

116th & Broadway



Three hundred thirty-six Journalism School students graduated on May 21. While the majority received the M.S. degree, other degrees awarded included the M.A., Knight-Bagehot Fellows with M.S. degrees, M.A. in Communications, M.Phil. in Communications and Ph.D. in Communications.

Columbia Joins France's Sciences Po to Offer Dual Journalism Degree

Columbia Journalism School and the Graduate Journalism Program at Sciences Po will offer a new dual degree program, beginning in fall 2008, which will allow students to study journalism in both New York and Paris and receive degrees from both institutions. This partnership reflects the global nature of journalism in the 21st century, offering top-tier training from both an American and a European perspective, and encourages mastery of journalistic techniques, bilingual training, and the opportunity to develop a career with a unique international background.

Columbia students will be invited during the academic year to apply for a second degree, to be conferred by Sciences Po after two semesters of study and work in Paris. Columbia students at Sciences Po will study subjects such as international affairs, French and European history, economics and social dynamics, and a wide range of journalism

courses, and will also be placed in internships with Paris-based news and media organizations.

David Klatell, chairman of international studies at Columbia's Journalism School, says that the partnership offers a "first-rate professional opportunity for Columbia students not only to study abroad, but also to work in a French newsroom."

"The journalism profession is reinventing itself to adapt to technological changes along with the globalization of higher education," said Bruno Patino, dean of the Sciences Po School of Journalism. "Taking the global dimension into account has become a necessity today in journalism."

This is the first dual degree program between a French and American journalism school. The School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia also has a partnership with Sciences Po, a dual degree program in international affairs.

Commencement Speakers: Dan Balz And Terry Gross



Photo credit: John Smock

This year's Journalism Day Pringle Lecture was delivered by Dan Balz, national political correspondent for the Washington Post, who has been involved in the paper's political coverage as a reporter or editor for the past 30 years. The lecture is named for Henry Pringle, a 1932 Pulitzer Prize winner and former member of the journalism faculty. It was endowed by the school's alumni in Washington, D.C., following Pringle's death in 1958.

Terry Gross, host of National Public Radio's "Fresh Air," received the school's highest honor, the Columbia Journalism Award, at the commencement ceremony on May 21, where she addressed the graduating class. "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," the Peabody Award-winning weekday magazine of contemporary arts and issues, is one of public radio's most popular programs. Nearly 4.5 million people listen to the show's intimate conversations on more than 450 National Public Radio stations across the country and on the World Radio Network in Europe. Gross has interviewed thousands of prominent Americans in the arts, culture, politics and other fields. These conversations are a national treasure — an informative, revealing profile of American culture, interests and perspective as they have evolved over the past quarter century.

More at: www.jrn.columbia.edu



Dean's Letter

In May the Journalism School graduated its first class in which every member had done at least some journalistic work on Web sites. Every section of RW1 in the fall operated its own site. Many other classes, fall and spring, did too. We had our most new media majors ever, 32, and our most new media classes ever, three sections of “New Media Newsroom” in the fall and two sections of “New Media Workshop” plus one “New Media” elective in the spring.

In the academic year that will begin in a few weeks, we will take another big step forward into the new media future, by bringing the entire Master of Science class in early to be trained in new media skills. We are doing this because we are finding that for most of our students, a first job in “print journalism” (these days it has to be put in quotes) entails doing a lot of work for the news organization’s Web site. Some newspapers and magazines are now hiring people only to do video stories. We serve our students and our profession well by making sure that everyone

who graduates has some familiarity with text, video and sound as ways of conveying the news.

We have just announced a major gift from the Tow Foundation to set up a Center for New Media Journalism at the school. The gift comes in the form of a challenge: We must raise a considerable sum on our own to receive the Tow Foundation’s gift. If we are successful, we will have a substantial endowment that we can use to build our capacity in new media far more than we already have.

New media represent an extraordinary opportunity for the school. Because new media journalism is still in formation, we can be part of the process of determining what form it takes. We can also turn out graduates who have capabilities that news organizations desperately need, and don’t have internally. We should move quickly so as to take maximum advantage of this moment. It’s important, however, to bear in mind that if we do our job right, what we teach that is not specific to new media — reporting, ethics, the history of journalism, clarity of thinking and expression, independence, tough-mindedness — will become more important, not less. New forms of delivery have been a constant in journalism history, and the history has a clear lesson: as time passes, production skills become assumed and fade into the background; the journalism itself matters more and more.

Nicholas Lemann

First Spencer Fellows in Education Named

Three veteran journalists, Alexander Russo, Nancy Solomon and Claudia Wallis, have been named the Journalism School’s first Spencer Education Journalism Fellows. Each reporter will receive a \$75,000 stipend to begin work next fall on a major education project that requires an academic year residency at the school. Throughout the year, the fellows will be invited to work with a Journalism School professor who will serve as an editor to prepare the work for publication or airing. The fellowship requires recipients to publish the results of the year’s work in a newspaper, magazine, book or radio series.

