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SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
& MASS COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Winter 2007/08

Murphy REPORTER

INSIDE: Murphy Hall faculty research tradition continues ■ Alumnus Thomas DeFrank's recent book on Gerald Ford



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SJMC professor Hazel Dicken-Garcia and alumna Giovanna Dell'Orto celebrate their recently published book "Hated Ideas and the American Civil War Press." Photo by Tim Rummelhoff.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Murphy REPORTER

Winter 2007/08

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Letter From the DIRECTOR

"We've embraced the aspirations of the University of Minnesota to emerge over the coming decade as one of the top three public research universities in the world by providing world class support for faculty and graduate student research."



Tom Foley

This issue of the *Murphy Reporter* provides an overview of the broad range of research and scholarship defining the vibrant intellectual climate in Murphy Hall today. We've embraced the aspirations of the University of Minnesota to emerge over the coming decade as one of the top three public research universities in the world by providing world class support for faculty and graduate student research. Minnesota is not just a great place for undergraduates to study; we have a long and distinguished history as an elite training ground for leading academics and professional research scientists.

Over the past several months, SJMC faculty have received more than \$2.1 million in major new research grants, written numerous books and presented their research at dozens of international and national conferences. Many of the faculty projects focus on individual basic research, while others involve collaboration with industry professionals to address pressing and complex problems.

As you may know, intellectual and academic leadership have a long and storied history in Murphy Hall. A 1958 compilation of the work done by our research division (the first unit of its kind to be established in any school or department of journalism in the country) summarized more than 175 studies, many supported by grants from such diverse entities as news organizations, the Office of Naval Research, the International Press Institute, the Associated Press, the Educational Radio and Television Research Center, General Mills and the Minneapolis Hospital Council. Today, a half-century later, our faculty and graduate students are similarly engaged with a variety of funding agencies in pursuit of new and deeper understanding of fundamental communications issues.

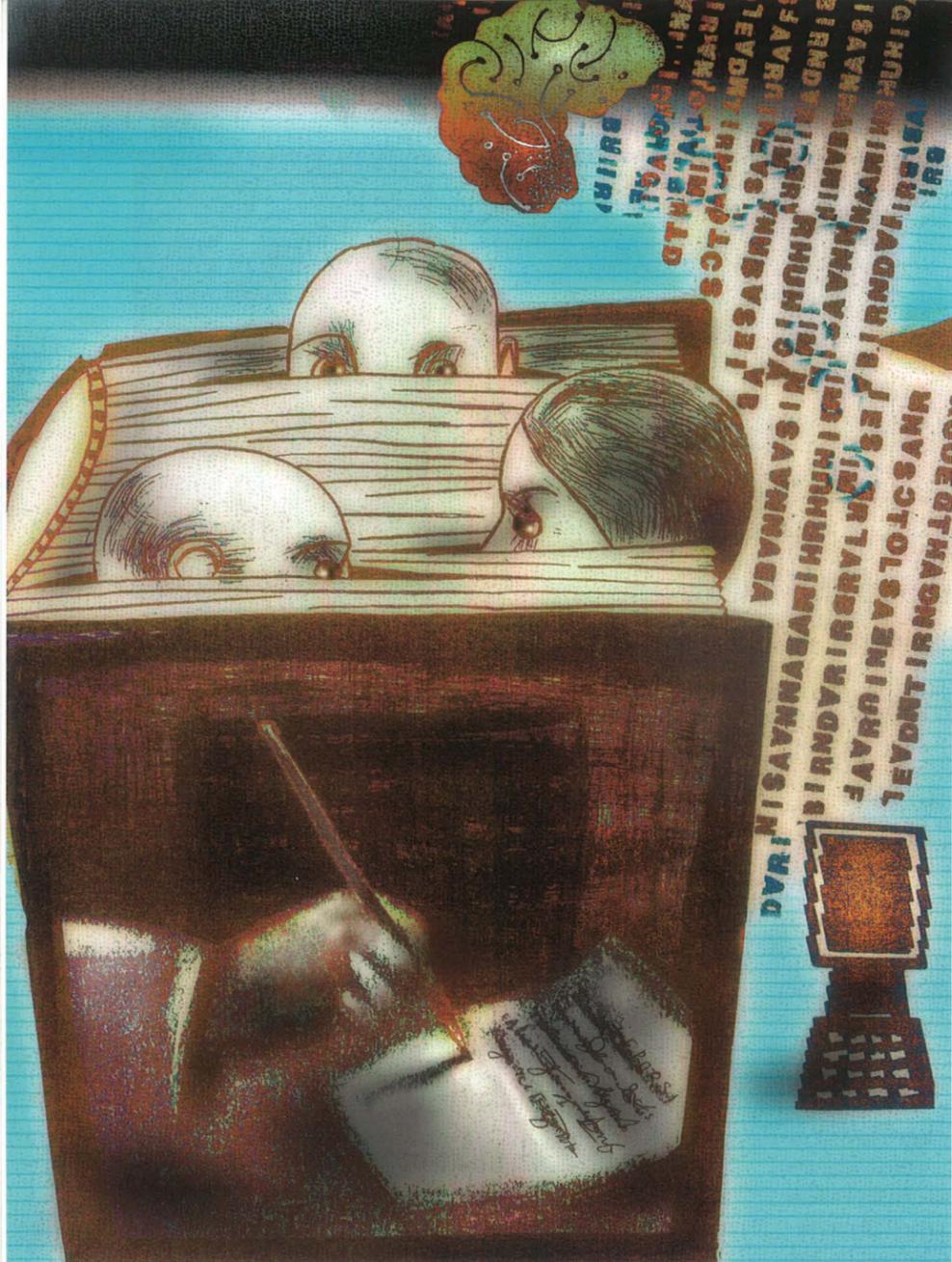
The cover of this issue showcases the scholarly collaboration between professor Hazel Dicken-Garcia, and her former Ph.D. student Giovanna Dell'Orto. Their new book, "Hated Ideas and the American Civil War Press," is an excellent example of the scholarly research partnerships that often develop between faculty members and graduate students. The book examines the treatment of unpopular and controversial ideas by journalists during this tumultuous period in American history.

Because of the faculty's strong encouragement of leading-edge scholarship, our graduate students frequently win national recognition for their research at major academic conferences and publish work in top scholarly journals. Our commitment to encourage such scholarly investigation continues. I'm pleased to report that we've recently increased our endowment support for graduate fellowships by more than \$2.5 million. This issue of the *Murphy Reporter* is intended not only to celebrate the many ways our faculty and students are making distinguished contributions but also to convey the exciting intellectual climate in Murphy Hall.

Best,

Albert R. Tims

Albert R. Tims, director



COVER STORY

The University of Minnesota is boldly moving forward with its goal to become one of the world's top three public research universities within the next decade—an institution with “a deep and abiding cultural commitment to excellence” in education and in the advancement of knowledge for the public good, as University president Robert Bruininks said in his 2007 State of the University address. Through its pioneering communications research, the SJMC is right in step with these strategic aspirations.

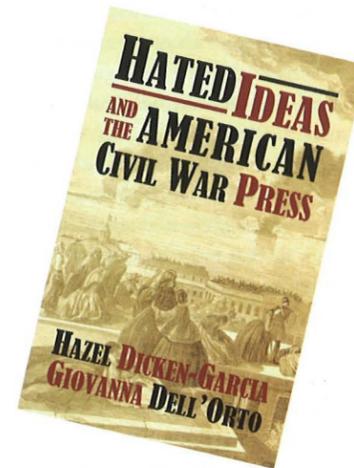
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Transforming Minnesota and the world

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PLAY
CRITICAL ROLE IN UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

By Jen Keavy

For nearly 70 years, Murphy Hall has been associated with a breadth and depth of research that distinguishes the SJMC from other journalism programs. The quality, range and rigor of its research have been hallmarks of the SJMC's program. Today, SJMC faculty and graduate students share a commitment to innovative research, scholarship and criticism. This academic year alone, faculty members have received more than \$2.1 million in research grants and will publish six books. Graduate students have presented more than 30 papers at national and international conferences, including those of the International Communication Association, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and Association of Internet Researchers. The projects profiled in following pages represent just a sampling of the research generated in Murphy Hall.



The First Amendment and the Civil War

Published last fall, “Hated Ideas and the American Civil War Press,” reveals journalists’ tolerance—or intolerance—of the principles that divided the nation during one of the most tumultuous times in its history. SJMC professor Hazel Dicken-Garcia and SJMC alumna Giovanna Dell’Orto (Ph.D. ’04) joined forces to pen the book, a collaboration that has evolved over the past decade.

American journalism has always valued the principle that even unpopular and controversial ideas deserve First Amendment protection. In “Hated Ideas

and the American Civil War Press,” Dicken-Garcia and Dell’Orto seek to understand how journalists treated abolitionism and slavery during the Civil War through an in-depth analysis of newspaper coverage. Although several books regarding the Civil War and free expression have been published, Dicken-Garcia and Dell’Orto maintain that theirs is the first book to be based entirely on freedom of expression of “hated ideas” during this period.

“We sought especially to learn whether journalists on each side of the war would tolerate the ‘hated ideas’ advocated on the other side during the war,” says Dicken-Garcia. The authors conclude that “(T)he Civil War experience underscores the fact that marginalized ideas across history have persisted, often to become accepted as part of mainstream culture. Despite intolerance by journalists ... of certain ideas ... the First Amendment has continued to sustain civil liberties ...”

Roots of Cross-Ownership

Another media history tome authored by an SJMC scholar is assistant professor Michael Stamm’s “Mixed Media: Newspaper Ownership of Radio in American Politics and Society, 1920-1952.” Based on his dissertation research, the book examines newspaper ownership of radio stations in the early to mid 20th century, an influential period in American broadcasting. The book, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, draws upon Stamm’s study of untapped primary sources in the Federal Communications Commission archives and major radio and newspaper history archives around the country.

Stamm, who was awarded the 2007 American Journalism Historians Association Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize for best dissertation in journalism and mass communication history, maintains that newspapers helped to create the modern media corporation as they evolved from delivering only printed information to also delivering multimedia information from a single, branded source. He also examines the response to these new multimedia corporations. In an effort to preserve a

Today, SJMC faculty and graduate students carry on the tradition of pioneering scholarship and a commitment to innovative research and criticism.

diversity of voices in the public sphere, critics and regulators fought to control the media monopolies.

Over the past year, Stamm has expanded his original project to include analysis of newspaper participation in crafting the public policy governing American broadcasting as well as Paul Lazarsfeld’s studies of the relationship between newspapers and radio and his participation in the policy-making process as an academic expert.

Literary Journalism and the Law

Assistant professor Kathy Roberts Forde’s new book, “Literary Journalism on Trial: Masson v. New Yorker and the First Amendment,” scheduled for publication this spring by the University of Massachusetts Press, focuses on a libel suit filed by Freud scholar and archivist Jeffrey Masson against writer Janet Malcolm and The New Yorker. For more than a decade, the case bounced from one federal courtroom to another, eventually making its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

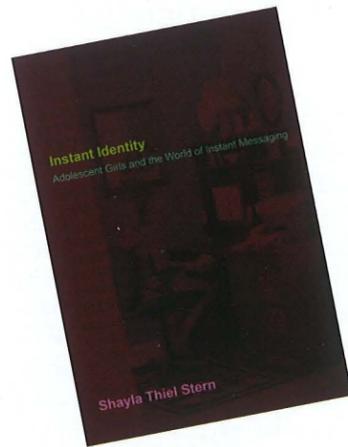
In her book, Forde reveals the implications of the case within the context of American journalism and illustrates how the case marked a turning point in the long debate between the advocates of traditional and literary journalism. Forde argues that the case bridged the gap between ideas of traditional and literary journalism and



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forced the resolution of these differing notions of truth in the arena of constitutional libel law.

Prior to publication, the book has received praise from legal historians and literary journalism scholars alike. John Hartsock, author of "A History of American Literary Journalism," says, "Literary Journalism on Trial" makes an important contribution to our understanding of First Amendment law, an understanding reflecting the historical tension between objective and literary journalism that plays out in the courtroom ..."



Instant Messages and Adolescents

Shayla Thiel Stern, who joined the SJMC faculty as an assistant professor last fall, has authored a book that is the first of its kind to explore millennials' use of as well as the implications for instant messaging. Published by Peter Lang last year, "Instant Identity: Adolescent Girls and the World of Instant Messaging" is a firsthand look at how adolescent girls employ instant messaging as a primary method of communication and relating to peers.

The study is the first of its kind to explore the ways that instant messaging plays into as well as transcends this generation's gender norms. Through examination of instant message conversations and interviews with girls 11 to 15 years old, Stern illustrates how they use the technology in their language and actions online to form identity and negotiate sexuality, as they move between childhood and adulthood.



Harnessing Information Tools

The eighth title in the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Beat Book series, "Computer-Assisted Research: Information Strategies and Tools for Journalists," offers journalists a guide to the vast range of tools and resources available on the Internet to support their research and reporting efforts. Co-authored by Nora Paul, director of the Institute for New Media Studies, and Kathleen Hansen, professor and director of the Minnesota Journalism Center, the book covers the five R's of computer-assisted journalism—reporting, research, reference, reconnaissance and rendezvous. It also examines primary and secondary Web-based resources and how to recognize, navigate and evaluate useful information on the Internet. Published last fall, the book has been praised by investigative reporters and computer-assisted reporters.

