

WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

# TIMES OBSERVER

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## Institute Headquarters Moves to New York City

NEW YORK CITY—The World Journalism Institute (WJI) has relocated its headquarters to Manhattan after more than a year of research and preparation.

WJI Deputy Director Kim Collins will manage the new WJI offices on the campus of The King's College at the Empire State Building.

Robert Case, director of the institute, said, "The location in Manhattan will greatly expand our ability to work with our friends and acquaintances in the elite media, such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *National Review*, *The New York Sun*, and the *New York Daily News*. We will also have greater access to the stellar faculty at King's."

Case has spent the past year building institute relationships in New York. He credits The King's College, a Christian liberal arts school located in the Empire State Building, with enabling WJI to make the transition by providing office space in mid-town Manhattan.

"Stan Oakes, president of King's College, has supported the institute's programs for several



Oakes

years and has welcomed the move to his campus," Case said. King's College Provost Peter Wood said, "The King's College is delighted to partner with the World Journalism Institute. I admire the energy and imagination that WJI has brought to the task of encouraging the vocations of young Christian journalists. King's also aspires to bring a new sophistication to Christian engagement with the public square, and our partnership with WJI is a significant step towards achieving this."

Kim Collins is also excited about the expanded role WJI will have in the world of journalism training and support.

"This New York office gives us the ability to take WJI to the next level, both in terms of equipping

aspiring journalists and meeting the needs of those already in the field."

Collins said, "New York is arguably the media capital of the world, and we expect opportunities to multiply. There are infinite resources for journalism—every kind of journalism, thousands of journalists, and limitless stories our students can cover."

In addition to the annual WJI New York journalism course held in May, the institute is now planning several New York initiatives, including the first weekend New York College Journalism Conference, set for April 13-14, 2007 ([www.worldji.com/conferences.asp](http://www.worldji.com/conferences.asp)).

The institute also plans to exhibit at the Spring National College Media Convention held in New York, March 15-17, 2007 ([www.collegemedia.org](http://www.collegemedia.org)).

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

## Students Sought for Urbana Today Project

Manny Garcia (*Miami Herald*) and Michael R. Smith (Campbell University) will be leading 25 talented college journalists in a unique daily newspaper project this holiday season in St. Louis. Garcia and Smith will serve as managing editors of *Urbana Today*, the daily newspaper of Urbana 06, the national convention of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Urbana 06 will be held Dec. 27-31, 2006, in St. Louis at the America's Center and the Edward Jones Dome. World Journalism Institute and InterVarsity are recruiting the newspaper staff from around the United States. Positions available for qualified student journalists include reporters, photographers, designers and copy editors.

Project Director Kim Collins (WJI) said, "This is a great opportunity for college journalists to cover Urbana, but especially to work closely with two outstanding editors to produce a real newspaper under the thrill of deadline pressure."

Attendance at the convention is expected to be around 25,000. Students who are chosen for this project will work in a newsroom at the America's Center and in the press box of the Edward Jones Dome during the five-day convention. Students will have daily assignments for *Urbana Today*, and thus will have a major role in reporting the scope of events at Urbana to attendees, as well as to the rest of the world

through the convention website, [www.urbana.org](http://www.urbana.org).

The *Urbana Today* journalists will be credentialed members of the Urbana 06 press corps. They will receive free registration to the Urbana 06 convention and be eligible for discounted rates at convention hotels.

Student journalists who are interested in reporting for *Urbana Today* must have published clips in order to apply for this program. Applications are being taken at the WJI website: [www.worldji.com](http://www.worldji.com). Applications for *Urbana Today* staff are due by Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006.