The Spencer Foundation is funding the program as part of its commitment to the high-quality investigation of education in the U.S. that it supports through research and fellowship and training programs.

Alexander Russo, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a well-known freelance education writer, editor and blogger. Russo will use his fellowship to follow the first year of a teacher-led effort to take over a troubled Los Angeles high school and turn it into an independent charter school.

Nancy Solomon ’86, of South Orange, N.J., is an award-winning independent radio reporter and producer for National Public Radio. Solomon said she would use her year to produce an in-depth multipart radio series that would explore the ways race, socioeconomic status, youth culture and pedagogy contribute to the minority educational achievement gap.

Claudia Wallis, of Pelham, N.Y., is editor-at-large for Time magazine. A two-time National Magazine Award finalist, Wallis

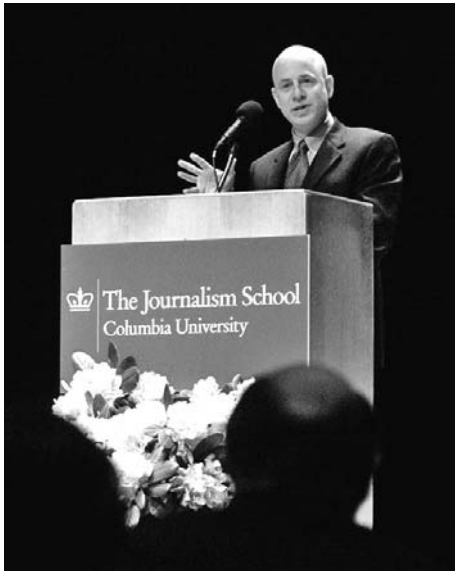
plans to examine how the rising number of students diagnosed across the spectrum of autism disorder is challenging educators and the solvency of school districts.

Journalism Professor LynNel Hancock, a nationally known expert on covering education, children and families, will serve as executive director of the program.

“The fellowship is designed to elevate the level of education reporting by giving writers the time and resources they so desperately need in today’s environment of tight deadlines and space limitations to produce a long-form work of lasting value that will trigger a national conversation on the status of education in America,” Hancock said.

More at: www.journalism.columbia.edu/spencer

Religion Reporter Wins 2008 Mike Berger Award



Michael Paulson, the religion reporter at the Boston Globe, was presented with the 2008 Mike Berger Award by Dean Lemann during the annual Journalism Day celebration. The prize, named after the late New York Times reporter Meyer “Mike” Berger, is conferred by the Journalism School for the best in-depth, human-interest reporting. Paulson won for his four-part series, “Ma Siss’s Place: The Birth of a Church.”

Paulson was a member of the Globe team whose reporting on clergy sexual abuse in the Catholic Church was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for public service in 2003. The Berger Committee composed of journalism faculty members noted: “Michael Paulson’s powerful series on the life and times of a

small Boston church and its congregants represents newspaper writing at its best. Poignant, insightful and unsparing in what it tells about faith, doubt, struggle and redemption, it is work that does the tradition of Meyer Berger proud.”

In his acceptance speech, Paulson said, “Mike Berger could never have envisioned the multimedia features that became a part of telling the Ma Siss story. ... But even as the platforms change the fundamentals remain the same, and that’s why it is so significant that you are continuing to honor journalism that attempts to see the extraordinary in the ordinary, to burrow into the hidden places of our cities and share with our audiences a better sense of the world in which they live.”

New Media Fellows Appointed for 2008-2009

This year, two new postgraduate New Media Fellowships have been created to employ recent graduates to work closely with the technology staff to help students and professors alike navigate the world of new media journalism to master telling stories interactively. The inaugural fellows, Kenan Davis ’08 and Dave Mayers ’08, have excellent reporting, writing, editing and production skills, and will serve as both teaching assistants and technologists, reporting to new media coordinator Duy Linh Tu.

The fellows will be part of the school’s academic affairs team and instruct students and faculty in the use of Fatwire, Dream-

weaver, Photoshop and audio and video equipment.

Kenan Davis is a multimedia journalist whose work has appeared in a number of publications including the Village Voice and on WAMC/Northeast Public Radio. He also taught English in Seoul, South Korea. Davis received a B.A. in sociology from the University of Georgia.

Dave Mayers is a new media journalist with a background in photojournalism and creative writing. He has worked for CNBC and the WPN photo agency. He wants to use multimedia to shed light on under-reported countries in the developing world.

CHICAGO ALUMNI RECEPTION AT UNITY '08 CONVENTION

The UNITY ’08 Convention — A New Journalism for a Changing World — to be held in Chicago, July 23-27, 2008, will be the largest gathering of journalists of color. Nearly 10,000 journalists and media executives will meet to discuss timely issues affecting journalism and the media industry. The Journalism School will host an alumni reception on **Thursday, July 24**, at the Hyatt Regency at McCormick Place.

