It has been a long time since I talked to you through The Scoop. I have to tell you, there are a lot of things we have been doing in the journalism department at New Mexico State University since the last time I talked to you.

The 2012-2013 academic year was a landmark year for this department. We received more than $100,000 in funding for the new Multimedia Center, or what I call the MMC. I wish we had that much every year. The money will go towards building renovations, purchasing equipment, such as cameras, computers and software.

What you see in this magazine is a blueprint for the MMC. The room will have two large windows on each side so people can see what’s inside. It’s what’s inside that counts. It will highlight what the department really does for its students. I guarantee that the MMC will be a beautiful center for future journalists.

In this center, in addition to a new computer lab, students will have a TV studio where they can broadcast through podcast. The MMC will also have a sound booth and a photography studio. Students will continue to develop their skills in writing, video production, editing and publishing online.

I can tell you that this is a dream come true to the department. You may ask if this is the future of journalism? From my experience, I will tell you that it is a reality and that as the world of journalism changes, so must we.

All the faculty in the department agree that we are obligated to create a competitive program that prepares students for the real world. We know that future journalists will enjoy what we have to offer.

With all that said, I hope that you will continue to support the journalism department through donations so that we are able to grow with the world around us. This is an opportunity for you all to play an active role in helping students gain all that they can from the journalism department.

I would also like to invite you to the opening ceremony of the new MMC in August. We will be sending you an invitation soon, so please join us for this important event.

Thank you all for your support and I hope to see you all soon.

Dr. Hwiman Chung
Department Head
Journalism and Mass Communications

Photo by Daisy Hernandez
With a watchful eye on today’s economy, the stresses of nailing a job after graduation can be daunting to the average journalism student, and that concern is well known to all alumni of the department.

At New Mexico State University, for decades the Journalism and Mass Communications Department has been providing students with the tools and skills they need to build themselves up for success.

“Eighty-five percent of the students who have earned paid media internships while undergraduates in our JMC program find media employment within one month of graduation. Many of those 85 percent already have a media job awaiting them when they walk across the stage on NMSU Commencement Day. (With) no paid media internship, no unpaid media internship, (there is) no job in the media upon graduation from NMSU in journalism,” said Sean McCleneghan in a spring interview.

Three graduates fairly new to the work environment expressed the importance of networking, internships and building relationships with their professors.

Jayna Nance, a 2011 graduate of NMSU, now works as the event marketing representative for ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. She expressed the importance of networking while still in college. “I owe where I am today because of my involvement in student organizations at NMSU,” Jayna said. Jayna was involved in a variety of student organizations through which she began “Up ‘til Dawn”, an event used to raise funds and awareness for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Her advice to journalism students pursuing their dreams is to “Take an internship in a field you are interested in, make a good impression, work hard, and get your foot in the door.” She said that networking was the biggest tool as an undergrad.

One of the scary actualizations of leaving college is the competition that young people face. Dec. 2009 graduate Jessica Ray, a public relations and secondary markets territory sales manager, said, while she was in college, building and maintaining relationships with her professors helped keep her ahead of the rest. “It can be hard finding a way to set yourself apart from the rest,” she said. “I cannot stress how important it is to get off campus and test your skills in a real work setting as much as possible. Many employers won’t even consider your resume if you do not have previous experience and a portfolio of your work,” Jessica said. The importance of taking advantage of the opportunities offered in college is crucial. By simply asking questions and being advised, students can gain a wealth of knowledge of potential internships and experiences that are offered to them.

Graduating with a journalism degree may not even lead down the writing, broadcasting or public relations path. Ashley Salazar, a 2009 graduate of NMSU, works as a configuration analyst for Northrop Grumman Technical Services. Ashley said that a journalism degree can prepare students for careers that require communication and technical skills, which are useful in any field. “Even though my job is not in the journalism field, my degree has helped me greatly,” Ashley said. As an undergrad she interned with her hometown newspaper following the internship that landed her current position with White Sands Missile Range. Her advice to students is, “Internships, internships, internships!”

With job competition, a slump in the economy and experience making students uneasy, it is refreshing to know that there are still many areas for opportunity on the NMSU campus and in the region. The success of hundreds of j-grads from the program who work in every state of the union, and at least 20 different countries, is proof that the department’s formula works every time it’s tried.
The New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee and the Higher Education Department are projecting the Legislative Lottery Scholarship program will run out of money by fiscal year 2014 barring significant changes.

The N.M. Lottery Scholarship is funded by revenues generated by lottery ticket sales. Currently the scholarship pays 100 percent of tuition to any public New Mexico college or university for eight consecutive semesters for students who graduated from a New Mexico high school or obtain a N.M. GED. Students must enroll full time directly after high school and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA.

More than 82,600 New Mexico students have attended public colleges, universities, and technical colleges in the state with the assistance of the Lottery Scholarship since 1996 when the program began. In 2011 the HED reported over $383,410,954 had been awarded in scholarships since the programs conception.

For several years scholarship expenses have steadily increased as tuition at N.M. schools has risen and the number of lottery scholarship recipients has grown, as revenues from lottery ticket sales have steadily decreased. New Mexico Lottery Authority spokeswoman Linda Hamlin said New Mexico lottery sales have been down since reaching a record high of $150.6 million in 2006. She said scratcher ticket sales, which account for about 60 percent of total lottery sales, has dropped about $16 million since 2007.

New Mexico House of Representatives passed House Bill 309 on March with 43 yeas to 17 nays making changes to the Legislative Lottery Scholarship program. HB 309 will now go to the Senate and if passed goes to the Governor and if approved goes into effect.

The most significant changes beginning fall 2014 are in the reduction of support for tuition from 100 percent in favor of a tuition assistance program. Some of the changes include a maximum of $1,200 per semester to attend University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University or New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and $700 to attend Eastern and Western New Mexi-
Alumni Spotlight

Carrie Hamblen

By Genifer Eskue

The Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce supports local businesses and encourages tourists to visit and support the venues of its members. The local economy is important because it retains and cycles its profits back into the community rather than large chain industries and “big box” stores whose profits go to corporate headquarters. Through her experience and hard work, a New Mexico State University alumna has taken the helm of the Chamber to maintain this business practice for the people of Las Cruces.

Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carrie Hamblen earned her master’s in communication studies at New Mexico State University in 1995, after finishing her bachelor’s in broadcasting at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is currently working on a second master’s in public administration from the government department at NMSU, she plans to graduate in 2014.

Hamblen said her greatest accomplishment since graduating with her master’s in communication studies is, “being able to influence positive change in this community.” Her biggest obstacle has been “learning to say ‘no’,” because there is not enough time in the day for everything she would like to do.

Hamblen was well known on the NMSU campus and to alumni as the operations manager of KRWG-FM from 1995 to April 2012, where she also hosted a half-hour Saturday show. She is also the chair of Southern New Mexico Gay Pride Committee and the president of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Since becoming the president of PFLAG, Hamblen has organized the Susan B. Brown scholarship for NMSU students. This scholarship is given to one member and one ally of the LGBT community each year.

In her current position, Hamblen also organizes events for fundraising through PFLAG and gives local businesses ideas and helps increase commercial traffic through monthly speaking events.

The Green Chamber also recognizes businesses that go “above and beyond the standard recycling,” through their yearly recycling recognition. Hamblen said she would eventually like to run for state representative and that a master’s in public administration validates her experiences and adds a title to what she has accomplished already in a long career connected to NMSU and to the journalism department.

Dan Trujillo

By Genifer Eskue

Not all New Mexico State University journalism graduates find themselves in traditional journalistic news or broadcast studios when entering their careers.

New Mexico State University alumus Dan Trujillo has found his niche as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Las Cruces Police and Fire Department for the last six years.

Trujillo was instrumental in getting a general obligation bond passed in the year that he worked for Doña Ana County as a PIO Officer before being hired by the city of Las Cruces in 2007.

Trujillo’s job includes writing news releases, safety tips for upcoming events/holidays, and he passes along helpful information to other Las Cruces departments. “I get to see a lot of things -things most people normally don’t get to see,” said Trujillo. He is also in charge of maintaining the Las Cruces Police Department’s website and for disseminating crime statistics for the city. Trujillo worked his way through NMSU by taking morning classes and working for KRWG-FM in the afternoons and evenings. While at NMSU, he was involved with a major AdFed advertising campaign that covered radio, T.V. and print in the years when NMSU participated in the annual regional competitions remembered by many alumni.Starting college at Eastern New Mexico University for one year, Trujillo then took a break from college, and began a job at a radio station in Truth or Consequences. He then came to NMSU where he graduated as a journalism major in 1992.

Trujillo said that one of the biggest obstacles to his job is just being in Las Cruces. He explains that, even though Las Cruces is the second largest city in New Mexico, it is still part of El Paso’s TV market. This market dominance makes it difficult for LCPD to keep a regular flow of media stories through the Albuquerque market, which is important in maintaining the New Mexico connection. Though he graduated as a broadcast journalism major, he has found use for print, broadcast, advertising, and public relations skills in a job that is never dull and never quiet.
As most alumni recall, The Round Up has seen its bright days and some dark ones too in the last 100 years.

Currently, the student-run newspaper is operating without any money from student fees or Associated Students of New Mexico State University control. The newspaper functions off the money generated from advertisements, with advertising determining the size of the news hole, just as with other community newspaper—the more ads, the more content.

In Dec. 2012, TRU proposed a complete separation from Associated Students of New Mexico State University and asked for a $6–$7 student fee to enable the newspaper and radio station become true independent media outlets of the university.

After three attempts to get a student fee approved for a student media fee at the Student Fee Review Board meeting, the board passed the proposal in April.

The fee would be the only way TRU could function completely separate from ASNMSU in any sense, which is important because, according to TRU management, relationships between the two organizations need to be mended.

Initially the editorial staff could be described as “frightened,” and almost taken aback by the words “student fee,” because every year the students of TRU launches editorial campaigns against increases in tuition. Some say they cannot bear to think the fee paid by students every semester would be increased because of TRU.

At the Student Fee Review Board, TRU asked for a redistribution of the fee; however, those on the board said they did not feel as though taking money from other organizations that make “millions of dollars” was fair.

If TRU were to receive fee funding in addition to the revenue from advertising, the staff projects that the flow of news to NMSU students would vastly improve. There are contingent plans for a monthly magazine, an updated website, more prize giveaways and updated equipment, which would not only increase readership but awareness about what is going on at the university.

In the 2012-2013 year, the major vehicle is the TRU Daily website, with a single Thursday print edition distributed throughout campus each week.

The campus is meant to be a place for learning and growing. With the help and support of the Senate, SFRB and the Board of Regents, student media can be a greater outlet for enrolled and future students to understand how much effort is required for a publication of any kind, to which generations of Round Up staffers can attest.

This writer is about to embark on her final year and she is a 2-year staff member of TRU who has worked her way to the highest editorial position. The writer’s wish after she graduates, is that TRU remains a place where students can learn firsthand what it takes to be a journalist through meeting crucial deadlines, expanding their portfolios and making some great professional connections along the way as they learn the trade. The Round Up office has not only become like a second home to decades of journalism students, but its product has done much to shape the careers of hundreds of staffers, with over a century of service. TRU is an essential part of campus and has been enriched by its partnership with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Frank Thayer, The Scoop faculty adviser, said, “It is almost impossible to imagine NMSU without The Round Up.” Thayer said that he is just one of hundreds of alumni whose experience with the campus newspaper has been essential to future success.
The most important element to the layout design of a daily newspaper is always the cover art. Photographs, in color or black and white, instantaneously catch a reader’s eye. As a result, the content within an image has the power to make or break the story that it accompanies. Alums who have studied the art of photojournalism know that a beautifully crafted photograph has no meaning if photo credit is not given. Underneath every image on a newspaper, aligned to the right, the name of the photographer is almost always given. Those who read a local newspaper become familiar with the photographers work and names. After graduating from New Mexico State University, two alumna have gained notoriety and respect from the city of Las Cruces for their work with the Las Cruces Sun-News as award-winning photographers.

Shari V. Hill and Robin Zielinski studied photojournalism at NMSU right before the photographic world was taken over by cell phone cameras and Instagram. Nevertheless, they still manage to show their abilities as photographers by adhering to the principles they learned from the journalism department. According to Hill and Zielinski, the newspaper will never go away, especially in a town like Las Cruces because there are a lot of stories to be told. “We are well-known in the community,” said Hill. “It’s nice knowing that people cut out our photos from the paper and put them on their refrigerators.”

