

Epitaph is tops in ANA competition

The *Tombstone Epitaph* — published by the University of Arizona Department of Journalism — received the first place award for Reporting and News Writing Excellence and five other honors in the Arizona Newspapers Association 2005 competition. *The Epitaph* competed against non-dailies with a circulation under 3,500.

"This award is important because it is competition among newspapers in cities across the state, not student publications," said associate professor William F. Greer, whose class produces the local edition of the historic southeastern Arizona newspaper.

The capstone course is a learning tool for 20 students each semester. "It is 'reality education' and it brings together all courses taught in the department," Greer said.

Student Hillary Davis received an award for best sustained coverage for her reporting of the Minuteman Project along the United States-Mexico border near Tombstone. She also won a lifestyle

feature award for her article on rock climbing in the historic, rugged Cochise Stronghold.

Student Laurie Laine received an award in the best lifestyle feature category for her story on undocumented immigrants.

Journalism graduate Jacqueline Marum received the award for best feature photography for her image of bikers on the highway near Tombstone.

The awards, judged by a Canadian newspaper association, were distributed Sept. 17 at the Arizona Newspapers Association annual ceremony in Scottsdale.

"These awards show that the students' work on the *Epitaph* meets high professional standards," said journalism department head Jacqueline E. Sharkey.



Staff of the *Tombstone Epitaph* earned a first-place finish in the Better Newspapers contest at the Arizona Newspapers Association's annual awards ceremony Sept. 17 in Phoenix.

Site team offers praise for department's mission, vision

A seven-member team, including experts in journalism education, visited campus Sept. 15-16 for the journalism department's first Academic Program Review.

The Arizona Board of Regents require every university unit to participate in a program review every seven years. The APR involves a self-study and a visit by a review committee. The reviews are supervised by the UA provost's office, and are used to determine what resources units need to fulfill their missions.

Team members toured the department and met with the dean, provost, journalism faculty, staff and students during the two-day visit.

Committee member Betty Medsger said the team told the dean and the provost that the department's clear mission and shared vision put it in a position to make a significant contribution to journalism education. They complimented the department's emphasis on both teaching and research, and had special praise for the department's technology, and plans for updating the instructional labs through course fees.

Committee members said the department's interdisciplinary focus, especially on international journalism, was very important. They also emphasized that restarting the graduate program, and initiating the interdisciplinary master's programs with Latin American studies and Near Eastern studies, should be strongly supported by the UA administration.

The team said the department was poised to be "a jewel in the university's crown" if it received additional resources. Committee members emphasized that the department's weaknesses, such as its over-reliance on adjunct faculty, were a direct result of a lack of resources, especially full-time faculty.

The program review committee members were:

Félix Gutiérrez, professor, University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communication, former vice president for education, The Freedom Forum.

Gutiérrez has written four books on diversity in the news media, and is considered one of the nation's experts on the subject. He formerly was head of education programs for The Freedom Forum, one of the largest journalism foundations in the country, where he worked on diversity, curriculum and teaching issues.

Thomas Kunkel, dean of the Philip Merrill School of Journalism, University of Maryland, and co-principal investigator of The Newspaper Project, the definitive study of the future of newspapers.

Kunkel heads one of the largest and most successful professionally oriented journalism programs in the country. He is the author of three books, and helps direct a project, co-sponsored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, to gather comprehensive data on reporting about state government.

Betty Medsger, former chair, Department of Journalism, San Francisco State University, author of the definitive study of journalism education in the United States.

Medsger wrote *Winds of Change: Challenges Facing Journalism Education*, which uses quantitative and qualitative methodologies to analyze educational issues and trends. She has been a site-visit leader for the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Cheryl Malone, associate professor, School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona.

Malone has a bachelor's degree in

journalism. Her research focuses on government information, a cornerstone of public affairs reporting. For one of her research projects, she worked with a journalism department Reporting Public Affairs class. She is an expert on freedom of information issues.

Leslie Boyer, M.D., medical director, Arizona Drug and Poison Information Center, and associate professor, College of Pharmacy.

Boyer has written articles on toxicology for news media as well as academic journals, and has helped design public-information campaigns about the Poison Center. She also collaborated on magazine articles written by her late brother, Jim Boyer, who earned a master's degree from the journalism department.

Patty Weiss Gelenberg '71, vice-chair, Journalism Advisory Council, former anchor and producer, KVOA-TV News.

