't wait to get down there and start working," said Sparks, 25, who won two scholarships during his time at Columbia College Chicago, which he entered as a transfer student from Parlaknd Community College in Champaign, where he earned an

Associate degree in Business Management. He will be doing camera work, producing and on-air reporting at Sarasota's Channel 6.

Sparks was a sports intern at ABC-7 in Chicago, which he said increased his confidence in himself and his career choice. He also helped produce, co-anchor and report for NewsBeat, the live half-hour newscast that is a joint production of Columbia College Chicago's Journalism and Television departments.

In 2004, he was honored by the National Association of Black Journalists-Chicago chapter with the Darrian Chapman Scholarship in Sports Journalism, named in memory of the late NBC-5 sports broadcaster. He was also the recipient of a Ronald H. Miller Broadcast Journalism Scholarship.

The Sparks-Sarasota connection sprouted when Stepfen was among students from Columbia College Chicago chosen to be on a panel for the National Association of Minority Media Executives meeting in Chicago last year. NAMME is the only organization of managers working in all media in news and business operations. Tony Minearp, circulation manager of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, met Sparks at that gathering and recommended him to SNN. The Herald-Tribune is the largest newspaper of The New York Times regional group and has a convergence relationship with cable station SNN-6 on its joint website:

www.newscoast.com

According to a recent press release, "The cable news station, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this July, will be moving its tapeless broadcast operations to a new state-of-the-art facility later in the year."

Sparks plans to take his brother Darius, 21, with him to Florida to make sure he continues his education.

Master's degree students visit State Capitol



Students in the graduate state government reporting class spent two April days in Springfield getting firsthand exposure to Illinois government and politics. They are pictured here on the Capitol steps with instructor Tom Laue (far right).

First, Becky Carroll who serves as spokesperson for the governor, described government's inner workings and guided students in establishing and maintaining solid beat sources. Next, veteran state-house reporter Dave McKinney of the Chicago Sun-Times fielded their questions in the Capitol's news conference "blue room" and offered a primer on ways to keep pace with hectic state government developments. Following that, students attended and took part in a news conference conducted by a group working to solve Illinois' medical malpractice crisis. Finally, they were on their own to conduct interviews or attend House and Senate sessions for individual reporting projects before the trip back to Chicago.

Chicago's Historic Bronzeville:

Just about five miles south of Columbia's campus is Bronzeville, one the country's most historic African-American communities. Yet several of Lillian Williams' Broadcast News Writing students had never been there. So Williams sought to rectify that by taking them on a field trip to the district that got its name from an editor of the *Chicago Bee*, an African-American newspaper. At the same time, Ray Fanning was piloting a converged reporting course that sent out students equipped with compact digital video cameras, laptop computers and non-linear editing software to cover community issues there.

"The district offered a commercial alternative to the race restrictions and indifference that characterized much of the city during the early part of the 20th century," according to the Chicago Landmarks website. "Between 1910 and 1920, during the peak of the Great Migration, the population of the area increased dramatically when thousands of African Americans fled the oppression of the south and emigrated to Chicago in search of industrial jobs. Further development of the area was halted by the onset of the Great Depression."

Famous residents of Bronzeville included Ida B. Wells, a courageous journalist and civil rights activist; her husband Ferdinand Barnett and Chicago Defender publisher Robert Abbott, writers Richard Wright and Gwendolyn Brooks as well as musicians Thomas Dorsey, Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Earl Hines and Lionel Hampton; pioneer pilot Bessie Coleman and Andrew "Rube" Foster, founder of the Negro National Baseball League.

Despite the cultural richness, jobs dried up over the decades and the area became increasingly impoverished as characterized by dense, highrise public housing projects including Stateway Gardens, Robert Taylor homes, Ida B. Wells homes and Washington Park homes.

"It was an eye opener for a few students in my class who had never met persons who had suffered racial persecution," said Williams, explaining that they traveled to the neighborhood by bus and el. "When returning to the 43rd street el platform one student asked why the neighborhood had so many vacant lots and so many men just standing around."

Along with the desolate parts of the area, though, developers are busy restoring some of the district's mansions in a turnaround that has captured the attention of the city despite leftover neglected properties.

