Online journalism class covers kids on border

By Danielle C. Chapot

Students from the nationally recognized online student-run publication Border Beat took a trip to St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic Oct. 4 to report on families who cross the U.S.-Mexico border seeking medical help and the volunteers who treat them.

The clinic treats 200-300 children the first Thursday of every month, when volunteers attend to patients who travel to Nogales, Ariz., with their parents from Mexico for treatment. Children’s ailments range from speech and hearing problems to cerebral palsy and cleft palate.

Each UA student selected at least three areas to cover. Having built relationships with volunteers, patients and organization directors, students were able to produce vibrant, real-life stories about the work taking place at St. Andrew’s. Border Beat reporter Rachel Gross said she was moved most by seeing two children, both 4 years old, getting speech therapy after their cleft palates had been repaired.

“The surgeries changed both of their lives, and now they can speak and live happily because of that,” she said.

Reporter Allison Warren said, “I was really moved by the amount of patience and gratitude that the patients at the clinic displayed. To see smiles on the faces of children who would never be able to walk made me realize how much I take for granted in my life.”

Danielle Rideau, section editor for the special report, thought the trip was a great opportunity to inform the world of the service the clinic provides.

“If our stories can inspire just one person to think about the opportunities we have and how we can share those with some that are less fortunate, I think we’ve done our job,” Rideau said.

Danielle C. Chapot is a senior journalism major in the Border Beat class. Stories, photos and video that journalism students produced are at http://border-beat.net/.

The University of Arizona Department of Journalism and the Arizona Newspapers Association Foundation named Jerry Mitchell the 2007 winner of the John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award.

Mitchell, an investigative reporter for the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss., has worked since 1989 pursuing evidence about killings during the civil rights era. His work so far has helped put five Klansmen behind bars and inspired many other investigations. Authorities in Mississippi and six other states have re-examined 29 killings. Mitchell’s reporting exemplifies the type of courageous work the Zenger award is designed to honor,” said Jacqueline Sharkey, UA journalism department head. “His determination to continue informing the public about these crimes and their impact on individuals, families and our society sets an example for every journalist.”

The Zenger award was presented at the Arizona Newspapers Association annual meeting and convention on Sept. 22 in Scottsdale. The presentation was part of an awards luncheon at which Freedom of Information awards honoring Arizona journalists also were presented. Mitchell offered the keynote address and spoke to classes in the UA journalism department.

By Danielle C. Chapot


Professors Bill Greer and Terry Wimmer team-taught the class that produces the bi-weekly publication.

By Danielle C. Chapot
The journalism department sponsored an internship fair March 22, welcoming representatives from eight broadcast companies, six print media outlets and two nonprofit organizations. A fall fair is planned for Oct. 17, said Lisa Button, internship coordinator.

Recent UA students who landed internships were doing everything from broadcasting radio shows in Michigan to covering metro news in Los Angeles to doing behind-the-scenes production for Condé Nast Traveler Magazine, Clear Channel, Madden Preprint Media, Muscular Dystrophy Association, NBC Telemundo, Wick Communications, Project Vote Smart, Dystrophy Association, NBC Telemundo, Madden Preprint Media, Muscular Dystrophy Association, NBC Telemundo, Project Vote Smart, Tucson Citizen, Tucson Weekly and Wick Communications.

Got internships?
If you or your organization offer internships for journalism students, please contact Lisa Button, lbutton@email.arizona.edu.

“Because of my internship at Telemundo, I had the chance to meet so many people, and not only citizens who had a story to tell,” Echávarri said. “I have contacts with Homeland Security, Derechos Humanos, AAA and the Mexican Consulate.”


Laura Fernanda Echávarri, who reviewed her résumé at the fair with human resources coordinator Aida Van Leeuwen of NBC Telemundo, spent the summer working in Telemundo’s Tucson office. “Because of my internship at Telemundo, I had the chance to meet so many people, and not only citizens who had a story to tell,” Echávarri said. “I have contacts with Homeland Security, Derechos Humanos, AAA and the Mexican Consulate.”


Job leads plentiful at spring internship fair

“Because of my internship at Telemundo, I had the chance to meet so many people, and not only citizens who had a story to tell,” Echávarri said. “I have contacts with Homeland Security, Derechos Humanos, AAA and the Mexican Consulate.”


Got internships?
If you or your organization offer internships for journalism students, please contact Lisa Button, lbutton@email.arizona.edu.

“Because of my internship at Telemundo, I had the chance to meet so many people, and not only citizens who had a story to tell,” Echávarri said. “I have contacts with Homeland Security, Derechos Humanos, AAA and the Mexican Consulate.”


Laura Fernanda Echávarri, who reviewed her résumé at the fair with human resources coordinator Aida Van Leeuwen of NBC Telemundo, spent the summer working in Telemundo’s office in Tucson. (Photo by Lisa Button)
UA prof discusses bestselling book

By Kate Harrison

Fame does have its price. Or perks, depending on your viewpoint.

A hundred people show up to a reception in your honor.

Students, “who last semester, I’m convinced, were plotting my assassination,” now are proud to call you their professor. And the dean of your college admits to a serious case of envy because of your appearance with the pithy Jon Stewart on Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show.”

Such is the life of Alan Weisman these days. Weisman, a late-night associate professor of journalism, has written a book that has been on The New York Times bestseller list for hardcover nonfiction since late July.

In The World Without Us, Weisman looks at how the planet would respond if humans suddenly disappeared.


The challenge in writing this book, Weisman tells friends and colleagues at a Sept. 28 reception, was to appeal to readers who may not be scientists or environmentalists.

“How do I reach people who have not been thinking about this that much?” Weisman asked. “There was some power. I realized, in this idea of just removing us. So, by the second or third page of my book, everybody’s dead!”

Weisman didn’t intend to use the book as a bully pulpit. If pressed, he’ll tell you a couple of things humans can do to preserve the planet.

“I devote a whole chapter in my book to plastics,” Weisman notes. (They’ll outlive all of us, he says.) So try using a tote bag when grocery shopping, like grandma did in the days before mega-grocery stores and supercenters. And in a place like Arizona, it’s a no-trainer, Weisman said, to install solar collectors to heat water. “This is so cheap to do,” he said.

When Weisman isn’t writing bestselling books, he teaches in the UA’s international journalism program. Since the program’s inception, Weisman has led groups to Panama, Chile, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

For more on The World Without Us, see http://www.worldwithoutus.com.

Online publication is finalist for national award

An online publication produced by students in the University of Arizona’s Department of Journalism has been named a finalist for the 2007 Online Journalism Awards presented by the Online News Association and the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California.

