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November 2007



President's Column

I've found that in my case the hardest words to put in a column are the first two. Once I get started the rest comes easily. Got it: I'm sorry.

Why? You should have had this newsletter in your hands months ago. But months ago I was really not well, and everything cascaded from there. Yes, I am much better now but for an organization made up of journalists...of communicators, I have not done my part to communicate with you. I'm going to try and change that.

This is the "catch up" newsletter which has just about everything you need to know about chapter events in the last four months. In it you will find information about our scholarship

winners, and those new to the "Hall of Fame." There is also an FOI Report from Stephanie Reitz, our FOI Chair. But there are a number of other things that I am thrilled to tell you about. Among them:

The University of Connecticut-Storrs has a new student chapter. Student Chapter President Sarah Kopman-Fried reports she has successfully obtained funding from the student government association and has upwards of 10-15 new members.

We're in the process of putting together a program on freedom of speech on the college campus. Hard as it is to believe, there are those who believe the first

amendment should have a clause added when it comes to student newspapers and broadcast media. It would be something like, "unless your factual reporting might in some way embarrass the university or its alumni. In that case you are not allowed to write or print what you know to be true." My "in-house" working title for this panel is borrowed from Nat Hentoff who wrote, "Free Speech For Me But Not For Thee." Look for this program in early December. More to follow.

Jaime DeLoma is our newest member to the SPJ board. He is a recent graduate of Quinnipiac and works at the Stamford Advocate. Both he and board member Corey Fyke of the Day of

(Continued on page 6)

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Workshop on Interactive Journalism

by Luther Turmelle

Using professional development to help our members embrace the changes in the field of journalism has always been cornerstone of this chapter and to that end, Connecticut SPJ co-sponsored a workshop on interactive journalism with Quinnipiac University on Aug. 15, 16 and 17.

A dozen journalists – including several chapter members – participated in the workshop, which was led by Rich Hanley, director of the graduate program of Interactive Communications, and Rick Han-

cock, assistant dean at Quinnipiac's School of Communications. Hanley said that journalism organizations and journalists who don't adapt to the migration of news consumers to the Internet face a difficult future.

"The principles and practices of 'just the facts' journalism can be adapted to use online, but it needs to be done now... so that we rise above the level of a scrum of rumors being printed as facts," Hanley said.

Workshop participants learned

how to create blogs and podcasts, how to write for online audiences and proper techniques for shooting video.

Hancock said that journalists who have the necessary skills to adapt to the interactive, online environment will find themselves in demand in the job market.

"There will be more jobs available to journalists who know how to do more things," he said. "I also think you'll see journalists with these skills become more entrepreneurial."

Visit us online at:
www.CTSPJ.org

FOIA Report

by Stephanie Reitz

The Connecticut chapter's FOI work was very fruitful in 2006-07 and appears headed in the same positive direction for 2007-08.

On Sept. 27, 2006, we teamed with the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government to host a forum on the specifics of the state's new shield law for journalists. The event drew about 75 people to Quinnipiac University and offered feedback from experts, free lunch and resources for SPJ and non-SPJ members.

The chapter continued its financial support of other organizations, including \$1,000 to the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information and \$500 to the

Connecticut Foundation for Open Government.

The chapter co-sponsored the annual Connecticut Freedom of Information Day conference on April 3, 2007, in Rocky Hill. The event drew about 110 participants, and focused on helping government officials learn to comply with applicable law and work more collaboratively with the media.

Several Connecticut SPJ members sat on advisory boards and committees to push for more openness in the state's judicial branch, and Connecticut Sunshine Chair Stephanie Reitz testified in November 2006 before another advisory commission on the need for more transparency in that governmental branch.

The chapter fielded and considered unique situations posed by two individuals, James Brewer and Kenneth Krayske. After considerable deliberation, the chapter requested and received national office intervention to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest that might have been spawned by handling it in-state.

The chapter honored the Connecticut Network at its May 24, 2007, annual dinner as the 2007 winner of the Helen M. Loy Freedom of Information Award. The network, which has greatly expanded its coverage of public meetings despite budget constraints, brings government into the everyday citizen's living room through TV and online broadcasts.

CT SPJ Scholarship Awards

by Debra A. Estock

The Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded \$6,600 in scholarships to five students committed to careers in journalism at the chapter's annual awards dinner on May 24th in North Haven.

The first place winner was Sirrah Laughery, a current senior at the University of Connecticut. Laughery was selected to receive the Bob Eddy Scholarship Foundation's top award of \$2,500. The second place award of \$1,800 went to Brittany Galla, now in her senior year at Southern Connecticut; Darla Slipke, 2007 graduate of the University of Kansas received \$1,000; and Amanda Kushner, now a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia, was awarded \$800. The Pat Child Memorial Scholarship of \$500 went to Jamie Fleming, now a junior at Boston College.

Laughery, the daughter of Del and Kelly Laughery of Columbia, Conn., is a graduate of Montville High School, and is majoring in journalism and communication at UConn. She worked at the student television station—reporting the weather and doing field reporting packages. She planned to intern at NBC-30 TV this past summer, and loves reading, exercising and spending time with her family and friends.

