

10-1-2006

Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Inside Journalism" (2006). *Inside Journalism*. 76.
https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/inside_journalism/76

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New 'Links' program brings journalism tools to city youth

BY JANOAH WHITE

A new program designed by Journalism faculty members focuses on the youth of Chicago.

Columbia Links was developed to bring together journalism professionals, college students and Chicago Public Schools teachers and students in an effort to make youth more media savvy and introduce them to the world of journalism.

This program is the brainchild of Curtis Lawrence, former Chicago Sun-Times urban affairs reporter and current Columbia College journalism professor, with the help of Department Chair Nancy Day.

"The Journalism Department had been thinking of working with CPS for some time," said Lawrence, a graduate of Harlan High School on the city's South Side. "I thought it was important to reach out to schools across the city, not just the best students from the best schools."

The Columbia Links program, which is funded by two grants totaling \$150,000 from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, is under the direction of Lawrence and Day. The grants provide the budget for the program through 2007. The first task, Day said, was to find an excellent executive director,



AARON OWENS

since she and Lawrence both have plenty to do already.

"We really lucked out when our top two candidates were interested in job-

Graduate students Frava Burgess and Janoah White discuss Columbia Links with program Co-Directors Billy Montgomery and Sarah Karp, Department Chair Nancy Day and faculty member Curtis Lawrence.

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BOTH FROM JOURNALISM

Trustees open ranks to student, faculty reps

BY ANN KELLY

I feel honored to be the first student to be appointed to the Columbia College's Board of Trustees in the past 30 years. An application and two interviews, one through the Student Government Association and

another through the Board, brought me here to act as a liaison between the student body and the board.

But as I sat among the trustees at my first official meeting on Oct. 5, I couldn't help but think about how hard members of the

student body have worked to ensure this seat.

It was the three years of research, meetings, and proposals done by the Student Government Association that really earned the students this opportunity. All the SGA's hard work is finally paying

off and I am fortunate to be able to witness it first-hand.

As a recognized representative on the board, I am able to attend all general board meetings and also sit on several committees. I

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Links | JOURNALISM FOR TEENS

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sharing," Day commented. On Sept. 1, Sarah Karp and Billy Montgomery, both award-winning journalists who have already done extensive work with urban teens, were hired. With the help of Journalism Department staff members Chris Richert and Omar Castillo and consultant Karen Kring, the two have set up headquarters just outside The Columbia Chronicle newsroom in the Journalism Department, established a listserv and planned the first CPS teacher workshop to be held Nov. 4. Graduate student Frava Burgess designed a unique website for Links which will be launched soon, filled with information and resource links for CPS students and teachers.

"We are working to improve the outlook of high school media," said Montgomery, a longtime undergraduate instructor at Columbia College and elsewhere. "Bringing together the

best resources from the professional and academic realm helps teens address the issues that impact their lives."

The first initiative is to help teachers from various parts of the city reinvigorate or start high school publications, which could be print or online.

The Links program plans to provide teachers with the training and resources to educate students using the tools and concepts of journalism to help them engage with their neighborhoods and their schools.

Participants will be taught news and feature story generation, reporting, research and interviewing, along the way improving critical thinking skills. Students and teachers will also learn the basics of digital still photography and audio recording.

"Bringing together the best resources from the professional and academic realm helps teens address the issues that impact their lives."

Students who are chosen by their teachers and Columbia College faculty members to be Columbia Links Scholars will have the opportunity to attend workshops at Columbia's state-of-the-art facilities.

"Billy and Sarah have already visited several high schools, and we will continue this outreach effort," Day said. "Links mentors

will be going to schools, and students and teachers will be coming here, too."

Selected students will have the opportunity to meet and work with peers from neighborhoods across the city to produce a print, broadcast or multimedia project. In addition to promoting high school journalism, a key goal is to have some of the students' work published in professional newspapers, online and in broader youth-oriented publications by the end of 2007.

"Helping teenagers in the city

use journalism to tell about their community and their lives has been important to me since I was a teenager myself," said Karp, who also writes for Catalyst magazine, which does independent reporting on reform in the Chicago Public Schools. Last spring, she won a prestigious Lisagor award for in-depth reporting published in The Chicago Reporter.

"The goal of Links is not only to have the teens learn and produce news media, but also to foster a sense of community and social development, as teens from different areas of the city come together to collaborate on a project," Karp noted.

Under the Junior Links program, high school students will have the opportunity to be mentored by Columbia journalism students. Undergraduate or graduate students who would like to get involved or want more information should send an email to columbialinks@colum.edu, or contact Administrative Assistant Janoah White at the Links office, 312-344-8993.

Students to cover election night live

BY RAY FANNING

For the second time in two years, Journalism and Television students from Columbia College Chicago will bring election night coverage to a citywide audience on Nov. 7.

Student reporters from the NewsBeat and Metro Minutes classes are joining forces with students from Northwestern University and the City Colleges of Chicago to produce an hour

and a half of live election coverage on WYCC, Channel 20.

The broadcast will air at 7:30 p.m. It will originate from the television studios on the 15th floor of the Alexandroff Center at Columbia College.