Her class destination was the Negro League Café, a restaurant opened in 2004 that is full of murals and a wall of fame honoring legendary baseball players, near the el stop at 43rd Street and Prairie Avenue where they interviewed 75-year-old former Negro



Student Erin Kobernus with Johnny Washington, the 75-year-old former Negro League player who joined the class at the Negro League Cafe in Bronzeville. Washington, a graduate of Morgan Park High School in Chicago, played for the Chicago American Giants, among other teams, until 1951.

League ballplayer Johnny Washington.

Fanning's students, a trio of backpack journalists, focused on capturing images, sound and stories of the community using a converged newsroom approach. All semester, Kelsey Minor, Isabel Esteviz and graduate student Zeenat Desai covered Bronzeville as an independent study.

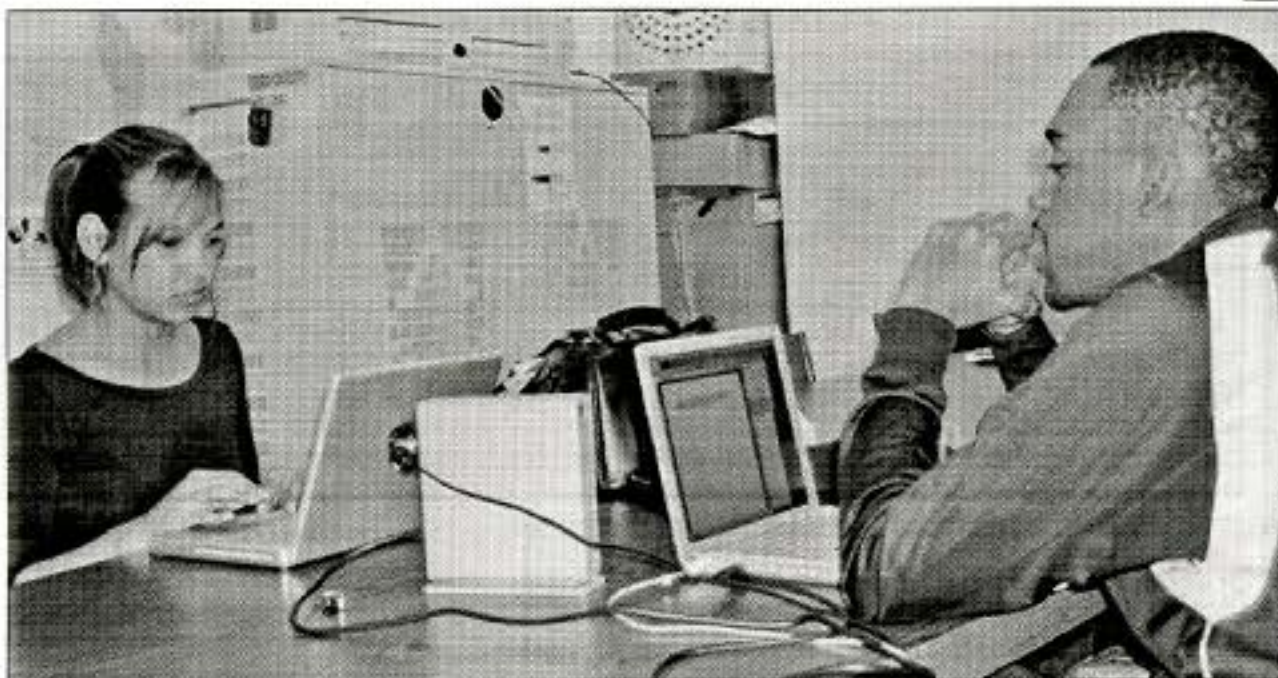
Their work can be seen on the Journalism Department website at <http://www.colum.edu/undergraduate/journalism/>



Journalism professor Lillian Williams (2nd from right) with her Broadcast News Writing class and veteran ballplayer Johnny Washington at the Negro League Cafe in Bronzeville.

Catalyst for Urban Reporting

Backpack Journalist Team



Back on campus, Esteviz and Minor reviewed their fieldwork, documenting architectural landmarks such as Victory Monument, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Sunset Cafe, Eighth Regiment Armory, the newspaper offices of the Chicago Bee and Chicago Defender, the residence of Ida B. Wells and the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.



Isabel Esteviz



Zeenat Desai



Kelsey Minor

Lawrence wins Bronzeville church preservation reporting award

Faculty member Curtis Lawrence, former Chicago Sun Times reporter who teaches in the News Reporting and Writing sequence, was honored by the Coalition to Save the MET on June 4 for his part in helping to preserve a South Side institution.

