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# Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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# inside journalism

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER | FALL 2005

## Dublin-Bound Trio

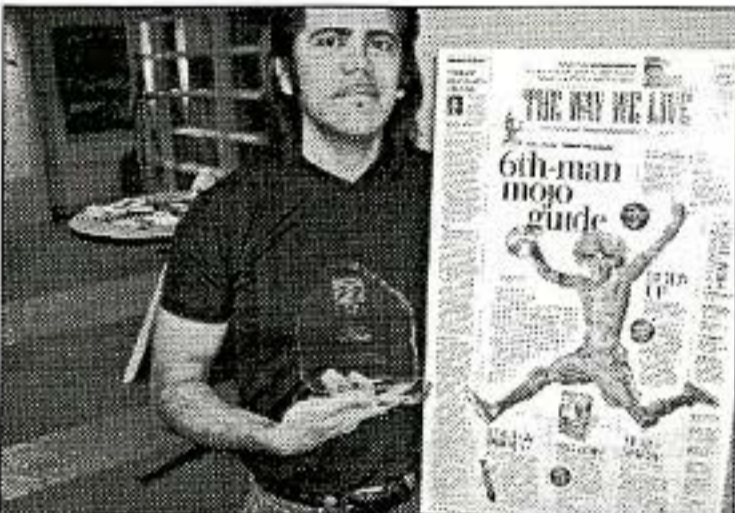
Erin O'Connor, (News Reporting and Writing), Molly Kircher (Broadcast Journalism) and Jessica Pearce (News Reporting and Writing) are among Columbia's first group of five



OMAR CASTILLO

students scheduled to participate in a semester abroad exchange program with the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland next spring. They will be housed at Griffith College and take journalism courses in the heart of the city near various governmental and cultural institutions. Despite being more than a thousand years old, Dublin has become a global digital hub. For more information on applying for the Dublin semester abroad, contact Journalism faculty member Norma Green at [ngreen@colum.edu](mailto:ngreen@colum.edu)

## Twice in a row



TROY TERRY

Elio Leturia, who joined the Journalism Department faculty this fall after an international search for an outstanding Visual Journalism educator, displays his second consecutive Print Designer of the Year Award given to him by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists at Noche de Triunfos Journalism Awards Gala in Washington, D.C. in September. The design for which he won the award this year is entitled "6th Man Mojo Guide," a layout featuring a how-to guide on being the ultimate Detroit Pistons fan. It and last year's award winning layout—an Hispanic version of Trivial Pursuit—were done for the Detroit Free Press where the Peru native was features designer for the past decade.

## Sophomore wins RTNDA Carole Simpson Award

BY JAMELLA BROWN

Sophomore Damon Maloney has won the prestigious Carole Simpson Scholarship award given annually by the Radio Television News Directors Foundation, and named for ABC network reporter Carole Simpson.

Maloney won the 2004-2005 Simpson award after a national competition in which he wrote an essay describing his passion for journalism. He submitted examples of his journalism work, news scripts, a resume and his academic transcript.

This scholarship was created in part to encourage and to assist students of color during their college years. The recipient receives \$2,000.

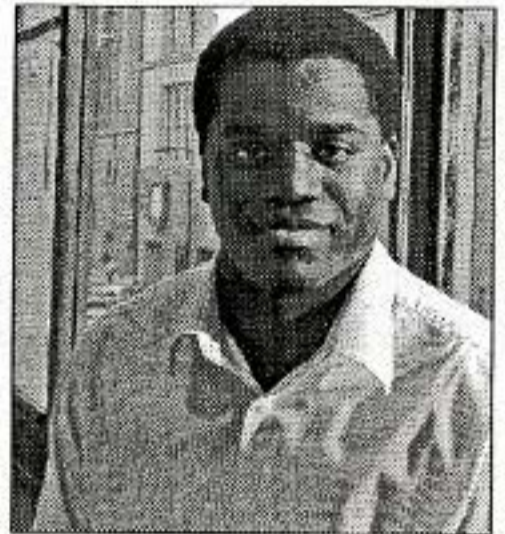
Damon Maloney is the first Columbia College Chicago student to receive this national award. His enthusiasm for journalism started long before his days at Columbia.

When Maloney was a sixth grade student at Bailey Middle School in Woodbury, Minn., he co-anchored the student-based news program, Kids Chat, which aired in the school library. That experience sparked a fire. Damon said he was inspired to pursue a career in broadcasting.

"I watched the local news with my parents and became fascinated with media," said Maloney. "I liked how the news reporters informed residents about the things that greatly affected them, city and nation-wide. I thought it would be cool to be in front of the camera."

After discovering his passion, Maloney contacted local news anchors in Minnesota. First, Maloney met with Dave Huddleston, currently a prime-time news anchor for the FOX affiliate in Philadelphia, but during that time, a morning reporter for WCCO-TV in Minneapolis.

"Mr. Huddleston invited me in to sit on the assignment desk, critique work



OMAR CASTILLO

### Damon Maloney

and learn the inside scoop of broadcasting," said Maloney. Other journalists who contributed to Maloney's passion include Angela Davis, former news anchor for KSTP-TV in Minneapolis and Reg Chapman, WNBC news reporter in New York City.

"The news reporters that I contacted allowed me to come in and shadow them for a day," Maloney said. "They taught me how to critique news stories and highlight the important facts that complete a news package. My mentors allowed me to attend interviews with them and see how they translated their interview into a script for the evening news. In other words, they gave me an inside look at what really takes place in putting together a news product."

After graduation, Maloney hopes to return to his native Minneapolis to work as a reporter and anchor. He believes that stations there encourage good storytelling. He also wants to give back to the places that helped to launch his journalism career. "I just want to be a part of the community again and bring the urban news to the residents," Maloney said.

St. Louis, Mo. native Jamella Brown is a freshman journalism student.

Columbia spent \$1.2 million renovating the second floor of 33 E. Congress for the growing Journalism department.



OMAR CASTILLO



ERIC DAVIS

# More space, more color, more pizzazz

The peripatetic journalism department's latest venue

For more information on the department of journalism, go to [www.colum.edu/undergraduate/journalism](http://www.colum.edu/undergraduate/journalism)

BY NORMA GREEN

The Journalism Department has moved once again on campus from 624 S. Michigan Ave. to the 33 E. Congress Building with an entrance on Wabash Avenue, right down the street from earlier department digs at 623 S. Wabash Ave. and before that 600 S. Michigan Ave.

