

ALUMNI Newsletter

• JOURNALISM •

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2006



photo provided by Catherine Cassara

On the way back from a trip to the Mediterranean Sea, sophomore Josh Comer dances and sings with Tunisian students on the bus. Comer was part of a workshop on student newspapers.

School representatives travel to Tunisia to teach journalism

Ten thousand miles from BGSU, sophomore Josh Comer felt Arabic music reverberating from the speakers of a 16-passenger van full of singing Tunisian students.

He was returning from a visit to the Mediterranean Sea with journalism students from the Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information. Comer was at IPSI to assist with a workshop on student newspapers.

"I'm seeing the finish line before I reached it," said Comer, who wants to have a career in Middle Eastern journalism.

Comer was one of four people representing BGSU and the United States in the small North African country of Tunisia.

The Middle East Partnership Initiative funded the Tunisian trip by BGSU journalism associate professor Catherine Cassara, student publications adviser Bob Bortel, and students Stephanie Guigou and Comer.

MEPI, a program run by the U.S. State Department, provided a \$41,000 grant through the local U.S. Embassy for computers and equipment at IPSI, which is part of the University of Manouba.

BGSU's School of Communication Studies and IPSI have been involved in joint programs since January 2005, funded by a \$100,000 grant from MEPI in cooperation with Higher Education for Development and USAID.

The 10-day experience in Tunisia centered in the capital, Tunis, and included five days of workshops at IPSI and two days of site seeing.

continued on page 15

BG News sports page wins SND Award of Excellence

The BG News has received an Award of Excellence from the Society of News Design for a sports front page titled "Back to Back." The page featured the women's soccer team's second straight Mid-American Conference championship.

Over 14,000 entries were submitted to the worldwide competition and only 1,000 pages were given an Award of Excellence at the Nov. 7 ceremony.

"It's very exciting to be recognized by the premier design group in the world for our work," Bob Moser, editor-in-chief of the BG News, said. "This is basically the best free advertising you can get for your newspaper."

The page will likely be featured in the Society's 2005 yearbook.

by Jessica Ameling, '07



INSIDE

Alumni
Profile: Dick
Maxwell

Professionals
share their
stories

Two students
earn Blade
Internships

school of
communication
studies

Journalism welcomes new faculty members, alumni board develops under new leadership

Dear Alumni:

I hope you will enjoy the alumni newsletter. You'll find a lot of exciting things happening around West Hall. I'd like to share with you some of the highlights from the past year.

We began this academic year with the retirement of Dennis Hale, a member of the journalism faculty for 25 years.

We hired Smeeta Mirsha, a former reporter for the New Delhi Times to teach in our print sequence. Smeeta recently completed her doctorate at the University of Texas, Austin.

We also welcomed Efrem Graham as a full-time instructor. Graham is a news anchor/reporter in Toledo and comes to us with many years of professional and college teaching experience.

Dave Yonke, a reporter for the Toledo Blade, taught a copy editing course for us this fall, and Fred Stiener, editor of the Bluffton News, taught a photography class for us spring semester.



from the Department Chair

For the second straight year, BGSU has seen a record enrollment, and the department of journalism welcomed about 100 new majors to our program.

Our total enrollment holds steady at 350 majors, not including the students we serve in sports management, education, integrated language arts and as journalism minors.

Our alumni board has been energized under the direction of Ben Marrison, editor of the Columbus Dispatch, and Martha Vetter, owner of R-P Marketing Public Relations in Toledo.

Both have worked hard in developing goals for the board that will include an alumni mentoring program. Stay tuned for details. I can't thank Ben and Martha enough for their dedication and time spent

revitalizing our board.

I'd like to thank those of you who have so graciously given back to the Department this past year. Your financial support is so important to us as we continue to face shrinking resources for higher education. Through your contributions, we have supported student scholarships and student travel to professional conferences such as PRSSA, SBJ, NABJ and SND.

We truly appreciate your generous contributions to the department of journalism and hope you will continue to think of us in the future.

We also invite all of our alumni to consider a financial contribution to help support and reward our students.

If you would ever like to serve as a guest speaker in one of our journalism classes, please let me know. We always welcome visits from alumni. Again, we appreciate your support.

Sincerely, Terry Rentner

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The Alumni Newsletter is an annual publication of the Department of Journalism and is mailed free to all graduates of the program. Its purpose is to keep everyone informed about happenings, achievements and other news of department faculty, students and alumni. If you have news, questions or comments, write us at the address below.

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photo provided by Terry Rentner

Alumni Board Leadership

Ben Marrison, editor of the Columbus Dispatch, and Martha Vetter, owner of R-P Marketing Public Relations in Toledo, are pictured here with Terry Rentner, chair of the journalism department. The three met on Feb. 8 at the Columbus Dispatch offices to plan and set goals for the alumni board. Marrison and Vetter have agreed to serve as interim chairs of the department's alumni board. The two were also at BGSU on March 20 for further planning. During that visit they both spoke to students in the introductory writing course, and Marrison spoke to the copyediting class.

Bierman honored for international work

Brock D. Bierman, chief of staff for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was this year's inductee into the journalism Hall of Fame.

"The journalism faculty were unanimous in their support of Brock's nomination, particularly in his work with USAID," Terry Rentner, chair of the department, said. "His unwavering support of and efforts on behalf of causes that are important to him, whether that is a particular USAID initiative, a political campaign or a university is impressive."

Before joining USAID, Bierman served for six years in the Rhode Island House of Representatives.

A successful entrepreneur, he founded a leading investigative firm specializing in corporate intelligence and intellectual property from 1988 to 1998.

He has also served as an official election observer in several countries; in fact, last year, he led a team from the United States to Moldova for their parliamentary elections.

In his current role, Bierman has specific responsibility for several Presidential initiatives, including democracy-building and human trafficking in Europe and Eurasia.

He also manages all aspects of the USAID's public outreach activities, trying to communicate their mission, objectives and accomplishments in 23 countries spanning from the Balkans to Central Asia.

"One of Brock's biggest strengths is his ability to integrate his passions, for instance, drafting BGSU faculty to help the public information staff in the missions in Europe and Eurasia hone their professional skills," Oliver Boyd-Barrett, director of the School of Communications Studies, said.