Garcia



Smith

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## CASE in POINT

by ROBERT CASE II

For a couple of years I have been publicly saying that as Christian evangelicals look for a methodology to accomplish a fair representation in the elite newsrooms of America, we can look to the gay-rights movement as a role model. The evangelical journalistic community is divided as to strategy and tactics, just as the gay-rights movement was once divided. There are evangelical journalists who advocate a more aggressive stance towards gaining a place in the mainstream newsrooms, and those who suggest a more passive attitude towards that goal. As a minority that felt the sting of discrimination in the newsrooms, gay journalists were not of one mind in formulating a unified approach to combating perceived hiring and promotion bias and hesitancy from the editorial staff. It is at least arguable that gay journalists have succeeded in gaining a place at the editorial table; with regard to evangelical journalists, there is no argument at all that we have. We have not, and WJI teacher relationships show this. As evidence that we can be responsible, fair and accurate reporters of events, we evangelicals should be purposeful in pursuing the integration of evangelical journalists into the general journalism culture. Once again, our role model for integration: The AEJMC (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication) conventions have recently hosted multi-hour workshops sponsored by the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Interest Group entitled, "From the Headlines to the Classroom: How to Integrate Sexual Orientation Issues Across Curriculum." Let's accept, strictly for the sake of fairness, that this is a good development. Then fair is fair: It is time evangelicals sponsored similar workshops for the hundreds of Christian journalism students.

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CEO: Nickolas S. Eicher  
PUBLISHER: Robert Case II  
EDITOR: Kimberly L. Collins  
DESIGN: David K. Freeland

www.worldji.com • office@worldji.com

350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1500  
New York, NY 10118  
(212) 659-3609 • Fax (212) 659-3614

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# WORLD JOURNALISM NEWS



**Charlie Shifflett** ('01) graduated from the University of Iowa with a master's in journalism and is working in Beijing, China, as a copy editor for *21st Century Weekly*, an English-language newspaper owned by *China Daily*.



**Steve Duin** (guest teacher, '04-'05) of *The Oregonian* won the award for local column writing from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

**Dr. William Edgar** (guest teacher, '01, '03), professor at Westminster Theological Seminary (Pa.) had two compositions performed at the 100th anniversary of the death of Paul Cézanne in Aix-en-Provence, France. Edgar, Harvard-trained jazz pianist, also accompanied Ruth Naomi Floyd in her vocal performance.



The new book by **Star Parker** (guest speaker, '03-'04), *White Ghetto: How Middle Class America Reflects Inner City Decay*, is available.



**Shirley Shedd** (guest teacher, '02), professor emerita at Evangel University (Springfield, Mo.), was honored by the Missouri Press Association and was also named the Hall of Fame Adviser by the Missouri College Media Association.



**Gracie Bonds Staples** (guest speaker, '05-'06) of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* was honored by the Georgia's Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities as an Outstanding Media Professional of the Year. Her article, "A Call to Make Good on A Promise Deferred," was cited for particular compassion and depth.



The book *This I Believe* is made up of National Public Radio essays, including "The God Who Embraced Me," by **John W. Fountain** (guest speaker, '05-'06).

Cartoonist **Johnny Hart** (guest speaker, '00) was quoted Aug. 27, in a *New York Times* story "Faith and the Funny Pages," by John Leland. The article recognized Hart's role in introducing faith themes into the comic pages: "In the 1990s, Johnny Hart, creator of the popular 'B.C.' strip, began introducing overt Christian themes in occasional strips, with controversial results."

**Warren Smith** (guest teacher, '00) has a new television program on the iLifeTV network. *Worldviews with Warren Smith* is a news and interview program available in more than 10 million households each week.



**Mark Bergin** ('02), author of the WJI monograph, "Royal Brougham: Your Old Neighbor," has been hired as a reporter for *World* magazine.

After a six-month internship with Capitol News Connection, **Matt Laslo** ('05) was asked to stay on as a freelancer. Capitol News Connection provides localized coverage of Congress for 210 public radio stations across the country through Public Radio International.



**Jonathan Vince** ('02) is a freelance writer and photographer and has recently published articles for the *La Canada Valley Sun* and the *Los Angeles Garment and Citizen*. His photos can be viewed at [www.flickr.com/photos/hawkans](http://www.flickr.com/photos/hawkans).

In August, Marine Lieutenant Jake Cusack spotted a house in Iraq where kidnapped journalist Jill Carroll had been held, eventually leading to the arrest of her kidnapers. Cusack recognized the door and gate from intelligence reports he had seen. Cusack and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force found other clues that confirmed his suspicion. Cusack is son of WJI board member **Kevin Cusack**.

*Believers: A Journey into Evangelical America* (Viking/Penguin) by **Jeffery Sheler** (guest speaker, '04) came out in September. Sheler said, "In short, it is my effort to provide a full-blooded portrait of American evangelicals, a people who too often are caricatured and misrepresented by the mainstream media. While it is aimed primarily at a secular audience, I think evangelical readers will find it interesting and useful in helping their non-Christian friends better understand who evangelicals are—and are not."



