



Alumni Newsletter

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Spring 2013

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Alumni Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Journalism Alumni:

We're still reveling in the glow of our annual department awards ceremony. We honored the best and the brightest students and they heard inspiring words from Chris Hawley, an alumnus inducted into the Kappa Tau Alpha Hall of Fame. Hawley, managing editor of digital content for Raytheon, described how passions sparked at BGSU had shaped his life. On the trip in from the airport, he talked about how much associate professor Catherine Cassara meant to him. During his presentation, he described the value of her advice to learn how to fly a plane. Following the ceremony, Hawley caught up with Cassara at the door. After a brief conversation, they shared a long, warm hug. I hold tight to that mental picture because it typifies connections between alumni and faculty members.

Some graduating seniors have been asking what they could have done to convince other students to spend more time working in student media and attending professional conferences. They recognize how they've grown from these experiences. It seems as if your encouragement about the value of experience outside the classroom with early involvement in student media and professional conferences could help our students tremendously. Students always come back excited and eager after attending a professional conference. Chevon Anderson said her eyes were opened after going to the National Association of Black Journalists annual convention. For the first time, she saw her future as a professional. Attending regional conferences of the Society of Professional Journalists has inspired Alex Alusheff. All of our students benefit from hearing you reinforce how important student media, internships and professional conferences are to career success. Your participation in our Alumni Mentor Program offers an easy way for us to connect.

You could inspire students just by letting us know what you are doing. If you can make the time, we'd love to have you on campus to share your expertise and experience. We can also beam you in via Skype or other video technology if that works better for you. We know that students and alumni all reap huge rewards from being connected. We hope you can make the time to be a mentor, a visitor or the subject of an article in a newsletter update. Your experiences in shifting industries can help us keep current students at the front of change.

With that in mind, I encourage you to complete a short survey you will receive this summer about connections between aspects of your education and your work experiences. In it, we will ask for your ideas about keeping connected with our students. We need your perspective as part of our ongoing effort to make journalism and public relations at BGSU the best possible as we negotiate this current era of change. And this survey will contribute to our multi-faceted assessment efforts. We need you. We need you to tell us how you now use basic skills as we continue adapting to a changing professional landscape and strive to graduate the next generation of skilled and adaptive journalists.

We're excited about moving into a totally renovated building as soon as August 2014. We've been calling it Dream Hall. You probably knew it as South Hall, but this old shell will soon contain a completely new facility within its old exterior. We will look south toward Wooster Street and north toward the student union. Our faculty have been involved in each step of the planning process. Professor Jim Foust, in particular, deserves our thanks for his work on the building committee. I'll keep you posted on the progress.

Alumni, students and faculty have had many recent adventures and successes. Led by Cassara and Julie Hagenbuch, some of our students spent spring break in Paris and visited with European journalists and public relations professionals. For the second year, one of our students, Max Filby, the *BG News* Editor in Chief, received support from the Scripps Howard Foundation for a paid, multi-media internship. Filby will spend his summer at the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tennessee. For the first year at BGSU, the National Football League is kicking off a new sports journalism and communication workshop in May. Faculty and students from the department will work with 24 current and former players.

I hope you enjoy the alumni updates in the newsletter as well. You can read about Alaina Buzas, Tom Dawson, Candice Jones, Diane Larson, Joe Morehart, Nick Paine, Mizell Stewart, and Maggie Timlin in this issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy Bradshaw, chair

Department of Journalism and Public Relations

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Alumni Newsletter

ALUMNI NEWS



Diane Larson came to BGSU for school from her home in Canton, Ohio, because she didn't want to go to college close to home. Twenty-nine years later, the area has become more than home. The anchor for 13 ABC News in Toledo is who viewers turn to for the news. They appreciate her dedication and trust her journalism integrity. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Through his continued commitment to serving others and promoting his profession, 1994 graduate **Mizell Stewart** will soon receive a new distinction. An active member of the American Society of News Editors' board of directors, he will assume the role of treasurer at the organization's June 24-26 convention in Washington, D.C., and become president in 2016. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



A 2011 graduate has taken her journalism skills from Toledo, Ohio, to Lexington, Ky., Alumna **Shannon Carney** left Toledo's news station WNWO in July to take the job as the 5 p.m. producer at WTVQ an ABC affiliate. In March, she returned to campus to talk about her new job and what students can do to prepare for a career in broadcast. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



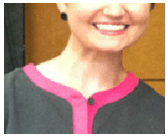
Alumnus **Nicholas Paine**, 2002, was promoted in January to executive producer after seven years with WPVI Action News of Philadelphia, an ABC-owned news channel. He has produced several newscasts since joining Action News in 2005. He started with the 6 a.m. newscast, then moved to the 5 p.m. newscast, and is now doing the 4 p.m. newscast. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Thomas Dawson, '66, could actually enjoy his retirement from Buckeye Cable Systems in Toledo if he wasn't still working. Dawson, who was the director of government and community affairs, retired in 2009 after 40 years with the Toledo Blade and Buckeye Cable System, and was hired back as a consultant essentially doing what he was doing before. Dawson's 50-year career in journalism and the media began in 1963 as a sophomore at BGSU majoring in journalism. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Candice Lee Jones, '08, has ventured out of the journalism world into the realm of higher education. Jones accepted a position as the assistant to President Michael Schoop of Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus in downtown Cleveland. This was a big change for Jones since all of her undergraduate



and work experience was in print journalism. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



As undergraduate students, **Joe Morehart**, '09, studied print journalism and **Maggie Timlin**, '08, studied public relations. The two alumni share interesting stories of their path to a career in law. They each share what influenced and inspired them to go to law school after graduation and how their studies in journalism helped them along the way. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

The news of the deaths of three alumni has reached the department.

David C. Miller, 66, editor of the Bowling Green Sentinel Tribune, died May 18, 2013. A 1969 graduate, Miller was editor of the 1969 Key yearbook, which won an All-American rating. He started at the Sentinel Tribune in 1971 as a reporter. He was inducted into the BGSU journalism Hall of Fame and provided opportunities for journalism students to do internships at the paper. [\[LINK to full obituary\]](#)

Patrick Mettes, 56, a former director for MSNBC, was a 1978 graduate who did a lot of work with the PBS station WBGU-TV while enrolled in the university. He later went on to work at Toledo news stations WTOL and WTVG. Mettes remained a supporter of BGSU after his graduation and offered to mentor journalism students. [\[LINK to full obituary\]](#)

Jerry Weddell Cosley, 76, retired as vice president of corporate communications with UtilitCorp United Inc. in 2001. Cosley graduated in 1960 when journalism was in the business college. While at Bowling Green, Cosley was a student counselor in Rodger Quadrangle residence hall program.



Alumni Newsletter

ALUMNA IS FACE OF 13 NEWS IN TOLEDO



PHOTOS: In Mansfield, Ohio, in August 2012, President Obama granted Larson a five-minute interview. She was the only television reporter in the state to interview him one-on-one. Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon in 2010 with Lee Conklin, which Larson has hosted for nearly 30 years. News team of Susan Ross Well, Lee Conklin, Diane Larson and Stan Stachak pose for

a photo on Stan's last day as chief meteorologist.

| *by Kaila Johnson, '13*

The producer begins the countdown...3, 2, 1.

"Good evening. I'm Diane Larson."

This is the way TV-13 ABC news anchor Diane Larson has started the newscast for the past 29 years.

"Wow, I can't even believe it's been that long," Larson said.

Originally from Canton, Ohio, she chose to do her undergraduate work at BGSU. "I knew BG had a journalism program and that I didn't want to go to a school so close to home," Larson said.

At BGSU, Larson worked in catering as a waitress to help pay for her education. "I remember one time I got one of my girlfriends a job," Larson said. "I told her it was easy money. All you had to do was put the plates on the tables and work around athletes."

Larson wasn't only a student and waitress; she was also an intern at 24 WDHO-TV. "At my internship I was actually on-air reporting stories for a live show," Larson said.

The station manager trusted her so much she was given the opportunity to go to Knoxville, Tenn., to report on the World's Fair. "I think it was just me and a photographer who drove down the day of and covered the fair, then drove right back the day of," she said.

Reporting on the World's Fair was a huge responsibility. "I had to miss classes, and I remember my teachers being so understanding because they knew how serious this opportunity was," Larson said.

Following her success as an intern, the station hired Larson full time after graduation. She stayed there for two years.

In 1984, Larson officially became part of 13 ABC's news team.

"Working with Diane is a treat," fellow anchor Lee Conklin said. "She is a dedicated journalist who is all about the facts. She has an incredibly quick wit and is someone I and the television audience can truly trust."

Though viewers see her face every weekday at 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 11 p.m., there is a lot more that goes into her job.

Larson explained: "My day starts at around 2:30 p.m. I am putting news briefs together, debriefing reporters, making calls own my own to fact check, and then I anchor the 5 and 6 o'clock show. After that I have a dinner break, come back, read over my scripts, look over reporters' scripts, post stuff on the Web and finally anchor the 11 o'clock newscast."

Larson's dedication extends to the community. She participates in several foundations such as Adopt America, Taste of the Nation, and Milestone luncheon hosted by YWCA.

"This community has been so kind to me," Larson said. "I feel like it is my obligation to give back."

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A Proven Leader

ASNE welcomes Stewart

Journalism and public service have played a significant role in the life of distinguished BGSU alumnus Mizell Stewart.

Inspired by his late grandfather and mother, who taught him to read with a newspaper when he was 3, Stewart developed a fondness for both at an early age, starting a class newspaper as a third-grader and volunteering in the community.

