

The SCJ Reporter



The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization

Founded as ΠΔΕ (1909) and ΑΦΓ (1919)

October, 2002, Volume 7, Issue 2

SUNY New Paltz, Clarion host CMDs

By Mary Beth Earnhardt
Editor

College Media Days have begun to spring up throughout SCJ student chapters. This year the SUNY New Paltz chapter held their first CMD and Clarion University held their sixth CMD. In addition, Virginia Wesleyan University has a CMD slated for April 2003.

"I'm elated to know that our challenge to student journalists is being met," said Dr. Arthur H. Barlow, SCJ Executive Director. "When the National Council voted to provide funds for our students to sponsor Media Days, we had high hopes, and we are not disappointed."

The theme of the New Paltz CMD was "Breaking into the News." The event took place on May 4, 2002 and featured a keynote address by Sydney Schanberg. Schanberg won the Pulitzer Prize for his reports from Cambodia during the Vietnam War. Schanberg was also the James H. Ottaway endowed professor at New Paltz.

Other speakers included, *SPIN* Magazine contributing editor,

Will Hermes, Pulitzer Prize winning editorial writer, Bernard Stein, and Gail Evra, who worked as a producer for CNN and NBC. Other sessions focused on public relations, photojournalism, and job tips. The day ended with a debate about "The sins of journalism." New Paltz faculty members, Howard Good, Bernard Stein, Leslie-Jean Thornton, and Shelly Wright led the debate.

The theme of the Clarion CMD was "FACE IT!" The event took place on October 18, 2002 and featured a keynote address by Editorial Cartoonist, Paul Fell. The theme, FACE IT!, focused on the role of journalism, editorials, columns, and cartoons, in helping people to face the reality of a changing world.

Other speakers included, Randy Bartley who spoke about community journalism, Hande Atay, who gave students the inside scoop on working for CNN, and Samantha Bennett who spoke about writing columns. Faculty from Clarion University and other schools from the mid-Atlantic region also held sessions. Dr. Mark Zeltner from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania spoke about the

role of the journalist in a digital world, Dr. Douglas Campbell from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania spoke about limitations on editors, Dr. Mike Downing from Mercyherst College spoke about the problems associated with the decline of dot-com businesses, and Dr. Joanne Washington presented a session on early journalists, Ida Tarbell and Ida B. Wells.

Other sessions included a discussion led by Pam Selker-Rak about applying academics to industry, a discussion about student handbooks for editors, led by Beth Slusser, and a roundtable of college editors and staff, moderated by Amy Thompson, Editor of *The Clarion Call*.

The day ended with a panel discussion featuring returning Clarion graduates. The graduates provided information about internships and the communication industry.

Clarion University was the first SCJ chapter to hold a College Media Day. The first one,

Continued on page 4

Legal Briefs

Two universities hit by newspaper thieves

Unpopular coverage could be reason behind thefts

One college newspaper's coverage of a brutal murder and another student magazine's conservative slant could be the motives behind why nearly 3,000 copies at the two campuses were stolen during a two-day period in early October. The two cases mark the first reported incidents of newspaper thefts for the fall 2002 semester.

A thousand copies of **Marquette University's** student publication, *The Marquette Tribune*, were stolen Oct. 3, the day before hundreds of parents were expected to travel to campus for Parents Weekend. Staff members noticed the distribution bins had been emptied in the student union after the paper received complaints about the issue's front page article of a murder just two miles from campus.

After *Tribune* staff members refilled the bins, copies soon began disappearing again from the racks.

This is not the first time newspapers have disappeared on campus, said Libby Fry, managing editor of *The Marquette Tribune*. Whenever parents or prospective students are due for a campus visit, the newspapers have a habit of disappearing, she said.

Hours after the bins were initially emptied, a student union employee was seen confiscating newspapers from the bins, Fry said. A *Tribune* staff reporter approached the employee demanding an explanation for removing the newspapers.

Fry said that the employee claimed that managers ordered their employees to remove all copies because of the newspaper's coverage of the murder might upset parents who were visiting the campus for the weekend.