Gelenberg has worked for the department's advisory council for more than a decade, and has led several fund-raising campaigns. She is an alumna of the department; has been an adjunct faculty member, teaching in the graduate program; and has two decades of experience in television news.

Vanessa Cartwright Johnson '03, student, James E. Rogers College of Law.

Johnson was the leader of the student advisory group for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the head of the Student Advisory Council in the Department of Journalism. She won the 2003 Philip Mangelsdorf Award for Outstanding Senior.

News Nuggets

Enrollment continues to grow

The department's enrollment in Fall 2005 was 633 majors, making journalism the fifth largest major at The University of Arizona and the third largest among the 16 degree-granting units in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. One of every nine students in the department is an honors student and one of every seven is pursuing a double or multiple major.

Accreditation visit next on tap

Following its Academic Program Review, the department is focusing on the self-study for its review by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

The UA journalism department has been accredited by the organization for more than 40 years. Indeed, the group looked to the UA for ethics materials during a national study of ethics education in journalism this year. The department has offered courses in that area for 20 years.

The review entails production of a voluminous report and a site team visit, scheduled for February 2006. The ACEJMC Accrediting Committee will vote whether to accept the site-visit team's recommendation later in the spring. The Accrediting Council will make the final decision about re-accreditation in May 2006.

Alumni can help with the department's accreditation report. See back page for details.

Check out the Web site

Visit the department's new electronic home at www.journalism.arizona.edu. You'll find a redesigned site featuring expanded information on the program in international journalism, student profiles and an alumni database, among other features.

Many thanks to Bryan Hance, a '99 journalism graduate, who led the redesign; UA graduate student Jacob Konst for his photography; and Phoenix freelance designer John Kestner for design and coding support. "It means so much, especially in an accreditation year, when having a dynamic, up-to-date site is crucial," said Jacqueline E. Sharkey, department head.



Look for more updates, photos and features of student work in coming months.

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HOME COMING is Nov. 4-6. See Page 2.



Senior James Patrick uses a computer workstation to complete a class assignment in the newly refurbished student reading room.

Lounge offers spot to relax and study

When journalism students returned for classes this fall, they found a comfortable spot to crash — and work — in the department.

The student reading room still features seven computer workstations and a large conference table where journalism majors can spread out and get to work. But now they have a spot where they can spread out and relax. An anonymous donor this summer gave two brown leather sofas and two overstuffed, upholstered chairs to the department for use in the lounge. A soft drink machine lets students enjoy refreshments whether

they are relaxing or working.

Evan Filipovitch, a senior majoring in journalism and religious studies, likes having a comfortable place to read the newspaper before class. “I live a few miles from campus. So when I’m here, I’m here for the day.”

Senior James Patrick appreciates the relative solitude the student reading room offers. “You can come here and do what you need to do,” said Patrick, who was busy at one of the workstations. Patrick said he finds the leather sofas tempting, but the room’s appeal for him is as a quiet workspace.

Coordinator will enhance Web site communication

The department made a new hire in Fall 2005 to help with growing needs in Web site content development and alumni communications.

Kate Harrison is the journalism department’s program coordinator. Her background includes positions as senior publications editor for the University of Dayton, development communications coordinator at Dayton and associ-



Kate Harrison

ate editor at the UA Foundation. Most recently, she spent five years as managing editor of the Catholic Diocese of Tucson’s monthly newspaper.

Harrison will improve and expand content on the department’s Web site and work on other publications, such as *The Cursor*.

Homecoming 2005

Meet me at the Mall

Alumni can join faculty, staff and fellow grads from the journalism department at Homecoming Saturday, Nov. 5. Look for friends and faculty at one of the following spots:

■ At a table under the Social and Behavioral Sciences tent on the Mall, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

■ In Marshall Building 312, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Food will be served at the alumni reception.

■ At the Shanty, 401 E. 9th St., 2-4 p.m.

Shuttles will transport graduates from the Shanty to the game. Betsy Bolding, a ’62 journal-

ism grad, is the Homecoming chair. She was instrumental in organizing the UA Women’s Plaza of Honor committee. The plaza, located east of Main Gate near Centennial Hall, was dedicated Sept. 30.

Other events:

■ Homecoming parade — 1 p.m.

■ UA vs. UCLA football game — 4 p.m.

For details, see <http://www.uagrad.org/Homecoming/>. Please call the department at 520-621-7556 if you’re attending the alumni reception.

SPJ News



The Arizona Daily Star’s Stephanie Innes tells students about her experience covering Hurricane Katrina at a Sept. 26 recruitment event for the student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Senior Amanda Branam helped organize the event at Gentle Ben’s.