Paul and Hansen presented a computer-assisted research session at October's IRE workshop in Minneapolis based on the book, as well as one at the Pioneer Press. This spring, they'll visit the Star Tribune newsroom to share their methods for computer-assisted research, and Paul will give a workshop on the topic at the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting conference.

Playing the News

Last summer, Nora Paul and Kathleen Hansen were awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Knight News Challenge. Supported by the Knight Foundation, the competition funds innovative ideas using digital experiments to transform community news. In 2007, thousands of proposals

were submitted, but only 26 were funded. Paul and Hansen's grant was one of just a dozen six-figure awards.

"Playing the News" will create a prototype of a news scenario-building program that will allow citizens to "play" through a news story, interacting with the stakeholders involved in the issue and, hopefully, gaining a more in-depth understanding of complex and ongoing issues.

In any ongoing news story, there are sequential individual reports, and readers have difficulty developing a complete understanding of the issues at hand. Paul and Hansen seek to present the issues in a way that will make people want to take in all the information and become more knowledgeable about the big picture.

By creating an interactive online game to accompany the headlines, Paul and Hansen hope to engage newspaper readers and involve them with many aspects of the topic. With the help of colleagues from the Johnson Center for Virtual Reality at Pine Technical College, in Pine City, Minn., the pair will develop a user-friendly toolset for journalists to create these games on an ongoing basis. It is a "dual challenge," says Paul, since it must have real game aspects but must also be something that a news organization could deploy quickly. Paul explains that the developers at the Johnson Center have added their "gamer mentality" as well as technical expertise to the project. "They know those things that are so engrained in gaming culture—what makes a game addictive. A lot of the games that have been created for news organizations are not very 'gamey' or fun—we want to change that."

Even in its early stages of development, journalists have expressed interest. Star Tribune staff have weighed in on the practicality of the toolset and will participate in the testing phase. Testing won't be left just to journalists, however. Paul and Hansen say that they will involve a variety of news consumers of varying ages and backgrounds, given the project's mission to engage and inform citizens of all stripes.

Communication and Social Responsibility

Adjunct instructor Stacey Kanihan and professor Kathleen Hansen have been awarded a \$7,000 grant from the Page Center at Penn State University to conduct research for a project titled "Commitment to Social Responsibility and the Role of Communications Managers in the Executive Elite." As part of their research, they will survey S&P 500 corporations to examine the relationship between an organization's power structure and its social responsibility efforts.

Kanihan and Hansen describe the project as a study about formal vs. informal power in decision making. Organizational theorists claim that informal power is most effective, regardless of where a person is placed on an organizational chart. The person's likability and respect are directly tied to how much power he/she holds within the organization. Kanihan and Hansen assert that if a top communications manager is in the dominant coalition—or the group of individuals having the greatest influence on the organization's goals and strategies—that individual can influence high-level decision making. "We want to look at features of organizations and their commitment to corporate social responsibility," says Kanihan. "We want to see if those two factors could suggest whether or not the top communications professional is in the dominant coalition."

While they don't anticipate that their research findings could change the face of corporate culture, they do believe it might change the way communications managers themselves influence corporate culture. "Perhaps we'll be able to put together a model or a framework of what it means to be an ethical organization," says Kanihan. Adds Hansen, "If an organization wants to claim it is socially responsible, one of the things that might have to be in place is that your top communications professional would have a role in the dominant coalition."

After conducting the survey and analyzing the data, the researchers plan to disseminate their findings to communication

professionals at a conference hosted by the Minnesota Journalism Center.

Charting the Course for Online News

Nora Paul, along with her colleague Saurman Chu of the University of Minnesota College of Design, received a \$31,000 grant from the Digital Technology Center. The grant will fund the latest round of Digital Storytelling Effects Lab (DiSEL) eyetracking research as it relates to online news design.

For the past two years, DiSEL, in conjunction with University of North Carolina assistant professor Laura Ruel, has conducted research aimed at evaluating how multimedia news design decisions affect user behavior, information retention, and attitudes toward a news organization. Leading news organizations Time, USA TODAY, Yahoo!, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Star Tribune, among others, signed on to participate in the agenda-setting consortium.

Read more about the project on page 18.

Brain Waves and Anti-Drug Messages

Examining how adolescents and young adults process anti-marijuana messages is the focus of a study conducted by assistant professor Marco Yzer (co-principal investigator) and professor Ron Faber (co-investigator). The research team, which includes co-principal investigator Angus MacDonald (psychology) and co-investigators Bruce Cuthbert and Monica Luciana (psychology) and Kathleen Vohs (marketing), will receive up to \$1.1 million from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) for their project titled, "The Neuroanatomical Basis of Anti-Drug Media Messages: the Impact of Effectiveness and Risk Factors." The University of Minnesota study was one of only three projects to be funded by NIDA.

Just a handful of studies have attempted to use brain imaging to explain communication processes. According to Yzer, "This project is a pioneering study in its integra-

This academic year alone, SJMC faculty have received more than \$2.1 million in research grants and will publish six books.

tive approach. We will identify and then correlate brain activity in certain regions with communication measures to advance our understanding of why public service announcements have the effects (or non-effects) they do." The project will encompass four experimental studies, focusing on adolescents 15 to 19 years old. The emphasis is on testing whether perceptions of effectiveness correlate with predisposition for marijuana use—in other words, the way that risk factors play a role in adolescents' responses to anti-drug messages.

"From a communications perspective, we are tying pencil and paper measures to more physiological measures," says Faber. The research team will look at individual differences in terms of how people respond to messages. Most neuroscientific research deals with simple tasks that are done in labs. Now, there is a movement to figure out how to conduct neuroscientific research with more complex stimuli. Faber adds, "The ability to link this to something as complex as television ads is, to me, the really exciting part. It's a huge theoretical development that will create a long-term marriage between the two disciplines."

Although both Yzer and Faber emphasize that this is a new area of research, they are excited about the groundbreaking insights that could lead to practical implications for the field. "Neuroscience has begun to determine brain regions and pathways that



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“If you come to Murphy Hall with a research idea, the School will find a way to support you and help get you out there to share your ideas.”

involve cognition and emotion,” says Faber. “This will, in turn, allow mass communication researchers to begin to figure out the roles of emotion and cognition in decision making and messagry action—which is extremely important in determining effective messages and how to communicate with people.”

Indoor Tanning and Adolescent Health Behaviors

Another SJMC faculty member’s research will focus on adolescent health behaviors. Brian Southwell, assistant professor and director of graduate studies, along with two of his colleagues in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, DeAnn Lazovich and Jean Forster, have been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a project titled “Development of Effective Interventions to Reduce Adolescent Use of Indoor Tanning.”

The goal of the project is to develop a communication-based intervention, targeted specifically at families, that will help to curb indoor tanning among teens. By delivering targeted messages to families, Southwell and his colleagues hope to explain the dynamics of communication between parents (especially those who engage in indoor tanning themselves) and

teens about indoor tanning. He says that little is known about how parents communicate the risks associated with indoor tanning or discuss health-related materials with their children. This issue has special significance for Minnesota, since skin cancer rates are disproportionately high in the Upper Midwest. The research team will work with HealthPartners over the first two years of the project on a series of studies that will help them better understand the interpersonal dynamics between parents and children as they discuss health-related media.

In addition to its importance in addressing an unsafe health behavior, the study will illustrate how mass communication and interpersonal communication intersect. A goal is to develop health-related materials and products that other health organizations can distribute to consumers.

SJMC Graduate Students Contribute to Research

In addition to faculty research, graduate student research continues to flourish in Murphy Hall. SJMC graduate students come from a wide range of backgrounds and have an equally wide range of interests. Not only do graduate students collaborate with their faculty advisers on research projects, but they also work in partnership with their peers. Numerous graduate students team up with classmates—uniting forces and bringing their own individual strengths to the table—to investigate the structure, function, and processes involved in mass communication.

Because of the large number of students presenting papers at national and regional conferences, the SJMC now spends more on graduate student travel than ever before. Ph.D. candidates Julie Jones and Itai Himelboim say that the support they have received from the SJMC has been instrumental in their success as graduate students. Himelboim says, “I’ve talked to a lot of professors and graduate students at other schools about travel funding for conferences. It’s rare for a school to support its students like the SJMC does. It’s amazing!” Both Himelboim and Jones agree that the

SJMC supports graduate students with more than just financial resources. “As a grad student in the SJMC, we know that the SJMC stands behind us,” says Jones. “That’s very clear from the beginning.” Himelboim concurs: “If you come to Murphy Hall with a research idea, the School will find a way to support you and help get you out there to share your ideas.”

IN ADDITION TO TRAVEL FUNDS, the SJMC has recently dedicated \$2.5 million in endowment funds to support year-round fellowship opportunities for incoming doctoral candidates as well as increased support for current graduate students. Director of graduate studies Brian Southwell says of the initiative, “With this new source of graduate student support, we will be able to facilitate year-round opportunities for scholarship, meaning that our graduates will be even better job candidates down the road. Through these new strategies, we will maintain our international reputation for excellence in graduate education.”



Tom DeFrank on Air Force One with President Gerald Ford. Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

A Stranglehold on History

ALUMNUS THOMAS DEFRANK UPSETS THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM ON GERALD FORD

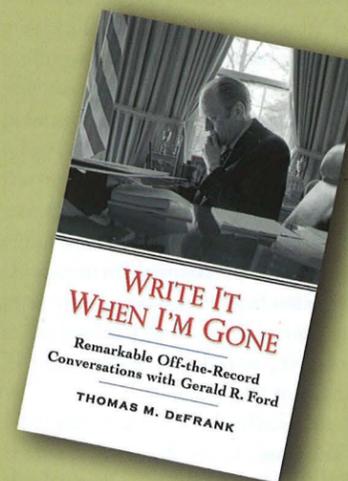
By Neal Karlen

Editor’s Note: Neal Karlen worked for Newsweek at its New York headquarters as a reporter and associate editor for four years while Thomas DeFrank (M.A., ‘68) was in the magazine’s Washington bureau. They shared one byline but somehow never met, Karlen thinks.

Summertime, and Americans were queasy.

It was April 1974, and the entire country seemed to be suffering from a profound national nausea, brought on by sins infinitely more grave than that season’s leisure suits, shag rugs, or water beds.

The endgame of the Vietnam War was nearing. And South Vietnam wouldn’t drop like a domino, but sank in the quagmire that had already swallowed over 58,000 American soldiers and millions of Southeast Asians.



A Stranglehold on History

“I was loyal to Dick Nixon,”

Ford says in those words not to be published until he was gone, but

“I couldn’t help but be sad about how ill-advised and just plain stupid he was in the way he handled the (Watergate) cover-up.”



Ford's handpicked pool of reporters on Air Force One.

Photo by David Hume Kennerly. Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

On this side of the world, Watergate’s shattering finale was only a few months away. Reporters were musing in print whether Richard Nixon was clinically insane, and/or willing to declare martial law rather than give up his chair to Gerald Ford, his handpicked vice president. Ford had already been dismissed by most Democrats, as well as an unhealthy percentage of his own Republican Party, as unworthy of the White House, a dim-witted political apparatchik who’d somehow forged a congressional career out of his own mediocrity.

Wrong-o, as college freshmen would have said back then. Yet it was only last fall that Ford’s depth, intelligence,

smoke-filled-room savvy, sense of humor, and taste for wicked political gossip were revealed in perhaps this year’s most unusual bestseller, Thomas DeFrank’s, “Write It When I’m Gone: Remarkable Off-the-Record Conversations with Gerald R. Ford” (Putnam, 272 pages, \$25.95).

DeFrank, a 1968 M.A. graduate of the University’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was naturally able to get much more from Gerald Ford in 2006 than he did back in 1974, when Ford replaced the burned-out shell that had once been Richard Nixon.

“I was loyal to Dick Nixon,” Ford says in those words not to be published until he was gone, but “I couldn’t help but be sad about how ill-advised and just plain stupid he was in the way he handled the (Watergate) cover-up.”

Ford implored George H.W. Bush to dump Vice President Dan Quayle in 1992 because his re-election campaign was “dead in the water,” and he also thought Dick Cheney, his own White House chief of staff, should have been tossed off George W. Bush’s 2004 ticket.

And then there’s Ford on Bill Clinton: “He didn’t miss one skirt at any of (our)

social occasions. He isn’t very subtle (and I’m convinced that Clinton has a sexual addiction. He needs to get help—for his sake.”

Still, Ford described the Big-Mac-munching populist president as “the best politician I’ve ever seen. This guy can sell three-day-old ice, he’s that good.”

Even famous Washington bylines like DeFrank’s come and go—do journalism students these days know of Walter Lippmann, Arthur Krock or even Scotty Reston? Yet with “Write It When I’m Gone,” DeFrank has earned a lasting legacy with that rarest of commodities: a book that not only sells, but reconfigures a valuable piece of American political history.

Before DeFrank, Ford seemed a lock to share the fates of Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan in the presidential dustbin—long-forgotten faces remembered only as tripping stones for junior high school civics students trying to recite all of the presidents in order. (Ford was 38th.)