The scholarship fund is named for Bob Eddy, the late *Hartford Courant* publisher and founding president

of Connecticut SPJ. The awards also recognize the late Richard Peck, a veteran news reporter and city editor of *The Connecticut Post*, and the late James Clark, a veteran reporter for *The Connecticut Post*, a longtime member of the Connecticut SPJ Scholarship Committee, and a former president of Connecticut SPJ. A new scholarship was recently added in honor of former WTNH-TV videographer Pat Child.

The daughter of John and Joanne Galla of Wading River, N.Y., Galla is a senior and was the news editor of the student newspaper—*The Southern News*. Majoring in journalism with a minor in English, Galla graduated from Shoreham-Wading River High School. She enjoys traveling, reading and scrapbooking, and babysits in her spare time.

Slipke, who attends the University of Kansas, where she is a senior, is the daughter of Dave and Joan Slipke of Bristol. Majoring in journalism at KU, Slipke was the campus editor of the student newspaper and she also previously worked as a copy editor and staff reporter at the *Daily Kansan*. When not in the classroom or the newsroom, she enjoys reading, writing and arts and crafts.

Kushner, the daughter of Lawrence Kushner and Audrey Pappaiardo of Avon, received the chapter's scholarship award that is

in memory of the late James Clark, a veteran reporter for *The Connecticut Post*, longtime member of the Connecticut SPJ Scholarship Committee, and a former president of Connecticut SPJ. A junior at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Kushner graduated from Avon High School and is majoring in print journalism with a minor concentration in business and classics. Fond of dance and an avid skier, she interns summers at *The Avon Post* and *The Farmington Valley Post*.

The newest award goes to Fleming, who is a junior year. The daughter of Robert and Jennifer Fleming of Oxford, Fleming graduated from Seymour High School and is majoring in Communications and International Studies at BC. She writes for the student newspaper, works at a local soup kitchen, and planned to intern at *The New Haven Register* this past summer. She enjoys writing, dance, scuba diving, photography and scrapbooking.

The winners of the Connecticut SPJ Excellence in Journalism Awards were also announced at the event. See www.ctspj.org for a full listing of the winners.

Applications for the 2008 award will be available in early January. Send an email to debae@optonline.net or destock963@aol.com.

SCSU Student Reports from the Washington DC SPJ Conference, October 4 – 7, 2007

White House Press Corps Session *by Brittany Galla*

One sentence can summarize the session, “The White House Press Corps: Lap Dogs?” Being a White House reporter is difficult.

“They don’t want to tell you necessarily anything,” said Deb Riechmann, a White House reporter for the Associated Press. “You have to maintain your sources while also being truthful to your readers. You have to be persistent, tough, and fair to be able to navigate the beat.”

The panelists there had a lot to say about their struggles with the beat. Kenneth Walsh, White House Correspondent for the U.S. News & World Report, agreed with Reichmann. “They [the White House] really never have to tell you anything; they never have to hold a public meeting, a cabinet, or anything,” he said. “The only way you get things is by knowing people, but the White House makes the rules.”

Walsh said more of the nation should understand the difficulty of their job. “I hope people understand what we’re up against and what you see at the public briefing is only half of what we do,” he said.

Susan Page, Washington Bureau Chief of USA Today and the panel moderator, said this is the

toughest White House to cover in modern times.

“Our limits are about the size of this room,” said Wendell Goler, White House correspondent for Fox News Channel. “You used to know about press conferences days in advance, so you could have meetings with your editor, go prepared with thought-out questions; now we know about press conferences an hour and a half before.”

When journalists are allowed to ask the president questions, they look for questions that can touch a nerve or are unusual, according to Page.

“But the press secretary loves to brag that she knew all the questions we asked,” said Riechmann.

The panelists agreed that they never hold off on a question and worry little about offending the president, as they’re in no business to be friends with the commander-in-chief. “We were here when you got here, and we’ll still be here when you leave,” said Reichmann.

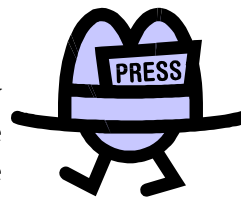
“Jailed on Job” Session *by Jennifer Duval*

Lock them up; throw away the key. According to Randall Eliason, a professor of law at American University, journalists

who protect the identities of sources against a court order, are “criminals.”

Discussion at the ‘Jailed on the Job: Do we need a national shield law session,’ became heated when Eliason went head-to-head with Eve Burton, the general counsel for the Hearst Corporation, over the issue of an FOIA shield law.

Burton, who made disgruntled faces and took copious notes during Eliason’s speeches, argued furiously for the necessity of a federal shield law to protect journalists from being jailed for withholding source identities.



“Reporters can stop going to jail tomorrow,” said Eliason, “even in a country without a shield law. All they have to do is stop breaking the law.”

The plight of journalists trying to protect their sources, according to Eliason, is “not a crisis” in America.