The Metropolitan Community Church at the corner of 41st Street and King Drive has been a Bronzeville landmark for more than a century. The sandstone church played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement. A. Philip Randolph organized the Pullman porters there and W.E.B. Dubois, Ida B. Wells and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. are just a few of the icons who spoke at the church during its heyday.

In 2002, the Metropolitan's pastor stunned the community and many members of his congregation with plans to bulldoze Metropolitan and build a more modern structure. Lawrence was one of the first journalists to chronicle the efforts of the Coalition to Save the MET.

Eventually, the Rev. Leon Finney, who also heads The Woodlawn Organization, led an effort to raise \$1.7 million to purchase Metropolitan. His congregation moved into Metropolitan in 2003. The congregation is now known as Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church.

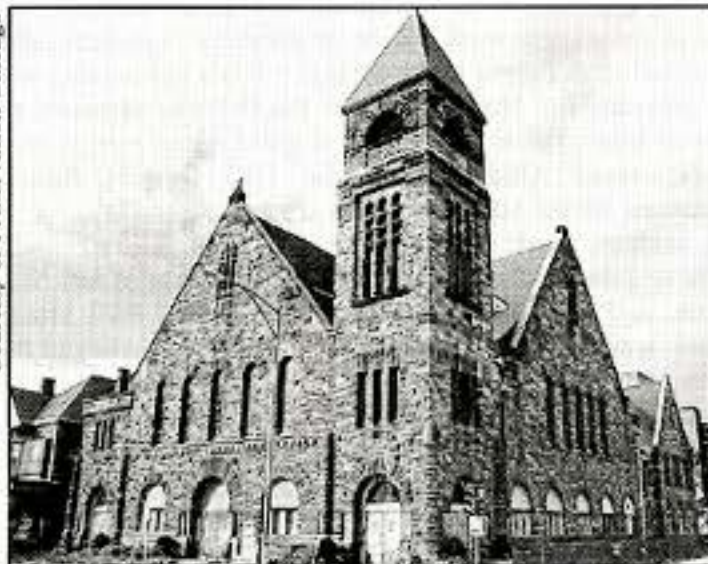
Lawrence's articles about the coalition's efforts helped spark comment from the Sun-Times editorial pages and from preservationists who were outraged at the thought of losing Metropolitan.

In accepting the award at a gala concert attended by community members and politicians including former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, Lawrence said he was honored to be a part of the effort to save Metropolitan. But he said the real credit belonged to the coalition members who worked against the odds to preserve a

significant piece of Bronzeville history.

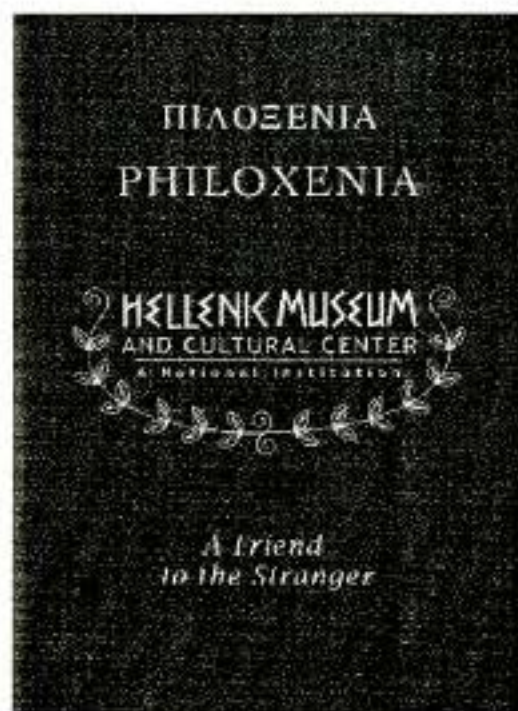
Others honored at the event, which was held at Metropolitan, included the Rev. Theodore Richardson, the third pastor of Metropolitan; Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright of Trinity United Church of Christ; Bishop Arthur M. Brazier of Apostolic Church of God; Maurice L. Lee, a former reporter for the Lakefront Outlook and Hyde Park Herald newspapers; and the late columnist Vernon Jarrett, who was honored posthumously.

Photo by Graham Balleary
Courtesy of Preservation Chicago



The Metropolitan Community Church, built in 1891.