For detailed information and to register, go to: www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni

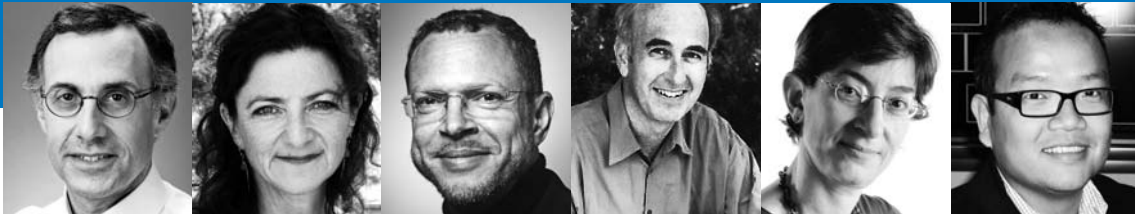


Photo credit: Claire Holt

Faculty and Staff News

Bill Grueskin

Bill Grueskin, the deputy managing editor/news of the Wall Street Journal, has been named dean of academic affairs for the Journalism School. He will assume his new post in September, as well as the academic title of professor of professional practice. Grueskin has had a long career in newspapers, including 10 years at the Miami Herald and 13 years at the Journal. From 2001 to 2007 he was managing editor of the Wall Street Journal Online, which under his leadership achieved the remarkable distinction of being the only news Web site in the U.S. with a large audience of paying subscribers — more than a million people. In announcing his appointment, Dean Lemann said: “I can’t think of anyone with Bill’s sustained record of

achievement in both the traditional and digital versions of our profession; he is the ideal person to lead us into our new media future in a way that is true to our core journalistic values. He is also a seasoned and highly respected manager whose skills in that realm our ever-more-complicated school will be relying on heavily in the years to come.”

Helen Benedict

Professor Helen Benedict has received a 2007 James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. The award recognizes Benedict’s work on the abuse of women soldiers and her piece on Salon.com, “The Private War of Women Soldiers,” about the prevalence of sexual assault against U.S. women soldiers in Iraq by their own male comrades.

A novelist and journalist specializing in women’s issues, race and literature, Benedict has worked as a newspaper feature writer in London and California, has written for numerous magazines, has published a number of fiction and nonfiction books and is widely anthologized. She is currently working on a nonfiction book about female veterans of the Iraq war entitled, “The Lonely Soldier: Women at War in Iraq.”

Howard French

Howard French joins the faculty as associate professor of journalism. During his 20 years at the New York Times, he reported from six continents, headed four overseas bureaus, and helped pioneer video reportage from the field. A published photographer whose

Bruce Porter ’62 Retires



Photo credit: Piotr Redlinski

What a way to make an exit! Announced at graduation as winning the “Teacher of the Year” award, Bruce Porter was roasted and toasted by students, friends and colleagues — past and present — on June 5 as he said farewell to the Journalism School to which he has been connected in a variety of ways for the past three decades.

After working for a number of newspapers and as a writer and editor for Newsweek magazine, Porter returned to the Journalism School, his alma mater, in 1977 to teach a magazine course and has been here ever since, wearing a variety of hats — RW1 master, Columbia News Service (CNS) guru, director of the part-time program, and assistant to the dean for academic affairs.

Porter did take one short leave to write his fourth book, “Blow” (1994), about a cocaine smuggler, a New York Times bestseller that was made into a movie starring Johnny Depp in 2001.

Asked what he’s enjoyed most during his tenure at Columbia, Porter said teaching CNS for the past five years has been very gratifying. “Having great art was the key to getting newspapers to pick up the stories,” Porter said. “Once we started having 95 percent of CNS students shoot their own stories, the pickup rate soared. We had 750 CNS stories published this year.”

Porter does not plan to take retirement lying down. This summer he will be building a house on an island off the coast of Maine with his daughter who is an architect. In the fall, he will be teaching “a jail version of RW1” to inmates at the New York State correctional facility at Woodbourne.

documentary work is shown internationally, French has done prize-winning work in all of the major print forms: daily newspaper reporting, magazine writing and book-length nonfiction. For the last three years, he has been a columnist for the International Herald Tribune. He is the author of "A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa."

Phillip Lopate

Phillip Lopate joins the Journalism School faculty as a professor of professional practice teaching two classes each spring. His essays, fiction, poetry, film and architectural criticism have appeared in a variety of esteemed publications and have been collected in numerous books. He has edited several anthologies, including "The Art of the Personal Essay." After working with children for 12 years as a writer in the schools, he taught creative writing and literature at Fordham, Cooper Union, University of Houston and New York University. He currently holds the John Cranford Adams Chair at Hofstra

University and also teaches in the M.F.A. graduate programs at Columbia, the New School and Bennington. Lopate received a B.A. from Columbia and a doctorate from the Union Graduate School.

