

WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

TIMES OBSERVER

Fall 2005 • Volume 6, Number 1

From Bible Belt to Borscht Belt

*WJI considers relocation
to New York City*

In October the World Journalism Institute opened its new branch office in the Empire State Building in New York. The institute has offered college-level courses there for four years and has determined that a branch office will help coordinate institute activities in that media center.

During 2006 a decision will be made whether or not to relocate the institute headquarters from Asheville, N.C., to Manhattan.

Institute Director Robert Case said, "A move to New York City will enable WJI to further accomplish its mission to recruit, equip, place and encourage journalists who are Christian in the mainstream newsrooms of America."

Case noted that recruiting and employing mainstream journalists as teaching resources would be more effectively accomplished in the media hub of New York City. Institute students would also be better equipped because of greater opportunities to cover national news stories.

"Additionally, moving to New York City will allow us to establish relationships with the numerous metropolitan newspapers and media outlets to the benefit of our graduates," Case said.

"For those who want to work in media, New York City offers amazing opportunity," said Kim Collins, WJI program director. She cited statistics from New York University's journalism department, noting three major advantages of studying journalism in New York City:

"First, there is a community of more than



FUTURE HEADQUARTERS? The Empire State Building is already home to WJI's branch office.

20,000 professional journalists working in the city, along with the thousands of editorial outlets that employ them. Second, there is the sheer scale, density and variety of interests in politics, business, art and social life that can be reported on in the city. Lastly, there are more than 100 ethnic newspapers in New York City, and the foreign-language press is the largest in the world."

In the first two weeks Case spent setting up the New York office, he was able to meet with several Christians who are journalists in the major media there. Collins said, "We believe daily personal involvement in their lives is a vital part of the institute's mission. We want to be a source of encouragement to those Christians who serve in mainstream media."

Hispanic Journalists Attend Inaugural Conference

by REBECCA RUIZ

World Journalism Institute's first conference for Hispanic journalists of faith was held Nov. 4-5 at Biola University in Los Angeles. "The institute recognizes the growing number of Hispanics in the United States, and we want to encourage and equip Latino Christians in the media," said Institute Director Robert Case.

The two-day conference brought together more than 40 journalists, students and educators from across the country to consider the unique opportunities and challenges Hispanic Christians face in the newsroom.

Several nationally known Hispanic journalists spoke, including Pulitzer Prize-winning Manny Garcia of *The Miami Herald* and Ruben Navarrette Jr., award-winning columnist for the *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

The conference began Friday evening with Rudy Carrasco, director of the Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena, Calif.

Please see Hispanic on page 2

WORLD
JOURNALISM
INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 2330
Asheville,
NC 28802

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheville, NC
Permit 209

INSIDE

Case in Point

One grad's experience illustrates a struggle sometimes faced by Christians seeking jobs in the mainstream press.

WJI Increases Convention Presence

This year the institute presented its program at conventions attended by more than 10,000 journalists, students and educators.

World Journalism News

WJI recognizes the accomplishments of its grads, speakers and friends.



CASE in POINT

by ROBERT CASE II

This fall one of our graduates was interviewing for an internship with a well-known Florida newspaper. When the interviewer noticed she was a grad of WJI, he asked if she was capable of keeping her views and ideologies out of her stories. She said she was quite capable of being fair, balanced and accurate in her reporting. WJI's generous internship stipend for its most promising graduates was available to this young lady to work at any paper she chose.

This aspiring journalist is already a graduate of Florida State University and is completing a second degree (this time in journalism) from Florida A&M, which has a serious journalism program. She is currently interning for the *Tallahassee Democrat* and freelancing for the A&M student newspaper, *The Famuan*. Last year she interned at *Southern Living* magazine. This young reporter has the proven smarts, experience and desire to work for any newspaper in Florida.

But her religious convictions brand her as an ideologue and thus unreliable to report reality in a verifiable manner.

Forget about the debate over the notion of journalistic objectivity and the moral dimension of knowledge. The question I raise is: Did this newspaper official ask every interviewee whether they allow their presuppositions, worldviews and ideologies to seep into their stories? I suspect not, because even this official understands that each journalist approaches every story with a knowledge architecture that frames his or her reporting and writing.

Unfortunately, this tale of religious hectoring is not isolated, and for the aspiring journalist who is a Christian, this official bias results in a never-ending struggle to be recognized and appreciated as a journalist of integrity, care and accuracy.

WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE TIMES OBSERVER

PUBLISHER: Robert Case II
BOARD CHAIRMAN: David Strassner
EDITOR: Kimberly L. Collins
EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Joel Belz
DESIGN: David K. Freeland

www.worldji.com • office.wji@gmail.com

ASHEVILLE OFFICE
85 Tunnel Road, Suite 12, Asheville, NC 28805
(800) 769-7870 • Fax (828) 232-5250

NEW YORK OFFICE
Empire State Building, 350 5th Avenue,
New York, NY 10118
(212) 659-3609 • Fax (212) 659-3614

The mission of the World Journalism Institute is to recruit, equip, place and encourage journalists who are Christians in the mainstream newsrooms of America.

HISPANIC: Unique opportunities and challenges

Continued from page 1

Saturday morning Jorge Sanchez, pastor of Comunidad de las Américas, the Spanish ministry of Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, spoke of Apollos, a biblical model of an excellent communicator.

Rafael Olmeda, assistant city editor of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and vice president of print for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, challenged conference attendees to move away from abstraction in their work toward “concrete expressionism.” Drawing on truths from Luke 10, Olmeda said journalists are called to “paint a picture” with words that is recognizable, detailed and clear. “Like realism in art, concrete language is attuned to detail,” he said.



Navarrette

In a session titled, “Dirty Old Men, Low-Rent Crooks and the Book of Proverbs,” Manny Garcia, legendary city editor at *The Miami Herald* and a member of the paper's 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative team, gave practical advice for journalists based on biblical admonitions from Proverbs. He noted that good reporters approach every story with humility and

Berta Delgado-Young, of Prestonwood Baptist Church and a 20-year journalism veteran most recently with *The Dallas Morning News*, emphasized the importance of learning to listen as a reporter.

treat sources—even those that are crooks—with dignity and respect.

David Ortiz, copy chief at *Shopping Centers Today* in New York City, examined Luke as a biblical example of a reporter or “chronicler” who investigated matters, set things in order and served the community.

Michael Longinow, coordinator of Biola's journalism program, discussed specific ways to meet the needs of Latino readers.

Saturday evening's closing banquet featured keynote speaker Ruben Navarrette Jr., syndicated columnist and editorial board member of *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. Navarrette is the author of *A Darker Shade of Crimson*.

—Rebecca Ruiz is a sophomore at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minn.



ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING LATINO CHRISTIANS IN THE MEDIA: Conferees, speakers, and staff pose at the closing banquet.

News from the Francis Schaeffer Chair

Nancy Pearcey and her husband Rick have launched “The Pearcey Report,” a website of news, commentary and worldview articles found at www.pearceyreport.com. Readers call it “an astonishing array of resources.”

Mrs. Pearcey's book, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, continues to garner praise. This fall, reviews were published in two scholarly journals, *Philosophia Christi* and *Denver Journal* (denverseminary.edu/dj/articles2005/0400/0404.php). The book has also been “burning up the blogosphere,” as one blogger put it. Some of the best



Pearcey

website (blogforbooks.com/reviews-for-total-truth/).

This fall Pearcey had a delightful visit lecturing at Geneva College, hosted by president emeritus and WJI board member Jack White. She kicked off a weeklong worldview seminar at the Bryan

Center for Critical Thought and Culture at Bryan College. At Charleston Southern University, Pearcey addressed the need for teaching worldview across the curriculum, and at North Greenville College she spoke alongside Dr. Richard Land at the Christian Worldview Center.

reviews can be found on the Diet of Bookworms website (dietofbookworms.com/title.php?id=12) and on the Mind & Media

Pearcey delivered a lecture series at Gutenberg College (Eugene, Ore.), which features a great books program and is the alma mater of two recent WJI grads. Mrs. Pearcey spoke to three regional conferences of the Association for Christian Schools International. The Southern

California chapter purchased 7,000 copies of *Total Truth* to distribute to conference attendees. For homeschoolers, Pearcey continues her five-part series in Home School Enrichment.

For an in-depth audio interview with Pearcey on “Pensees,” hosted by Keith Plummer, go to pensees.worldmagblog.com/pensees/. Pearcey also was interviewed by prominent blogger Adrian Warnock (adrian.warnock.info/2005/07/blog-interview-with-nancy-pearcey.htm) and in the November issue of the *American Family Association Journal*.

WORLD JOURNALISM NEWS

Metaxas's Book Answers Questions



Eric Metaxas (WJI teacher, '03-05) has written a new book, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (but were afraid to ask)*. The book is available at Amazon.com.