Struggling Immigrants Studied



Brochure Design by Anni Holm

Students in Rose Economou's Investigative Reporting and Broadcast News Writing classes helped created this exhibit and program brochure designed by Art and Design student (and Danish native) Anni Holm to illustrate the display at the Hellenic Museum and Jane Addams' Hull House Museum.

Columbia Journalism students tackled one of the most difficult contemporary topics this Spring--immigration. Rose Economou's Broadcast Writing students reported on the struggles that recent immigrants have faced since 9/11, tough Homeland Security provisions and tighter immigration policies.

Economou's Investigative Reporting students, in contrast, designed investigative projects to examine how immigrants are being exploited in the workplace and in their communities. Some of the student work will be on display in a project called -- Philoxenia: A Friend to the Stranger. It is a partnership with Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, the Hellenic Museum, the Midwest Immigration and Human Rights Center, a program of the Heartland Alliance, and the UIC Library Special Collections where Addams' papers are kept.

The students' work will be honored on Sept. 8 at a birthday tribute to Jane Addams at the Hellenic Museum at 801 West Adams, just four blocks north of the original Hull House. Addams was a true friend to the immigrant and believed that citizens should actively live their democratic ideals.

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, immigration lawyers and experts will join students for a discussion in the Journalism Department's new auditorium at 33 E. Congress, 2nd Floor, on immigration, political asylum, refugees and family reunification. The event is called -- "Is America Living Up to Its Ideals?" Economou

said she and the students hope that Ibrahim Parlak will be able to speak at the forum. An ethnic Kurd from Turkey who ran a popular restaurant in Harbert, Mich. before his arrest on Homeland Security charges, Parlak was profiled in a New York Times magazine cover story in March. He is fighting terrorism charges and deportation after nearly 14 years in the United States and was recently released on bond pending his appeal. Parlak was recently released on bond pending his appeal.

Economou, the Philoxenia project director and co-curator, said, "The exhibit and programs ask Americans to look into their hearts and to reflect on our behavior to the needs of the stranger." America, she reminds us, is a nation of immigrants and all share family experiences--some more recent, others more distant--that tie it to the immigrant experience. "The project asks if America has done all that it can do to be a friend to the stranger," she added. "Why does it so often revel in its immigrant past, but reject its immigrant present?"

The exhibit is on display at the Hellenic Museum, 801 W. Adams, and Jane Addams' Hull-House Museum, 800 S. Halsted, from June 17 - Dec. 3, 2005. Visitors are also invited to explore the archives of Hull House and its neighborhoods on Halsted Street at the University of Illinois at Chicago Library Special Collections.

World Press Freedom Celebrated

By Dr. Norma Green
Professor and Director of the Graduate Journalism Program

Buenos Aires might seem an unlikely setting for celebration of World Press Freedom Day. But moving beyond stereotypes of South American political instability and repressive regimes, it turned out to be the nearly perfect place on May 3 to pay tribute to fundamental principles of media independence and journalistic courage demonstrated and discussed at a gathering of the International Network of Street Papers.

The sidewalks of Argentina's capital are clogged with hundreds of strategically placed, overflowing newsstands and late-night bookstores that force pedestrians to walk single file past thousands of reading temptations. It is not difficult to find a copy of Hecho en Buenos Aires, a weekly publication sold on the streets by 1,900 registered vendors who are homeless. The Hecho staff hosted the conference that attracted more than 75 people from Europe, Africa, Australia, North America and other nations of South America representing some 40 publications providing income to homeless and other marginalized people.

"This is a country in which half the population lives in poverty," explained Hecho Editor Patricia Merkin. "After the big economic crisis in 2001, the number of homeless soared. Yet the state services didn't change to meet the needs of the city's homeless."

She quoted social data about 8 million Buenos Aires residents, including 350,000 who live in unstable housing conditions such as 120,000 in shanty towns, 200,000 living illegally in 12,000 "squats" and 150,000 receiving support to live in hotels, pensions and shared accommodation.

Hecho en Buenos Aires has survived under some precarious circumstances, according to Merkin: "The paper was on the brink of folding in 2002 during the economic crisis. Maintaining production was near impossible at times. Soaring inflation meant that the price of the paper increased by four times in 24 hours. We were lucky enough to get support from a television company that paid six months of our printing. Our finances are always pushed to the limit. It's pretty difficult being financially stable when the coun-

try's economy is in ruins. But we believe it is important to continue working towards a stable social economy in Latin America. Argentina's problem isn't poverty but the distribution of wealth."