**Emily Atwood** ('05) now reports for the *Pleasanton Weekly*, which is part of the Embarcadero Publishing Company out of Palo Alto, Calif.

**Jessica Webb** ('01) of the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* will teach during the Southwestern Photojournalism

Conference held Feb. 23-25, in Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, or to register: [www.swpjc.org](http://www.swpjc.org).



**Christine Tatum** of the *Denver Post* (guest teacher, '07) was installed as president of the Society of Professional Journalists at their annual meeting in Chicago.

**Jody Eldred** (guest speaker, '02) received a national Emmy for his work on ABC News *Nightline*'s series, "Fox 2/5: The Iraq War." His first book, *Changed Lives: Miracles of The Passion* (Harvest House Publishers), based on the TV special of the same name which he executive produced, has sold out of its first printing.

**Karima Haynes** (guest teacher, '05-'06) has been appointed as a print journalism lecturer at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md. In addition, she will serve as the department's university library liaison and an adviser to the student newspaper. Haynes delivered WJI's inaugural Samuel E. Cornish Memorial Lecture and has taught at WJI sessions in Los Angeles and Washington. She is a former staff writer of the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, *Ebony* and the *Los Angeles Times*.



The latest book by **Peter Jones** (guest teacher, '03), *The God of Sex: How Spirituality Defines Your Sexuality*, was published in August by Victor.

*New York Times* best-selling author **Joel Rosenberg** (guest speaker, '03-'04) added two more books to his repertoire: *The Copper Scroll* in August and *Epicenter: Why Current Rumbles in the Middle East Will Change Your Future* in September. Rosenberg also received the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's Fiction award for *The Ezekiel Option*.



**Daniel Archer** ('05) is working as a News Operations Editor for Voxant, the first open distribution network for online news ([www.voxant.com](http://www.voxant.com)).

The 7-minute short horror film "Cruel Logic" by **Brian Godawa** (guest speaker, '03-'04) was a quarterfinalist in the Golden Star Shorts Fest in Hollywood. Additionally, the film was shown at several film festivals in southern California and around the country.

# Training Christians for Work in Mainstream Media

*The work of the World Journalism Institute was highlighted in the August 2006 issue of byFaith magazine, the denominational magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). The article is reprinted here with permission.*

by ROBERT J. TAMASY

What if there was a training institute, a “boot camp” where followers of Jesus aspiring to careers in journalism could learn to serve him more effectively among the working press?

Well, there’s good news in the newsroom. Eight years ago, a conversation about this very need prompted the creation of the World Journalism Institute (WJI), currently based in Asheville, N.C., and headed by Robert Case. Since its first multi-week course in 1999, WJI has helped train and equip hundreds of young journalists for jobs with newspapers, magazines, TV and radio news, and even internet news sites.

Today, WJI graduates gather and report news coast to coast for newspapers like *USA Today*, *The Washington Times*, *The Indianapolis Star*, and *The Charlotte Observer*, and for TV and radio stations in Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York City, and smaller cities.

Case, who worked in radio news and graduated from the London School of Journalism—before studying at Covenant Theological Seminary and then teaching philosophy at Central Washington University—recalls the pivotal discussion.

“I was on the board of God’s World Publications, talking with Joel Belz, publisher of *World* magazine, about what was needed in American journalism to establish a Christian influence. We wondered, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if the company had an education component for training young writers to write from a Christian perspective?’”

The aim then and today, Case emphasizes, was not to form a cadre of journalistic evangelists, but to promote the merits of being a Christian in the secular media and to impart essentials for professional excellence—using the English language with skill and creativity, and striving for the highest standards of writing.

Case was asked to coordinate the initial four-week World Journalism Institute in Asheville. Despite teaching on the West Coast full-time, Case agreed that he and his wife, Kathy, would plan the program, then live in Asheville for six weeks to direct the event.

