

WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

TIMES OBSERVER

Spring 2006 • Volume 6, Number 2

Fountain to Keynote Third Annual Conference for African-American Journalists of Faith

Morehouse College will again host WJI's spring conference

John W. Fountain will deliver the Samuel Cornish memorial lecture at the third annual Spring Conference for African-American Journalists of Faith, April 21-23, 2006, at Morehouse College in Atlanta. Fountain is professor of journalism at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and worked formerly for *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *The Washington Post* (see bio in right-hand column).

The purpose of the conference is to attract both student and professional journalists of faith from across the nation. Institute Director Robert Case said, "Those who attend will be encouraged and challenged to integrate their Christian faith and journalism practice."

Friday sessions will be led by Gracie Staples (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*) and Arnold Lindsay (*Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Miss.), followed by dinner at Paschal's Restaurant and a talk by conference convener Anthony Bradley (Covenant Seminary/World Journalism Institute).

The second day will begin with breakfast and morning sessions with Karima Haynes (formerly *Los Angeles Times*), Adrienne Gaines (*Charisma* magazine), and Judith Howard (*Denver Post*), followed by lunch and afternoon sessions led by Mike Paul (MGP & Associates PR, New York City), Mira Lowe (*Newsday*) and Herbert Lowe (*Newsday*), the immediate past president of the National Association of Black Journalists.



John Fountain



Adrienne Gaines



Mike Paul



Gracie Staples



Anthony Bradley, conference convener



Arnold Lindsay



Karima Haynes



Mira Lowe



Herbert Lowe

The Saturday evening dinner with keynote speaker John Fountain will be held in the Morehouse College President's Dining Room. The institute will distribute Fountain's book *True Vine* to conference attendees.

Also attending the conference are photojournalist Kenneth Irby (Poynter Institute), health news producer Marsha Eaglin (Christian Community Health Center, Chicago) and broadcast journalist

Andria Hall (SpeakEasy M.E.D.I.A. Inc.)

Sunday morning the conference will conclude with a breakfast fellowship roundtable held at Paschal's Restaurant, where conferees will have time to share and reflect on the weekend.

WJI's program director Kim Collins said, "It's awe-inspiring to be a part of this unique conference which continues to grow each year."

To register go to worldji.com. Cost is \$25.

John W. Fountain

A native son of Chicago, John W. Fountain is an award-winning journalist, professor and author of *True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith Hope and Clarity*. He has written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *The Washington Post*.

Until July 2003, he was a national correspondent for *The New York Times*, based in its Midwest bureau in Chicago. He is a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been a visiting scholar/lecturer at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and is working on his second book.

In addition to working as a national correspondent, Fountain has been a crime and courts reporter as well as a general assignment reporter and features writer. Described by peers and readers as a gifted storyteller, Fountain has won the praise of colleagues and the community for his insightful writing and reporting. Fountain has won honors for feature writing from the National Association of Black Journalists, the Associated Press, the American Association of University Women, the Society of Professional Journalists, and *The New York Times* Publisher's Award for his coverage of the Mississippi River flood, among others. In 2003, he was a finalist in feature writing and sports writing for the Peter Lisagor Award for excellence in journalism.

Fountain frequently speaks to inner-city youth and other groups. He shares his inspirational story of going from poverty and the urban mean streets of Chicago's West Side to the top of his profession. Fountain earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1999, Fountain was one of 12 American journalists selected for the prestigious Michigan Journalism Fellowship for the 1999-2000 class at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Fountain can be reached at jwf@uiuc.edu.

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

Midsouth Conference

Award-winning journalist Jerry Mitchell spoke to 50 students in Jackson, Miss.



CASE in POINT

by ROBERT CASE II

Jay Rosen, New York University Department of Journalism, is one of journalism's wise men. He is provocative and insightful about the calling of journalism. I highly recommend his blog *Press-think* and book *What Are Journalists For?*

In late 2004, Rosen wrote a long piece, "Journalism Is Itself a Religion," as he celebrated the birth of Jeff Sharlet's new web journal, *The Revealer* (nice name), which reviews the intersection of religion and the press. (Sharlet gives WJI a couple of shots in *The Revealer*!) In his article, Rosen proposes that American journalism is a religion with its own school of theology (e.g., Columbia School of Journalism), High Church (e.g., *Columbia Journalism Review*), statement of faith (e.g., "The Journalist's Creed"), priesthood (e.g., Dan Rather, etc.), sacerdotal ceremonies (e.g., Pulitzer Prize awards), deity (e.g., First Amendment), spiritual crisis (e.g., doubting the value of journalism) and, finally, its own heresy (e.g., public or civic journalism). Rosen is a self-described journalistic heretic, for he advocates civic journalism.

