As journalism industry changes, curriculum is adapting with it

Think writing a strong lede or an error-free, multi-sourced story is enough to land a top reporting job? These skills will help, but in today’s competitive job market, graduates better also know how to produce work with audio, slide shows and video.

Faculty in the journalism department began exploring ways to weave multimedia practices into courses across the journalism curriculum several years ago. UA journalism multimedia was set in motion with Professor Jay Rochlin’s development of a capstone class to produce the online publication The Cat Scan. The class was so successful that a second online publication (Border Beat) was added. Faculty became eager to introduce multimedia earlier in the curriculum, not just as the final class only some students would take. Initial efforts to add multimedia grew out of individual faculty interests until one professor saw the opportunity to start teaching visual news skills more broadly in beginning news writing classes. It starts with ‘A Day’

With most of the Journalism 205 instructors agreeing to participate, the classes partnered with the UA Dean of Students Office to produce a publication called “One Day at the UA.” Journalism 205 students fanned out across campus with disposable cameras and reporter’s notebooks to produce an insert for the Arizona Daily Wildcat that captured the campus’ people, places and activities.

“One Day was the seed for introducing visual journalism into the beginning news classes with no added costs for the department,” says Susan Knight, an assistant professor of practice and director of undergraduate studies, who coordinates curriculum for the department. Knight worked with instructors to extend 205’s traditional concepts of newsgathering, accuracy, comprehensiveness, depth and storytelling to visual journalism reporting and presentation.

“We were able to teach visual storytelling without new equipment or new software, and without any production costs,” she says.

“The project, admittedly, was very low-tech, and we’ve grown beyond that now. But it was

Braceros, mobsters among stories covered by New York Times Journalism Institute

Twenty journalism students from around the country covered crime, the border and other news in southern Arizona as part of an intensive training program Jan. 2-12 at The University of Arizona Department of Journalism.

The New York Times and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists co-sponsor The New York Times Student Journalism Institute. The institute is modeled on a program that The Times established for students in conjunction with the Black College Communications Association and the National Association of Black Journalists, held at Dillard University in New Orleans.

The institute’s editors helped students with their stories before they were posted on the institute’s Web site. The best pieces were printed in a newspaper produced at the end of the institute. One student’s article on the funeral of mobster Salvatore (Bill) Bonanno appeared in the Jan. 8 online edition of The New York Times. It also ran in The Times’ national print edition.

Students and the journalism professionals they worked with arrived in Tucson Jan. 2 and started getting acquainted with the city and its stories. The institute’s Web site featured stories on a history project to preserve the voices of bracero workers, water use in a growing Arizona city, as well as blogs, podcasts and streaming video.

At the institute’s closing banquet Jan. 12, director Don Hecker, an editor at The New York Times, downplayed his role in guiding the student journalists through the intensive 10-day journalism boot camp.

“All I do is get 20 really smart people in a room, lock the door and take credit for what you do,” he told the students.
Department mourns passing of friend, philanthropist and publisher Soldwedel

By Kate Harrison

The journalism department lost a good friend Feb. 20 with the death of Donald N. Soldwedel, a pioneering Arizona newspaperman and community supporter.

“The university — in fact, the entire state of Arizona — lost a great friend when Don died,” said Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head, who has known Soldwedel since 1995. “Don not only supported this university, but he also was a philanthropist in the truest sense of the word. He supported civic organizations, academia, community and — all things that vastly improved the lives of those he touched.”

The Soldwedel family owns a multimedia company whose holdings include three daily newspapers, 12 non-dailies, radio stations, specialty publications and printing plants, among others.

He chaired the department’s Journalism Advisory Council, a group of alumni and friends that was formed when the department was slated for closure in the mid-’90s, but now focuses on fund raising. Soldwedel maintained an office in the journalism department, said Sharkey, and provided leadership during a time when enrollment doubled and the number of full-time faculty tripled.

“For more than 20 years, Don was the department’s staunchest ally,” recalled Sharkey. “He helped lead the department through so many battles — for space, for resources, even for data ports in the new building.”

Soldwedel funded the Soldwedel Professorship in Journalism, an honor that rotates among the faculty every three years. He also had strong ties to the UA Alumni Association, the UA Foundation, the Eller College, University Medical Center, and the Parkinson’s Research Initiative at the College of Medicine.

Soldwedel is a native of Pekin, Ill., where he met his spouse, Luda, while working for her father’s newspaper. They eventually came to the UA, where Soldwedel completed his degree. He worked as a manager at the UA Student Union before joining his father-in-law’s newspaper business in Yuma. It marked the beginning of Soldwedel’s long and successful career in publishing.

Outside of his professional and UA involvement, Soldwedel has heavily invested in the communities in which he lived and worked. He was the founding member of the Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Arizona Western College and the Yuma Community Foundation. He even helped convince the San Diego Padres to hold spring training in Yuma.

In the Marshall Building, which the journalism department has called home since 2004, Soldwedel occupied a corner office and could be spotted several times a month pushing his walker down hallways to visit with faculty and staff, pop a frozen entree into the break room’s microwave or type out a memo on an old IBM Selectric.

“He was one of the most interesting people I ever met and always had a great story to tell,” recalled Paul Johnson, senior academic adviser. “The halls — and our lives — are emptier now that he is gone.”

Jan Harelson, who chairs the department’s Journalism Advisory Council, was one of the last people to meet with Soldwedel — lunching with him just hours before his fatal stroke. She agreed to serve as chair of the council last year when Soldwedel’s health began to worsen.

“We were laughing and talking like the old friends we were when I accused him of “sticking me with this job,” and he said it was only fair because Hugh (Harelson’s late husband) had agreed to chair the Advisory Council… and when he learned I was fighting cancer he had to ask Don to take over for him. So Don said it was only fair that he put it back on a Harelson.”

As memorable as that conversation was, Harelson recalls just as vividly Soldwedel’s compassion after Hugh Harelson’s death in 1998.

“He came to Phoenix a few weeks after Hugh died and literally talked me through my choices of how we could establish a memorial for Hugh in the journalism department. Needless to say, I was still a weepy, aching mess. “Don, with his usual gentle and gentlemanly ways, enumerated the needs of the department, and I shared the directions that I knew Hugh had in mind. Together we created the Harelson Computer Lab. I stuck on the teaching award (an award named for the Harelsons and given annually for teaching excellence) because I knew what the faculty had endured through the tough years and knew that they were talented, inventive people. As a retired teacher myself, I knew they needed a boost.”

Family and friends of Soldwedel’s have donated more than $7,000 to the department in his memory. Those donations — and the generosity of Soldwedel and his family — will have a lasting impact on the department, notes Sharkey.