Our new headquarters, with a spacious main hallway, more classrooms including a 60-seat auditorium and converged news space as well as room for both Columbia Chronicle newspaper and Echo magazine production, are on the second floor of a building completed in 1926 and acquired by Columbia in 1997.

Originally called the Congress-Wabash Bank Building, it housed a bank, offices and billiard rooms on the



COLUMBIA CHRONICLE



TROY TERRY

Grand Hall events: DEMO alumni magazine launch. LEFT College President Dr. Warrick Carter and Associate VP/Chief of Staff Paul Chiaravalle at reception for new students who fled Katrina.

top floors (where the Radio Department is today). An early tenant was the Midwestern School of Commerce and more recently, MacCormac College. The building was commissioned by Phillip Ferdinand Peck Jr. His father hired Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan with apprentice Frank Lloyd Wright to build the Auditorium Theater complex across Congress Parkway. This building was designed by Alfred Alschuler, who started out with Adler, and is best known for his London Guarantee Building on the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue at Wacker Drive. He also designed the Brach's Candy Factory, Florsheim Shoe Factory and Wieboldt's Department Store. Alschuler's terra cotta ornamentation on the Wabash entrance was inspired by Renaissance designs of the 1500s

from the Lombardy region of northern Italy, according to Tim Wittman, architectural historian and Columbia faculty member. The building was radically altered after World War II when the city took out the original sidewalk for an expanded Congress pathway to and from the expressways. Therefore, the northernmost part of the Journalism space, including the chair's office and hallway outside some faculty offices, is directly above the covered sidewalk created in 1951 from the original ground floor interior space.

Journalism Professor Norma Green has been a Chicago Architecture Foundation docent since 1978 and a volunteer tour guide at the Society of Architectural Historians headquarters. She believes education is enhanced by a sense of place and historical appreciation.

Architect David Broz and his associates at Gensler Chicago won an international award for the design of the journalism space.

inside journalism

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# How faith and a summer internship got me to Ebony

BY MONICA JONES, MAGAZINE '05

**W**hen I found out I was going to intern at John H. Johnson Publishing Company, I was ecstatic; when they hired me, I was overwhelmed.

This past summer proved to be a life-changing experience. In my last semester at Columbia College Chicago, I was searching really hard for a job. I wanted to be in the magazine field, but I was applying any and everywhere. Counseling jobs with other universities, customer service positions with auto insurance companies, you name it, I was there with my application. Yet two key things I learned at Columbia were to network and stay in contact with the professors because they have the heads-up on the best jobs. I kept in contact with Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin, acting director of the magazine program. I met her in the fall of 2005, when I helped produce Echo in the six-credit College Magazine Workshop course. As my graduation neared, Sharon would send me e-mails about different internships and other opportunities. To be honest, an internship was not the most appealing option. I thought, "I want to graduate and get a full-time job with benefits," but then I remembered what so many guest speakers and professors advised about internships literally opening doors and creating relationships with mentors and hiring editors. I began to regularly log on to columbiaworks.com (Columbia's job and internship search engine) to see what internships and jobs were available. I checked about every week. One week, I missed. That's when I got an e-mail from Sharon saying, "Johnson Publishing just posted an internship on columbiaworks, check it out." I did. On June 5, I graduated from Columbia and on June 6 I started as an editorial intern with Ebony magazine (a well-known national publication whose office is also on South Michigan Avenue, as was the Journalism Department when I studied there.) I literally jumped head-on into the real world. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew that I was going to learn a lot about my writing and the field of magazine journalism.

When I started, Ebony editors were working on the September issue. One of my first assignments was revising the annual directory of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). There were about 80 HBCUs on the list. My job was to call each school and

make sure the president had not changed. While some may think that an assignment like that is not as exciting as writing a cover story, I was happy to do anything asked of me. At the last minute, I got a reporting assignment for that issue, a story on rapping sensation Bow Wow. My first professional byline! Whether I was asked to do a directory, a story on women's reproductive health or an interview with a celebrity, I made sure that I always gave 200 percent.

As the summer proceeded, I knew that Ebony was a place I wanted to stay, long after the internship was over. But, of course, I had doubts and fears. How would I ask? Is it even appropriate to ask? Why would they hire me coming straight out of college? All those questions started to fill my mind. Yet in my heart I knew that if it was God's will for me to be there, I would. Even with the uncertainties, I had to do what I did before I even applied for the internship—speak life and pray. During my last year at Columbia, I always said that I would have a job after I graduated. Although it may not be politically correct to say so, I'm a praying woman. I prayed for God to open the door that I could not open on my own.

My internship was slowly coming to a close and, although I prayed, I knew that I needed to speak up soon. I was close with the human resources manager and a staff member. They encouraged me. About a month before my internship was supposed to end, I asked the two managing editors if they were interested in hiring another writer. Then, on Aug. 8, John H. Johnson, the legendary founder of Ebony and Jet magazines among other business enterprises, passed. The editors needed to get approval from his daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, president and CEO of Johnson Publishing, to make a new hire, and she had a lot more important things on her mind.

Two weeks later, the time had still not been right to approach Mrs. Rice, an editor told me. Then, on the morning of Aug. 23, on my way to the internship, I was in a major car accident. I drove through an intersection and another car ran the light and hit the passenger side, pushing my vehicle against a viaduct wall. I was traveling northbound, but by the time the accident was over I was facing southbound. After the ambulance, fire truck and my husband came to the scene, I



BILLY MONTGOMERY

Monica Jones

had to call the office. Even though no one was seriously injured, I was pretty shaken. After I left the hospital and came home to get settled, I got a call from work. After pleasant inquiries about my health from an assistant, one of the managing editors came on the line. At the end of the conversation, she told me that they were happy to offer me the position of assistant editor and would work out the details when I got back. At that moment, while my car was ruined, I could have cared less about the accident—I had a job, and good one, I might add.