Border Beat was named a finalist in the Student Journalism category. The site, launched in spring 2007 by students and their instructor, Jay Rochlin, offers news, insights and resources for those interested in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Border Beat is one of two online publications produced by UA journalism students. The Cat Scan was offered for the first time in January 2006. The Web-based publication features news, features, entertainment, blogs and photos.

In addition, UA journalism students produce two print publications: The Tombstone Epitaph is a biweekly newspaper produced for the historic Tombstone community; and El Independiente is a monthly publication that offers stories in English and Spanish for the citizens of South Tucson.

Journalism students interested in video news work on Arizona Cat’s Eye, which gives students extensive hands-on experience in writing, reporting, shooting, producing and editing hard news and feature stories. The best stories of the semester air as part of a news magazine on KUAT-TV (PBS), Channel 6.

Border Beat’s recent offerings included a story on Mexican citizens traveling to Arizona border towns (http://borderbeat.net/story/show/118) and a profile of a journalism professor who wrote a mystery novel on Mission San Xavier del Bac (http://borderbeat.net/story/show/113).

The online journalism awards will be presented at the 2007 Online News Association Conference and Online Journalism Awards Banquet in Toronto Oct. 18-19.

Billboard has international focus

A large billboard touting the UA journalism department’s international focus is getting attention around Tucson.

The billboard was donated by UA alumnus Manny Molina, founder and publisher of Latino Future magazine, in partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor. It includes the phrase “Exploring Borders in the Information Age” and the department’s Web site: “It’s something of a double meaning,” says Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head. “You can view borders as geographic boundaries — and we certainly cover the border, as evidenced by our students’ work with El Independiente, The Epi-saph and in our online publications, such as Border Beat.”

“But ‘borders’ also refers to the idea of pushing the envelope — or the borders — of how we teach and this year’s Homecoming chair. The Plaza of Honor is located just west of Centennial Hall near Old Main. The Wildcats play the UCLA Bruins at 12:30 p.m. in a game that will be broadcast on ABC. Individual game tickets will be available from the McKale ticket office at 520-621-CATS or 800-452-CATS.

You may also check the department’s Web site (http://journalism.arizona.edu) or call 520-621-7556 for details.

Word on the street

A UA alumnus funded production of this billboard, which has popped up in various locations around Tucson. (Photo by Kate Harrison)

Homecoming is Nov. 3

Join your friends from the journalism department for Homecoming Nov. 3.

The journalism department will be the host of a morning gathering for alumni from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Marshall Building, Room 312. This event will overlap with a reception sponsored by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Women’s Plaza of Honor on campus. UA alumnus Bill Nugent will provide refreshments at the Plaza affair, which will also feature remarks from Manny Molina, publisher of Latino Future magazine, a UA grad and this year’s Homecoming chair. The Plaza of Honor is located just west of Centennial Hall near Old Main.

The Wildcats play the UCLA Bruins at 12:30 p.m. in a game that will be broadcast on ABC. Individual game tickets will be available from the McKale ticket office at 520-621-CATS or 800-452-CATS.

You may also check the department’s Web site (http://journalism.arizona.edu) or call 520-621-7556 for details.
Mort Rosenblum believes that what we don’t know is killing us. It’s why the professional-in-residence in the UA journalism department tackles the subject head on in his latest book, Escaping Plato’s Cave: How America’s Blindness to the Rest of the World Threatens Our Survival.

Rosenblum has written from 200 countries or territories on subjects ranging from environmental calamity to tango dancing by the Seine. Plato’s Cave was published in October and its subtitle is “happily hyperbole,” writes Rosenblum in an e-mail to colleagues and friends.

“Bedrock news organizations are more vital to our security than armed forces and as crucial to democracy as fair elections. Yet they are being bought up, dumbed down and stripped of the ability to see reality beyond our borders.”

Shavellent Joseph received congratulations from organizers of the Journalism Diversity Workshop for Arizona High School Students at a closing ceremony June 13. The Temple High School student was among eight students who attended the workshop, which the department has had for more than 25 years. Its director is Professor Bill Greer (center), who was assisted by UA student Nathan Olivarez-Giles (left) and ’95 graduate John de Dios (right).

Faculty Kudos

David Cuillier was named teaching chair for the Law & Poli- cy Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication for 2007-08. Cuillier will organize teaching panels for conferences and promote teaching in the division. He also wrote a column on how to respond to public records requests denials for the August issue of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Quill magazine.

Cuillier wrote a column for the June/July edition of Quill on providing journalists ideas for public records that can request to produce award-winning work. He also published an academic article in the July issue of the Howard Jour- nal of Communications, titled “Gambling with identity: Self-repre- sentation of American Indians on official tribal Web sites,” with second author Professor Susan Dennis of Washington State University.

In addition to winning the Nazifat-Zehir Dissertation Award, given by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication for the best dissertation earned in 2005-06 in the field of journalism and mass communication, Cuillier also picked up two more awards at AEJMC’s annual convention in Washington, D.C., Aug. 9-12. Cuillier received the top faculty award in professional law in media award. His paper discussed public attitudes toward freedom of information and was selected from nearly 100 manuscripts judged by media law scholars. In teaching, Cuillier was named a Great Ideas for Teaching scholar, and presented his teaching exercise at the conference. It describes how professors can use interactive slide shows to teaching journalists the laws and ethi- cal considerations in accessing public records. His idea was one of 25 selected for presentation at the conference, out of 60 submit- ted for consideration. Cuillier’s dissertation, based on seven sur- veys, explored public attitudes to- ward press access to government records and examined the impor tance of civic engagement in sup- port for freedom of information. A research study conducted by Cuillier in conjunc- tion with Jeffrey heiserman and Bhlytien Neel from Washington State University, was publicized in the spring 2007 issue of The Wil- son Quarterly. The research indi- cated that when people contem- plate their own deaths they are more likely to support press cen- sorship.

Celeste González de Busta- mante reviewed Sallie Hughes’ Newsroom in Conflict: Journal- ism and the Democratisation of Mexico, published by University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006, for his- tory. The review was published on June 2.

González de Bustamante an- chored “Arizona Illustrated” June 4-14 June. While Bill Buckmiller was on vacation. “Arizona Illus- trated” airs on KUAT-TV at 6:30 p.m. and repeats at midnight.

González de Bustamante was one of two faculty members in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences to receive a Faculty Sum- mer 2007 Development Grant. She will use the $5,000 grant, from the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, to conduct pre-liminary research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The award also includes workshops on writing research proposals and is intended to help faculty develop proposals before they are submit- ted to external funding agencies.