Adjunct faculty bring wealth of experience

Skyrocketing enrollment has the Department of Journalism relying heavily on its adjunct instructors to help with teaching loads. Meet the faculty here. Or read longer profiles on each at <http://journalism.arizona.edu/people/faculty/>.

Joe Barrios ’97 is an award-winning business reporter for the *Arizona Daily Star*, where he covers real estate, new construction, and workplace health and safety issues. He teaches Advanced Reporting.

Tom Beal is a senior reporter for the *Star*, where he has worked since 1974. Beal has held numerous posts at the *Star*, including police reporter and city editor. He teaches Reporting Public Affairs.

Cathalena Burch is a country and classical music critic and feature writer for the *Star*. She also has reported for the *Mesa Tribune*, the *Sedona Red Rock News* and the *Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Gazette*, where she also served as city editor. She teaches Advanced Reporting.

Gawain Douglas ’93 joined the staff of the *Tucson Citizen* as a page designer in 2003. He is now the senior editor for presentation, overseeing the design, photo and art departments, and the copy desk. He teaches Publication Layout and Design.

Sarah Garrecht Gassen ’95 is a general-assignment reporter for the *Arizona Daily Star*, where she has worked since 1996. The former *Wildcat* editor-in-chief also reported on government issues in nearby Oro Valley. Gassen also spent time as a general assignment reporter for The Associated Press. She teaches Reporting the News.

Zoe Hammer-Tomizuka teaches Press and Society. Her teaching, research and writing focus on media industries, representations and democracy in the contexts of contemporary globalization, the national security state, and social movements.

David Hecht is a feature reporter and weathercaster at KGUN-9 News, Tucson’s ABC affiliate. He came to Tucson from Toledo, Ohio, where he held duties similar to those at KGUN. Hecht worked at TV stations in Yuma, Flagstaff and Cincinnati. He teaches Writing for News and Documentary.

Chyrl Lander runs her own consulting firm specializing in community development issues and

publication development and design. She spent about 13 years with the *Arizona Daily Star*, serving in various posts, including columnist, special projects editor, reporter, assistant editor and design editor. She teaches Editing.

Blake Morlock ’93 is a reporter for the *Tucson Citizen*, where he began his career in 1998. His beats have included higher education, religion and politics. He teaches Reporting the News.

Jim Nintzel, who covers politics as a senior writer for the *Tucson Weekly*, has won more than two dozen journalism awards, including Community Journalist of the Year in 2002. He teaches Advanced Reporting and Reporting Public Affairs.

Jay Rochlin ’73 joined the journalism department in fall 2005 to teach advanced photojournalism. Rochlin spent 21 years with the UA Alumni Association. There, he served as associate director and editor of *Arizona Alumnus* magazine, and was responsible for the Association’s Web site and its electronic newsletter.

Adele Ross is associated with the editorial board of the *Arizona Daily Star*. She edits the *Star*’s op-ed page and handles other newsroom duties. Ross also spent five years as a magazine editor in Princeton, N.J., and was a reporter at papers in Camden, N.J., and Philadelphia. She teaches Reporting the News.

Arlene Scadron taught journalism and media communications for 16 years at Pima Community College, where she periodically chaired the media communications department and advised the student newspaper. She teaches Advanced Reporting.

Anne Fisher Segal ’75 joined the department in Fall 2005 to teach Law of the Press. Segal has been an attorney for 30 years and is a member of the Arizona, New Mexico, California and Illinois State Bars.

Peter Sibley ’84 has been working on the copy desk of the *Arizona Daily Star* since 1987. He is the paper’s news slot editor. Sibley covered crime and courts as a reporter and editor for the *Times-Standard* in Eureka, Calif. He has taught Editing since 1993.

Elena Chabolla Stauffer ’89 left the *Arizona*

See Adjuncts, Page 3

Talk explores careers in international journalism

Two Beirut-based print journalists discussed their work and lives in the war-torn Middle East at a forum on Sept. 8 in the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Nearly 70 people — half of them journalism students — filled a conference room to hear Mohamad Bazi and Annia Ciezadlo lead a discussion on “Reporting from the Middle East.” The talk was organized by Maggy Zanger, associate professor of practice in the journalism department.

The two journalists touched on life in a war zone. “The regular correspondents get tired of having no electricity and substandard water,” Ciezadlo said, smiling. But the discussion focused more on the career track each journalist took before becoming award-winning international correspondents.