Alisa Solomon

Professor Alisa Solomon has been named one of 11 recipients of a 2008 Howard Fellowship of \$25,000. The grant will support research toward her next book, an examination of how a musical comedy, "Fiddler on the Roof," has been adapted, staged and parodied for the last 40 years, and how it has become a part of American and Jewish culture. Solomon directs the Arts & Culture concentration in the M.A. program at the Journalism School. Solomon was on staff at the Village Voice for 21 years; currently she is a regular contributor of theater commentaries on WNYC and on Jewish culture and politics on WBAI. Solomon holds a doctorate in dramaturgy and dramatic criticism from Yale.

Duy Linh Tu '99

Duy Linh Tu joins the full-time faculty as new media coordinator and an assistant professor of professional practice. After teaching for several years as an adjunct in the new media classrooms, Duy will intensify his efforts to "webbify" incoming classes and to integrate new and compelling ideas in multimedia storytelling throughout the curriculum. Duy is a writer, videographer, photographer and multimedia consultant. He is a co-founder and the creative director of Resolution Seven, a commercial, documentary and DVD production studio. He is currently in production on two documentaries and travels to newsrooms nationally and internationally to provide consulting and training to multimedia journalists. He received his M.S. degree in journalism from Columbia University, where he received a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship as one of the top five graduates of the class of 1999.

FACULTY AND ALUMNA NAMED GUGGENHEIM FELLOWS



Photo credit: Claire Holt

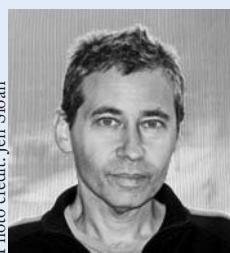


Photo credit: Jen Sloan



Photo credit: Brent Murray

From l to r: Jonathan Weiner, Alexander Stille, Margo Jefferson

Professors Jonathan Weiner and Alexander Stille '83 have been named 2008 Guggenheim Fellows, awards granted by the Guggenheim Foundation in recognition of "stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment." Also named a fellow was Margo Jefferson '71, a cultural critic for the New York Times and winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism.

Professor Weiner, who is exploring the connection between science and art, is the author of several books, including "The Beak of the Finch," winner of both the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Science. He has written for the New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine, the New Republic and many other newspapers and magazines.

Stille, the Sao Paulo Professor of International Journalism who is writing a memoir, is the author of "The Sack of Rome: How a Beautiful European Country with a Fabled History and a Storied Culture Was Taken Over by a Man Named Silvio Berlusconi," and several other award-winning books of history.

Margo Jefferson, Columbia University creative writing professor, is currently studying racial composition and improvisation. A daily book reviewer, Sunday theater critic and a Sunday Book Review columnist for the New York Times, Jefferson published a book, "On Michael Jackson," in 2006.

Alumni Join ProPublica



ProPublica, a nonprofit public interest journalism newsroom, continues to build its staff of investigative reporters. After receiving hundreds of applications, five new staffers were hired; two of them, Eric Umansky M.A. '07 and Abraham Lustgarten '03, are alumni.

Umansky wrote Slate's "Today's Papers" feature from 2001 through 2006. He then received a Gordon Grey fellowship from the Journalism School through which he studied Arabic in Syria: I'm a senior writer for ProPublica, a new nonprofit investigative newsroom headed by Paul Steiger, the former top editor of the Wall Street Journal. We are going to have about 20 reporters on staff, all digging up stories on abuses of power. Our investigations are going to be published by news outlets — print or broadcast — that we partner with on stories. While many of ProPublica's stories will be in-depth investigative pieces, we are also going to be publishing daily follow-ups on our site. That's where my job fits in: I am going to be writing for and helping quarterback our Web site.

Abraham Lustgarten is a former staff writer and contributor for *Fortune*, and has written for *Salon*, *Esquire*, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. He is the author of a recent book, "China's Great Train: Beijing's Drive West and the Campaign to Remake Tibet," a project that was funded in part by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation: I recently accepted a position as a reporter with ProPublica, where I will focus on global development and environmental issues. Since graduat-

JOHN MIKYTUCK '08



John Mikytuck won a 2008 Emmy Award for his WebTV show "Reporting AIDS." It was recognized in the new category of "Advanced Media," anything made for viewing on a computer or mobile device. Mikytuck is the writer, producer and host of the show, which is carried on ScribeMedia.org. A graduate of Cornell University, Mikytuck has been a producer for the History Channel, A&E Television and the Biography Channel.

