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# Alumni Newsletter

April 01, 2010



## Spring 2010

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#### **SCOTT CLARK HONORED AS A PROMINENT GRAD**

For BGSU's Centennial Year, the Alumni Awards honored 100 of the university's most prominent graduates during a ceremony held on April 24. Broadcaster Scott Clark, '75, was one of the recipients.

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#### **FORMER DIRECTOR DIES AT 89**

Harold Fisher, a highly respected journalism professor and former department chair, died Jan. 24 in Salem, Oregon.

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#### **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

The department has been fully re-accredited for another six years.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Journalism Alumni:

Since 1979, our department has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC). We are among approximately 100 schools nationally and internationally that are ACEJMC accredited and one of only three in the state of Ohio. Accreditation works on a six-year cycle, which means that every six years we are re-evaluated by the ACEJMC. The re-accreditation process involves a lengthy self-study document, a three-day visit from a site team made up of academics and journalism professionals, and final approval by the ACEJMC's Accrediting Council.

During the past year, it was once again our turn to go through the accrediting process, and I'm happy to report that we have been fully re-accredited for another six years. After the self study and the site team's recommendation for re-accreditation, we received final approval from the Accrediting Council at the end of April.

This is certainly great news for the department of journalism and public relations, our alumni and our current and future students. I know first-hand from meeting with prospective students and parents that accreditation is an important "selling point" and one of the things that allows us to continue to attract the best and brightest students. For example, the fact that the accrediting agency mandates maximum skills class sizes of 20 students in this era of pressure from administration to increase class sizes wherever possible is always something that prospective students and parents appreciate.

The accreditation process is a lot of work, however, and it is also relatively expensive. In addition to the yearly dues, there is also the expense of the site team visit every six years and the ensuing trips to the Accrediting Committee and Accrediting Council meetings to discuss our case. Like almost everyone else, we are facing shrinking budgets, and there is no doubt that the money we spend on remaining accredited could instead be put to other good uses.

That said, we as a faculty are committed to accreditation because we believe that it has real value for our current students, future students and our alumni. However, one of my first thoughts upon driving home from the Accrediting Council meeting in April at which we had received our final re-accreditation approval was, "there are going to be a whole lot of changes happening between now and 2015." We all know about the changes taking place in the journalism profession and the media as a whole, and we are also acutely aware of the challenges and changes that will face higher education in the coming years. Will these changes make accreditation less valuable to us the next time around?

I certainly don't know the answer to that question, but I would like to hear your input. As an alumnus of the department, do you think it is important that we remain accredited? Please feel free to contact me via e-mail, through our Facebook page, via phone or even in person to let me know how you feel. Given our five-year cushion before we have to start the self-study process again, we've got some time to think and consider.

I have to say, though, that one of the nicest things about the self-study process is putting down on paper all of the wonderful things that our faculty, students and alumni do. Although we're a comparatively small group, we do a lot of great stuff here in West Hall, in Northwest Ohio and both nationally and internationally. You have, of course, read about a lot of these things in our newsletters over the years. There are also the more mundane things like advising, student records, maintaining facilities and equipment and assessment of learning outcomes that happen behind the scenes but that are the precursors of many of the great things you read about. It all goes into making the department of journalism and public relations an outstanding program.

Speaking of the newsletter, this is our first newsletter that will be delivered exclusively online. We are still developing our final format for online delivery and our hope is to put out the newsletter more often. Be sure to watch these (web) pages for updates. As always, we welcome your input and participation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Foust, chair

Department of Journalism and Public Relations

[\[READ MONITOR STORY ON ACCREDITATION\]](#)

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# Alumni Newsletter

## ALUMNI NEWS

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For BGSU's Centennial Year, the Alumni Awards honored 100 of the university's most prominent graduates during a ceremony held on April 24. Broadcaster Scott Clark, '75, was one of the recipients. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Vern Henry, corporate editorial director, retired from Advanstar in mid-February. Henry, who is in the department's Hall of Fame, is an alumnus from the 1960s. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Kara Ohngren, '06, is advancing her career as the online community editor and writer for Entrepreneur magazine. Currently living in Long Beach, California, 25-year-old Ohngren has followed her dream of landing a position in online communication that began not too long ago in West Hall. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



When one thinks of a Bowling Green State University journalism graduate, one thinks of a person who has gone on to work as a reporter, news caster, editor, public relations official, and so forth. However, in the case of Paul Quinn, who graduated in 1981, he adds drummer to his resume. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



2004 graduate Rhonda Colvin has been nominated for an Emmy for a 30-minute feature on Birmingham's "Honor Flight" program. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Bob Speck**, for whom the Robert G. and Carol C. Speck Scholarship in journalism is named, died in early December at the age of 86. Speck graduated from BGSU in 1947 and embarked on an accomplished 43-year career at The [Toledo] Blade as a reporter and later editor. [\[LINK to Blade obituary\]](#)



# Alumni Newsletter

## SCOTT CLARK HONORED AS A PROMINENT GRAD

Editor's Note: For BGSU's Centennial Year, the Alumni Awards honored 100 of the university's most prominent graduates during a ceremony held on April 24. Broadcaster Scott Clark, '75, was one of the recipients.

| by Austin Arnold, '10

After high school, Scott Clark did not like the idea of college but he felt in order to be successful he needed to anyway. After influence from his family and others, he decided to go, and he chose BGSU.