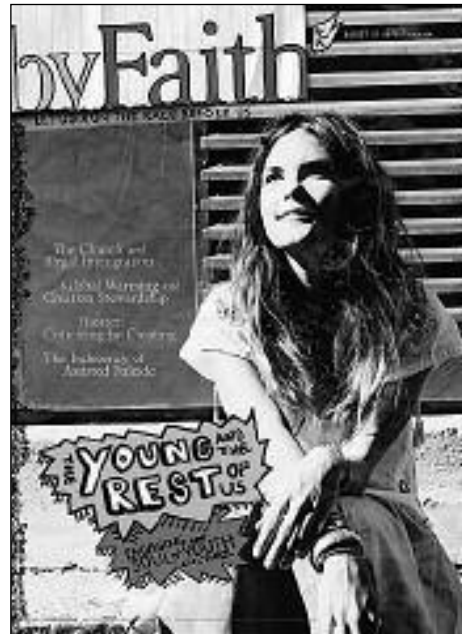
## Narrowing the Focus to Secular Media

The initial purpose was to train young journalists to write for *World* [magazine]; establish a “farm team” for Christian publications; and prepare students for the mainstream media.

“We promoted it through the magazine, but when Kathy and I left for Asheville, we

didn’t know who would show up. We had 24 students and more than 20 practicing journalists who volunteered to teach. It was the most remarkable thing I had ever done,” said Case.

Belz was so impressed that he challenged the Cases to relocate to Asheville and direct the institute full-time—even without assured funding for the enterprise. Leaving secure, established careers was not easy, but in January 2000, Bob informed



his dean he would resign at the end of the spring semester, and Kathy told her school principal she would be leaving her first grade teaching position.

The Cases are always refining and “always reforming” this unique training school. Case narrowed the focus to preparing believers for work in the secular media, since resources for Christian publications were already available. Enrollment was limited to college upperclassmen and graduates. After testing four-week and two-week sessions, WJI decided three-week sessions were ideal, offering one each in May, June, and July, followed by five weeks of practical reporting and writing assignments.

## Meeting in Major Media Markets

Another important development came in 2000 after The King’s College asked Case to help create a journalism curriculum for them. The college had moved from Briarcliff, N.Y., to the Empire State Building in Manhattan. This ultimately led to holding all of the summer institutes in major media centers and electing to eventually relocate the WJI headquarters to New York City.

Three times a year, groups of approximately 15 young men and women, college graduates and upperclassmen, convene in either New York City; the Washington, D.C., campus of Regent University; or Biola University in Los Angeles for intensive three-week WJI courses. They learn how a biblical worldview affects their work: covering the day’s news. To learn how to practice their craft with excellence

they receive hands-on instruction from top journalists who are Christians, such as the esteemed John McCandlish Phillips, who reported many years for *The New York Times*. Every day they tackle reporting assignments to immediately apply what they learn. They even meet media notables who are not believers to better understand other points of view.

After completing the institute’s residency portion, students get assistance in obtaining internships or freelance assignments for five weeks to give them a jumpstart on professional experience. Upon completing the entire two-month program, students earning an “A” are designated World Journalism Institute “fellows.” Often, undergraduate students also receive college credit.

“If we enrolled more kids in each institute, it would lower our cost per student—but it also would lower the quality of instruction. So we remain heavily supported by contributions, keeping the cost to each individual around \$500, including housing, books, and most meals,” Case explained. “We even underwrite internships for students.”

WJI also offers conferences to appeal to aspiring African-American and Hispanic journalists. The weekend conferences, held at Morehouse College in Atlanta and Florida International University in Miami, have successfully attracted believers from ethnic minorities. Intended primarily to provide fellowship, encouragement, and networking for veteran journalists and aspiring reporters, the conferences motivate students to enroll in the more training-oriented institutes.

## The Goal Is Not to “Christianize” the Message

While WJI’s mission is “to recruit, equip, place, and encourage journalists who are Christians in the mainstream newsrooms of America,” Case noted what the institute is not. “We are not a worldview institute, nor a seminary, and we

don’t train evangelists, missionaries, pastors, or columnists. We have no problem with that, but that’s not what we do. Occasionally, we get applicants who want training in how to pontificate against issues like abortion, pornography, and gay marriage. That’s not our goal either.

“Our intent is not to teach journalists how to ‘Christianize’ the message. We believe that in approaching their jobs with a Christian worldview, they will be even more balanced, truthful, and kind in their reporting than someone not in fellowship with Jesus.”

For instance, one assignment was reporting on a gay rights march. None of the students supported that lifestyle, but they were instructed not to focus on flamboyant aspects of the parade, unless that was truly the story, and not to prejudice readers by their own views.