As I understand Rosen's view, civic journalism posits that journalistic objectivity is a chimera, and that journalists ought not to be hesitant about reporting events through a grid which sees the advancement of democracy as the *sum-mum bonum* of the craft. In short, civic journalism is agenda-driven journalism.

At WJI we agree that all journalists, by necessity, view the world through a religious grid because every person is irradicably religious. It is interesting to read that such a discerning journalist as Rosen perceives a religious dimension to our calling. We at the institute would argue that it is not democracy which is the journalistic template, but the verifiable truth of a given situation.

Red Smith Journalism Lectures Offered by Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame offers a unique series of lectures in journalism, ethics and democracy called the Red Smith Lectures in Journalism. Named for the great Pulitzer Prize-winning sports reporter who died in 1982, the lectures foster stylish writing of literary merit and professional standards that contemporary journalists should recognize and uphold. Almost every year, the university publishes the lecture in booklet format for easy reading. It is worth getting your hands on the lectures given by such journalistic luminaries as James Reston, Murray Kempton, James Kilpatrick, Charles Kuralt, Georgie Anne Geyer and David Remnick.

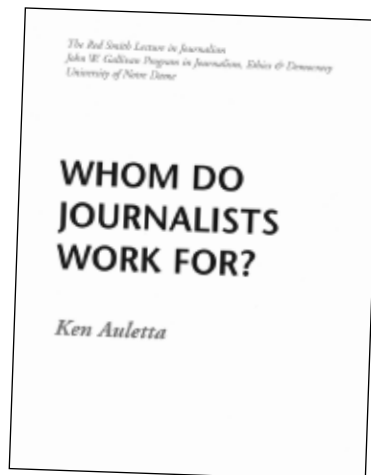
The 2005 lecture, "Whom Do Journalists Work For?" was given by Ken Auletta,

whose writing appears in *The New Yorker*. In 1997 Auletta wrote an article on WJI teacher John McCandlish Phillips, for

whom the institute named its journalism teaching chair.

WJI distributes these helpful booklets to its students. Complimentary copies of these Notre Dame lectures are available by writing Robert Schmuhl, Director, John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism,

Ethics & Democracy, 314 O'Shaughnessy Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556.



Board Member Profile: Virginia H. Kurtz

Businesswoman and financial analyst Virginia (Ginny) Kurtz joined the governing board of the World Journalism Institute in 1999.

A New England girl, Ginny grew up in the Boston area where she graduated from Beaver Country Day School. Her school girl activities included music, tennis and figure skating. In 1957 Ginny went to North Carolina to attend Duke University. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1962. In 1962 she also earned her certificate in business administration from Harvard College.

In 1962 she began her vocational calling at the State Street Bank in Boston as a financial analyst. Soon she moved on to Citibank in New York as an administrator in the trust department. In 1976 she began her ownership stewardship, first with Eastern Security Systems in Portland, Maine, and in 1983, with Hoyt Corporation in Westport, Mass.

Ginny and her husband Dick are leaders in the Maine evangelical community. Ginny has been active with Focus on the Family, the Christian Civic League of Maine, and the Christian Education League. She has long been committed to seeing aspiring Christian journalists who are bright, eloquent and winsome enter the mainstream newsrooms of America.

In her spare time, Ginny has authored book reviews and articles concerning the intersection of Christianity and society.



HANDOUT

Latest News from the Francis A. Schaeffer Chair

Good writing is an art, and we are honored to announce that Nancy Pearcey was invited to deliver a keynote address on a Christian worldview approach to the arts in February at the annual conference of the International Arts Movement (IAM) in New York City. Pearcey shared the podium with the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Dana Gioia, and actress Patricia Heaton of *Everybody Loves Raymond* (www.iamny.org/events/conferences.html). Makoto Fujimura, a past WJI teacher, is the founder of IAM and serves on the board of the National Council of the Arts.



Pearcey

Pearcey's keynote address, as well as an in-depth seminar, drew on material that she has been teaching to World Journalism Institute students every summer. Two WJI alumni also attended the conference, one of them assisting with a videotaped interview with Pearcey for a school project.