Bill Greer led the Jour- nality Workshop for Arizona High School Students June 2-2-13. The de- partment has been the host of the pro- gram for more than 25 years and has taught the students June 2-2-13 who attended the 2007 workshop got a well-rounded look at journal- ism and published a newspaper at the end of the gathering. Profes- sors David Cuillier, Celeste González de Bustamante, Jean- nie Terry and Tony Winner spoke to students.

Professor emeritus Jim John- son has signed a contract with the University of Nebraska Press to publish a book about the two na- tional championships won by the University of San Francisco bas- ketball team during the 1955 and 1956 seasons.

The teams earned future NBA stars and Hall of Famers Bill Rus- sell and K.C. Jones. Johnson watched them play when he was a senior in high school and a fresh- man in college. The book is sched- uled for publication next spring. The working title is: “The Dandy Dons, 1955 & 1956 Best College Basketball Team No One Recruited.” It’s a story of a small, virtually un- noticed college church that re- cruted three African American players no other schools wanted and won national championships. This was 10 years before Texas Western stunned the basketball world when five black players de- feated an all-white Kentucky team for the title in 1966.

Kevin Kemper has become the first person to graduate from the AEJMC-sponsored Journalism Program at the University of Missouri’s Schools of Journalism and Law. He finished the Ph.D. in Spring 2006, and then finished the J.D. in May 2007 after being a visiting student at the University of Ari- zona’s James E. Rogers College of Law. He is married to an Arizona bar examina- tion in July.


Kemper had a role in several panels and discussion groups at the AEJMC convention, Sept. 9-12 in Washington, D.C. He participat- ed in a panel for the Religion and Media Interest Group/Mass Com- munication & Society Division, called “Religious Foundations of Media Ethics and Practice.” He also presented a paper for the Law Division: “Racial/Class Difference: Showing the Need to Encourage the Freedom of Press and Discour- age Ethnic Violence.” Kemper presents a paper for the Media Management and Econom- ics Division: “What New York Times Co. vs. Sullivan case teaches news- paper managers and freelancers about cooperation.”

Kemper was interviewed for a story about the possibility of the Virginia Tech killings. Kemper was quoted in an article that interviewed 12 journalists and that rec- tured three African American players no other schools wanted and won national championships. This was 10 years before Texas Western stunned the basketball world when five black players de- feated an all-white Kentucky team for the title in 1966.

Mississippi ‘muckraker’ lauds Zenger as journalistic hero

By Kate Harrison

Jerry Mitchell said he wears the term “muckraker” proudly when he accepted the 2007 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award from the University of Arizona Department of Journalism and the Arizona Newspapers Association Foundation Sept. 22.

“John Peter Zenger has been a hero of mine since I first read about him in a journalism history class — someone who dared to print the truth,” said Mitchell in his acceptance speech at the ANA’s Zenger Awards Luncheon for the 2007 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award at the Arizona Newspapers Association Luncheon Sept. 22. (Photo by Kate Harrison)

“John Peter Zenger has been a hero of mine since I first read about him in a journalism history class — someone who dared to print the truth,” said Mitchell in his acceptance speech at the ANA’s Zenger Awards Luncheon for the 2007 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award at the Arizona Newspapers Association Luncheon Sept. 22. (Photo by Kate Harrison)

Mitchell is more than deserving of the honor, said Jacqueline Sharkey, UA journalism department head, in her introductory remarks, which were printed by The New York Times, American Journalism Review, ABC’s “Nightline,” and has appeared as an expert on all the major networks, the “Lehrer News Hour,” NPR and other news media around the country. He was portrayed in the film “Ghost of Mississippi,” featured in a Leaming Channel documentary — “Civil Rights Martyrs” — and was a consultant for a Discovery Channel documentary called “Killed by the Klan.”

“Mitchell’s reporting exemplifies the idea that the role of the journalist is to tell the public the truth about our government and our society, no matter how painful that truth might be, no matter what it compels us to do as we re-examine our history,” said Sharkey. “And his work illustrates another role that journalists have: to report on issues and events in ways that compel us to think critically about our culture’s values — where they come from, what they mean, what impact they have. Mitchell’s work has contributed enormously to the national dialogue about racism in this country. At a time when the events in Jena 6 in Louisiana is near the top of the news agendas for many news media today, the need to continue to explore the attitudes and actions that result from racism in our country is painfully evident.”

Mitchell calls his nearly two decades of civil rights reporting “an amazing journey,” one he never considered abandoning despite warnings from friends and death threats from enemies. It was 1989, Mitchell said, when he started investigating a state segregation commission headed by the governor. “I ended up getting a source who leaked the secret records to me, which showed that at the same time the state was prosecuting Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 murder of NAACP leader Medgar Evers, the commission was secretly assisting Beckwith’s defense, trying to get him acquitted.”

Mitchell’s reporting on the commission was enough to get Evers’ widow, Mydite Evers-Williams, the ammunition she needed to get the case reopened. “Fourteen months after I wrote my first story, Beckwith was indicted for murder. Two years and two months later, the one-time Klansman went to prison.”

More stories, more cases, more convictions followed. Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers went to prison for life for funding the killing of Vernon Dahmer. Thomas Blanton and Bobby Frank Cherry went to prison for life for planting the bomb in a Birmingham church that killed four little girls in 1963. And earlier this year, James Ford Seale went to prison for life for his role in the beatings and the killing of 19-year-old Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore.

Mitchell said he believes the justice meted out in these cases may be offset by his reporting, but “because the cause is great and because there are many others greater than me who have taken up that cause.”

“Good journalism, he noted, will prevail if it “doesn’t wait on public opinion in order to make a difference. John Peter Zenger didn’t wait for libel laws to be changed before he printed the truth ... Edward R. Murrow didn’t wait for the Senate to police its own before challenging the claims of Joseph McCarthy.”

“As journalists,” he continued, “we must never let the public’s fascination with celebrity overwhelm our dedication to what’s important. We must never test the public’s pulse to determine what stories we should print. And we must never give in to those trying to thwart our attempts to expose the truth.”

New faculty will boost editing, photojournalism

The winner of the Freedom Forum’s National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award and an internationally known photojournalist are the two newest faculty hires in the UA journalism department.

Bruce Itule had a homecoming of sorts when he joined the faculty full time in August to teach editing. The 1969 UA journalism graduate spent most of his career at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State.

At ASU, Itule was a professor of practice and since 2005 was the Weil Professor of Journalism. He joined ASU in 1975 as an assistant professor of journalism. Itule also served as director of student media at ASU, overseeing a daily newspaper, television, a literary magazine and other publications. He is the 1998 winner of the Freedom Forum National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award.