The Las Cruces Sun-News is the main media source for southern New Mexico, and as a result, Hill and Zielinski’s photographs are often times wired to the Associated Press, the Denver Post and the Wall Street Journal. In 2012, Hill won a New Mexico Press Association second-place award for her picture of the “Toilet Bowl,” the annual flag football game pitting NMSU Army versus Air Force ROTC detachments. In 2010, Zielinski won a NMPA first-place award for Feature Photo. Aside from their award winning days, both photojournalists said that everyday is different when working for a daily newspaper. They bounce ideas off each other when it comes to covering a story. “We are on the front lines,” when covering breaking news and human interest stories, Zielinski said.

Both photojournalists said that it is important to have a relationship with the editors and writers. Equally important is a relationship with the community that keeps the news industry alive. “Photojournalism is a passion,” said Zielinski. “Wanting to go into the field of photojournalism, you need to love it.” In the fall of 2013, Zielinski will teach introduction to Adobe Photoshop and fundamentals of digital photography at Doña Ana Community College. She said because of what she learned at NMSU, her end game now is to teach. Hill and Zielinski encourage future photojournalists to work their technical skills and learn from experience. “Shoot a lot --set a plan and do it respectfully,” said Zielinski.

“It’s better to ask for forgiveness before permission,” said Hill when asked how she balances being a human and a photographer. Her advice is to get the shot before getting permission or presenting a model release.

Hill and Zielinski can be found covering almost every event in Las Cruces. They are also true to Crimson pride and can be found with their families in the crowd cheering at Aggie athletic events.

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Alumni basketball fans who are keeping score, can rattle off the 20 times since 1952 that the Aggies have gone to the Dance during March Madness, making it to the Final Four once (1970), and the 2012-2013 season found the team invited to the NCAA Tournament, but came back home after losing in the first round.

The Aggie men’s basketball regular season shows why the team again deserved a tournament berth with a key win over rival Western Athletic Conference leader Texas-Arlington, revealing how competitive the team had been all season.

The Aggies 11 game win streak proved how dominant they could be with assistance from key bench players and the persistence to end the season with two home wins.

“We had a few bumps and obstacles along the way and sometimes those things can be good for you,” said head coach Marvin Menzies. “Whoever has the staying power is the team that ends up winning the tournament.”

In the highly anticipated battle of the I-10 against University of Texas at El Paso, the Aggies crushed the Miners with 55-51 victory; giving them the momentum they needed to finish out the regular season at home.

The Aggies headed into the WAC tournament with a 21-10 overall record and 14-4 conference record. They also held an unblemished home record in conference matchups of 9-0. The first opponent the Aggies faced were the slumping Idaho Vandals in the WAC tournament who struggled all season at home and on the road.

Senior forward Bandja Sy, of Cergy, France, had a stellar season to finish his collegiate career as he assisted the Aggies to a 12-game win streak. Sy averaged 15.7 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. He led the team with these averages against WAC opponents. “I would love to enter the NBA,” said Sy when asked about his plans after graduation.

With a productive season and being awarded player of the week for Jan.28-Feb.3, and the dominant performance the Aggies displayed in the WAC tournament, Sy’s dream could be achieved.

In addition to Sy’s productive senior year, center player Sim Bhullar, the 7’5” freshman from Toronto, Ontario, also proved to be a key addition to the roster. He led the team with 64 blocked shots during the season which made him the single season shot block holder. Bhullar also had several games in which he scored in double digits. He was also awarded MVP of the WAC tournament.

Despite being knocked out in the first round for the second time in two NCAA match ups, the Aggies regular season this year leaves much to look forward to in the 2013-2014 season. With a few key players graduating from NMSU, coach Menzies guarantees that there is a good group coming back.

“It’s an emotional time sending the guys (seniors) on to the next chapter of their lives, but it is an exciting time going into next season,” Menzies said.
Three days out of the week students at New Mexico State University produce and broadcast a live news-cast for southern New Mexico and west Texas. Since its start more than 20 years ago, KRWG News22 has won numerous awards and has traditionally included a Spanish segment, “Noticias22.”

Both segments have gone through numerous changes over the years and have paved the way for many students to succeed in broadcast. One former student is now using his experience to help student reporters achieve their dreams.

Alumnus and former Univision anchor Pedro Villagrana has returned to NMSU to help and share his experience with journalism students at KRWG-TV. Villagrana began his broadcast studies at KRWG in 1975 where he was an anchor for the program begun by Harvey Jacobs.

“I feel great being able to assist Nick Miller and the students in producing the newscasts,” he said. “One of my greatest joys I have experienced is helping and sharing my 30 years of experience with the students.”

Villagrana, a native of Torreon, Mexico, grew up in Juarez. Before attending NMSU he worked at KOBE radio as a disc jockey. It was not until April 1984 that he began to work for the Univision affiliate in El Paso, Texas when the network first started.

“The news director at the time told me that I was the highest qualified for the job because of my experience in television and degree from NMSU,” he said.

At Univision Villagrana worked as a field reporter, anchor, assignment editor and news director. When he was anchoring, Villagrana worked with Estela Casas, who is now the head anchor for the ABC El Paso affiliate. Villagrana has also won numerous awards in broadcasting.

Now that Villagrana has returned to NMSU he plans to expand Noticias22 in hopes that it can expand to a 30-minute live news segment patterned after the standard News22 format.

“The Spanish news segment is also important because a high percentage of the population of the region is Hispanic,” Villagrana said. “Translating news into Spanish is an art and it takes a strong background in broadcast writing style and a deep knowledge of both cultures, English and Spanish.”

Aside from aiding News22 Villagrana will begin teaching classes in the fall at NMSU.

“What is important to me is where I grew up. I grew up in a border town,” he said. “This is where I belong. My goal is to share all that I know to students so they can become even better than me.”
If the walls could talk at Milton Hall, they would tell you stories about how two of our professors, Frank Thayer and Pamela Porter once roamed the halls as students, or how it once served as NMSU’s original student union before housing the Creative Media Institute and Journalism program; the roof however, could tell the story of Nancy Howell, the administrative assistant in the journalism office, who was one of the first females to work in the construction industry. She actually worked on Milton Hall as well as inside it.