A series like "Reporting AIDS" that focuses on important issues in the global AIDS epidemic wouldn't be produced by network or cable TV, but the Web has created the opportunity to tell important stories most media outlets won't or can't cover. As more and more newsrooms shrink, small groups of journalists producing stories on the Web may be the only way important news gets covered. And the Web can be watched by people around the globe. I am hopeful that winning the Emmy will help lead to the successful completion of my next project, the story of the resurgence of HIV in the gay community, which I have been working on in Professor Sam Freedman's book writing class. It is a story I've wanted to tell since before arriving at J-School as an older student and a midcareer professional. And now I feel I've got the skills to do it.

AILSAL CHANG '08



Ailsa Chang, selected as one of three Joan Kroc NPR fellows for the coming year, will get rigorous, hands-on training in every aspect of public radio journalism at National Public Radio's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Chang received her bachelor's degree in public policy from Stanford University, her J.D. from Stanford Law School and a master's in media law from Oxford University, where she was a Fulbright Scholar. She was a litigator at a San Francisco law firm and a former law clerk on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals before transitioning into journalism via an internship at KQED public radio in San Francisco.

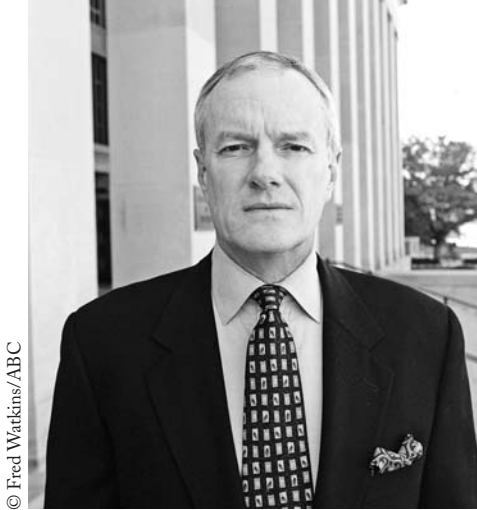
The career transition was really scary at first, but I'm happier professionally than I've ever been in my life. I'm not locked up in a law office staring down at boxes and boxes of documents anymore. I'm outside talking to people, gathering sound, figuring out what's relevant and interesting to most people — that's a world away from what I did as a litigator. I thought the last thing I needed was another degree at this point in my life, but the program here has been totally worth it. The radio workshop with John Dinges, Rick Karr and Amy Costello has set a high bar. I'm hoping I'll get the same level of training and attention at NPR but, honestly, that class is going to be tough to beat.

ing from Columbia I worked for *Fortune*, covering energy and oil and international business in places ranging from Kazakhstan to Russia's Far East. In 2005, I left *Fortune* to write a book for Henry Holt/Times Books; during that time I also was on the adjunct faculty at the University of Oregon's school of journalism and mass communication, teaching a foundational reporting skills class.

STAY IN TOUCH!

If you are changing your job or home address, let us know so we can notify you regarding alumni programs, benefits and services, job opportunities, class reunions or related developments at the Graduate School of Journalism. Go to "Alumni Update Contact Info" at www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni

John McWethy '70 Fellowship in Reporting Established



© Fred Watkins/ABC

John McWethy '70, who covered defense and diplomatic issues for ABC News for more than two decades, died Feb. 6 from injuries sustained in a skiing accident at Keystone Ski Resort in Colorado. He was 61. The McWethy family has established the John F. McWethy Fellowship in Reporting at the Journalism School. "It was clear from the comments made at his memorial services that everyone felt Jack was a paragon of high standards in broadcast and print journalism," said Ralph Begleiter, a retired CNN correspondent who was both a friend and former competitor. "His family would like to inspire others to follow that path by awarding a memorial fellowship in reporting to the Journalism School, to which Jack was committed."

Jack McWethy began his professional career at Congressional Quarterly. He moved to U.S. News & World Report in 1973 as science and technology editor, and he was the magazine's chief White House correspondent from 1977 to 1979. He joined ABC News in 1979 as chief Pentagon correspondent, covering the Iran hostage crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He became the network's chief national security correspondent in 1984 and reported on U.S. foreign policy from military and diplomatic perspectives. Known among his colleagues as a consummate professional, unflappable and always well prepared, McWethy received

five national Emmy Awards, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, an Overseas Press Club Award and other honors. In 2001, he was making plans to step away from daily reporting to focus on longer-term projects when the events of Sept. 11 changed his plans. He retired in 2003 but continued to file special reports.

"He was one of those very rare reporters who knew his beat better than anyone and had developed more sources than anyone

and yet kept his objectivity," ABC News President David Westin said. "Jack's work made the people he covered value him, respect him, and always know that he would keep them honest. But as fine a reporter as he was, he was just that fine a man. There was an essential goodness to him that permeated everything he did."