Pearcey continues to represent WJI in the media as well, notably a recent interview on the "Bible Answer Man." You

Those Rapacious Media Companies

by MICHAEL K. OZANIAN

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Big oil companies have huge bull's-eyes on their backs. Record profits (like Exxon-Mobil's \$36 billion) and \$65 oil have made the industry targets of politicians, newscasters and editorial writers who claim the oil companies have rigged the market and gouged consumers. The cry is up for a windfall-profits tax. But wait. What if "windfall profits" were defined to include any fat margin? Media companies would be much more exposed than oil companies. Herewith, a sampling of newspapers and broadcasters with handsome operating margins. Recognizing their rich pricing power, Wall Street accords media outfits much nicer price/earnings multiples than it does mere oil producers.

Company	Operating margin*	Estimated P/E 2006
CBS CORP	26	16
GANNETT	32	12
GENERAL ELECTRIC	25	17
KNIGHT RIDDER	20	18
MCCLATCHY	28	16
NEW YORK TIMES	18	18
NEWS CORP	21	22
TRIBUNE	23	15
WALT DISNEY	19	18
WASHINGTON POST	23	26
EXXONMOBIL	16	11

*Earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation as a percentage of sales for the latest fiscal year. Sources: Reuters Fundamentals, Thomson Financial via FactSet Research Systems.

can listen to the two-hour interview at www.oneplace.com/ministries/Bible_Answer_Man/archives.asp (scroll down to 2/14/2006 and 2/15/2006).

Many readers of Pearcey's award-winning book *Total Truth* continue to ask about the availability of the study guide. It can be downloaded from www.pearceyreport.com at no cost. The guide includes numerous fresh examples and illustrations, and is being widely used for personal study as well as in Sunday school classes and small groups. It is the same guide that students use in preparation for WJI's summer course. You may contact Pearcey at npearcey@worldji.com.

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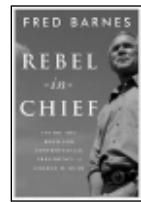
The mission of the World Journalism Institute is to recruit, equip, place and encourage journalists who are Christians in the mainstream newsrooms of America.

WORLD JOURNALISM NEWS

The fourth edition of *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* by **Randall Balmer** (WJI guest speaker, '05) includes two new chapters. Originally published 15 years ago and subtitled "A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America," it was the basis for an award-winning PBS documentary. The new edition includes two new chapters and is published by Oxford University Press.



Fred Barnes (WJI guest speaker, '04-'06) has written a recently released book on George W. Bush's presidency, *Rebel-in-Chief*. Barnes is executive editor of *The Weekly Standard* and cohost of *The Beltway Boys* on the Fox News Channel. Previously he served as White House correspondent for *The New Republic*, covered the Supreme Court and the White House for *The Washington Star*, and was the national political correspondent for *The Baltimore Sun*.



Erick Bauman (WJI '05) has been hired as the Special Projects Editor at the Winter Haven (Fla.) *News Chief*.

Nat Belz (WJI guest teacher, '99, '01) is the associate editor of *ByFaith* magazine (byfaithonline.com), which is published bimonthly by the Presbyterian Church in America.

Josh Boatwright (WJI '05) is interning as a general assignment reporter for the Asheville (N.C.) *Citizen-Times*.

Amy Doolittle (WJI '04) was promoted to a new position at *The Washington Times*. She is the District reporter, covering city hall, city council, the mayor and upcoming elections for the District of Columbia.



Rod Dreher (WJI guest teacher, '03) has written a new book, *Crunchy Cons: How Birkenstocked Burkeans, gun-loving organic gardeners, evangelical free-range farmers, hip homeschooling mamas, right-wing nature lovers, and their diverse tribe of countercultural conservatives plan to save America (or at least the Republican Party)*.

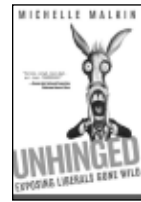


Gordon Govier, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, is launching a focused ministry to journalism students. Govier said, "It's an informal partnership between InterVarsity and Gegrapha, since I am an employee of one and a board member of the other." His goal is to net-



work and mentor Christian journalism students (and faculty) at the top journalism schools in order that "students and faculty will be transformed, campuses renewed and world changers developed." Govier (ggovier@intervarsity.org) serves as Region 6 Director of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Billi Gray (WJI '04) is a full-time reporter for three weekly papers in Wylie, Texas: *The Wylie News*, *Sachse News* and *Murphy Monitor*. She is also freelancing for the *Dallas Morning News*.