Less tangible, but no less important, is the impact he had on all who knew him, say colleagues.

“Don was a gracious, eloquent and truly respected gentleman,” said Richard Holden, executive director of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and a fellow member of the Journalism Advisory Council.

“It was my pleasure to know him, and I have the journalism department to thank for that. He will be missed.”

Program fee helps curb technology costs

By Kate Harrison

The Arizona Board of Regents approved a first-ever program fee for journalism students in December, part of an effort by the department to keep up with spiraling instructional technology costs.

The Journalism Student Advisory Council, which is made up of students, tasked Soldwedel in asking regents to approve the fee. The provost takes an annual decision that journalism students incurr the most effective professional education and training possible. Members of the Advisory Council agreed to chair the Advisory Council.

JSAC hopes the department will use the fee to refresh instructional hardware and software as often as it should to ensure that students receive the most effective professional education and training possible.

Junior and senior journalism majors who pay the program fee will not have to pay course fees. Sophomores will be exempted from having to pay the program fee, but will continue to pay course fees. Fifteen percent of the program fee will be set aside for financial aid for journalism students who need help paying the fee. The provost takes another 10 percent of fee revenues. The department receives the remaining 75 percent.

The program fee revenues that the department will obtain will not pay for all technology costs, “but it certainly will provide much more assistance,” notes Sharkey.

Course fees generate between $36,000 and $40,000 per year, while the program fee will generate about $74,000 per year. However, the total cost to update all computer labs and seminar facilities over the next two years would average more than $110,000 per year, says Sharkey. This does not include the cost of additional technical staff, which ISAC hopes the department will hire with program fee funds.

The new program fee will provide funds for technology upgrades in places like the student reading room, where computers get a lot of use from students such as Claire Engelken. (Photo by Kate Harrison)
The University of Arizona Department of Journalism has revamped its graduate program with a significant boost to the students’ résumés. After graduation, Echávarri joined the city desk of the Tucson Citizen. LePage is interning this summer as a copy editor at The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, Calif. She’ll be back on campus this fall, when she takes over as editor-in-chief of the Arizona Daily Wildcat. Vasquez has a summer internship at the Citizen and will work as an apprentice at the Arizona Daily Star this fall. She is the incoming president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. UA chapter and took part in the Unity Student Convergence Projects conference July 20-27 in Chicago.

At Unity, Vasquez was part of the team in charge of producing multimedia packages about U.S. Sen. John McCain’s presidential campaign, working with a photojournalist and multimedia producer from The Associated Press, and another student member of Unity. After a summer internship with The New York Times, Olivarez-Giles will join the Los Angeles Metro program that begins in the fall. Metro is a two-year diversity program designed to help beginning journalists launch careers with newspapers owned by the Tribune Co.

Olivarez-Giles believes the multimedia internship with The New York Times wouldn’t have been possible for him without his participation in the Student Journalism Institute. “If it wasn’t for the institute, I wouldn’t have known the internship I’m in now even existed,” says Olivarez-Giles, who is the first James Reprint fellow assigned to the Times video unit.

The institute also enabled the west Phoenix native to encounter a few familiar faces when he landed in New York. “I didn’t walk into one of the biggest newsrooms anonymously. Knowing people makes a place feel smaller, and it’s always nice to know people around you want you to do well and are there rooting you on.”

In a profile on Olivarez-Giles published in the institute’s newspaper, he said an article in a Phoenix newspaper changed his perspective on the news and ultimately led him to The University of Arizona’s journalism department. While he wrote for the Arizona Daily Wildcat and the Arizona Daily Star, he co-founded the UA student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and served as a counselor in 2007 for the Journalism Diversity Workshop for Arizona High School Students. But for the journalism and Mexican-American Studies double-major, who graduated in May, The Times Institute has clearly been the highlight of his UA student career. “I really can’t say enough about the institute and the impact it has had on me, the work I do and my future. One thing that is hard to quantify is the level of coolness of seeing your work with The New York Times’ name on it. (Participating) at the institute, while still in college, it’s one of the biggest thrills any journalism nerd can have. “Sometimes it feels like I’m spending the summer playing with the New York Yankees and the best part is, I feel like I can keep up, and I can feel myself growing as a journalist and a person here.”

Fernanda Echávarri and Nathan Olivarez-Giles check the finished product of students participating in The New York Times Student Journalism Institute held in January in the journalism department. Olivarez-Giles is taking part in a multimedia internship in The Times’ video unit this summer; Echávarri landed a reporting job at The Daily Wildcat. (Photo by John de Dios)
New professor to focus on communication with visual, international perspective

Shahira Fahmy joins the UA in August as an associate professor in the Department of Journalism. She has a joint appointment in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She comes to the UA from Southern Illinois University, where she taught courses on international and comparative media issues, research methods and multimedia publication design. She earned her Ph.D. in 2003 from the Missouri School of Journalism.

Fahmy spent five years working in the news and broadcast industries in Egypt and Italy before obtaining her doctoral studies. She has traveled to more than 20 countries and is fluent in four languages, skills that enabled Fahmy to conduct surveys worldwide and to conduct surveys of audiences of Al Jazeera in 67 countries. Her research interests primarily focus on visual communication with an international perspective, as well as new media management, gatekeeping, agenda building and media performance during wartime.

“I am delighted to be joining The University of Arizona and am very excited about the opportunities the journalism department has to offer,” says Fahmy.

Fahmy has published more than a dozen articles in top refereed journals. Her work has appeared in journals such as Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, Mass Communication & Society, International Communication Gazette, Visual Communication Quarterly and Newspaper Research Journal.

Fahmy is currently the research co-chair for the Mass Communication and Society Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. She is a manuscript reviewer for five scholarly journals and is on the editorial board of Mass Communication & Society, Visual Communication Quarterly and the upcoming journal Media, War & Conflict.

Fahmy earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at American University in Cairo. At the UA she will teach Directions in News Technology, a course about integrating design and content to build Web pages and classes in the international journalism program.

Fahmy says her goals are to work closely with the graduate students and colleagues “in a school that plans to be a leader in the field of journalism research and practice,” and to continue publishing and pursuing a varied research agenda.

Faculty Kudos

At the 2007 Society of Professional Journalists national conference in Washington, D.C., David Cuillier was appointed chairman of the group’s national Freedom of Information Committee, after serv- ing the past year as co-chair. Also during the conference, Cuillier discussed freedom of information and strategies for accessing public records on a panel about investigative reporting and national security.

Susan Knight and several members of the UA’s student SPJ chapter also attended the conference.

Cuillier provided training in ac- cessing government records on behalf of SPJ to journalists in Moscow, Idaho, and to citizen journalists in Los Angeles. Cuillier also trained 36 journalists in St. Petersburg, Fla., on freedom of information.