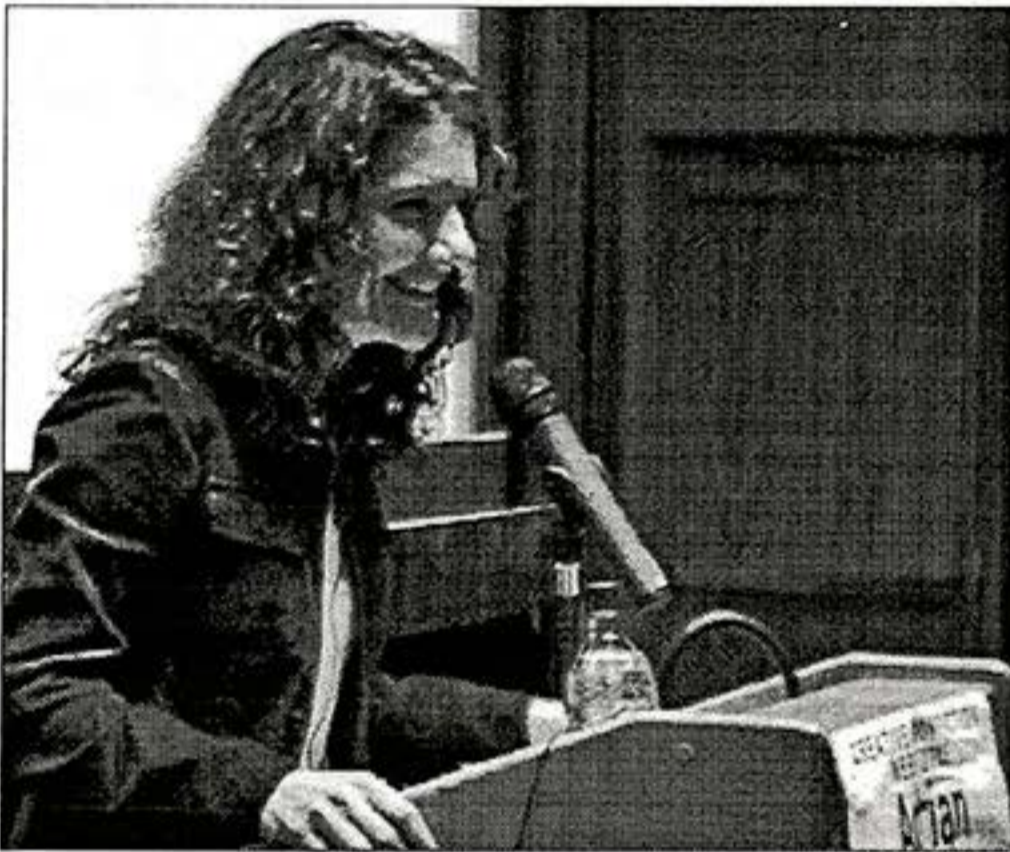
My faith got me where I am today. While I was scared about asking if a position was available, the worst they could say was no. But they didn't. I am so grateful and humbled to be working for such a historic company. It is truly an honor and a blessing to be a part of the John H. Johnson Publishing family. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Johnson, his legacy and spirit live on. Just like he took a chance, I encourage all to step out on faith and believe that you can have the desires of your heart.

*To read more about Mr. Johnson, who rose from poverty to become a major entrepreneur, please click here:*

[http://www.johnsonpublishing.com/assembled/johnson\\_special\\_tribute.html](http://www.johnsonpublishing.com/assembled/johnson_special_tribute.html)

# CREATIVE NON-FICTION WEEK 2005: A success

This annual collaboration among the English, Fiction and Journalism departments brings together some of the foremost writers in the creative non-fiction genre to campus each year for readings, panels and workshops. This year's theme was Journeys.



PETER VON BUOL

**Adrian Nicole LeBlanc**, a frequent contributor to the New York Times Magazine and currently visiting scholar at the New York University School of Journalism, read from her award-winning debut book, "Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of the Age in the Bronx". The book won the Borders Original Voices Award for Nonfiction, was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award and was chosen as one of the top nine books of the year by the New York Times Book Review.

Editors panel featured **Jonathan Messinger**, Time Out book editor as well as publisher and freelance writer; **Sylvia Ewing**, "Eight Forty-Eight" producer; **Ian Morris**, associate editor of Triquarterly and **Martha Bayne**, Chicago Reader associate editor.



PETER VON BUOL



NORMA GREEN

Journalist **Andrew Meldrum**, read from "Where We Have Hope," his memoir of his 23 years in Zimbabwe as a foreign correspondent. While in the newly independent African nation, he freelanced for the Guardian (London) and The Observer, the Economist, The New York Times, the New Republic and National Public Radio. As Zimbabwe descended into crisis, Meldrum wrote about human rights abuses, state torture and corruption. In 2002 he was briefly jailed by the Mugabe government and was put on trial on charges of "publishing a falsehood." He was acquitted. In May 2003, he was abducted by state agents and illegally expelled from Zimbabwe. He continues to report on Africa, from his new base in Pretoria, South Africa.



NORMA GREEN

**Dan Weissmann**, who teaches Introduction to Computer-Assisted Reporting, read from a Chicago Reader piece he wrote about bikers as part of the annual Creative Non Fiction Week faculty reading.



PETER VON BUOL

**Alan Burdick**, senior editor of Discover magazine and contributor to The New York Times Magazine, Harper's, GQ and Natural History, read from his first book, "Out of Eden: An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion." It is a 2005 National Book Award finalist.

# Online news conference participants discuss keeping journalism relevant

BY CHRISTEN DePROTO

**J**ournalism is more necessary than ever in 2005 because it enables us to make decisions that will keep democracy alive, said Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr., chairman and publisher of The New York Times, who delivered a keynote address to members of the Online News Association at their 6th annual conference in New York City.

Over the course of two jam-packed days, Oct. 28-29, journalists, students and educators from around the world converged to discuss this year's hot button issues in the media, as well as to share ideas for improving the way the world receives the news.

Attending the event from Columbia College Chicago were Journalism Department Chair Nancy Day, faculty member Barbara Iverson and me. I was selected by ONA to be a part of the student newsroom that covered the events for ONA's website across multiple platforms. I met peers from colleges all across the country as well as newsmakers and opinion leaders, such as Sulzberger, who was not without his vocal critics at the conference, particularly over the handling of the complex saga of reporter Judy Miller and her now-indicted White House source Lewis "Scooter" Libby. Such lively back-and-forth made the conference stimulating as passionate people with different media backgrounds and points of view met face to face — sometimes while blogging worldwide simultaneously.