Ciezadlo is a freelancer who has written for *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The New Republic*, *The National Journal* and *The Nation*. Bazi is the Middle East bureau chief for *Newsday*, a New York daily newspaper.

His career path wasn't unusual, he said. A New York native, Bazi wrote for his high school newspaper, community newspapers, attended City University of New York and interned at *Newsday*. He put in his time on the city desk and covered transportation.

But things changed after Sept.

11, Bazi said. His ability to speak Arabic became prized, and he was moved to the paper's foreign desk. Since then he has reported from Syria, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan and many other countries, and was promoted to bureau chief, a misleading title, Bazi said to some laughter, “because I'm the only one there, so I manage myself.”

He stressed to students that while international jobs may sound glamorous, “they are very difficult to get. You must be willing to do metro and local stories first before you get to foreign coverage.”

Having knowledge and language skills for a particular area weren't always eye-catchers on résumés, Bazi noted. That's changing.

“At midsize to large papers they are looking for more area knowledge and love to get people who speak Arabic,” he said.

Ciezadlo's experience has been different. If you're trying to sell an article to a magazine, she observed, “it tends to be who you meet at a party” that determines whether your work is published. Many editors, though, will listen to ideas freelancers offer.

“But pitch your best idea,” Ciezadlo advised. “Don't give them a whole list to choose from. And find stories other people haven't done.”

Like Bazi, Ciezadlo found the writing she did in New York provided a strong foundation for international reporting. Not that mistakes aren't made, however.

“You're going to say some dumb things to people,” she said.

Neither journalist felt they encountered discrimination abroad as Americans. Reporters who approach subjects respectfully get good interviews, said Bazi. Those who don't “will get weeded out.”

Indeed, Bazi found Iraqis eager to tell their stories. “The flip side of that is people have this unrealistic expectation. They ask you if you know George Bush or (Paul) Bremer.”

Ciezadlo agreed. “People liked talking to American reporters because they had this idea that they were talking to the American public.”



International journalists Annia Ciezadlo and Mohamad Bazi told students that they will need to put in time at small to midsize newspapers before landing jobs on a foreign desk.

Speakers, new *El Independiente* expand students' world view

Maggy Zanger says the lecture she organized by international journalists Sept. 8 isn't just a “one-shot deal.” The associate professor of practice wants to bring in other speakers who can give students an up-close look at career paths in international journalism.

It's just one initiative the department is taking to expand students' learning experience beyond the classroom, the city, and, indeed, the United States. That's what's behind the goal to extend coverage of *El Independiente* beyond South Tucson to enable students to report on issues on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The controversy about pending legislation in Congress to ease some immigration restrictions is the type of story Zanger envisions *El Independiente* will cover. “We really want to expand coverage to include issues that are of concern to the Hispanic community,” she said.

As the department's international journalism program takes hold, *El Independiente* will give students a rare chance to cover national and international issues, Zanger said. “We're so lucky to be on the border. It offers lots of opportunities for students to understand different cultures.”

Photo class lets students show work on web logs

A journalism course offered for the first time in Fall 2005 is geared toward students considering careers as professional photojournalists.

Advanced Photojournalism will give students a broad understand-

ing of various issues — legal, ethical and technical — facing working photojournalists. Instructor Jay Rochlin also has asked students to post weekly assignments on a blog along with comments on the thought processes behind their

photos. At the end of the semester, students will prepare print and online portfolios of their work.

The course should “help students achieve the skills they'll need to have careers as photojournalists or photo editors,” says Rochlin, who spent 21 years with the UA Alumni Association and has had his photography exhibited in numerous Arizona venues. Several students in the course have had images published in newspapers and special-interest publications, says Rochlin. “I'm quite impressed with the students and their work.”

Each week, Rochlin has students post their five best photos illustrating concepts such as depth of field or low lighting. Students critique each others' work in class and each must give a presentation on a photojournalist.

Student ideas for final projects include photo essays on the use of animals in hospice care, a look at Tucson family restaurateurs, and the culture and art-work associated with low-rider vehicles.

The course is particularly valuable, says Paul Johnson, senior academic advisor, because the department had offered only the required Photojournalism course and a summer-session Magazine Color Photography course. Students who wanted additional photography experience had to minor in studio photography through the College of Fine Arts, which no longer accepts minors.

“So, this is a really important addition to our curriculum,” says Johnson.



For the photojournalism class assignment to shoot something “on location,” student Alex Landeen opted to cover a swim meet.