Sentinel Tribune alumni win awards

Five alumni who work for the Sentinel Tribune, the daily county paper, were finalists in the AP 2005 newspaper competition.

Sentinel Tribune county editor Jan Larson, who also teaches copy editing in the department, said, "Even though I've been doing this for a long time, it is still a thrill when we get awards."

•**Harold Brown**

Best Business Writer

•**Jack Carle**

Best Game Story

•**Jan Larson**

Best News Writer

Best Breaking News Story

Best Page One Layout

•**Michael Lehmkuhle**

Best Page One Layout

Best Illustrator

•**Chris Miller**

Best Business Reporting

Kappa Tau Alpha
**HALL
OF FAME**

Recent graduate starts up scholarship fund

This fall, alumna Nicole Valek walked into the office of Terry Rentner, journalism chair, with a big smile on her face and laid down a check for a scholarship fund.

Although Valek graduated just four years ago, Rentner wasn't surprised in the least to see her contribution.

"When Nicole graduated and received her last award -- the Outstanding Student in Public Relations -- I told her then, 'you will give back to the university,'" Rentner said.

While giving back may have been the last thing on her mind then, one master's degree and a successful job later, Valek was able to set up a scholarship fund for public relations students.

"I received the Giselle Scholarship and Weiss Scholarship when I was here," Valek said. "BG was good

to me, especially the journalism department."

The scholarship will be named in Valek's honor and will be worth \$450 the first year, with hopes that it will become an annual award.

When Valek was a student at BGSU, she immersed herself in various groups including the dance team, the BG News, Dance Marathon and the Public Relations Student Society of America.

She said her involvement was what helped her land a job with Johnson and Johnson as a medical device representative for Deputy Mitek.

After she received her undergraduate degree in 2002, Valek went on to earn a master's in business administration from the University of Findlay in 2005, graduating summa cum laude from both universities.

At Johnson and Johnson Valek has quickly become very successful,

earning District Representative of the Year and President's Club honors.

Rentner said her current success isn't a surprise to anyone in the department and describes Valek as, "extremely intelligent, a very well-rounded student and very outgoing and mature."

Renter added that Valek is one of the youngest alumni ever to give back to the journalism department.

"We certainly hope that students who do well at BG, and who do receive scholarships won't forget about us once they've graduated," Rentner said. "It's a good feeling to know that you can help provide funding for other journalism majors."

As for Valek, she just feels blessed that she has the opportunity to give back.

"I feel very fortunate," she said. "I landed a great job."

By Jessica Ameling, '07

Alumna travels world for story



photo from Dina Horwedel

In Uganda, Dina Horwedel along with local children, stand in front of the tombs of the King of the Bunyaro tribe. The children tagged along on Horwedel's visit.

Traveling around the world is a dream many people will confess to having, but it is a dream that few people ever see truly fulfilled. Few people can take the time off of work to explore unfamiliar countries, but for some lucky souls the world is their office.

Such is the case for Dina Horwedel, a 1986 cum laude graduate in news editorial journalism.

She has worked as a writer, editor and lawyer in several countries throughout the world.

Over the past few years Horwedel has traveled extensively to Armenia in 2003, Afghanistan in 2004, and currently Uganda. Her work has included mentoring journalists, teaching comparative media law and marketing a national news service in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, Horwedel worked for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting to market the country's first independent Afghan news agency run by and for Afghans.

She is now consulting from Uganda where she has accompanied her husband, Peter Eichstaedt, a professional journalist currently working for the British-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting.

In 1994, after working several years as a magazine editor and writer, Horwedel received her law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

For Horwedel becoming a lawyer helped focus her writing. "It made me question everything, look for patterns and helped me see that there aren't two sides to every story, but rather about as many sides to a story as there are people telling the story," Horwedel said.

Horwedel said she loves to write and she loves the law. "The trick is to meld what I call 'thinking like a barrister with thinking like a bard,'" Horwedel said.

Retired professor Dennis Hale was the one who got Horwedel interested in media law, an interest which has permeated her work over the years.

"Both journalists and attorneys are involved in a focused pursuit of the truth," Hale said.

Retired professor Emil Dansker also taught Horwedel at BGSU and has stayed in touch with her over the years.

"Dina has shown herself to be a sensitive yet tough individual who can deal with both the human and the technical aspects of a story."

Horwedel's current projects involve writing two travel books. One has the working title "A Woman's Place is in the World" and is about Horwedel's travels in Afghanistan, India, Iran, Lebanon, Cyprus, Armenia and South America. The second, with working title "Bush Meat," is about life in East Africa.

by Katie Budke, '07

Dr. Bob Byler, journalism professor from 1973 to 1990

Retired professor sends update

Journalism is a wonderful lifelong endeavor, and I'm busy as ever after being "retired" 15 years.

The Mississippi Rag, a traditional jazz publication I began writing in 1974, has published over 100 of my articles and nearly 2,000 photos. I've covered about 120 jazz festivals in more than 50 places. I had another 150 articles in 30 other publications over the years and can't imagine not being a journalist.

Ruth, my wife, and I have produced 11 edited travel videotapes from trips to over 50 countries and all 50 states. I'm archiving both travel and jazz photos on computer for a planned Web site.

We love Venice, Fla., where we moved in 2001. We hunt for sharks' teeth on the beaches, go to plays and bowl in a league. My team won it three years in a row, and I had high average. I've put 15 new flower beds, sidewalks and a patio in our yard. We are happy and healthy and refuse to act out ages.

It is a delight to hear from and be visited by former students. We welcome visitors to our home on the Suncoast. They say, "To teach is to learn," and I learned much from many fine students at BGSU.

alumni recognition

Editor gets nomination

Tom Walton, editor of The [Toledo] Blade and a 1965 graduate, was nominated for a Pulitzer for his editorials on the Coingate scandal.

Young journalist honored

On April 21, Jeff Hindenach, a 2002 print journalism graduate, was given the department's Currier Young Professional award.

The lead business designer for [San Jose] Mercury News, Hindenach has won nine SND awards of excellence.