For information on how to contribute to the John McWethy fund, contact jodi.lipper@columbia.edu

IN MEMORIAM: LUTHER JACKSON '51



Luther Porter Jackson Jr., a groundbreaking journalist and educator, died on April 22, 2008, at age 83. He graduated from the Journalism School in 1951, and in 1968, he became the first African-American faculty member here. A resident of Hartsdale, N.Y., he was one of the first African-American journalists at the Newark (NJ) Evening News and later at the Washington Post, where his beat was housing and urban planning. Jackson taught at Columbia until 1992.

His areas of expertise included urban affairs and the history of the black press. His son Luther spoke about his father's teaching career at Columbia in a Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.) obituary: "He had high expectations of his students, and he was demanding, because he really cared. He knew that it wasn't easy for blacks to break into the media, and it was important to give students the confidence that they could do the job."

Mentor a Current Student

Want to help J-School students navigate the industry and make the most of their time in NYC? Be an Alumni Mentor!

You can help a current student get a handle on different aspects of the industry and to form professional relationships with a working journalist. Throughout the next 10 months, the students probably will have a lot of questions and want guidance on making the most out of their time in New York and on getting started in their careers. The program, which began in 1987, is

designed to help students with issues ranging from coming up with story or master's project ideas, to crafting résumés, to sending freelance query letters, to working in a newsroom. The program also gives alumni a way to keep in touch with the school and to share their experiences with budding journalists. You don't have to live in NYC to be a mentor.

More at: www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/mentor

Alumni Profile: Jesse Lewis '84



After three decades as a journalist, 21 of those years with the Wall Street Journal, Jesse Lewis is currently managing editor for the Wall Street Journal Europe, based in Brussels. Lewis arrived at this position by a circuitous route, which he claims involved a lot of luck and jobs that just seemed to appear. However, those who have worked with him dispute that.

"I can't remember how many projects we worked on together and there was nothing lucky about it," said Jim Penseiro, vice president of news projects at the WSJ. "For every bit of luck, there's a bucket of sweat and that guy sweats buckets."

Penseiro should know. The two worked side by side on one of the most memorable days of Jesse Lewis' career, putting out the Wall Street Journal when their office across the street from Ground Zero was evacuated on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I was about to leave home for work when I saw on TV the second plane flying into Tower 2," Lewis said. "I'd been at the Journal when the towers were attacked the first time. I wasn't even thinking collapse; I just knew there was no way I could get down there, so I immediately went to our emergency facility in South Brunswick, N.J."

A year earlier the Journal had set up a

backup computer system in New Jersey, in case of a temporary emergency such as a blackout in Manhattan, not for anything on the scale of a terrorist attack. When Lewis arrived in South Brunswick, the computer technicians had a production system and e-mail working, and Jim Penseiro, then vice president of news operations, was the only other person there. Lewis acted as copy chief and Penseiro was news editor.

"There really shouldn't have been a paper that day from a logistical standpoint," Lewis said. "Our offices were destroyed, our staff scattered. But we ended up with a good-sized staff and put out a really great edition." The Sept. 12, 2001, edition of the Journal later won a Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News.

"Jesse was magnificent; we couldn't have done it without him," Penseiro said. "He's a very quiet guy but he's a leader."

Lewis' leadership was needed not only for Sept. 11, but for the entire year afterward. Eleven months later, when the rest of the Journal staff returned to New York, the copy desk not only remained behind in South Brunswick permanently, the staff went from simply editing the U.S. edition, to editing the U.S. plus the Asian and European editions.

"The editing staff was subjected to two blasts of trauma," said Paul Steiger, then managing editor of the Wall Street Journal and currently president and editor-in-chief of ProPublica, a new nonprofit investigative newsroom. "Jesse did a fabulous job of keeping up their spirits, helping them rise to the occasion and make the transition. At a moment of intense, rapid, unpredictable change, Jesse was a rock of leadership."

Lewis discovered journalism working on his high school paper as a student at Hebron Academy in Maine, where he went courtesy of a New York City program for disadvantaged minority children. He earned a bachelor's degree in French and journalism from Ohio Wesleyan University, after spending a term as an exchange student at l'Université de Dijon in France. "I thought I might be a

foreign correspondent but then I didn't use my French until 25 years later when I went to Brussels," Lewis said.

Lewis' first jobs after college included two stints at small town newspapers — as staff writer at the Ocala (Fla.) Star Banner, where he was expected to do everything from features to photos, layout and editing, and as copy editor at the Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal. At both papers Lewis was quickly promoted to assistant news editor.

"In Louisville, I ran things on Sunday," Lewis said. "It was a tough job but I learned a lot. I'm an advocate of people working at smaller papers. The hours are rough and it's not the best pay, but they let you do everything. You get skills for the next job that follows and you know different procedures, how the business works."