"Everybody told me I needed to get a business degree so I ultimately decided to pursue that," Clark said. "But after I took my first mass communication course I knew what I wanted to do and that was that."



His decision to study broadcast journalism, in which he received his degree in 1975, paid off because, now, Clark is a sports anchor and director at WABC in New York City, where he has been since 1986. WABC is one of the country's most watched news stations.

What Clark likes about being a broadcaster in the sports world is the excitement of everyday.

"In sports, every story is breaking news. Almost every night we are receiving news on a story right up until the time we go on air," Clark said. "Before I started broadcasting sports, I wasn't a fanatic or anything like that, it was just the type of news that was the most exciting, no other news breaks as often as sports."

Working with Clark in the fast pace world of sports at WABC is sports producer Mitch Fields. "I've worked with Scott for over 25 years and in two different places, Washington and New York, so we know each other very well," Fields said. "Most days we know what each other is going to do without having to say a word and we always get it done,"

Fields also commented on Clark individual professional skills.

"He is an amazing personality on the air, and he really knows how to sell a story, and when you add those factors together, they make a good relationship."

Clark has been able to hone his broadcasting skills through the numerous experiences he has had in his career. He got his start in Lima, Ohio, his hometown, right after college with WLIO where he was a weekend sports anchor and weekday reporter. After his first gig, Clark has had several different positions in several different cities. Scott has worked in Houston, Texas, Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio, Washington D.C. and New York, N. Y.

Although most of his experience came after college, the university did indeed help Scott tremendously.

"BG provided me with a solid foundation in my life and my career. College opened my eyes and expanded my experiences," Clark said.

Clark recalls some of those experiences, the ones that have stuck in his mind though the years.

"I remember hanging out at the union and a couple bars, Howard's Bar and the Canterbury Inn. I also remember having a blast with the guys in the dorms in Harshman Anderson."

Mark Bueher, of Leipsic, Ohio, lived across the hall from Scott in Harshman Anderson and they befriended one another. They eventually lived together off-campus their junior years. Bueher said he enjoyed being around Scott.

"It was a lot of fun, he was the funniest guy in our dorm," Bueher said. "Scott is a great guy and golfer. He is really talented and he has done real well in his profession. He's a good BG Alum."

As an undergraduate, Clark was on the golf team for two years as well as a broadcaster for some basketball games and other sporting events on WBGU. Clark also made a documentary with the late Hal Fisher, who was his advisor and mentor.

"Hal was a wonderful man, he gave me great counsel," Clark said. "He always told me not to worry about money. He said, 'Money will come if you are good enough at what you do.'"

Clark has proved his is good enough at what he does.

Link to Centennial Honorees:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2010/news80745.html>

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# Alumni Newsletter

## VERN HENRY RETIRES FROM ADVANSTAR

Vern Henry, corporate editorial director, retired from Advanstar in mid-February. Henry, who is in the department's Hall of Fame, is an alumnus from the 1960s. He has been a friend to the department providing mentoring to students, alumni and faculty as well as internships. Henry worked in newspapers for a long time before switching to magazines and was close to several retired faculty members.

The following comes from Melissa Dezso, Henry's long-time assistant.

"It is with the highest regard that I announce that Vern Henry, Corporate Editorial Director, will retire, effective February 16.

Vern created and led Advanstar's Editorial Audit & Review program which has become the industry standard for an ongoing editorial improvement process. Over the years, the Editorial Audit program has helped our editors and publishers deliver editorial that is relevant and of the highest quality for our audiences. Vern played an integral role in making sure that we delivered on our editorial commitment to our customers.

In addition to his work on the Editorial Audits, Vern has assisted in the development of several start-up publications, initiated an ongoing editorial training program, developed and implemented the Magazine of the Year competition and created a college student intern program in conjunction with American Business Media.

Under his watch, Advanstar has compiled an impressive record in the Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Awards. Since 1994, Advanstar has had 27 winners and 55 finalists, including a Grand Neal and a Grand Neal runner-up.

Some highlights of Vern's career include:

- 2005 American Business Media Crain Award for a distinguished editorial career
- Recipient of the American Business Publication Editors Lifetime Achievement Award, 2001
- Twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize
- Inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame

Vern's contributions to Advanstar have been invaluable and I want to thank him for his more than 25 years of dedication and hard work. We will all miss his passion for journalism and wealth of editorial expertise.