Maxwell leads NFL broadcast operations

"Senior Director of Broadcasting Operations and Services is my long, boring job title right now," alumnus Dick Maxwell said as his daughter Erin, a BGSU freshman, chimed in with agreement.

Lucky for Maxwell, the long, boring title is one of few dull aspects of his career. That's because he happens to be Senior Director of Broadcasting Operations and Services for the NFL.

A 1970 graduate, Maxwell jumped into professional football public relations just a few months after graduation. He has since worked his way across the field to his current position as chief liaison between the NFL and four television rights holders – ABC, FOX, CBS and ESPN.

In the midst of preparations for Super Bowl XL in Detroit, Maxwell returned to his alma mater with six NFL colleagues for a panel discussion hosted by BGSU's Sport Management Alliance.

The panelists explained the inner workings of Super Bowl planning to a lecture hall of sport management students on Jan. 26.

Somewhat ironically, as a student Maxwell never thought he would pursue sport management as a career, and at the panel he emphasized good writing as the key to success.

"My aspiration was to be a sports writer after graduating and hopefully one day go to a large newspaper such as the Columbus Dispatch or the Toledo Blade," he said.

The contacts Maxwell made at BGSU, however, would lead him in an unexpected career direction. As a student working in the Sports Information Office, Maxwell was offered a major promotion when the Sports Information Director resigned.

"[BGSU Athletic Director] Doyt Perry...asked if I would do the job as Interim Sports Information Director, even though I was a student, a senior," he said. So, Maxwell reduced his course load, tackled the job and graduated in August instead of May.

As the Interim Sports Information Director, Maxwell worked under Bob Peck, public relations director for the Mid-American Conference. A few months after graduation, Peck contacted Maxwell with a job offer.

"He called me up and said he needed an assistant in December with the Denver Broncos, would I be interested? Of course I was," Maxwell said.

The Hail Mary job change launched Maxwell into a series of promotions that led him to the pinnacle of broadcast football.

He quickly advanced to Director of Promotions for the Broncos, before serving two years as Director of Public Relations for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

In 1978, Maxwell joined Commissioner Pete Rozelle's staff as the NFC Information Director, working with 14 teams and their public relations directors.

1986 marked his switch to the NFL's broadcasting department as Director of Broadcasting Operations and Services, and two years ago Maxwell added the word "Senior" to his business card.

Maxwell's daughter, a sport management major hoping to inherit her father's success, insisted his long title is hardly indicative of what he actually does for a living.

"Basically, he has to make sure everybody's happy," she explained. And according to Maxwell, that's not far from the truth.

Maxwell works on a daily basis with the networks and teams, greasing communication lines so networks can efficiently get the information they need to prepare for broadcasts.

"We address any issues that might come up – anything we may want to do to improve the coverage," he said. For example, "...the networks in recent years have added this camera that goes over the field called SkyCam or Cablecam...We have to experiment with that to make sure it doesn't disrupt play. All the camera

angles have to be behind the play. They can't be in front of it, because somebody could throw a pass, and it might hit the wires, and that would not be a good thing."

Some of Maxwell's most influential work takes place during the off-season when he helps plan the NFL's playing schedule (and thus the viewing schedules of football fans nationwide).

"Half of February and all of March I work with four other people in our office on making up the playing schedule – when the games are played each year, and which networks get to keep those games to televise them," he explained.

Although over-the-air television stations have a harder time than cable stations paying NFL rights fees, NFL coverage will not move exclusively to cable in the foreseeable future, Maxwell predicted.

"I think it will be a hybrid of both free, over-the-air broadcast and cable," he said. "The playoffs for the NFL, at least for the near horizon, will be on over-the-air networks."

As coverage of the Super Bowl has expanded, Maxwell has worked to help networks improve coverage of regular NFL games, using a work ethic he gained from BGSU.

"There was one journalism professor – Jesse Currier – and he was awfully good," Maxwell recalled. "He stressed doing the very best you could do, not just getting by with certain things. On assignments, you would turn in an article, he would critique it, and you would get a B-plus on it. He would say it should have been an A, or if it was an A, it should have been an A-plus."

"I think there's an ethic there for a good journalism background. You don't want to turn in the finished product until you have really looked it over, changed it and revised it, refined it and looked it over again. I think in life that's probably a pretty good thing."

by Laura Hoesman, '08

Mizell Stewart speaks with Neema Ndangarange after his speech at the BG News alumni event in the union. During his presentation, Stewart discussed how important it is for news organizations to present accurate information that is easy for readers to relate to.

Jerry Mitchell shakes the hand of student Lincoln Stanley after speaking to about 150 students and faculty and community members. Mitchell told stories about his work breaking cold cases and bringing killers of the civil-rights era to justice.