Students will travel to Colorado Delta

The Department of Journalism and the Center for Latin American Studies will send 10 students to explore environmental issues along Mexico's Colorado River delta in Spring 2006. The trip into northern Mexico is part of a five-credit course offered through the International Journalism Program.

Alan Weisman, a laureate associate professor of journalism and Latin American studies, will lead the trip. In past years, participants have traveled to Chile and Panama, resulting in two weeklong *Tucson Citizen* series (see <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/projects/chile/index.html> and <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/projects/panama/index.php>). Students in the 2006 project also will produce a series of articles for

publication in the *Citizen*.

Project participants will explore the battles that have been waged over Colorado River water among cities, farmers, Native Americans, miners, environmentalists and others. They also will look at the Sea of Cortez, among the world's biologically richest bodies of water, now starved by U.S. and Mexican dams that divert fresh water and nutrients from reaching the river's mouth.

Interdisciplinary team members are selected for the trip based on its relevance to their academic program and their proficiency in Spanish.

Students do not have to pay for the trip. Their expenses, except for incidentals, are paid by donors and grants.

Adjuncts (from page 2)

Daily Star in June 2005 and in the fall began teaching Editing. At the *Star* she was a copy editor and assistant features editor. She also held positions at the *Tucson Citizen* and the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Jeanette Wah-Duffy '85 has worked as a wire editor for the *Arizona Daily Star* since 2000. Wah-Duffy came to the *Star* from Tribune Newspapers in Mesa. She also has handled news desk and design duties at the *Desert Sun* (Palm Springs, Calif.), the *Virginian-Pilot* (Norfolk, Va.) and the *Dallas Times Herald*. She teaches Editing.

Glenn Weyant has worked as a

freelancer in Tucson since 2000, writing for publications such as the *Tucson Weekly*, *Desert Leaf*, the *Arizona Jewish Post* and the *Arizona Daily Star*. Weyant has won writing awards from the press associations of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. He teaches Feature Writing.

Jane See White was assistant managing editor for administration of the *Arizona Republic* and also served as the paper's writing coach. She joined Phoenix Newspapers in 1991 as an assistant city editor. In 1994, she was named features editor of the *Republic*. She teaches Reporting the News and Feature Writing.



Alumni

What are you up to? Send an update about your career, your life, whatever for our next issue of *The Cursor* to journal@email.arizona.edu. Or add yourself to our online alumni database on our new and improved Web site: <http://journalism.arizona.edu/alumni/>.

You'll help us with our accreditation self-study by sharing your news with us. The study's reviewers want to know what kinds of careers our graduates have. Tell them! And tell us! Thanks.

1954

Earl Zarbin wrote and published his sixth book, *Let the Record Show ... Gila River Indian Reservation Water Rights and the Central Arizona Project*. His article "Henry Garfias: Phoenix's First City Marshal" was published in the Spring 2005 edition of *The Journal of Arizona History* and was reprinted in the August issue of *The National Tombstone Epitaph*.

1957

Dorothy (Ackley) Laudati says, "I'm still in journalism, now as an advertising account executive for *The Evanston Roundtable* newspaper in Evanston, Ill. Since my days at the U of A, I've worked for the Middle East News Agency in Rome, the *Chicago Tribune* and the Paul Morgan Advertising Agency. I've been in Chicago on a permanent basis since 1964."

1978

M. Olaf Frandsen is the publisher of *The McAllen (Texas) Monitor* and regional vice president for Freedom Communications, overseeing seven newspapers.

1982

Hans Laetz is writing for the *Malibu Times* and is a first-year law student at Ventura College of Law.

1984

William F. Walsh is the national copy desk chief at *The Washington Post*. His

second book, *The Elephants of Style*, was published in 2004 by McGraw-Hill, and his Web site, www.theslot.com, is in its 11th year.

1985

Maggie (Hall) Walsh is the features editor at the *Fort Collins (Colo.) Coloradoan*.

1988

Chris Garifo is the Albany Bureau correspondent, covering the capital and state government, for the *Watertown Daily Times*, a small daily in northern New York. He was a member of a team of *Times* reporters who received first place for continuing coverage and an honorable mention for depth reporting at the state Associated Press Awards.

1990

Hipolito R. Corella has been named metro editor of the *Arizona Daily Star*. He began his career at the *Albuquerque Tribune* and also covered police, courts, education and politics for the *Star*. He and his spouse, Monica, have two children.