It had a common mission with other street papers represented at the conference.

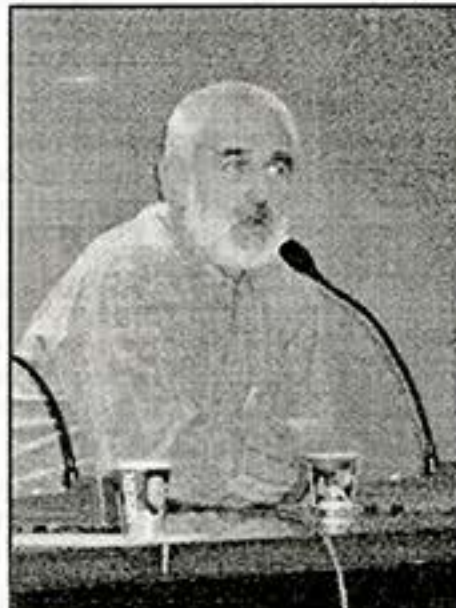
"We want to offer people the opportunity to make a tangible difference to their lives. In doing so, we don't only help change the lives of many homeless people; we are changing society's perceptions...Communication is our tool for social transformation," Merkin concluded.

INSP plans to lobby the United Nations to alleviate homelessness. The U.N. pledged in Millennium Development Goals at a 2000 summit to combat poverty by addressing root causes of conflict and strengthening civil and political rights. According to the UNESCO website, "In unstable countries, the lack of sources of alternative credible information can seriously increase people's feelings of insecurity, can exacerbate fear and frustration, and thus escalate violence and trigger conflict. Independent media can act as a catalyst to reconciliation and long-term conflict management and prevention by allowing alternative voices and providing citizens with the tools to move towards sustaining healthy democracies and preventing conflict. Attention raised and assistance given to independent media in tension areas and violent conflict is therefore absolutely vital in supporting countries to achieve solid, peaceful democratic societies where human rights are a reality for all."

Norma Green, who teaches History of Journalism and Alternative Press, is writing a global history of street papers.



Buenos Aires' street paper



Street paper representatives from Slovakia, Switzerland and Germany (above) and Brazil, Uruguay and South Africa (below) discuss common concerns.



The PRESS FREEDOM PANEL included journalists who had been imprisoned under dictatorships. From l: Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, who is a member of the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights in Argentina and president of the Service, Peace and Justice Foundation; Alicia Cytrynblum, founder and editor of Social Press in Buenos Aires, director of Third Sector magazine and TV reporter; and Andrew Graham Yooll, journalist and editor in chief of Buenos Aires Herald and founder of the Index on Censorship, London.

Photos by Norma Green

Faculty Notes

The Journalism Department unknowingly hosted a Baby Derby spring semester when five faculty members, including a husband and wife teaching team, had children. It started with Theodore (Teddy) Macauley Karp born on April 15 to **Josh Karp**, who taught Magazine Article Writing, and his wife Susan. Next came Caitlin Josephine Johnson on April 18, born to **Allan Johnson**, who teaches Reporting for Print & Broadcast, and his wife and Chicago Tribune colleague Evelyn Holmes. Then it was Roosevelt Owen Dillard Sinker on April 30 born to **Dan Sinker**, who taught Magazine Editing and his wife, Janice Dillard Sinker. **Ira Pilchen** and his wife, **Kathryn "Kathy" McCabe**, who both taught sections of Introduction to Computer Assisted Reporting, traveled the farthest to welcome their child, Laura Ye Wen Pilchen.



Ira, Kathy and baby makes three in Changsha, the provincial capital of Hunan, China.

By Ira Pilchen and Kathy McCabe

During spring break from Columbia College, we went to China to adopt a 14-month-old baby girl. Along with five other adoptive families from the Chicago area, we traveled to Hunan Province to pick up Hou Ye Wen. We gave her the American name Laura Ye Wen Pilchen.

March 21 was our "gotcha day," the day we met and legally adopted Laura. That was a little more than 13 months from the day we signed up with our Chicago-based agency, Family Resource Center.