photo provided by Robert Bortel

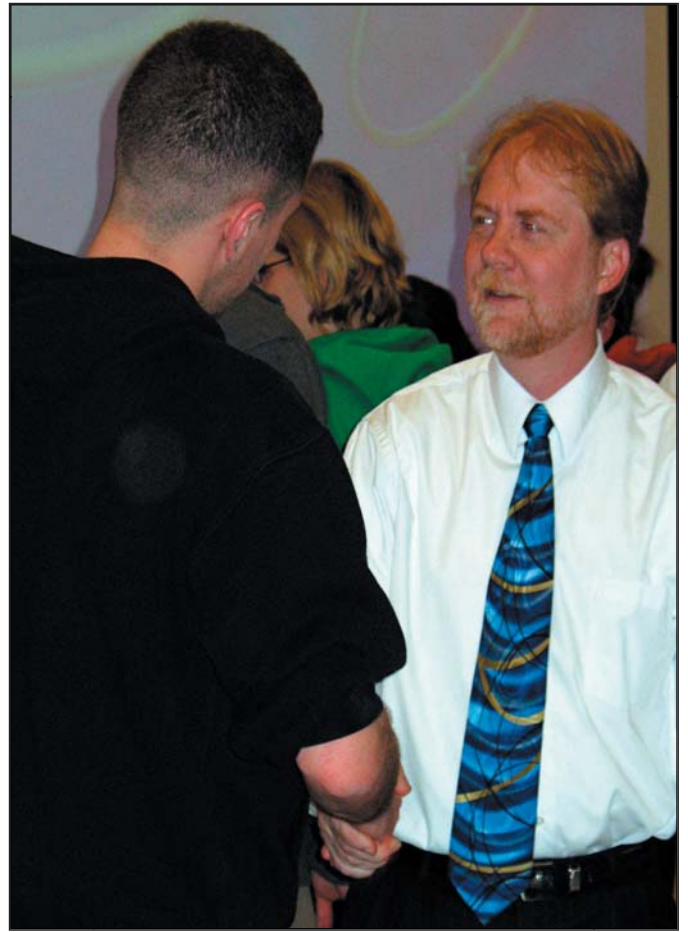


photo by Jessica Ameling, '07

Communication, Race and Power

Challenges & Opportunities in the Digital Age

Communication Studies Week emerged this year in a revised format. Rather than a week-long event, the planning committee focused on a single theme and reduced the time to three days.

The theme was race issues in communication and consisted of a keynote speaker on the first day, followed by an academic conference and BG News reunion on the second day and class sessions and speaker on the last day.

Tim Reid, who is best

known for his starring role in the 1970s series "WKRP in Cincinnati" and the 1990s hit series "Sister, Sister," started the week with an evening speech on the power of the media.

An academic conference on the second day focused on African Americans in film and television and included Michelle Duke, director of diversity for the National Association of Broadcasters Educational Foundation.

Following the conference, Mizell Stewart

III, an alumnus and managing editor of the Akron Beacon Journal, talked with students about the changing demographics of news consumers.

The week concluded with Jerry Mitchell, an investigative reporter for the Clarion-Ledger in Mississippi.

His investigative reporting led to the conviction of four Klansmen, including Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers.

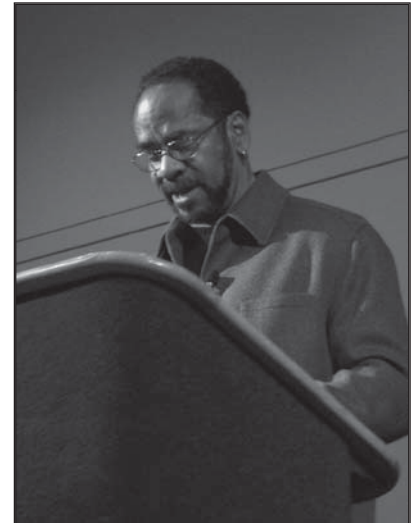


photo by Sara Fortner, '07

In his speech, "An Evening with Tim Reid," Tim Reid talks about the power of media and its negative portrayal of blacks. "Entertainment has become our metaphor for life," Reid told the audience.

COMMUNICATION
STUDIES
WEEK
March 27-29, 2006

Journalist Evan Wright tells stories of true nature of life in a war zone

The first time I met journalist Evan Wright, he was approached by a Marine who wanted to thank him for writing the truth.

After spending two months embedded in Iraq with 23 marines from 1st Recon Unit, Wright was able to put into words the realities of war. His three-part series, titled "The Killer Elite," appeared in Rolling Stone magazine and eventually in the hands of many Marines.

In October, the award-winning journalist and now contributing editor to Rolling Stone came to the university as the Florence and Jesse Currier lecturer. He spoke to the BG News staff and in journalism classes about his experiences in Iraq.

He also led a workshop titled "What Reporters Do and Why They Do It" for the Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association, a group who helps high school journalism students. GLIPA is coordinated through the School of Communication Studies.

Wright ended his visit to BGSU with the annual Currier lecture. In the ballroom of the student union, he spoke about the importance of good interviewing skills and told the audience about his time in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Eric Bartkowiak, now a freshman at the university, flew into Kuwait with fellow Marines just days after Wright. After reading the Rolling Stone articles, he decided to attend the speech and thank the journalist for his honest portrayal of the Marines.

"All of the little details are just right," he said. "I had to sit there and laugh while he was telling stories that make most people cringe, on dark humor and our reactions to things but that's how we are."

During his time in Iraq, Wright usually took notes in the dark using a red lens flashlight.

Those notes would result in more than 1,500 pages about the true nature of war and eventually fill his book, titled "Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America and the New Face of American War."

"I knew the language would freak some people out, as well as the overall violence," Wright said. "But I wasn't going to pretty it up since that would just make it less accurate."

To Wright's benefit, reactions to his raw, explicit account of the war in Iraq were mostly positive. He won literary awards, as well as the Wallace Greene Award from the Marine Corps Heritage Society.

When I asked him about his role in teaching Americans about the realities of war, Wright said he is happy to tell the Marines' story from their point of view.

"People who have served have an amazing perspective on America and the world," he said.

Jess Wagner, entertainment editor of the BG News, admires Wright's dedication to the truth. After having lunch with Wright and listening to him speak at three different venues during his visit, she said he opened her eyes to the true nature of journalism.

"I realized that it is important to

PAST CURRIER SPEAKERS

Mara Liasson

1997-1998

Brian Bartow

1998-1999

Michael Moore

1999-2000

Molly Ivins

2000-2001

Steve Hartman

2001-2002

Bill Dedman

2002-2003

Rick Bragg

2004-2005

Juan Williams

2005-2006

write honestly and write what you see, not to worry about making anyone mad," Wagner said.

As a recipient of the Florence and Jesse Currier scholarship, I also appreciated being able to interact with Wright during his visit to BGSU.

The Florence and Jesse Currier Fund, which also provides for several journalism scholarships and faculty projects, paid for Evan Wright's appearance at the university.

by Lisa Halverstadt, '08



photo by Bob Moser, '06

In the BG News room, Evan Wright talks with the staff of the BG News, including reporters Cassandra Shofar and Candice Jones.

PR class for non-majors offered online

Technology has undoubtedly made people's lives easier, and now technology is being used to help students who might otherwise not have an opportunity to go to college.

An online version of JOUR 341, Principles of Public Relations, has found its way into the School of Communications Studies curriculum.

The course is taught entirely through Blackboard, the BGSU web portal. All assignments and lecture notes are posted for students to read, and all collaboration is done on discussion boards that are set up like chat rooms.

