



WCCO Hosts Intern Night

By Nina Petersen-Perlman

SPJ's annual Intern night was held at WCCO and allowed students an inside view of a journalistic careers. This night also gave students a tour of newsrooms and access to news personalities.

A panel of seasoned WCCO veterans including Don Shelby, Jason DeRusha and Frank Vascellaro spoke to a group of about 75 aspiring journalists from Augsburg, St. Thomas, Gustavus and the University of Minnesota, among other schools.

The panelists cracked jokes about their first jobs and starting out in the field before turning to a serious discussion of the importance of a journalist's integrity.

Several of the panelists recommended working at a smaller stations before aspiring for larger markets. This allows a broadcaster to stretch their abilities and have more opportunities for learning, because smaller stations give those starting out more opportunities for growth.

The conversation then turned to the world of print, publishing and radio broadcasting.

A panel of recruiters from local media outlets were on hand to talk about this career field. Speakers came from the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, MPR, Ameri-

can Radioworks and The Business Journal.

They spoke about getting internships in these fields and what they look for in their interns.

The panel also answered questions from audience members regarding this field and getting an internship with these publications.

Each emphasized the importance of internships in making students stronger job candidates.

The evening ended with a tour of WCCO studios.



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SPJ AND SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS REPORTERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

By Tricia Woellert

SPJ welcomed Star Tribune sports reporter Rachel Blount, Star Tribune sports editor Glen Cavier and Minnesota Daily sports editor CJ Spang for their first official meeting of the year on Monday September 18.

The group of reporters covered the rarely talked about angle of sports reporting and the panel answered questions on how they tackle reporting in the wide world of sports.

Cavier encouraged those interested in sports reporting to look further and deeper into sports stories and to explore the many angles of the beat.

Cavier told the students to "take the helmet off" to find more enterprising stories that analyze the game. "Spin the news ahead, not behind," he said.

Blount has found great variety in her writing within sports and said reporting doesn't require that one knows specific stats. She also emphasized not to get intimidated by the world of sports.

"Don't think if you don't know the winner of the 1942 World Series you're closed off to the profession," she said. She also touched on the difficulties of working

MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL
THE MINNESOTA DAILY

in a traditionally male dominated part of the profession and discussed difficulties she's encountered as a woman sports reporter. Because of this she has come into some difficulties and disadvantages in the

profession, like not being allowed in locker rooms.

Coming from the Daily, Spang has had a slightly different experience as he is not at a large metropolitan newspaper. He has had to work with smaller budgets and has had less time to work on innovative or in-depth stories. He has run into problems with coaches assuming he's there to promote their team. Spang has to try to stay objective while also being a Gopher fan and attending games.

Through this meeting, students got a taste of the professional sports reporting.

Those with a basic understanding of sports and know some of the details of the games were encouraged to look into sports reporting, especially because it is able to be explored through either print or broadcast.

Plus, you can get access to some pretty good games in this field (no pun intended).

StarTribune.com

Minneapolis - St Paul, Minnesota



FROM CAMPAIGNS TO WAR

NEWSWEEK REPORTER VISITS SPJ PRO CHAPTER

The SPJ Minnesota Pro Chapter is hosting an event that brings a nationally known reporter to St. Paul to talk to SPJ.

Trent Gegax is on hand at this event to talk about real life reporting. Gegax has covered campaigns, such as the Bush and Kerry race, as well as the war in Iraq.

Journalists from across the Twin Cities will be at the event to hear from Gegax, and you are invited as well!

Gegax will tell his story covering these exciting events.

He covers politics, military affairs and breaking news from his home base in New York City.

Gegax began his journalism career as a freelance writer based in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts in 1992.

Prior to working at Newsweek he interned at City Pages as well.

Beginning his Newsweek career as an intern in 1994, he moved to Web editor from 1995-1996, and quickly became an assistant editor. Gegax worked in Newsweek's Boston bureau in 1998 after being assistant editor in the Atlanta bureau.

In these bureaus he covered both pop culture and news.

During the two months he spent in Iraq in 2003 he was a correspondent for the war. Before this he had spent 15 months covering George W. Bush's 2000 campaign and in this coverage he contributed to the 2000 presidential campaign. This was a 60-page report giving in depth coverage to the campaign. Gegax was given access to follow Bush into the White House, where he spent a year reporting before returning to New York.

So come here Gegax talk about his life experiences as well as hear the new exciting programming SPJ has planned this year.



Who: Trent Gegax, Newsweek Reporter

When: October 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Sweeney's Saloon
96 Dale St. N., St. Paul

Cost: FREE, but donations accepted
RSVP is required though.
Contact minnesota.spj@gmail.com to register BY OCTOBER 18!

The Pro Chapter will also provide food for those in attendance.

UPCOMING MEETINGS!