DeFrank credits the success of “Write It When I’m Gone” to the lessons he learned at the SJMC: the tools of a deadline journalist and the patience of a dedicated

scholar. “The book marinated for a third of a century,” he says. DeFrank can still tick off, without pausing, the names of four SJMC professors who honed and focused his skills as a reporter and thinker. “They were titans,” he remembers. “Mitchell Charnley. Ed Emery. J. Edward Gerald. Don Gillmor. I loved the ambience.”

DeFrank was only five years removed from his final jaunt down Murphy Hall’s steps when he began tailing Vice President Ford for Newsweek. At 22, his 160-page master’s thesis, on the censorship of college newspapers, had been accepted. And DeFrank’s stint was over as the popular adviser to The Minnesota Daily.

Yet perhaps he missed the SJMC class where they taught young reporters what to do if you’re being strangled by the vice president of the United States. It happened to DeFrank at the hands of Gerald Ford, who at that particular moment in 1974 was approximately one ten-thousandth of a heartbeat away from moving into the Oval Office.

Then, in the middle of an interview with DeFrank, the vice president tried to take back an on-the-record quote. Ford, over-fretting about his own fate while he waited for Richard Nixon to implode, thought he’d committed a horrifying gaffe that might cause his own Republican Party to rebel and replace him.

“You didn’t hear that,” Ford said about the words the reporter had just heard.

After a pregnant silence, Ford stood, grabbed DeFrank by the tie, and began pulling with what Washington spy novels refer to as “extreme prejudice.” (Ford’s press secretary/watchdog somehow had fallen asleep in the office next door, leaving the politico and his interlocutor completely alone.)

“I was terrified,” DeFrank now says, chuckling at his younger self with the perspective of one who’s spent the last 40 years covering the best and the stupidest Washington could dish out. “I’d agreed with the conventional wisdom that Ford was just a passive, dull and colorless political hack,” DeFrank remembers. “I didn’t think much of him—and obviously he didn’t think much of me.”

Back in the arena, Ford finally let go of the mortified reporter’s tie, stalked to the office door and shut it tight. He then told DeFrank he wouldn’t be allowed to leave the vice presidential office until they had an “agreement.” Ford then presented him with the compact. DeFrank wouldn’t use the quote now.

Instead, Ford said, he could “write it when I’m dead.” That wouldn’t happen until 2006, when Ford was 92.

It would still be a good deal. DeFrank thought the quote was rather innocuous, perhaps a middlin’ scoop, relative to the headlines of the times. He calculated that the sentence might get play “in the national news for a few days, or maybe a week.”

Yet DeFrank was nobody’s spear-carrier, even if the star of the show was about to be promoted to commander in chief. “Any competitive reporter wants to use his best material immediately,” he says. “But I also knew Ford would be much more candid with me in the future if I abided by the agreement.”

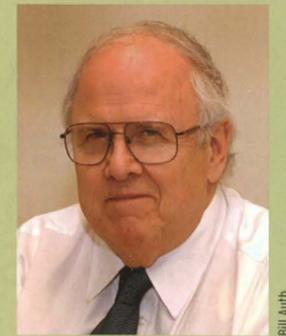
So DeFrank agreed to terms. Having already forged a mutual un-admiration society, it was a bizarre and unlikely beginning to a beautiful friendship.

“I honestly don’t know what I’d do now,” DeFrank says today. The reporter’s lasting payback began in 1991, when Ford allowed him access to hundreds of hours’ worth of his most private thoughts, including material he’d even left out of his autobiography.

During his two-plus years as president, Gerald Ford was usually thought of as a company man defined by the company he kept. He was Mr. Betty Ford. Richard Nixon’s Faust. Chevy Chase’s doofus muse.

Wrong, says Thomas DeFrank. “He was much more substantial. He was smarter than he looked.”

Oh, and the quote Ford thought was so potentially damaging that April 1974 afternoon that he was willing to garrote DeFrank to suppress it? The veep and DeFrank had been chatting about why staunch Nixon-ites still couldn’t accept that their leader was a highly impeachable, convictable and felonious criminal; a



Bill Auth

“I was terrified. I’d agreed with the conventional wisdom that Ford was just a passive, dull and colorless political hack. I didn’t think much of him—and obviously he didn’t think much of me.”

grandiose liar; and a corrupt and doomed president.

“When the pages of history are written, nobody can say I contributed to it,” young Ford said to young DeFrank, on-and then off-the-record.

Neal Karlen, an award-winning journalist, took a hard right turn at 180 mph into the SJMC’s full-time master’s program after two decades as a reporter, staff writer and associate editor at Newsweek and contributing editor at Rolling Stone. Karlen’s seventh book, “The Story of Yiddish: How a Mish-Mosh of Languages Saved the Jews,” will be published in March by William Morrow/HarperCollins. Since 1990, he has been a regular contributor to the New York Times and has written for publications ranging from The New Yorker, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Clio: A History Journal and the Indiana Review. He will begin as a columnist for The Huffington Post after he finishes his thesis, like DeFrank’s, three months late.



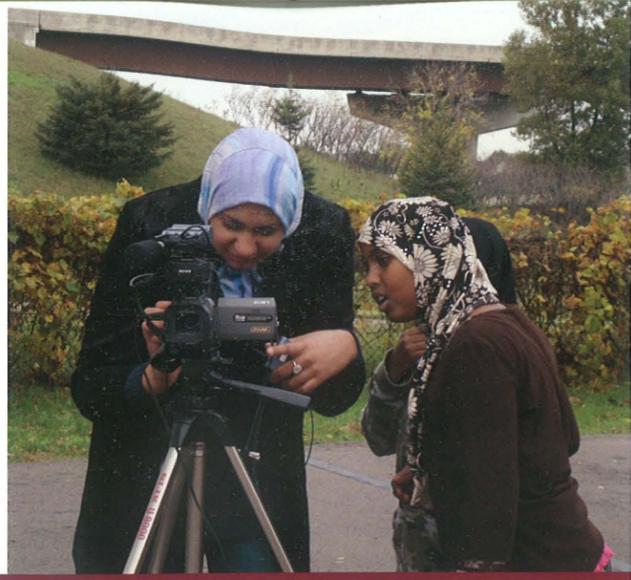
On the campaign trail, DeFrank discovers he has been the victim of a prank.

Newsweek photo by Susan I. McElhiney

SJMC student Liala Helal awarded 2007 Scripps Howard Top Ten Scholarship

By Jen Keavy

A curious student at the Minnesota International Middle School looks on as Helal works on a video story.



Shahar Khalil

SJMC senior Liala Helal has been awarded a 2007 Scripps Howard Top Ten Scholarship—the first ever in the School's history. The competition, which is open to full-time students entering their junior or senior year who are nominated by their schools, honors ten of the nation's best journalism students with a \$10,000 scholarship. The Top Ten Scholars were chosen by a panel of newspaper, broadcast and television professionals for their academic achievement, demonstrated interest in journalism, portfolio and an essay about their long-term goals.

"Winning the award has instilled in me a greater moral responsibility for doing good journalism," says Helal, who is a student

“She has been a fearless, smart and adaptable reporter for us. I remember one night she came by and asked if she should physically cover a city council meeting or do it as a next day phoner. I told her to go. And she stayed to the bitter end, 11 at night! She's never shunned an assignment and has both generated ideas and helped out more veteran reporters.”

—Sue Campbell,
Pioneer Press newsroom

in the CLA honors program majoring in journalism, minoring in psychology and teaching ESL. "I am thrilled to have so many opportunities to take on that challenge."

Helal says that she loves the excitement of covering breaking news and the unpredictable nature of newsrooms. Last summer, she was the only full-time reporter intern for the Pioneer Press—in charge of covering her own beat, which consisted of six cities in the metro area, as well as general breaking news. She was given the opportunity to join the team covering the breaking news of the 35W bridge collapse, and was sent to local hospitals to interview victims and their families the night of the disaster.

Her work as an intern at the Pioneer Press received accolades from newsroom

management and peers. Maria Reeve, her direct supervisor for the summer internship, says of Helal, "She was responsible and tackled small-town politics with the poise of a veteran. I felt total confidence in her. Her leads were some of the best I've seen from an intern. I loved that she also brought her cultural perspective to her work, and the paper gained quite a bit having her on staff." Helal continues to work part time for the Pioneer Press covering general assignment news.

In her freshman year at the University, Helal was hired as a reporter for The Minnesota Daily. She worked for about a year, covering beats such as student groups, student life, international issues and higher education. Throughout her college career, she has written more than 150 news articles published in various newspapers.

Helal has a strong sense of duty in her chosen profession. She explains, "When I'm reporting, I like to think of myself as a sponge: My goal is to soak up exactly what I'm there to pick up, and do it accurately and with little error. Just like a good reporter, sponges have built-in grooves to feel out empty spaces they need to fill. In that sense, I strive to be a reporter who has knowledge of what is empty in the news, and what I should fill it with, what I should 'soak up' next. It may sound silly to compare myself to a sponge, but it's such a great metaphor!"

In addition to being a college student and a working journalist, Helal is an active volunteer, both in the campus and Muslim communities. During the fall semester, Helal volunteered at a Minneapolis middle school's Arabic and ESL classrooms, where she helped teachers incorporate news materials and activities into their class lesson plans. She's also a Muslim health mentor at the University of Minnesota, where she's part of a team that uses culturally appropriate techniques to mentor Muslim students on mental health and fitness issues.

Helal was born and raised in the Twin Cities to parents who came from Egypt and met at the University of Minnesota. She says that in the future she would like to use her knowledge of Islam and the Arabic language to accurately cover stories in the Middle East. She's also interested in covering social justice issues, politics, global news, religion, education and health.

Distinguished Nebraska publisher John Gottschalk receives 2007 Casey Award

By Jen Keavy

On October 23, SJMC director Albert Tims presented the 2007 Ralph D. Casey/Minnesota Award to John Gottschalk, publisher of the Omaha World-Herald newspaper and chairman/CEO of its parent company, at the Inland Press Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

Presented since 1951, the Casey Award, named for Ralph D. Casey, is the highest honor awarded by the Inland Press Association and the SJMC for distinguished public service and leadership in the newspaper industry. A pioneer of journalism education, Casey was instrumental in establishing the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism & Mass Communication and served as the School's first director from 1930 to 1958.

John Gottschalk's nomination for the Casey Award received unprecedented support, including letters from U.S. Sens. Chuck Hagel and Ben Nelson; Nebraska's governor Dave Heineman; Omaha's mayor Mike Fahey; the presidents of the University of Nebraska and Creighton University; chairmen and CEOs of Nebraska's largest corporations; and the executive director of the Nebraska Press Association.

The son and grandson of newspaper men, Gottschalk has spent his entire life in journalism—as a boy working for small-town newspapers in rural Nebraska to recently, as the leader of Nebraska's paper of record. His career began in Sidney, Neb., where he owned and operated the Sidney Telegraph from 1966 to 1974. In 1975, Gottschalk came to the Omaha World-Herald as assistant to the president, working his way up to president and chief operating officer within ten years. In 1989, he was named chairman and chief executive officer of the company and publisher of the World-Herald. In late 2007, Gottschalk announced he was stepping down from his post as chief executive and publisher, effective January 1, 2008. He continues to serve as chairman of the board.

During Gottschalk's tenure, the Omaha World-Herald Company experienced significant growth and expansion. With four daily newspapers in Nebraska, three daily newspapers in Iowa, 21 weekly community newspapers in Nebraska and Iowa and direct marketing and product fulfillment companies in eight states, the World-Herald Company is a much different corporation than when Gottschalk came on board in the 1970s. The Omaha World-Herald is the 53rd-largest newspaper in the United States by circulation, although Omaha is only the 75th-largest metropolitan area. Moreover, the World-Herald is the only employee-owned major daily newspaper in the nation.

Under his leadership, the paper won numerous awards for its coverage of high school and college education, child welfare, water conservation, Nebraska military involvement and immigration.

Like Ralph Casey, Gottschalk believes deeply in the idea that newspapers should embrace their role as social trustees. Gottschalk's focus for the newspaper has been local news coverage, especially on city and state government as well as the expanding Omaha metro area. His strong belief in informing citizens is underscored by the paper's commitment to local news coverage across Nebraska and western Iowa. In addition, the paper has retained its Washington and state capital bureaus, added investigative reporters and continued to publish both morning and evening editions for the metro area.

In an article published in the World-Herald announcing his retirement, Gottschalk stated, "We must always seek to clearly distinguish the Omaha World-Herald from any other news organization in our marketplace as the source of significant reporting on the most important issues facing our citizens."