“That’s frankly unfair,” said Burton, who contended that there is a crisis in American journalism. This year alone the Hearst Corporation has fought every subpoena that “needed to be fought.” The Hearst Corporation alone has been subpoenaed 162 times this year.

(Continued on page 5)

(SCSU Student Reports, Continued from page 4)

Bruce Sanford, an attorney for Baker and Hostetler, also argued against Eliason. "Shield law is critical," he said. "Otherwise all of the nation's information will come from press releases, and this country would be a pretty boring place."

Eliason was adamant in his stand, however, that reporters are not jailed for doing their jobs. "If you lose, you don't have the right to deny a court order, and go to jail," he said. "The sources in the high profile cases aren't "innocent whistle-blowers,"

He told journalists to be cautious of what they report, that sources aren't what they seem. "What you will be doing," he said, "is supporting the people who are committing crimes."

First Amendment Session

by Eliza Hallabeck

Mark Goodman began his presentation with the story of an editorial in the Colorado University's student-run paper. The editorial was four words long and read, "Taser This... Fuck Bush." The university had a problem with the wording.

The reason Goodman started with this story was to make this point: Private schools do not have the same rights and limitations as public schools; however most private schools follow the same values because of taste.

"The trap a lot of college journalists fall into, is saying the First Amendment protects everything," Goodman said.

Colorado University's newspaper, The Rocky Mountain Collegian, is a state funded paper, therefore its taste guidelines and laws should be the same as any state funded college newspaper. The Southern Connecticut State News also falls under this category.

A large number of problems college newspapers are running into lately with the First Amendment is mostly with information that is disseminated online.

"You are no more protected when publishing online than you would be in print," said Goodman.

The two cases that the college newspaper of Central Connecticut State University ran into this year were brought up, and Goodman said the paper is protected for what it printed. The paper first printed an opinion about rape "only hurts when you fight it" and a cartoon involving a Latino girl being peed on in a closet. According to Goodman the decisions of the editor of the paper have the same effect as the hurtful material, and therefore become a taste issue.

"The best thing that comes from these situations" said Goodman, "is that students have a chance to learn."

According to Goodman there have

been more conflicts with the First Amendment and student journalists in the last couple years than there were in the previous 15, and that makes it important to know the laws.

Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame *by Jerry Dunklee*

The Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists is pleased to announce four new inductees into the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. Each has had a long and positive impact on journalism in Connecticut.

Robert C. Child III is a photographer for the Associated Press in Connecticut. He has taken pictures of most major news events in the state since he began his career in 1958 with the New Haven Register. Child is a Yale graduate and lives in North Haven. In his spare time he plays trumpet in the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard Band. He joined the AP in 1972 and is still on the street every day making memorable images.

Sherman London worked for more than 40 years at the Waterbury Republican-American. He was a political reporter, assistant managing editor, and, for the last 20 years of his career

(Continued on page 6)

New London now run our "Technology Task Force." Their job is to work with our web master to develop more and better material for the website.

I can sum up the last six months as follows: we have done our best to represent you well on a variety of issues ever mindful of the fact that we represent journalists in all media, the treasury is not bare, and we hope to produce programs that you will not only find interesting but be able to attend.

Speaking of which, if you have a moment please drop me a note at skalb@sbcglobal.net and let me know when it would be convenient for you to come to a program – any program. I'm trying to figure out what works best for most people. What works best for you? All other thoughts and suggestions cheerfully welcome too.

Hope to see you soon.

Steve Kalb

he was editorial director at the paper. London won many journalism awards and has been a long-time advocate of freedom of information. He retired from the Republican-American in 1989, but is still very active in community service. He has served as a Freedom of Information commissioner since 1997.

Morgan McGinley was editorial page editor at the New London Day for 26 years. He won numerous awards for his editorials including the prestigious Stephen A. Collins Freedom of Information award from Connecticut SPJ. He served as a Pulitzer Prize judge in 2004 and 2005. He served as president of the National Conference of Editorial Writers Foundation and led the New England Society of Newspaper Editors. McGinley retired from the Day in April.

Al Primo has a long and distinguished career in broadcasting in Connecticut and

nationwide. Primo was one of the original owners of the Cablevision franchise in Fairfield County and helped found News 12 Connecticut. He also owned WNVR-AM in the Naugatuck Valley and published the Village Gazette in Greenwich. He was a consultant to WTNH-TV in New Haven. Primo

created the "Eyewitness News" TV news format. He started one of the first video news websites in 1999, ForeignTV.com, and created "Teen Kid News" a weekly newscast for teenagers in 2002.

These four extraordinary journalists were inducted at the Society of Professional Journalists annual awards banquet May 24th.

The Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame was established to honor those journalists who have made significant and enduring contributions to Connecticut Journalism. It may be viewed at www.ctspj.org.



Are You an SPJ Member?

The Connecticut Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists is looking for a few good men and women. If you aren't a member of Connecticut SPJ, we invite you to join us.

We offer interesting programs, professional development, support and more. Contact Steven D. Kalb at skalb@sbcglobal.net.