Being a working mom, Instructor Julie Hagenbuch understands how hectic schedules can be. The online structure caters to parents and others working full time.

Of course, there are students who enroll in this computer-based class who think that it's the easy way out of going to class, Hagenbuch said, but they are faced with a reality that this class is a lot of work.

Material is the same as the classroom version including exams, deadlines and grades, but the students must get these assignments done on their own time.

"It all comes down to how motivated they are and how much they want to work," Hagenbuch said.

Teaching an online course requires Hagenbuch to spell out everything beforehand and post it on Blackboard. She said it's a lot easier to teach face-to-face because instructors can go with the flow.

Hagenbuch said the grades in the online course are about the same as the ones in the classroom.

JOUR 341 was added to the first summer session because of the high demand for the class.

by Barb Consiglio, '06

Workshop classes allow students to specialize

During spring semester, the department of journalism introduced a series of special topics workshops designed to focus the students' skills and hone in on a particular area of journalism. Taught by professionals currently working in the field, the classes allow students to concentrate on a specific area of interest such as sports writing, investigative reporting, multi-cultural reporting and media convergence.

"These classes are an effort to engage working journalists in topics that are highly specialized," Robert Bortel, director of student publications, said. Bortel developed the idea for these workshops as a way to give students the opportunity to acquire an area of specialization.

Funded by student publication resources, the classes meet once a week for five weeks.

Terry Rentner, chair of the journalism department, said the classes allow students to explore other fields in preparation for their careers. Rentner is one of the individuals involved in the process of choosing the topics for these mini-courses.

"I see the need in the curriculum, and Bob Bortel sees the need in the BG News," Rentner said.

The first workshop class, sports writing, was taught by Toledo Blade



photo by Jessica Ameling, '07

During the special topics workshop on investigative reporting, Lisa Halverstadt listens as Joe Mahr, an investigative reporter for the St. Louis Dispatch, instructs the class. Mahr, a former reporter at The Blade, also spoke as part of the Ault Lecture on Sept. 13 (see page 15).

sports editor Frank Corsoe.

"Just hearing professionals talk about their work experience is always enlightening to me," said Sean Corp, a student in the class and a sports reporter for the BG News. "Hearing Mr. Corsoe talking about sports was great because you knew he'd been there and paid his dues and knew

what he was talking about."

Melissa Spirek, associate professor, said, "[The class] provides visibility of the students' talent to industry leaders while providing them with advice from the very people who are the leaders in their chosen profession."

by Kate Bednar, '08



photo by Sara Fortner, '07

Efreem Graham, a reporter at Toledo's Channel 13, teaches his reporting class. "Students excite me," Graham said. "To see a student get it, from seeing them overwhelmed to seeing the bell go off, that's the bottom line."

Ten minutes after class should have begun one February afternoon, the journalism reporting students have packed the second floor hallway of West Hall.

The students are not nervously wondering what the hold-up is. They are not worried that the instructor might be ill. They know he will arrive, for they already saw him that morning as they munched on their bowl of cereal.

Their instructor, Efreem Graham, is a reporter for Toledo's Channel 13 ABC Action News.

After reporting all morning, Graham heads to BGSU to teach the reporting and visual editing classes.

Graham arrives, cell phone in hand and takes his place at the lectern. Channel 13 news coverage blares behind him. "I'm sorry I'm late," he says. "Has anyone been updated on what is taking place in Toledo?" he inquires.

BREAKING NEWS! The news coverage shows three Toledo men of Middle Eastern descent who were arrested over the weekend pleading not guilty in federal court on charges of attempting to wage attacks of terror against the United States.

With news of the terror plot still crying out behind him, Graham asks, "Does anyone have questions concerning your articles? How are those going?" Students begin voicing their assignment concerns.

"The experiences that I go through on the job, when I come into the classroom, and it's appropriate and they fit, I am able to pass along those lessons," Graham said.

Graham runs his classrooms the same way an editor runs a newsroom. Students often enter the classroom to be sent right back through the door in pursuit of a story—to observe, characterize and interview.

He also role plays, allowing students to interview him as he plays different voices in the story. He always uses stories he reported earlier that day for Channel 13.

"Efreem uses what he does and lets us in on how to do the job quickly and the right way," Adam Miezin, a

reporting student, said. "He shows us that we can become something and that everyone has a chance to make their mark in their journalism career,"

Kelly Bowman, a former student of Graham's now interning with the Channel 13 Action News team, said, "You really come to appreciate the experience of your teacher when you have one with so much."

Graham wants students to find their own answers, make their own decisions and tell the story their own way. "There is no 'Efreem' answer, and you're not going to get there the way I got there," he said.

Graham's twin passions for journalism and education surfaced while he was interning for a news station during his last year of work on a bachelor's degree in English literature at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey.

Graham went to work for NBC Studios in New York City and earned a master's degree in journalism at the Columbia University School of Journalism. He has also hosted a weekly, live call-in television talk show in Jersey City and taught an English literature course at Hudson Community College.

From the East coast, Graham moved to Tennessee to be a reporter for WCKB-TV in Chattanooga. There he won honors from the Tennessee Associated Press and taught at Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

From Tennessee, Graham moved to Toledo to report for Channel 13, where he caught the interest of Dennis Hale, a professor now retired from the department.

Hale suggested Graham to Terry Rentner, department chair, as a person to teach a special topics course on covering breaking news for the broadcast sequence.

Building on the success of that course, Rentner encouraged Graham to apply for an instructor position.

That's what brings him here today. "To make students believe in themselves is a lot of fun," Graham said.

by Andrea Scott, '07

Course offers taste of future technology

You are surfing CNN.com and you come across this really cool slideshow. You hear music and click on pictures to read more information about the news.

This is made possible using a program called Flash, and journalism students are learning all about it.

During spring semester, associate professor Jim Foust offered a course to teach students how to use the Flash program for journalism.

Flash is one of the most popular programs on the market and is widely

used by journalists and major news operations all over the world.

The program allows the user to make interactive slide shows and integrate video and audio clips.

Foust said learning Flash is a good skill for journalists who want to really pursue Internet journalism.