Our 12-day trip to China was filled with activity. Much of the time we were either traveling from city to city in order to meet with various adoption and immigration officials, completing paperwork, or waiting for our documents to be processed. (Imagine how long it takes just to get a U.S. passport or Social Security number, and you can understand why international adoption takes as long as it does.)

We didn't get much chance to sightsee because between official meetings, we were changing diapers, making bottles, napping, and bonding as a family. But we did get a sense of China's modern, Western-style big cities by taking walks and doing some shopping.

Today, Laura is a beautiful, active 18-month old who shimmies to music and loves to climb stairs. We feel very fortunate and blessed to be her parents.

While our daughter did have the good timing to arrive right around spring break, we are grateful to our fellow instructors who helped us by taking a few of our classes during the transition.

We kept a web site of our travels at <http://homepage.mac.com/irapilchen/gotcha/yewen>.

Frank Alkyer, who teaches Trade Magazine Writing, was part of the Music Inc. magazine team including Columbia graduate Charles Fuller, '04, who won the Gold Award for publication redesign at the American Society of Business Publication Editors 2005 Awards, Midwest-South Region.

Chris Callahan, a former graduate instructor of our master's Washington, D.C. summer course and most recently associate dean of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, has been named the founding dean of the Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Carolyn Hulse Director of the News Reporting and Writing program, was a judge for the Chicago Bar Association's Herman Kogan Awards for legal journalism.

Barbara Iverson was an invited participant to the OhmyNews International Citizen Reporters' Forum in Seoul, Korea June 23-26 about online journalism's potential. Her review of Democracy and News Media, edited by Henry Jenkins and David Thorburn, was published by the University of Washington Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies. She also published an article "Pond Perfect: Create a background water retreat," in the May Conscious Choice magazine.

Julia Lieblich, who teaches Introduction to Mass Media and is a fellow at the Dart Center for the Study of Journalism and Trauma, is traveling to Sierra Leone in July and August to interview survivors for her upcoming book, *After the Terror: Survivors of Political Violence Search for Meaning*.

Mike McCarthy's piece about an Illinois farm family's medical catastrophe was reprinted in the May 20 edition of *The Week*, a New York-based magazine highlighting "the best of the U.S. and international media." McCarthy, deputy bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal* in Chicago, teaches Introduction to Writing and Reporting.

Bonnie McGrath, a journalist and lawyer, who teaches *Covering the Courts* and the graduate *Courts & the Law* courses, appeared on an Illinois Academy of Criminology panel about prison reform.

The American Bar Association's Student Lawyer magazine, edited by adjunct professor **Ira Pilchen**, received the National Award of Excellence (Gold) for its Jobs column from the American Society of Business Publications Editors, and a Silver in the Midwest Region for the Hot Practice column. The magazine also received the Distinction for Writing Award from the National Association for Law Placement.

Bryan Smith, a Chicago magazine senior editor who teaches Feature and Magazine Writing, won the City and Regional Magazine Association Bronze Medal in the Writer of the Year category and a Silver Medal in the features category for a story on the attempted comeback by injured NBA player Jay Williams.

Leslie Whitaker, who teaches Media Ethics and Law, will have an article "Covering (and Reinforcing?) Conflict" published in the August/September issue of the *American Journalism Review*. It looks at the impact the traditional way journalists cover conflict—typically focusing on two extremes and overlooking variations in the middle—has on society.

Broadcast Journalism Director **Lillian Williams** presented her research on how interns and recent graduates experience issues of diversity in newsrooms at the 50th annual Broadcast Education Association conference in April held concurrently with the Radio-Television News Directors Association conference that **Ray Fanning** also attended.

New York Magazine Tour Yields Valuable Insights

By Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin
Acting Director, Magazine Program

I spent three days in late June visiting New York magazines with other faculty members of the Magazine Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The goal of the annual trip is to help professors keep current with the issues facing magazines today. All the information culled from these visits will be shared with students in our magazine program this coming year.

The group began by visiting Time magazine, where news director Howard Chua-Eoan talked about how the magazine distinguishes itself from its closest competitor, Newsweek, and what it looks for in young hires. Even in a time of converged media, he said, "People still should focus on reporting and writing skills because after that everything is easily learned or coachable."

The next stop was People magazine, where executive editor Cutler Durkee talked about his 27 years at the magazine and how it has faced the competition of US

Weekly and In Touch. The main distinction, he said is that People has remained journalistic with stories carefully reported and fact-checked. He said the newer magazines have taken readers away from tabloids, like the National Enquirer, and not from People where circulation is up.