Please join me in wishing him all the best."



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# Alumni Newsletter

## OHNGREN FINDS MEDIA SUCCESS IN NEW TRENDS

| by Taylor Ray '11

Kara Ohngren, '06, is advancing her career as the online community editor and writer for Entrepreneur magazine. Currently living in Long Beach, California, 25-year-old Ohngren has followed her dream of landing a position in online communication that began not too long ago in West Hall.



Ohngren started as an intern at Bobit Business Media in the Los Angeles area. After she spent time there though she said she knew she wanted to do more.

"Despite all of the great writing, editing and online experience I was gaining at Bobit, I knew I wanted to break into consumer publications eventually," Ohngren said. "When I saw Entrepreneur magazine had an opening in their online team, I knew I had to apply."

She was hired a year and a half ago and now manages Entrepreneur's own social network consisting of 60,000 plus members called Entrepreneur Connect. This is a place for small-business owners from a wide range of industries to exchange advice and build relationships.

According to Ohngren, she keeps the conversations relevant and ties them back to the content from their web site.

Ohngren also works as the social media arms for the company managing the publications presences on Facebook, with over 14,000 fans, and Twitter, with over 20,000 followers.

"It's my job to keep the pulse of the small-business community and figure out what issues they're facing—and thus what stories we should write online and in the magazine," she said.

Ohngren explained what an influential tool social media is becoming. The magazine receives valuable sources for their stories and immediate feedback from their readers. Active comments on stories give Entrepreneur editors immediate feedback on how the work was received.

"It's a very powerful thing to have your readership at the tips of your fingers," Ohngren said.

The direction of print journalism transitioning to online communication is inevitable, explained journalism instructor, Julie Hagenbuch, who worked closely with Ohngren during her public relations courses at BGSU.

"I always knew Kara would succeed, but to know she is doing so very well makes me proud that BG was able to provide her with a good foundation to help launch her career," Hagenbuch said.

Ohngren is currently working on Entrepreneur's June cover story titled—"100 Brilliant Companies."

"I love it at Entrepreneur," Ohngren said. "I'm given a ton of creative freedom with regards to how I engage our online communities."

According to Ohngren, she has plenty of writing assignments to satisfy her. She plans on staying at Entrepreneur for a while doing what she loves...writing!

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# Alumni Newsletter

## QUINN AND FAMILY HELP OTHERS

| by Scott Bilbrey, '11

When one thinks of a Bowling Green State University journalism graduate, one thinks of a person who has gone on to work as a reporter, news caster, editor, public relations official, and so forth. However, in the case of Paul Quinn, who graduated in 1981, he adds drummer to his resume.

Quinn, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with an emphasis on public relations, currently works for Quinn Communications. He also returned to school where he graduated with an Associate of Science in Business Management and a Master of Marketing and Communications. Both came from Franklin University, where he also is an adjunct professor, teaching classes in news writing and editing, public relations, and sales and marketing.



He added drummer to his resume when the Quinn family, consisting on his parents, brothers, and sisters started a family band to help raise awareness for mentally handicapped people. The band formed New Year's Eve in 1999.

The band formed because they wanted to do something that was fun. Pat, one of Quinn's brothers, was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

"I was a little skeptical at first. I thought would anyone want to come hear us sing?" Quinn said.

Apparently so, the Quinns celebrated their 10th annual bash in April in Zanesville, Ohio.

The Quinns have been asked to play at national conferences and have a professional CD out. They play a wide range of music from doo-wop to rap to 40s and 50s.

On top of accomplishing all that, he and his wife of 25 years, Cathy, take in and counsel kids in their Dublin, Ohio, home. The kids stay with the Quinns for "a little while until they find direction in their lives," Quinn said. As part of the kids staying at the Quinn home, they must sit down with Cathy and talk about what they want to do with their lives and what is the next step they need to do to get there.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## RHONDA COLVIN NOMINATED FOR AN EMMY

2004 graduate Rhonda Colvin has been nominated for an Emmy for a 30-minute feature on Birmingham's "Honor Flight" program. "Honor Flight" followed a group of Birmingham WWII veterans on their trip to see the national WWII monument in D.C.

"Last year I had the opportunity to go with local WWII veterans on their flight and follow them in D.C.," Colvin said. "The flight happened to be scheduled for the morning after President Obama's election, and looking back I think that might have provided an interesting dynamic for this particular flight."

Colvin works in Montgomery, Alabama, as a reporter/producer at the Alabama Public Television Network. APT is a news and public affairs network broadcasting throughout the state. She has worked there for three years as Capitol Reporter covering daily news from the state senate.