“One of the theological understandings that informs our approach to journalism is that all people are created in the image of God—even if they don’t care about that—and so they deserve respect,” Case says.

That is one reason for including non-Christian journalists in the program, he points out. “This interchange with journalists outside the faith has been mutually beneficial. Hendrik Hertzberg of *The New Yorker* magazine, who was President Jimmy Carter’s speechwriter for four years, spoke at one of our lunches and admitted he considered evangelicals ‘a very bizarre group,’ but he was engaging, very nice. These great journalists, to a person, have been winsome, interesting—and interested in us. A result has been to dispel misconceptions and to understand one another better.”

Case emphasizes, “We are not a school for proselytizers, or training journalists to share the Four Spiritual Laws. Our Reformed perspective gives us assurance that the Holy Spirit, who draws people to Himself, will give us words and expression at the appropriate time. So we can relax and focus on being good journalists.”

## SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR HISPANIC JOURNALISTS OF FAITH

November 3-5, 2006 • Florida International University, Miami

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mizell Stewart III (*Akron Beacon Journal*)



### GUEST SPEAKERS

Rudy Carrasco (Harambee Christian Family Center)

Manny Garcia (*Miami Herald*) • Rafael Olmeda (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*)

Luis Rios (*Miami Herald*) • Tessie DeVore (*Vida Christiana*)

Michael Sallah (*Miami Herald*) • Berta Delgado (formerly, *Dallas Morning News*)

Cost: \$25 • Register online: [www.worldji.com](http://www.worldji.com)

# We Never Know Whose Life We've Touched

Reprinted with permission from the August 2006 issue of *Faith magazine*.

by ROBERT J. TAMASY

Thanks to the World Journalism Institute (WJI), Chris Stollar approaches each work day as a reporter for *The Bulletin* in Bend, Ore., with a concise sense of mission: "To write down for people to read what God did yesterday."

Stollar is among many men and women who have found the institute pivotal in launching their journalistic careers. After graduating from Gutenberg College in Eugene, Ore., he attended the three-week institute in 2004 in New York City, before pursuing a master's in journalism at the University of Maryland.

At a Bible study the first week of the institute, a pastor gave students an overview of Old Testament prophets and exhorted them "to think of ourselves as modern-day scribes of God," Stollar recalls. That metaphor

remains vivid for him today in covering local politics, community events, investigative reporting, even "doing a story on a guy who just murdered his wife over the weekend. It has given me a sense of purpose—to be accurate, fair, and truly objective in how I report the news."

Heather Skold, a morning news anchor and reporter for KIVI-Today's Channel 6 News, an ABC affiliate in Boise, Idaho, shares Stollar's perspective. "We are called to be salt and light in the world, and that crosses all occupational boundaries. I often feel like a missionary, empowered to do what not a lot of people want to do."

Skold attended WJI in 2002 in Los Angeles, before her senior year at Wheaton College.

"They really want to equip believers to get into the media—they don't take it lightly. It's not some kind of summer camp."

Between intense teaching sessions, interactions with respected journalists, and on-the-spot

reporting assignments, the two-week institute experience "prepared me for understanding how to do the job well and what it's like to be a Christian in this business," she says.

WJI also assisted her in landing an internship with a Colorado Springs TV station, giving her an opportunity to immediately apply her newly acquired reporting skills. "If it had not been for the institute helping me to get such a strong foundation, it would have been much more of an uphill battle to get to where I am today."

Kanette Worlds of Pontiac, Mich., received a double dose of WJI, attending a weekend conference for African-Americans early in 2004 in Atlanta before participating in a three-week institute in Los Angeles later that year. The conference helped to establish friendships "with like-minded individuals—people who were not only writers, but also writers of faith." The institute introduced her to practitioners

from newspapers like the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Oregonian*, and forced her to venture into an unfamiliar city to gather information for assignments.

"We had to talk to complete strangers about serious, mainstream news topics. It wasn't easy, but I don't think I'd be where I am today without WJI."

Worlds is the public information staff editor at Rochester College, handling multiple writing and marketing responsibilities. Many of the relationships she established two years ago remain valuable: "We help each other out with job opportunities, advice, and prayer."