Bradley Joins Covenant Seminary



Anthony Bradley (WJI teacher, '02-05) joined the faculty of Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis) this fall as Assistant Professor of Apologetics and Systematic Theology. Bradley is also an adjunct administrator at the World Journalism Institute and convener of WJI's annual conference for African-American journalists of faith.

Fessler Writes for Examiner



Olivia Fessler ('04) has been interning for the editorial page of *The Washington Examiner*, part of the Anschutz chain of newspapers, and now the second-largest paper in the Washington, D.C. region.

Turek Hired at Fox News

Amy Turek ('05) is working at Fox News in Washington, D.C., as an assistant to the producers.

Worlds Takes New Position



Kanette Worlds ('04) began a new job as Public Information Staff Editor at her alma mater, Rochester College (Rochester Hills, Mich.) She is editor and writer for the college publications and website, in addition to doing community and campus outreach.

Aikman's New Novel Arrives



A second novel by David Aikman (WJI speaker, '01) arrived in bookstores Oct. 1. The book is *Qi*, an international thriller set in south China. For a free copy of Aikman's "The Three Callings of a Christian in Journalism," contact the institute.

Amy Foundation's Russell Passes Away

James Russell, founder and president of The Amy Foundation (www.amyfound.org) of Lansing, Mich., died on Aug. 31. Russell was a friend and supporter of the World Journalism Institute. The important work of his foundation continues.

Mattingly Book Explores Religion in Culture



Terry Mattingly (WJI teacher, '01) has a new book out. *Pop Goes Religion: Faith and Culture in America* hit the shelves in November and teaches readers how to find faith in pop culture.

ACCM Gets Fresh Start

The Association of Christian Collegiate Media (ACCM) has a new office at Biola University and a new executive director, Dr. Michael Longinow. ACCM was started in 1995 to serve journalism students, advisers and professors from Christian colleges. For more information, go to accm.net.

Cromartie Appointed Chair



Michael Cromartie (WJI teacher, '99-05) was elected to serve as chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Cromartie is Vice President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Biola Hosts Religious Blogging Conference

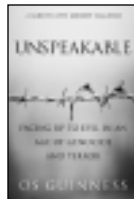


In October, Biola University (La Mirada, Calif.) hosted GodBlogCon, the first national conference for "God bloggers." The conference was attended by more than 100 religious bloggers from around the country.

Schaeffer Mentioned in Vanity Fair

In the December 2005 issue of *Vanity Fair*, Craig Unger's article on religion and politics entitled "American Rapture" mentioned Francis Schaeffer in several places. The article is a look at the theological doctrine of rapture and how it is played out in the political arena. Unger notes that "Schaeffer is probably the most important religious figure that secular America has never heard of. Widely regarded by evangelicals as one of their leading theologians of the 20th century, Schaeffer was to the Christian right what Marx was to Marxism, what Freud was to psychoanalysis."

Guinness's Latest Book Published



Os Guinness (WJI speaker, '02) published his most recent book in February: *Unspeakable: Facing Up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*.

Pearcey's Study Guide Arrives

The study guide edition is now available for the book *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity* by Nancy Pearcey, the Francis Schaeffer Scholar of the World Journalism Institute. The study guide is based on questions and comments raised by readers of the book and is ideal for group or individual study.

King's College Wins Accreditation Again



The King's College (New York, N.Y.), host to WJI's May term, was unanimously re-accredited by the Board of Regents of the State of New York this fall.

WJI Offers New Monograph

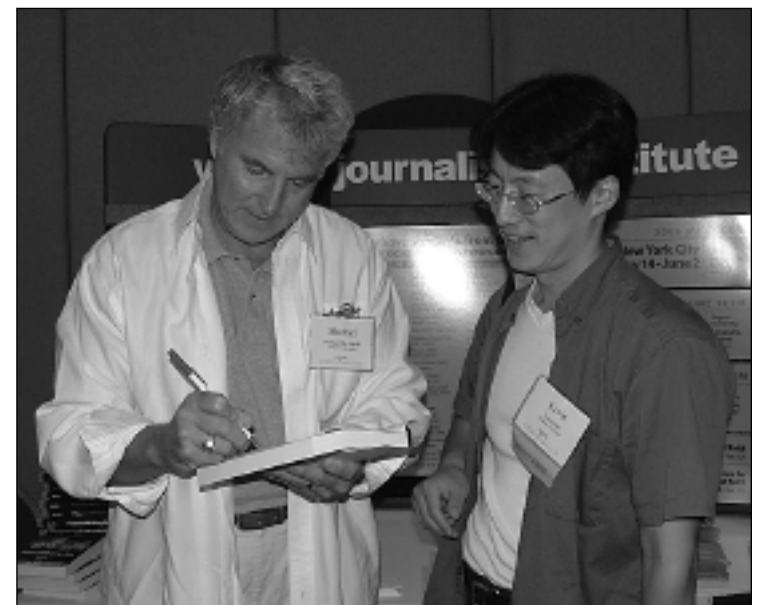


WJI is pleased to announce its latest offering in its series of monographs, which explore the intersection of faith and journalism. *Royal Brougham: Your Old Neighbor* was written by Mark Bergin ('02) and recounts the life of the famed sportswriter for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Copies are complimentary and are available from the institute for individual or classroom use.