Some students will report live from various campaign headquarters around the city. Others will interview prominent politicians and community leaders who have been invited to stop by 600 S.

Michigan Ave. on election night.

Plus, as part of the broadcast, the City Colleges of Chicago will bring together analysts, academics and pundits for live panel discussions at the WYCC studios.

The three colleges first came together on the 2004 Presidential Election night, producing more than three hours of live coverage, handing off from campus to campus, as votes were counted and analyzed.

Got news?

The Journalism Department is interested in hearing from alumni, friends and faculty, current and former. Please send reports of your recent accomplishments, personal and professional, and contact information to Associate Chair Jim Sulski at jsulski@colum.edu.

For more information, visit www.colum.edu/undergraduate/journalism



AARON OWENS

Department hosts design seminar

BY BETSY EDGERTON

Small newspapers need good design, too.

Ron Reason, a newspaper designer, consultant and educator, got the word out at his Designing for a Difference workshop, hosted by the Journalism Department on Sept. 23.

About 30 professional newspaper journalists from five states, plus several journalism undergraduate students, attended the workshop, where they got tips on how to create newspaper designs that sizzle and headlines that pop.

"In small newspapers, you often find staffers who were put into design roles, but who may have little if any formal training in the area," Reason said. "They are often surprised to learn there are lots of simple, effective techniques they can use to make their

newspapers more appealing to readers, in terms of visuals as well as content."

Journalism Department faculty member Elio Leturia, who specializes in visual journalism, showed editors how to create eye-catching pages with limited means, particularly by using typefaces creatively.

Chicago Tribune RedEye Design Director Chris Courtney, an adjunct faculty member who teaches visual journalism, gave attendees tips on how to use alternative story forms that blend aspects of graphic novels, cartoons, "charticles" (charts mixed with articles) and, above all, a sense of fun to pull in young readers.

Reason suggested editors use design to appeal to readers who read at different speeds—"those who scan a publication very quickly (perhaps in

10 seconds on a news rack, looking at a front page) to a little more relaxed (perhaps two to five minutes in a quick scan of each page, just major headlines and photos) to more in-depth (front-to-back, top-to-bottom readers)."

"Most readers actually are all three types at different times, and sometimes while reading one publication," he added.

Senior journalism major Jen Fischer attended the workshop and said she's already pushing for changes at The Columbia Chronicle, where she's the managing editor, such as using more charts and sidebars and devoting more attention to writing headlines.

"It gave me a better idea of where newspaper design is going," she added.

Proceeds of the event went to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

ABOVE Faculty, students and newspaper professionals converge in the Journalism Department for the Designing for a Difference workshop.

TOP RIGHT Ball State University graphics sequence coordinator Jennifer George-Palilonis offers pointers on informational graphics.

Trustee | FIRST STUDENT

From page 2

still maintain my commitment to SGA, attending weekly meetings and sitting on the executive board. In order to properly represent the students I also make myself available to our growing student body through designated office hours each week. I do not have a vote on either body of governance.

Students are not the only part of the Columbia community that gained representation this year. The faculty have also gained a seat on the Board. It's refreshing

to know that full-time Journalism teacher Len Strazewski is as new to the position as I am.

The position of student representative to the Board of Trustees is on a trial basis this year and the fate of our representation rides upon my ability to demonstrate the importance of the position.

I feel privileged and excited to spend my senior year acting as a link between the board and the students.

Having a connection between those making major decisions and those directly affected by those

decisions is an amazing opportunity for both the students and the board.

I hope to demonstrate that during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Strazewski, the BOT faculty representative, was chosen from among three candidates submitted by the Columbia College Faculty Organization after an all-faculty-election.

He was interviewed by the BOT membership committee and also offered a one-year trial term to provide a faculty voice on trustee decisions, but not a formal vote.

However, Strazewski serves and votes on both the Campus Environment and Marketing committees of the Board.



MAURICIO RUBIO

Ann Kelly

Student SPJ welcomes WGN reporter Judie Garcia

BY SILVANA TABARES

WGN Reporter Judie Garcia told "The Truth About TV News" to members of the student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at its first meeting of the academic year. More than 15 students, faculty and staff came to the Friday afternoon session Sept. 29 in the department's new convergence teaching newsroom to hear Garcia, who graduated with honors from the University of Texas at age 30 and did not get her first broadcasting job till she was 34.

Her first television job was at the NBC affiliate in San Antonio, Texas. She later moved to Chicago, working at ABC for a time before moving to WGN TV.

Garcia was open and conversational, revealing that she was very shy and quiet when she was young. "I've chosen a career that requires me to make connections," she said.



MARCO FLORES

Garcia told students to be brave and confident when doing interviews. "Expect that people want to talk to you and expect an answer," she said. "It's not hard. The best interviews are the ones that are reluctant." She encouraged students to speak up and to have a positive attitude.

She is proud of her Latin heritage and is fluent in Spanish, French, Italian and sign language. "The more languages you speak, the more doors you open," Garcia said.

Garcia advised students that journalists "need to have a broad base of knowledge, don't assume you know, be curious."