WJI urges its students to convey the gospel through conduct and commitment to excellence. Approaching journalism with a biblical worldview—"combining the good news with the daily news"—as Stollar defines it, "puts the fear of God into you. If I



Stollar



Skold



Worlds

make an error, even a minor one, I'm not accurately reporting what God is doing in the world."

Often, graduates discover how the subtle witness of a Christian journalist can raise curiosity. Skold, for instance, has led a Bible study with four of her coworkers. She admits it's a challenge, but "you have to have reasons for the hope you possess. This is a good way to discuss them."

And, as Worlds notes, "We can effectively represent Christ by doing our jobs with honesty and integrity, and presenting each issue with fairness. As writers we never know whose life we may have touched along the way. We're storytellers, history recorders. What we choose to write—or not write—impacts thousands, sometimes millions of people."

## WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE PROFILES

### Emily Belz

*New York Daily News*

As a sophomore at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga., Emily Belz began working as news editor of the student paper, *The Bagpipe*.

"My editor pointed me to the WJI May term in New York," she said. "He said it was rigorous, not just a world-view seminar."

Through the WJI course, Belz made contact with an editor at the *New York Daily*

*News*, Dawn Eden (also a WJI guest teacher). Eden commissioned Belz to write freelance pieces for her section, "Big Town Big Heart."

Since that time, the *Daily News* has published three spreads by Belz, featuring New Yorkers who make a difference.

Throughout the summer, Belz also worked on pieces for the education section of her local paper, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* in North Carolina.

Belz, now a junior, studies history at Covenant, and looks forward to a spring semester of intensive language immersion in the Universite de Paul Cezanne in Aix-en-Provence, France.



### Brett Jensen

*Sean Hannity Radio Show*

Brett Jensen is a senior studying electronic journalism, finishing his last semester at Kansas State University. Jensen was selected to be one of Sean Hannity's two interns at his nationally syndicated radio show in New York City during the summer of 2006.

Jensen is host of his award-winning talk show, "The Right Wing Conspiracy."

He was selected by his professors to operate the lead camera for the airing of the Kansas 2006 State of the State address. Brett also worked as an anchor, producer, and reporter for KST8's "Manhattan Matters," a televised evening news program.

While specializing in journalism and radio, Brett has a special penchant for political news.



"Working for Sean Hannity was a dream. To learn the trade while talking politics with Karl Rove, Tim Russert, and Keith Olbermann is invaluable."

Jensen is a 2001 alum of WJI, and fellow of the institute. Jensen will graduate this December, and is actively seeking a job in broadcasting.

### Lonnie Stoltzfoos

*MBL Communications*

When Lonnie Stoltzfoos, 23, moved to New York City three years ago, he wasn't sure where his aspirations lay, but now hopes to carve a niche in the publishing industry.



He began building his future by securing a paid editorial internship at MBL Communications, a 12-year-old company in New York that publishes several medical journals for the psychiatry field, including *CNS Spectrums*, *Primary Psychiatry*, and a weekly glossy poster called *Psychiatry Weekly* ([www.psychweekly.com](http://www.psychweekly.com)).

Stoltzfoos said, "When I found the position online, I was initially attracted to it because of its emphasis on real, nitty-gritty editing."

Stoltzfoos is a senior at The King's College in New York, where he is editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper. He is a WJI graduate, who attended the course in May 2005.

"The experience I obtained at WJI eased my vacillation between career aspirations," Stoltzfoos said, referring to the three weeks of high-pressure writing and cold-interviewing during WJI.

### Melissa Tamplin

*Biola University*

Melissa Tamplin is a bilingual broadcast journalist with more than 10 years of experience in local television news. Tamplin has worked in six different television markets as an on-air anchor and reporter.

In 2004, Tamplin moved to New York City to pursue her master's degree in journalism from Columbia University,



and begin writing her first book. While in New York, she has also worked as a freelance reporter at WNBC-TV.

Tamplin began her on-air career in Abilene, Texas,

where she was the six and 10 o'clock co-anchor for KRBC-TV. She continued reporting and anchoring at WAPT-TV in Jackson, Miss. She later moved to WBRC-TV in Birmingham, Ala., and ultimately landed a job at her "dream station," WFAA-TV, in her hometown of Dallas, Texas.

A native Texan, Tamplin graduated in 2005 from Columbia University.

Tamplin has recently joined the faculty of Biola University on the outskirts of Los Angeles.