After a local reporter came to the campus investigating the newspaper theft, copies began reappearing in distribution bins and union managers apologized for the actions of its workers, Fry said.

"The administrators who oversees those areas where it happened has called and apologized," Fry said. Although *Tribune* editors received apologies, no preventative action by administrators has been taken, she said.

In a letter to the editor, Marquette's journalism department faculty denounced all attempts by university employees to censor the campus newspaper by stealing newspapers.

Another college's student publication 900 miles away experienced thefts during the same two-day period, but the perpetrators have gone undetected.

State University of New York at Albany's new independent publication, *The College Standard Magazine*, lost 1,000 copies of the magazine's 4,000-copy press run on Oct. 3. Another 750 copies were stolen the next day.

University police are investigating the incidents but have not reported any suspects. Scott Barea, publisher, speculated the thefts could have been executed by any number of students or student organizations that oppose *The College Standard Magazine's* conservative stance on political issues, including its criticism of the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Although the police are investigating the thefts as a crime, police officials are having a hard time trying to establish what type of crime was committed, said Carl Luntta, SUNY-Albany public relations spokesman.

"One of the difficulties of ascertaining what type of criminal act has been committed is that the copies are free," said Luntta. "They were stolen in a public place."

Four hundred copies were returned to the distribution bins after the initial thefts.

Barea estimates the publication lost around \$500 in advertising and printing costs.

Last school year, 26 campus publications reported thefts to the Student Press Law Center.

This story is re-printed with the permission of the Student Press Law Center. Go to www.splc.org for an electronic version of this story and other stories of interest to student journalist.

Former President recognized for support of First Amendment

Lawbaugh receives Pulliam Award

Dr. William Lawbaugh, newspaper and yearbook adviser at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD, has been named the inaugural winner of the Eugene S. Pulliam First Amendment Award presented by the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation.

Lawbaugh was recognized for his defense of student press freedoms at the annual convention of the Society of Professional Journalists which took place from Sept. 12-14 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was presented a check for \$10,000 and a special sculpture during the presidential banquet.

The longtime media adviser was selected from among more than 20 nominations for the award. The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation established the annual award to honor the First Amendment legacy of the late Eugene S. Pulliam. Mr. Pulliam was publisher of *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* until his death in 1999 and was well-known for his commitment to First Amendment rights and values.

"Doc" Lawbaugh, as he is known to his students and colleagues, was nominated for the award by members of the Mountain Echo Editors Group, comprised of Mount St. Mary's College graduates and former editors of the college newspaper, *The Mountain Echo*. Lawbaugh served as adviser to *The Echo*, an award-winning newspaper that has published for 120 years, and the college yearbook, *Pridwin*.



SCJ Past President,
William Lawbaugh.

"Bill Lawbaugh embodies the character and courage this award was created to recognize," said Paul McMasters, president of the SDX Foundation and First Amendment Ombudsman at the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center. "As a member of the faculty at a private college, Doc Lawbaugh and his students do not have the same First Amendment protections as those on a public university campus. Nevertheless, he fought to protect his students' press rights at a great personal and professional cost to himself."

"We feel that Dr. Lawbaugh, truly, is a hero without a shield or sword, and personifies the true spirit of the Pulliam Award," the group wrote in its nomination letter.

Two years ago, when Lawbaugh was ordered by college administrators to submit the student jour-

nalists articles to prior review and other restrictions, he refused to intervene, saying that "Students aspiring to careers in journalism need to understand and respect First Amendment freedom and its intended responsibilities." As a result, the tenured communications professor was denied a salary increase, was threatened with removal as adviser to both the newspaper and the yearbook and endured public criticism from college officials. The newspaper's funding was also cut.

Despite protests from the Student Press Law Center, College Media Advisers, Inc., and other organizations – as well as coverage by *The Washington Post*, *The Fredrick (Md.) News-Post* and *The Associated Press* – the administration continued to pressure the media adviser.