The CHC/SPJ chapter is open to all students and plans many more activities this year. The student chapter is affiliated with the Chicago Headline Club, the largest local unit of SPJ in the country. All students are welcome to CHC and campus activities. Watch the website and flat screen monitors for news on upcoming events.

Kaylee King,
Cindy Dababnah,
Lindsay Lewis,
Judie Garcia,
Silvana Tabares,
Barbara Iverson.

The Journalism Department of
Columbia College presents

Fischetti 25

Celebrating a quarter century of
The John Fischetti Editorial Cartoon
Competition and The John Fischetti
Scholarship.

Spring 2007

For more information visit
www.johnfischetti.org

Student and alumni notes

Michelle Finkler, a 2006 graduate of the magazine writing and editing program, is interning on the copy desk at the Daily Herald, where she edits and lays out newspaper pages. She says she likes working for the Daily Herald, "but the hours are rough—Tuesday through Saturday from 4:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m."



Journalism graduate student **Maura Wall**, left, is the research coordinator for Advertising Age, a weekly national-marketing magazine. "My respon-

sibilities include researching and preparing data and statistics for publication in the Special Reports section of the book, including poster inserts

and helping reporters gather empirical evidence to support their conclusions, as well as editorial writing and reporting," she said. She continues to freelance write and edit with the Chicago Tribune's RedEye and an ethnic international newsmagazine. She's interned at both RedEye and Crain's



Chicago Business.

Esteban Montalvo, left, a senior majoring in journalism with a concentration in magazines, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship designated by Cornelia Grumman

of the Chicago Tribune, winner in the Commentary Category of The Chicago Bar Association's 2006 Herman Kogan Media Awards.

Alumna reports, anchors for Asian-American TV

BY LILY KIM

On a warm, summer afternoon, I weaved my way through the crowd at the Korean festival in Chicago, carrying my own microphone and video camera. I conducted a few interviews, watched the cultural performances and ate Korean food.

Little did I imagine when I was a student at Columbia College that one day I would wind up working for the only Korean-American television station in Illinois. But that's me.

I am the news anchor for Chicago's year-old Asian American Network News on KBC-TV Channel 41, headquartered at 5225 N. Kedzie, on the city's North Side. I work for the only English-speaking show produced by the station.

As the anchor and reporter, I cover stories about the city's many vibrant Asian communities. My job, though, often requires me to take on responsibilities not often associated with an anchor position, such as shooting my own footage, and editing it.

But the position has benefits that go way beyond the job description.

At age 26, I've begun to embrace my Asian background and culture more than ever before. I am a second-generation Korean-American. My parents emigrated from South Korea. It's a pleasure for me to see the Korean-Americans contributing to the life of the city. It's a privilege to be able to produce and to deliver the news about this community.

However, I nearly missed this opportunity. I almost took an easier career path upon graduating from Columbia in January 2003. I was working in real estate where I was on the way



COURTESY OF LILY KIM

Journalism Department alumna Lily Kim is the anchor of a news show covering Korean-American life in Chicago.

to earning a six-figure income, selling high-rise condos downtown and townhouses in West Roscoe Village.

But I longed to join the profession I have admired since watching Ron Magers and Carol Marin on NBC-5.

So, in the summer of 2003, shortly after returning from my first visit to South Korea, I approached the president of the local Korean Broadcast Channel with an idea for a show. I proposed an English-speaking show targeting second generation Koreans, and also Americans who watch Korean soap operas. It would focus on Asian restaurants, nightlife and local events. The station president liked the concept, but nonetheless my idea was rejected.

I refused to give up!

Two years later I heard that KBC was looking to build an English-speaking staff. I interviewed again with the company, and this time I was offered not only a reporting job, but the anchor position too.

The 30-minute news show about Korean-American life in Chicago already has made an

impact with members of various Asian communities. For instance, the Filipino community was grateful for a segment on World War II veterans still seeking reparations decades later. I've also covered efforts to expand a school of the Morton Grove Muslim Community Center, and other events and activities of Asian communities in Chicago.

The show airs on local Channel 41 at 10:30 p.m. on Mondays, and it is rebroadcast at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays.

By far the most rewarding element of my job, however, is the opportunity to connect with my roots. My Korean language skills have improved. I enjoy eating Korean food for lunch and dinner with my Korean co-workers.

But my greatest joy is watching the show at home with my parents.

To be in Chicago for my first job, to be the anchor on my parents' favorite station, is a dream come true. I am so happy to finally make my parents proud of my accomplishments.



SHARON BLOYD-PESHKIN

Kirsten Anderson and Jen Billock compare the colors of the original document to the ones coming off the press before the print run continues.

Ink and paper and press checks, oh my!

BY SHARON BLOYD-PESHKIN

In this digital age, it's easy to forget that print publications are still created by putting ink on paper. We send off a DVD; magazines come back. But what happens in between?

A couple of intrepid Echo students found out on the first semi-annual field trip to Royle Printing in Sun Prairie, Wis.

Recent graduates Kirsten Anderson and Jen Billock joined Echo advisors Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin and Elio Leturia to watch as the Echo pages were etched onto metal plates and hung on the printing press drums. They toured the huge plant, watching the machines that print, fold, stack, cut, bind and box the magazines.