In October, Regnery published *Unhinged: Exposing Liberals Gone Wild*, the latest book by syndicated columnist **Michelle Malkin** (WJI guest speaker, '03).

Richard Minter (WJI guest teacher, '01-'02) recently published *Disinformation: 22 Media Myths That Undermine the War on Terror*. Minter is an award-winning investigative journalist whose articles have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Atlantic Monthly*.



Gegrapha is pleased to announce a new executive director, **Jill Kamp Melton**, who began in January and is a radio talk show host and a former columnist for *The Washington Times*. Gegrapha (gegrapha.org) is a fellowship of journalists from all over the world who work in mainstream media and who share a common faith as expressed in the historic fourth-century Nicene Creed.

Jerry Mitchell (WJI guest speaker, '06) was awarded the prestigious George Polk Award for Justice Reporting for his coverage of the murder of three civil-rights activists in Mississippi. Mitchell is an investigative reporter for the *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, Miss.) His award-winning booklet, *The Preacher and the Klansman*, can be accessed for free at www.clarionledger.com/news/miss/reports/preacher/index.html.



World magazine editor-in-chief **Marvin Olasky** (WJI guest teacher, '99-'03) was among 81 leading journalists and journalism professors who signed a letter to the Newspaper Association of America (NPA) calling upon the organization to acknowledge its part in turning "its back on Jewish refugee journalists fleeing Hitler." Northeastern University journalism professor Laurel Leff documented the refusal of the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA), which later



merged into the NPA, to aid those journalists. Journalists who have served with *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The New Republic* and the *Columbia Journalism Review* also signed the NPA letter.

Shepherd Pittman (WJI '04) has taken skills learned as an intern for *The Washington Times* and now works as press secretary for the Florida Senate Majority Office.

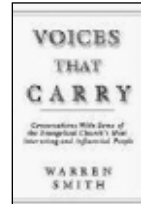
William Proctor (WJI guest speaker, '02) is editor of the new *Light Speed Bible*, a "study program that can empower anyone with at least a seventh-grade reading ability to read every word of the entire Bible in 24 hours or less—with good comprehension."



Sarah Pulliam (WJI '03) is a news intern for *Christianity Today*. She is a sophomore at Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) working for the campus paper, *The Record*.



Warren Smith (WJI guest teacher, '00) published *Voices That Carry*, a collection of the best interviews during the first 10 years publishing *The Charlotte World*.



Chris Stollar (WJI '04) has accepted a full-time reporting position at *The Bulletin*, a daily paper in central Oregon. The newsroom is located in Bend, the sixth-fastest-growing city in the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Lynn Vincent (WJI guest teacher, '00-'06) and Robert Stacy McCain have written a new book, *Donkey Cons: Sex, Crime, and Corruption in the Democratic Party*.



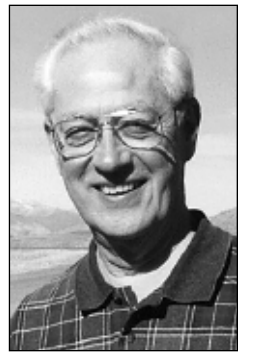
Roy Williams, a journalist at *The Birmingham (Ala.) News*, has written 911, *God Help Us—A Journalist's Tale of Faith: How Losing a Brother in Sept. 11 Terrorist Attack Transformed Reporter into a Witness for God*, available in both hardback and paperback. Williams is an attendee at the upcoming Spring Conference for African-American Journalists of Faith.



Max Blumenthal of *HuffingtonPost.com* commended *World* magazine for an article written by **Jamie Dean** (WJI '02) covering the Jack Abramoff-Ralph Reed scandal: "So far, some of the best—and most adversarial—reporting on the Abramoff/Reed/Dobson saga is coming from the Christian media, namely from Marvin Olasky's *World* magazine."

Robert F. Singleton 1930-2006

Bob Singleton, former chairman of the board of the World Journalism Institute passed away on Jan. 21, 2006. Singleton was the retired chief financial officer of Knight-Ridder, Inc., the second-largest newspaper chain in North America. For more than 20 years Singleton was at the highest levels of financial management of K-R. He was also on the board of directors of Covenant Theological Seminary. Singleton had a degree from the University of Florida and is survived by his wife Dokie and two married daughters.