Next the group visited Print, which recently won the National Magazine Award for general excellence. Editor-in-chief Joyce Rutter Kaye spoke about the publication's recent redesign. The last stop of the day was at Budget Living, where director of marketing Amanda Casgar talked about how the magazine has found a niche serving readers who want to live richly without spending a fortune.

On the second day, the group visited Power & Motoryacht, a Primedia property, where members of the editorial, marketing and video/TV staff talked about their successful approach to the high-end yacht market. Several professors felt this magazine would be a useful case study on media ethics because the line between editorial and advertising was substantially blurred. After that, they visited Discover magazine,

which is currently owned by Disney but soon to be sold. During a long and open conversation, editor-in-chief Stephen Petranek spoke about the demise of Omni, the redesign he implemented, and his hopes for ancillary projects under new ownership (as yet unknown).

The final stop on the second day was the Nation, founded in 1865—the oldest U.S. weekly magazine. Publisher Victor Navasky spoke about the publication's history and its approach to quality journalism, which is overtly left-of-center. "The role of the Nation is to give its perspective on the new and put on the agenda issues that are off the radar," said Katrina Vanden Heuvel, editor.

On Day 3, Esquire editor David Granger told the educators, "The two things that are most important about Esquire writers are an insatiable curiosity that leads them to be great reporters and the willingness to take risks with the English language."

"Reporting and radical forms of expression -- that's how you get into Esquire."

Esquire won a 2005 National Magazine Award for feature writing.

Iverson explores blogging and media reform at separate conferences

May was a busy month for faculty member and resident blogging proponent Dr. Barbara Iverson, who participated in two national conferences. On the campus of Belmont University's New Century Journalism school, she attended BlogNashville which included computer-assisted research and reporting sessions for the Media Bloggers Association, the sponsor of the conference, as well as more general discussions.

Iverson wrote about the ambiguous relationship between bloggers and journalists in her article about the conference, "Media Matters in the American Heartland: Prominent bloggers and journalists come together in Nashville, but remain wary of each other" published in the International Edition of OhmyNews.com.

From Nashville, Iverson went to St. Louis for the 2005 National Conference on Media Reform, sponsored by Free Press, a national nonpartisan media reform group. The program included Federal Communication Commissioners, members of Congress, journalist Bill Moyers, Phil Donahue, Jim Hightower and even rocker Patti Smith and rapper Dave "Davey D" Cook who came to discuss media regulation, media diversity, PBS and the "personal media revolution."

The media reform conference had large panels, such as one with FCC commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein and former commissioner Nick Johnson who covered the history of broadcast regulation and the current climate. Smaller interest group sessions addressed issues of particular concern to women, people of color, faith communities, independent media producers, lawyers and legal advocates, artists and musicians and educators and practicing journalists. One session featured Linda Foley, president of the Newspaper Guild, and Independent Press Association's Linda Jue who discussed working conditions for journalist and freelancers in today's media market-

place where corporate consolidation is cutting jobs and eliminating local coverage of issues.

"These issues are important because changes in the workplace must be acknowledged in the classroom," concluded Iverson. "Where the independence, integrity and ethics of journalists are being eroded, whether by economic pressures or government influence, journalism educators and media professionals need to speak out and work to prevent any muzzling or dumbing down of journalism for the sake of the profession, but for the sake of our democratic system, too."



Magazine Editing instructor Anne Elizabeth Moore, associate publisher of Punk Planet, and a group of "Zinesters" from Chicago brought copies of their self-published zines and did a reading at the National Conference on Media Reform.

Photo by Barbara Iverson 11

Magazine Journalism Major was Salutatorian

Non-Speaking Part at Commencement is Great Relief Honor

By Catherine Wolf

It was 8:30 on a Tuesday night when I got the call. The electronic readout on my cordless handset indicated a "private caller" and I almost didn't answer the phone in fear of a fast-talking salesperson on the other end of the line pitching me the latest in knife ware. This particular night, however, something told me to break my own rule and pick up the phone.

"Hello," I cautiously said.

"Catherine, this is the associate provost of Columbia College," replied a female voice I later learned was that of Jan Garfield. "I'm calling to tell you that you are one of the two salutatorians for the 2005 graduating class."