Everything about the process is impressive: the large number of enormous machines, the speed with which the pages are

printed and the magazines assembled, the skilled press workers who oversee every step of the process. If only Johann Gutenberg could see this!

This issue of Echo was widely distributed in Chicago neighborhoods as well as on campuses in the Loop and South Loop. Speaking of Echo, the magazine was named in mid-October as a finalist in the Associated Collegiate Press 2005 Pacemaker awards. For more information, visit

<http://www.studentpress.org/acp/winners/mpm05.html>.



CREATIVE NONFICTION WEEK 2006

cover*to cover



Lorraine Ali, Senior Writer at Newsweek, reads from her work at the Hothouse while Columbia Chronicle Arts & Entertainment editor Mark Byrne ponders the questions he will ask her.

PHOTOS BY RACHAEL STRECHER

Hundreds of visitors converged on the Columbia College campus in mid-October for the sixth annual Creative Nonfiction Week, where events ranged from student readings to appearances by internationally prominent writers.

Co-sponsored by the departments of Journalism, English and Fiction Writing, this year's theme was "Culture & Identity".

Among the participants were Bich Minh Nguyen, author of the memoir *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* (Viking/Penguin); Lorraine Ali, a senior writer with Newsweek who covers music and pop culture trends and an Arab-American who has contributed several insightful pieces on the situation in Iraq; and Robert S. Boynton, the director of New York University's Magazine Journalism program and the editor of *The New, New Journalism Collection* (Vintage).

Also appearing at the event were Jamaica Kincaid, author of award-winning *At the Bottom of the River*, *Annie John*, *A Small Place* and *Lucy*; and Michael McColly, who teaches creative writing at Northwestern University and whose work covering the AIDS pandemic has appeared in numerous publications.

A panel on Cultural Criticism brought in Columbia College's Ann Wiens (also an art critic and writer), Chicago Sun-Times book critic Cheryl Reed, WBEZ dance and theater critic Kelly Kleiman, Chicago Tribune theater critic Chris Jones and openDemocracy senior editor Danny Postel. The panel was moderated by WBEZ's Steve Edwards.

Journalism professors Teresa Puente and Bryan Smith took part in Creative Nonfiction Week's faculty readings while Journalism majors Jess D'Amico and Hunter Clauss participated in the student readings.

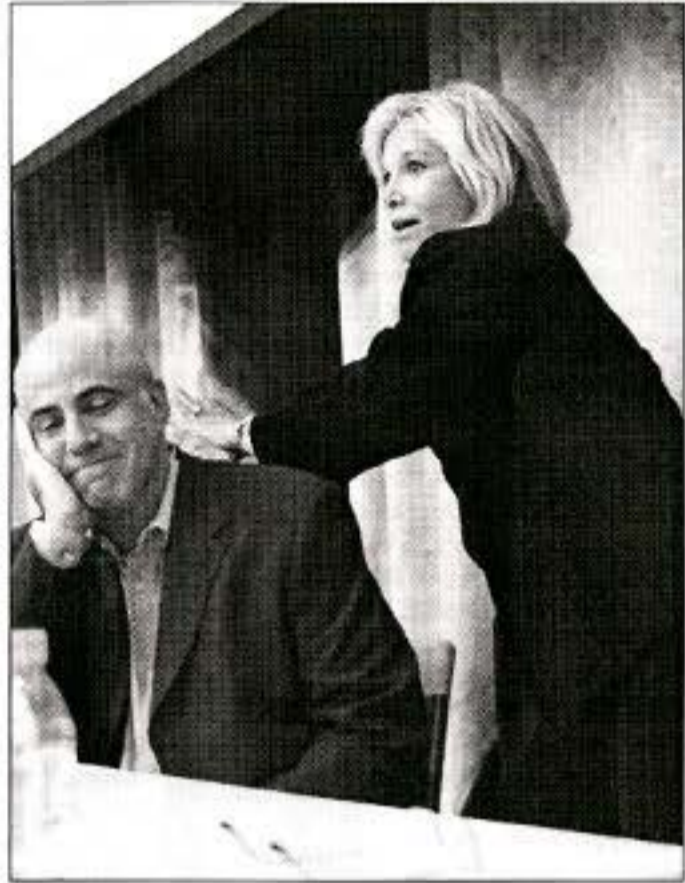
For more information, visit <http://www.colum.edu/cnfw/index.php>.

*With a little something extra: Joan Lunden



RIGHT Former Good Morning America host Joan Lunden makes a point, using Television Chair Mike Niederman as a prop, during a free student presentation that coincided with Creative Nonfiction Week. That night, Lunden was the star attraction of the Conversation in the Arts program sponsored by the college.

BELOW Jess D'Amico, a magazine concentrator, reads her piece to an attentive audience.



Chicago Sun-Times book critic Cheryl Reed (center) makes a comment during a panel on Cultural Criticism.



ABOVE Bich Nguyen, author of *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, prepares to read from her upcoming memoir while Tom Nawrocki of the English Department introduces her.