ONA comprises more than 750 professional members from the world of online journalism or educators who are interested in furthering academic programs in digital media. Professional membership includes writers, producers, editors and photographers as well as many others from organizations like NYTimes.com, Knight Ridder Digital, WashingtonPost.com, AP Digital, and many others.

Visual storytelling, participatory journalism and the debate between bloggers and "dinosaur" publications



BARBARA IVERSON

were only some of the many topics covered through panel discussions and lectures at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, with spirited hallway and online discussions continuing.

One of the most talked-about meetings was the special session that focused on Hurricane Katrina and how it affected news coverage. The hurricane blew down transmitters and flooded newsrooms, making online the only way to go, except for WWL-TV in New Orleans, whose news director planned ahead, including a higher, stronger tower on stilts and contingency plans for adjunct newsrooms, such as one at Louisiana State University. The website of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, [www.nola.com](http://www.nola.com), also got plaudits for its 24/7 coverage by dedicated news professionals, many of whom had lost their own homes and relocated their families.

ONA's conference and awards ban-

quet was sponsored by major media companies including the Associated Press, Reuters, Yahoo News, The NYTimes.com and USA Today. It closed its festivities on Saturday night with an award recognizing projects that demonstrated excellence over the last year, including a months-old start-up called NewWest.net, based in Colorado. Instead of circulation categories, the awards were divided by "unique viewers."

The General Excellence Award went to NYTimes.com. For a full listing of other award winners and more in-depth coverage of the weekend's events and panels, including the other keynote by Pacific News Service founder and MacArthur "genius grant" winner Sandy Close, visit [www.journalists.org/2005conference/](http://www.journalists.org/2005conference/)

*Christen DeProto is a Magazine Journalism junior who has also contributed to the Columbia Chronicle.*

**Student reporter Christen DeProto with New York Times Chairman and Publisher Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr.**

BY MARIANNE LYLES

**C**hasing illegal immigrants and the authorities that chase them, showing how cattle ranchers are affected by the news of mad cow disease, and "Farmer Joe's" crops: Those are the stories I cover in Victoria, Texas.

I am a reporter at KAVU-TV, also known as Newscenter 25. Those are the stories I report about on a good day. On other days, there's absolutely NO news. We have a pretty large market area to cover, however, there's no local TV competition in market #205.

I shoot, edit and write all of my stories. Besides shooting my own packages, reporters are pretty much the photogs, so we also pick up the VOs and VO/SOTs (shorter stories).

Not long after I started, I became the night side reporter, which means I start at two in the afternoon and usually have a story for the six o'clock and ten o'clock newscasts...sometimes even the five. So I'm always under deadline. You would be amazed at how crazy it gets when a reporter has only two hours to interview, shoot, log, write and edit a package.

However crazy, though, I'm getting some of the best experience I'll ever receive. I go live pretty much every day, as long as our live truck doesn't break down. I've produced and anchored the weekend show, which is a wonderful opportunity because I



## Covering the U.S.-Mexican border from Victoria, Texas.

COURTESY OF KAVU-TV

feel like it makes me more marketable.

Columbia definitely prepared me for this job because the instructors are honest about the business—and this is not an easy business. Newsbeat really helped with developing my skills as a one-woman band.

Take the advice of your broadcast

instructors. Things like writing to video, asking open-ended questions, as well as voice and appearance are very important.

When I compare my college training to that of co-workers, I am proud to say I graduated from Columbia College!

"Columbia definitely prepared me for this job," alumna Marianne Lyles said.



OMAR CASTILLO

## Immigration panel

"Immigration: Is America Living Up to Its Ideals?" was an Oct. 25 panel discussion hosted by the Journalism Department's International Reporting class that featured Chicago Tribune correspondent Steve Franklin; Amy Shannon, associate director, Enlaces America; Jay Marhoefer, lead counsel, Latham & Watkins; Rima Lunin Schultz, scholar and assistant director of Jane Addams Hull-House Museum; Ibrahim Parlak, Turkish-born Kurd activist facing U.S. deportation; Richard Hess, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security supervisor, asylum division; and Mary Meg McCarthy, senior director, Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center.

# Alumna in El Paso sparks Mexican journalists' visit to campus

BY JESSICA TOBACMAN

**B**roadcast Journalism alumna Sheyenne Rodríguez '05 caught the eye of the United States Consul General with a report for El Paso's ABC-7 on border and immigration issues. This interest resulted in the July visit of seven Mexican journalists to Columbia College for a discussion of immigration.

Rodríguez was the "prime mover and catalyst for having the conference," said journalism professor Rose Economou, who coordinated the conclave.

The highlight of the conference was the Journalism Roundtable Discussion entitled, "Have the News Media Been Responsible in Reporting on Immigration and Border Issues?"

Chicago-based Mexican journalists at the meeting included Editor Jorge Mederos of La Raza and Reporter Elena Ferrarin of *Reflejos Bilingual Journal*. Local participants also included Staff Reporter Oscar Avila and Correspondent Steve Franklin, both of the *Chicago Tribune*.

After the broadcast of her report in El Paso, Tex., Rodríguez was invited to visit the United States Consulate General office in Juárez, Mexico, in April. Upon learning that the Consul General was organizing a visit to the

United States by Mexican journalists, Rodríguez enthusiastically lauded her teachers at Columbia College. This praise, coupled with the statistic that Chicago has the second largest Mexican population in the United States, led the hosts to add Chicago to their itinerary.

The conference in July was the first meeting between American and Mexican journalists at Columbia.

The conclave was "low-key but very success-

ful," said Economou. "I think it was a turning point for the Columbia College Journalism Program because it melded what we teach with what our students are practicing."

Rodríguez said that Columbia prepared her so well that most of her colleagues at ABC7 are skeptical that this job is her first.

"We're proud of her practicing her craft and also proud that she's making a difference in her community," said Economou, one of Rodríguez' Columbia teachers.

Like other bilingual journalists, Rodríguez regularly reports on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border. Problems Rodríguez works to expose include the deaths of many who try to cross the border to the United States by swimming across the Rio Grande River; the separation of many parents and children; and the patrolling vigilantes who exploit people trying to cross the border for work.

Because of her hard work, she recently moved from a 4 a.m. to 1 p.m. shift, to the Noon News anchor job.