Saluta - who? I didn't have a clue what this woman was talking about, but I could tell by her title and tone of voice that it was something important. Assuming one would want to be a salutatorian if one knew what the position was, I optimistically thanked the woman for the honor, then asked if she could explain to me exactly what the term meant.

If I had been betting in Vegas I would have done all right that night. I quickly learned a salutatorian is the second highest honor for a graduating student, directly behind the valedictorian. Well, that sounded pretty swell I thought, and I felt deeply grateful for the award. Then it dawned on me - don't honorees usually have to give speeches - and aren't those speeches in front of enormous groups of people?

Fear set in immediately. As a magazine journalism major, I express myself through my keyboard, not verbally. I began having flashbacks to grade school oral presentations when my stomach would knot in anticipation of exposure to an audience. To make matters worse, I would have to wait three weeks until meeting with school officials to learn my role in the graduation ceremony.

When the meeting finally came, you can imagine my relief to discover that, because the valedictorian was in the afternoon ceremony with me, I would not have to speak. It took all the self-restraint I could muster not to leap across the table and kiss the vice president of student affairs on the cheek in celebration! In addition to this good bit of news, I also received a stipend, VIP tickets to an otherwise open-seated graduation and an invitation to a reception at the College president's house. Not bad for a few years of devoted schoolwork - work which, I must add, could not have been accomplished without the instruction, encouragement and feedback of skilled professors.

My relief was not long-lived, however, for at the president's reception the valedictorian, Thomas Kemeny, approached me with a clever plan. A marketing major, he wanted me to buy 30 seconds of ad space during his commencement speech. The money would be donated to a scholarship fund and I, lucky girl, would get a moment in the spotlight to say anything I wished after all. No, no, no, my mind screamed in silence. Then, talking with him further, those thoughts were replaced by feelings of joy as we struck a bargain that suited us both.

The next day I arrived early to graduation. School officials and student honorees who were part of the stage party donned our commencement robes and crossed the street from our staging area to the UIC Pavillion where the ceremony was to be held. After the 700-plus graduating students seated themselves, the stage party entered the arena to the tune "Walk This Way" by Aerosmith. I hadn't felt nervous until this point but, with 8,000 people watching us both live and on two Jumbo-trons, I suddenly felt jittery. I tried smiling but my faced twitched with nerves

and I had to revert to less effusive facial expression. (My good friend later pointed out to me that I looked rather solemn through the entire ceremony. Ya think?)

If nerves weren't enough to alter my facial expression, then the temperature up on the stage certainly was. With spotlights beating down on us, and my gown and cap made out of non-breathable, man-made materials, I was sweating for the duration of the three-hour ceremony. Discomfort from the heat, however, mattered little when I took in the captivating view from the stage. The pavilion was filled to the rafters with graduates and their friends and family members who cheered them on. When, at one point, Queen's "We are the Champions" was played, the auditorium lit up with blue beams from cell phones swaying in the air.

Halfway through the ceremony, Thomas took center stage to give his speech. I honestly don't know how he did it. My legs were so wobbly just from sitting on the stage in front of thousands of people, I certainly couldn't have walked from my seat to the podium, much less held forth in any coherent manner. But, that's what I paid a marketing guy for! The night before, when he heard my fear of public speaking, Thomas agreed that he would do my 30-second ad for me. So, there he stood, advertising my journalism skills to an audience of 8,000. That's not bad payback for a \$30 donation to a good cause. Who knows, it might pay off in a job offer. It certainly couldn't hurt.

After Thomas completed his speech and the graduates crossed the stage, the ceremony drew to close. As I departed the stage, I was handed one final gift to commemorate my time as co-salutatorian, a lovely framed plaque noting my academic record. One day that plaque will hang on my wall next to my diploma. It will remind me of all of the hard work I put in at Columbia and all of the wonderful teachers and friends I made along the way. But most of all, it will remind me of the smile of pride that enveloped my mom's face when her daughter was the salutatorian of the class of 2005.



Wolf on Commencement Stage



Journalism was well represented on stage at the 2005 School of Media Arts' Commencement including master's student Allison Borges (center) introducing all the graduating master students to a sea of well-wishers gathered at UIC Pavillion. Borges is flanked by Allen Turner (r), the new chair of the college Board of Trustees, and outgoing chair William Hood (l), Provost Steve Kapelke and Bill Cellini Jr., trustee and president of the Alumni Association.