RIGHT Robert Boynton, far right, author of *The New, New Journalism*, answers a question posed to him by senior magazine student Esteban Montalvo, left, during a CNF program at the Film Row Cinema.



ABOVE Hunter Clauss, Journalism major concentrating in magazine writing, reads one of his pieces at the student readings.



Columbia faculty leads visual journalism track at NAHJ annual convention in Ft. Lauderdale

BY ELIO LETURIA

This has been my first experience as a convention committee member and I can say it was a daunting task.

For the 24th annual convention of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists that took place in Ft. Lauderdale in June, I was chosen to be the visual journalism track leader. That meant putting together a series of panels and an all-day workshop covering all the aspects of visual journalism including typography, design, illustration and informational graphics.

This was the first time this topic had a formal space. I chose to look at the contacts I had developed over the years in the newspaper industry and ask them to donate their knowledge, time and energy, and on top of that pay their way to the conference and the hotel costs (or ask their employers to take care of that). I knew I was asking for a lot in times where newspapers have limited their training budgets.

Phone calls, e-mails and a series of meetings over seven months resulted in a successful program: an all-day design workshop, and three panels: "Making a banquet out of potatoes" that covered front page design; "Graphics that go outside of the box" that covered informational graphics and "Pages that grab you by the eyeballs" on feature pages and illustrations.



Elio Leturia

Journalists from Tucson, Palm Springs, Detroit, Chicago, Jacksonville, Ft. Myers and Ft. Lauderdale shared their expertise.

The NAHJ national convention attracted 1,800 journalists, students and academics. Topics like immigration reform issues and the release of a research report examining the way Latinos are portrayed by U.S. magazines were presented and discussed. The partnership of NAHJ and The New York Times to establish a journalism training program for Latino students

was also announced. The competitive, hands-on journalism program will have its inaugural session at Florida International University in Miami in January.

Next year, the training program will take place at the University of Arizona in Tucson and the subsequent programs will alternate between the two schools.

During the convention, students who obtained scholarships given by NAHJ had the chance to produce a daily television and radio broadcast, a newspaper "The Latino Reporter" and a website.

Students also took intensive journalism classes from media professionals during the week leading up to the convention. This year, 81 students participated in these convention student programs.

Next year's convention will take place in San Jose, Calif.



COURTESY LILIANA ESQUIVEL

Lily Esquivel (front row, middle) at the NAHJ convention

Journalism grad works for NAHJ convention newspaper

BY ELIO LETURIA

A recent graduate in the journalism department of Columbia College Chicago, Liliana Esquivel, 25, was selected to be in the NAHJ student program at the convention in Ft. Lauderdale. She worked as a reporter for "The Latino reporter" and "El Reportero Latino," a bilingual paper students put together during the four days of the convention.

"I was pretty excited to be chosen among the 20 participants because that gave me a real life experience and lots of exposure," said Esquivel, who graduated from the News Reporting and Writing concentration. "I learned a lot about deadlines and I was treated like a real journalist; this was not school anymore."

Networking is another important aspect of her experience. "I walked away with so many cards and so many contacts... I really recommend students to apply for it next year." For more information visit www.nahj.org

Leturia presents paper at the Congress of the Americas

The University Saint Martin de Porres in Lima, Peru, in conjunction with the International Communication Association (ICA) and the American Communication Association (ACA) put together the "Congress of the Americas 2006" that took place in Lima, Peru, Aug. 2-5.

Elio Leturia, visual journalism

faculty, presented a paper within the intercultural communications segment. His paper "Bringing a Latino voice in a black and white market" presented the process he went through to offer readers coverage of the Hispanic community in Metropolitan Detroit, while he worked as a features designer for the Detroit Free Press in Michigan.

His presentation explored how a foreign graphic designer breaks into the print reporting world by covering a growing Latino community through designing and writing, and how he validates his Hispanic status in a predominant Caucasian and African American market and workplace.

Presenters from Canada, the United States and Latin America

lectured on technology, intercultural communications and public affairs in three full days that also included a visit to the Peruvian congress building and a visit to the Inquisition and Congress Museum, housed where the first senatorial chamber was established after the Inquisition was abolished in 1820.

Faculty and staff notes

New faculty member **Teresa Puente** published an article in the *Houston Chronicle* in late August. She wrote about Elvira Arellano, an undocumented immigrant who has sought "sanctuary" in a church in



Teresa Puente

Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood.

The story appeared in both an English language and Spanish language version.

Puente has recruited a small group of Columbia students to follow the story of Arellano throughout the fall semester. Arellano has been living in the church since Aug. 15 in defiance of an order of deportation from immigration officials.

Her story has received coverage from news outlets across the nation as well as internationally.

The students have taped interviews with Arellano, area residents and community leaders. They plan to put together a multi-media project at the end of the semester. It will include a short documentary, a radio piece and also news articles.

Faculty members **Suzanne McBride** and **Barbara Iverson, Ph.D.** won a \$12,000 New Voices grant from J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism. J-Lab received nearly 200 applications for the grant and awarded 10. McBride and Iverson will be developing a web site of local neighborhood news in Chicago. Undergraduate and graduate journalism students this fall and in the spring will be writing for the site, which is still under construction at <http://creatingcommunityconnections.org>.