His unbridled passion for public service journalism led him to several cities in his adult years, including Biloxi, Miss., where he managed a news staff that won the 2006 Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service for its coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

Through his continued commitment to serving others and promoting his profession, Stewart will soon receive a new distinction. An active member of the American Society of News Editors' board of directors, he will assume the role of treasurer at the organization's June 24-26 convention in Washington, D.C.

ASNE Executive Director Arnie Robbins said he is thrilled to welcome Stewart to the organization's leadership ladder.

"I've always been impressed with how thoughtful he is," Robbins said. "He comes off as a very smart guy. He is going to use his experiences in a way that will only help our organization."

Founded in 1922, ASNE champions fair, principled, high-quality journalism and the protection of First Amendment freedoms. The nonprofit organization's other areas of focus are leadership, innovation and diversity.

Stewart said the organization's members are committed to empowering the communities they serve, an aspect he admires.

"Journalism is an outstanding way to give back to the community," he said. "Sometimes, as journalists, we describe ourselves as being detached observers. I've never subscribed to that. I believe journalist should play a role in improving the communities that they inhabit."

It's a belief he inherited from his late grandfather, a longtime police officer and community activist in Youngstown, Ohio.

"My passion for service came from my grandfather," Stewart said. "I came to find out that he teamed up with the editor of the Youngstown Vindicator to raise money for a youth center that still operates in Youngstown and bears his name. He set a great example. I got my passion for community through his example."

Stewart continues to carry on the legacy of his grandfather through his own involvement in community and professional organizations. Most of his work



Eric Strachan/Naples Daily News

Journalism alumnus Mizell Stewart listens intently during a 2012 meeting with the editorial staff at the Naples Daily News in Naples, Fla. Stewart will assume the role of treasurer for the American Society of News Editors this summer.

is directed toward high school and college students.

"One of the most rewarding things I do every year is to speak to a group of high school newspaper advisers in an effort to make them and their students successful," said Stewart, who is actively involved with the Scripps Howard Foundation, which supports journalism programs at Ohio University, Hampton and Florida International.

In addition, the 1994 grad remains involved with his alma mater, which he credits for much of his success as vice president of content for The E.W. Scripps Co.

"Mizell is truly one of the top leaders in journalism in America," said Tim Ethridge, who succeeded Stewart as editor of the Evansville Courier & Press in March 2012.

In his current leadership role, Stewart develops content strategy for both print and digital platforms in Scripps' 14 newspaper markets, including the one he left in the care of Ethridge.

"Mizell leads both in spirit and by example," said Ethridge, who reports directly to Stewart. "He's a man whose presence will be felt in this field long after he's retired to some sunny beach."



Eric Strachan/Naples Daily News

Mizell Stewart, VP of content for E.W. Scripps newspaper division, speaks to the editorial staff at the Naples Daily News during a 2012 meeting.

Stewart focuses on local, colleague says

Prior to accepting his current position as chief content officer at E.W. Scripps, Mizell Stewart managed an award-winning news staff as editor of the Evansville Courier & Press.

In his five years with the Scripps-owned daily newspaper, Stewart oversaw a staff of reporters and was responsible for the editorial content of the newspaper, its website, a monthly business publication and a quarterly women's magazine. He also hosted a weekly public television program and served as a community ambassador through his devout participation in several community and professional organizations.

Most importantly, said colleague Tim Ethridge, he changed attitudes in the newsroom.

"When he became editor in Evansville," Ethridge said, "it was at what was the be-

ginning of the huge change in the way newspapers operate. No longer was it good enough to put out a great paper then reprint the news online. We were at the start of becoming a 24-hour news operation."

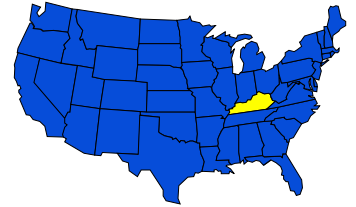
Despite advancements in newsroom technology and the incorporation of digital news mediums, Ethridge said Stewart hasn't lost focus on local journalism. Instead, he has helped to strengthen community journalism efforts in Southern Indiana and Scripps' 13 other markets.

"While we're staffing our newsrooms from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m., tweeting, sending text alerts, blogging and Facebooking," Ethridge said, "Mizell is making sure we don't take a pass on our true calling, to provide watchdog journalism for our communities."



Tim Ethridge

Alumna takes her talents to *The Bluegrass State*



A 2011 graduate has taken her journalism skills from Toledo, Ohio, to Lexington, Ky.

Alumna Shannon Carney left Toledo's news station WNWO in July to take the job as the 5

p.m. producer at WTVQ, an ABC affiliate.

She said she loves it and wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

Just two months after graduating, Carney had a job as a morning producer and reporter at WNWO.

She produced a two-hour show that was later upgraded to a two-and-a-half-hour show.

Carney also was the host of "Toledo's Biggest Loser."

This was her first job outside of school and Carney said she was a little nervous at the beginning.

"It's kind of one of those things you have to be ready to

be thrown to the wolves," she said, "It's a lot, but you learn quickly. It's something you have to go and do every single day until it becomes second nature."

After a year, Carney moved 285 miles away to Lexington.

Carney said this new producer job is stressful, but she loves it. "I have to be ready at the drop of a hat to change everything in a half hour," she said.

She said she was thrilled when she had a reporter live from Rome on her show when the pope was elected.

"You forget how cool your job is," Carney said. "But then you get to do typical things as a reporter that no one else gets to do!"

Carney interned at three news stations as a student, but said succeeding is more of who you know than what you know.

Her boss in Lexington, Steve France, was briefly in the BGSU journalism program and

Carney said it was helpful that they were both from the same place.

While her internships at FOX Toledo, WTOL, and WKBN helped, Carney said what really prepared her was her advance broadcast class with Associate Professor Kathy Bradshaw.

"When Carney was a student, she always had a professional attitude," Bradshaw said. "She always knew that she was getting ready for a career. She never had the 'learn it for the test' approach to what she was doing here at BGSU."

In late March, Carney came back to Bradshaw's class, but this time she was the teacher. She spoke with students about her new job and what to prepare for.

"She's a great model for students," Bradshaw said. "And, she wanted to be here. She wanted to help our current students succeed and find jobs that they love."

Shannon's Journey

- 2007
Arrived in Bowling Green
- 2009
Internship at WKBN in Youngstown, Ohio
- 2010
Internship at FOX Toledo
- 2011
Internship at WTOL in Toledo
- 2011
Graduated from BGSU
- 2011
Job as producer and reporter at WNWO in Toledo and later host of "Toledo's Biggest Loser"
- 2013
New job as producer at WTVQ in Lexington, Ky.

"It's kind of one of those things you have to be ready to be thrown to the wolves"
-Shannon Carney



Journalism alumnae Courtney Wheaton (left) and Shannon Carney (right) came back to BGSU to talk to graduating seniors about life after college.



Alumni Newsletter

ALUMNUS MOVES UP THE LADDER IN PHILADELPHIA

| by Jacob Amstel, '13

Alumnus Nicholas Paine controls what the city of Philadelphia watches on television.

Paine, 2002, was promoted in January to executive producer after seven years with WPVI Action News of Philadelphia, an ABC-owned news channel.

He has produced several newscasts since joining Action News in 2005. He started with the 6 a.m. newscast, then moved to the 5 p.m. newscast, and is now doing the 4 p.m. newscast.

In an email announcing the promotion, Thomas David, Action News vice president and news director, said, "Whatever show Nick is producing he always brings energy, creativity and plenty of positive attitude."

Paine has always been interested in broadcast. "I always loved watching news, and it baffled me how breaking news was presented," Paine said. "I was very intrigued about the process and decided that's what I wanted to do. I also like knowing things before everyone else and really enjoy digging to find the truth."

To work in the TV news industry, Paine said: "You have to be relentless and never give up. You also need thick skin. Often times because of the nature of the immediacy of what we do, there isn't time for compliments, but only criticisms."

During all four years of college, Paine worked at BG-24 News. "This gave me the necessary foundation to be ahead of the competition when I graduated," Paine said. "I owe my career to working at BG-24 News. I think anyone at BGSU who wants to work in TV news and does not take full advantage of BG-24 is missing out."

Out of college, Paine used his strong work ethic to land a job right after graduation with WTVG in Toledo. "I worked hard, showed dedication, and was offered a producing job when I graduated," Paine said.

When Paine was hired, Disney/ABC owned WTVG, one of 10 stations owned by the network. "Disney is a company that honors promoting from within," he said. "I stalked the managers at WPVI in Philadelphia and eventually was asked out on an interview in 2005, and I got the job."

Paine had no show to produce when he first started at WPVI, but with persistence he received the chance that he wanted. "I pushed for and got the opportunity to produce the weekday morning newscast," Paine said. "After a few years, I pushed to move up to the 5 p.m. newscast."

As an executive producer, Paine manages the producers, works with the reporters and is responsible for live breaking news coverage of major events that happen throughout the day.

Paine wants to continue to move up in management and credits his success to his "passion, dedication and loyalty."

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RETIREE NOT YET RETIRED

| by Veronica Cooper, '13

Thomas Dawson could actually enjoy his retirement from Buckeye Cable Systems in Toledo if he wasn't still working.

Dawson, who was the director of government and community affairs, retired in 2009 after 40 years with the Toledo Blade and Buckeye Cable System, and was hired back as a consultant essentially doing what he was doing before.

Dawson's 50-year career in journalism and the media began in 1963 when as a sophomore at BGSU majoring in journalism, he went to work for the Findlay Courier as a full-time reporter nights, while attending BGSU full time days. He kept that schedule through graduation in 1966.