“Professor Itule is one of the country’s most distinguished journalism educators, and has received the profession’s most prestigious teaching award,” said Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head. “He has superb ideas about ways in which to make our skills classes even more relevant in terms of preparing students to enter the nation’s newsrooms as journalists who are critical thinkers.”

Before entering academia, Itule held positions at newspapers in Arizona, Minnesota, Illinois and Colorado. He has written or co-written four textbooks, two fiction books and numerous magazine articles. He also serves as an editorial consultant with McGraw-Hill, editing content for 13 regional magazines, developing freelance writers and mentoring new editors.

His honors include a 2002 Arizona Press Club Distinguished Service Award and induction in 2004 into the Arizona Newspapers Association Hall of Fame. Itule holds a master’s in journalism and history from the University of Colorado.

Kim Newton

Kim Newton oversaw coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo, conflicts in the Middle East, in Indonesia and Russia.

“Professor Newton is an outstanding photojournalist who has covered events in Asia and Europe, and has supervised coverage of some of the major events of our time,” said Sharkey. “He also spent three years working on the cutting edge of visual technology, and will make terrific contributions to developing curricula that train students to use multiple media technologies.”

Newton earned a B.A. in 1981 from the UA and an M.S. in photography from the Brooks Institute of Photography. He teaches the introductory and advanced photojournalism courses and serves as visual adviser to the capstone publications.

Read Zenger online

Read the introductory remarks made by Jacqueline Sharkey, UA journalism department head, at the Zenger Luncheon at http://journalism.arizona.edu/news/zengerintro.php.

Read Jerry Mitchell’s acceptance speech at http://journalism.arizona.edu/news/-zengernews.php.

Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head, presents Mississippi investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell with the 2007 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award at the Arizona Newspapers Association Luncheon Sept. 22. (Photo by Kate Harrison)
A Student journalist recounts trip to Cairo

By Meredith Severino

What would two months in Cairo bring? What would I learn about the city and its people? What would I learn about myself?

One by one, the Study Cairo’s 12 students and its director, Maggy Zanger, filtered into the gate as some of us waited eight hours for the connecting flight to our final destination.

We slowly began to get to know one another and eagerly discussed our upcoming summer.

“I was excited to learn about a new aspect of journalism, something I hadn’t been able to experience studying in the States,” said Chase Gilbert, a journalism senior at the University of Arizona.

In the days that followed, we began to acculturate to our temporary home and started to get a sense of the city by walking around. Some areas, we learned, required us to dress and act more conservatively, while others felt much more like any western city.

After a few days we moved into the American University in Cairo dorms, where we found the kind of luxuries we are used to back home, like air conditioning. But with guards sitting 24 hours at entrances, very strict gender segregation policies ensured that men and women didn’t visit each other’s rooms.

Shortly after moving, we began Arabic classes. Studying the language in Cairo gave us the opportunity to learn a language where it is actually spoken.

“I love just talking to people: the people who work in the dorms, or just walking around on the street. The language barrier was so frustrating, but at least with Arabic classes I could make an effort,” said Rachel Anderson, a broadcast graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Most days after class we attended briefings to help us better understand the city we would be reporting in. We met with economists, human rights advocates, politicians, journalists, artists, non-governmental organizations and others.

The briefings allowed us to see many different aspects of the city and how it works as a community.

“Some of the briefings helped me understand the culture and politics of Cairo, but we mostly talked to people who were higher up and sometimes they don’t see things on the ground,” said Aisha Qidwae, a senior in journalism at Columbia College Chicago.

We were given the opportunity to go on numerous tours and four weekend trips. We discovered that the cliché touristy things like riding a felucca boat on the Nile and going to the Pyramids, but we also experienced things that were more off the beaten path.

It seemed that even though with each tour

Several Study Cairo participants tried riding camels while touring the pyramids in Giza. (Photos by Meredith Severino)

Many vendors, like this one in Khan el-Khalili, sold their wares on hand-pushed carts.

Several areas, we learned, required us to dress and act more conservatively, while others felt much more like any western city.

After a few days we moved into the American University in Cairo dorms, where we found the kind of luxuries we are used to back home, like air conditioning. But with guards sitting 24 hours at entrances, very strict gender segregation policies ensured that men and women didn’t visit each other’s rooms.

Shortly after moving, we began Arabic classes. Studying the language in Cairo gave us the opportunity to learn a language where it is actually spoken.

“I love just talking to people: the people who work in the dorms, or just walking around on the street. The language barrier was so frustrating, but at least with Arabic classes I could make an effort,” said Rachel Anderson, a broadcast graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Most days after class we attended briefings to help us better understand the city we would be reporting in. We met with economists, human rights advocates, politicians, journalists, artists, non-governmental organizations and others.

The briefings allowed us to see many different aspects of the city and how it works as a community.

“Some of the briefings helped me understand the culture and politics of Cairo, but we mostly talked to people who were higher up and sometimes they don’t see things on the ground,” said Aisha Qidwae, a senior in journalism at Columbia College Chicago.

We were given the opportunity to go on numerous tours and four weekend trips. We discovered that the cliché touristy things like riding a felucca boat on the Nile and going to the Pyramids, but we also experienced things that were more off the beaten path.

It seemed that even though with each tour
counts trip to Cairo

as a foreign correspondent

and briefing we learned more about the city, it also showed us how impossibly complex it was.

“We’ve seen a lot of things here, which is great, but you can’t come here for two months and think you know the city. There are so many layers to Cairo, it could take years to discover them all,” said Marium Chaudhry, a journalism and international studies graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The weekend trips gave us the chance to see more of Egypt than just Cairo. We went to Sharm el-Sheikh, Taba, Alexandria and Luxor, and each place gave us a new perspective.

“Sharm was the most exciting,” said Braulio Rodríguez, a senior in political science at the University of Arizona. “It was the greatest cultural mix I experienced in Egypt. There were people from Cairo, but also from Russia, England, Italy and the States.”

After learning about the country and culture, we began our stories. Everyone had clear ideas of stories they wanted to pursue, but reporting in a foreign country proved to be difficult work.

“The language barrier made it impossible to report without someone like a fixer or translator. If you can’t communicate with someone you can’t interview them,” said Stephanie Carter, a mass communications senior at the University of Utah.

By the end of our stay, each student had come away with a different outlook. Some already knew they wanted to return.

“I definitely want to come back. I’ve touched the surface of a completely different world than I’ve ever been exposed to. It was kind of a tease, though, because two months just isn’t enough time to get to know a city like Cairo in depth,” said Anderson, the Nebraska student.

Others found that perhaps a career that takes them so far away from what they are used to isn’t the right path.