When the legislature is not in session, Colvin produces and reports long form features like the "Honor Flight" program. In addition, she also produces and hosts a live discussion show called "Spotlight on Education."



The awards ceremony is June 26 in Atlanta.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## FACULTY NEWS

**Kathy Bradshaw.** Associate professor Kathy Bradshaw has been named the book editor of “Journalism History.” She was the top choice of the current editor and the two assistant editors. Bradshaw has also been elected to the AEJMC Committee on Professional Freedom & Responsibility. She will begin a three-year term in October.

**Oliver Boyd-Barrett.** Professor Oliver Boyd-Barrett travelled from Cyprus to Singapore to Barcelona to South Korea to present his research. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Tori Ekstrand.** In November, associate professor Tori Ekstrand presented “Revealing John Doe: The Origins and Culture of Anonymous Speech in U.S. Law” as part of the Scholars and Artists in Residence Lecture Series of BGSU’s Institute for the Study of Culture and Society. Ekstrand was a Fellow at ICS during the fall semester where she worked on a book-length study of the history, culture and law of anonymous speech in the U.S.

**Seth Oyer.** Assistant professor Seth Oyer’s poster at AEJMC won third place for visual design out of approximately 100 entrants. More recently, Oyer was named a recipient of an Ohio 2010 Faculty Innovator Award. Ohio Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut announced the awards that recognize college, university, and adult career center faculty who leverage technology and employ alternative learning materials in their courses. Awardees were recognized on the floor of the General Assembly on May 25.

**Terry Rentner.** The associate professor was named a Master Teacher Award finalist this year. This means she was in the top five of all faculty members nominated. Though she didn’t get it, Rentner said she was thrilled to have been nominated and to have made it that far. Rentner received a grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service for \$25,000 bringing her total number of grants to 17. Rentner has also turned her research into two refereed chapters this year: “Tobacco use and college students: ‘No more ifs, ands, or butts’ social norms campaign” in “Talking Tobacco,” and “A study of ethical dilemmas in international alcohol-reduction social marketing health campaigns” in International Communications and Ethics. Finally, Rentner is also completing my second year as director of the School of Media Communication and said she would like to visit more alumni this coming fall.

**Dave Sennerud.** Dave Sennerud, whose background is in new media, joined the faculty this year as an instructor. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Kelly Taylor.** Kelly Taylor was promoted to lecturer status. Taylor has been a full-time instructor in the department for 12 years and was recently recognized by the university for 15 years of service.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## PROFESSOR TRAVELS THE WORLD

Oliver Boyd-Barrett spoke in Barcelona on May 10 to celebrate the launch of his new edited book "News Agencies in the Turbulent Era of the Internet," to which he is also a contributing author. The book is being published by Col·leccio Lexikon, the publishing arm of the Government of Catalonia. The foreword to the book has been penned by the Minister of Culture and Media, Joan Manuel Tresserras, who attended the launch.

On April 22, Boyd-Barrett presented a keynote address to a summit meeting of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies in Seoul, South Korea, where he was hosted by the national news agency of South Korea, Yonhap. He also met with graduate students of Hanyang University in Seoul, and was interviewed by TBSsFM for its evening show.

Boyd-Barrett's visits to Barcelona and South Korea were the start of several scholarly visits he will make during the summer of 2010.

In June, Boyd-Barrett will be a guest of the largest independent news agency of Russia, Interfax, where he has been invited to work on a history of that news agency.

Later that month, Boyd-Barrett presents on media and democracy at the Kent State University summer school in Florence, Italy.

After Florence he travels to Singapore, where he will be making a panel appearance at the annual conference of the Asian Media Information and Communication Center (AMIC), and a pre-conference presentation on the media of "Chindia" to the annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA).

The Singapore trip wraps up his travel for the academic year that started in late 2009 in Cyprus. Boyd-Barrett was invited by the European Alliance of News Agencies to speak at a conference titled "News Agencies: Concerns – Challenges" which took place on Nov. 15- 16 in Limassol, on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. The conference brought together CEOs and other leaders of member agencies of EANA (Europe), ANAM (Mediterranean) and OANA (Asia-Pacific) news agency associations. Boyd-Barrett's topic was News Agencies in the Turbulent Age of the Internet.



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# Alumni Newsletter

## NEW INSTRUCTOR BRINGS NEW MEDIA EXPERTISE

| By Colleen Fitzgibbons, '11

A new instructor joined the faculty, and his expertise in new media is benefiting BGSU and the students.

David Sennerud started as an instructor in the fall teaching Introduction to Mass Communication, Introduction to Journalistic Writing, and Online Journalism.

James Foust, department chair, was on the committee who hired Sennerud, and said one of the criteria in the job description was someone with new media expertise.

"Dave was basically one of the candidates that was head and shoulders above all the rest with his expertise in this," Foust said.