Cuillier has been appointed to the board of the First Amendment Coalition of Arizona and also has been named the SPJ Sunshine Chair for Arizona. In both roles, he will negotiate and assist citizens and journalists who have questions or difficulties accessing public records and meetings.

Cuillier was one of five finalists for The University of Arizona Five Star Faculty Award, a university teaching award in which faculty members are nominated and the winner selected by students. The award, which is sponsored by the Honors College and is based on student observations, interviews, course syllabi and instructor materials, was presented to Jeannine Relly for excellence in 2007.

The Society of Environmental Journalists’ 2008 award article for Sunshine Week that ran in the East Valley/Scottsdale Tribune.

Shahira Fahmy, who will join the faculty in August, had her re- search cited in the 2008 State of the News Media report, produced by the Project for Excellence in Journalism. The report discussed Fahmy’s survey of 245 online journalists on the most critical skills needed in their jobs.

At the International Communi- cation Association Conference in Montreal, Celeste González de Bustamante presented a paper titled, “The First Television Diplomacy: Changing Political Frameworks” at the same conference.

González de Busta- mante participated on a panel held on campus on the “Absence of Latinos in Jour- nalism.” Her talk, “Stu- dies, Sciences and Crises: The Absence of Latinos and Minorities in Journal- ism,” focused on the lack of diver- sity in media ownership and news- room, and how this influences news content and society. The panel was part of a symposium honoring journalist Roberto Robles, who was killed on Aug. 29, 1970, while covering a Chicano anti-war demonstration in East Los Ange- les. González de Bustamante also was interviewed for Latino- Ville Radio (KVIB-FM) in Phoenix about Latinos and minorities working in the news media.

González de Bustamante participated as an invited panelist on the roundtable “Revisiting Mexican History through Global and Transnational Lenses,” at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 55th annual conference in Flagstaff. Her talk was titled, “Mexican, Television Diplomacy, and the Cold War.”

Adjunct instructor Glenn Weyant chaired a panel at the same confer- ence on “Borders, Fences, and Im- migration Policies.” Weyant also presented his internationally rec- ognized work with The Anta Proj- ect (www.sonicanita.com), a sound collage of musical performances along the U.S.-Mexico border.

González de Bustamante re- ceived a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society, which will use to conduct research in Mexico this sum- mer for a book on the history of television. She also has been invited to visit the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as a Hearst Foundation Scholar.

González de Bustamante pre- sented a paper titled “Television Mexican Femininity: Shaping and Shapely Identity in the 1950s” at the annual American Historical Association conference in Wash- ington, D.C. The paper was part of a panel she organized for the Con- ference on Latin American Histor- y. The session was titled, “Imag- ining Mexican Feminism in the Twentieth Century.”

Bruce D. Itule spoke about “Avoiding Pitfalls of Plagiarism and Copyright on the Internet” at an Arizona Press Women meeting in Payson.

Kevin R. Kemper won the Hugh and Jan Hareholen Excellence in Teaching Award at the depart- ment’s annual Just Desserts cere- mony. The winner is selected from student nominations.

Kemper led a seminar on multi-media journalism while looking at legal, ethical and financial impli- cations. The hands-on online workshop was sponsored by the Arizona Newspapers Association.

Kemper was interviewed by KGUN-9 News about a proposed policy by the Tucson Unified School District that would require reporters to submit all questions and requests for interviews in writ- ing. He participated in a “Writing Across the Media” workshop at the Ira Newkirk at the Universi- ty of South Carolina. The work- shop was part of a broader confer- ence, “Convergence and Society: Media Ownership, Control, and Consolidation,” where he presented a research paper.

Susan Knight won the 2007- 08 College of Social and Behav- ioral Sciences Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was honored at a luncheon and a special ceremony before receiving the teaching award at the SBS Com- munication Recognition Cer- emony.

The National Association of College and University Residence Halls recognized Knight as a UA Faculty Fellow. The award cited her impact on the residents of Gila Hall, with whom she works weekly.

Knight and Jeannine Relly were honored as outstanding faculty members by the UA Mortor Board Senior Honor Society.

Linda Lumsden won a $3,000 summer grant from the SBS Re- search Institute for her project “COMRADES: Visions and Values of the American Radical Press, 1900-1920.” She also won a Facul- ty Small Grants Award of $3,680 from The University of Arizona Foundation for the same project. Lumsden received $2,000 SBSRI Small Grant to conduct re- search at New York University. She is reading The Cull and other socialist newspapers as part of her work on the radical period.

Lumsden’s article “Down the Tubes: John Millholland and New York City’s Pneumatic Mail Tube System” appeared in the spring issue of New York Archives maga- zine. Lumsden published a review of Art in Crisis: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Struggle for African Ameri- can Identity and Memory by Amy Helene Kirschke on H-NET, the online historians discussion group.

Lumsden presented a lecture and slide exhibit, “Women’s Life-Hab No Soul:1” Mortar Board including the Black Press’s Coverage of the Women’s Liberation Movement, 1968- 1973,” as part of the UA Women’s Studies Brown Bag Series. She presented a paper at the American Journalism Historians Association convention in Richmond, Va., on the same topic. And at that confer- ence, Lumsden won the Maurice Beasley Award for Outstanding Paper in Women’s History for the third consecutive year. She also was named one of the first four re- Continued, Page 5
Faculty Kudos

continued from page 4

Summer brings staff changes

Law school, retirement and career moves have brought about a number of changes in the journalism department's staff.

Paul Johnson, senior academic adviser, will retire this year after more than 11 years with the department. Johnson, who spent 55 years as a writer in the newspaper, advertising and public relations fields, joined the journalism department in 1997 as an adjunct instructor.

He was one of the most popular adjuncts in the department until Jacqueline Sharkey, department head, tapped him for a newly created academic adviser position.

For a time, he was the only adviser for more than 600 students who were majoring in journalism. Despite that workload, says Sharkey, he knew every student by name, and was continually thinking about their objectives and challenges as they pursued their undergraduate degrees.

"I receive constant feedback from students about how well advising works, how concerned Mr. Johnson is about each student who seeks his advice and how open he is to helping students find solutions to difficult problems," says Sharkey.

Also leaving the department is Michael Teame, academic adviser. Teame had split advising duties with Johnson and led the effort to streamline registration by moving to an online system. Teame, who joined journalism in 2006, will pursue a low degree at the University of Notre Dame.

Matt Helms was a support systems analyst for the department. After earning his MBA in May, he departed for a position in the private sector.