Book Tells of Navarrette's Time at Harvard



In his book *A Darker Shade of Crimson: Odyssey of a Harvard Chicano*, Ruben Navarrette Jr., tells his story as a Mexican-American undergraduate at Harvard University. The book is available at Amazon.com.



Michael Smith signs his book for Kevin Gang Han at the AEJMC meeting.

Institute Takes the Show on the Road

In 2005, the World Journalism Institute presented its program at seven major professional and student media gatherings across the country, including the annual conference of the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), which met in San Antonio in August.

At the AEJMC meeting, WJI distributed 200 copies of Michael R. Smith's new book, *FeatureWriting.net*. Smith is a past WJI teacher and was present to sign books.

According to Program Director Kim Collins, "Our presence at these national meetings is another way we can show we are serious about our mission to recruit, equip, place and encourage Christians in the mainstream media."

Collins represented WJI in Fort Worth at the annual convention of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), which was attended in June by about 1,700. There she met journalists from Texas and beyond, including Manny Garcia (*The Miami Herald*) and NAHJ Vice President of Print Rafael Olmeda (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*). Both Garcia and Olmeda were speakers at WJI's fall conference for Hispanic journalists of faith held in Los Angeles in November.

WJI also had a booth in August at the annual convention of the National Association of Black Journalists. Organizers were pleased with the crowd of 3,200 student and professional journalists who showed up to interview, network and hear speakers like T.D. Jakes, former President Bill Clinton, Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean, and Republican Party Chairman Ken Mehlman. Collins distributed copies of *True Vine*, the autobiography of John W. Fountain, who spoke at WJI's spring conference at Morehouse College last April and teaches at the University of Illinois.

Students at two conferences in October were able to meet Collins and learn about WJI. The Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference was held in Nashville and attended by nearly 100 students. The National College Media Convention brought 2,300 students and advisers to Kansas City, Kan. Past institute teacher Gary Fong (*San Francisco Chronicle* and Christians in Photojournalism) received a standing ovation for his keynote session.

For the first time, WJI exhibited at the annual Society of Professional Journalists meeting in September. Students, academics and professionals met in Las Vegas, and Collins distributed 200 copies of *Father Time*, written by WJI teacher Steve Duin (*The Oregonian*).

Most recently, in November, Collins took WJI's display to the annual Spirit of Diversity job fair in Detroit, put on by the *Detroit Free Press*.

Institute Director Robert Case told the *Times Observer*, "The institute's presence at all the major journalism conventions and conferences demonstrates our commitment to the profession and to the Christian journalists laboring in the field."

WORLD JOURNALISM PROFILES

WJI Grad Sean Fennelly

Salem Radio

Sean Fennelly is an editorial intern for Salem Communications radio station WGKA 920 AM in Atlanta. A native of



Marietta, Ga., he attended Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., where he was named Outstanding Journalist and Outstanding Broadcast Journalist of the Year

in 1996. However, after receiving his degree, he chose to pursue a career as an investigative specialist for the FBI.

Until his resignation in 1998, Fennelly conducted surveillance and intelligence-gathering operations on international terrorism and foreign counterintelligence suspects residing in the southeastern U.S.—making him something of a “spy on the spies.”

Fennelly attended WJI's 2002 January term in New York City. “I wanted to find out how [much] my writing had atrophied following the FBI,” he said. He was named a WJI Fellow after the January 2002 term, but it wasn't until February 2005 that he was able to use the WJI internship stipend after a door opened for a part-time board operator at Salem Communications.

WJI Grad Shepherd Pittman

The Washington Times

Journalism was not Shepherd Pittman's first career choice. However, after studying for his bachelor of arts in communications from Thomas Edison State College, he realized that his gifts and interests pointed toward journalism.



After graduation, Pittman moved to a city outside Shanghai,

China, where he worked as an English teacher and tutored businesspeople.