Before joining the faculty at Mount St. Mary's College, Lawbaugh had served as a journalism professor and student publications adviser at Ball State College, Catholic University, University of Maryland, and George Washington University. He also is active in the Society for Collegiate Journalists (serving as a two-term president), Maryland Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of College Press Advisers, College Press Review, College Media Advisers Awards Committee and as a judge for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Story courtesy of SPJ.

National Council

President

Dr. William Ruehlmann
1584 Wesleyan Drive
Virginia Wesleyan College
Norfolk/Va Beach, VA 23502-5599
(757)455-3419 FAX (804)461-1640
E-mail: wjruehlmann@vwc.edu

Past President

Dr. William Lawbaugh
The Writing Center
Mount St. Mary's College
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7799
(301)447-5862 FAX (301)447-5755
E-mail: lawbaugh@msmary.edu

First Vice President National Contest Director

Mary Jennings
University of North Alabama
Box 5027
Florence, AL 35632
(256)765-4426 FAX (256)765-4275
E-mail: Mjennings@unanov.una.edu

Second Vice President

Shirley Shedd
Communication Department
1111 N. Glenstone
Evangel College
Springfield, MO 65802
(417)865-2811
E-mail: sashedd@aol.com

Third Vice President

Brian Steffen
701 North C
Simpson College
Indianola, IA 50125

Executive Director

Arthur H. Barlow
Becker Hall
Clarion University
Clarion, PA 16214
(814)393-2515 FAX (814)393-2186
E-mail: Barlow@clarion.edu

Chapter Representatives

Dr. Joe Mirano
SLU 10428
Hammond, LA 70402
(504)549-3374
E-mail: rhi@thunder-rain.com

Dr. Bill Withers
Department of Communication Arts
Wartburg College
Waverly, IA 50677
(319)352-8289

Dr. Terry Dalton
Western Maryland College
2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157
(410)848-7000 FAX (410)386-4601
E-mail: tdalton@wmde.edu

Dr. Sheridan Barker
Carson-Newman College
Box 1869
Jefferson City, TN 37760
(423)581-7731



Notes from the Executive Director

Happy Halloween—enough out there to keep us all scared, eh?

In other business, the National Council meets next week at CMA in Orlando, Florida. I will be reporting our actions in the November *Reporter*.

In the meantime you can be assembling contest materials. Note the deadline is December 15, 2002.

This is also an excellent time for you to review your chapter's rules for your Society for Collegiate Journalists nominating process.

And Remember... December and April are the most productive months for initiation ceremonies and banquets.

BOO!

CMD

Continued from page 1

held in 1997, focused on legal issues student journalists face. Since then Clarion's CMD has featured themes, such as legal issues in student media, and the challenges to becoming an excellent publication.

"We're proud that our College Media Day has provided a model for other schools," said Thompson. "College Media Day provides students with an opportunity to learn, but more importantly an opportunity to share valuable experience."

Other SCJ chapters who have held a College Media Day, include, Youngstown State University and Mount St. Mary's College. The SCJ National Office provides \$250 dollars for chapters that wish to plan a College Media Day for their campus. "It's a great deal for everyone," said Barlow. "The National Office gets to help the Chapters; former members get to come home and share their experiences with the next generation, and the current students benefit from the efforts of both."

Chapter Notes

Congratulations to our new members at:

*Murray State University, KY—
4 new members;*

*Virginia Wesleyan College, VA—
13 new members;*

*Slippery Rock University, PA—
2 new members*

*Caldwell College, NJ—
1 new member*



Congratulations to our Certificate of Merit recipients:

Heather Meyer and Adam Nettleton (Clarke College)

And our Medal of Merit recipient:

Tiffany Kraemer (Clarke College)

The SCJ Reporter
The SCJ newsletter is published once a month during the fall and spring semesters in accordance with the Clarion University of Pennsylvania academic calendar. It is created on a Tangent computer using Microsoft Publisher 2000.

Editor...Mary Beth Earnhardt

Please send submissions to
Dr. Arthur Barlow
Becker Hall
Clarion University
Clarion, PA 16214

E-mail: Barlow@clarion.edu