Many current students know Nancy as the “go to” person for taking off holds or adding/dropping classes, and some may have even noticed her large Mickey Mouse collection, but there is a larger story about the friendly face behind the desk. Alumni who contact the department also depend on her to check their records and to connect them to their former professors.

Most may not know that before she had long nails and blond hair, Nancy used to ride a motorcycle and work atop buildings installing roof units, air conditioning and heating units.

Nancy was born and raised in Tacoma, Wash., and at 18 she married her high school sweetheart. After he joined the Air Force they left Washington behind and moved to Mountain Home, Idaho for six months, but their last stop was Alamogordo. When her high school sweetheart was out of the Air Force, he wanted to go back home to Washington but Nancy wanted to stay in New Mexico. “I liked the weather here” said Nancy, “I didn’t want to go back to the rainy country.”

After Nancy and her high school sweetheart separated, she met her second husband at a bowling alley. During the winter, her life in Alamogordo consisted of managing Robbins Dry Cleaners and, during the summer, her and her husband worked for Allied Van Lines traveling across America moving furniture. A few years later Nancy had her son “J.R.,” short for James Robert, during that time, her husband worked for Lane Plumbing doing HVAC (Heating and Cooling) and she worked alongside him as a laborer. After that job both Nancy and her husband decided to open their own heating and cooling business which they called Porky’s Heating and Cooling, named after her husband’s nickname.

Their first construction job in Las Cruces was at the Good Samaritan Society, a nursing home, installing roof units and sheet metal ducting, and soon after that New Mexico State University contracted the firm Alamo Pipe to do the same for buildings on campus. She and her husband worked on Hadley and Milton Hall in 1985 installing new air conditioning and heating units. “I was one of the first females to work in the construction industry,” Nancy said. She said it was fun working with tools and working outside on the roofs, and “it was a great way to get a tan.”

Soon after, Nancy left Porky’s but was lucky enough to get a job offer at Alamo Pipe and Supply in Alamogordo; she only worked there for three years. In 1997, she and her husband Mike moved to Las Cruces and, in 1999 Nancy began a job in the Dean’s office of the College of Arts and Sciences as a records technician, where she mostly handled registration. Five years later she met Frank Thayer, who at the time was the department head of the journalism program.

Part of her job as a records technician included sending emails out to department heads across the arts and sciences program. Thayer had recently taken over the journalism program after its former head, Steven Pasternack, had given up his position. Unfortunately, Nancy hadn’t been informed of this change in leadership, and continued to send emails to Pasternack with the understanding that he was still in charge. Thayer wrote Nancy an email informing her of the change in department leadership and that important matters from arts and sciences should now be addressed to him. Nancy says was so embarrassed of her mistake, that...
Journalism alumnus and sports writer Dan Perry was one of two journalism graduates at New Mexico State University in May, 1962, as he walked across the grass under the lights of Aggie Memorial Stadium to take his diploma, then off with the gown and on with the uniform of a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army, where he served in the Military Police for 27 years.

Fifty-one years later, a book he dreamed of writing is taking shape to honor the greatest football season ever known at NMSU. Perry’s book Magic in the Desert has been in preparation for several years, and it will be his fellow 1962 j-grad who will help take the project over the goal line. In 2012, Perry confided in Frank Thayer, who is also faculty adviser to The Scoop, that while he hoped to finish the book, he wanted Thayer to complete the work if he was not able to win his battle with lung cancer.

Alumni Dan Perry began the book honoring the 1960 Aggie football season.

“...recall the heady Warren Woodson days when the 1960 Aggie football team was one of the nation’s leaders.”

--Frank Thayer

Perry died March 9, and his voluminous research materials were passed to Thayer, who sought out contemporaries to help finish the book and put the name Dan Perry on the cover as the author Thayer says Perry deserves to be. The book will resurrect another time, another Las Cruces, and a school that had just graduated from being New Mexico A&M College to its full-fledged status as a Land Grant university in 1958.

NMSU Pres. Roger B. Corbett made the fateful decision in 1958 to hire football coach Warren Woodson, who built the team that went undefeated in the 1960 regular season, and also won the Sun Bowl game in January 1961. The Dan Perry book will take the reader through the build-up, document interviews with the players, and re-awaken the game-by-game excitement. He recalls and pays tribute to NMSU’s only All-American, Pervis Atkins.

When he retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army in 1989, Perry and his family settled in San Antonio, where he became the driving force of The Alamo Chapter of the NMSU Alumni Association. In 2011, The NMSU Foundation named Perry as the recipient of the James Cole Award, bestowed upon one especially deserving alumnus or alumna annually.

In taking on the task of completing Perry’s book, Thayer said he has found willing talent in alumnus Charles Rogers and with 1963 journalism graduate Mike Waldner, Round Up editor from that era. Perry, Thayer and Waldner were roommates in the El Patio apartments on University Avenue in 1961. The three were also RU staff members at the time. The El Patio apartments were torn down and have been replaced by a complex of business outlets. While at NMSU, Perry was also a stringer with the El Paso Times.

Perry’s wife Irene said that she would like to establish an endowment within the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications to honor her husband and to further the careers of today’s potential journalists. Thayer and Rogers are also negotiating with the NMSU Foundation to seek underwriting support for the publication of the book. David McCollum, publisher of the Las Cruces Bulletin has volunteered to assist with book design and marketing.

Thayer said that he could see the final product Magic in the Desert as a particularly valuable gift for donors to the university as they recall the heady Warren Woodson days when the 1960 Aggie football team was one of the nation’s leaders.

The current schedule for the book targets a 2014 release date.
Moving Forward

INTO THE FUTURE

ABOVE: Current lab rooms and classrooms in Milton Hall that will soon be renovated into a multimedia center.

RIGHT: A rough plan of what the area will look like after renovation.

Photos by Jonelle Lopez
The Journalism and Mass Communications faculty are working on strategic long and short-term plans to change the image of the department and inform future students about what the department has to offer.

Hwiman Chung, journalism department head, surveyed high school students and New Mexico State University students who were undecided on their major in the fall semester of 2012. According to Chung, the results showed that many students think journalism and mass communications is "old and outdated" and that the department focuses solely on writing. After Chung received the results of the survey, he said he decided to plan for the future, which includes changing the department’s image and making students aware that the department is more than just writing and journalism.