He also had worked while in high school at the Dayton Daily News and a weekly newspaper in the Dayton area.

After Graduation from BGSU, he worked as an assistant director of development at Findlay College from 1966 to 1969 when he joined The Blade as an investigative reporter. He served as regional editor, suburban editor and night city editor.

In 1977, the paper's owners had concerns over the future direction of newspapers with their high labor costs, and expensive delivery methods, and a news cycle that was often behind the electronic media.

Dawson said the late Paul Block Jr., who was publisher, told him, "I see the day when there is a large TV screen on everyone's wall and we will have to deliver the news electronically so that they can read it on that screen."

Block assigned Dawson to make that happen, sending him to Buckeye to develop more advanced delivery methods for the news via cable.

"What was there, was not user friendly," Dawson said. "What we had was very elementary at the time because the equipment wasn't there."

In 1986, Dawson became a permanent part of the Buckeye cable operations as the FCC was pushing viability of a wireless cable system and the establishment of a multi-channel multi-point distribution system.

According to Dawson, educational television stations had not been able to make a go of the technology and the FCC turned it over to private enterprise to see if businesses would develop it.

He said Buckeye saw this as an opportunity and gave him the job of checking it out to see if this would be a viable business.

The new system would beam the signal into hard-to-wire areas such as shopping centers that were out of Buckeye's footprint.

Dawson saw potential and Buckeye Cable applied for a license to test use the new technology.

The FCC application was inexplicably delayed. "The communications treaty between the United States and Canada calls for each country to have oversight over communication issues within 50 miles of the border," Dawson said.

The Buckeye Tower is 38 miles from the Canadian border in Lake Erie and the application went to Ottawa.

Dawson said Canadian officials were sitting on everything that came north from the United States until they got an answer from then-President Reagan on the acid-rain issues. "So it had nothing to do with us," Dawson said. "It was a political thing and they wanted to okay it."

The project was later abandoned as the window of opportunity passed. Dawson then was tasked with reorganizing the design and construction functions of Buckeye.

Another project Dawson oversaw was the development of TV5, an independent station. Under his leadership, the station drew more viewers.

As to the future, Allan Block, current chairman of Block Communications and Paul Jr.'s son, asked Dawson to write a book on the history of Buckeye. "When that is finished, hopefully in the next year or so, I plan to retire for good," Dawson said.

After that, Dawson said he will continue in his volunteer activities, plus pursue his hobbies of photography, competitive pistol shooting and ammunition reloading, and motorcycle touring.

"I've been riding since 1957 and would like to ride coast to coast," Dawson said. "I have already been around Lake Superior twice, to Québec, the Blue Ridge, southwestern Tennessee and points in between on the bike."

He said he also plans to spend time with his son and grandchildren in Virginia, his daughter in Baltimore, and do some traveling.

"My wife and I have visited all the states except Hawaii, and hope to get there, as well as do some more International travel," Dawson said. "To paraphrase the late Henry Ford, when you don't have anything productive to do, you're ready to die. And I'm not ready for that just yet."

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Bowling Green to Cleveland

Job at Cuyahoga Community College provides new opportunity closer to home

Alumna Candice Lee Jones, '08, has ventured out of the journalism world into higher education. Jones accepted a position as the assistant to President Michael Schoop of Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus, "Tri-C," in downtown Cleveland.

This was a big change for Jones since all of her undergraduate experience was in print journalism and she has worked in different print journalism positions in the past five years.

She said she moved to Cleveland because she wanted to be in a city in Ohio. When her husband, Joseph Catullo, accepted a teaching position in Cleveland they thought it was a good start.

"I was scared to move because I felt that once I left journalism full time that I'd never be able to go back," Jones said.

"But the timing and the feeling of this job felt right, so I did it anyway. Now I'm very thankful. I feel like I never could have planned things this way, but that it has worked out. I tell people that working in a college environment is as good of use as any for my curiosity and interests."

She said this job differs from reporting because Cuyahoga allows her to work with people more and write less. She still receives readers' feedback, faces deadlines, and gets edited like she did in reporting, but working with people makes all the difference.

"On a day to day basis, my favorite thing is that I interact with pretty much everyone on campus: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. I have a very behind the scenes view of the college and how everything works," Jones said.



Corrie Jones, who will graduate in May from the business college, poses with her sister, Candice Lee Jones, a 2008 journalism graduate.

Jones is responsible for writing the campus newsletter with events and announcements, making presentations and assisting the campus president.

Jones said she enjoys working on the campus newsletter because it is something that she has been able to create entirely on her own and it has received a good response from readers.

Jones' job is not without challenges. She said her job can be extremely fast paced and she can have long hours when the president gets busy.

Catullo said that he is extremely proud of how hard his wife works.

"She sets her mind to everything she does," he said. "She moved to Cleveland knowing that journalism jobs here were practically dried up and Tri-C has given her a chance to try something new. I think her future has so much in store."

At Tri-C Jones has also had the opportunity to shadow every department in the college to see where she may want to move within the college.

She sees an abundance of room for career growth at Cuyahoga. She said, "My plan right now is to stay at the college for as long as humanly possible."

In their own words...

- **Joseph Catullo**, husband, said: "I love how compassionate Candice is. She'll do anything for someone in need. You can rely on her. She is open-minded and finds enjoyment in almost anything she does."
- **Corrie Jones**, sister, said her favorite thing about Candice is her positive attitude. "No matter what was going on or what I was upset about my sister always knew how to cheer me up. She's really a great person."
- **Candice Lee Jones** offers a word of advice: "Things that look good on paper and things that you've thought of before don't always translate into reality. Just keep an open mind and I think you'll find a lot more."



Alumni Candice Lee Jones, '08 and Joseph Catullo, '09



Joe Morehart

Why did you first want to major in journalism?

"I struggled in English, reading, and writing. Because these were my weaknesses, I wanted to fix 'em. I started out as a creative writing major. I read some books, and most authors I was reading at the time were all journalists. I also came to like movies very much. Most folks who write movie reviews write them for newspapers. This is what led me to journalism."

What were your career goals throughout your years as an undergraduate?

"I did not give it much thought. I had always been told if you get good grades and you go to college, there is a job for you. By the time I graduated, this was not true. I should have been more involved in the field. I should have had more clips for my portfolio. I should have taken my writing assignments more seriously and polished and perfected them. I did the bare minimum. Although I got good grades, I did not have much else to show for it."

When did you realize you wanted to be a lawyer?

"I had a girlfriend I loved very much. I worked at Olive Garden as a server. That girlfriend broke my heart. I realized what I wanted from life. I wanted to give love to someone who wanted it. I thought it would be hard for me to find someone else since I'm short, bald and waiting tables. I did a bit of research online and lawyers only needed an undergraduate degree, in anything at all, to be considered for law school. Seemed like it could work. I'm not so sure now, though. I've got a lot more student loan debt and the market for lawyers is not too good. Fingers crossed..."

What or who inspired you as an undergraduate?

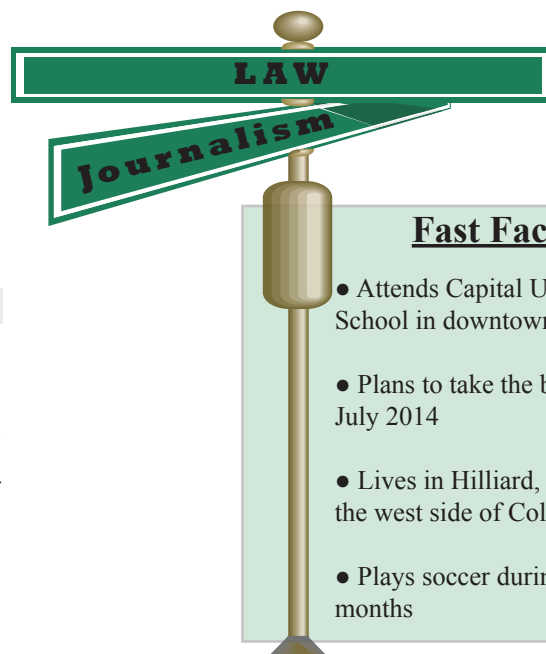
"My grandpa died just a few weeks before fall exams of my senior year. At first, this did not seem to have much impact on me. Throughout the next few months though, I started to recognize how childish I had been. I think this was something of a turning point, and I wanted to be an adult, whatever that meant. Also, coming from small town Ohio, I was quite a racist. I said inappropriate jokes for cheap laughs. I think BG did a very good job at training me out of this. Specifically, professor Ron Werdebaugh was someone I could relate to so I actually listened to what he had to say. I thought he was a cool guy."

How has your knowledge with journalism helped you during your career path?

"I believe so. I had a group project in constitutional law last semester. Part of this assignment required me to do some editing of other people's work. This made me remember some of the journalism training I had. There were tons of minor errors in this work and tons of unnecessary words throughout. Also, the capitalization was inconsistent; the nouns and verbs did not agree, etc. I think my journalism training has helped me to notice errors like these. While writing my own papers, I had assumed everyone had this type of knowledge. So, when I got to see a fellow student's work, I honestly felt like I was a decent writer - or a decent editor - at least."

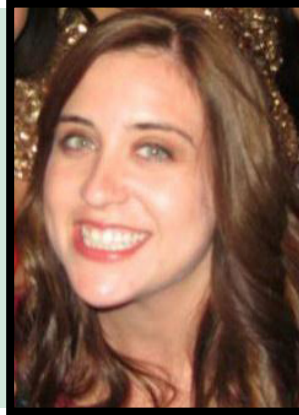
What do you enjoy most about the career field?