*Graduate student Jessica Tobacman is a 2002 European Cultural Studies/Comparative Literature graduate of Brandeis University who also studied in France. She interned at the Partisan Review in Boston, Bridge Magazine in Chicago and was co-editor in chief of Where the Children Play.*



Sheyenne Rodríguez

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Five Mexican journalists (left side of table) from Norte de Ciudad Juárez, El Heraldo de Chihuahua, Periódico El Mañana de Nuevo Laredo, Nueva Era Radio de Ciudad Juárez and Televisa Noreste accompanied by officers of the U.S. Consulate General in Ciudad Juárez visited Columbia College for a Journalism Roundtable Discussion coordinated by faculty member Rose Economou, back to camera, lower right.

NORMA GREEN





ANTONIO DICKEY, CITY OF CHICAGO

Graduate students **Frava Burgess**, **Chris Pellizzari**, **Jordan Mandelberg** and **Tricia Stiger** catch Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley outside City Council chambers for a quick group interview on the run. They are part of the largest master's class in the 20-year history of the Graduate Journalism program in public affairs reporting. Students are from all over the United States and Africa with undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts and journalism.

**Leah Banks** is the Journalism representative to the Graduate Student Advisory Board, a highly competitive position among more than 700 graduate students college-wide. Leah is interning at Catalyst magazine, devoted to covering Chicago public school reform issues, and has been published in Chicago Crusader newspaper. She previously interned at Rolling Out Urbanstyle Weekly magazine, the largest U.S. free African-



OMAR CASTILLO

American weekly paper. A 1999 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in psychology with an English literature minor, she resigned from Bank One's Investment Management Group after five years to return to school. She is the recipient of a Larsen Graduate Fellowship, a Fischetti Scholarship and an all-college Getz Award.



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Fall Graduate Assistants who are helping Journalism Faculty with research projects and undergraduate teaching assignments include **Maura Wall**, research assistant to Betsy Edgerton for Grammar for Journalists; **Adenike Akorede**, teaching assistant to Norma Green for History of Journalism; **Charceanna Williams**, research assistant to Norma Green for alumni relations; **Stacie Johnson**, Columbia Chronicle roving correspondent/photojournalist, and **Frava Burgess**, web mistress for the Journalism Department website.

## New York "field trip" reveals journalists' role in the war on terror

BY JORDAN RAUBOLT

**D**uring my first month of graduate school, I traveled to New York City to participate with more than 400 other people in an unprecedented two-day event at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

As a journalism student from Chicago, I didn't really know exactly what I was going to bring away from a conference billed as a call to action about terrorist threats against New York City.

However, I was sure that a story was there, what with the long list of expert panelists including Thomas Kean, former New Jersey governor and chair of the 9/11 Commission; author and former New Yorker writer/editor Jonathan Schell as well as representatives of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

What I didn't expect to leave New York with was a better understanding of my role as a journalist. I learned that in this day and age, it is essential for journalists to be skeptical of all information; no matter how sound it may seem, in order to report the news accurately.

ABC News Chief Science Correspondent Bill Blakemore put this in perspective during his part of a presentation on the "Role of the Media." He suggested that it is impossible for journalists not to be influenced by their personal biases, but said he didn't see it as a drawback because a "professional journalist is someone who uses [his or her] biases as a tool to see with."

Blakemore also stressed the importance of reporters presenting the news in a way that informs the audience without playing on fear or spreading propaganda. As an example, he recommended presenting catastrophic events like 9/11 by saying, "the sky is not falling, but is changing."

Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times reporter, built on Blakemore's message when he said empathy was another fundamental tool journalists must exercise.

Hedges, a former foreign correspondent and author of *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, said: "The only way to understand why terrorists do what they do, is to be able to step in their shoes."

In the end, the conference not only opened my eyes to the harsh realities of nuclear and bio-terrorism and the threats we face as a nation, but it also made me conscious of the influence my personal beliefs may have on my writing, and how I can use it to my advantage.

The conference was sponsored by a non-profit, non-partisan organization called Shield NY that was created to encourage government, institutions and the private sector to use their influence and resources to counter threats and prevent future attacks.

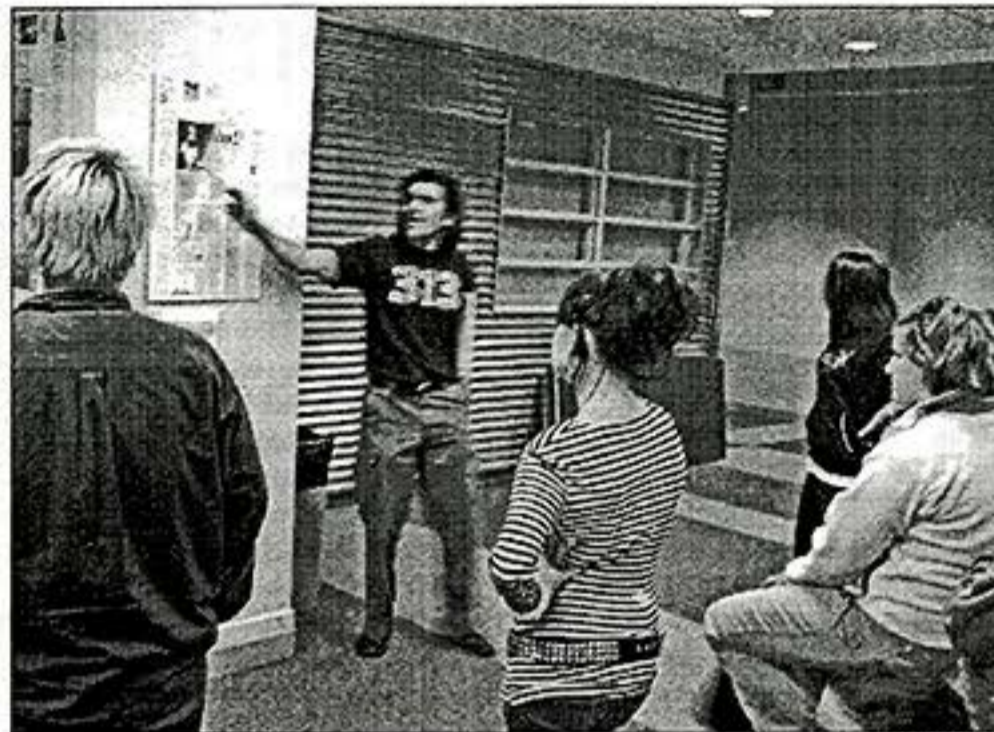
*Jordan Raubolt is a 2004 History graduate of Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich. who wrote for his campus newspaper, the Saint, and later worked as assistant to the night metro editor at the Grand Rapids Press. While in school he studied political science at the University of London and Trinity College, Dublin.*