“Our goal is revising the program and training students under the new media concept so they can have new skills,” Chung said. Some of the revisions to the program will include the opening of a new multimedia center in Milton Hall, hiring new faculty and the possibilities of yet-to-be specified combination of programs. Chung is also considering a department name change.

Room 157 of Milton Hall, which is currently a computer lab remembered by many alumni, is going to be transformed inside and outside into a new multimedia center to help train students in new media. The room will have a TV studio, radio studio, audio booth and a computer lab for multimedia writing and editing programs. Every journalism student will be able to make use of the center.

“This is going to be a place that has all the bells and whistles that we need,” Pam Porter, college assistant professor, said. Porter said the multimedia center will be a place for students to do real journalism and that having a separate facility will encourage more students to pursue journalism degrees at NMSU.

Ada Ciucu, NMSU freshman and journalism student, said it seems as though the department is dedicated to providing more real-life and hands-on experience to journalism students. Ciucu said she plans to use the multimedia center and thinks it will be useful. “I think the center will help enrich the journalism program experience,” Ciucu said.

According to Porter, the new faculty member’s area of concentration will be on multimedia and the department might begin offering an introduction to multimedia class. There is a multimedia curriculum committee of faculty members working to modify the curriculum to meet today’s needs.

Porter said technology is constantly changing, and the journalism department will be able to keep up so that students have the best chance at getting jobs when they graduate. “The basics are not going to change. It’s just how we create journalism that’s changing,” Porter said, speaking of the changing platforms in society that deliver news.

Chung presented the multimedia idea to ASNMSU and they agreed to fund the program. The Student Technology Account Council, or STAC, is providing $26,000 for the Milton Hall upgrades. STAC has agreed to provide 20 digital cameras and all of the supporting software. This is the first time in the department’s history that it has received funding from STAC. In return, the multimedia center will welcome all NMSU students to use its facilities.

Along with a new multimedia center, the curriculum changes are also in the works. The faculty is working together on a new curriculum, but it will be at least 2014 before any changes are approved and put into place. Currently there are five emphases students can choose from, including advertising, broadcasting, news editorial, photojournalism and public relations. The new curriculum may combine some emphases or expand those that are most professionally viable.

Chung said these changes are needed because, “We’ve been stuck to old concepts,” and, as the media environment changes, students need to be able to work in the changing environment.

Chung said that without Christa Slaton, dean of the Arts and Sciences College, the building renovations and new faculty would not be a possibility. He said Slaton authorized substantial Building Renovation and Renewal money to support the multimedia and broadcasting programs, and she has said that she will continue her support as long as the department is performing well.

The department also expresses interest in alumni involvement with departmental changes. Advice and donations from the thousands of former students of Journalism and Mass Communications continues to be an anchor for the department’s success.
Alumni Spotlight

Udell Vigil  By Cary Culbertson

Academy Award winning actor, Benicio Del Toro, could tell you about a time he brushed shoulders with a New Mexico State University journalism graduate who transforms broom closets into television stations, and whose résumé includes masquerading as a drug-runner working on the set of the critically acclaimed Michael Douglas film, “Traffic.”

That drug runner was Udell Vigil; and if you saw his film credits, you might think he was a Hollywood runaway. He’s not. Vigil earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communications and left New Mexico State University in 1981, kicking off 19 years in broadcasting.

Vigil worked for ABC, NBC and CBS, in El Paso, until 2000. He went from reporting, anchoring to producing before ending with the title of news director.

By then, there was enough experience under his belt to conjure a broadcast signal with minimal resources. The City of Las Cruces took him on as director of communications in 2001. A year later, he began to establish broadcasting capability for city hall. In the beginning, Vigil honed his experience into a signal transmitted from a room that he refers to as a “broom closet.” Now, his studio has expanded to full broadcast capability with its own channel, CLC-TV, cable channel 20. It is a channel fit for a veteran of broadcasting that airs city council meetings that are recorded in a room resembling Washington’s House Chamber. Vigil operates channel 20 with a three-person team in a job that can generally take up to 10 people. He described the type of professional he seeks in a new employee. “…Intelligent, creative, work ethic, personality,” Vigil said. “All at 100 percent.” His crew is composed of a creative media institute graduate and two journalism graduates who, together, have won several Emmys and Pixie awards. They have also brought home honors from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors a number of times.

Now, three news affiliates, a city hall and 10 movies later, Vigil maintains that that Prof. Barthy Byrd, an NMSU graduate and a faculty member in the NMSU journalism department who subsequently carved out a career as a UTEP faculty member, remains his greatest influence while he was an undergraduate at NMSU. He says that he still uses lessons he learned in her classroom everyday.

Jess Williams  By Ka’Len Crowder

A man who understands the true meaning of communication, Jess Williams has implemented the journalism principles he acquired at New Mexico State University that helped him gain a rewarding career.

During his student years at New Mexico State University, Williams earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master’s degree in communication studies. Currently, Williams serves as the Director of Public Information and Special Projects for Doña Ana County. As a public relations professional, Williams coordinates all media inquiries for the county and advises administrators and county commissioners in dealing with the press. He also performs research for the county manager and is responsible for conflict resolution where friction occurs between members of the public and the county.

His public relations challenges included the 2008 lawsuit by Stephen Slevin, whose 22 months in solitary confinement in the Doña Ana County Detention Center resulted in a 2012 award to Slevin of $15.5 million. Williams has successfully used his public relations and media skills to restore public trust in the county and its detention center. As an undergraduate in 1984 Williams served as editor for The Round Up. This was the launch pad for Williams in pursuit of his profession; shortly after graduation he went on to build a solid career as an editor. He also served as editor for The Raton Range, and The Taos News. He also worked as editor for the Stephenville Empire Tribune of Texas.

Jess Williams credits a large portion of his writing foundation to two journalism courses he took as an undergraduate: Journalism 110 and Journalism 210. He was taught the rigors of AP Style by the department’s former professor Josie Cantu-Weber. Throughout his 16 years of editing and nearly 15 years as the Director of Public Information, he still implements on a daily basis the knowledge he acquired from those courses. As a message to young aspiring journalists, Williams said:

“Nothing happens in a vacuum, and every story written or broadcast will have holes in it. The idea is to make the holes as small as possible in the space and time you have available. I don’t believe there is any such thing as objectivity, because we all are shaped by our values and experiences..” Having the values that he acquired from the journalism department, and from his rich and varied careers, Williams has become experienced and prominent in his profession as he is approaching his 30th year as a professional, now serving as Director of Public Information and Special Projects of Doña Ana County. Williams has also donated his time as a part-time instructor in the department over the years.
Amidst recent tragedies such as the Colorado theater shooting many campuses, including New Mexico State University, continue to provide free counseling to students who seek relief from their problems.