"I like the knowledge I am gaining, the knowledge of history, the evolution of our country's laws. I will be glad to be employed somewhere in a specific field so I can research it until I can answer anyone's questions on the matter - to be an expert in the field."



Fast Facts

- Attends Capital University Law School in downtown Columbus
- Plans to take the bar exam in July 2014
- Lives in Hilliard, Ohio, on the west side of Columbus
- Plays soccer during the warm months



Maggie Timlin

Why did you first want to major in journalism?

"I loved writing and learning different peoples' stories. I have always been a curious person so the focus journalism puts on gathering new information on different topics interested me. Plus, I knew a journalism degree opened the door to a variety of diverse career options and I wanted my career path to have flexible boundaries."

What were your career goals throughout your years as an undergraduate?

"I never really had definite long-term career goals in mind as an undergraduate. I knew I would be happy in either journalism [or] law but couldn't picture then exactly what my ideal position would be. Instead, I would focus on short-term goals like getting good grades each semester and building up my resume so I could be in a good position to choose the grad school or career path that was right for me once I graduated and saw more clearly which direction I wanted to head."

When did you realize you wanted to be a lawyer?

"I was interested in a legal career by sophomore year. I had taken some law and government courses as a political science minor and realized I had a strong interest in the subject matter. Plus, persuasive writing has always been my favorite form of writing and it is at the core of every legal job. I knew I would like the challenge of arguing for a particular side, whether through persuasive writing or oral debate. You don't need a pre-law major to go to law school so I continued on the journalism path with law school in mind because I wanted to keep open the possibility of a journalism career in the future, even if it would just be on a freelance basis."

How has your knowledge with journalism helped you during your career path?

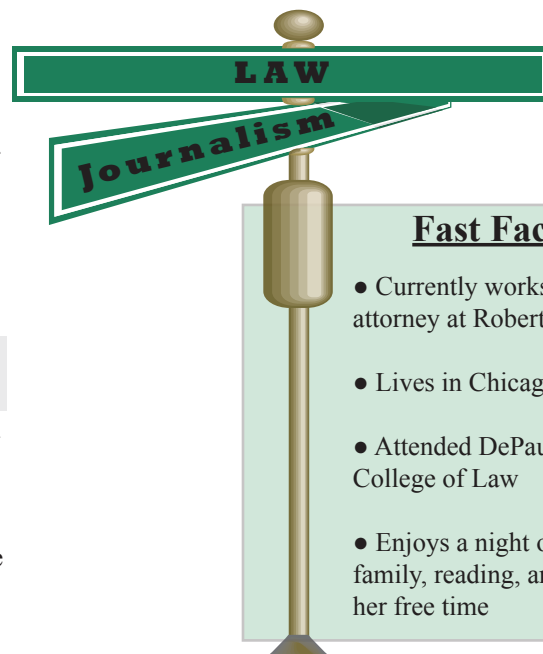
"My journalism education taught me how to be a more clear and concise writer. It taught me how to interview people for useful information and how to ask meaningful questions. All those qualities of a journalism education are important in law because just as journalists ask questions to write their story, lawyers have to interview everyone involved in a case to figure out how best to tell their client's side of the story."

What or who inspired you as an undergraduate?

"Two professors -Tori Ekstrand and Neal Jesse - helped me greatly during my time at BG and afterward in terms of helping me while applying for law school and while applying to take the bar exam. Both professors served as my advisers on my honors program thesis that had a topic combining journalism and the law. I was able to put this thesis on my law school applications. Both professors also wrote me great letters of recommendation for law school and served as my undergraduate references for the bar examination application. BG's faculty and career center was always extremely helpful and very student oriented."

What do you enjoy most about your current career?

"I enjoy the persuasive writing and oral advocacy elements of putting together a good case for your client and the challenge of responding to an opposing counsel's argument. "



Fast Facts

- Currently works as a contract attorney at Robert Half Legal
- Lives in Chicago
- Attended DePaul University College of Law
- Enjoys a night out with friends or family, reading, and working out in her free time



Alumni Newsletter

DEPARTMENT NEWS

BGSU TO HOST FIRST SPORTS JOURNALISM NFL BOOT CAMP

The School of Media and Communication and the Sports Management Program will be hosting the NFL Sports Journalism and Communication Boot Camp from May 13-16. The NFL Boot Camp, organized by alumnus and NFL consultant Dick Maxwell, aims to help 24 current and recently retired NFL players transition to a career beyond football by focusing on improving each player's writing skills for newspapers, radio and the expanding digital media industry. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

BUILDING PLANS INCLUDE A NEW HOME FOR THE DEPARTMENT

| by Elyette Yert '13

By fall 2014, plans call for the School of Media and Communication, which is comprised of three departments – journalism and public relations, communication, and telecommunications – and a graduate program to move from West Hall to a renovated South Hall.

When the announcement of the project was made, School of Media and Communication Director Terry Rentner immediately christened the project "Dream Hall."

"This new building...has been a dream of my colleagues and I for as long as I can remember," Rentner said. "It has been my No. 1 goal and my top priority for the past five years."

Professor Jim Foust, who serves on the building committee, said, "It is probably the most exciting thing happening in the 19 years I have been at Bowling Green State University. It will allow for greatly enhanced teaching and learning, as well as convergence and collaboration opportunities among students."

South Hall was chosen as the new location by the BGSU administration.

"The gutting of South Hall is set to begin this summer, and the alumni will not even be able to recognize it once it is finished," Rentner said.

Perkins Eastman Architects is overseeing the renovation of South Hall, as well as renovations on Moseley, Hanna and University halls, which are all part of the university's larger building initiative.

"It's exciting to work with the faculty and students to create environments that respond to changing technology and learning patterns," Matthew Cotton, an architect with Perkins Eastman, said.

The new building will be designed to meet today's demands of media and communication.

"The goal is to have a converged media center," Rentner said. "This will help the students and the university to be competitive and leaders among the universities in the field."

Cotton said, "There will be some types of spaces that will be used by students and faculty together to create media content for distribution by television, radio, Internet, and in the future, other ways that we may not fully understand yet."

Rentner said something unique that is being discussed for the new building is the possibility of a first floor that would be glass-enclosed so people outside the building could see the students working.

The building will serve as a strong recruitment tool for the university, Rentner said. "It will encourage students from freshman year to get involved right away, which is so important," she said. "The department and I are so passionate about student learning, and we want to give students the best possible experience and competitive edge in the job market. This new building will allow us to do so."

PROGRAM CONNECTS ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

The mentor program is a way for alumni to help students get the most out of their college career. The program has been revitalized and six students have been assigned since the fall 2012. Junior Abby Welsh and her mentor, Kara Lopp, '95, are one example of how both students and alumni benefit from the exchange. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

CAMERAS GET UPGRADE FOR USE IN BROADCAST CLASSES

| by Jacqueline Gedeon '13

The School of Media and Communication upgraded the video cameras for telecommunications and journalism students and will fully integrate them into the curriculum in the fall.

Twelve new Panasonic ACCAM cameras replace the older mini DVD style. The new cameras have the same design as the older ones, but are more durable and efficient.

The new cameras will use SD cards and students will have to purchase their own for storage.

Telecommunications instructor Jose Cardenas said, as the industry is changing, tape is becoming obsolete and challenging.

The cost was roughly \$3,000 for each camera, battery and tripod set.

Ken Garland, faculty adviser to BG-24 News, said he is enthusiastic about the upgrade. The new tripods are lighter and have an adjustable head to balance the frame. The new cameras have higher quality images, resolution, color and sharpness.

Jonathan Keilholz, a junior studying broadcast journalism, said: "I'm looking forward to getting some great material for my reel. Though capturing HD content won't get me a job, it can definitely be the cherry on top."

Cardenas said there were only a few cons to switching to the new cameras. Besides the learning curve, students will need their own SD cards, and files will be larger than mini DVD storage.

But with SD cards, Garland said, students should save time not having to search for video like they did with the mini DVD tapes.

Garland added that the new cameras are "better quality in terms of video, but not better quality on how things are shot." He said students still need proper shooting techniques despite the advances in equipment.



BOB BORTEL JOINS TOLEDO PRESS CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

| by Matthew Thacker '14

Bob Bortel, director of student media, was invited to serve on the executive board of the Toledo Press Club.

Bortel was asked to join the executive board last fall by Press Club member Tom Dawson, '66, who Bortel has known for years from working with the alumni of The BG News, where he has been the faculty adviser since 1982.

Dawson also initially nominated Bortel in 2010, when he was awarded the Toledo Press Club's Golden Touchstone Award, which is given annually for "lifetime achievement in the field of journalism in Northwest Ohio."

"We like to have connections with BGSU, as well as the University of Toledo, and we hadn't had that in some time," Dawson said. He added that Bortel's background working with students would help bring younger members to the Press Club.

Bortel said: "The Toledo Press Club represents the only professional networking in the Greater-Toledo area, and it combines a lot of people in media with public relations and corporate communications positions. I thought it was a good thing to be a part of."

The Toledo Press Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Toledo Club in downtown Toledo.



FACULTY CELEBRATES SHARED MILESTONE

Prior to their November faculty meeting, journalism and public relations faculty members acknowledged the



Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's 100th anniversary with a cake. The department is accredited by AEJMC. *Front Row:* Rick Busselle, Jim Foust. *Second Row:* Julie Hagenbuch, Kelly Taylor. *Back Row:* Nancy Brendlinger, Catherine Cassara, Freddie Falcon, Kathy Bradshaw, Dave Sennerud, Mike Horning.

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Alumni Newsletter

SMC TO HOST FIRST NFL SPORTS JOURNALISM BOOT CAMP

| by Kelsey Rentner, '14

The NFL Sports Journalism and Communication Boot Camp aims to help 24 current and recently retired NFL players transition to a career beyond football by focusing on improving each player's writing skills for newspapers, radio and the expanding digital media industry.