“I came here to find out if I wanted to be an international correspondent. I think the answer is no. Maybe somewhere else, but this is too far away from home,” said Kelley Hascall, a journalism, English and art history major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I have learned that I still have much to learn. To report on a city is to know the city, and this is something that takes significant time. While I leave with a better knowledge of what life as an international reporter is like, I’ve only skinned the surface of the dedication it takes to fully relate the experience to others.

Tombstone

After wandering the streets of trying to drum up stories for one Epiphany. Wow, was that task! I remember my boyfriend, now late husband (Jeff Coombs, UA 82, died on 9/11 on Flight 11) riding his bike back and forth at varying speeds so I could get action pictures for my photojournalism class. Many great memories—great education that gave me the knowledge, experience and confidence to work for the Boston Globe.”

— Christie Schmitt Coombs ’80 Correspondent, Boston Globe and Patriot Ledger newspapers

“Staying in that Godawful apartment in Tombstone in a perpetually fruitless effort to create new insights into the World’s Largest Rosebush.”

— Victor Morales ’83 Attorney/Partner, Denver

A group shot of Study Cairo participants at Banana Island in the Nile south of Luxor includes (back row, from left) the author, Meredith Severino, UA journalism major Chase Gilbert, and UA political science major Braulio Rodríguez. (Photo courtesy of Meredith Severino)

Alexandra Harlett, a junior in magazine journalism and economics at Ohio University.

Aside from the language barrier and our limited knowledge of the layout of the city, we all soon learned that some aspects of reporting are completely different than they are in the States.

“Not knowing how the system works here made reporting difficult,” said Zoe Holmes, a senior in media and religious studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. “Back home it’s easier because you know how things work, but here you don’t even realize things are not working for a story sometimes because it is just so different.”

The challenges faced by the Cairo 12 were not just reporting related. Members of the group were frequently ill due to the local cuisine.

Getting used to food was just part of the experience, however, and helped some understand more of what life as a foreign correspondent would really be like.

“Being here I have gained a greater respect for international correspondents in general and the job they do. There are so many factors that make it more difficult to report in a foreign country,” said Stephanie Carter, a mass communications senior at the University of Utah.

The Tombstone Epitaph

Heritage biographer, PR chair for the Arizona Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Tombstone held mostly fond memories for alumni who reminisced on the department’s Web site about their UA days. This photo of (from left) Rich Mytko, Richard Thomas and Blaine Archer appeared in the Sept. 7 issue of The Tombstone Epitaph. (Photo by Krissy Sauter)
Key donations aid scholarships, technology

The Department of Journalism received some key donations this year in the areas of scholarship support, technology and printing. The Department was notified through the Tucson Citizen, giving it its commitment to the department with a $10,000 grant for curriculum development and technical support.

The revolution in digital communication technology during the past decade has complicated journalism programs around the country to take major steps to revise and update curricula. This grant from Arizona Gannett’s giving to the UA journalism department to more than $70,000.

The funding will cover travel costs for faculty to attend conferences where curriculum development is the central focus. The additional technical support enables the department to maintain the hardware and software needed to train students to use multiple media technologies.

Arizona Newspapers Association gave the journalism department $7,500 to cover printing costs of its capstone newspapers.

The donation enables students to continue producing publications that are important sources of information for real communities. The Tombstone Epitaph is the community newspaper for historic Tombstone, and El Independente is the student-produced newspaper serving South Tucson, and the only bilingual newspaper in the country that is produced by students and serves a real community on a regular basis. Both publications have provided students not only with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, but also to see the impact of their work on readers.

When E. Dean Prichard died in March, his daughter and friends wanted to help a UA journalism student who possessed some of the same qualities as the long-time reporter, editor and Western historian.

Prichard was the founding editor of the National Edition of the Tombstone Epitaph, a historic-monthly newspaper of the old West. He also taught journalism at the University of Arizona and wrote for Central Arizona College and Pima Community College.

Friends and family raised enough money for a $50,000 scholarship to award a $500 scholarship to Djamila Grossman, a UA senior who has held numerous internships, reported for the Arizona Daily Wildcat and served as the department’s Don Bolles Fellow earlier this year, covering the Arizona Legislature for Community Newspaper Service.

Prichard’s daughter Cheryl Prichard LaSota said student recipients should be risk takers, have “big ideas” and be dedicated to enterprise reporting. The family plans to award scholarships as long as funds are available to make a donation to the Dean Prichard Scholarship Fund, contact Kate Harrison at 520-626-3079 or Kate@TucsonCitizen.com.

Concerned Media Professionals is a Tucson group that seeks to enhance students’ opportunities to cover major steps to revise and update curricula.

The group has made donations to help send students to the annual California Chicano News Media Association job conference in Los Angeles. This spring, CMP awarded $3,500 to three UA journalism students.

Winners were Lauren LePage, $2,991; Gabriella Renteria-Poeo, $750 and Kelly Garady, $580. Students were selected on the strength of their writing samples, their future potential and their skills outside the classroom and their demonstration of a solid interest in pursuing careers in journalism.

The revolution in digital communication technology during the past decade has complicated journalism programs around the country to take major steps to revise and update curricula.

The funding will cover travel costs for faculty to attend conferences where curriculum development is the central focus. The additional technical support enables the department to maintain the hardware and software needed to train students to use multiple media technologies.

Arizona Newspapers Association gave the journalism department $7,500 to cover printing costs of its capstone newspapers.

The donation enables students to continue producing publications that are important sources of information for real communities. The Tombstone Epitaph is the community newspaper for historic Tombstone, and El Independente is the student-produced newspaper serving South Tucson, and the only bilingual newspaper in the country that is produced by students and serves a real community on a regular basis. Both publications have provided students not only with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, but also to see the impact of their work on readers.

When E. Dean Prichard died in March, his daughter and friends wanted to help a UA journalism student who possessed some of the same qualities as the long-time reporter, editor and Western historian.

Prichard was the founding editor of the National Edition of the Tombstone Epitaph, a historic-monthly newspaper of the old West. He also taught journalism at the University of Arizona and wrote for Central Arizona College and Pima Community College.

Friends and family raised enough money for a $50,000 scholarship to award a $500 scholarship to Djamila Grossman, a UA senior who has held numerous internships, reported for the Arizona Daily Wildcat and served as the department’s Don Bolles Fellow earlier this year, covering the Arizona Legislature for Community Newspaper Service.

Prichard’s daughter Cheryl Prichard LaSota said student recipients should be risk takers, have “big ideas” and be dedicated to enterprise reporting. The family plans to award scholarships as long as funds are available to make a donation to the Dean Prichard Scholarship Fund, contact Kate Harrison at 520-626-3079 or Kate@TucsonCitizen.com.