"The course is challenging yet interesting," Claire Hauser, a senior journalism minor said. "Most of my classmates and I have never worked with Flash before. I like learning how to make different animations

and movies using the program. It's sort of a whole new world."

Flash allows video to be interactive, bringing animation to the Web.

"I like the class because I am gathering experience for what seems to be the next generation of journalism," Tiffany Gorby, a junior print journalism major, said. "I'm not computer savvy and Dr. Foust really gets to the specifics of the course information so everyone can know what's going on and how to do things."

by Kristi Vajen, '07

Alumnus shares his passion

About teaching his students the art of photojournalism, Fred Steiner said, "You've got to talk about Beethoven before you can talk about Stravinsky."

Steiner, a 1972 graduate from BGSU, returned this semester to teach the basic aspects of photojournalism and the types of situations students who are going into the field are likely to encounter.

Steiner said he bases the class on things he learned about photography while attending BGSU.

"I'm focusing more on the black and white aspect of photography because I feel it's important to understand black and white before getting involved with the various aspects that go along with color," Steiner said.

Steiner worked for his hometown paper, the Bluffton News from 1978 to 1989 and came back in 1994 to become editor of the paper, which he still does today, along with being a photographer for the paper.

"When I first started I found that I really loved to take pictures and make layout pages, all while telling the community I grew up in a story," Steiner said. "Photography is one of my greatest passions in life and I couldn't be happier teaching what I've learned to students."

by Dan Wyar, '07



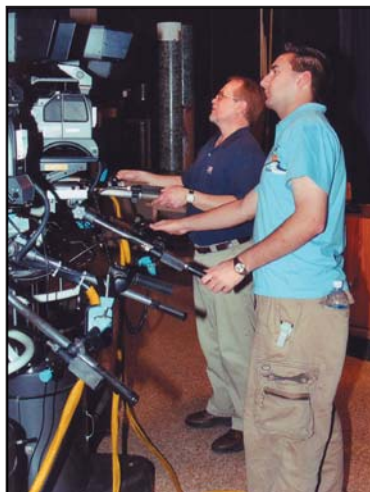
photo by Lindsay Baker, '07

Fred Steiner, assists students in his Journalism 310 photography class. Along with teaching the students the fundamentals of black and white photography and the basics of framing and the rule of thirds, Steiner also preaches about the importance of ethics in photojournalism.



photos by Nick Snyder, '07

Barnes is more than Mr. Fix-it



STANDBY: Jim Barnes works with the video switcher at the BG24 News studio.

UNDER CONTROL: Jim Barnes helps student Matt Pawuk with a camera while preparing for the BG24 News live broadcast.

Jim Barnes is known as the man who can fix anything.

When technical problems arise, students and faculty members immediately call on him.

And Barnes, chief engineer and technical coordinator, always remains calm and solves the problem quickly.

"He's not baffled by any piece of equipment. I haven't seen anything yet that he couldn't dig into or understand," Tom Mascaro, an assistant professor in telecommunications said.

But Barnes doesn't just fix technical problems; he devotes himself to teaching and assisting students.

Stephen Merrill, general manager for the university's WBGU-FM, said the station couldn't stay on-air without him.

"He's pretty much done everything for us," Merrill said, adding that Barnes sacrificed his summer vacation to help renovate the station.

Jim Foust, associate professor in journalism, also appreciates Barnes' dedication. "He really just goes above and beyond what you could describe in a job description," he said.

In his three years working as the school's technical coordinator,

Barnes has also found time to develop friendships with students.

Erika Smith, general manager at BG24 News, said he always asks students about their career plans and their hometowns.

"Many times I've sat in Jim's office and just talked to him because he's a great listener," she said.

Barnes also makes the time to teach students.

For example, he taught Jay Schell, a senior telecommunications major, how to install a radio transmitter.

Smith said, "He's been a role model to many students who are working in engineering. Jim is a great teacher and students enjoy learning from him."

Barnes said, "Students have enough of a challenge picking up and learning. It's important for me to make this part of it less stressful for them."

Mascaro admires Barnes' commitment to the university and the community as a whole.

To illustrate his point, Mascaro recounted an incident during Barnes' first year at BGSU.

The school had purchased new camera tripods, unaware they had a design flaw. When Barnes recognized the problem, he made a clay mold of

the inefficient part and created new, working parts for each camera. He then distributed a bulletin to students about how to use the new part and called the camera company to report the problem.

"Most anyone else, if they broke this, would've just ordered a new part," Mascaro said. "He's just very committed."

But Barnes's commitment to the community isn't just evident in his work at the university.

He serves as the economic development chair on Pemberville city council and has been on several other community boards.

Barnes is also owner and general manager of Pemtronics, an engineering consulting business that helps law and engineering firms keep their computer systems intact.

Barnes took his current job at BGSU because he wanted to take on the challenge of helping students focus on their studies rather than on equipment problems.

Students like Smith appreciate his efforts. "Jim leaves a lasting impression that shows students that life can be so much fun as long as you love what you are doing and enjoy the company around you."

by Lisa Halverstadt, '08



photo by Sandy Meade, '07

Laren Weber and Ryan Autullo look over the sports page for March 27 one last time before turning it into production. Weber, a junior and the managing editor at the BG News, will start work at The Blade as a news-reporting intern this summer. Autullo, the current sports editor at the BG News, started his internship as a sport agate clerk in March and will continue to work during the summer and fall semesters.

Two BG Newsmen intern at The Blade

Two journalism majors are ending a 20-year absence of Bowling Green State University interns at The Toledo Blade. Juniors Laren Weber and Ryan Autullo will be working for the Blade this summer.

Weber, managing editor of the BG News, will be working at the city desk and covering city council meetings and a variety of other stories.

"It's a job that I dreamed of having, but never actually thought I would get," Weber said. "It definitely makes all those hours spent in the

newsroom writing stories worth it."

Autullo, BG News' sports editor, will be an agate clerk. His main duties will entail composing box scores from area high school games and pulling box scores of interest from the AP wire. He started work in March and will continue into the fall.

"I've given up many weekend nights the past few years to cover sports games and such, so it's nice to be rewarded with such a promising internship," Autullo said.

by Ashley Whitman, '07



New black journalists association forming

A group of BGSU students is hard at work trying to bring a student chapter of the the National Association of Black Journalists to campus.