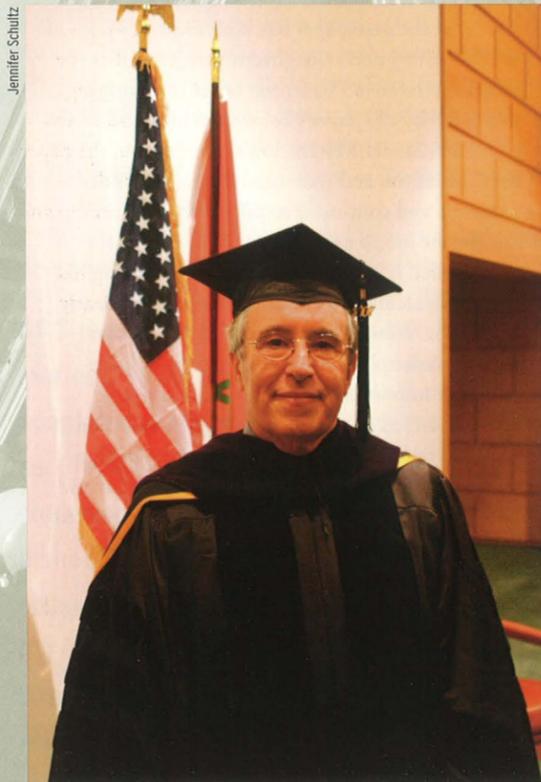
Gottschalk was described in the Casey Award nomination letters as a civic "workhorse." In the early 2000s, his decision to build the Freedom Center, a state-of-the-art production and distribution facility for the paper, and to purchase and renovate a downtown building to make it the Omaha World-Herald headquarters, played an instrumental role in the \$2 billion redevelopment of Omaha's downtown and riverfront. During the campaign for the Holland Performing Arts Center, he was the chairman of Omaha Performing Arts and led the planning and fund raising for the \$90 million facility. He's also been credited with helping Omaha become the first city in the nation to develop a plan to improve education from kindergarten through high school with community involvement.

In presenting the award to Gottschalk, Tims said, "The many letters supporting Gottschalk's nomination tell us that John is not simply admired—he is treasured. It is clear to me that if the state of Nebraska had a 'First Citizen,' that citizen would be John Gottschalk."



Courtesy of the Omaha World-Herald

Mohamed Benaissa becomes first SJMC alumnus to receive honorary Doctor of Laws degree



Two underreported facts about the relationship between Morocco and the United States are the following, according to Mohamed Benaissa: "Morocco was the first country in 1777 to recognize the United States as an independent nation. The first treaty that the new American republic entered into was with Morocco, in 1787." This friendship treaty has never been broken.

By Nahid Khan

Mohamed Benaissa (B.S., '63), former Moroccan ambassador to the United States (1993-99) and Morocco's former minister of foreign affairs and cooperation (1999-2007), is the first SJMC alumnus to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Minnesota.

Before his ambassadorship, he was the minister of culture, a member of parliament, mayor of his hometown and editor in chief of two daily newspapers, following a communications career at the United Nations.

Benaissa attributes these accomplishments to the values of journalism, which he sought to understand when he arrived at the University of Minnesota from Morocco in the fall of 1961. Like many new students, he came with a lot of questions about life, his country and the world.

It was only five years since Morocco had won independence from French and Spanish colonial rule, and Benaissa's hometown of Asilah was in the northern zone ruled by Spain under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco. The colonialist mentality dominated his early education, and the nation's political independence stimulated a thirst to understand the full meaning of national emancipation through education.

"I wanted to be emancipated from prejudices and to learn to seek the truth of matters," Benaissa said during a December visit to campus to receive his honorary degree.

As an undergraduate, he wasted no time in taking every opportunity at the University and beyond to explore those issues and consider others concerning the social purposes of knowledge.

While focusing on photojournalism and electronic journalism, Benaissa also took a minor in fine art and participated in the African-American Club. Back then, the club name referred to people interested in contemporary relations between Africa and the United States, and club members included a Macalester College student named Kofi Annan. The two later served together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while working for the United Nations, with Benaissa initially serving in a more senior position than Annan, who later went on to become the U.N. secretary-general.

Benaissa also made the time to read everything he could find at the University library on Morocco—"things I could never find in Morocco"—and to learn as much as possible about life in America as well, from working on a farm in Janesville, Minn., to reflecting on the political events of the day. The civil rights movement had gained tremendous strength, the Cold War was at its height and the Cuban missile crisis had everyone on edge.

During a psychology class in the fall of 1963, the teacher interrupted class to announce the death of President Kennedy.

"It came as a very big shock," Benaissa recalled. "People were really moved, and it was a sad moment. Everyone went home to watch the news on TV, and the campus was dead. The University was almost closed for two days. Nobody knew what was happening, and our first thought was 'Cuba did it,' and then 'Will there be a world war?'"



State Department photo by Michael Gross

"When I came to the University of Minnesota, I embarked on building a new Mohamed Benaissa. I feel great pride and joy at this recognition from the place where I was reborn."

Benaissa met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other U.S. officials to discuss bilateral relations and regional and international issues in 2006.

International affairs animated many heated debates on campus, but Benaissa was struck by the atmosphere of freedom and peacefulness in expressing and listening to the various perspectives, and by the opportunities for him as a budding journalist to investigate facts and sources independently. As his electronic journalism skills developed, Benaissa became interested in capturing social milestones on film.

When the first McDonald's restaurant opened in the Twin Cities early in 1963, Benaissa filmed its first transaction for a class project. After graduation he moved to New York, where he spent a year making his own film, "The A-Train After Midnight." He sold the film to CBS, which used some scenes in another milestone production, the documentary titled "The History of the Negro People." During this time, he also did television work for David Brinkley at NBC while working as a press attaché for the Moroccan Mission to the United Nations in New York.

A decade-long career with the United Nations followed, beginning as a press attaché and culminating as the director of the information division of the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, where he also worked on the United Nations' 1975 World Food Conference. But throughout his globe-trotting years he had a personal deadline: to return to live in Morocco by age 40.

Arriving in his hometown of Asilah with a camera in 1976, Benaissa was shocked to discover the small town of about 10,000 was in worse shape than before he had left it in the late '50s. He dedicated his life to his town and, on the basis of his novel views about culture as the foundation for community revitalization, was elected to the city council as well as to the national parliament, and later served as the city mayor.

During this time, many of the lessons Benaissa learned from observing Minnesota's culture of volunteerism and partnerships with the private sector were put to use, and he led community efforts to raise money to restore the city's historic monuments and

buildings, and to create a city library and research center. He also established an international cultural season, held every August in state-of-the-art facilities, that now attracts up to 100,000 visitors, including many scholars, writers and artists from around the world.

The rehabilitation of the town's infrastructure and reinvigoration of its economy were recognized internationally in 1989 when Asilah received the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

The cultural focus of his work on behalf of his town was the model for his subsequent work as Morocco's minister of culture. And his effective championing of the rich heritage of his country, as well as his extensive international experience as a communicator, led to his appointment as Morocco's ambassador to the United States followed by his service as minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

In his acceptance speech after receiving his honorary degree, Benaissa emphasized the importance of gathering accurate information and communicating knowledge with fairness as the basis of building sound and constructive relations with others—values that he learned through his journalism education.

He credited his education at the University of Minnesota with giving him a knowledge base that he has drawn upon throughout his life and career, and that has given him an appreciation for openness and dialogue that has served him well through many changes.

"When I came to the University of Minnesota, I embarked on building a new Mohamed Benaissa," he said. "I feel great pride and joy at this recognition from the place where I was reborn."

Nahid Khan is a Ph.D. student in the SJMC. Her research focuses on American news coverage of Islam in this country and American Muslims as a religious community.



2007-08 Minnesota Daily leadership, left to right: Katherine Groth, Michael Marino and Emily Banks.

Daily life at The Minnesota Daily

■ Editorial Division Emily Banks

The editorial division includes the people who write and edit stories, shoot videos and photos, and design and edit the pages. This semester, the Daily has overhauled the way its multimedia department works, providing more photos, videos and online packages. We've begun creating unique Web pages for special projects, including the series called My Life in Kenya and a project on breast cancer awareness. The Daily is broadening its storytelling methods whether it's online or in print. Expect to see more alternate story forms — stories told through charts and Q&As — and blogs from student group leaders. We've also expanded Backtalk, which now offers the sassy Where Life Meets Style column, a look at trends and style on Wednesdays. In late October, we began teasing stories and the special weekly sections with cut-out photos behind the flag. As the semester and year progress, we'll continue to introduce new features both in print and online to stay fresh and innovative.

■ Administrative Division Michael Marino

The administrative division at the Daily has been hard at work all semester striving

to provide the utmost support for the other divisions of our organization. The administrative division comprises survey research, human resources, information systems, online as well as communications and development. This past semester, survey research conducted a large internal survey to get a sense of our office environment for the first time in several years. Human resources implemented its annual Manager's II Training, an advanced day-long training session, in October. Information systems and online are hard at work keeping all of the technology in our office as well as our Web site fully functional in addition to working on several projects of their own. Also, our communications and development department is strategizing on effective ways to communicate to our staff as well as show our organization's appreciation of their work. We in the administrative division are proud of our work this past semester and are looking forward to a great spring.

■ Business Division Katherine Groth

The business division at The Minnesota Daily consists of about 45 students in sales, marketing, distribution, advertising production and finance. This semester,

the business division has enjoyed great success by generating strong levels of sales and improving fiscal decision making. We are currently creating new guidelines for internal purchasing as well as for receiving on-time payments from our advertising clients. We strive to achieve a balance between our online and print advertising sales. We encourage clients to use a multifaceted marketing approach and to take advantage of both mediums. In the marketing and advertising production departments, we have been working hard to improve the professionalism and quality of the marketing campaigns, advertisements and promotions this semester. We aim for cohesion and connectivity in everything the Daily puts out to the University community. This requires close interaction with the community as well as the editorial and administrative divisions of the paper. Finally, we are seeking external contacts and mentors to help with sales, marketing and advertising, as there is always room to grow and learn. Everyone should look forward to amazing transformations of the Daily this coming spring.

Supporting the next generation

By Eva Widder

Do you remember long nights of toiling away in the Daily newsroom for what seemed like pennies an hour? Or the stress of meeting a story deadline while studying for a major exam? Today's student staffers at the Daily manage—quite impressively—to balance demanding professional work with rigorous academic course work. An important part of the Daily's continued excellence is our ability to recognize the best and brightest student staffers with scholarships. With rising tuition costs, scholarship support is more important than ever.

To recognize the hard work and commitment of student staffers, the Minnesota Daily Alumni Association has provided nearly \$15,000 in scholarships since 2005. Last year, we established a new endowed scholarship fund. This endowment at the University of Minnesota Foundation will allow us to invest your gifts for long-term growth and, ultimately, provide more scholarships to students.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication has pledged its support of this important effort by committing \$100,000 to be used as a challenge fund. For every dollar you give to the scholarship endowment, the SJMC will give another dollar to double the impact of your gift.

We are thrilled with this opportunity to provide even more valuable scholarship support to our outstanding students. Without a doubt, we expect great things from these students in the years to come as they begin their professional careers.

We hope you will consider investing in the next generation of Daily alumni. To make a gift, visit: <http://www.mndaily.com/alumni/donations>.

Minnesota Daily Alumni Association Update

Award-winning NSAC team is the talk of the nation

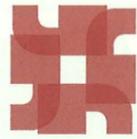
Members of the 2007 award-winning National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) team were the featured guests at the American Advertising Federation's fall 2007 conference, "Discovering Today's Advertising Talent," held in New York City on Sept. 25, 2007. Google, Inc. hosted a program that demonstrated the extraordinary strength of the NSAC and featured testimonials from past and present corporate sponsors of the competition. The Minnesota team presented its "Together" campaign, which was praised for its thorough analysis and creative strategy. Their presentation illustrated well-prepared NSAC team members are ready for entry into the world of advertising. Andrea Brown, director, strategic media planning, Coca-Cola North America, said of the team's effort, "The University of Minnesota team presented a campaign that is dynamic, creative and inspiring. It is a campaign that is clearly Coca-Cola."



Courtesy of the NSAC Team

Risdall Advertising continues Intern-for-a-Day program

Risdall Advertising Agency hosted 25 SJMC students for its innovative Intern-for-a-Day program on Dec. 7, 2007. The day-long event included an agency tour, brainstorming sessions, individual mentor meetings and presentations from industry leaders. The students showed sharp insights during the brainstorming sessions, where they were given scenarios from actual Risdall clients. Rose McKinney, president of Risdall McKinney Public Relations, spoke to the interns about career paths in advertising and public relations, and what to expect as they begin their job search. Jim Sandstrom, president of Risdall Sandstrom Media Works, and Josh Dahmes, vice president of Risdall Online Marketing, gave insights into new media and the ever-changing trends in advertising. John Risdall, chairman, and Tom Wilson, president, lead agency tours and spoke on agency culture.



MINNESOTA JOURNALISM CENTER

The Minnesota Journalism Center forges meaningful partnerships to strengthen outreach efforts.

Rachel Johnson



Art Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research for the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, speaks to journalists at the 2007 Supply, Demand and Deadlines conference.

Supply, Demand and Deadlines conference explores the economics of aging

By Rachel Johnson

American Press Institute offers "Storytelling Innovations" Workshop

The Minnesota Journalism Center partnered with the American Press Institute to host "Storytelling Innovations," a multi-day workshop designed for print reporters and editors who need to become multimedia storytellers; online journalists who want help in integrating their efforts with their print colleagues; and senior editors and writing coaches looking to transform the storytelling culture of their newsrooms.

The workshop featured national speakers and local experts including Joel Kramer, who discussed his new online venture MinnPost, and Regina McCombs from the Star Tribune. Participants learned about crowd sourcing, mobile journalism, multimedia storytelling, digital storytelling opportunities and alternate storytelling. Attendees learned new storytelling skills that will help them to better engage readers on multiple platforms as the newspaper industry continues to change.

A highlight for workshop attendees was visiting Minneapolis' Midtown Global Market for a storytelling exercise and then a group dinner.