Sometimes you have to know when to move on, however, and for Lewis that happened when he had just finished a story for the Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) Sun Sentinel about a woman who collected thimbles for a hobby: "I thought, thimbles — journalism? I gotta get outta here!" That was one of those times when things just fell into place for him. He received a call from a correspondent he'd met in Ocala to work for Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh, just after the Three-Mile Island nuclear accident occurred, and he quickly accepted the job as assistant press secretary.

After four years working in government, Lewis felt he needed a year to think. During that year, which he spent at the Journalism School, he became interested in editing. "It was something I was better at than reporting," Lewis said. "Also, after my years in government press relations, I had a different view of journalism. It's not all sweetness and light; people threaten to get you; it's a little discouraging. As an editor, you're removed from the story, you can ask questions and figure out how to tell the story better."

After being turned down for a reporting job early on, Lewis kept in touch with the

Wall Street Journal through the years. In 1987, when he was ready to leave Louisville, he took a copy editing test for the Journal and was hired to work in New York. Jim Penseiro and Lewis met right away, when Jesse was on the copy desk and Jim was on the news desk. "He was one of the best line editors on the paper — great at handling reporters' copy," Penseiro said. "People with his talent get promoted up and out."

From copy editor to news editor and senior special writer with Page One to national copy chief and then global copy chief, Lewis was responsible for many facets of the Wall Street Journal. His move to Brussels, as deputy managing editor of the Wall Street Journal Europe, was one of the few jobs he actually asked for. In 2006 Lewis was promoted to his current

position as managing editor in Europe.

In Brussels, says Lewis, he has combined the best of both worlds: "It's like running a small town newspaper with the global resources of the Wall Street Journal." The European edition is a lot smaller than the U.S. edition, about 32 pages a day with under 100,000 circulation, and it's put out with a minimal staff. His wife Teresa and their 17-year-old son Perry have loved living in Brussels. Next year, their sixth, the family will have to go back to the states or face a huge tax burden in Belgium.

Jim Penseiro, for one, can't wait to have Lewis back on American soil. "We're going to put in a new system for online editing," Penseiro said. "I hope to get Jesse back in time to help me implement that one."

Alumni Awards Nominations Due Oct. 15

The Columbia Journalism School Alumni Awards are highly prized because they represent recognition of excellence by one's professional peers. The awards are given to alumni of the Graduate School of Journalism for a distinguished journalism career in any medium, for an outstanding single accomplishment in journalism, for notable contributions to journalism education, or for achievement in related fields. The awards are given annually at Alumni Weekend.

Alumni are urged to participate in the selection process by nominating living alumni

currently working in journalism, journalism education or related fields who merit the award. Nominations can be submitted by mail or electronically. The 2009 Alumni Awards Nomination Form is available online. An awards committee headed by Alexis Gelber '80, chair of the Alumni Association Board, and composed of alumni and past winners of the award will select the winners. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 15, 2008. The nomination forms and a list of past Alumni Awards winners is available at: www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/awards

Busy Fall for Continuing Education At the J-School

The Journalism School is committed to providing professional development opportunities for working journalists through our Continuing Education (CE) Unit. The workshops and conferences enable journalists to delve deeply into one topic through a learning immersion experience and to gain new skills required in the ever-changing news landscape. Our CE events often lead to stories that have real impact.

Sept. 20 and 21: Conference on Business Investigative Journalism sponsored by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and the Sullivan Foundation.

Nov. 8-18: Arts Journalism Institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts with the focus on covering classical music and opera. Twenty-four fellows will be selected. Applications are due Aug. 19.

Nov. 20: Conference co-sponsored by Consumer Reports and Columbia Journalism Review — "Consumer Revolution on the Web: Opportunities and Dangers for Journalism."

More at: www.journalism.columbia.edu/conferences

Alumni Weekend 2009

SAVE THE DATE: April 23-26, 2009

All graduates of the Journalism School are invited to return to Columbia University to reconnect with each other and the school. If you're interested in serving on the planning committee, please e-mail ics9@columbia.edu

Journalism School To Host Fifth NEA Fellowship

*Do you write about classical music and opera?
Do you supervise classical music coverage?
Do you need to update your skills?*

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Journalism School will host the fifth institute for journalists who write about classical music and opera. The institute is intended for writers or editors who wish to refresh their perspective or gain new knowledge and contacts in the field of classical music and opera.

Participants will attend great performances, supplemented by lectures, course work, meetings and writing workshops by distinguished Columbia faculty, music journalists, bloggers and classical music experts to improve basic skills in criticism and provide an understanding of the history and fundamental concepts of classical music and opera.

The program is designed for journalists who live and work outside the top media markets (a limited number of positions will be filled by applicants from major metropolitan areas). No specialized training in classical music is required. Freelancers and part-time writers may apply. Most expenses, including travel and accommodation (if needed), are covered by the institute.