Joining the staff this spring were Heidi Hopkins and Michael McKisson. Hopkins, who earned his journalism degree in May, is an instructional technology support staffer. He has worked with the Arizona Daily Star producing content for its Web site and is a two-time winner of the department's online journalism award. He will help develop Web sites for capstone classes, Arizona News Service and provide multimedia support for other journalism courses.

Professor, student take top awards at AEJMC

An assistant professor and a May 2008 graduate of the University of Arizona Department of Journalism will be among the top research paper and news story, respectively, by the fields' key professional association.

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication will give the top faculty research paper award for the 2008 convention to David Cuillier at its national conference Aug. 5-9 in Chicago.

Cuillier wrote about a study he conducted that reminds of one's own mortality causes journalism students to see moral issues in more black-and-white terms and to view journalism ethics breaches more harshly.

Cuillier, who joined the journalism faculty in 2007, was also chosen to make a Great Idea for Teaching presentation based on a role-playing simulation he uses to teach the importance of transparency regarding government information in his Reporting Public Affairs class. This is his fourth GIFT presentation at AEJMC.

At last year's AEJMC conference, Cuillier won the award for the top dissertation in the country.

A former journalism student at Arizona, Cuillier also was appointed associate professor of journalism and director of graduate studies in the department.

Cuillier's award-winning paper and news story, which was shown during the conference, Cuillier won the award for the top dissertation in the country.

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JOURNALISM STUDENTS LEARN, LEAD AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SPJ-UA CHAPTER SPONSORS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

About 150 journalists and journalism students attended The University of Arizona April 11-12 for the Society of Professional Journalists Region 11 conference.

The UA’s student chapter of SPJ was host for the event, a daunting task for a student chapter, notes its adviser Susan Knight, an assistant professor of practice. Sessions were offered on topics including public records access, covering the environment and the future of the journalism industry.

The Region 11 conference also featured two multimedia boot camps led by a UA adjunct instructor in the journalism department. The sessions enabled students and professional journalists to develop skills in writing, composition, lighting, editing and creating video.

Student attendees at the conference were able to have their writing critiqued and tapes evaluated in one-on-one sessions with veteran journalists from KPNX-TV in Phoenix and the Orange County Register. A luncheon featured award-winning editorial cartoonist and stand-up comedian Dave Fitzsimmons of the Arizona Daily Star.

Participants from five states attended the conference, which opened with a reception in the nationally renowned Center for Creative Photography on campus.

TWO BOLLES FELLOWS COVERED LEGISLATURE

University of Arizona journalism students Nicole Santa Cruz and Michael Rich spent the spring semester covering the Arizona Legislature as the 2008 Don Bolles fellows.

The annual fellowship is part of Community News Service, a major public service project sponsored by the department. The service provides weekly legislative news aimed at readers of the state’s rural and suburban newspapers.

Each Bolles fellow is a UA journalism major dedicated to a career in news; he or she is selected to receive a stipend and work in Phoenix during the spring legislative session.

Santa Cruz spent the fall 2007 semester as a metro apprentice at the Arizona Daily Star, where she focused on education reporting. She was editor-in-chief of the Arizona Daily Wildcat for two semesters and a summer and is the former president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists UA student chapter.

Rich was a feature editor and reporter for the Mesa Community College newspaper for two semesters and a summer. She was editor-in-chief of the Mesa Community College newspaper for two semesters and a summer and is the former president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists UA student chapter.

The Community News Service evolved into annual legislative expansions of Community News Service.

Nicole Santa Cruz and Michael Rich spent the spring semester covering the Arizona Legislature as the 2008 Don Bolles fellows.

Community News Service and the Arizona Daily Wildcat — the UA student newspaper — share costs for the fellows to work out of the Capitol pressroom. The fellows also produce stories for the Wildcat during the semester.

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Rich was a feature editor and reporter for the Mesa Community College newspaper for a year. A Casa Grande resident, she has completed internships at Fox Ten and 10xmedia, and was a reporting apprentice with the Arizona Daily Star in fall 2007.

This fall the department also will offer a News Analysis course, to be taught by Iule, that lays the groundwork for a planned expansion of Community News Service.

This new course proposes expanding Community News Service to a year-round service named Arizona News Service that would create and distribute excellent journalism for media throughout Arizona.

The goal for students in the course is to report, write and get published a long-form piece of journalism. The story, says Iule, could be an investigative piece, a feature or an in-depth sports story.

The University of Arizona Department of Journalism has become home to the nation’s second student chapter of the Native American Journalists Association.

According to its Web site, the Native American Journalists Association “serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich journalism and promote Native cultures.” The group has headquarters on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman.

Thirteen undergraduate and graduate students representing several majors and five different tribes have signed on to join the UA group. A private donor is covering the cost of membership dues and the academic institutional membership. Jeanine Relly, an assistant professor of practice, shares advising duties with Leo Killsback, a doctoral student in American Indian Studies.

UA students began meeting shortly after the fall 2007 semester began to discuss forming a chapter. Candace Begody, a member of the Navajo Nation and a journalism major, was a driving force behind the chapter’s formation.

Begody, who has a minor in American Indian Studies, says she wanted to start a chapter after returning from a summer workshop at the American Indian Journalism Institute and an internship at the Missoulian, the daily newspaper in Missoula, Mont.

“There are a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions about Native Americans,” says Begody. She hopes the student chapter will create and publish a news magazine that covers the nations in Arizona, a state with 22 tribes, of which 21 are federally recognized.

The journalism department has 11 majors and pre-majors who have self-identified as Native American.

The NAJA chapter is one of four active student groups in the journalism department. In January 2007 students launched a campus chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. The UA chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists holds workshops on such issues as diversity and the Freedom of Information Act and has twice earned recognition as the top chapter.
LEAD IN AND OUT OF CLASSROOM

INTERNSHIPS, CONTESTS LURE UA STUDENTS THIS SUMMER

UA journalism students can be found this summer on both coasts as well as in middle America, taking part in contests, workshops and competitive internships.

Renee Pepe, Melissa Tan and Roxana Vasquez were accepted to the Unity Student Convergence Projects conference July 20-27 in Chicago. Pepe worked on the copy desk editing for Web and print publications. Tan and Vasquez worked on the photo desk. The Unity Student Projects produced three newspapers and an online broadcast and radio component. This was Unity’s first converged newsroom, where 76 professionals worked with more than 90 college students from across the country.

The Journalism Student Advisory Council launched the Press Cats Shadows Program this spring to foster student interest and encourage outreach in journalistic fields. The program enabled students to shadow professionals on the job for one or two days last spring. Junior Hank Stephenson spent two afternoons with Jimmy Boegle, editor-in-chief of the Tucson Weekly. Stephenson said he spent most of his time helping with copy editing, but he also toured the building and observed Boegle deciding on the placement of stories.