Last summer's Supply, Demand and Deadlines conference, a joint venture between the Minnesota Journalism Center and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, brought together leading economics and business journalists to discuss the economics of aging. The conference, held last June, kicked off with keynote speaker Terry Fitzgerald of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, who spoke on the decline of the middle class.

Eighteen journalists from around the country attended the conference to hear from leading economists and journalists who are experts at conveying difficult economic issues to the general public, including David Wessel, economics editor for The Wall Street Journal, Mike Meyers of the Star Tribune, Art Rolnick and Ellen McGrattan of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and Tom Stinson, Minnesota state economist. The conference also

featured a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and a critique session by Meyers and Rolnick.

Participants came away from the conference with a greater understanding of how to incorporate economics into their writing in a meaningful way. Reporter Melinda Rogers, from The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead in Fargo, N.D., and a University of Minnesota alumna, appreciated the opportunity for professional development. "As a new business reporter at Fargo's daily, this (conference) served as a fantastic learning opportunity to educate myself on economics concepts," she said.

An annual event, Supply, Demand and Deadlines aims to help journalists understand the economic aspects of the stories they cover as well as provide a basic introduction to economic thinking. Visit <http://www.mjc.umn.edu> for information about the 2008 conference.

IRE Better Watchdog Workshop

Keeping government and business accountable is a hot topic, and with shrinking newsrooms and resources, many reporters don't know how to produce enterprising and informative stories. The Minnesota Journalism Center partnered this fall with the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press to bring Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) to Minneapolis to present the Better Watchdogs Workshop, IRE's highly rated program for reporters, editors and producers and Unleashing the Watchdogs, a

special program for midlevel editors offered in conjunction with the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Participants learned investigative skills, federal and state freedom of information laws, and how to juggle watchdog stories with other assignments. Kathleen Hansen, MJC director, and Nora Paul, INMS director, spoke to the group on effective use of the Internet. The workshop concluded with an optional hands-on, computer assisted-reporting session.



SILHA CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIA ETHICS & LAW



Terry Faust

Corn-Revere speaks to a packed house at Cowles Auditorium in the Humphrey Center.

Robert Corn-Revere explores the drive to regulate violence in the media in annual Silha Lecture

By Patrick File

Attempts to control violence depicted on television and in video games are likely to continue, even though "the kids are all right," according to the 2007 Silha lecturer.

Attorney Robert Corn-Revere delivered the 22nd annual Silha Lecture, titled "The Kids Are All Right: Violent Media, Free Expression and the Drive to Regulate," to an overflow audience at the Cowles Auditorium on the Twin Cities campus on Oct. 1, 2007. A partner with Davis Wright Tremaine in Washington, D.C., Corn-Revere has been involved with major media regulatory proceedings since the late 1990s, most recently serving as lead counsel for CBS in CBS Corporation, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission (06-3575), the Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction" case, which he argued before the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 11, 2007.

According to Corn-Revere, events such as the grisly mass murder-suicides at Columbine High School in 1999 and Virginia Tech University in 2007 have led commentators and legislators to blame media violence for youthful rage.

Corn-Revere said that although lobbying groups and legislators have tried in recent years to mandate regulatory regimes for violent content in video games, movies and music, courts have struck down every such attempt. Most often, Corn-Revere said, legislators have tried to extend the narrow traditionally accepted categories

of unprotected speech, such as obscenity, to encompass violent content. State and federal courts have resisted these strategies, however, ruling that violence in the media deserves as much First Amendment protection as that in literature or entertainment, and citing the practical problem of determining which media should be protected and which should not.

Corn-Revere said that laws aimed at banning the sale of violent video games to minors have been struck down by courts in Oklahoma, Indiana, Missouri, Washington, California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Louisiana.

Such consistency among the courts notwithstanding, Corn-Revere said, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a report in April 2007 that said Congress can and should act to limit how much violence children are exposed to on television. Corn-Revere was critical of the FCC report, which made no direct recommendations addressing the problems of defining excessively violent content, saying instead, "Congress could do so." He called this "purely a 'let Mikey try it' kind of approach to policy."

One possible solution the FCC proposed was "time-channeling," creating a safe-harbor period when violence on broadcast television would be prohibited. Corn-Revere compared time-channeling to the Maginot Line, a concept that "has become synonymous with a comically ineffective

solution to a problem." He said that modern media, which enjoy fuller First Amendment protection than does broadcast television, have made a scheduling-based solution "irrelevant."

However, Corn-Revere said, "technology ... has also made protections available that simply didn't exist when the Supreme Court first considered the issue (of broadcast indecency regulation) in Pacifica in 1978." Popular digital video recorders like TiVo and most modern televisions make it possible for parents to actively monitor the programming their children are exposed to and can block access to some programs and channels they find too violent, he said.

Corn-Revere believes that the social science research upon which anti-media violence legislation has been based is "often mis-described and mis-cited." Courts that have closely examined the social science basis for protecting the interests of children have not found it as compelling as the legislators who have passed the laws, he said.

Moreover, Corn-Revere said, social measures focused on youth show that things are actually "tending to get better for people in that age group." He cited decreasing rates of drug and alcohol abuse among children, decreasing juvenile crime rates, lower youth suicide rates and fewer fights in high schools.

The Silha Lecture is supported by a generous endowment from the late Otto Silha and his wife, Helen.



INSTITUTE FOR
NEW MEDIA STUDIES

By Nora Paul

INMS launches groundbreaking Eyetracking Research Consortium

Ten national news organizations responded to INMS director Nora Paul's call for partnering and funding to support a new round of eyetracking studies. For the past two years, DiSEL, the Digital Storytelling Effects Lab (www.disel-project.org), in conjunction with University of North Carolina assistant professor Laura Ruel, has conducted research aimed at evaluating how multimedia news design decisions affect user behavior, information retention, and attitudes toward a news organization.

Time, USA TODAY, Yahoo!, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Star Tribune and other U.S. news organizations attended the research agenda-setting consortium meeting at the University of Minnesota Feb. 1-2, 2008. Paul and Ruel presented recent research findings on slide-show navigation, breaking news placement, supplemental links design, and the impact of multiple news "story tools" and information links on news pages. Attendees toured the University of Minnesota's state-of-the-art usability lab and saw demonstrations of eyetracking technology. As partners, the news organizations were asked their input on research questions to study and worked with Minnesota and North Carolina graduate students on constructing research projects.

The information gleaned from the research consortium's efforts will be shared worldwide with multimedia storytellers through an Online Journalism Review column and industry presentations. Also,

The Institute for New Media Studies celebrates soon-to-be released Eyetracking Project research.



Cristóbal Cobo, professor and director of the communication and information technology department, FLACSO-Mexico (Faculty of Latin American Social Sciences), is pictured with Nora Paul, director of the Institute for New Media Studies. Cobo was the featured speaker for the institute's first new media research breakfast of the academic year.

the results will be published in the DiSEL series of research reports.

The latest round of DiSEL research was funded by a University of Minnesota Digital Technology Center grant, written in collaboration with College of Design Professor Sauman Chu.

New media research breakfast features e-book "Planet Web 2.0" author

In October, the INMS and the University's Digital Technology Center hosted Dr. Cristóbal Cobo, director of communication and information technology, FLACSO-Mexico, for its monthly new media research breakfast. Cobo reviewed different concepts and principles from the collective intelligence perspective (also described as the "wisdom of crowds", "architecture of participation" and "intercreativity") and the idea of the Internet as "fast food" mass media (cheap, short lifespan and low-quality content).

Cobo's new e-book, "Planet Web 2.0, Collective Intelligence or Media 'Fast Food,'" is a mosaic of academic reflections oriented to understanding the implications of the evolution of the Internet and its current applications. He reported that, in the first week of its release, the book had registered 40,000 downloads. A podcast of his presentation is available at <http://www.inms.umn.edu/>.

2008 Emerging Digerati to appear in new format

This spring, Emerging Digerati will bloom in a new format. Now in its sixth season as a once-a-month evening program, the Emerging Digerati spring offerings will be consolidated into one week. INMS staff and Emerging Digerati curator Anne Preston will lead attendees through the various digital labs on campus with a series of "open house" tours beginning March 31, 2008. The weeklong program will culminate in a daylong gathering on April 4 at the Weisman Art Museum. The day's events will include demonstrations, presentations, posters and digital installations by University departments, faculty and students. The afternoon program will feature performance and art using new digital tools and techniques.

This showcase of innovative technology labs (transportation, health, archaeology and design) as well as the individual projects presented in the April 4 activities will give both University of Minnesota and community attendees a taste of all the rich and creative ways digital technologies are being leveraged at the University. For more information on the program, go to <http://www.inms.umn.edu/digerati>.

To learn more about any of the INMS's activities or collaborations, contact the INMS at inms@umn.edu or (612) 625-0576.

Faculty UPDATE

Kudos



Assistant professor **Kathy Roberts Forde's** article "Libel, Freedom of the Press and The New Yorker" received honorable mention as the best article of 2006 in the journal *American Journalism*. She received the award at the American Journalism Historians Association annual conference held in Richmond, Va. in October.



SJMC lecturer **Gayle "GG" Golden** was awarded a 2007 Minnesota Magazine and Publications Association (MMPA) Best Feature Story Silver Award for "The Short Life and Sudden Death of Germaine Vigeant." The story, about the death of a University of Minnesota student in the Bunge grain elevators north of campus, was published in *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* in October 2006. The MMPA is the organization for magazine professionals. It serves as a resource and a voice for magazine publishing in Minnesota, while advancing and recognizing the professional development of its members. Membership comprises approximately 100 magazine publishing companies in Minnesota, representing approximately 1,000 magazine professionals.



SJMC lecturer **Jennifer Johnson** was invited to join The One Club for its seventh annual One Show China and workshop in Beijing in November. Johnson was one of only two instructors from American universities to be invited to participate. She also served as a judge for The One Show China and joined a network of international creative directors in Beijing to instruct students in conceptual development during her stay. She has been active in The One Club for several years and won a coveted pencil award during her professional advertising career at the Leo Burnett Company.

Adjunct instructor **Stacey Kanihan** and professor **Kathleen Hansen** have been awarded a \$7,000 grant from the Page Center at Penn State University for a project titled "Commitment to Social Responsibility and the Role of Communications Managers in the Executive Elite."

Associate professor **Mark Pedelty** received a Learning Abroad Center Engagement Grant as part of the Curriculum Integration Initiative. The grant will pay for an undergraduate student to help organize a panel of students returning from study abroad to speak in SJMC classes. He also received a CLA Small Tech Grant of \$3,500 to help fund production and performance technology for use in Jour 3745, Mass Media and Popular Culture.



Associate professor **Dona Schwartz's** photograph "Tammy and Jeremy, 7 days," was one of 60 images selected for the National Portrait Gallery's (London) Photographic Portrait Prize 2007 exhibition. Nearly 7,000 photographs were submitted. The exhibition showcases the work of the most talented emerging young photographers, photography students and gifted amateurs alongside that of established professionals.

Her work also was featured in the Spectra '07 National Photography Triennial at Silvermine Guild Art Center in New Canaan, Conn. This triennial exhibition was juried by Peter MacGill of Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York City; 136 of the 1,400 photographs submitted were chosen for the exhibition, which ran in the fall. In addition, the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University has acquired a photograph from her "Sanctioned Sex" series for its permanent collection. This fall, it was included in the exhibition, Kinsey Confidential at the Kinsey Institute Gallery.

Associate professor **Gary Schwitzer's** HealthNewsReview.org Web site has won a Mirror Award for excellence in media information services. The award, sponsored by Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, honors excellence in media industry reporting. The competition included Web sites of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio and the Washington Post, among others. The Mirror Award is one of several honors Schwitzer has won for the Web site.

Last fall, the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., invited Schwitzer to be one of its Poynter Ethics Fellows for 2008. He will join a group of 18 dedicated journalists from across the country, representing broadcast, print and online. The fellows gather to discuss ethical challenges facing journalism and to learn from each other. In the past, fellows have helped each other cover such major stories as the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the Iraq War, as well as ethical challenges that regularly arise in covering beat stories and breaking news. They write articles and columns for the Poynter.org Web site, and may also represent Poynter at regional journalism gatherings, such as those sponsored by press and broadcast associations, minority journalism organizations and the Society of Professional Journalists.

Brian Southwell, assistant professor and director of graduate studies, along with two of his colleagues in the University's School of Public Health, have been awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health for a project titled "Development of Effective Interventions to Reduce Adolescent Use of Indoor Tanning." They will receive approximately \$300,000 over two years for their research.





Assistant professor **Marco Yzer** and Angus MacDonald (psychology) (co-principal investigators), with SJMC professor Ron Faber, Monica Luciana

(psychology) and Kathleen Vohs (marketing) as co-investigators, have been awarded up to \$1.1 million over three years from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for research examining how adolescents and young adults process anti-marijuana messages.

Publications and Research

Ken Doyle, director of the SJMC's communication research division, and Itai Himelboim, graduate research assistant, made a presentation to graduate students and faculty about two important databases available through the research division. The life styles database, provided courtesy of professor emeritus **Bill Wells** and DDB Needham Worldwide, is based on a thousand-question, standing-panel quota-sample survey of several thousand people, representative of the U.S. adult population. Administered annually for 10 years, the survey includes questions about consumer attitudes and behaviors, product preferences and media usage. This is one of the most comprehensive consumer-behavior databases there is, and graduate students and faculty are invited to use it.