Concerned Media Professionals is a Tucson group that seeks to enhance students’ opportunities to cover major steps to revise and update curricula.

The group has made donations to help send students to the annual California Chicano News Media Association job conference in Los Angeles. This spring, CMP awarded $3,500 to three UA journalism students.

Winners were Lauren LePage, $2,991; Gabriella Renteria-Poeo, $750 and Kelly Garady, $580. Students were selected on the strength of their writing samples, their future potential and their skills outside the classroom and their demonstration of a solid interest in pursuing careers in journalism.

The revolution in digital communication technology during the past decade has complicated journalism programs around the country to take major steps to revise and update curricula.

The funding will cover travel costs for faculty to attend conferences where curriculum development is the central focus. The additional technical support enables the department to maintain the hardware and software needed to train students to use multiple media technologies.

Arizona Newspapers Association gave the journalism department $7,500 to cover printing costs of its capstone newspapers.

The donation enables students to continue producing publications that are important sources of information for real communities. The Tombstone Epitaph is the community newspaper for historic Tombstone, and El Indepe...
Faculty Kudos

Continued from Page 4

Susan Knight was invited to be a leadership facilitator at the Society of Professional Journalists/Ted Scripps Leadership Institute in Indianapolis in June.

Knight was recognized by the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society as an outstanding faculty member at The University of Arizona for 2006-07. The award states, “This honor represents the dedication and impact that will continue to be of influence far beyond our college experience.”


Lumsden was interviewed in May for “No Place for a Woman,” a television documentary about women World War II reporters being produced by Michele Filion. Lumsden discussed the career ofreporter Ruth Cowan, one of three World War II reporters the film profiles. The others are Collier’s magazine correspondent Martha Gellhorn and freelance photographer Dickey Chapelle. The film is expected to air on PBS in 2009. Filion also produced “Miss America,” a documentary about the beauty pageant that aired on PBS several years ago.


Jeannine Reilly won the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society Hall of Fame Award as the UA’s outstanding female faculty member of the year. The award recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated leadership, promoted high standards in the academic community and has contributed outstanding service both to students and the overall welfare of the University. Students from throughout campus are asked to nominate faculty members.

Reilly presented a paper titled “Does access to information legislation influence the level of corruption in developing countries?” on April 15 at the Western Social Science Association conference in Calgary, Alberta. Reilly also reviewed papers for the Communication Technology and Mass Communication and Society divisions for AEJMC’s 2007 conference.

Terry Wimmer wrote an op-ed piece on TV coverage of the Virginia Tech tragedy that ran in the April 29 issue of the Arizona Daily Star. Read it at http://www.azstar.net/ab/b/ pastframe/opinion/180357.

Maggy Zanger’s op-ed on her recent trip to Iraq was featured in the Aug. 26 issue of the Arizona Daily Star. Read “U.S. troops must not withdraw: Iraqi people concerned their voice won’t be heard” at http://www.azstar.net/all- headlines/198037.php. She also wrote a piece for the summer 2007 issue of Arizona Alumnus magazine titled “Uninformed in America: Media Coverage and the War in Iraq.”

Christopher Conover (adjunct faculty member) was nominated for an Emmy by the Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The nomination was for a series he did on campaigning called “Pulling Back the Curtain.” Award announcements were Oct. 6.

More than two dozen UA journalists including alum and seven adjunct faculty members were winners at the 84th Annual Arizona Press Club Awards Banquet May 12 in Phoenix. Look for them at http://journalism.arizona.edu/news/pressclub.php.

Courses offered online on secrecy, sports

Two UA journalism courses will be offered online over the winter break — a first for the department.

Sports Journalism, taught by Kevin Kemper, an assistant professor of journalism and experienced sports reporter, is believed to be the only online sports journalism course in the country. Kemper plans to have students meet and interview professional, college and high school coaches, athletes and staff as well as sports journalists.

David Cullier, an assistant professor of journalism and chair of the Department of Professional Journalists National Freedom of Information Committee, will teach Government Secrecy: Access to Information in an Age of Terror. Students will study developments in government secrecy since Sept. 11, laws balancing access to government information with privacy and national security, and how to access government records and meetings.

1965
William Jamieson, who spent most of his career in politics, now serves on the board of Pinnacle West Capitol Corp. in Phoenix. He and his family live in Asheville, N.C.

1969
Lynee Olson’s latest book tells the story of Neville Chamberlain’s downfall and Winston Churchill’s rise to power. The New York Times calls Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England “a fascinating story that Ms. Olson tells with great dash.” She has written two other books on wartime Britain with her spouse, Stanley Cloud.

1972
Ellen Hale, as vice president of corporate communications at the AP, oversaw the editing and publication of a new book, Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else. The book is the first about the AP in 67 years and features a foreword written by David Halberstam.

1975
Carol Brian wanted to share the following with The Cursor. “I have such fond memories of UA’s J dept., and of special professors, such as Don Carson and George Ridge. The J program was a great preparation for work as a newspaper reporter and later in the area of business communication. I went back to school in 2000, got a Ph.D. in English in 2006 (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) and will be teaching in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) beginning Fall 2007. Best wishes and continued success to the UA Dept. of Journalism!”

Barbara Stanley DeMichele is the chair of BJ Communications Inc. She lives in Coronado, Calif.

1976
Patricia L. Bradley-Bates is a mental health therapist practicing in Phoenix, “I still write,” says Patricia, “and have several essays and poems published in literary publications. Yes, I am working on a memoir, isn’t everyone?”

Cynthia Lancaster has been hired as the new full-time journalism faculty instructor at Pima Community College in Tucson. She will also be the faculty adviser to the PCC student newspaper, the Aztec Press.

Alumni Notes

Neal Conan, host of National Public Radio’s “Talk of the Nation,” came to campus in April for a live broadcast of his national call-in program. He also took time to talk with journalism faculty and students about news, careers and other issues. (Photo by John de Dios)
of Hispanic Journalists. They were cited for their series on undocumented workers in the home building industry. Tom now is a food writer for the Tucson Citizen.

Jeffrey Williams teaches English and ESL classes at a New York City public high school in Queens. He also has taught journalism classes to high school students in Phoenix.

2001
LaMonica Everett-Haynes has left the Tucson Citizen to become university news manager in the UA’s Office of University Communications.

Ryan Eigenbrode has been named assistant director of athletic communications at Loyola College in Maryland. Ryan had the last five years working at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. He and his spouse, Jill, live in Baltimore.

Christopher Martin is a branch sales manager at Konica Minolta. He lives in Dowers Grove, Ill.

2002
Natasha Bettellie Borneett is an attorney working in-house for a technology company in the Silicon Valley. She recently married and lives with her spouse and cat in San Francisco.