Pittman attended WJI's July term 2005 at Biola University. He arrived with little journalism experience but said he came away inspired by his classmates and the course's phenomenal instructors.

In September, Pittman began writing as an intern for the national desk of *The Washington Times*. “The *Times* has been great,” he said, “because they have let me cover lots of different kinds of stories. It's not every paper that lets an intern cover pet mania, the religion of Wicca, and Senate hearings in one month's time.”

When his internship at the *Times* ends in December, Pittman hopes to begin writing features for a daily newspaper. He hopes writing, travel, and missions are part of God's plans for his future.

WJI Grad Mariel Williams

The Press-Sentinel

Mariel Williams attended WJI's 2003 summer course in Asheville, N.C. She currently works for *The Press-Sentinel*, a biweekly community paper in Jesup, Ga.



Williams enrolled in the WJI program after graduating from Liberty University in 2003. Having majored in history, she

came to WJI because she wanted more journalism instruction before looking for work at a mainstream newspaper.

“I chose a liberal arts major in college because it was what I loved most, but when I graduated I began to realize that I might need a little more preparation for the career I had chosen,” she said.

After finishing the program, Williams worked as an educator for 4-H and then as a secretary for an international AIDS research group before moving to Jesup. She also wrote freelance stories for *The Yancey Times-Journal* in Burnsville, N.C.

At *The Press-Sentinel*, Williams covers crime, courts, the local hospital authority, city government and general assignment news. She also edits copy submitted by the public for the community and church news pages.

WJI Teacher Peter Eavis

Formerly TheStreet.com

In 2005 Peter Eavis received the Gerald Loeb award for commentary for “Cracks in Fannie Mae's Foundation.” In his series of columns, Eavis spelled out the accounting troubles at Fannie Mae long before any findings of wrongdoing were raised.

Eavis, 39, has been a guest teacher for the institute's New York City course for several years. He is the pastor of the Upper West Side Vineyard in Manhattan.

Until spring 2005, Eavis had been a reporter for 13 years. His column for *TheStreet.com* aimed to unearth accounting fraud and deficient business models at large U.S. corporations. He did ground-breaking work on Enron in that column.

Before working for *TheStreet.com*, Eavis was an editor and writer in London and New York for *Emerging Markets Investor*, a now defunct British magazine that covered developing countries' securities markets, economies and political systems. Before that, he lived in the Czech Republic for three years, teaching, translating and writing for a local, English-language business newspaper. Eavis has also written for *The New York Times* and *The New Republic*.

Eavis graduated from Leeds University in the United Kingdom in 1990 with a degree in International History and Politics.

Board Member Profile: Bill Joseph

William F. Joseph Jr. is the second-longest serving member of the board of directors of the World Journalism Institute. He was born in Montgomery, Ala., in 1929. After graduating from Lanier High School in 1947, Joseph attended Auburn University, earning a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1952.

He served two years in the Army during the Korean War. He returned to Montgomery in 1954 and joined the firm of Morton & McElhaney Consulting Engineers & Architects. Joseph became a partner in the firm in 1960. He retired from engineering in 2001.

In 1964 Joseph was elected to the Montgomery County Commission as a Republican, serving 10 consecutive terms. He has served as chairman of the commission for over 30 years.

He has been a lifelong member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and has served as an elder for many years. In 1979, he was elected moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, its highest court, and served during the year 1979-1980.

Joseph served for many years on the Alabama and Montgomery Republican Executive Committee. He is a charter member and past president of the Capital City Kiwanis Club, a past member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce,



and a member of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. He is past president of the Montgomery Symphony Board of Directors. Joseph has served several terms as chairman of the Central Alabama Aging Consortium and the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Bill is married to the former Peggy Hall of Montgomery. They have three sons and eight grandchildren. Bill retired from the Montgomery County Commission in November 2004.

Institute Remembers Lanny Moore

Lanny W. Moore Sr. died on Nov. 8, 2005. Moore served faithfully on the institute's board since 1973. He also served on the board of Covenant Theological Seminary for several decades. He is survived by his wife Lucy, seven children and 19 grandchildren. Moore was featured in the winter 2005 issue of the *Times Observer*.

APPLY ONLINE NOW FOR WJI's 2006 Courses

SPRING CONFERENCE for African-American Journalists of Faith
April 21-22 • Morehouse College

MAY TERM in New York City
May 14-June 2 • The King's College

JUNE TERM in Washington, D.C.
June 18-July 7 • Regent University

JULY TERM in Los Angeles
July 23-August 11 • Biola University

For more information, go to www.worldji.com
or call 800 769-7870