This boot camp is one of six new camps added to the NFL's Player Transition Program this year, which brings the total number of camps to 10. Other boot camps include Business Management & Entrepreneurial Program, Broadcast Boot Camp, Business of Music Boot Camp, Franchising Boot Camp, Hospitality & Culinary Management Workshop, NFL-NCAA Champion Forum, NFL-NCAA Coaches Academy, NFL-NCAA Future Football Coaches Academy, and Pro Hollywood Boot Camp.

As part of sports journalism camp, players will take a trip to a Toledo Mud Hens game, which will include a mock press conference; write and record their own radio commentary; and take part in a mock press with BGSU head football coach Dave Clawson.

Faculty members from other NFL boot camps and BGSU faculty members and alumni will be teaching workshops sessions during the camp, along with former players who are now journalists. Some of these include Matt Bowen of the Chicago Tribune, Matt Chatham of the Boston Herald, and Bucky Brooks of NFL.com and NFL Network.

The idea of the camp began when Rob Morrissey, the NFL director of Player Engagement, contacted consultant Dick Maxwell in August of 2012 with the idea of starting a sports journalism boot camp.

Maxwell helped coordinate the broadcasting camps in Philadelphia following his retirement from the NFL in 2006. Maxwell agreed and chose his alma mater, BGSU, as the host site.

Maxwell, a 1970 graduate, put the curriculum together, as well as coordinated outside professionals who would teach workshops. "I was honored to be able to start this connection between the NFL and my alma mater," Maxwell said. "I knew that Bowling Green would provide not only great support for the program, but excellent faculty."

Terry Rentner, director of the School of Media and Communication, was enthusiastic about hosting the camp. "BGSU is both honored and thrilled to welcome the inaugural NFL Sports Journalism and Communication Boot Camp to our campus," she said. "We have both highly skilled professors and alumni teaching interactive sessions and providing excellent instruction in the fast-changing sports media industry."

As the faculty coordinator for this event, Rentner selected the faculty members to lead workshops in journalism ethics, social media and multimedia skills. Faculty members will assist the players in writing two columns and a radio commentary.

Professor James Foust, who will teach a session on creating blogs and other multimedia content, said: "It will be an exciting yet challenging task of taking the content I teach in my classes at BGSU and adapting it to a different audience. It's cool knowing that what I teach in my class is relevant to an event like this."

Students, who had to be recommended by the chair of their department, will also be involved. They will help groups of players navigate around campus, coordinate transportation and supply logistical support.

According to Maxwell, including students among faculty members is important because they will all help this event run smoothly.

As the boot camp approaches, participants are working closely with the NFL, the athletic department, and other university areas to coordinate this event.

"It is exciting that we are able to showcase BGSU as one of the top journalism, public relations, communications, telecommunications and sports management programs in the nation," Rentner said. "We expect this to be the permanent home for the NFL Sports Journalism and Communication Boot Camp."

The boot camp will also help support the Richard A. Maxwell Sports Media Project, a joint program of the journalism and public relations and sports management departments created in 2011.

The Maxwell Project includes an academic sports media watch blog, a speaker series of prominent sports media professionals, and student scholarships.

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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Mentor should exchange contact info and get to know the student.
- Mentor can give feedback on graded assignments.
- Mentor can help the student establish career goals.
- Mentor can invite the student to visit him or her on the job.
- Mentor can invite the student to a professional meeting and networking functions with him or her.
- Mentor can help the student seek internships and job opportunities.
- Mentor can give feedback on the students' resume and portfolio.
- Mentor can give the student contact information for others in the field.



"She has helped me out in a lot of different ways by looking over my articles, my clips, and resume, and giving me feedback."

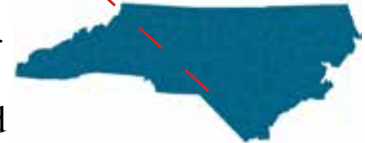
- ABBY WELSH
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO



"I thought it was a unique way to give back, a great opportunity.

I was happy to see that the college had implemented something like this."

- KARA LOPP, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



Across the Country

Program connects alumni, students

The department's alumni mentor program is a way for alumni to help current students make the most out of their college experience, while also giving them a start on networking.

"It's an opportunity to have a relationship with someone who can really help you, someone who's sort of been through what you're going and can help you through the ropes," professor Jim Foust said. Foust is coordinating a revitalization of the program.

The program seems to be going well, Foust said, and they have assigned six students since the end of fall semester.

Something new to the program is an application process. Part of the reason the program lost momen-

tum was that the students were not keeping up with their mentors.

The application process is competitive and assures that the student will take full advantage of the opportunity they are given with the program, Foust said.

Students must be in the Introduction to Media Writing course and be either a sophomore or early junior.

After being accepted into the program the student is paired with a mentor who graduated in the same sequence.

Abby Welsh, a junior in the print sequence, is partnered with reporter Kara Lopp, '05.

Welsh said she spoke with Lopp for two hours the first time.

Now, they speak on the phone about every two weeks and email

back and forth regularly.

Welsh even received help from Lopp with searching for summer internships.

Lopp who currently lives in Charlotte, N.C., works as an editor for the Carolina Weekly Newspaper Group.

She heard about the opportunity to be a mentor from an article in the BG News and jumped at the opportunity.

"I knew how much I appreciated having an older classmate there to show me the ropes and give me a solid foundation to actually enter the job force," Lopp said.

The internship program has worked out well for Welsh and Lopp, who said they hope to meet in person sometime in the near future.



Alumni Newsletter

FACULTY NEWS

KATHY BRADSHAW, associate professor, presented research about the international content of network television news in August, received the 2012 Presidential Award from the American Journalism Historians Association in October, and learned about fundraising at the annual meeting of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication in February. She heard from former students Joe Stoll, Colleen Whewell, and Nicole Humphrey, and all have new jobs. Alumni Shannon Carney, Courtney Wheaton, and Marlee Teedt spoke to students in her broadcast journalism classes.

NANCY BRENDLINGER was on faculty improvement leave last year. The associate professor spent six months living in Tajikistan, in central Asia, where she worked to improve her multimedia skills and researched potential environmental communication curriculum. While abroad, Brendlinger met with journalists and immersed herself in the Tajik culture by teaching, and learning from, those she met during her stay. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

CATHERINE CASSARA started the year in a big way. During opening-day ceremonies, the university awarded the associate professor the teaching diversity award. Cassara also coordinated a spring break trip to Paris with students, her sixth, for the International Media Seminar. She was elected to the teaching committee of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. After 20 years at BGSU, she continues to change cultural views one student at a time. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

JIM FOUST is now lead author of *Video Production: Disciplines and Techniques*, one of the most popular video production textbooks in the country. The book was released in its 13th edition in Fall 2012. Foust also created a series of demonstration videos that are featured online to supplement the text. His article, "So Vivid a Crossroads': The FCC and Broadcast Allocation, 1934-1939," will be published in the Spring 2013 issue of *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*. He has also been promoted to Professor at BGSU and will be on faculty improvement leave for the 2013-2014 academic year.

JULIE HAGENBUCH was promoted to lecturer.

MIKE HORNING, assistant professor, put together a journalist's "scavenger hunt" game for the BGSU Center for Teaching and Learning Fair. He used a mashup with Google Forms, Fusion Tables and Geolocation. The basic idea is that students complete a series of tasks over the semester using their phones and social media. The completed game puts their work on a Google Map. The demo is still in development, but Horning Mike plans to integrate the game into his reporting courses. [\[LINK to demo\]](#)

TERRY RENTNER will be completing her five-year term as director of the School of Media and Communication on June 30. Among her accomplishments, she is most proud of her role in facilitating a new building for the School. During her tenure she developed and maintained strong alumni relationships, hired outstanding faculty, increased student media participation, and established the Richard A. Maxwell Project, dedicated to the study of sport media and communication. As part of this initiative, BGSU will be the home to the annual NFL Journalism and Communication Boot Camp. She also expanded the current MA program to include distance-learning courses. The program is targeted toward industry professionals and can be completed 100 percent online or as part of a blended program. She also developed the "Intersections in Health and Wellness Conference" at BGSU that brought together interdisciplinary research and health programs across campus. She developed Media and Communications Day, now in its fourth year, as a recruitment tool for the three undergraduate departments. Outside of her role as director, she continued to teach and conduct research. She is co-investigator on three grants, totaling close to \$1 million. These grants focus on suicide prevention, high-risk drinking, and misuse of prescription drugs among college students. She will be on faculty improvement leave for the 2013-2014 academic year to conduct research and develop programming on all three grants.

RHONDA SEWELL, an adjunct, did more than just teach classes. The former reporter for The Blade and current media coordinator for the Toledo-Lucas County Library, hosted the Pulitzer Prize winning "Tiger Force" journalists for a special interview session, spoke in other journalism classes about her career, and advised the BGSU student association of black journalists. The multi-talented woman does poetry readings, volunteers in the community and is working on a children's book. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Improving in TAJIKISTAN

Faculty improvement leave allows for six months of teaching, learning abroad

Associate Professor Nancy Brendlinger has been the recipient of two Fulbright fellowships in the past—which sent her to Indonesia and Slovakia.

But when Brendlinger spent six months of her faculty improvement leave last year living in Tajikistan, it was due to her husband’s Fulbright fellowship.

“I had been given to the year to work on projects, including upgrading my multimedia skills and also doing an exploration of environmental communication curriculum,” Brendlinger said. “And because I had the leave coming, he applied for the Fulbright.”