James Holmes, a suspect in a Colorado theater shooting that left 12 people dead and dozens wounded, was a neuroscience graduate student at the University of Colorado’s Denver campus. Prior to the shootings he had displayed psychological difficulties to a degree that his campus counselor, Dr. Lynne Fenton, reported to police that he was a danger to himself and the public.

In the days that followed, these reports were left unheeded and a series of secondary gestures from Holmes, including threatening calls to both Dr. Fenton and other graduate students, were overlooked. This example leads to an obvious question: does counseling make students any safer?

“I believe free counseling on a college campus does provide a needed service,” said Carol Fonseca, the outreach coordinator for the Garcia Annex counseling center at NMSU. “The last thing we want to do is put up a financial barrier that could cause someone to not reach out for help.”

There are students, however, who feel counseling is not enough and that psychological programs have very little effect on the predictability of such tragedies.

Karl Lopez, a 20-year-old student at NMSU, expressed his concerns about the effectiveness of counseling during a survey held after the Newtown shootings in December.

“From my understanding the shooter at the Newtown massacre was seeing a psychiatrist, and it still happened,” he said.

There are even doubts in the professional world about the ability of counseling programs to prevent further tragedies. The true intention of a particular individual is often hard to recognize, even with psychological review, according to Northeastern University’s Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology Jack Levin. “We might recognize that someone is depressed or frustrated, but not that they intend to open fire on dozens of strangers,” he said.

Despite these doubts, there is still optimism in the psychological world about how many tragedies counseling programs have already prevented. The co-founder of the Walk-In Counseling Center in Minneapolis, one of the oldest and largest free counseling centers in the country, still says that the access to counseling is one of our best defenses against the psychological breakdowns that lead to disasters such as the Aurora theater shooting.

Dr. Gary Schoener’s organization has provided counseling to over 1700 patients over the past 44 years.

“People have come to us over the years who were quite alienated,” Schoener said. “Our goal has been to make it easier for people to come for help, and to thus have people come in earlier.”

Schoener also recognized that there are problems within the counseling community that are a hindrance to prevention.

“Sometimes the problem is not getting in the door but getting enough help,” he said. “Inadequate funding of mental health programs and tight limits on mental health regulations are both problems.”

The counseling center staff at NMSU also recognizes that counseling alone is not the solution to preventing psychological disturbances.

“We do so much here—suicide prevention workshops and training for the entire campus,” Fonseca said, “but it takes a community effort to lower the likelihood of such tragedies.”

Dr. Gary Schoener

Photo of Garcia Annex by Genifer Eskue
The Search for Leadership at NMSU
By Lillian Bowe

The 2012 Fall Semester at New Mexico State University saw changes in leadership, first with the resignation of NMSU President Barbara Couture. The university sent a statement to students and faculty on September 25 and it reported that President Couture was on leave. No comments were made by the NMSU Board of Regents as to why she was on leave. A week later the Board of Regents held a meeting to inform the public about Couture resignation. Couture was paid over $453,000 and her leave was a “mutual separation agreement.”

The administration addressed the students, staff and faculty that the details of Couture’s resignation were “considered a personnel issue and will not be discussed publicly.”

Then on Oct. 10, Manuel Pacheco was named interim president of NMSU by the Board of Regents a role in which he served prior to the selection of Couture three years ago.

November brought another resignation by Executive Vice President and Provost Wendy Wilkins leaving the campus without a permanent president or provost for the rest of the school year.

The Board of Regents then released a memorandum on Dec. 20, telling NMSU students, faculty and staff that a presidential search committee was chosen. Larry Lujan, NMSU alumnus was chosen as Chair of the committee. Other members of the 15-member committee include Festus Addo-Yobo, director of NMSU’s Black Programs, Felicia Casados, president of NMSU Grants, Ramon Dominguez, NMSU associate professor of educational management and development, Monica Dunivan, associate veterans programs coordinator, Paul Gutierrez, executive director for the New Mexico Association of Counties; Debra Hicks, president, CEO and principal engineer of Pettigrew Associates PA, Jerean Hutchinson, co-owner of La Posta restaurant, Judy Johnson, retired certified public accountant, Tim Ketelaar, associate professor in psychology and NMSU Faculty Senate chair, Michael Morehead, dean of the College of Education; Stan Rounds, superintendent of Las Cruces Public Schools, Scott Schafer, rancher and retired banker, Steven Stochaj, professor of electrical and computer engineering, Breeana Sylvas, 2012-2013 Associated Students of New Mexico State University president, Lt. Col. Andrew Taylor of the U.S. Army and Army ROTC commander at NMSU, and ex officio member Christopher Dunlany, student regent member.

“The Board of Regents and the search committee are committed to naming a president in May,” Pacheco said.

The committee is not the only searching for the next president as NMSU hired the Association of Governing Board of Colleges and Universities to assist. The firm will be acting as the consulting group in choosing a new president, hired at a cost of $90,000.

NMSU will have to wait for a new president and provost until May, but the Board of Regents, the committee have been sending email to students, faculty and staff on the developments of the search as they come.

Five candidates for president were announced on April 9. David B. Ashley, of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Guy Bailey, of Texas Tech University, Garrey Carruth, of NMSU, Daniel J. Howard, of University of Colorado Denver and Elsa A. Murano, of Texas A&M University were announced as finalists by Lujan. All five candidates were from the recommendation of the presidential search committee with no changes made from the Board of Regents.

The first interviews of the candidates in front of the Board of Regents were on April 22 and ended May 2. After the interviews the board will evaluate and discuss the candidates and will pick the president no later than May 10, Mike Cheney, chair of NMSU Board of Regents, said.

On May 6, 2013, Garrey Carruthers was officially selected by the NMSU Board of Regents to serve as the next president of New Mexico State University.
ASNMSU Cuts Readership Program

Written By Lillian Bowe/ Compiled by Merge Staff

The readership program on campus, funded by the Associated Students of New Mexico State University, provides free issues of The New York Times and USA Today to students and staff on campus could disappear in the fall of 2013.