Victoria Ekstrand, the group's adviser, said she wanted to help start a student chapter after noticing a large growth in the African American student population on campus.

William Scott, interim president, said, "We plan to educate and provide opportunities for black journalists on campus. For example, there is a National conference of NABJ in August that will provide workshops, job fairs, lectures and informational sessions for members of NABJ and local student chapters."

BGSU instructor and Toledo Channel 13 broadcaster Efreem Graham and The Toledo Blade's Clyde Hughes will be assisting Ekstrand.

The group, which had its first meeting on Feb. 23, is currently in the process of becoming an official chapter by getting recognition from BGSU and the NABJ.

Membership is open to all who would like to join, Ekstrand said.

by Stacy Timm, '07

BG News Awards

The following members of the BG News staff won Society of Professional Journalists Marks of Excellence awards in region 4, which includes all of Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. The students went to Cincinnati on April 7-8 to accept their awards.

First place:

- Best all around student daily newspaper
- Bob Moser, in-depth reporting
- Bridget Tharp, general news reporting
- Josh Phillips, sports photography

2
3

Second place:

- Ryan Autullo, sports writing
- Jess Wagner, feature writing

Honorable mention:

- Cassandra Shofar, breaking news
- Andrea Slivka, in-depth reporting

PR students learn from the pros

This year has been packed with plenty for BGSU's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

In December, members Greg Kohlreiser and Holly Mittelmeier flew down to Miami, Fla., for a three-day national conference.

"The conference has been one of the most beneficial things that I have experienced this year," Kohlreiser said. He said he learned what major companies are looking for from people in the field.

Mittelmeier attended sessions about fashion/beauty, entertainment, and non-profit public relations, as well as a session on campaigns.

"At one session I attended, we were split into groups and had to come up with a marketing plan for a university within 15 minutes, Mittelmeier said. "The pressure sure was on! But it was great because it helped us all understand that PR is like that at times."

A larger group of students was

originally scheduled to go to the conference which was initially planned to be held the week of Oct. 21.

But due to the Atlantic hurricanes, the conference was rescheduled for Dec. 18. This new date coincided with the first week of winter break, so only two members could attend.

Aside from the conference, the group has worked through the year on developing skills.

They participated in a resume workshop headed by Career Services' Dennis Hefner where different guests spoke on topics related to the public relations field. Julie Ewery of Owens Corning spoke on corporate public relations.

On March 1, PRSSA held a workshop "Sharpening Your Skills with Terri Sherp...An Evening with the Director of BGSU Media Relations." Kohlreiser said it was a successful, informational session.

"She spoke on the challenges of working for a university, as well as future trends, how to use unique an-

gles to get media attention and how to target different forms of media for events," Kohlreiser said.

Jason Griffin, the director of media relations for the Toledo Mud Hens also came to campus to speak about his experience in the field.

"The best part was listening to all his amazing experiences such as meeting Michael Jordan," said Sara Fortner, a junior public relations student. "Also just hearing how much he loves what he does and how he worked his way up in the public relations field."

An activity titled "Ice Cream on the Spot...Avoiding the Brainfreeze," an ice cream social with a press release workshop on developing ideas, was a fun way that members got to discuss new ideas.

Greg Kohlreiser is president of PRSSA and journalism chair Terry Rentner is the faculty adviser. Currently, there are around 30 members in the group.

By Natalie Kuhl '07

SND group invites professional designers to speak



photo by Candice Jones, '07

At a February SND meeting, members Rachel Shirk, Bob Moser and Stephanie Guigou look over samples of designer Frank Cucciarre's work. Cucciarre owns his own design business called Blink Concept and Design. "I love my job," Cucciarre said. "I can't imagine doing anything else."

Colors and lines, graphics and drawings – members of BGSU's Society for News Design take their news with a side-order of creativity.

SND is a national organization for professionals and students who are attracted to journalism as well as design. The BGSU chapter allows students to get together and check out the newest trends in design and the different ways to use them.

The club invites professional designers to campus and share their knowledge with members as a way to experience the business of design and to meet experts.

On Feb. 10, Frank Cucciarre was the guest of honor. Cucciarre, whose wife is an English instructor at BGSU, is a local designer. His business, Blink Concept and Design, designs for clients all over the country.

Although not all of Cucciarre's work is journalistic, he had plenty of wisdom to share with SND members.

He told them about his journey as a professional designer from the time he was based in a minivan to working with the Cleveland Browns to starting his own company.

"To stay young in this business, you have got to keep pushing your limits," he said.

He shared magazines, pamphlets, ads and wedding invitations he had done and told the students if they truly enjoyed design, they would find fulfillment in the business.

Two weeks after Cucciarre, Jeff Basting, a designer for The Blade, brought clips of newspaper pages to highlight his work.

"I was impressed by the variety of work," Kelly Taylor, journalism instructor, said. "He had these beautiful watercolor drawings as well as photo illustrations and infographics. It was great chance for students to see how they worked on a page."

by Candice Jones, '07

Rentner expands grant aimed at alcohol consumption

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a two year grant worth \$300,000 to fund Terry Rentner's research aimed at reducing the amount of high-risk binge drinking done by BGSU students.

Rentner, the chairperson of the BGSU journalism department, has been conducting research on this topic since 1997.

"It was a very competitive market," Rentner said. Of the 156 colleges that applied for this grant, only 20 received one, she said.

High-risk binge drinking is defined as men having five or more drinks in a row and women having four or more drinks in a row. The definition has been expanded over the years to include having more than one drink per hour.

The national average for high-risk drinking is 44 percent. In 2000, BGSU's average was 61.8 percent. It fell to 56.2 percent in 2004. The 5.6 percent decrease is a very significant improvement, Rentner said.

For this grant, Rentner teamed up with Barbara Hoffman, director of the Wellness Center on campus. They created a two-step approach aimed at three groups who statistically drink the most on a college campus: first-year students, student athletes and members of Greek organizations.

Starting last fall, all students in those groups were asked to complete an online course known as AlcoholEdu. However, only a third of the students targeted completed the course.