Upgrading her multimedia skills included documenting her travels, including her time in Tajikistan, on her personal blog located at <http://nancybrendlinger.wordpress.com>.

After arriving in Khujand, Brendlinger said her plan was to do her environmental communication research and stay at home for a change.

“For the first time in over 20 years I was going to get to be the housewife,” Brendlinger said. “I was very excited.”

She said the excitement of staying home wore off quickly and soon she was looking for other ways to immerse herself into the Tajik culture.

Brendlinger began leading a discussion group for high school and college students at the city library in Khujand.

The city library has a part of one floor designated as “The American Corner,” which is

financially supported by the U.S. Embassy. The corner contains books, videos and other English resources including guides to enrolling in American colleges.

Brendlinger said the group was open to anyone who wanted to come and a core group of regular attendees soon formed.

“Sometimes we would talk about important stuff, like the environment and other times we’d talk about fun stuff,” Brendlinger said. “It was more like ‘Let’s educate Nancy.’”

While researching environmental communications, Brendlinger found opportunities to meet with native journalists to discuss industry practices and learn more about how the profession is practiced there.

In the town of Rushan and the city of Khorog, Brendlinger met with journalists as part of a trip to the semi-autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhshan in the Pamir Mountains.

The month before that, on May 3, 2012, she was invited to speak about journalism ethics at the Khujand Press Association conference, as part of the annual World Press Freedom Day celebration.

Brendlinger said that because most of the audience spoke Tajik or Russian, she

gave her presentation in English while a translator, translated the presentation into Russian.

Another time she met with four Tajik journalists in Dushanbe, who were taking an English class taught by a



Tajikistan is located in Central Asia and was a former member of the Soviet Union.

friend of hers at Khujand State University.

About their conversation, Brendlinger wrote on her blog: “Another good thing about being a journalist, they told me, is that journalists can help poor people. People with problems come to them and ask them to write about it, and then people in the government see the stories and sometimes help.”

Brendlinger also wrote that when she “interviewed a broadcast journalist in China 10 years ago, I was told the same story.”

(She explained that she thinks this is a different journalistic philosophy than what is often found in American journalism.)

“Generally speaking, I don’t think [American]

journalists have the idea that they’re specifically going to help and develop the country,” Brendlinger said later. “That is a philosophy of journalism that other countries have, especially countries that have been under Communist regimes.”

She said that she feels American journalists start with a similar motivation, to help people be better citizens by informing them, “but it’s a slightly different perspective on the idea of actually going out and saying ‘this is what you need, and this is how you get it,’ as opposed to saying, ‘here are your alternatives, now you decide.’”

Brendlinger and her husband enjoy traveling and have lived for periods of time together in four foreign countries.

Her husband, David Sears, said they still have plans to visit more. “We have tickets to Brazil. We’re supposed to leave in May,” he said. Sears said on the Brazil trip the two

will “just be tourists.”

One thing Brendlinger said she enjoys most about their world travels is being out of immediate contact. “No one knows where we are when we’re traveling,” she said. “They know what country we’re in, but not what town. I like being off the grid.”

Nancy Brendlinger’s COOL SIGHTS to see while in Tajikistan.

The road between Dunshanbe and Khujand

“Just really gorgeous mountain scenery and scary roads combined... We were looking off the side of the road at the carcasses of past trucks that hadn’t survived the trip.”

Traveling through the Pamir Mountains

“We took the route where Afghanistan is right across the river so we were traveling and looking at Afghanistan.”

An American cultural seminar

“Students put on a theater production. It included the pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving; song and dance; jokes and games; and they also did a theatrical performance of Cinderella.”

Apricot blossoms in the region

“It was just so beautiful driving an old bus through the apricot orchards. When I think about Khujand that is one of the things that come to mind initially—that day we were out in the apricot orchards.”



In the small town of Rushan, Nancy Brendlinger speaks with a local journalist. Photo by David Sears.



Nancy Brendlinger with English majors at Khujand State University. Photo by Dildora Toshmatova.



Education for the World

After 20 years at BGSU, professor continues her work to change cultural views one student at a time

The value of diversity was learned early for associate professor Catherine Cassara who spent her childhood all around the world.

Born on the East Coast to a father who taught American history and a mother who taught international adult education, Cassara lived throughout Europe because of academic opportunities that were offered to her father.

Originally from Massachusetts, Cassara began her higher education journey at the University of Virginia where she studied Russian studies.

After finishing her undergraduate degree she worked on an internship with a news service in Washington and as she finished was offered a pass to a White House press conference with President Carter's press secretary Jody Powell.

After finishing her undergraduate degree she worked on an internship with a news service in Washington and as she finished was offered a pass to a White House press conference with President Carter's press secretary Jody Powell.

"I was sitting in a room with different departments, and it was hilarious," Cassara said. "I didn't say a word, just listened. I felt like I was at home. I found out I really loved writing about news, and I was good at it."

Next she found herself at The Fairfax Globe newspaper

in Fairfax, Va., doing paste-up in the paper's back shop and stringing when extra hands were needed. While she was good at putting the paper together and proofing the ads, it was through those writing experiences that she found where her heart really lay.

To get a chance to report, she moved over to a small weekly newspaper in Springfield, Va., called The Times, where she did general assignment reporting, covered sports, and processed the photos she and two other staff members took.

About then, a friend of her mother's who ran a press service in D.C. gave her some career counseling that stuck.

"He said you'll never get a job in Washington D.C.--everyone comes here to work," Cassara said. "He said I needed to pick a city and send out resumes there."

Taking his advice, she sent out resumes to every paper between Eastport, Maine, and New York City-- starting from the coast and working inland. She landed one at twice a week paper on the coast of Connecticut, where she worked for three years, before moving on to report for a daily papers in Maine--first a small daily on the coast and then at a larger daily inland. After eight years and a half years in journalism, Cassara said she realized jour-

nalism had become a career but that she had little chance to get where she wanted--a large paper with bureaus overseas. So, in her early 30s, Cassara attended Michigan State University to receive her master's. The university offered a summer reporting program in London and Cassara enrolled. While there she had the opportunity to interview a foreign correspondent about his career. She realized being a foreign correspondent was not what she needed.

"You have to pay your dues and you really do need a support system there for you," Cassara said.

She realized she enjoyed teaching journalism, and worked to become an academic expert for international journalism hoping to do foreign corresponding during the summer. To teach, Cassara knew she needed to have a doctorate. She stayed at Michigan State and worked on her dissertation: "International News in American Newspapers: Testing International News Flow Theories."

Nearing the completion of her degree, she applied for a journalism position at BGSU that included teaching journalism history and public affairs reporting. "It was like it was made for me," Cassara said. "I loved the students here."

Nancy Brendlinger, who met Cassara in 1992, has trav-

elled and worked with Cassara for nearly 20 years. She has travelled to Paris and North Africa to help Cassara spread her education in diversity.

"She is really smart and dedicated to her students and to providing the best education by teaching what is going on in the U.S. and the world outside of the U.S.," Brendlinger said. "She has taken so much energy to teach her students about diversity around the world. She continually helps other teachers expand their own views."

Cassara was recently recognized by the university for 20 years of service. During her years here, she has six times organized educational trips for BGSU students to participate in the International Media Seminar in Paris.

Cassara's intensive preparations were appreciated by her students.

"We learned practical things like how to take the Metro and navigate Paris, currency, common French phrases, how and what to pack, business etiquette and lot more," Amber Petkosek, a junior public relations major, said.

Currently, Cassara is working on research regarding Al Jazeera. She was recently elected to at three-year term on the Teaching Standards Committee of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

2012 Diversity Award

Catherine Cassara was awarded the teaching Diversity Award in 2012 from BGSU. She was given the award for the work she did on a four-year project that established a partnership with several Middle East universities to study environmental journalism.

Associate Professor Nancy Brendlinger, who travelled with Cassara to the North African countries, nominated her for the award.

"I nominated her because she puts an amazing amount of work in educating our faculty and students about diversity," Brendlinger said. "With the work she put in she received a tremendously successful grant."

Funding of \$100,000 for the first two years came from the U.S. Department of State. The second two years were funded by a grant of \$388,300 from the Bureau of Educational and

Cultural Exchange.

"The State Department wanted some kind of exchange," Cassara said. "We built an environmental program to do that work."

Cassara and Brendlinger took BGSU students to Tunisia twice to work with Tunisian and Algerian students in educational workshops. The North African students also came here.

Brendlinger said the American students who went to Tunisia said afterward that it was a life-changing trip. Because of Cassara's hard work students were able to experience the Muslim and Arab cultures, which changed the students' perspectives dramatically, she said.

Cassara said, "The rewarding part is that the students that went are still friends. They still keep in touch with each other. That is why you do it."

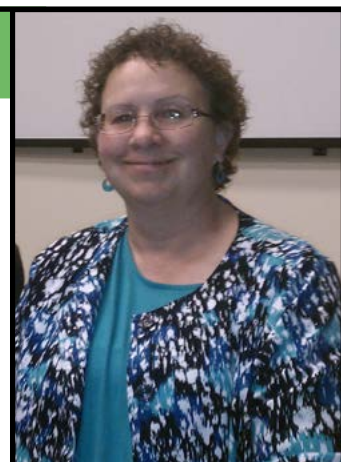


photo by Michael Horning

Catherine Cassara poses for a photo following her recognition as the 2012 Diversity Award winner. The award was given at the Opening Day Ceremony for the College of Arts & Sciences held in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union theater.

What was it like growing up in BG?