Sennerud was not always in the new media area of journalism though.

After graduating from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, he worked on newspapers in Chicago for four years, mainly covering high school sports.

Then, his plans changed and he decided to get his teaching certification. He became a high school teacher and newspaper adviser for 11 years. While teaching, he also wrote some free-lance stories and spent one summer as a copy-editor for the Rockford Register Star in Illinois.

"They eventually cut my high school journalism program," Sennerud said. "I decided I missed the program too much and one day I had an epiphany and I decided I could try teaching at the college level."

That epiphany led him to head back to school to work on his doctorate at the Ohio University as a Scripps-Howard Teaching Fellow. After three years, he decided to apply for teaching jobs at other universities while still working toward his degree. This led him to Bowling Green State University.

A couple factors helped him choose BGSU. Connections with some of the faculty members in the department, the accreditation of the journalism program here, and the closeness to his hometown and family in Chicago drew him here.

"[Bowling Green is] not that far as compared to Athens, so that made it attractive as well," Sennerud said.

Bowling Green may have been a draw for Sennerud, but Sennerud's commitment to new media was a draw for the department as well.

"He's committed to knowing as much as he can about new media and new ways to do journalism," Foust said. "He's always coming to me with new stuff that he found online."

Foust also said Sennerud has been heavily involved in the curriculum discussions.

"We're discussing how we're getting more expertise in all our other classes, so he's been helping out a lot with that," Foust said. "It's been a nice contribution."

Sennerud's students attest to his positive contribution, too.

Junior Troy Chamberlain, who was in Sennerud's Introduction to Mass Communication class in the fall and his Introduction to Journalistic Writing class this spring, described Sennerud as a very outgoing guy that puts a lot of energy in his lectures.

"He will be that type of professor very willing to help you out," Chamberlain said.

Suzanna Anderson, a second year student with a major in creative writing and double minor in music and journalism, also



had Sennerud for the two intro classes.

Anderson said she likes Sennerud as a teacher because he is thorough and really knows what he is talking about.

"He's really inspired me to keep with the journalism minor," Anderson said.

She said Sennerud dedicated a whole day to new media by showing what he learned in a conference about Web sites last semester.

While students may be inspired by his enthusiasm for the journalism field, Sennerud feels inspired by the potential of the program here.

"I think it's going to be an exciting place to be with everything that's been changing with journalism, and we're trying to kind of change along with it," Sennerud said. "Down the line, once I get my PHD, if an assistant professor position is available here, I would probably more than likely pursue it."

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# Alumni Newsletter

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Department Accreditation.** The department has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC). [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Death of Former Professor.** Harold Fisher, a highly respected journalism professor and former department chair, died Jan. 24 in Salem, Oregon, at age 89. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Tunisia Trip.** Select university faculty and students interested in environmental journalism went to Tunisia, Africa, over Spring Break to study the media's role in combating environmental problems, with a focus on desertification. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Paris Seminar.** Seven students traveled with associate professors Nancy Brendlinger and Catheine Cassara-Jemai to Paris, France, to attend an International Media Seminar. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Civil War Anniversary Committee.** James "Jim" Bissland, associate professor emeritus, is among 15 Ohioans selected to serve on the state advisory board that will help the Ohio Historical Society plan for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War that begins in 2011. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**Globo TV Editor.** Maria Esperidiao travels from Brazil where she is an editor for Globo TV to pursue a doctorate degree at BGSU. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

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# Alumni Newsletter

## FORMER DIRECTOR DIES AT 89

| by Gina Potthoff, '10

Harold Fisher, a highly respected journalism professor and former department chair, died Jan. 24 in Salem, Ore., at age 89.

Fisher started his 22-year career teaching journalism and international communications at the university in 1972, serving as director of the School of Journalism from 1980 to 1983 and as chair of the department of journalism from 1989 until retirement at age 70 in 1992.

While at the university, Fisher made an impression on many students and faculty, including Terry Rentner, current director of the School of Media and Communication. Rentner first interacted with Fisher as a graduate student and then as a colleague when she became an instructor at BGSU in 1987.

"To me, he was like a grandfather," she said. "He was the nicest person ever."

Fisher was very approachable, kind and cared about student success inside and outside of the classroom, Rentner said, noting he was the first to volunteer to watch her ill children when she was teaching.

Rentner kept in contact with Fisher up until the time of his death. She especially loved and kept all the homemade Christmas cards Fisher sent out every year, typed on an old-fashioned typewriter with personal remarks handwritten inside asking about her job and family.

Fisher also sent his famous Christmas cards to Linda Glomski, who retired as an administrative assistant in August 2008. She remembers Fisher as a caring, honest individual with a good sense of humor and the voice of a real broadcast journalist.