Rentner blames this on not making the program mandatory. "Once students found out they didn't have to take it, they stopped," she said. "But, we are working on ways to improve participation this fall."

The second step of the program are clinical protocols created to help help professionals identify and treat students involved in high-risk drinking. These are part of an effort sponsored by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"No one has ever done clinical protocols," Hoffman said. "The question we will have to ask is 'Does this have an impact?'"

The approach taken by Rentner shows students the error of their misconceptions of the amount of high-risk drinking being done by their peers.

In her most recent survey, the general BGSU student population felt that 99 percent of their fellow students drink daily. In reality, the number is only 1 percent, Rentner said.

"I hope we can bring our average down even lower," said Renter. "We are definitely headed in the right direction."

These efforts are a substantial part of the reason the U.S. Department of Education has recognized BGSU as a model institution on alcohol efforts. Rentner's program was named one of the country's top seven research-based programs in 1999. Since her research began in 1997, Rentner has received 12 state and federal grants.

by Joe Kaiser, '07

2 associations select campus for conferences

The first Ohio Association of Broadcasters' Northwest Regional Conference was hosted by the School of Communication Studies on Oct. 21.

The conference attracted over 100 attendees including students from several NW Ohio campuses and industry professionals.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon at the conference was David Kennedy, master's and Ph.D program alumnus and now the President & CEO, Susquehanna Media Co., a large media conglomerate based in York, Pa.

From Feb. 24-26, the school hosted the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication midwinter conference.

"The conference gets people from the field and all over to come to BG and see our program and meet our professors and grad students," Catherine Cassara, associate professor, said.

Honors & Awards

BGSU Press Club

Jessica Ameling, Jessica Dill, Laura Nelson, Rachel Shirk, Danielle Tanner, Laren Weber

GLIPA

Jessica Ameling, Jessica Dill

Harold & Elaine Fisher Undergraduate Scholarship
Matthew Maynard

Spencer Canary Scholarship
Jessica Battiatto, Matthew Clark, Caterina Guinta, Kara Ohngren

SCS Award for Excellence
Candice Jones

Walker Scholarship
Kristen Mooney

Wagh Award for Outstanding Senior Journalism Major
Bob Moser

Joan & James Gordon Scholarship
Tiffany Gorby, Laura Simmons

Florence & Jesse Currier Endowed Scholarships
Rising Senior: Amanda Hooper
Rising Junior: David Herrera

Nicole Valek Scholarship
Tami Herman

National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation
Nicole Humphrey

Dr. Robert & Mrs. Barbara Cape Scholarship Foundation
Taylor Copeland, Lauren Farnsworth, Kelsey Hilborn, Alison Kemp, Andrea Slivka, Kristn Vaas, Colleen Verbus

Beverly Murray Scholarship
Stephanie Guigou

Outstanding Sequence Awards
Broadcast: Andrew Young
Print: Valerie Okonieski
Public Relations: Greg Kohlriseser



photo by Mark Zeller

The 2005 AULT Lecture speakers Joe Mahr, from the Saint Louis Dispatch, Mike Sallah, from The Miami Herald, and Mitch Weiss, from The Charlotte Observer, pose with associate professor Melissa Spirek after their evening lecture titled "Speaking Truth to Power." The former Blade reporters won the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting for their series - "Buried Secrets, Brutal Truths" - which detailed how the Army failed to stop Vietnam War atrocities after commanders were told about them. Spirek was instrumental in arranging the discussion, which would be the last for all three together.

continued from page 1

Tunisia trip builds bonds between countries

In the workshops on campus, Cassara taught investigative reporting and generating stories ideas, while Bortel explored managing a student-run newspaper.

"Our goal was to reinforce what their faculty had been teaching," Cassara said. "Many times when students hear information from someone else besides their teachers, it makes an impact."

Along the way, the Tunisian students gathered many new ideas from the workshops.

"It was interesting, the way of working at the BG News and the organization of work. I found the [stylebook] is very important, because we change [the IPSI journalism publication] every year - also the title," Ghada Kamoun said.

Asma Ridane, an editor for their publication, said they should develop a stylebook for themselves.

Cassara said she also learned from the session.

"I was impressed with what we could do in a short time," she said.

IPSI student Mohammad Diria enjoyed the length of the course as well, but wished the classes went longer so he could know more about design and English.

On the road the IPSI students were

responsible for finding stories and interviewing sources for their student paper, but along the way they got to know their visitors.

"I enjoyed it all, especially with my classmates and our friends, the American Josh and Stephanie and Mr. Bob and Dr. Cassara. Jokes, music, and talking were the most things that will be remembered," Housseme Abbes said.

For the American students the hours in the van were a chance to learn about the Tunisian students and the country's culture.

"My favorite part of the trip, honestly, was on the bus, when they opened up to us," Comer said. "We became friends and not just visitors."

The interactions even caused some IPSI students to change their minds about the United States and its people.

Palestinian Diria said by talking to Bortel about politics in Israel he learned that he "should not judge all the Americans as bad people."

Cassara said the bond between cultures may be one of the most valuable parts of the visit.

"To have Mohammad and Yassine say, 'I've changed my views on Americans,' makes it worthwhile to

put the all effort into it," she said.

IPSI professor Lotfi Ziadi saw the effects in what his students shared at the closing session.

"When Mohammad Aziz talked ...he had tears in his eyes. It was an emotional moment. It reflects the atmosphere of the week," he said.

In March, Ziadi and five Tunisian students traveled to Northwest Ohio for 10 days. At BGSU they spent time at the BG News and discussed the challenges of publishing a student paper. They also visited the Sentinel-Tribune and spent time shopping.

Cassara arranged for the Tunisians to talk with students in BGSU classes about education and journalism in Tunisia. At Rogers High School they met with social studies classes and talked about the government and media in Tunisia, as well as what movies they liked and their favorite rap stars.

"What we are involved in really isn't a very large scale operation - after all we are only bringing a few people each way at any time -- but I am struck with what a big impact each visit has on human beings at both ends," Cassara said.

by Stephanie Guigou '07

Josh Comer and Catherine Cassara contributed to this piece

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