“Maybe the highlights were the people I met and getting to see the newsroom on the closing day of the weekly cycle and the day after the paper went to press. There’s nothing like getting some real-world experience.” Stephenson, a Phoenix native, took part in the program to learn more about what an editor does. Junior Matt Lewis wants to become an editorial writer, so he shadowed Jane See White, who works on the editorial page of the Arizona Daily Star.

“I helped her edit an article and sat in on an editorial board meeting,” said the 20-year-old Chandler resident. “It was very helpful. It definitely was a glimpse of the career I might be interested in.”

Two journalism majors were members of the UA women’s swim team that won the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship this spring. Annie Chandler (red sunglasses) and Taylor Baughman (brown sunglasses) both contributed to several relay wins and performed well in individual events, such as breaststroke and freestyle. Here, they are part of a welcome-back ceremony at McKale Center March 23. (Photo courtesy UA Sports Information)

COUNCIL LAUNCHES PRESS CATS PROGRAM

JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION’S SECOND CHAPTER

The Journalism Student Advisory Council works closely with the department head on issues and concerns important to students.

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“I helped her edit an article and sat in on an editorial board meeting,” said the 20-year-old Chandler resident. “It was very helpful. It definitely was a glimpse of the career I might be interested in.”
Friends, family help Harelson lab endowment

New Year’s Day marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Hugh Harelson, a 1952 graduate of the journalism department and former editor of Arizona Highways magazine. His spouse, Jan, didn’t want the anniversary to go unnoticed. So the chair of the department’s Journalism Advisory Council contacted friends and family members who made donations a decade ago to the computer lab that bears his name.

She asked them if they’d like to make another donation to the endowment that provides funds for computers and software to keep the lab running. Since it was built, the lab has helped educate about 3,000 students, featuring 20 workstations and a visual projection system that enables instructors to display Web pages, student work, articles from newspapers and magazines online and sites, Harelson’s request has brought in more than $10,000 to the Hugh Harelson Reporting Lab Endowment.

“Because of the Harelson generosity and commitment to Hugh’s legacy, the department can boast of a first-rate reporting and editing lab,” says Jacqueline Sharkey, department head.

“This endowment will ensure that the lab will always provide students with a first-rate journalism education. We are very grateful to the Harelson family.”

Multimedia skills essential for new journalists

Continued from Page 1

Professor Jay Rochlin teaches The Cat Scan, which was the department’s first online journalism class. (Photo by Stephanie Corrieri)

Students participated from four classes: Border Beat (taught by Jay Rochlin), Arizona Cat’s Eye (Celine Gonzalez de Bustamante), El Independiente (Maggie Zanger) and Reporting Public Affairs (Susan Knight). Their stories on Mexican-American history, legal border crosses, pharmacies, reporting undocumented immigrant deaths and other border topics were explored in print, audio, video and slide shows.

But it was the 205 project that convinced many of the faculty that multimedia could be taught in a beginning journalism classroom. After watching the student story on what happens to an undocumented immigrant in the United States, many of the faculty agreed teaching multimedia in beginning classes could — and should — be done.

Setting the stage

The 205 project, Knight observes, set the stage for layering the entire UA journalism curriculum with multimedia concepts and practice.

For example:

■ In Journalism 206, instructors are using multimedia stories alongside text stories to teach excellence in comprehensive reporting, storytelling, depth interviewing and other advanced reporting instruction.

■ In Journalism 205, 206, Features and Reporting Public Affairs, which were once largely print classes, instructors are increasingly finding opportunities to teach when audio, still photos, animation, mapping and video move a story forward in a Web presentation. One Features instructor is having students produce at least one story in a multimedia format.

■ All RPA instructors have added multimedia assignments. One professor asks students to produce audio podcasts of stories. Another has students pitching multimedia presentations for every story idea they write.

■ Newton plans to evolve the curriculum in Journalism 203 from traditional photojournalism to a visual journalism curriculum that incorporates multimedia. He will still emphasize instruction in core photography techniques, such as composition and perspective, but he also plans to have students combine still photos with audio and provide basic instruction in multimedia software technology.

■ In the apprenticeship class — a partnership with the department and the Arizona Daily Star — students have begun to team up on stories such as a front-page feature this spring on students buying drugs at pharmacies in Mexico with companion multimedia pieces on the Star’s Web site.

Get the boot

Last fall, student leaders from the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists proposed offering a video boot camp for student journalists. In a marathon, 14-hour day, an adjunct instructor taught students composition, lighting, writing, editing, shooting and producing a news package. All of the students were able to report and tape enough for a brief news story, and four were able to put together a completed package, one for publication online.

The boot camp concept was so popular that several more were held. Several faculty members have since gone through the boot camp, and two sessions were held in conjunction with the Society for Professional Journalists Region 11 conference. The student chapter of SPJ were hosts for the April event.

“Multimedia is not the latest fad in journalism,” Knight says. “It’s logical and necessary for journalists in this day and age. Every journalist should be able to think through the options for the best way to tell a story, whether in print, graphics, photos, video or sound, or some combination of these.

“Students know, even better than those of us who came of age with stratified media, that while you can write a story about an award-winning auctioneer, you can tell the same story much better by attaching a sound clip,” she says.

“No one does one type of media anymore. The question, ‘Are you print or broadcast?’ is becoming obsolete. We tell students they might want to specialize, but they need to know how to do it all in this market,” she adds.

The journalism faculty last year voted unanimously to add a new required course to the curriculum focusing on multimedia. They agree the class should be taught early in a student’s coursework, most likely with Journalism 206.
Her heart’s in San Francisco

Environmental reporter stays ‘passionate’

By Melissa Krueger

The Cat Scan

When Jane Kay was reporting on child labor in the Arizona desert, few could predict how her stories on pesticides would evolve over the decades.

Now as an environmental reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, Kay hasn’t stopped at just pesticides. She’s seen polar bears in the Arctic, written a series on ricin in water in Tucson and watched the science of global warming change drastically over the years.

“It’s always new,” Kay said. “There are always new stories to write.”

Kay began her journalistic journey after she graduated from the journalism department at The University of Arizona. After spending some time in Boston, she found herself back in Tucson, as a features reporter at the Arizona Daily Star in the late 1960s. It was the story about child labor in El Miraz, Ariz., that sparked her interest in the environment.

“I was doing a story on children, they were 8 years old or so,” Kay recalled, “and they were tying green onions in the fields and that’s when I started thinking about the pesticides overhead and the crop dusters and the barrels of chemicals.”

Soon after that story, she asked her editors at the Star if she could create an environmental beat. At first she reported “quite intensely” on pesticides before expanding coverage to the copper smelters near the Mexican border and herbicides on mesquite trees.