"Dr. Fisher had a wonderful voice. It was no wonder he was in broadcast," she said. "Students really liked him. He was a favorite."

When it came to broadcast journalism, Fisher was the man, said Scott Clark, 1975 graduate of BGSU and sports director and anchor of WABC-TV in New York. Clark attributes his success in the field to learning the journalism basics from Fisher, his trusted adviser and friend.

"He taught us to write in a conversational manner ... He taught us to be fair," Clark said. "He was just a quintessential teacher. My rewards have been great as a result of his work. He not only taught me the business of broadcast journalism; he taught me how to be a productive person in our society."

As an ordained minister, Fisher married Clark and his wife in Lima, Ohio, in 1980. The two kept in touch and to show his appreciation, Clark bought a brick in Fisher's name in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union during its 2002 renovation. Being a humble man, Fisher showed his appreciation quietly.

"He didn't take compliments very well," Clark said. "He was always a vibrant man; always a man of encouragement to the end."

Fisher served as director of the School of Journalism for six years and director of Graduate Studies for the School of Mass Communication for three years. He had two leaves of absence while at BGSU, including a leave from 1974 to 1975 as a Hays-Fulbright Professor at the University of Cairo and American University in Cairo.

Fisher was also named BGSU Professor of The Year for the 1976 to 1977 academic year, was adviser to Kentucky Educational Television from 1976 to 1978, consultant to the Institute For International Research in Washington, D.C. from 1984 to 1987 and received the Master Teacher Award from the university in 1985 and 1988.

Fisher was also ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1952 and traveled as a missionary earlier in life.





Fisher's wife, Elaine, resides in Salem, Oregon, along with his daughter and two grandchildren.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## TUNISIA TRIP



### TRIP TO TUNISIA FOCUSES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

| by Jessica Hanna, '11

Select university faculty and students interested in environmental journalism went to Tunisia, Africa, over Spring Break to study the media's role in combating environmental problems, with a focus on desertification.

The group visited the capital, Tunis, as well as Tozeur, a city on the edge of the Sahara near several oases.

The trip was part of a three-year grant program bringing together staff and students from the Algeria University and Tunisia's Manouba University. In addition to the 10-day environmental workshop, the students put together a publication on what they had learned throughout the week.

Speakers from the three universities, as well as from the the Institut des Régions Arides (IRA) and UNESCO Club Tozeur, reviewed strategies to combat desertification for sustainable development, preserve water supplies and communication strategies for environmental NGOs. The group was also taken to several desert locations and oases to learn firsthand about the area and environmental work being done.

Desertification, the transformation of land to desert, is an issue for many areas of Africa and other regions, affecting people's ability to live off the deteriorating land. But environmental work within Tunisia in areas of agriculture, irrigation and education has led to improved techniques to combat the process of desertification.

"You have seen this physically is a poor region, poor soil, poor water resources. But, instead, you have seen new income by tourism, new income by geothermal and now new income in a strategic approach of biological agriculture," said Dr. Mohamed Talbi, director of the remote sensing laboratory of the IRA, during a tour of the Kébili regional station of the IRA.

Mohamed Sadok Bel-Kadhi, director of the Kébili regional station, said the goal of the station is to work on applied research to facilitate the development of the society and oases of the Sahara, while keeping in mind a global approach to combating desertification. The IRA seeks to connect science with society, finding ways to transfer the results to development projects and the population, he said.

Alongside the educational workshops and excursions, the university group had the chance to sightsee and shop, visit Orbata Natural Park in Gafsa and engage in cultural activities.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## PARIS SEMINAR



### STUDENTS ATTEND MEDIA SEMINAR IN PARIS

| by Ella Fowler, '11

Seven students traveled with associate professors Nancy Brendlinger and Catheine Cassara-Jemai to Paris, France, to attend an International Media Seminar. The seminar addressed issues in journalism, international relations, and marketing and communications in a globalized world. The five-day seminar in March offered students one-on-one interactions with speakers and field trips to area newspapers and marketing firms.

Among the speakers was Alan Riding, former correspondent for the New York Times. Riding talked about his years serving as a journalist in both Europe and Latin America and what it takes to adapt to a changing job market.

Harriet Welty, author of "French Toast," addressed the differences between French and American culture, tying in her own personal story of living in Paris.

Several of the students had participated in the environmental workshop in Tunisia with Brendlinger and Cassara-Jemai just a week earlier.



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# Alumni Newsletter

## BISSLAND SELECTED FOR CIVIL WAR COMMITTEE

| by Daniel Williams '10

James "Jim" Bissland, associate professor emeritus, is among 15 Ohioans selected to serve on the state advisory board that will help the Ohio Historical Society plan for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War that begins in 2011.

"History should have public value, meaning it should be useful in helping us meet needs and solve problems," Bissland said in an e-mail. "We need to start building confidence by reminding Ohioans of how important this state was in winning the Civil War."