The telethnography database, also initiated by Bill Wells, comprises recordings of top-10 broadcast-television entertainment programs, also for the past 10 years. Many programs are coded so researchers can locate program segments that mention particular products (e.g., coffee) or social phenomena (e.g., dating) and can study how those products or phenomena are depicted. The telethnography database has inspired a number of theses, dissertations, conference papers and journal articles.

This database is a groundbreaking way of studying society. Traditional surveys and focus groups represent a social-science approach, whereas this database represents a humanities approach.



John Eighmey, Mithun Land Grant Chair in Advertising, and George Anghelcev, Ph.D. student, won the Top Faculty Paper Award in the advertising division at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication last August. The paper was titled "Motivation Crowding: The Hidden Costs of Introducing an Incentive in Advertising to Promote Intrinsic Behavior." In their study, Eighmey and Anghelcev used motivation crowding theory to look at the psychological effects of introducing incentives into a decision involving strong intangible values.

Assistant professor **Kathy Roberts Forde** presented research in progress on the subject "Reading the Journalism of Protest: James Baldwin and the American Civil Rights Movement" at the American Journalism Historians Association annual conference held in Richmond, Va. in October.

She also published a Teaching Tips column in the fall 2007 newsletter of the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies.

Assistant professor **Jisu Huh's** paper titled "Presumed Influence of Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) Prescription Drug Advertising on Patients: The Physicians' Perspective," co-authored with SJMC doctoral student, Rita Langteau was published in the fall issue of the *Journal of Advertising*. Another paper, titled "Do Consumers Believe Advertising is Negatively Affected When Placed Near News Perceived as Biased?" co-authored with Leonard N. Reid, profes-



sor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, appeared in the fall issue of the *Journal of Current Issues and Research in Advertising*.



Associate professor **Chris Ison** was interviewed on WCCO-AM's Mondale and Jones show on Sept. 19 discussing the impact of a judge's order removing Star Tribune publisher Par Ridder from his job. Ison also was interviewed by WCCO-AM reporter Steve Murphy concerning the Ridder case. His article "Here's Hoping This Town Can Still Be the Same" was published on the Star Tribune's opinions page on Oct. 10. The piece focused on the aftermath of a shooting rampage in Ison's hometown of Crandon, Wis., that left seven people dead.

On Oct. 17, he gave a presentation titled "Journalism the Right Way: Creating an Ethical Culture in the Newsroom" for the Minnesota State High School Press Association. He also led a discussion before the Minnesota News Council on journalism ethics on Oct. 18. Ison conducted two workshops on investigative reporting at Indiana University in Indianapolis on Oct. 26 as part of an Investigative Reporters and Editors conference. The workshops focused on how editors can help reporters find watchdog stories, and how to manage and fact-check watchdog stories.

Jane Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law, was interviewed frequently in recent months on law and ethics topics, including libel implications of the Web site RottenNeighbor.com, the proposed federal journalists' shield law, the implications of financial problems at the two Twin Cities' dailies, free speech on campus, coverage of the 35W bridge collapse and government secrecy. Among her many national and international presentations, she was an invited participant at the Media Law Resource Center London conference,



held Sept. 17-18. The same week, Kirtley appeared at the Florida FOI Summit marking the 30th anniversary of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at

the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she served on a panel and delivered a keynote address, "Windows on the World: A Global Perspective on FOI." In October, Kirtley was the after-dinner speaker at the Scripps Howard Foundation's First Amendment Center Directors Conference held in Washington, D.C. She was a panelist at the California First Amendment Coalition's 12th annual Free Speech and Open Government Assembly at the USC Annenberg School for Communication in Los Angeles. In November, she presented a lecture on "Rights and Responsibilities Online" for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and took part in a panel discussion, "What Trouble Is on the Horizon? International Developments," at the 2007 annual conference of the Ad IDEM/Canadian Media Lawyers Association in Toronto. She was also a panelist for "Newsgathering, Right of Privacy and Related Torts" at the Practising Law Institute's annual Communications Law Conference in New York.

Assistant professor **Rachel Davis Mersey** spoke on "To Serve and to Profit: The Ambitious Goals of an Exclusively Online News Model" at the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research annual conference in Chicago. She co-authored a *Newspaper Research Journal* article titled "A Comparison of Producers' and Users' Story Preferences on the Yahoo! News Portal," currently in press. Also, she has been asked to be an affiliate faculty member in the Center for the Study of Political Psychology, housed in the University's department of political science.



Nora Paul, director of the Institute for New Media Studies, was interviewed by Jean Hofensberger for a story in the Star Tribune on computer games for change that address social issues. The article ran in the Oct. 14 edition. In September, she gave a talk on evolving audience expectations at the Communications Media Management Association regional conference. She also gave a presentation on digital storytelling forms at the Journalism and Women Symposium in Door County, Wis. In October, Paul was part of a panel for the Technology-Enhanced Learning Seminar, hosted by the Digital Media Center, that discussed media literacy in higher education and the skills and knowledge students need to actively engage with emerging media forms. Also in October, she gave a talk in Toronto for the Online News Association. She and co-researcher, Laura Ruel, University of North Carolina, were on a panel, "What Makes Web Sites Work? Analysis and Design Decisions." They discussed tips on how to create more informative and engaging news Web sites based on their eyetracking research. In November, she conducted an eyetracking usability study for Minnesota Public Radio's ideas generator Web site. Paul gave a presentation to the Hi-Tech Girls Society, a student club for girls who want to advance their technology skills at North High School in Minneapolis, and gave an update on "The Past and Future of Eyetracking Research" for the INMS's December new media research breakfast. She also traveled to Miami to give a talk, "Web 2.0 and Philanthropy," at the Donors Forum of South Florida.

Associate professor **Mark Pedelty** and two University of Minnesota undergraduate researchers, Desdamaona Racheli and Pete Noteboom, presented a paper titled "Music as Strategic Communication: Popular Music and Social Movements" at the Midwest Popular Culture Association annual conference, Oct. 12 in Kansas



City, Mo. Pedelty's paper "Musical News: The Journalistic Role of Popular Music in Political Movements" was the subject of the European Association of Social Anthropology's Media Anthropology Network E-Seminar in September.

Adjunct instructor **Roshini Rajkumar** joined WCCO radio last summer. She anchors and reports the news and also fills in for some of WCCO radio's talk show hosts. If you are interested in listening to Rajkumar, tune in to 830 AM around Minnesota or <http://www.wccoradio.com> online. Her permanent anchor shift is noon to 8pm on Saturdays.

Assistant professor **Amy K. Sanders** received a travel grant from the European Studies Consortium at the University of Minnesota. The grant will help fund a trip to the Oxford Roundtable on Cyberspace Regulation at Oxford's Pembroke College in Oxford, England where she will present research on how American courts are defining community in the context of online defamation cases. Her article "When Is Enough Too Much? The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 and the Eighth Amendment's Prohibition on Excessive Fines" was published in the *Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy* in November. The article suggests that the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of excessive fines could be a valuable tool for broadcasters looking to fight the FCC's increased fines for indecent broadcasting.





Associate professor **Dona Schwartz's** work was featured in the July/August issue of Camera Arts and the August issue

of 10,000 Arts, Minnesota's Creative Quarterly.

She was quoted in a story that aired on Minnesota Public Radio titled "Artists Explore Images of War," which covered the exhibition War Mediated at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The exhibition focused on images of the Iraq War, how the images compare with reality and how our opinions of the war are influenced by the images we see. Schwartz emphasized that we, as consumers of images, are responsible for making sense of what we do and do not see.



An article by assistant professor **Brian Southwell** and graduate student **Yoori Hwang** titled "Can a Personality Trait Predict Talk About Science? Sensation Seeking as a Science Communication Targeting Variable" has been accepted for publication in Science Communication. Last summer, Southwell was a guest speaker for the annual incoming student preparation workshop sponsored by the University's Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence. He recently was invited to join the editorial board of Science Communication.

Adjunct instructor **Daniel Sullivan** delivered a paper, "On Seeing Ghosts at the Monte Cristo Cottage," at the O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Conn., Oct. 13. The Monte Cristo Cottage was Eugene O'Neill's vacation home as a boy and is the scene of his play "Long Day's Journey Into Night." As director of the center's National Critics Institute, Sullivan spent two summers at the cottage. His program note "Adapting Jane" ran in the December issue of Applause, the Denver Performing Arts Center's magazine, in conjunction with its stage version of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

Adjunct instructor **Michelle Wood's** research paper "Rethinking the Inoculation Analogy: Effects on Subjects with Differing Preexisting Attitudes" was published in Human Communication Research. Late last summer, she co-presented "Increased Persuasion Knowledge of Video News Releases: Audience Response and Public Policy Issues Related to Source Disclosure" with Michelle Nelson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Hye-Jin Paek (University of Georgia) at the 2007 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual convention (public relations division). The paper discusses audience response and public policy implications for disclosure of video news release sources in broadcast news.

The World Press Institute (WPI) to host 2008 fellowship program

THIS AUGUST, the World Press Institute (WPI) will resume operations and host its annual fellowship program for mid-career international journalists. Founded in 1961 as an independent, nonprofit corporation and based at Macalester College in St. Paul until last year, WPI brings a group of international journalists to the United States every summer to study, travel and meet officials of public and private institutions and to learn about the role and responsibilities of a free press.

Nearly 500 journalists from 94 countries have participated in the program during its 47 years of existence. The program was suspended last year because of a funding shortfall and Macalester College's decision to cut its ties with WPI to focus on its main mission as a liberal arts college. Negotiations between WPI and Macalester resulted in the transfer of a substantial endowment for WPI's benefit to The Saint Paul Foundation.

The WPI Board of Directors has appointed David McDonald, a Minneapolis attorney who has hosted journalists from the fellowship program for more than 20 years, as the new executive director of WPI. "WPI has been an amazing experience for the many international journalists whom I have had the privilege to get to know over the past 20 years," said McDonald. "I believe that the program is as important today as it was when it was founded almost 50 years ago, both for enabling a deeper understanding of America around the world but also for what we, as Americans, can learn from these visiting journalists."

The 2008 fellowship program will begin in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in mid-August and will last approximately eight weeks. The participating journalists will cover the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, spend a month traveling to four major U.S. cities, and return to the Twin Cities for a final stay in mid-October. The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Journalism Center will continue to host the participating journalists for several programs on campus during their Twin Cities stay. For more information visit <http://www.worldpressinstitute.org>.



Heather Hauer's photos of the 35W bridge collapse were featured in numerous network and cable news outlets, including KSTP-TV, CNN, CNN.com, MSNBC.com and Fox 9 News. Hauer recently graduated in December 2007 with a major in strategic communication.

Erik Helin received a spring 2007 grant from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program for his project titled "The Princeton Radio Research Project and the Origins of Mass Communication Research." Helin, a senior in the professional journalism track, received a \$1,550 grant for his work. His sponsor was assistant professor Michael Stamm.

Congratulations to the SJMC's **Public Relations Student Society of America** chapter, winner of the Outstanding Chapter Newsletter Award in the 2007 Teahan chapter awards competition.

Students in Jour 4992, Pioneer Press Practicum, were responsible for 263 by-lines, 129 taglines and 16 name credits for multimedia items (audio slide shows and photos) on the Twincities.com Web site and in the Pioneer Press newspaper. SJMC lecturer Gayle "GG" Golden is the course instructor.

SJMC Students Travel to U.K. for Global Seminar

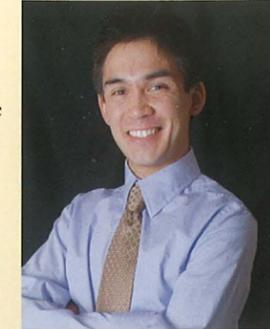
LAST MAY, SJMC students traveled to London and Glasgow to participate in professor Jane Kirtley's "Freedom of the Press in the United Kingdom" global seminar. The students visited several media organizations, including BBC Scotland and The Guardian. The group also visited the Magna Carta memorial at Runnymede. Erected by the American Bar Association, the memorial is of a domed classical style, and contains a pillar of English granite with the inscription: "To commemorate Magna Carta, symbol of Freedom Under Law."

Students in Professor Kirtley's "Freedom of the Press in the United Kingdom" global seminar pose in front of the Magna Carta memorial at Runnymede.

Senior **Mark Remme** wrote a feature story for Jay Weiner's special topics course Sports Writing and Reporting: More Than Games. The story, "Tubby 2.0—Tubby Smith Is Forging a New Path at Minnesota," was picked up by Sports Illustrated's college sports Web site. Remme is a double major in history and journalism.

Seijen Takamura

was nominated for the American Advertising Federation's 2008 Most Promising Minority Student Award. The finalists were acknowledged for their accomplishments Feb. 5 - 8, 2008, at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. Now in its 12th year, the AAF's Most Promising Minority Students Program gives students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to network, interview and be honored by some of the top advertising agencies, media companies and advertisers in the world. The 2008 event will be featured in Advertising Age, USA TODAY as well as the official 2008 Most Promising Minority Student program book. Takamura is a senior, majoring in strategic communication as well as French.