J-Lab officials were especially impressed with what Columbia College and several other journalism schools selected for the

prestigious grant plan to do. "It was gratifying to see proposals that brought mainstream and student journalists and local communities together," said Advisory Board member Bruce Koon of Knight Ridder Digital.

Columbia College will be able to apply for an additional \$5,000 for what J-Lab officials called an "innovative community news experiment."

"New Voices has found another batch of winners: scrappy, innovative, diverse citizen journalists who are inventing new ways to generate information and ideas for their communities," said New Voices Advisory Board member Peter Levine, director of CIRCLE at the University of Maryland. "The techniques and models they are creating will help to renew American democracy."

Suzanne McBride, director of News Reporting and Writing, attended three professional conferences this summer. A longtime member of Investigative Reporters and Editors, McBride traveled to Fort



Suzanne McBride

Worth, Texas, in June for the group's annual conference, and she attended the annual convention of JAWS, Journalism & Women Symposium, in Idaho in September. In August, McBride moderated a panel at the National Society of Professional Journalists convention here in Chicago. McBride is a former president of the Indiana Pro chapter of SPJ and currently serves on the board of directors of SPJ's Headline Club.

Norma Green was moderator of the Chicago Humanities Festival Summer Institute for Teachers (grades K-college) themed "Modern American



COURTESY BARBARA IVERSON

Elliott Ramos, who graduated in June, made his former teacher **Barbara K. Iverson's** day recently with a tour of the New York Times Digital offices where he works. Besides seeing an exciting demo of the custom content management system, Iverson visited the soon-to-be vacated New York Times building with its "Walls of Pulitzers." Taking Online Publishing and Production as well as landing internships at CNN.com, RedEye and Tribune Interactive helped Ramos reach his current digital niche.

Journalism: Facing Human Conflict" held at DePaul University in June.

She lectured on journalism history, compiled a bibliography/teaching resource list related to peace and war reporting, recommended other speakers including recently returned war correspondents, photojournalists and playwrights, contributed curriculum ideas and facilitated several daily discussions.

She also was a research judge for the upcoming international conference, "Thinking Journalism Across National Boundaries" being held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in November. In August, at an Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication pre-conference workshop, she discussed her Fulbright Senior Scholar experience in Denmark and other international exchange opportunities.

Her book review of *Freedom from Advertising: E.W. Scripps's Chicago Experiment* (about his Day Book ad-less newspaper) will be appearing on jhistory@H-Net.MSU.edu listserv this fall.

She is under contract to write

a book chapter on beat reporting for the forthcoming third edition of *The Responsible Reporter: News Gathering and Writing with the Highest Standards of Professionalism and Personal Conduct* (Vision Press, 2007). She has been elected vice chair of Columbia's Graduate Policy Council for 2006-07.

Adjunct **Bryan Smith** was the recipient of two recent honors: The Chicago's SPJ chapter's Peter Lisagor award for Feature Writing and the Gold Medal for feature writing from the National City and Regional Magazine Association. He is a Senior Editor at Chicago Magazine.

The piece that won both awards was about a woman who developed a gambling addiction after taking medicine to quell a malady called Restless Legs Syndrome. It turns out that thousands of other people who had taken the dopamine agonists had experience similar sudden onsets of gambling compulsion. The story traces the ordeal of the woman, whose search for an answer to her devastating addiction led her to near suicide. She's

continued on next page

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now suing the maker of the drug, Eli Lilly.

The daughter of adjuncts **Bonnie McGrath** and **Paul McGrath** had two pieces in an outsider art display in Harbert, Mich., over the Labor Day weekend. Molly's work is also sold at Gallery 37 in Chicago.

In September, adjunct **Dodie Hofstetter** was awarded the L. Sanford Blustin Public Service Award by the North Suburban Bar Association in recognition of dedicated service to the community for her work as Voice of the People editor at the Chicago Tribune and her teaching at Columbia College.

Adjunct **Rosalind Cummings-Yeates**, who teaches Magazine Writing and Writing Reviews of Art & Culture, was a judge for the National Endowment for the Arts' "Poetry Out Loud" national poetry competition in May as well as the SPJ regional college journalism competition. She wrote a round up about local athletes in the Gay Games for Chicago Magazine in July and a

feature on Chicago jazz clubs for the new Booth Newspaper magazine, WKND Trips, in June.

Adjunct **Natalie Moore** will be signing her new book "Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation" on Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark Street in Chicago.



Natalie Moore

Moore wrote the book with Natalie Hopkinson. Moore also talked about her book during Creative Nonfiction Week.

For more information, visit www.deconstructingtyrone.blogspot.com

Adjunct **Gordon Mayer** had an article on the history of Chicago's earliest newspapers—"Party Rags? Politics and the News Business in Chicago's Party Press, 1831-1871" accepted for publication by Journalism History, a peer-reviewed aca-



Gordon Mayer

demical journal based at Scripps School of Communications, Ohio State University. The article examines a gradual process of change in the city's largest general-circulation English-language newspapers of the time, as they went from primarily serving political patrons to primarily serving readers.