The Ohio group has a web site, which is linked to the web site of the national Civil War Preservation Trust group. These sites include information on exhibits, timelines, calendars, discussion pages and more that can be shared by the public, history groups and educators.

According to Jackie Barton, state coordinator of the Civil War 150 commemoration, the interactive web site is a innovative effort to observe the significance of the war and simultaneously show Ohio importance through the engagement of the web site's users. The web site is a joint venture of the Ohio Historical Society, and Cleveland State University's Center for Public History and Digital Humanities, and the Ohio Humanities Council

Bissland has published an abundance of research papers, scholarly articles, and two books focused on the Civil War. In 2007 he wrote "Blood, Tears, and Glory: How Ohioans Won the Civil War."

"About five years ago, I happened to notice that Ohio made a remarkable contribution to the winning of the Civil War, but nobody had written anything about for a long time," Bissland said. "As a result, Ohioans seem to have forgotten a lot of their own history."

[\[Ohio 150th site\]](#)

[\[CWPT 150th site\]](#)

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# Alumni Newsletter

## GLOBO TV EDITOR PURSUES GRADUATE DEGREE

| by *Lindsey Boyd '11*

"This must be warm for you," was the first thing Maria Esperidiao asked as we sat down for her interview.

In Ohio, a 60 degree sunny day is like Christmas in March for most of us. For Esperidiao, it was a cold, beautiful day far from her home. Home isn't a few hours drive to the next state or a plane ride to the other side of the country. Home is Recife, Brazil, where she is an editor for Globo TV.



Esperidiao said her job is like being a producer here in the United States. Globo TV is Brazil's largest media system and one of the largest in the world.

Esperidiao came to BGSU in search of her doctorate degree and to work with professor Oliver Boyd-Barrett. Fascinated by his work in global media, she made it a point to find the best in the business and work side by side with these scholars. After she finishes her degree, she aspires to eventually write her own book to educate undergraduates on the effects of media on the world.

"She is very accomplished and very professional," Boyd-Barrett said.

As an editor for Globo TV, Esperidiao works with her international correspondents to figure out what is newsworthy for their country and what isn't.

"I like being able to give Brazil a sense of others," Esperidiao said. "We are so isolated in our language and culture. I want them to see that we all live in the same world."

Boyd-Barrett explained, "In the 1970's there was a lot of debate of the inequalities of the national media." He said it is interesting to talk with Esperidiao, who sees the same issues going on in the major news sources today as 40 years ago.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## STUDENT NEWS

### PRSSA NETWORKS IN THE BIG APPLE

What do you get when you take 15 public relations students and mix them with a handful of BGSU alums? A powerful networking opportunity! That's what transpired when PRSSA seniors visited NYC this past November.

Over the course of four days, students had unlimited access to public relations pros at The Associated Press, NBA, NFL, Macy's and Ketchum.

One of the alums, Macy's Jim Sluzewski, SVP, corporate communications & external affairs, was able to provide an exclusive preview of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade details from a behind-the-scenes public relations perspective.



One student who attended the trip, Daniel Martin, is now a finalist for a NYC Ketchum internship as a result of the networking trip.

"I'd never been to the Big Apple and it was fascinating to see the business elites function at such a high level. I was really excited to get to meet professionals from one of my dream agencies to work with. I got to hear the inside scoop and I made a contact that I hope will lead to a future job with the company," he explained.

Next stop for PRSSA? Washington, D.C. in October 2010. If you are an alum in the D.C. area and would be interested in hosting PRSSA students, we'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail Julie Hagenbuch, PRSSA faculty adviser, at: [hagenjk@bgsu.edu](mailto:hagenjk@bgsu.edu).

### STUDENT MEDIA WIN REGIONAL SPJ AWARDS

BG News and Key magazine fared well in the Region 4 Mark of Excellence competition sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Key magazine was Region 4 winner for Best All-Around magazine and will now compete against 12 other regional winners for best magazine in the nation, which will be determined and announced at the national convention this fall in Las Vegas.

This was the first time we have ever received this award in head-to-head competition with other universities. Of course, this was only the second year of publishing a magazine using resources formerly committed to the yearbook.

The BG News did very well, also, finishing second in Region 4 as the best all-around daily student newspaper, finishing behind West Virginia University, but placing ahead of Michigan State, Kent State and Ohio University.

What is noteworthy with these awards is that we did very well against our comparable universities in the state and against some larger programs regionally. Region 4 consists of student media in Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania.

### 4 RECEIVE COLLEGE HONORS

Four journalism students were recognized with scholarships from the College of Arts and Sciences. Alissa Widman got two

scholarships designated for journalism. Allison Borgelt got one College scholarship designated for a journalism major on the BG News. Angie Burdge was recognized for the Frazier Reams scholarship and Ella Fowler received two scholarships for students who are studying abroad.