“My mother and father got married when they were very young, and they transferred to BGSU in the 60s. My father was president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. At the time, many colleges were just starting to have black Greek life on campus. The fraternity listed my mom as a den mother, so the administration never caught on to the fact that she and I were also living in the house. I lived in that fraternity house until my dad graduated.”

EDUCATION

Sewell moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., in high school. She graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School in 1984. She received her bachelor's in journalism from Michigan State University in 1989. After graduating, Sewell attended City University of London and studied international journalism.



Sewell, 21, in Paris, France.

What made you decide to pursue a career in journalism?

“I was always writing and reading. Everything started with my mom. She would read Nicki Giovanni and other black literature to me. She fostered my love for writing and poetry, but it was my love of hearing and documenting people's stories that got me into journalism. Journalists are like historians in a way.”



Sewell, 21, in Paris, France.

CAREER

Currently, Sewell is the media relations coordinator for the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. She serves as the library's key spokeswoman. She is also responsible for promoting the library through special events, publications and commercials.

Sewell joined the Toledo library system after a notable 18-year career as a reporter for The Blade. She was hired at the age of 21 by one of her professors who worked at the City University of London and was affiliated with The Blade.

Sewell traveled as an international correspondent for The Blade during the summer of 1988.

For 10 years, Sewell was a fashion writer for The Blade and frequently traveled to New York to cover fashion events and interview designers such as Donna Karan, Kenneth Cole, Yves Saint Laurent and Marc Jacobs.

During her Blade career, Rhonda interviewed prominent figures such as author Maya Angelou, singer Usher, activist Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, and the late actress and activist Dana Reeve.

One On One With RHONDA SEWELL



Sewell performs poetry, one of her favorite pastimes.

favorite quote

“You need to be militant about the validity of your story.”

-Gloria Naylor

What was your most memorable experience as a reporter?

“I landed an interview with William Dufty, who was the author of ‘Lady Sings the Blues,’ a biography of Billie Holiday. She is my icon. Dufty knew Billie Holiday really well, so it was like she was there. Dufty had terminal cancer at the time of the interview and told me that we would only be able to talk for about one hour, but we ended up spending the whole day together. He gave me a couple of his books and in one of them he wrote ‘Thank you for delaying the roses.’ He died soon after.”

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sewell is an award-winning member of the former Northwest Ohio Black Media Association, which is an NABJ affiliate.

She is active in numerous community organizations and currently is Director-at-Large/Advocacy Chair for the executive board of the Northwest Ohio chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Sewell resides in Sylvania, Ohio, with her twin daughters, Sarah and Savannah. She is currently working on several projects, including a children's book titled ‘Fly Girl! The Story of Willa B. Brown, America's First Black Female Licensed Pilot.’ The late pilot is Sewell's maternal cousin.

What advice do you have for young journalists and PR professionals?

1. Never stop reading.
2. Get involved in journalism and public relations related organizations, such as PRSSA.
3. Look into writing for online-based publications.”



Sewell with her twin daughters, Sarah and Savannah, 13.

Award-winning Journalist

Media Relations Coordinator at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Adjunct Instructor to BGSU Department of Journalism and PR

Adviser to Bowling Green Association of Black Journalists



Alumni Newsletter

STUDENT NEWS

ALUMNI GROUP GIVES BG NEWS EDITORS CAREER ADVICE

Six alumni returned to campus to participate in a panel discussion about jobs and internships with The BG News editors and other journalism students in late April.

The event, which was sponsored by The BG News Alumni Society, also included one-on-one interviews and resume critiques following the question and answer session.

This is the list of alumni who participated:

Sarah Bednarski '00, director of public relations at Mercy Health Systems

Scott Brown '98, managing editor at the Canton Repository

Ron Fritz '88, sports editor at the Baltimore Sun

Chris Hawley '95, managing editor digital content at Raytheon

Kacee Farrell Snyder '04, '11, BGSU alumni career services counselor

Jared Wadley '00, senior public relations representative at University of Michigan



Additionally, Bridget Tharp '06, who is vice president of The BG News Alumni Society and works in marketing and communications on campus, helped organize the event with Brown, president of the alumni society.

THE BG NEWS EDITOR RECOGNIZED FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

| by Kelly Taylor, lecturer

Late in the semester, Max Filby, editor of the BG News, received an email from Undergraduate Student Government inviting him to the group's annual end-of-the-year banquet.

"I thought it was a little weird," Filby said. "I am not too close with USG."

So, Filby did what every good reporter would do. He called up USG President Alex Solis and asked what this was all about. Solis told Filby he had been invited because he was getting an award.

Turns out, USG named Filby Student Leader of the Year.

Bob Bortel, director of student media, was not surprised by USG's choice. "He is a great example of what BG aspires to have students develop into," Bortel said. "He is a capable, all around good leader. I am not sure a BG News editor has ever been nominated, which speaks well of Max."

Filby, who transferred to BGSU after attending Ohio University for a year right out of high school, graduates in May.

"I have been here three and a half years and put a lot of time and effort in the paper," Filby said. "This is a nice recognition when I am getting to the end here. At least, some people think I did a pretty decent job."

Filby's success as editor is not only being recognized by USG, but the Department of Journalism and Public Relations as well.

Filby was selected for a Scripps Howard internship after graduation.

Supported by the foundation of the E.W. Scripps Co., the internship in multimedia reporting includes a \$3,000 stipend for a junior, senior or graduate student and a \$500 scholarship for students who are returning to school following the internship.

One internship is available to each of the 37 schools partnered with the company.

BGSU partnership with Scripps came through alumnus Mizell Stewart III, vice president of content for Scripps.

"I was telling someone the other day that it is ironic that OU is the Scripps School of Journalism and my first choice for a paper is a Scripps paper, but I got it after coming to BG," Filby said.

Several professors in the department approached Filby about the internship opportunity.

"I was set on trying to find a job and not doing a post-graduation internship," Filby said. "They helped me see this was a good thing for me, and it helped the journalism department to be able to get more scholarships."

Filby chose to complete his internship at the Commercial Appeal in Memphis because the newspaper has several job openings. He talked with managing editor Louis Graham about possibilities of moving into a reporting position at the end of his internship.

Filby said he is excited about going to Tennessee. "I have never been in the South before," Filby said. "I heard it is a very different culture. The Commercial Appeal also has an interesting history."

The Commercial Appeal was founded in 1841 and survived the Civil War.

THE BG NEWS WEBSITE IS A FINALIST FOR PACEMAKER AWARD – AGAIN

| by Nate Lowe '14

For the second consecutive year, the online version of The BG News has been selected by a panel of professionals with extensive media experience as a finalist for an Associated Collegiate Press award.

The online publication was the only collegiate publication in Ohio and the MAC to be selected as a finalist for ACP's Online Pacemaker Award. Winners will be announced at the 92nd Annual ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in New Orleans on Oct. 26.

When the website was recognized as one of 12 national finalists for the same award at the same convention last October, it marked the first time a university publication has been nominated for the ACP's highest honor.

"This speaks volumes for the commitment to quality work that our students have," Bob Bortel, director of student media, said. "To be included in a group with other universities that are large and well-known speaks highly to the quality of students we have here."

The Best College Website Award is based on design, ease of navigation, writing and editing, graphics and interactivity. [LINK to BGNEWS.COM](http://BGNEWS.COM)

JOURNALISM STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY AWARDS, COLLEGE HONORS

Catherine "Cat" Tomanski and Danae King will each receive \$10,000 after being chosen for a Frazier Reams Public Affairs Undergraduate Fellowship for 2013-14. The highly competitive fellowships are awarded annually to rising seniors who intend to pursue careers in journalism, political or governmental service, public health, law, education, community service or other fields in the public sector. A minimum accumulative grade point average of 3.2 is required.

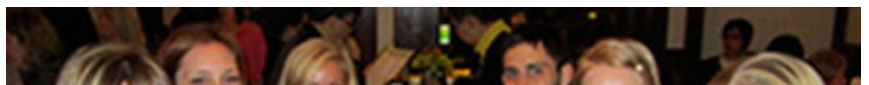
At the Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Awards program, Mykel Lindsay, a senior in broadcast journalism, was honored in the Individual Undergraduate Student division with the Kurt E. Hofmeister Student Excellence Award. Lindsay established E.A.S.Y. Inc., a nonprofit organization, in 2012 to help students in eighth through 12th grade in the Detroit Metro area further their education to a collegiate level. The program includes mentorship and presentation.

Several students were awarded scholarships by the College of Arts and Sciences during the annual spring honors night. They were Chevon Anderson, the Darlene E. Thomas Book Award; Jacqueline Gedeon, the Janet M. Shanklin Memorial Scholarship; Emily Gordon, the Rosemary Kovacs Scholarship; and Patrick Pfanner, the Gordon Journalism Scholarship.

"THE FUTURE STARTS NOW" FOR BGSU PRSSA STUDENTS

| by Kelsey Rentner '14

After several months of planning, six students who were a part of the BGSU PRSSA chapter attended "The Future Starts Now" PRSA



International Conference in San Francisco Oct. 13-16.

Six executive board members and adviser Julie Hagenbuch attended this conference at the Marriott Marquis.

Keynote speakers included Twitter co-founder Biz Stone, Pandora founder and Chief Strategy Officer Tim Wetergren, consumer behavioral expert June Cotte and MSNBC political analyst Michael Steele.



"Not only was the sightseeing amazing, but we got to hear from so many fascinating people in the field," PRSSA social media coordinator Sarah Trusz said. "My favorite was hearing from Biz Stone, the co-founder of Twitter. His passion was contagious."

Students attended breakout sessions on topics ranging from creativity to fashion.