After seven years of the program, ASNMSU is ending it due to financial concerns, said Jacob Deaven, ASNMSU senate pro tempore, and that ASNMSU reached a general consensus to end funding of the readership production.

“There is no longer time to pass a bill to pay for it until next year. Senate usually passes a bill in the spring for $80,000 to fund readership, but we were not asked to write one nor could we afford to pay it,” according to one ASNMSU senator interviewed on campus.

The USA Today’s program has provided the benefit of having three newspapers for distribution including USA Today, a local and regional newspaper. These papers have been available daily in the lobby of Milton Hall.

ASNMSU signed a three-year contract with USA Today with the reduced rate of 44 cents per copy, which is discounted from a one-year rate, of 46 cents. The original budget was $36,960 per year; however, ASNMSU asked for the program to be cut by 40 percent.

The New York Times’ rate is 60 cents per used copy, and the papers not used are recycled and credited back to ASNMSU. The total cost of The New York Times in Fall 2012 was $15,987 for an average of 329 papers per day.

David Maestas, vice president of ASNMSU, said that the funding that went to the readership program would go to fund student organization trips and other activities.

Michael Franco, ASNMSU Director of Services, is in charge of the readership program. After several attempts to reach him, he did not return phone calls, emails or texts from the Merge staff.

“I actually read those papers, so, that’s my only way of keeping up with what’s going on in the world,” said Mariah Armijo, a junior music education major. “But if they’re (ASNMSU) going to put the money into something for good use, then it would be worth it (to get rid of the newspapers),” Armijo said.

The New York Times provides a chance to meet with professional reporters and bring real life experiences to the classroom. Both programs also sponsored Quiz Cab, an ASNMSU event where students were picked up by golf carts on campus, asked questions and won prizes which were donated by The New York Times and USA Today. The program was not announced to students this semester, however. The New York Times has also supported the university in several events.

“The New York Times is one of the best newspapers in the country. I think local students need good examples of other kinds of newspapers than we have here locally,” said Roger Mellen, NMSU journalism professor.

“I used to read the newspapers when I had classes in the journalism department... I think it is important just because it gives you a variety of sources for you to get different information – and what the current standard is in journalism because people hold The New York Times and USA Today to high standards,” said Alexya Alvarez, a senior journalism major.

“I honestly think they should get rid of it; I never read them, so I think it would honestly be good,” said Doug Brown, freshman mechanical engineering major.

Journalism alumni may have their own opinions as to the value of having newspapers readily available every day in Milton Hall.

Photos by Merge Staff
And the Winner is...

Notable Department Scholarships and Awards

AWARDS:

Best All-Around Television Newscast -- 3rd Place: KRWG News22
Television In-Depth Reporting -- 2nd Place: Katie Bieri New Mexico State University
“A Parent’s Hard Choice” News22
Television Sports Reporting -- 2nd Place: Stephanie Flores New Mexico State University
“Minor Threat Roller Derby” for KRWG News22

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Daisy Hernandez
- LC Broadcast-News22
- Ballard
- Donaldson
Josephine Ortegon
- LC Broadcast-News22
- Donaldson
Joseph Gutierrez
- Sophomore
Jimena Antuna
- Pasternack

Yadira Corral
- James T. Cloyd
- Batkin

Stephanie Mirelez
- Mannat
- Pasternack
Anais Gomez
- Eberhardt

Nancy continued from Page 10

she wrote him a long apology email. Thayer went to the Dean’s office, curious to see who had sent the email, and found Nancy. An honest mistake led to a good friendship that has remained to this day.

Nancy was hired in the journalism department in 2004, replacing Teresa Parsons who had run the office from 2002-2004, before leaving to work for the federal government. She followed long-serving Judy Forney who worked in the dean’s office after her retirement in 2002. Alumni from that era recall that Forney’s interests lay in Peru, where she frequently traveled. Before Forney, during 1980s and early 1990s, Dovie Thomas took care of the office. Before Thomas, Ruby Privett and then Margaret Holland worked in the office during the first years of the McCleneghan tenure. All faculty and the department heads are unanimous in praising Howell and her predecessors whose knowledge of university procedures and technology often surpass the understanding of their bosses. In this sense, Nancy Howell works in a traditional role that all who passed through the department have benefited from.

Genifer Eskue, a journalism student, met Nancy when she started to volunteer in the dark room. “At first she scared me, she intimidated me” said Eskue, but in reality “she’s an absolute sweetheart. She’s awesome.” Eskue also said she can’t think of a better person to be in that office, a sentiment shared by Prof. Bruce Berman. “She’s incredibly efficient, amazing!” said Berman “she’s not interchangeable.”

After nine years of working at the journalism office, Nancy sits in room 186 at Milton Hall with her wall of Mickeys behind her, and she is ready to help anyone who walks through the office door.
A Grammar Course for Journalists

By Jonelle N. Lopez

Being a good writer means more than being able to create eloquent sentences that awaken a reader’s mind. It requires a basic foundation of proper sentence structure, spelling and punctuation. However, it is something that is very difficult to master for many students.

Regardless of what area of subject a journalism student decides to study, he will first need to present an ACT English score above 25, or pass the departmental Grammar-Spelling-Punctuation test to proceed with the degree plan.

Many alums remember the GSP requirement that was instituted in 1991, but another option was introduced in 2008.

If the student does not meet either of the first two requirements, the Grammar for Journalists mini-course was established to increase grammar proficiency.

According to instructor Amanda Bradford, feature editor for the Las Cruces Sun-News and a 2003 journalism alumna, the GSP test underlines important skills needed for journalists and now replaces the GSP test as the preferred choice for students entering the department without the ACT English cutoff score.

“The course was developed out of the GSP test because students struggled when writing proper grammar,” said Bradford.

Bradford also said that, as of August of 2011, the course became a requirement for incoming journalism majors rather than an option for meeting grammar requirements. It is offered as a one credit eight-week mini-semester course, though the ACT English score of 25 will still be the equivalent to pass the course.

“Journalism students tend to be more successful throughout their courses because of the course,” Bradford said. “If they have to repeat the course they usually do (make it) on the second try.”

In the fall of 2012, college professor Pam Porter, and Bradford revamped the course by updating the language of the test with the philosophy of it being something that is a desirable skill for journalism students to possess.