Aaron Farnsworth is finishing his master of science in photographic journalism. His thesis on Nobel Prize winners is called “Laureate Stories” and features video interviews, picture stories and environmental portraits of 20 laureates. He works in photographic journalism and videography for several magazines and has extensive freelance work in commercial photographic and video production. He lives in Chatsworth, Calif.

2003
Allison Benavidez married Matthew McCormery in April. She is working in public relations and living in Scottsdale.

Jennifer Duffy left the Arizona Daily Star to become the public relations manager for Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson.

Vanessa Cartwright Johnson graduated in May from the James E. Rogers College of Law at the UA. She works for the Child Advocacy Clinic.

Arek Sarkissian is the new public safety reporter at Bluffton (S.C.) Today.

Melanie Winderlich is a writer/editor with the communications and public affairs office at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Rachel Williamson is teaching fifth grade at a Phoenix elementary school. She married Ryan Gabrielson in June 2006.

2004
Andrea Aker has opened her own public relations firm called Aker Ink LLC in Scottsdale. She specializes in media relations, corporate copywriting and online media.

Kristina Dunham left The Explorer in Tucson to join the Tucson Citizen as a page designer.

Saul Loeb is a temporary staff photographer with Agence France Presse, assigned to the White House on a daily basis. “Since AFP is part of the travel pool, I’ve already had some trips with Bush,” writes Saul. “I’ve been getting clips all over the place, including dominant page ones in USA Today and the LA Times after the Queen’s visit . . . . Everything is online at Getty’s site, since AFP has a distribution partner with them: http://editorial.gettyimages.com.”

Christopher Wunsch is the new sports editor for Bluffton Today in Bluffton, S.C. He had been a sports reporter at The Explorer in Tucson.

2005
Brett Fera, after spending the first year or so after graduating work as a sports writer at East Valley Tribune in Mesa, has shifted to the Ahwatukee Foothills News, a sister enterprise of the Tribune that operates a collection of weeklies in Phoenix, Chandler and Maricopa. Brett was promoted in April to sports editor at AFN, and in addition to sports duties, he helps manage AFN’s Web operation at www.ahwatukee.com.

Launa Gray is a tour and artist representative with Food for the Hungry in Phoenix.

Jennifer Lum is a page designer at the Tucson Citizen.

Thuba Nguyen is living in San Diego and attending graduate school at the University of California San Diego.

Jackie Pepper is a production assistant with the NFL Network’s live show “Total Access.” She lives in Los Angeles.

Laura Rillos is a reporter/weekend anchor at KSIX, the CBS affiliate in Yuma.

2006
Allie Bell is managing editor of A Z Business Magazine in Phoenix.

Albira Citron is the communication manager for Citi Tucson, writing internal employee publications/communications and coordinating the company’s volunteer/fundraising efforts in the community.

Zach Colick is the news editor at Sun Cities (Ariz.) Independent.

Amy Labbe, who was an intern for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Tucson, has accepted a position as junior writer at MDA.

Joel Monson is attending San Francisco State University to pursue a master’s in radio/TV.

Michael Mueller is working at the Seattle Times and attending graduate school at the University of Washington.

Michael Tankenoff is an associate producer in film and television in Los Angeles.

2007
Rachel Allocato is the new sports writer at The Explorer in northwest Tucson.

Lauren Clark in on the communications and technology team at Coronado National Forest.

Laura Haas is working at a talent management company in Beverly Hills while she continues to interview at large talent agencies. Soon she hopes to be an assistant to an agent at one of the large agencies: “the first step in my dream of becoming a talent agent!”

Victoria Harben will be attending Oxford Brooks University to study publishing, with a focus on magazines and e-publishing.

Abby Hood is a senior reporter at the Beverly Hills Courier. Abby says the Courier is read by more residents in Beverly Hills than the L.A. Times. The weekly newspaper serves Beverly Hills, Bel Air and Holmby Hills. Abby covers Beverly Hills education and city government.

Jaclyn Karas is working in New York City as a publicity assistant in fashion, beauty and lifestyle for Susan Blond Inc.

Nico Nugent is moving to New York where she hopes to find a job in marketing, PR or human resources.

Tessa Strasser is working at The Explorer in Tucson.

Julie Welmore is living in Gilbert and working at Sunnibergi Arabians.

Ashley Wynn is a reporter for the arts and style section of The News, part of eight weekly papers owned by Greenspun Media. She’s living in Las Vegas.

Writing contest will honor UA’s Phil Mangelsdorf

A UA graduate who runs an online journal for freelance writers is naming a writing contest after longtime journalism professor Phil Mangelsdorf.

John Clausen ’78 launched his Web site, www.writingformoney.com, 12 years ago to help freelance writers. He’s now offering a contest for journalists who write the best lead and naming it for Mangelsdorf.

“I remember that Phil was always on us about leads,” recalls Clausen.

Mangelsdorf worked as an international correspondent for The Associated Press in pre-Castro Cuba before joining the UA journalism department in 1964. In addition to helping bring the department to national prominence, Mangelsdorf developed the UA’s community journalism program. He served as the first faculty adviser for The Tombstone Epitaph and established the graduating program while serving as head of the department from 1967 to 1973.


Documentary depicts winners of La Times Pulitzer Prize

The documentary film “Below the Fold: The Pulitzer That Defined Latino Journalism” premiered Aug 28 at a Tucson theater, featuring several of the UA graduates, a former UA professor and a former UA professor-in-residency who won the famed prize.

The 26-minute documentary tells the little-known story of how a group of young Latino journalists shocked the newspaper industry when they won a Pulitzer for their Los Angeles Times series called “Southern California’s Latino Community.” They became the first Latinos ever to win a Pulitzer.

Pulitzer Prize winners George Ramos, Virginia Escalante, Nancy Rivera Brooks, Louis Sahagun and Frank Sotomayor were on hand for the premiere of the film. Sotomayor is a 1966 graduate of the UA journalism department; Escalante is a former UA journalism professor; and Ramos taught in the department as a visiting faculty member. Photographer José Galvez, another graduate of the UA journalism department, was part of the Pulitzer team, though wasn’t on hand for the Tucson event.

The event was made possible by the Media Democracy and Policy Initiative in the College of Humanities.

Michael Downs, a 1986 graduate, returned to Tucson in March to sign copies of his acclaimed memoir House of Good Hope. Downs, formerly with the journalism department at the University of Montana, has joined the English department at Towson University in Maryland. (Photo by Kate Harrison)
S
ome stories stick with you. The one Cyndy Cole can’t forget took her to the western edge of the Navajo Nation outside of Flagstaff. She was covering a dispute between Navajos and members of the Hopi tribe over a patch of land where construction was forbidden while the Bureau of Indian Affairs sorted out the controversy.