FRAYA BURGESS

**Suzanne McBride**, who is teaching Reporting for Print and Broadcast, Interpretive Reporting and the graduate Information Search Strategies, was formerly at the Indianapolis Star, most recently as assistant managing editor for media partnerships and recruiting (with local NBC affiliate, WTHR). Prior to that, she was assistant managing editor for local news, city editor and assistant city editor for government and assistant city editor for justice; statehouse bureau chief and projects reporter; statehouse reporter and general assignment reporter for the Indianapolis Star and News. She was an officer in the local Society of Professional Journalists chapter and taught a news writing class at Indiana University's Indianapolis campus. Earlier, she was assistant city editor for the Tribune Star (Terre Haute) and business reporter for the Journal-Gazette (Fort Wayne). She also served as a legislative aide to U.S. Rep. Tony P. Hall in his Washington office. She holds an M.S.J. from Northwestern University where she interned for the now defunct Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont and was awarded a summer Pulliam Fellowship at the Indianapolis Star and News. She graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Journalism and Psychology. While there, she worked at the Daily Iowan as editorial page editor, city editor and reporter and won a regional SPJ award for editorial writing and served as president of the student chapter.

## New full-time faculty members



AARON STOCKER

Desktop Publishing students listen to Elio Leturia, whose designs and stories are displayed in the department's Grand Hall celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.



OMAR CASTILLO

**Betsy Edgerton** is currently teaching Advanced Magazine Article Writing, Copy Editing and Grammar for Journalists and is undergraduate journalism curriculum assessment coordinator. She previously was at Crain Communications where she advanced from copy editor to copy chief to managing editor to executive editor of Electronic Media and later was consultant and freelance managing editor for Advertising Age and Ad Age Global in New York City. She also served as an in-school tutor and writing coach at Francis W. Parker School. She holds a M.S. in Education from DePaul University and a B.A. in English and Journalism from Indiana University.

**Elio Leturia**, who is teaching Desktop Publishing for Journalists and co-teaching the College Magazine Workshop, was most recently features designer for the Detroit Free Press. Prior to that he worked as Creative Services Director of the Chicago Tribune's Exito and was design and graphics editor for El Comercio newspaper in Lima, Peru. He previously was an assistant professor of Graphic Arts at the School of Communications, University of Lima in Peru and assistant professor of visual design at John Logie Baird Institute in Lima. He holds a licenciante with honors in communications and graphic design as well as a bachelor in communications degree from the University of Lima. While a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where he earned his M.S.J., he was a graphic designer for the Office of Agricultural Communication and Education. In his native Peru, he also was a photographer for Intercambio magazine; graphic designer for El mundo del Automovil, sports magazine; communications director of EPADESA, a lottery company; radio producer for RBC radio; advertising graphic designer at Zuccaro Advertising and communications assistant at Petroleos del Peru, an oil company. He is the author of Graphic Magazine Redesign (Lima: CICOSUL, 1994) and several peer-reviewed monographs on graphic design used at the University of Lima. He made presentations and participated in conferences in Mexico, Spain, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and the United States. He received a Newspaper Design & Typography Fellowship to the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and has won multi-year Excellence in Newspaper Design Awards from the Society for News Design as well as the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Professional Award in Design for two consecutive years. He has recently been asked to serve on the planning committee for NAHJ's next national convention.

# New part-time faculty members

**Noreen Ahmed-Ullah**, who will be teaching Reporting for Print & Broadcast in the spring, is an award-winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune. She served as a war correspondent in Pakistan and Afghanistan and contributed to the Tribune's ground-breaking series, "Struggle for the Soul of Islam." Before joining the Tribune in 1999, Noreen worked as a reporter at the Daily Herald and at City News Bureau. She holds an M.S.J. from Northwestern University and a B.S. in Physiology from the University of Toronto.

**Elizabeth Ciesla**, who teaches Broadcast News Writing, is executive producer at WFLD-TV Fox News Chicago. Previously she worked as news producer at WNDU-TV, Indianapolis, as producer/director at WNIT-TV, Elkhart, Ind. and as acting manager, studio crew at WCIA-TV in Champaign. She was formerly a freelance writer for Streeterville Publications and also worked as an organization aide for State Representative Terry R. Parke. She holds a B.A. in English and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as an M.B.A. from DePaul University.

**Christopher Courtney**, who teaches Desktop Publishing for Journalists, is a designer for the Chicago Tribune's RedEye and previously was a designer at the Indianapolis Star, the Tulsa World, BNB Business Systems and NLR Times in Arkansas. He received multiple Society of News Design Awards of Excellence for the last three years including best portfolio; also the Tribune Beck Award for Achievement and in 2001 won the APSE triple crown award for sports/design. He earned a B.A. in Communications from the University of Central Arkansas.

**Rob Elder**, who will be teaching Featuring Writing in the spring, and came in mid-semester to teach Advanced Magazine Writing, is a Chicago Tribune staff writer of features and film reviews. He has freelanced for the New York Times and Premiere, Gear and Detour magazines. Previously he was an entertain-

ment writer for the Dallas Morning News, San Jose Mercury News, The Oregonian and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. In addition, he was publisher of the Oregon Voice while completing his B.A. in Journalism at the University of Oregon. He also has been a correspondent for "Celluloid Dreams," 90.5 FM KSJS, associate editor of Flux magazine, reporter for the Redmond Spokesman and newsroom writer/camera crew of NBC's KULR 8 TV. He received Hearst Foundation Awards for profile writing and in-depth featuring writing.

**Scott Fincher**, who teaches Copy Editing, is an assistant subject editor at the Chicago Tribune. He previously worked as a caption writer for the Chicago Sun-Times and freelance photographer. He is a graduate of Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in English.