Alumni would recognize the final test for JOUR 102 Grammar for Journalists, because it was taken directly from the GSP test most alumni recall.

According to Porter, the course was updated as a way for students to understand the material on the test rather than memorizing it.

“The course is a way for students to have a basic understanding of grammar, spelling and punctuation...”

Pam Porter
--College Professor

NMSU sophomore and journalism student Jenny Marin, said that she feels more confident in her other classes when it comes to writing after taking the course.

“A big problem for me was run-on sentences, and since taking the GSP class I know tricks of how to avoid them, and also how to make my work easier to read with transitional words and punctuation,” Marin said.

Marin also said that she believes the class is a great way to prepare all students beyond journalism because of the extensive writing that every student faces in other courses.

As a result, the success of the course has caught on with students outside of the journalism department. Bradford said that she now sees students outside of the journalism department in her classes, and enrollment from other majors is increasing because of the values inherent in the course.

According to the journalism department’s class roster from fall 2012 to spring 2013, there are: government, history, english, computer science, marketing, criminal justice and chemistry majors who have taken the course.
Is the Darkroom Dying?

By Monique Anderson
As the process of developing a multimedia curriculum begins at the journalism department of New Mexico State University, the photojournalism program is also changing its focus, from archival film to the expansive and flexible platform of digital photography.

Photographer Bruce Berman has led students at NMSU through the intricate darkroom process since 2008 as the department’s photojournalism professor. Although the darkroom has proved useful and popular for teaching students the basics of photography, Berman said he understands the inevitable need for change. “Our vision as a department is now multimedia and everyone is on board,” Berman said. “The general consensus is that it’s time to move on.”

The change to a purely digital photography lab would not only be a structural decision; both necessity and lack of funding for the long-standing darkroom at Milton Hall has become a concern. Two generations of j-grads remember the darkroom as the place where they first saw an image forming before their eyes in that developer tray.

Journalism and Mass Communications Department Head Hwiman Chung has said the darkroom will remain open only if funding from the College of Arts & Sciences remains available. NMSU’s campus is home to another archival photography lab in the Fine Arts Department, and finding the resources to maintain the darkroom in Milton Hall has proved to be increasingly difficult.

Even the remote possibility of keeping the darkroom open is good news to NMSU journalism alumnus Tom Sandford, currently working as a staff writer at Albuquerque the Magazine. “The developing and exposure process demands attention to detail,” said Sandford, “and that’s what students get when they use the photo lab.”

Attention to detail, a major building block for success as a journalist, is not the only benefit of learning the archival process of photography development, according to Berman. Despite his optimism of things to come in the multimedia environment, he has also voiced his concern that students who learn digital photography only will miss a valuable experience. “It (the developing discipline) teaches determination and doggedness to process film in a darkroom. You have to stick with it,” Berman said. “You need that to be successful at anything.”

Not all students on campus agree. Val Ramirez, a junior, has said that the darkroom is a relic of the past. “We can do the same thing in Photoshop Lightroom, and it’s faster,” Ramirez said. “Why waste so much time?”

The final writing assignment for Berman’s spring 2013 introductory photography class, the traditional JOUR 319 course so many alumni remember, may shed some light on why the archival photo lab could be considered necessary. It may come down to something as simple as student confidence and well-being. When asked to write a report about their experience in the darkroom after a semester of photo lab, many students describe the positive effect it had on their lives. “They go on for pages about the darkroom being a place they can be themselves and create,” Berman said. “I think there’s a new generation out there just begging to do something other than push a button.”

Regardless of the future of Milton Hall’s current photo lab, Berman remains focused on his students and teaching them that photography is ultimately about individualizing their view of the world. “No matter the process, archival or digital, photography teaches you a lot about yourself and what’s important to you,” said Berman. “It’s a little revolutionary.”
Internships in the sports world are not for the faint of heart, as several New Mexico State University journalism students discover every year.

Every semester, the NMSU Sports Information Office recruits students from the journalism department as well as the department’s sports promotion and public relations class, to work for the sports information directors (SID), according to Sean McCleneghan, the journalism professor who has been in charge of student internships since the 1980s.

These students, many who are considering entering the sports journalism or public relations field after college, are given the chance to experience the world of Division I collegiate sports. “They [SIDs] are in the trenches, and they’re not afraid to take journalism majors in the trenches with them,” McCleneghan said.

Students may do anything from making copies, scanning photographs and working sporting events, to searching for and writing stories, game notes and player biographies, according to Assistant Director of Athletics Media Relations Tyler Dunkel. Eddie Morelos said that interns learn the different aspects of journalism such as radio and television, while also learning the little things in the office such as using social media and creating layouts and designs.

Eddie Soriano, a four-semester intern, started out doing the same small office tasks until he was hired on as a paid intern and began writing stories. He said the experience has taught him how to be a good sports writer and has strengthened his desire to go into sports journalism.

According to former and current interns, one of the biggest challenges is the time requirements on top of school, work and family life. Students often work weekends and weeknights as well as posting regular office hours. Most are dedicated sports fans as well as journalism students.

Another challenge, according to Assistant Director of Athletics Media Relations Tyler Dunkel, is the fast-paced nature of the work, which doesn’t allow for a learning curve.

Amid the challenges, there are many opportunities for students to improve their skills in various areas and meet professionals in the journalism field such as local and national radio and television talent.

“I think what we offer here is above and beyond what other internships offer,” Morelos said. “I allow my students to expand on their talents and explore new talents.”

“I allow my students to expand on their talents and explore new talents.”

Eddie Morelos
--Assistant Director of Athletics Media Relations

Photo by Jonelle Lopez

Besides learning the obvious writing and design techniques, Dunkel said he hopes to broaden students’ life skills in the areas of responsibility and adjustment to the different personality types of co-interns, bosses and coaches.

In the end, it doesn’t matter what career path a student decides to follow, Dunkel said, but he said he wants students to use the skills they’ve acquired while working in the internship to be successful.

Though the students gain necessary skills to continue on in the work world, they also create a close network with those in the office. “Students are a big part of the team. We’re a family. We try to look out for each other and help each other if we can,” Dunkel said. Several journalism alumni, who were former interns have scored positions at the collegiate level to work in sports media relations, and one graduate became a media relations manager for the National Hot Rod Association that had been a career dream since his undergraduate years, according to the department website.
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