“So I talked to this person living in a 10 x 10 hogan with a sand floor. No electricity. No running water. It’s an incredibly poor area, and here’s this woman trying to raise her kids alone because her husband killed himself the year before.”

For Hillary Davis, the “story” was a brief burble on an inside page. “I was just a week into my job,” she said, recalling the suspicious death she was asked to cover. “A man from the rez was found with severe head injuries in a dark parking lot on a rainy night. He later died. Nobody knows if this guy was murdered, not even the medical examiner. . . . But that really haunted me, as a journalist and a person. It woke me up at night. It made me cry. I still want to know more about that man.”

Joe Ferguson knew something was fishy when city officials announced last year that Flagstaff’s city manager’s departure was “an agreed-upon decision.” “Key words,” observed Ferguson, “that don’t tell people anything.” His digging led to the discovery of less-than-stellar performance evaluations and the eventual revelation that City Manager Dave Wilcox had been forced to resign.

The three very different stories have one thing in common. All were written for the Arizona Daily Sun, the community newspaper in the northern Arizona city of Flagstaff, by three recent graduates of the UA Department of Journalism.

The three alumni comprise the core of the Flagstaff paper’s news reporting team. Among them they cover cops, county, environment, business and housing. A fourth graduate, Keith Joron ’89, is the paper’s sports editor.

No one set out to turn the Sun’s newsroom into a UA alumni gathering. But a relationship has evolved over the years between Laura Clymer, the Sun’s city editor, and Susan Knight, an assistant professor of practice in the UA journalism department, which has strengthened the UA-Flagstaff connection.

Bolles fellows attract

Clymer looks for reporters who have a good command of the language, wide-ranging interests and some experience in public affairs reporting. She gets all that and more, she said, with Don Bolles fellows. The Bolles fellows is a UA student who works full time at the Capitol pressroom in Phoenix writing stories that have an impact beyond the state’s metropolitan areas. Those articles are made available — free of charge — to small newspapers around the state that wouldn’t normally send a reporter to cover the Arizona legislature. “And we figure if you can cover the Arizona Legislature, you can cover anything,” said Clymer.

Cole and Ferguson were both Bolles fellows.Supplying stories to small community newspapers proved to be good experience for covering a city like Flagstaff, said Ferguson. “I think that as a Bolles fellow, you get a taste of what rural issues are,” he said. “Understanding that up here is very important. Water, the reservation, are huge issues for certain people.”

Covering the community

Clymer for whom the job has been “a good fit.” This is partly because Clymer’s beats have an effect on the entire city of 60,000, but hasn’t dampened her enthusiasm for the job. “I like my little town and I want to learn more about it,” Davis said. “I want to know what’s important to people, whether that’s what community service projects the Girl Scouts have done or uncovering some shady government cover-up.”

Ups and downs

Cole, who joined the paper in 2005, said the job has been “a good fit.” “It’s not without its frustrations, though.”

Covering parks, the environment and Indian lands puts Cole in touch with court logs and crime reports. It has allowed her to experience the seamy side of a city of 60,000, but hasn’t dampened her enthusiasm for the job. “I like my little town and I want to learn more about it,” Davis said. “I want to know what’s important to people, whether that’s what community service projects the Girl Scouts have done or uncovering some shady government cover-up.”

The Sun was honored by the Arizona Press Club last year with a first place finish in project reporting for its “Edge of the Rez revisited” series. Associated Press Managing Editors also honored Sun staffers for the series and for breaking news reporting covering the Woody Fire.

Winners lauded at annual Just Desserts event

Dozens of awards and scholarships were presented to journalism students May 2 at the department’s annual Just Desserts celebration. A highlight of the event, held for the first time at the Hall of Champions at McKale Center, was a gift to the department from the founding members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, who formed a chapter at the UA this spring.

Department head Jacqueline Sharkey also presented the first Donald N. Soldwedel Award for Service to Journalism to John de Dios, a 2005 graduate of the department who has served as a lab attendant, layout and design adviser for students and a liaison with the Student Advisory Council. The award is named for Don Soldwedel, a longtime, generous supporter of the department.

Maggy Zanger, an associate professor of practice and faculty adviser to El Independiente, won the Hugh and Jan Harrold Award for Excellence in Teaching. Other top award winners were Djamila Grossman, Philip Mangelsdorf Award for Outstanding Newpaper; Jeanie Bergoff, Sherman Miller Award for Outstanding Senator; and Lauren LePage, B.P. Campbell Award for Outstanding Junior.

For a complete list of winners, see http://journalism.arizona.edu/just-dessertsawards07.php.

Three UA journalism graduates comprise the core of the news staff at the Arizona Daily Sun in Flagstaff, Ariz. Among them, the former UA student journalists cover cops, business, government and the environment. From left are staffers Cyndy Cole, Joe Ferguson and Hillary Davis. (Photo by Laura Clymer)

I was surprised how many people know you. I’ve been here a year and they know me when I walk through the door. I was picking up a pair of shoes and ran into the mayor.”

Davis, who covers cops, has in her first year with the paper been on ride-alongs with police and the SWAT team and become well-acquainted with court logs and crime reports. It has allowed her to experience the seamy side of a city of 60,000, but hasn’t dampened her enthusiasm for the job.

“I like my little town and I want to learn more about it,” Davis said. “I want to know what’s important to people, whether that’s what community service projects the Girl Scouts have done or uncovering some shady government cover-up.”

“Sometimes the workload means finding different ways to cover stories,” said Ferguson. “I don’t like being chained to my computer. That’s not where the people I need to talk to are sitting. So, you learn to do stuff better on the phone.”

Practice what’s preached

Davis said her UA journalism classes — specifically RPA and Jour 206 — have informed her reporting.

“I learned to always be careful with my language when writing about people who have been accused of crimes,” she said. “Even though I usually get to see enough evidence in advance that I can form an educated personal opinion about guilt or innocence, I can never let that get into a story. You always have to give suspects the benefit of the doubt. Their cases can’t be tried in the paper.”

Cole, who switched to journalism from an English major, said much of what she learned at the UA helped reinforce her career choice.

“The value of the UA is you are talking to professors who have been reporters,” said Cole. “You get the ethics. You know not to eat the free lunch.”

“What bumper sticker is on my car?” she continued. “None. Those things — (writing) the nut graf — aren’t taught at every school.”

Professor Bill Greer, who is on leave from the department for the 2007-08 academic year, accepts a parting gift for his work with The Tombstone Epitaph from Valerie Patel, a graduating senior. (Photo by John de Dios)