“It was very broad, the subject matter of Arizona,” Kay said. In 1985, she started writing about contaminated water in the southeast of Tucson. She discovered the presence of trichloroethylene, an industrial solvent that could be traced back to Hughes Aircraft Co. and the Tucson airport.

“That was the most ambitious story I’ve ever written,” Kay said. “That was a yearlong investigation. I interviewed, gosh, it was more than 500 sick people who lived on the southeast of Tucson.”

Cynthia Hubert, a longtime friend of Kay’s and senior writer for the Sacramento Bee, helped her research the story during Hubert’s time as the Star and has since been impressed with Kay’s body of work.

“She and I was one of the most principled and most passionate people I’ve ever known — passionate about the business and about using journalism to educate people and enlighten people and I think more than anything, be a voice for people who don’t have a voice,” Hubert said of Kay.

“That’s what I observed from her day-to-day and learned from her.”

Hubert added that during that time she learned what it means to be a “real reporter.” And Hubert wasn’t the only one impressed with the outcome of the story. Kay received the Don Bolles Memorial Award for Investigative Reporting, the Edward J. Meeman Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the national Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in 1986 for the series.

That was quite the big story,” Kay said, adding that she’s never worked on something of its magnitude since.

Shortly after the series ran, the San Francisco Examiner — now the Chronicle — offered her the environmental beat in 1986. She still holds that position today.

A former editor of Kay’s at the Chronicle, Audrey Cooper, said she was impressed by the fact that Kay has stayed humble throughout her career and is “entirely ego-less,” adding that her commitment to her beat is rare.

“That’s what I observed from her — a voice for people who don’t have a voice,” Hubert said. “She is and was one of the most every desk at the Chronicle has reporters specializing in the environment, opposed to now when almost every desk at the Chronicle has reporters specializing in the area.

But even though the industry has changed over time, to her friends and former coworkers, Kay’s dedication is unwavering.

“She’s a lot smarter than any one I know, and she, I think, has changed a lot of people’s lives through her work,” Hubert said. “I don’t see that frequently in this profession, unfortunately,” she added.

Melissa Krueger is a 2008 UA journalism graduate. This story originally appeared in The Cat Scan, a publication produced by online journalism students.

Other recognition for UA’s Jane Kay

2007 Society of Environmental Journalists, Outstanding Beat Reporting, First Place

2006 Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter, Explanatory Journalism

2003 Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter, Career Achievement Award

2001 California Newspaper Publishers Association, Environmental Reporting, Second Place

2000 The Bay Institute of San Francisco, Harold Gilliam Award for Excellence in Environmental Reporting, for “From the Sierra to the Sea”

Gifts help a range of causes

Campaign raises nearly $27,000

The annual fundraising campaign sponsored by the Journalism Advisory Council raised $26,928 in annual support for the department.

“It’s gratifying to see this level of support from alumni,” says Jan Hareton, who chairs the department’s external advisory council. “In what seems to be an unending cycle of budget cuts, every little bit helps.”

Scholarship honors Citizen copy editor

The Tucson Citizen made a $2,000 donation to start the Keith Bush Memorial Scholarship Fund in the journalism department; honoring a longtime copy editor who died suddenly in January.

Bush was the longest-serving employee at the Citizen, with 36 years of service. Friends and family members have added to the Citizen’s start-up donation and hope to reach a goal of $10,000, thus endowing the scholarship. Bush’s colleague Bill Clements announced the first recipients — Lauren LePage and Renee D. Pepe — at the department’s Just Desserts celebration May 8.

Anonymous gift helps Bolles fellows

A gift from an anonymous alumna is helping students who cover Arizona’s Legislature as the Don Bolles Fellows.

The donor gave $5,000 in late 2007 to help fund the fellowship. It follows a gift of more than $2,700 she made in 2006 to the same cause.

The department will be expanding Community News Service, of which the fellowship is a part. Its new name will be Arizona News Service, and it will focus on enabling students to produce year-round, depth stories for small- and medium-circulation newspapers around the state.

The fellowship was once funded by The Arizona Republic and the Central Newspapers Foundation, but the journalism department has picked up financial responsibility in recent years, using scholarship money donated by alumni and other sources to cover the stipend.

A royal check for journalism program

A reporter and a photographer from the Arizona Daily Star donated a $1,000 royalty check they received last fall to the international journalism program at the UA.

Mariana Alvarado Avalos and Dean Knuth had traveled to Villa Juarez, Sonora, for a story that ran in the Star chronicling the death of border crosser Jesus Alberto Cabral Lopez. Avalos write the narrative for the special section and Knuth, a 2006 graduate of the journalism department, shot the photos.

When a news service in Mexico picked up the story and offered to pay the journalists for it, they didn’t accept the payment. So they asked Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head, if she could find a good use for the funds. She suggested designating it to the international journalism program.

Mariana Alvarado Avalos and Dean Knuth turn over a royalty check for a story they did on a border crossed to the international journalism program. Knuth is a 2006 UA journalism graduate.
1947
L. Boyce Finch has written a book titled Legacies of Camelot: Stewart and Lee Udall, American Craft, and the Arts. In it, Boyde, who was a friend and associate of the Udalls, chronicles the partnership between government and the arts during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

1959
Barbara Critchlow retired after 30 years teaching English and journalism in Oakland, Calif. She also worked as a writer and editor for several newspapers in California.

1963
Malcolm Terence Ed Lansdale, who, despite the warnings of Sherman Miller, went into PR, has retired from Fleischer-Hillard, New York, and is now toasting (and occasionally teaching at local universities) on Long Island.

Grant Smith is partially retired but still writes and edits newsletters and annual reports. He lives in Scottsdale.

1968
Bill Mefford has had his latest novel published. The Rasputin-Stain is a mystery novel set in Russia that looks at the unexplained murders of descendants of Rasputin. This is the sixth book for Bill, who is a marketing consultant in Cincinnati.

1970
Mike Floyd is an advertising representative for Media General newspapers in Rockingham County, N.C. Mike also is a freelance photojournalist specializing in food and music reviews, sports and home gardening, and a freelance chef who does winefined pairings at wine festivals and stores. In 2004, he won first place (among 46 other journalists) for his written reviews of pop concerts. “I had done my first music review for the Wildcat in ’70 and that was on the Richie Havens Concert…Anyway, I didn’t think 20 years without writing would cramp me and it didn’t. One of the best phone calls I ever made was calling Don Carson (Carson) at home in Tucson and breaking the story…we laughed for 5 minutes … the renegade had made it back into camp, finally …

1971
Patty Wyllis, known for decades as Patty Weiss, KVOA-News anchor, has started a new chapter in her life. First, she’s using her married name, Patty Gelenberg. And more importantly, she has left Tucson after 50 years for Madison, Wis. No more TV news. Patty is enjoying her new career as communications director for a public policy institute housed on the UW campus, the Center on Wisconsin Strategy. She and her spouse live right on Lake Mendota and have an armada of kayaks for summer and snowshoes for winter.