Students also had plenty of free time for sightseeing. They visited the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Fisherman's Wharf, Ghirardelli Square and Lombard Street, known as "The World's Curviest Street."

The 2013 PRSA International Conference will be held Oct. 26-29 in Philadelphia.

SPJ MEMBERS TRAVEL TO DETROIT AND DAYTON

BGSU's Society of Professional Journalists chapter was active this semester.

Six members took a trip to the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press in March to visit the newsrooms and talk with reporters and editors about preparing for a job in journalism.

Students got to see the Pulitzer that the Free Press recently won for its coverage of the Kwame Kilpatrick scandal, and they also talked with online editors about the way they are using mobile to cover breaking news.

They also got a tour of the original library at the Detroit Press that once employed 20 librarians to help reporters with their research. The building is up for sale, and both papers will be moving out soon.



Also, 10 students attended the SPJ region 4 conference in Dayton.

The highlight of the event was listening to Ross Gallabrese, the executive editor of the *Herald-Star* in Steubenville, Ohio, talk about coverage of the Steubenville trial.

In another seminar Glenn Hartong of the Cincinnati Enquirer discussed how all the reporters were now using iPhones in their coverage to shoot video.

The Columbus Dispatch also showcased copies of the newly resized paper that they have developed along with the Enquirer. Alumnus Ben Marrison leads the Dispatch.

JUNIOR IN PUBLIC RELATIONS LEARNS ABOUT OTHER CULTURES

| by Liz Nahrstedt '14



For Lisa Wendel, a break from school means a chance to do service and learn about other cultures. Wendel visited Tanzania as an ROTC cadet during the summer 2012 for about three weeks. Over spring break 2013 she joined a Navajo Nation trip in Arizona.

For her trip to Tanzania, Wendel was part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Program which sends cadets from around the United States abroad.

They spent the beginning of the trip in Fort Knox to prepare for their experience in Tanzania.

"It was cool to work with other cadets from other states and schools and learn how they did things," she said.

In Bagamoyo, Tanzania, Wendel and the other cadets taught English to children from toddlers to junior high schools students. She said this was challenging because most of the children only knew some English and the toddlers did not know any.

The cadets also worked together to help build a foundation for a new school in town.

In addition, they got to spend time during their trip in Zanzibar, where they visited the wildlife reserve, monuments and different slave ports.

The overall experience was rewarding Wendel said. "I learned how to communicate with other people..from other cultures, other schools, and professionals," she said. "I analyzed as a leader how to apply what I learned for when I am overseas with my troops."

After her experience in Tanzania, Wendel took the opportunity to go on the Navajo Nation Spring Break trip.

On the trip in Arizona, she taught a Swahili lesson at the high school and shared a lot about her experience in Tanzania with the students.

She also felt that she wasn't the only one doing the teaching, as the students would teach her basic Navajo words in exchange for her Swahili lessons.

"It was interesting how the two trips related and the high school students really liked hearing about the military," she said.

Besides learning about the Navajo education system, the college students visited several cultural sites throughout the area including Chaco Canyon and Canyon de Chelly.

"I really enjoyed the trip a lot and I had never been out West before so it was a neat experience," Wendel said. "I recommend it to anyone that is looking to learn more about another culture and try some new things."



BROADCAST STUDENT DEDICATED TO BECOMING A PRODUCER

| by Kaila Johnson '13

The alarm goes off at 6 in the morning and it is time for Chevon Anderson to start her day. She hits the snooze button one or two times because she knows she has a long day ahead.

"Sometimes I hit it more than that. Then I'm like oh crap I only have seven minutes to take a shower versus 15 minutes now," the junior from Detroit, Mich., said.

Anderson spends most of her days in West Hall doing voice overs, editing her packages for classes, and working behind the scenes for BG-24 News.

"I'm in the editing suites almost everyday, if not everyday," Anderson said.

When she is not editing she is helping with the Bowling Green Association of Black Journalists, and serving as a Resident Advisor for 26 residents.

"Her efforts with BGABJ and her work there to help other students understand the importance of being apart of a professional organization shows the kind of person she is," Assistant Professor Kathy Bradshaw said. She is always trying to help others be successful."

Anderson also works at the Office of the Dean of Students as a student assistant and at Kohl Hall as a desk clerk. Finally after all that, she still finds time for her studies.

"It gets exhausting sometimes, but I am doing what I have to do to get out of college on time," Anderson said.



Through her organizations she has learned a lot about herself and skills that will help her in the real world. She wants to take what she has learned and become a producer.

"I love production, she said. My dream job is to work for TNT Sports and produce the 'TNT Halftime Show' and 'TNT's Inside the NBA'."

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Alumni Newsletter

GUEST SPEAKERS



Nov. 13, 2012 • Currier Lecture

Brian Bull

public radio reporter and producer with Cleveland's ideastream®

speech title: "Seeing Red: A Native American Journalist Reflects on His Work and Path"

also spoke in journalism classes

ALUMNI IN THE CLASSROOM

Several alumni returned throughout the year to talk with students about the industry and how to better ready themselves for a career in the field

Hal Brown, '72, city and web editor Sentinel Tribune
spoke to introductory media writing and copyediting students

Shannon Carney, '11, news producer at WTVQ in Lexington, Ky.
spoke in the broadcast capstone course

Nate Doolin, '12, athletic media relations at University of Notre Dame
spoke in the introductory media writing class

Chris Hawley, '95, managing editor for digital content at Raytheon
spoke in the copyediting class

Courtney Wheaton, '12, broadcast journalist
spoke in broadcast capstone course

Enoch Wu, '11, photojournalist
spoke in feature writing class



Alumni Newsletter

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

HAWLEY CHOSEN FOR HALL OF FAME

This year's Kappa Tau Alpha Hall of Fame Award winner is 1995 graduate Christopher Hawley.

Hawley has been the managing editor for digital content at Raytheon for the last year. He oversees an external website and social media content for the \$24 billion aerospace and defense company.

For 25 years, he was a news editor and reporter. His first job was writing columns for the Harbor Beach Times in Huron County. During his time in Bowling Green, Hawley covered the courts and city hall for The BG News where he served as editor. He spent some of his time at BGSU working on a drive-time radio show for WBGU.

During college, Hawley also spent a year abroad in Spain. While there he wrote articles for a local paper. After graduating he began work in Latin America. He first started as a newspaper reporter for the San Juan Star in Puerto Rico. He moved on to The Associated Press where he worked as a Caribbean Desk Editor.

While he was at the Associated Press, his job included editing articles by reporters in 26 countries and territories from the Bahamas to Suriname. In 2000, Hawley became an editor on the International Desk at AP's headquarters in New York. There he helped direct coverage of the 9/11 attacks, the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and proceedings at the United Nations. In 2004, Hawley returned to full-time reporting as the Arizona Republic's correspondent in Mexico City.

In 2009, he won the Maria Moors Cabot Prize, a career-achievement award for foreign correspondents and other reporters working in the Americas.

He returned to the AP in 2010 as an enterprise reporter, based in New York, where he produced in-depth and investigative articles. Last year, Hawley and three other AP reporters won the Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting for a series about the New York Police Department. Through his career, Hawley has won numerous other awards such as the Polk Award, the Tobenkin Award and a Best of the West Award.

He is fluent in Spanish and enjoys flying his own plane.



MOSER NAMED CURRIER YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

The Currier Young Professionals Award was established in 2005 to honor outstanding accomplishments of a recent graduate. This year's honorary is Bob Moser, a 2006 graduate

Moser was an active student while at BGSU. During his senior year, he served as editor-in-chief of The BG News and earned the Waugh Trophy. The Waugh is awarded to an outstanding senior. He worked at The BG News as a reporter, copy chief, and city news editor throughout his undergraduate years. He visualized and then coordinated the Great Lakes Journalism Job and Internship Fair held at BGSU, which hosted recruiters from more than 90 publications, 161 students and a guest speaker from the New York Times.

Moser's first job after graduating was with The Daily Advertiser in Lafayette, La., where he covered regional business and agriculture like the oil, sugar cane and soybean industries. In 2007 he won a prestigious fellowship from the International Center for Journalists in Washington, which allowed him to report about ethanol in Brazil and Louisiana.

In 2008, the 14-part series won him first place for Interpretive Story or Series from the Associated Press Managing Editors, Louisiana/Mississippi Region.



Moser married Anna Flavia, a Brazilian journalist who served as his interpreter while he covered the story in Brazil. He moved to Sao Paulo, where he learned Portuguese and is a full-time, freelance reporter and writer. He writes for business publications in the United States and the United Kingdom on Brazilian business, especially commodities and economic and consumer trends.

Moser has been an active member of The BG News Alumni Association and works with students on The BG News. He presents them with opportunities to freelance for an English language site in Sao Paulo.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Waugh Trophy for top graduating journalism student: Alissa Widman

Outstanding public relations sequence student: Shirley O'Nan

Outstanding print sequence student: Asia Rapai

Outstanding broadcast sequence student: Kaila Johnson

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Nate Lowe	Currier Rising Senior
Danae King	John H. Walker Scholarship
Melanie Mills	Journalism Alumni Board
Michele Wysocki	Weiss Journalism Scholarship
Chevon Anderson	Bev Murray Scholarship
Alex Alusheff	Spencer Canary Scholarship
Alex Alusheff	SMC Fund for Excellence
Hannah Hilyard	Robert F. Collins Sports Media Scholarship

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT AWARD: Recognizes those worthy students who make a difference through their commitment to the department, student organizations, professional involvement and the service ideals that are the foundations of journalism and public relations.

Eric Lagatta

Patrick Pfanner

Kelsey Rentner

Kelly Savelle



Alumni Newsletter

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