In December, **students in Jour 4242, Advertising Portfolio Development**, a beginning portfolio course for aspiring advertising copywriters, art directors and account planners, participated in a portfolio review session with some of the Twin Cities' top advertising professionals. The professionals critiquing the students' portfolios were Brittany Duff, formerly an account planner at Campbell Mithun and now an SJMC Ph.D. candidate; Karen Brown Knapp, strategic talent recruiter, Carmichael Lynch; Kathy Umland, VP/recruiter, Martin Williams; Tim Blevins, copywriter, Colle+McVoy; Nina Orezza, art director, Colle+McVoy; Joel Bratsch, copywriter, Olson; Nate Christman, art director, Fallon; David MacKereth, copywriter, Campbell Mithun; John Neumann, creative director/copywriter, freelance; and Colin Corcoran, copywriter, freelance. Duff, Blevins, MacKereth and Neumann are all graduates of the SJMC. Lecturer Jennifer Johnson is the course instructor.

Last fall, **students** in adjunct instructor Debra Kelley's **Basic Media Graphics course, Jour 3321**, interviewed Weisman Art Museum director Lyndel King to gain information to help them prepare creative briefs. As part of a class assignment, Kelley's students created brochures and Web site interface designs directed at increasing student participation in the museum's programs.



Lee Giorgi

Sarah Janel Jackson presented her paper, "Hurricanes Don't Care About Black People: Katrina, Racial Inequality, and News Media Response," at the National Communication Association's national convention held in Chicago, Nov. 15-18, 2007. Jackson's paper examined the television news media's discursive framing of contemporary racial inequality. She is a Ph.D. student.

In October, **Jennifer Moore** participated in a panel discussion titled "Picturing the Civil War: How the Home Front Saw the Conflict" at an American Journalism Historians Association conference in Richmond, Va. She presented research concerning nation-defining, patriotic symbols used in the periodical *Harper's Weekly* during the Civil War. She also presented a paper and participated in a panel discussion at the Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression. The paper, "Cartoonist Thomas Nast's 1872 Crusade Against Candidate Horace Greeley," was co-authored with SJMC professor Hazel Dicken-Garcia and Bemidji State University assistant professor William Huntzicker. The panel discussion addressed minority voices in the 19th century press, and Moore focused on depictions of African-Americans as citizens in illustrated periodicals following the American Civil War. Moore is a Ph.D. student.

Last May, Ph.D. candidate **Adina Schneeweis** presented her paper "Difference in the Media: Pro-Social Television and the Politics of Representation" at the 2007 International Communication Association Conference, "Ethnicity and Race in Communication," in San Francisco.

Maureen Schriener, Ph.D. candidate, presented "Connected Community: Integrating Virtual and Real—a New Theoretical Model" at the 2007 International Communication Association conference held in San Francisco last May. She also presented at the ICA theme session: "Creating Communication: Content, Control, Critique."

In August, she presented "The Smokers Inside Kids' Heads: Re-examining Normative Influences of Tobacco Use on Youth"

at the 2007 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention in Washington, D.C.

In November, graduate student **Ashleigh K. Shelton** co-presented "Shining Light Onto the Dark Side of Facebook: A Content Analysis of Online College Social Network Use" at the 2007 National Communication Association conference in Chicago. She also co-presented "Mapped-quest: Natural Video Game Controllers, Presence, and Enjoyment" for the game studies division at the 2007 International Communication Association conference held in San Francisco last May.

Ph.D. student **Wonsun Shin** won the Top Student Paper Award (1st place in the Jung-Sook Lee student paper competition) in the communication technology division at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication held in Washington, D.C., in August 2007. The paper title was "Perceived Credibility of Job Search Sites and Users' Intention to Post Resume." She also received the Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award as an author of the best student paper.



She also presented "Addicted to Flow or Game? Exploring the Linkage Between Flow and Online Game Addiction" at the New Media Research @ UMN conference in September.

Ph.D. candidate **Rebecca Bolin Swenson** presented a paper titled "Kitchen Convergence: Televised Translations of Masculinity, Femininity and Food" at the National Communication Association's annual convention in Chicago. The paper was nominated and presented in the Top Papers in Feminist and Women's Studies session.

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Additional graduate student papers presented at the 2007 AEJMC Conference

"The Effects of Moods on Evaluations of Brand Extension Ads," **Brittany Duff** and Sela Sar, Iowa State University

"Reply magnets and preferential attachment in online political discussions: A network analysis of six month of discussions in 20 political newsgroups," **Itai Himelboim**, Danyel Fisher, Microsoft Research, Eric Gleave, University of Washington and Marc Smith, Microsoft Research

"Comments Discussion and the Public Sphere: A Case Study on Comments in Online News Site," **Yejin Hong**

"The Role of Trust in Interactive Communication: Antecedents and Consequences of Website Trust," **Soyoen Cho** and Jisu Huh

"Parsing out the players in the blogosphere: Developing a predictive model of blogging and blog readers," **Julie Jones** and **John Wirtz**

"Why do you read blogs and update your facebook page so much?: Using psychological variables to predict specific Internet behaviors," **John Wirtz** and **Julie Jones**

"When Observation Isn't Enough: An Experiment Exposing a Moderation Effect," **Vanessa Boudewyns**, **Ryan Paquin** and Marco Yzer

"Do Media Vary in Humanness? An Attempt to Explicate and Measure the Concept of Media Humanness," **Hyung Min Lee**, **Kevin Wang** and Brian Southwell

"Revisiting the Gap: A Meta-Analytic Review of Knowledge Gap Research," **Yoori Hwang** and Se-Hoon Jeong, University of Pennsylvania

"The Internet and Democracy: A Critical Review of What We Know and How We Know," **Kevin Wang** and Tsan-Kuo Chang

"Something Careless This Way Comes: Medical Error and Its Consequences (or Lack Thereof) on ER and Grey's Anatomy," and "A Sign of Difference: Constructions of Hearing Loss and Deafness on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," **Katherine Foss**

"Explosive Silences: Communist Newspaper Coverage of the 1986 Paris Bombings," **Kristi McKinney**

Development UPDATE

Our goal is to raise an additional \$200,000 over the next 12 months.

You can play an important part in helping us reach this goal!



Everett Ayoubzadeh

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Director of External Relations
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This campus is full of the memories of giants—Morrill Hall named for eighth University president James Morrill; Northrop Auditorium named for the second University president Cyrus Northrop; Mariucci Arena named for the famed hockey star John Mariucci; Murphy Hall named for the onetime publisher of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune newspapers William J. Murphy. But no name, no memory looms larger, more powerful, more cherished than that of Mitchell Charnley. Mitch, as some of us had the pleasure of calling him, was an extraordinary person, with sky-high ideals and principles and an uncanny knack for teaching students in and out of the classroom.

As you may recall, the Charnley Fund has supported the Charnley Projects Course, a senior-level class that has provided the opportunity for students to work directly with faculty members on journalism-related projects. In 2005, the School made a major contribution to the Charnley Fund to shift the fund's purpose and create a permanent, endowed professorship. Through generous gifts and wise investment, the Charnley Fund has grown to nearly \$800,000.

Our sights are set on making this an endowed, named professorship to carry on the tradition of excellence that Mitch exemplified. Our goal is to raise an additional \$200,000 over the next 12 months. You can play an important part in helping us reach this goal!

There are a number of ways in which you can make a gift:

- By sending a check to me at: 220 Johnston Hall, 101 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455.
- By visiting us online at <http://www.sjmc.umn.edu>. Click on "Make a Gift to SJMC."
- By calling me at (612) 625-5031 to arrange a stock gift.

Please join us in honoring Mitch with the Mitchell Charnley Professorship in Journalism.

New fellowship will benefit professional master's program

By Eva Widder

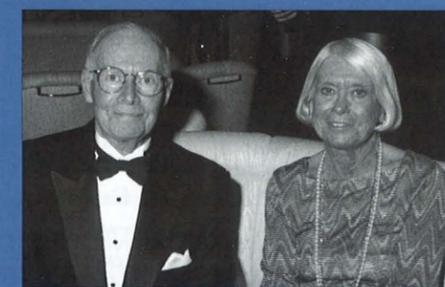
THE SJMC IS HONORED TO ANNOUNCE a new fellowship, established through the generosity of alum Raymond Tarleton (M.A., '52). The Raymond J. Tarleton Strategic Communication Fellowship will provide full tuition support to exemplary students in the professional master's in strategic communication program.

Tarleton is an esteemed alumnus and a longtime friend of the University of Minnesota. He has been a Presidents Club member, with his late wife, Elvira, since 1984. Tarleton received his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1948 and his M.A. degree in journalism and mass communication in 1952.

His professional career was devoted to providing leadership to the American Association of Cereal Chemists and to the American Pathological Society; he is the retired executive vice president of both organizations. His appreciation for the education he received from the University combined with his belief in the importance of strong journalism and mass communication education in the future led him to establish this fellowship.

Interest earned through the Tarleton Fellowship will be matched by the 21st Century Graduate Fellowship Endowment, a University-wide program that doubles fellowship support for outstanding students.

"The fellowship will be especially beneficial as the professional master's program is a new endeavor, now in its third year," says SJMC director Al Tims. This type of fellowship support will help recruit the best applicants to the program, which is designed for working professionals looking to advance their careers. "We are honored to house this fellowship," says Tims. "It will greatly benefit future generations of communications leaders."



Courtesy of the University of Minnesota Foundation

1940s

Margot (Auerbacher) Sigel (B.A. '44) contributed to the new Encyclopedia of Clothing and Design published by Charles Scribner's Sons. This year, she was honored to be the subject of a Ph.D. thesis by Barbara Heinemann (Ph.D. '07, design, housing and apparel). Sigel's fashion collection is at the University's Goldstein Museum, where she was the founder of Friends of the Goldstein. She now resides in Florida, but spends her summers in Minneapolis.

Clayton Kaufman (B.A. '49) was inducted into the Museum of Broadcasting Hall of Fame on Oct. 27, 2007, honoring his 39-year career at WCCO radio. He joined the station in 1951 as a news writer and retired in 1990 after serving as vice president and general manager. The Hall of Fame is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Broadcasters Association and the Pavak Museum of Broadcasting.

1950s

Duane A. Rasmussen (B.A. '51) recently published "CIC—Christ I'm Confused," a book about his experience as a U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps agent in 1953-54, at the height of the Cold War. The 20 episodes take place in the Canal Zone and Republic of Panama. Information is available at <http://www.trafford.com>.

John W. Mashek (B.A. '53) covered politics in Washington for four decades with U.S. News & World Report, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Boston Globe. His primary beats were Congress, the White House and national politics. He covered every presidential election from 1960 to 1996. He was a panelist in three televised presidential debates in 1984, 1988 and 1992. Today, he posts his observations on politics several times a week on his blog, "A Capital View" (<http://www.usnews.com/blogs/mashek/>). He also teaches part time at Northwestern University's Medill School graduate program in Washington.

1960s

Victoria Harding (B.A. '65) became a restaurateur in 2006. She co-owns and co-operates, with husband Rick (B.E.E. '65) and son Ricky, Rivers Wine Bar and Bistro in Grand Rapids, Minn.

1970s

David Zunker (B.A. '76) was named president of the Saratoga State Convention and Tourism Bureau. Previously Zunker was vice president of the Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau in Columbia, S.C.

Julie E. Kendall (B.A. '76) has been inducted as a Fellow of the Decision Sciences Institute (DSI). Kendall is a professor of management at the Rutgers School of Business, Camden, N.J. She is only the ninth woman to receive this coveted international honor, considered among the highest for scholars in this field. Kendall earned her doctoral degree in organizational communication from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. DSI, which has approximately 3,500 members worldwide, is a cross-disciplinary international professional association dedicated to advancing the science and practice of decision making.

Larry A. Etkin (M.A. '77) is the new communication director for Minnesota's Perpich Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley, Minn. PCAE is an unusual combination of a residential public high school for the arts, attended by students from across the state, and a research and continuing professional education program for arts teachers across Minnesota. PCAE was created by an act of the Minnesota Legislature in 1984 and is funded as a state agency.

1980s

Eric Davis (B.A. '86) wrote and published the novel "Hopes and Dreams: Stuck on AutoDrive." He describes the book as being about "inventing the self-driving car,

living happily ever after and getting into trouble without really trying."

Karen J. Wright (B.A. '87) is operations director at KMSU 89.7 FM radio in Mankato, Minn., where she received the 2006 National Association of Broadcasters Educational Foundation's Service to America Award—the first awarded to a college radio station.

1990s

David D. Perlmutter (Ph.D. '95) is a professor and associate dean for graduate studies and research at the William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications, University of Kansas. This year saw the publication of his latest book, "Picturing China in the American Press: The Visual Portrayal of Sino-American Relations in Time Magazine, 1949-1973" (Rowman & Littlefield). He became editor of the blog of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. He also served on the National Law Enforcement Museum Advisory Committee for its media exhibit.

Amy Jo Deguzis (B.A. '96) is head of production at Canvas Atelier and works in conjunction with a production company, XOVR. She now lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Lee Hutton III (B.A. '99) joined the law firm of Minneapolis-based Lommen, Abdo, Cole, King & Stageberg, P.A., on Oct. 1, 2007. Hutton, who played for the Gophers between 1994 and 1999, brings sports representation of players from the NFL and area coaches to the firm's growing entertainment practice, plus considerable litigation skills in construction law, products liability, premises liability, advertising law and other areas. Hutton was previously at Johnson & Condon, P.A., in Edina, Minn., where he was an associate attorney in the liability and litigation group.