1972
Brown Gordon is an evidence/properly technician with the Boulder (Colo.) Police Department.

1973
Ned Smith is a senior writer with SweaneyVest. He lives in Yorkers, N.Y.

1974
Michael Trout writes that the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in Albany is now home to at least two UA journalism graduates; he and Thomas Bergin ’77.

1975
Thomas James is an elementary school teacher in Bothell, Wash.

1976
Garry Duffy is a reporter with the Tucson Citizen.

Peter F. Johnson is a self-employed consultant in digital archiving and preservation. He started the business after taking a buyout from the Los Angeles Times, following 20 years of service there. Peter also teaches information literacy at Cal State Los Angeles. and works at the reference desks at Cal State South Pasadena Public Library and the Altadena Public Library.

1978
Beryl Wolfe owns her own public relations firm in Tucson called Wolfe PR (www.wolfepr.com). She also works part time at American Airlines.

1979
Robert Zucker is the president and CEO of Tucson’s B2B Publishing, which produces Entertainment Magazine. It may be found online at EMOL.org.

1980
Samuel Ramirez has worked on the news desk of The San Bernardino, Calif., Sun, where he is a wire and general layout editor, for seven years.

1981
Gilbert Ballon led the Dallas Morning News last fall to become the editorial page editor at The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He also is president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Elizabeth McCorckie Cooper has been the in-house counsel for Dell Financial Services, a subsidiary of Dell Inc., for nine years. Elizabeth lives in Round Rock, Texas, where she is the single mom of two beautiful redheaded daughters. She also runs marathons.

1982
Jane Malik is an operations analyst at Wells Fargo Bank in Phoenix.

1983
John Hudak just celebrated 20 years with Madden Media in Tucson. He started as its first full-time editor and is now a partner and publisher. The company has more than 100 employees and does publishing projects in more than 20 states.

Suzanne McCormick recently left the corporate world after eight years and is now freelancing/consulting. She writes that her daughter graduated from ASU in May while her son has another year before he enters college. “I’m hoping he’ll study photography at UA.”

Patricia Sallen is the ethics counsel for the State Bar Association of Arizona.

1984
A.J. Flick is writing a book titled Murder in the Old Pueblo: The True Story of the Brian Söthman Murder Case, to be published by the Tucson-based Lawyers and Judges Publishing Co. A.J. says the publisher sought her out because he liked her style of writing and the coverage of the trial by the Tucson Citizen, where A.J. is a reporter. Her blog on the trial was the first blog the Citizen started.

1985
Tucson attorney Adam Watters is justice of the peace for Precinct 1 of the Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts. He will run for re-election in November.

1986
Stephanie Castillo Samoy is a book editor at Gulf+Western in New York City.

1988
Gene Garsegbordt is the editor of The Fresno Bee’s South Valley bureau.

Amy Miller Gray has relocated from Pullman, Wash., to Bloomington, Ind. Amy had been working for the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and teaching media writing at Washington State University. Amy plans to apply for a doctoral program to begin in 2009. In March, she was recommended for a Fulbright to teach at Bayan College in Oman, but the State Department ended up not funding the award.

Melissa Schlanger Scaprio is a local editor with the Bellingham (Wash.) Herald.

1989
Tom Geselin is a program coordinator in the Mexican-American Studies and Research Center at the University of Arizona.

Shelia McNulty is living in Belleair, Texas, with her spouse, David Portnoy ’89, and two sons. Shelia is an energy correspondent for the Financial Times of London. David is a neuro-trauma ICU nurse.

David Nyborg owns a paralegal firm and lives in Surprise, Ariz.

Scott Thomason lives in Seattle and works as a strategic adviser in communications and public affairs for Seattle City Light, a publicly owned electric utility. Scott and his spouse are parents to daughter Savannah.

1990
Katherine Correia is the marketing supervisor with University of Arizona BookStores.

1991
Susan Price Erben is a publications specialist (edit) with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Susan tells us she has never submitted an alumni note to The Curson until now. “I’m editor of the Alaska Economic Trends magazine put out by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. I’ve been in Alaska since 1991, married a fellow journalist in 2001, and we have a 4-year-old daughter. I’ve worked for the Bristol Bay Times in Dillingham (reporter), the Valdez Vanguard (editor), the Homer News (assistant editor) and the Juneau Empire (reporter). I’ve also worked in Alaska as a paralegal and a wage-and-hour investigator. While working at the newspapers, I had numerous articles published in the Anchorage Daily News, and The Washington Post asked me to write a feature on ‘working the slime line’ (cannery workers).”

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Obituaries
Norma K. Greer, a 2000 graduate of the department and the former spouse of Professor William F. “Bill” Greer, died Jan. 29 after battling breast cancer. She was 62. Survivors include her daughters Tawny Greer and Brooke Greer.

Mary Mandreicha Robbins, 44, died Feb. 20 from complications of multiple sclerosis. She was a former graduate student in the department and the spouse of Ted Robbins, who had an office in the department as a Public Liaison correspondent. She is survived by her daughter Katie. Their previous address was Vienna. Deborah is the book editor at Gulitepotis in New York City.

More than a dozen alumni won awards at two statewide journalism competitions in May. Read about them at http://journalism.arizona.edu/news/awardintro.php

Got news? E-mail it to: journal@email.arizona.edu
When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in April, Pat Zapor ’80 was there, marking the fourth time she has been involved in a papal visit. Zapor, who writes for Catholic News Service in Washington, D.C., covered the arrival at Andrews Air Force Base and the official welcoming ceremony at the White House. Observed Zapor: “Four hours of standing around, 13,500 of the president’s closest friends and the memorable line: ‘Thank you, your Holiness. Awesome speech.’”

Zapor was still a UA student in 1979 when she saw Pope John Paul II celebrate Mass on the Mall in Washington. In 1987 she was reporting for The Catholic Sun in Phoenix and traveled aboard the papal press plane for John Paul’s nine-city U.S. tour. By 1999 she was on the desk with Catholic News Service when the pontiff visited Baltimore and St. Louis. In addition to duties at Andrews and the White House, Zapor also worked the CNS photo desk, which posted more than 400 photos during the six-day papal visit. CNS supplies stories and photos to approximately 170 U.S. Catholic newspapers and broadcasters and to more than 70 other news organizations in about 60 countries, according to its Web site.

Read Zapor’s blog on covering Pope Benedict’s visit at http://cnsblog.wordpress.com/2008/04/16/a-tale-of-two-papal-encounters/.