The article also looked at the old newspapers as well as the city's original journalistic characters, from Wilbur Storey (who gave us the headline "Jerked to Jesus") to Francis Frederic Cook, the self-proclaimed discover of the scoop.

Mayer, a Senior Media Trainer at Columbia College's Community Media Workshop, also reports the organization has received a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, based in Flint, Mich., to provide communica-

tions workshops and coaching to nonprofit organizations across Michigan in the next 18 months.

Part of the grant will be used to produce a Making Media Connections conference in Detroit, similar to the events the group holds at Columbia College Chicago each June for the Chicago market.

Lena Renteria, Department Administrator, will be honored for 20 years of service to the college at a luncheon on Nov. 1.

Her first job was executive secretary to then-Dean Lea Rosenblum.

She joined Journalism in 1990, and says the most rewarding aspect of her job is "when I am able to help someone".

Professor **Barb Iverson** has been filing updates from her October trip to the Dublin Institute of Technology, part of a Columbia College exchange program.

For more information, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/biverson/sets/72157594331154897/> and <http://currentbuzz.org>

An inside look at New York magazines

What are the most important skills for aspiring magazine writers and editors? Should you have an internship on your resume? Should you know how to write for the Web? Are job prospects improving or getting worse?

These are some of the questions that Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin and a group of journalism professors from other colleges and universities asked the editors of Forbes, Business Week, Latina, More, Fitness, Family Circle, Child and the Scholastic classroom magazines during the annual Professional Development Tour of New York Magazines in late June.

Participants in the Tour, which is organized by Barbara Reed of Rutgers University, meet with the top editors, art directors, webmas-

ters and advertising staff in order to keep current on trends in the magazine world and how to best prepare students to work in it. Although the same questions yield slightly different answers at different publications, common themes from this year include these:

- Employers look for combination of talent and drive. New hires must be able to write well and meet deadlines. But to really stand out, they should be able to come up with executable story ideas.
- At some publications there is still a separation between print and online staff. At others, staff members are expected to contribute stories to both print and online publications, but they are not responsible for putting it online. The basic skills are still reporting and writing.



COURTESY SHARON BLOYD-PESHKIN

Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin (second from left, top row) during her tour of New York magazines.

- The following things boost an applicant's chances of being offered an interview after sending in a resume and cover letter: good clips, experience outside of school, internships, and obvious knowledge of and interest in the magazine.

- When an applicant comes in

for an interview, editors expect him or her to be professional in dress and behavior, articulate, very familiar with the magazine, enthusiastic about the prospect of working for that specific magazine, prepared with story ideas, and capable of passing a writing and/or editing test.

Journalism department hosts Bitchfest panel

BY CHRIS CASCARANO
COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Being a bitch isn't necessarily a bad thing.

On a national tour to promote their book *Bitchfest*, Bitch Magazine founders Andi Zeisler and Lisa Jervis stopped by Columbia for a discussion with students Sept. 28.

They talked about feminism, how to start an independent magazine and the role of women in pop culture during a panel discussion in the Journalism Department's convergence news-room.

Bitch Magazine, whose motto is "a feminist response to pop culture," looks at gender issues, from lighthearted commentary on toys and television commercials to serious examinations of issues like rape. "Bitchfest" collects 10 years' worth of articles and essays from the magazine.

Zeisler said the title of the magazine refers to the verb, as in "to bitch," but that she and Jervis didn't object to the noun interpretation. "Bitch is a name given to



RACHEL STRETCHER

Bitch Magazine founders Andi Zeisler and Lisa Jervis sign copies of their book *Bitchfest*, a collection of the best writing from the magazine's decade of life.

women who are outspoken and won't back down, and that's what I am," Jervis said. "I think our issues can even speak out to men."

Bitch Magazine began in 1996 as a zine, based in the San

Francisco Bay area.

"We started the magazine filled with stuff we just wanted to write about," said Zeisler. "We had an alarmingly limited amount of experience when we started Bitch Magazine."

Today the quarterly nonprofit magazine circulates 50,000 copies internationally. "We would like to make the magazine monthly, but health benefits for our staff are what we're working on first," Zeisler said.

While Zeisler and Jervis have not been able to increase the magazine's frequency, it now has three full-time and five part-time employees.

Students who want to start their own magazines should "be prepared to work really hard, be prepared to pour blood, sweat and tears into your work," said Jervis.

"It would also be nice if you were independently wealthy," Zeisler added.

Jane Saks, executive director of the Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, liked the message of Bitch Magazine.

"What is really important about Bitch is that they made a space for this type of dialogue," said Saks, who organized the event. "They were perfect for the school."

► Internships are competitive. Editors look for the same basic qualities that they seek in applicants for entry-level jobs, though not as much experience. Interns must be willing and able to do whatever needs to be done and be organized, on time and professional.

► Some magazines (e.g. Business Week) prefer editors who have an area of expertise that corresponds to a beat the magazine covers. Others (including Forbes) favor generalists who are smart, curious and industrious.

► All magazines are working on projects beyond the printed page and even the website, from TV and podcasts to events and product lines.