1991

Paula Kelso has relocated from



Jana (Rivera) Richman

Phoenix to the Washington, D.C., area, where her spouse was offered a job.

1992

Jana (Rivera) Richman's book *Riding in the Shadows of Saints: A Woman's Story of Motorcycling the Mormon Trail* was published in July. "Advance reviews have been positive and the book is getting a good amount of national press," says

Jana. She was in Tucson in September for readings and book signings at local bookstores. Jana lives in Salt Lake City and is working on another novel.

1993

Paul Allvin is the associate vice president for communications for the UA. He's the chief spokesperson for the university and will work to increase its visibility, especially in Maricopa County. He was director of communications for Gov. Janet Napolitano.

1997

Amanda Rohrer Seelye is the presentation editor at the *East Valley/Scottsdale Tribune*.

1999

Joseph Altman has moved back to Detroit, where he is a night news supervisor for The Associated Press.

David Diaz will leave the *Courier-Post* in Cherry Hill, N.J., Dec. 12 to take a news copy editor position at the *Asbury Park Press*. It's a Gannett daily, 50 miles

south of New York City.

2000

E. Burton Hathaway III graduated from the Georgia State College of Law in May. He is awaiting results of the Maryland bar and will take the Maine bar in February. He lives in Portland, Maine, where he tells us he is playing golf, kayaking and studying.

Christopher Jackson is a sports reporter, copy editor and page designer for the *Daily Breeze* in Torrance, Calif. He lives in Redondo Beach, and hoped to be back for Homecoming this year, but is instead attending fellow UA journalism grad Rudy Ropp's wedding in Hawaii.

Raina Wagner and her spouse, **B.J. Bartlett '84**, left the *Arizona Daily Star* for jobs with the *Seattle Times*. Raina is the *Times'* assistant arts and entertainment editor, and B.J. is a desk editor on the news desk.

2001

David Cieslak left the police beat at *The Arizona Republic* and is working as a public information officer for the Scottsdale Fire Department.

2002

Brent Biedel is sports director for KOBI-TV, the NBC affiliate in Medford, Ore. Originally from Portland, Brent spent a year as weekend sports anchor for the Fox station in Rapid City, S.D., before moving back to his roots in the Pacific Northwest.

Heather Chambers is a business reporter for *Today's Local News*, a commu-

nity daily published by Copley Press in San Diego.

Meggie Rose (Clarke) Foust is a communications specialist for Getty Images in Seattle.

2004

Andrea Graves married Benjamin Wojciak on Aug. 20. She's an account executive for a public relations firm in Dallas.

Tessa Hill is the news editor for the *East Mesa Independent*, a community-based weekly covering Mesa, Ariz.

Saul Loeb is a freelance photographer in Phoenix.

Robert Purvis is back on the news side at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. He has left behind his days of writing about bikini waxing and polar bear swims to cover night cops.

Erin Stobie works for Oser Communications Group in Tucson, where she writes and edits the company's trade publications, which are distributed across the country at various trade shows.

2005

Rebekah Kleinman left her post at KVOA-TV in Tucson last summer. She is now reporting for KDRV-TV, the Medford, Ore., ABC affiliate.

Laura Rillos returned to her hometown of Yuma to be a reporter for KSWT-TV. She covers education and county government.

Published by the journalism department
<http://journalism.arizona.edu>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 190

Journalism Department
Marshall Building
PO Box 210158B
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ. 85721-0158

Emmy winner

Wrap it up — he'll take it

David Hecht isn't keeping news of his first Emmy win under wraps — unless it's bubble wrap.

Hecht, an adjunct in the journalism department and a reporter and weekend weather forecaster for KGUN-9 News, won his first Emmy award for a feature on the packing material you can't resist popping.

But why a feature on bubble wrap? "We have a million press releases cross our desks," Hecht recalled. When his editors saw one for Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, they knew it was the kind of "light, goofy, fun feature story I like to do," said Hecht.

He juxtaposed an interview with a packing store manager who waxed poetic



Adjunct instructor David Hecht won his first Emmy for a story on bubble wrap.

on the virtues of bubble wrap with hard-hitting queries to UA students: "Are you a popper? A twister? A stomper? Do you like the big bubbles or the small bubbles?" The light-hearted piece also ran on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Hecht found out the story had been nominated for an Emmy while he was on a six-month deployment to Iraq as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He took home the hardware from a Sept. 10 awards ceremony after beating out contenders from Phoenix and Salt Lake City.

Hecht has taught in the department since 2004.