**Art Golab**, who will be teaching Investigative Reporting in the spring, is an expert in computer-assisted reporting at the Chicago Sun-Times. He works with the award-winning investigative team of Tim Novak and Steve Warbir uncovering corruption in local government. Before joining the Sun-Times, Art worked at City News Bureau and Reuters. He received his B.A. in News Reporting & Writing from Columbia College in 1993.

**Jennifer Halperin**, who teaches Introduction to Mass Media, is a former Springfield statehouse bureau chief for Illinois Issues magazine and freelance writer for Governing. Most recently she was Midwest correspondent for Mergermarket.com, a London-based online financial wire service. Before that she was a copy editor and editorial writer for the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch; editor of Columbus Woman

monthly magazine and editorial writer for the Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal. She has been a reporter/intern for the Chicago Tribune's state capital bureau as well as Newsday in Manhattan and Long Island, New York. She won Peter Lisagor Awards from the Chicago Headline Club for reporting and public service as well as writing awards from the Associated Press Society of Ohio and Central Florida Press Club. She holds an M.A. in Public Affairs Reporting from Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois at Springfield) and a B.S. J. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Noah Isackson**, who teaches Introduction to Mass Media, is a former Chicago Tribune and Associated Press reporter who freelances for the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Magazine, Time, People, Men's Health and Time Out Chicago magazine. He also worked as an intern at NewCity and The Albuquerque Tribune. He holds a B.S.J and B.A. in English from Northwestern University.

**Gordon Mayer**, who is co-teaching the graduate Local Government and Politics Seminar, is a senior trainer at Community Media Workshop. He has freelanced for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Chicago Journal, Chicago Tribune, Shelterforce, City Limits and Additude Magazine. He was a special correspondent for the (Gary, Ind.) Post Tribune and the Philadelphia Inquirer. He worked as a copy editor at the Chicago Defender. He also worked in the district office of Illinois State Rep. Clem Balanoff. He earned an M.A. in Social Sciences and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

**John R. O'Neill**, who teaches Introduction to Writing and Reporting, was most recently night metro editor at the

Indianapolis Star and previously worked as a reporter at the Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont and an intern for the Lafayette (Ind.) Journal and Courier. He was a Pulliam Fellow at the Indianapolis Star, one of 20 graduating seniors chosen for a three-month internship. Later he returned there as a staff writer, columnist, general assignment writer and editor. He has won numerous in-house writing awards in state journalism association competitions (APME and Indiana SPJ). He earned a B.S.J. from Northwestern University.

**Mark Skertic**, who will be teaching Business Beat in the spring, joined the Chicago Tribune business desk in 2003, where he covers the airline industry, including the bankruptcy and restructuring of United Airlines. Mark also worked as a reporter at the Chicago Sun-Times, the Cincinnati Enquirer, and the Times of Northwest Indiana. He has received many awards for outstanding contributions to consumer journalism, including multiple Lisagor Awards from the Chicago Headline Club and a National Headliner Award. He received his B.A. in journalism from Indiana University.

**William Edward Smith**, who teaches Media Ethics and Law, is former senior product manager for Terra Lycos, a global internet media company and former online editor and producer for AT&T New Media Services. He previously taught journalism at Michigan State University, Penn State University and Northeastern University. Prior to that he was an anchor, reporter and producer for radio and TV stations including WSB, Atlanta; WPEC Television, West Palm Beach, Fla.; WWJ TV, Detroit and WJR, Detroit. He was a freelance writer for CompuServe Magazine and was a copy editor and reporter for Lerner Newspapers in Chicago. He holds a juris doctor degree from Wayne State University School of Law and both B.S.J. and M.S.J. from Northwestern University.

# Faculty & staff notes

**Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin** wrote an August Chicago Tribune Magazine cover story about her up close and personal experience with Lyme disease that has generated continuing letters to the editor and a lively discussion.

Professor Emeritus **Les Brownlee** received yet another accolade when he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 66th annual awards dinner of the Chicago Journalists Association in September.

Department Chair **Nancy Day** was on a panel with educators from Northwestern, San Francisco State and North Texas universities at the annual Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS) in Sedona, Arizona. A lively discussion ensued about leaving professional journalism for academia. Several people have subsequently contacted her for individual advice about preparing their application packets. JAWS has scholarships for students and young women new to journalism. More information is at [www.jaws.org](http://www.jaws.org)

**Ray Fanning** is co-faculty advisor to the new student chapter of the Radio TV News Directors Association.

**Norma Green** participated in the college's annual Creative Non-Fiction Week faculty readings with an excerpt from her unpublished manuscript, "Dispatches from Denmark: An American Professor's Sojourn to Scandinavia and Self," about her 2000 Fulbright exchange experience. She is under contract with Routledge Press to write an essay about the Chicago Sun-Times for the upcoming Encyclopedia of American Journalism History.

She completed her third year on the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication membership committee as a presidential appointee.

**Curtis Lawrence** was selected to receive a Diversity Outreach Leadership Grant from the Society of Professional Journalists. The

**Barbara K. Iverson** was invited to the first International Citizen Reporter Forum in Seoul, South Korea in June as a guest of Ohmynews, a South Korean online newspaper with the motto "Every Citizen is a Reporter." The electronic publication was influential in determining the outcome of the South Korean presidential elections in December 2002 with the election of

Roh Moo Hyun who granted his first interview to OhmyNews. Barbara's presentation on "ubiquitous" networking and the "DreamHall" exhibition was a big hit with students. Her July 4 analysis of the Robert Novak/ Karl Rove/ Valerie Plame story drew over 8,000 viewers.

Her book review of *Democracy and New Media* (Ed: Henry Jenkins, David Thorburn; Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004) was published in Resource Center for Cybertculture Studies, Sept. 2005

<http://tinyurl.com/ctjxl>

She and **Len Strazewski**, who is on sabbatical this academic year, presented *Journalist's Tool Circa 2005: The Beat Blog*, a session on how to create a "beat blog," the data manager for "the rest of us" at the Society for Professional Journalist's Convention in Las Vegas October 16. (An overview and resources are available on Barb's website: <http://currentbuzz.org/beatblog.html>) On October 25, she appeared on a panel with fellow bloggers Eric Zorn, Chicago Tribune, and Andrew Huff, [gapersblock.org](http://gapersblock.org) for the Media Education Series: *Blogging/Technology* hosted by PR Newswire-Chicago Bureau. "Team Blog Chicago" discussed RSS, the Blogosphere and podcasting.