► Some magazines are seeking young writers and editors who have experience writing for online publications; others are not. Some want people who have experience

taking photos; other do not. It's not clear whether we're in a period of transition with these two skill sets or if this simply demonstrates that publications vary. But it certainly can't hurt to cultivate some skill in these areas.

► In a period when newspapers are undergoing a lot of great soul searching and circulation slumping, magazines are keeping their readers. Advertising has slipped, but not nearly as much as many people feared. This industry still has a lot of confidence in its ongoing relevance to readers. And although job security has never been a feature of the magazine industry, neither have massive layoffs.

For a magazine-by-magazine summary of the findings of the Tour, visit <http://www.longleaf.net/ggrows/NY06/>.



AARON OWENS

J department welcomes parents

News Reporting and Writing program director Suzanne McBride meets with a group of parents during Columbia College's Parents Weekend on a mid-October Saturday. Dozens of interested parents showed up for a tour of the department, as well as a chance to ask questions about the opportunities for students. The previous night, parents and students embarked on a progressive dinner held in the college's many galleries.

RTNDA convention: Lessons learned

BY DAMON MALONEY

I never imagined having the opportunity to meet the legendary Dan Rather so early in my journalism career. The seemingly impossible came true at the 2006 Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) convention in Las Vegas. I attended the convention as the RTNDA foundation's Carole Simpson scholarship winner.

My experience can be best described as a four-year college journalism education jammed into four days. I learned about generating story ideas, making everyday stories extraordinary, writing and interviewing more effectively, ways to perform better on-air and so much more.

The Poynter Workshop, taught by the Institute's Al Tompkins and Jill Geisler, was a convention highlight. This hands-on, intensive course exclusively taught student and professional scholarship winners what seemed like everything there is to know about the industry. We watched videos of what works in TV news and what doesn't. We learned ways to write more clearly and be a stronger storyteller. We learned on-air performance techniques, which included writing a news story (based off facts given to us) and going "live." Most important, we received instant feedback on our work.

Other highlights included attending the Paul White Award Dinner and Reception, named after CBS' first news director. ABC news anchor Charles Gibson received the prestigious award for his lifetime contributions to electronic media. Gibson's acceptance speech praised journalists for their efforts in bringing the public news and information they need to know. The veteran ABC anchor

modified his network's slogan to emphasize his point.

"More Americans get their news from local news than from any other source," Gibson said.

Despite that praise, Gibson warned journalists and news managers to keep the focus on asking tough questions and being responsible to viewers' wants and needs. Gibson directed higher-ups to not irresponsibly focus on ratings and profits. Instead, he said, ratings "depend on weeks, months and years of good, solid civic coverage."

A tribute to the nation's longest-serving network news anchors was most moving. Dan Rather (CBS Evening News), Tom Brokaw (NBC Nightly News), and the late Peter Jennings (ABC World News Tonight) were honored with a National Association of Broadcasters Distinguished Service Award. With a choked-up voice and sad eyes, Rather acknowledged the absence of his competitor and friend Jennings (who died of lung cancer in 2005). Rather noted the changes in journalism and its changing faces but said, "commitment — the part that matters the most will not."

Brokaw echoed his comments, noting, "These (technological advancements) are the tools that are an extension of our hearts and minds. There is no delete button for hate or poverty, no help button for a disaster."

He said the industry still relies on people gathering news and information and making important editorial decisions.

With the other student award-winners, I served on a panel for a session about leading and motivating generation "Y" (under 30-year-old) journalists. This panel sparked some controversy. The experience was intended to stimulate dialogue



COURTESY DAMON MALONEY

Columbia student Damon Maloney and MSNBC/NBC news anchor John Seingenthaler at the RTNDA networking event.

between the younger and older generations. The younger generation expressed little attachment to corporations; desired a balance between work and personal life; was very volunteer-orientated; wanted regular feedback on work product, and appeared more accustomed to diversity. The older generation, it seemed, believed in a "sink-or-swim," or, "this is the way it's always been done" attitude. The student panel, though, expressed a desire to accept the generational differences and meet the job responsibilities!

The most popular event was *Hurricane Katrina: The Lessons Learned* seminar. FOX News' Shepard Smith moderated, featuring New Orleans TV and radio news directors, as well as national correspondents and news managers. Despite the journalists' offering vital news and information to residents of Louisiana and Mississippi, panelists contended more tough questions should have been asked of local and federal

officials before the storm hit.

Leaving the convention was bittersweet and invigorating. I learned that Columbia College Chicago is the place to be. The skills I brought to the convention went beyond what many of my peers exhibited. The lessons I learned while at RTNDA will be with me throughout my career. The convention gave me the opportunity to network with news directors, station managers, anchors, reporters and educators from all across the country. I went prepared with resume materials to hand out, and walked away with instant feedback and well over a dozen contacts. I also walked away with six new friends—the other student-scholarship winners from around the country.

As students, we are the future of the industry. It is up to us to learn all we can, perfect our skills, respect the past, embrace the future, create change, and most importantly, as Dan Rather said, keep the commitment to good storytelling alive.

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journalism

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