Jaime (Cegla) Hunt (B.A. '99) is the associate director of news and public information for the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.



Catherine Luther (Ph.D. '99) received a 2007-08 Fulbright Scholar grant to do research in Japan where she will study press coverage of anti-terrorism legislation and public opinion. Luther is an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

2000s

Emily (Aus) Oz (B.A. '03) works at WDAY-TV in Fargo, N.D., as the weekend anchor/reporter.

Jensen (Morris) Moore-Copple (M.A. '03) received her doctorate from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in June 2007. She is currently teaching online courses in quantitative research methods for the university.

Melinda Rogers (B.A. '03) is a public safety reporter for The Salt Lake Tribune in Salt Lake City, Utah.

James DeLong (B.A. '04) is pursuing his M.B.A. at the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business. He currently is a development associate at Risen Christ School in Minneapolis, and also serves as an adviser to the Wake student magazine, which he co-founded with fellow University graduate Chris Ruen in 2001 while both were students in the SJMC.

Kristoffer Engebretson (B.A. '04) is a general assignment reporter at WGBA in Green Bay, Wis.

Linda A. Shudlick (B.A. '04) works in Golden Valley, Minn., as the producer of the "Sunrise Show" on KARE-11 TV.

Elise Adair (B.A. '06) works as a development associate for Camp Heartland in Minneapolis.

Marissa C. Anderson (B.A. '06) is a communications associate and graphic designer for Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, Minn.

SJMC alumna **Sarah Bauer (B.A. '06)** has been named executive director of the Minnesota News Council. She served as the organization's interim director following the retirement of Gary Gilson as executive director in December 2006. Bauer has led the News Council through a 10-month transition period, during which she oversaw the expansion of News Council staff to include a development director. She also worked to update and refine the News Council's complaint procedures and led an effort that resulted in a significant reduction in the organization's operating costs. Bauer graduated summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota with degrees in journalism and philosophy. She also serves on the board of directors for the Minnesota professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and was recently appointed to SPJ's national membership committee.

Christian Betancourt (B.A. '06) is a communications and marketing coordinator for Johnson McCann Benefits, LLC, based in St. Paul, Minn.

Amy Bury (B.A. '06) works in St. Paul, Minn., as a sales assistant for Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Kelly J. Finco (B.A. '06) is a senior administrative and communications assistant with Thomson West, based in Eagan, Minn.

Kelly Frush (B.A. '06) works as an associate editor for Industrial Fabrics Association International, a trade magazine company based in Roseville, Minn.

Sarah B. Howard (B.A. '06) works as an associate editor at MSP Communications-Mpls.St.Paul Magazine.

Mark Kimitch (B.A. '06) works as a Web designer at Montage, Inc., based in Roseville, Minn.



Amy Mattson Lauters (Ph.D. '05) has been awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to direct a program in college preparation for 50 young people (around age 14) from the Wichita, Kan., area. As project director, she will soon hire three full-time staff members to work with a diverse population of young people over the next four years. The objective is to train these young people in professional and communication skills as well as to prepare them for college work in journalism and communication. The idea behind the grant is to expand diversity in the communication field by finding and training a diverse population of students who can ultimately contribute further—and potentially multiply the contribution perhaps 50-fold—as professionals in bringing diverse voices, ideas and perspectives to the communication field. While directing the project, Lauters will pursue research that examines the cultural gap between the current generation and the next generation of college students, with particular attention to media use among young people. Lauters, author/editor of "The Rediscovered Writings of Rose Wilder Lane, Literary Journalist" (2007), is an assistant professor in the Elliott School of Communication at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.

Yuliya Pruzhanskaya (B.A. '06) is a project manager for Epic Systems Corporation in Madison, Wis.

Kevin Behr (B.A. '07) is a police/courts reporter for the Winona Daily News in Winona, Minn.

Kara Betsch (B.A. '07) is an assistant account executive with Campbell Mithun advertising agency in Minneapolis.

Kathryn Book (B.A. '07) is an assistant account executive with Space150, an interactive advertising agency in Minneapolis.

Eric Boyles (B.A. '07) is a newscast producer with KSTP-TV in Minneapolis.

Syche Yann (Johnson) Chase (B.A. '07) is a human resources recruiting specialist at LSS Data Systems in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Leslie Clark (B.A. '07) is a corporate communications associate for RBC Dain Rauscher in Minneapolis.

Tiffany Clements (B.A. '07) is a Web producer for KTUU-TV in Anchorage, Alaska.

Sam Daron (B.A. '07) is a part-time reporter/stringer for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in Milwaukee.

Jacqueline Dawson (B.A. '07) is a marketing coordinator with the Marshall Group in Minneapolis.

Nick Frantzen (B.A. '07) is a video producer/editor for the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx.

Veniamin Frayman (B.A. '07) is a buyer analyst with Best Buy's Geek Squad Services in Richfield, Minn.

Maisha Frederickson (B.A. '07) is a group plan representative with Securian in St. Paul, Minn.

Lindsey J. Heffern (B.A. '07) is a marketing assistant with the Centers for Public Health Education and Outreach in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

Makenzi Henderson (B.A. '07) is a reporter with KOTA Territory News (KOTA-TV) in Rapid City, S.D.

Vanessa (Gertz) House (B.A. '07) is a multimedia production intern with the Star Tribune in Minneapolis.

Jennifer Manogue (B.A. '07) is a public relations account executive at ASI Communications in Minneapolis.

Kevin McCahill (B.A. '07) is a managing editorial assistant with Simon & Schuster publishing in New York City.

Tom Nemo (B.A. '07) is a corporate sales manager for the Iowa Stars Professional Hockey team in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kelly O'Connell (B.A. '07) is a reporter for WRBL in Columbus, Ga.

Alix Olson (B.A. '07) is a sales assistant with HRP Television in Minneapolis.

Laura Pabst (B.A. '07) is a reporter for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis.

Xiaomi Qu (B.A. '07) is a broadcast assistant at The Martin Agency in Richmond, Va.

Emily Ray (B.A. '07) is an account coordinator at Cuneo Advertising in Bloomington, Minn.

Donny Rowles (B.A. '07) is a general assignment reporter at KAAL-TV in Austin, Minn.

Sarah Skarphol (B.A. '07) works in Orlando, Fla., for Campus Crusade for Christ, a nonprofit missionary organization.

Sarah E. Sullivan (B.A. '07) is a sports reporter with WXOW-TV in La Crescent, Minn.

Molly Szarzynski (B.A. '07) is an advertising traffic coordinator with Metropolitan Media Group in Bloomington, Minn.

Ashley Vaness (B.A. '07) is an associate interactive producer with the Colle+McVoy advertising agency in Minneapolis.

Amanda Wartgow (B.A. '07) is an account manager at Global Market Insite, Inc. in Hopkins, Minn.

Anna Weggel (B.A. '07) was an intern at Mother Jones magazine in San Francisco last summer. She recently was named assistant producer for the public insight journalism program at Minnesota Public Radio.

Brittany Willborg (B.A. '07) is a marketing coordinator for Trade Secret, a division of Regis Corporation, based in Edina, Minn.

Andrea Williams (B.A. '07) is a teacher with Teach for America in Miami-Dade (Fla.) Public Schools.

Tricia Woellert (B.A. '07) is an account services coordinator with Rippe Kean Marketing in Madison, Wis.

SJMC alumni snag several awards at Emmys

Mike Durkin (B.A. '06) and his Web team won five Emmys in the Advanced Media category: Continuing Coverage (affiliated); Investigative Report (affiliated); Arts/Entertainment (affiliated); Online Marketing Initiative (affiliated) and Web site Design/Usability (affiliated). He is a Web producer for KMSP-TV, Fox 9.

Toby Colladora (B.A. '04) and her Web team won an Emmy in the Advanced Media: News Programming (affiliated) category. SJMC classmate **Alison Lorge (B.A. '04)** was part of the award-winning team. Both are Web producers for WCCO-TV.

Regina McCombs (M.A. '03) won two Emmys in the Advanced Media category for her work at the Star Tribune: Videography (affiliated) for a videography compilation on StarTribune.com, and Public/Current/Community Affairs (affiliated) for "A Nation Torn: Liberians in Minnesota." She is a multimedia producer/photographer for the Star Tribune and StarTribune.com.

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Or, mail your news items to:
Editor, Murphy Reporter, 111 Murphy Hall,
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Please include your name, degree information, graduation year, and job information and location.

IN MEMORIAM

■ **Francis Loren "Gus" Cooper (B.A. '41)**, a lifetime journalist and civic activist, died Dec. 15, 2007, in Dunedin, Fla. He was 88 years old. He attended the University of Minnesota from 1937 to 1941, and was a reporter/editor for The Minnesota Daily, later becoming managing editor during his senior year. After graduating, he was a reporter for the Rochester (Minn.) Post-Bulletin. Cooper was a World War II and Koren conflict veteran and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for nearly 40 years.

He began his career at New York Life Insurance Co. in 1946, as the first employee in a newly established public relations department. After a two-year stint in the Korean conflict, he returned to New York Life in 1952, working his way up to vice president for public relations and advertising. After his retirement from New York Life in 1979, Cooper served as a management consultant for Media Networks, The New York Times and Standard Rate & Data Services. He was also active on numerous volunteer advisory committees and served as a creator and host for a weekly cable television program on local government and community events in Dunedin.

In 1971 he became president of the international Life Insurance Communicators Association and recipient of its Meritorious Service Award in 1980. In 1996, to recognize his 50 years of service, the organization renamed that award the F. L. Gus Cooper Meritorious Service Award. Other awards included induction into the Cooperative Advertising Hall of Fame (1993) and The Minnesota Daily Hall of Distinction as well as the Hage/Charnley Award of Excellence in Journalism Education (1998).

Cooper was preceded in death by his wife of almost 60 years, Shirley Garniss. He is survived by his son Donald R. (Cynthia) Cooper of Chandler, Ariz, and his daughter Lynne (David) Lichtermann of Lakeland, Tenn. Other survivors include 5 granddaughters, their husbands and 13 great-grandchildren. Donations may be made to The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast or the Dunedin Historical Society.

■ **Lola Christiansen Dunn (B.A. '39)** died on June 1, 2007, at Hospitality House assisted-living home in Fergus Falls, Minn., after a stroke. She was 90 years old. Dunn spent more than 30 years working in governmental agencies. In the 1940s, she was a War Department clerk-typist, and later moved into a supervisory position at the Veterans Administration. She also was a writer-editor for the Public Health Service, and in the 1970s she retired from the National Institutes of Health's nursing division.

In 2001, she returned to her hometown of Fergus Falls from Chevy Chase, Md. While living in the D.C. area, she was a member St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Writers' League of Washington, D.C., as well as the Woman's Club of Bethesda. She was married to Leon Dunn from 1965 until his death in 2003. Survivors include a sister.

■ **Hugh H. Harrison (B.A. '46)**, a longtime Seattle Times copy editor, passed away on June 29, 2007. Harrison was 87 years old. In the obituary published in the Seattle Times, Harrison was described as an "ace copy editor" and "a master of grammar, syntax, current events and trivia, often down to astonishingly minute detail."

Born in Napa, Calif., he grew up in California and Minnesota, graduating from the University of Minnesota with a journalism degree. He joined the Army during World War II and served in the South Pacific. For more than 50 years, Harrison worked as a copy editor and wire-news editor for the Seattle Times. A devoted union man, he served in various positions with the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild and was instrumental in the establishment of a pension program for newspaper employees of the AFL-CIO.

Harrison is survived by three daughters, two sons, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one brother. Remembrances may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

■ **Jay Junod Richter (B.A. '38)**, who operated a Washington news service that specialized in political and agricultural coverage, died Sept. 13, 2007, from complications of colon cancer. He was 92. For more than 40 years, he ran Richter News and was dubbed "our man in Washington" by the magazines and newspapers that subscribed to his service. Richter's beats included Capitol Hill, government agencies, cooperative associations, commodity groups and farm organizations.

A native Minnesotan, Richter was born in Blue Earth and raised in Albert Lea. While a student at the University of Minnesota, he was editor-in-chief of The Minnesota Daily. Upon graduation, he worked as a reporter and features editor at the Minneapolis Star and later the Miami Herald and Rochester (Minn.) Post-Bulletin.

In the early 1940s, he moved to Washington to work for the Agriculture Department and was soon commissioned in the Navy Reserve. During World War II, Richter was stationed in Florida, where he served as editor of a naval air station newspaper. During his time there, he wrote "The Adventures of T. MacTorque," a feature about a sailor serialized in Navy publications. At the end of the war, he covered Marshall Plan recovery efforts throughout Europe for King Features and agricultural magazines. Upon his return to Washington, he opened his editorial service, and in subsequent years published freelance stories in the Washington Post, New York Times Sunday magazine, Saturday Evening Post and other publications.

In 1999, Richter was awarded Golden Owl status as a member of the National Press Club for more than 50 years. He was inducted into The Minnesota Daily's Hall of Fame in 2003.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Persis H. Richter. Survivors include his companion, Barbara P. Wickham, of Alexandria, Va.; two children, Mary P. "Polly" Richter of New Orleans and John J. "Jay" Richter of Alexandria; and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the SJMC's Mitchell V. Charnley Professorship fund in Richter's name.



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