CLYDE BENTLEY

grant is designed to strengthen leadership in the organization and to allow members to propose diversity-related projects of their choosing. Lawrence will direct his attention toward hiring and retention in journalism schools and newsrooms. His grant began with his participation at the SPJ Convention and National Journalism Conference Oct. 16-18 in Las Vegas. In August, Curtis along with Billy Montgomery and a delegation of undergraduate and graduate journalism students attended the National Association of Black Journalists conference in Atlanta. Later that month, at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in San Antonio, Curtis was elected newsletter editor for the Commission on the Status of Minorities division. Back in Chicago, Curtis was elected a

board member of We the People Media, the not-for-profit corporation that publishes Residents' Journal, the bi-monthly publication written by and for Chicago Housing Authority residents.

**Elio Leturia** has been named visual journalism track leader for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He will be working on planning the 2006 programming, training sessions and special events for the association, which has included publication design and graphics as fundamental areas in the development of print and electronic media. He also has published two articles online about his transition from daily newspaper design to the teaching experience. See

[www.visualmente.blogspot.com](http://www.visualmente.blogspot.com)

Journalism Department staff member **Chris Richert** was elected Vice President/ Convention Planning for the national organi-

zation, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Inc. and will run the 2006 convention in Philadelphia, Pa. and the 2007 convention in Portland, Ore. CNBAM is a professional organization for students and advisers working with business and advertising departments in college and university newspapers across the United States. With approximately 135 member schools, it meets each spring to offer training and professional development seminars as well as discuss current issues facing student-run media. He was also elected by the Illinois College Press Association board to organize the annual newspaper career and internship fair in February at the Holiday Inn City Center during the annual ICPA convention in Chicago.

**Howard Schlossberg** was a speaker at the Society of Professional Journalists national conference in October on the non-traditional direction of sports reporting.

Journalism Professor, Chronicle faculty adviser and current Illinois College Press Association President **Jim Sulski** has been tapped for his reporting and writing skills by two new employers he feels flattered and proud to work for— former students and Chronicle editors. In early fall, Sulski wrote a series of stories on identity theft for Nancy Lachais and also a piece on due diligence and philanthropy for Mark Anderson and *Wealth Magazine*. Also, Sulski, who continues his regular columns for *The Chicago Journal* and *Chicago Social Magazine*, experienced a blast from the past when *Filmfax Magazine* published his 1977 interviews he conducted with Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill when original "Star Wars" film was released. The issue featured a retrospective on the Star Wars film series.

Jim wed Jo Cates, associate vp and dean of the library on Sept. 28 at the Cook County Marriage Court. They plan a ceremony with a rabbi on Nov. 10.

# CNBC intern enjoying London experience

BY COREEN SAVITSKI

**S**tudying abroad has opened my eyes to many unfamiliar customs. The weird sayings, bland food and dry sense of humor make the United Kingdom so unique. However, living abroad also has taught me to accept such behaviors as being just different, not necessarily strange. For example, when I arrived at the airport in August, I caused the security alarm to go off because of the amount of luggage I brought with me. That's when I knew I was in for an eventful semester!

I'm working for three live programs produced by CNBC Europe: Closing Bell, Europe Tonight and Europe This Week. The two-hour Closing Bell program is also aired on CNBC America. This live show is the wrap up of the day's action in the markets. We do hits across Europe to reporters at various branches, and we do in-studio interviews in London.

Europe Tonight is also live, but it is much shorter. This program airs an hour later and gives an overview of the day concerning business news. Europe This Week is only a half hour, pre-recorded show but we put most of our time and planning into this program. Europe This Week airs across the world at various times throughout the weekend. This show has the biggest names and the most important story updates of the week. Each show is different, but the goal is to give viewers a variety of information and opinions about the market changes.

This internship experience is part of the American Institute for Foreign Studies program. I discovered information about this program while visiting the advising office at Columbia College. As I flipped through a brochure, I discovered the London internship opportunity. As a junior and a broadcast journalism major at Columbia College, I'm hoping to



COURTESY OF COREEN SAVITSKI

pursue a career in broadcasting one day. As a native of Rockford, Ill., I've traveled the States a great deal but never to Europe. So, I went to my internship coordinator at Columbia and asked her opinion about this study-abroad opportunity. She gave me so much encouragement and guidance in making my final decision. Her support and enthusiasm gave me the courage to take this journey in my life.

What I've discovered in working at CNBC is that one day is always different from the next. Our news team typically starts the day by preparing news items for the 4:30 p.m. show. When we arrive in the morning, our seven-person news team looks through the top stories of the day. Then we have a news meeting and we discuss what we think are the most important news events of the day. Next, writers are assigned to the stories. I meet with each writer individually and talk about what kinds of pictures should accompany the stories. Then once the images are found, I meet with an

editor for a couple of hours and piece together the clips. During the show, I cut clips to fit the latest stories that come across the wires; post the straps (the top stories that appear at the bottom of the screen), and create the charts and graphs that go with stories and bring in the guests. There's always something to do.

I live in Kensington, a beautiful neighborhood in London where Princess Diana once lived. It's one of the most prestigious neighborhoods in the city. I feel very privileged to be a part of this community. I live in a dorm with other students from around the world.

My internship ends in mid-December. I will travel over Europe after that, and arrive back in the States on Christmas Eve.

Without a doubt, interning overseas in London has been an experience of a lifetime. Working in a foreign country has been challenging in various ways, but also exciting! I feel that I'm part of the news team and I'm treated as an equal partner. Even though each team member

**CNBC intern Coreen Savitski near the Tower Bridge on the Thames river.**

speaks English, we're all from different parts of the world. This makes communication sometimes difficult because we all sound so different. I've learned to speak slowly and to ask co-workers to repeat themselves. Though internships are commonplace in the States, they are uncommon for European college students. It's unusual to see a student in the European workplace before graduation from "University."

At Columbia, my production and hands-on courses have really helped me grasp the speed and pressure of working for a 24-hour live television station. There was little time to teach me daily tasks. I was forced to learn by observation and by using my repertoire of skills in order to perform. I feel comfortable in my new environment and I've even learned to blend in as a local. That is, until I open my mouth to talk!