**NOFTSINGER CHOSEN FOR ONA SCHOLARSHIP**

Kate Noftsinger was chosen to receive the Harold K. Douthit Regional Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 from the Ohio Newspaper Association. Originally from Vermilion, she is a columnist for the BG News and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. She plans to graduate next spring.

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# Alumni Newsletter

## GUEST SPEAKERS



Sept. 9

**Jemele Hill**

ESPN.com columnist



Dec. 2

**Lawrence Lessig**

Harvard lawyer, Creative Commons founder, Internet activist



Feb. 26

**Jim Schaeffer**

Pulitzer-prize winning investigative reporter at the Detroit Free Press



April 1

**Dr. Abdelaziz Nouaydi**

Fulbright Scholar



April 14

**Jessica Valenti**

feminist author and activist



April 16

**Mary Coffman**

multi-media journalism professor with Medill's Washington Program

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# Alumni Newsletter

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

### MARY COFFMAN CHOSEN FOR HALL OF FAME

Since 1979, the faculty has inducted one distinguished professional to the Kappa Tau Alpha Hall of Fame. This year's inductee to this group of BGSU alumni is Mary Coffman.

Currently, Coffman is an associate professor of broadcast journalism and video storytelling in Medill's Washington Program, the Medill News Service, based in Washington, D.C.

The Cleveland native earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from BGSU. She began her broadcast career as a reporter in Columbus and later moved up to be an anchor and producer. She won an Emmy award while working in Columbus.



She worked as news manager and correspondent for Capital Broadcast News, where she covered Washington stories for local television stations across the country, then went to Post-Newsweek television bureau in Washington.

As assistant bureau chief, she ran the daily operation serving five network affiliated stations and coordinated special projects such as coverage of political conventions and presidential inaugurations. She went to Medill in 1994. [\[Link to profile\]](#)

### STRACK NAMED CURRIER YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Jordan Strack has come a long way from the days when he sat beside his dad at Toledo Storm games and called hockey play-by-play from the stands.

The department is proud to honor this 2008 graduate with the outstanding young professional award for 2010.

Today Jordan Strack is the weekend sports anchor at the Toledo CBS affiliate WTOL, Channel 11 and co-host of the 90-minute T-Sports report on cable.

His sports-broadcasting career is longer than the two years since he left BGSU.

In fact, Jordan graduated from Maumee High School and was hired at Buckeye Cable Sports Network when he started his college career here.

For three seasons, Jordan produced and hosted a pre-game Mud Hens baseball show, and he worked as a sideline reporter.

During his career he has hosted the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association award winning hockey show "Ice Check."

Jordan is connected to the community that he serves as a broadcast journalist. In addition to his work as a sports broadcaster, Jordan also volunteers his time to coach Little League Baseball in Maumee.



## OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Waugh Trophy for top graduating journalism student: Gina Potthoff

Outstanding public relations sequence student: Chrissy Madison

Outstanding print sequence student: Andrew Harner

Outstanding broadcast sequence student: Sarah Farley



**DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:**

Kate Noftsinger	Currier Rising Senior	\$4,000
Emily Rose Tucker	Currier Rising Junior	\$4,000
Angela Burdge	Gordon Scholarship	\$1,000
Becky Tener	Journalism Alumni Board	\$500
Kelsey Klein	SMC Fund for Excellence	\$100
Maia Belay	Walker Scholarship	\$900
Allison Borgelt	Walker Scholarship	\$900
Heather Linder	F. Dennis Hale Scholarship	\$800
Marisha Pietrowski	Spencer Canary Scholarship	\$400
Sarah Bailey	Spencer Canary Scholarship	\$300
Alissa Widman	Spencer Canary Scholarship	\$300
Alissa O'Neill	Murray Scholarship	\$700





# Alumni Newsletter

## DONATION FORM

[\[Link to Printable form \(pdf\)\]](#)

**Choices for your gifts to  
Journalism and Public Relations at BGSU.**

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to be used for:

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☐ Canary Scholarship\* 30-000165

☐ Carrier Scholarship\* 30-000300

☐ Finney (GILPA) Scholarship\* 30-000235

☐ Fisher Scholarship\* 30-000203

☐ Goodman Scholarship 30-000986

☐ Gordon Scholarship\* 30-000472

☐ Murray Scholarship\* 30-000796

☐ Walker Scholarship\* 30-001171

☐ Alumni Board Scholarship\* 30-0001686

☐ Press Club Scholarship\* 30-000322

☐ Annual School of Media and Communication awards or projects in Journalism and Public Relations Department\* 30-000502

☐ I would like to create a new scholarship

☐ I will arrange for my company to match this gift.

\* Endowed scholarships

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