Apply by August 19, 2008, or if you know a writer or editor who might be interested in this program, refer him or her to the Web site below for detailed terms and conditions. For an application, e-mail nea_institute@earthlink.net or call 202-210-9494.

You can find more information about the NEA Institute at www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/nea

Alumnus on Chicago Tribune's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Team



Photo caption: Chicago Tribune

Sam Roe '86 (far right) celebrates the Pulitzer Prize with his colleagues at the Chicago Tribune.

Sam Roe '86 was on the Chicago Tribune team that won the Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting.

I was a member of a six-person reporting team that produced "Hidden Hazards," a series documenting faulty cribs, unsafe car seats and lead-tainted toys. The series prompted massive recalls and led Congress to pass the most sweeping reform of the nation's consumer safety system in a generation.

I spearheaded the Tribune's investigation into lead-tainted toys, which included testing 800 items. The Consumer Product

Safety Commission called the testing the largest and most scientific ever conducted outside the agency. The test sparked numerous firms to pull toys from shelves nationwide and prompted CPSC to launch a rare and ongoing inquiry.

I have been on the Tribune's projects team since 2001. Before that, I was an investigative reporter at the Toledo Blade, where I was a 2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist in Investigative Reporting for articles detailing how the U.S. defense industry allowed workers to be harmed by the metal beryllium.

News21 Fellowship

Ten students from the class of 2008 will spend their summer in the school working as fellows of the News21 program, part of a joint Carnegie-Knight Foundation effort to foster "news incubators" to produce a highly innovative, interactive, multimedia Web site covering a single issue from multiple perspectives. The incubators bring together 44 News21 fellows at four locations (Columbia, Berkeley, Medill, USC) with 10 fellows from each jour-

nalism school and an additional four fellows selected from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. The fellows will address the general topic of "Elections '08: What's at Stake," with Columbia's focus being on how immigration issues will impact the election. Columbia's summer program is supervised by coordinator/executive editor John Judis and managing editor Adam Glenn.

More at: www.newsinitiative.org

Alumni Weekend Sparks Reunion

Sheryl Elizabeth Huggins '91 and Andrew Harris Salomon '91 were married in April at the Union League in Philadelphia. Ms. Huggins Salomon, 42, is the editor in chief of NiaOnline.com, a Web site for African-American women, and a vice president for editorial operations at Nia Enterprises in New York, a Chicago publishing and marketing research company. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Salomon, also 42, is the news editor in New York for Back Stage East, a trade newspaper for actors. He graduated from American University. The couple met at Columbia.

Salomon shared the e-mail he sent to Professor Michael Shapiro because it tells "the tale with a minimum of fuss, underscoring the J-School-ness of it all."



*Dear Michael,
I just wanted you to know that your magazine writing class that I took in the fall semester of 1990-91 has paid even greater dividends than: a) the knowledge of how to write with authority; b) the knowledge of how to use scenes to tell a story; c) a long-lasting love for the work of Gay Talese. Sheryl Huggins also took that class with me, and we met up at our 15-year reunion in April 2006 [hosted by Keith Goggin '91]. Having not much to work off of, conversationally speaking, other than our shared experience with you and my vague recollection of her liking Pink Floyd, we talked for a bit, and a bit more the next day and, well, we will be married April 27. So, thanks. The class was even better than I first realized.*

*All the best,
Andrew*

Alumni Launch Middle East Newspaper

The National, a new English-language daily based in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, debuted April 17. In the Middle East, where most media are tightly controlled by the government, the National has pledged to emulate Western newspaper standards. Hassan M. Fattah '00, deputy editor of the new paper, and Suleman Din '04, a national reporter, are two of many Journalism School graduates who have signed up to make this project a reality. Bill Spindle '89, editor of the business page, has attracted a number of grads to his section including, Ivan Gale '05, M.A. '06, Asa Fitch '06 and Michael Jalili '04. Rasha Ellass '05 and Kelly Niknejad '05, M.A. '06, are also on board. They aim to

produce an excellent newspaper out of the region that will set a new standard for other publications to aspire to, according to Fattah, who was a correspondent for the New York Times in the Middle East before joining the National.

More at: www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/frontpage

NEW "W" LISTSERV

The Alumni Office has been asked to create a listserv for female graduates, who constitute the majority of all recent classes. It is meant to serve as a forum for discussion about the unique career and family issues faced by women. Every Journalism School class since 1942 is linked by a class listserv and there are regional listservs (including international). Please contact Kathleen Dowling (kathleen.dowling@columbia.edu) if you would like to subscribe to any listserv or update your e-mail address on any listserv.

Upcoming Alumni Events

July 24, 2008: Chicago Alumni Event during UNITY '08

Sept. 2008: London Alumni Event

Nov. 11, 2008: Alumni Fall Panel

April 23-26, 2009: ALUMNI WEEKEND

Check the Web site regularly for updates: www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni

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