We have the fall semester almost entirely planned! So get out your calendar and mark these dates down so you're sure to make it to our meetings, or just put this page right in your planner! We hope to see you there.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30:

Blogging and Elections

Tim Nelson, blogger/reporter from the Pioneer Press

Bob Collins, blogger/reporter for MPR

Steven Clift, from E-Democracy

Nora Paul (moderator), new media professor

See how the online community affects the media and public opinion during elections.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13:

The Cohen Case

Dan Cohen

Dave Nimmer, former WCCO Reporter

Chris Ison, Star Tribune editor and SJMC professor

Jane Kirtley (moderator), media law professor

This meeting will provide insight into a Federal Reporters' Shield Law.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29:

12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Join SPJ for this exciting chance to speak to Judge Distaso, the judge in the Scott Peterson case.

This case was filled with media sensation and intrigue. This is a great chance to hear from someone who was on the inside of the case.

Look for further announcements regarding details of the lunch.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11:

This meeting is to be determined, but it will most likely be an end of the year pizza party to celebrate all that we have learned through SPJ this year!

**ALL MEETINGS ARE IN MURPHY 100
AND ARE FROM 3:15 P.M. TO 4:15 P.M.**

***Unless otherwise noted**

ENJOY YOUR WORDS

SPJ Proudly Co-sponsors National Freedom of Speech Week

October 16-22 marks National Freedom of Speech week, which SPJ is co-sponsoring.

This week celebrates our rights for free speech. National Freedom of Speech Weeks helps ensure that free speech remains "The Language of America," their Web site explains.

NFSW urges civic and community groups to celebrate the week by getting the word out about our freedom of speech. "Virtually any membership organization can take part in some way," the organization says.

The week is intended to be a unifying celebration of free speech and to bring people together regardless of politics or ideology. The goal is to raise public awareness of First Amendment rights, rather than advance a political or policy agenda.

This is the second annual celebration. NFSW is celebrated during the third week in October and was created by the Media Institute, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. NFSW was launched in partnership with the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation.

The week is sponsored by more than 20 groups, including SPJ. Other sponsors include such organizations as the National Press Photographers Association and the Radio-Television News Directors Association.

For more information, visit their Web site at freespeechweek.org.

NATIONAL FREEDOM OF SPEECH W E E K

How can you participate in the National Freedom of Speech Week?

Their Web site offers these tips:

1. Raise free speech awareness by telling your friends.
2. Exercise your free speech rights. Do this by posting a message online, composing a poem, displaying a bumper sticker, keeping a journal, writing a letter to the editor, speaking out at a rally, whatever you can do to express yourself and let your voice be heard!
3. Get others involved by telling them about NFSW and thinking of how you can celebrate the week!

MEDIA IN THE NEWS

Gail Collins, the first woman to run the editorial page of The New York Times, is stepping down Jan. 1 and will be succeeded by Andrew Rosenthal, the deputy editor of the page. Collins, 60, is taking a leave of absence from the paper to write a book and is to return in July as a columnist on The Times's Op-Ed page.

-Katharine Q. Seelye, The New York Times

Independent Television News reporter Terry Lloyd was unlawfully killed when he came under fire from American troops in Iraq, a coroner ruled. Andrew Walker, the assistant deputy coroner of Oxfordshire, said he would take steps to see if the soldiers responsible could be brought to justice. Walker said he was recording a verdict of unlawful killing because Lloyd had been fatally wounded when he was being rescued by a civilian minibus in full view of American tanks.

-Christ Tryhorn, MediaGuardian.co.uk

An average of 36 seconds per broadcast is all that election coverage has warranted on local evening news in nine top Midwestern markets since Labor Day, a study released Thursday found. The five-state analysis by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's NewsLab looked at 30-minute evening news broadcasts on 36 stations. The study also found that TV stations do almost three times as many stories on campaign strategy as on substantive issues. Just 23 percent of the station's election stories were devoted to issues.

-Scott Bauer, AP

If you're wondering what SPJ is about, here's some information from the National Chapter, based out of the Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Visit their Web site, spj.org, for additional information.

The Society of Professional Journalists is the nation's most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior. Founded in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, SPJ promotes the free flow of information vital to a well-informed citizenry through the daily work of its nearly 10,000 members; works to inspire and educate current and future journalists through professional development; and protects First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and press through its advocacy efforts

**TO JOIN SPJ VISIT SPJ.ORG OR
PICK UP A FORM AT OUR MEET-
INGS AND MAIL IT IN TO SPJ
HEADQUARTERS.**

Come to SPJ's next meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30!

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. in Murphy 100

We invite all to attend this meeting on sports reporting! Please visit our Web site umnspj.org for more information on this and upcoming meetings.

Contact umn.spj@gmail.com with questions.