The pope and the press

Pat Zapor was on the tarmac when Pope Benedict XVI’s plane landed at Andrews Air Force Base in March. (Photo courtesy of Catholic News Service)

CHRISTINE VERGES GACHARA has a photo business Web site and blog: http://www.christinegachara.com/. She and her family live in Virginia.

JAMIE MANSER is the marketing and events associate and music editor at the Downtown Tucson Partnership, writing for the monthly magazine Downtown Tucsonan.

ANN CHIHAK POFF is a senior administrative assistant in the legal and compliance area for Onyx Pharmaceuticals. She lives in Oakland, Calif.

JOSEPH ALTMAN is the business news manager for The Associated Press in New York City.

CHRISSIE MCINTYRE is communications manager for the PGA Tour, working as the liaison between PGA Tour players and media members. She travels to about 20 PGA Tour events throughout the year working as onsite media representative. Chris is married to two stepsisters and daughter Carissa, who was born in October.

KRISTEN DAVIS is the metropolitan sports editor at The Plain Dealer in Cleveland.

MARY FAN married Dean Kawamoto on June 12. The couple will live in the Washington, D.C., area, where she will be an assistant professor of law at American University, beginning in September.

THOMAS STAUFFER is the food writer for the Tucson Citizen.

DAVID ROBERTS is a Farmington (N.M.) bureau reporter for KOAT-TV. David writes: “I’ve been working here as a one-man-band since February. I’m also engaged to my lovely fiancée, Chira.”

JACQUELYN RYAN teaches English and journalism in the Torrance (Calif.) Unified School District.

NATE SEARING is the senior associate editor for Arizona Gourmet Living, part of Oser Communications Group.

RICK STILGENBAUER joined the UA in December as assistant director in the Office of Federal Relations.

LAJOY TOWENA works as a health educator for diabetes prevention on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. She is married and has three stepsisters.

JASON WATKINS is a senior staff writer with the Army Times. He works on a section called Lifelines, which is featured in each of the company’s four papers.

MELANIE WINTERLICH married Matt Preis in November in Phoenix.

ALVAREZ ADRIANZA is a reporter and part-time anchor at KSTM in El Paso, Texas.

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The pope and the press

Pat Zapor was on the tarmac when Pope Benedict XVI’s plane landed at Andrews Air Force Base in March. (Photo courtesy of Catholic News Service)
Greer retires after 28 years in journalism department

Associate professor Bill Greer has retired after 28 years with the department.

Greer, who made his mark in the fields of photojournalism, diversity in the news media and community journalism, was always a favorite among students.

Alumnus John Kamin, an online editor at the Prescott Daily Courier, recalled the department’s online alumni directory his first photo critique from Greer:

“I walked into Bill’s office and handed him my first photo assignment — a stack of 48 pictures. Bill smiled, told me to sit down, leaned back and quickly sorted them into two stacks. One stack had two pictures, and the other had 46.

“First, Bill handed back the 46 pictures and told me that they were worthless. He politely explained that no newspaper editor wants blurry pictures of people’s backs and behinds. Next, he gave me the remaining two pictures and said that those might be printworthy.

“Several years later, I found myself in Bill’s shoes as I explained the ‘no pictures of backs and behinds’ rule to a rookie reporter. I don’t remember if I was wearing a Hawaiian shirt at the time, but if I was, that may have been Bill’s influence as well.”

Greer joined the journalism faculty in 1980 after a dozen years with The Associated Press in roles that ranged from Arizona state editor with The Associated Press in roles that ranged from Arizona state editor to broadcast executive. When he left the AP in 1980 he was managing its bureau on the U.S.-Mexico border.

While serving as adviser to The Tucsonan Epitaph, Greer and his students garnered more than 60 awards for excellence in the Arizona Newspapers Association statewide competitions from 1996 to 2005.

“It’s difficult to thank Bill adequately for everything he has done for the journalism department in his long career,” says Jacqueline Sharkey, department head. “In addition to mentoring hundreds of students, Bill has played a key role in developing our diversity outreach efforts.”

Susan Knight has taught students that includes comparing them to other aspects of the journalism profession. At the end of the 12-day program, students publish a newspaper that covers the Tucson community and issues and trends concerning teens and individuals around the country.

Jeanine Relfy, an assistant professor of practice who has worked with Greer on diversity efforts, praised his “tireless” commitment to diversity-related projects in the department.

“Bill cares deeply about the students and about the importance of diversity in U.S. newsrooms. He has traveled to the northern- and southern-most sections of the state to talk to high school students about the importance of journalism in a democracy. And he has acted as a mentor to countless students.”

Greer chats with John deDios and Cassie Tomlin about production of The Tucson Epitaph, the capstone publication Greer oversaw for more than two decades. (Photo by Dean Knuth)

Grads mark retirements from academia, newspapers

Chihak leaves as Citizen publisher

Michael Chihak retired July 3 after eight years as editor and publisher of the Tucson Citizen, the city’s Gannett-owned afternoon daily. Chihak, a 1971 graduate of the department, left to become the executive director of the Communications Leadership Institute, a San Francisco-based nonprofit.

“In moving on, I leave behind the best group of journalists with whom I have ever worked, and that includes comparing them to the journalists I worked with in eight years as an editor at USA Today. The two groups stand above all others,” Chihak said in a June 14 story in the Citizen.

Jacqueline Sharkey, journalism department head, praised Chihak’s commitment to journalism, civic engagement and journalism education.

“How do we thank you for everything you did to better the lives of everyone in this community?” Sharkey wrote in an e-mail to Chihak.

Auslander retires

Edith Auslander, who earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the journalism department, retired in June as vice president and senior associate to the UA president.

Auslander was a member of the Arizona Board of Regents before joining the Alumni Office as a development officer. From there, she moved to the President’s Office, where she oversaw regent affairs, the endowment program, the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office and the Diversity Resource Office. She also had worked at the Arizona Daily Star and was vice president of human resources for Tucson Newspapers.

In June Auslander received the 2007-2008 Peter W. Likins Inclusive Excellence Award. The recipients are honored for enhancing The University of Arizona’s academic excellence by helping to create a diverse and inclusive campus community. Auslander was president of the UA Hispanic Alumni Club during the years that the scholarship endowment grew to $1 million. As president of the Arizona Board of Regents in 1989-90, she initiated the study on the status of women, which was influential in creating the Commission on the Status of Women, an organization that develops programs to promote equity on campus.

“Edie has been instrumental in advancing our diversity mission and has provided unwavering support in the best interest of women, students and minorities,” wrote UA President Robert Shelton in a memo to the UA community.

Edith Auslander