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Los Angeles
July 23-August 11
Biola University

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Hispanic Journalists
of Faith
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University, Miami

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Mitchell Inspires Young Journalists

by JUSTIN LONAS

Award-winning journalist Jerry Mitchell captivated 50 aspiring journalists from across the Southeast at the Belhaven College Midsouth Winter Journalism Conference held Feb. 24-25, in Jackson, Miss.

Mitchell is an investigative reporter for Jackson's *Clarion-Ledger*. He has been nationally recognized for courageous reporting that exposed unpunished racial killings from the 1960s and led to the retrial and conviction of several Ku Klux Klan members. During three sessions Mitchell related how he pursued those stories, offering numerous tips for successful reporting and explaining how he was able to obtain astonishing amounts of information from murderers simply by taking them out for barbecue and catfish.

The conference concluded Saturday night at the famous Jackson restaurant Denner's with a warm welcome by Leisha Pickering, wife of Congressman Chip Pickering. Jackson Mayor Frank Melton followed with the closing keynote address. Melton encouraged the students to look beyond traditional solutions and to use journalism as a tool for opening closed doors to build up the community, aiming to fix problems rather than simply focus on them.

During the conference, students heard from another trail-



Jerry Mitchell (left) offers tips; conference attendees, staff and speakers pose after the closing dinner at Denner's.

blazer, Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthony, who was the first African-American female on Jackson's WJTV-Channel 12. Dr. Anthony serves as the chair of Belhaven's communications department. Art Moore, Seattle-based news editor at WorldNetDaily.com, led sessions dealing with the rise of alternative media and blogs.

Dr. Robert Case, director of WJI, spoke Friday, proclaiming that humans are wired for a narrative understanding of the world and proving that Christian journalists should be in the business of telling stories through the model of creation, fall and redemption.

Dr. Colin Harbinson, Belhaven's dean of the arts, opened Saturday's sessions with a chapel message, which further explored the nature of art and storytelling.

"I really appreciated the speakers' charisma and enthusiasm in their presentations. The weekend was well worth the drive time," said Aubree Sullivan, a senior from Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn. The conference was organized by Joe Maxwell, assistant professor of communications and journalist-in-residence at Belhaven College.

— Bryan College student Justin Lonas is a senior communication arts major and editor of the student newspaper, *The Triangle*

WORLD JOURNALISM PROFILES

WJI Grad Daniel Archer

USAToday.com

Daniel Archer works 20 hours a week as an intern at USAToday.com, where he is part of the team that produces the



Money section. Convinced that the future of news is bound closely to the web by convergence, Archer hopes to turn his USAToday.com experience into a job as an online

content editor or producer.

Archer's internship duties are that of an editor more than a writer. He monitors the wires for breaking news, edits copy and posts it to the web via XML templates, writes headlines and briefs, and selects photos to enhance text stories.

Prior to beginning his college career at Patrick Henry College, Archer spent two years in Romania working with his family on a start-up mission farm for orphans and two more years managing a truck stop in Western New York.

Archer then made his way to Patrick Henry and its fledgling journalism program, as a junior attended WJI's 2005 May Term in New York, and went back to Romania for six weeks to investigate abuses in the child-welfare system. He continues to pitch those findings as he closes his senior year.

WJI Grad Emily Atwood

The (Biola) Chimes

A student at Biola University (La Mirada, Calif.), Emily Atwood has interned at the *La Mirada Insider* and the



Oakland Tribune, and completed WJI's July Term in 2005.

A love for journalism and print media has always been a part of Atwood's life, whether she was making a

family newspaper or scrutinizing every page of teen magazines.

Most of her journalism experience has come from her time at Biola's weekly student newspaper, *The Chimes*, where she has both written and copyedited. She now serves as the paper's editor-in-chief, overseeing a 12-member staff. Her vision of a bold redesign from tabloid to broadsheet came to fruition last December. The overwhelmingly positive feedback leads her to believe the new format helped bring credibility and a competitive edge to the paper.

After receiving a journalism degree in May, Atwood plans to move home to the San Francisco Bay area. While current plans point to internships at local magazines, she also has interests in the realm of publication (desktop publishing, blogging, web design).

WJI Grad Amy Stanford

Washington (D.C.) Examiner

Amy Stanford is an intern at the *Washington Examiner*, a paper owned by billionaire investor Philip Anschutz and published six days a week.



In 2005, Stanford attended WJI's May Term course in New York City, returning to the institute after attending a WJI high school

workshop in 2000. Reared in San Marcos, Texas, she is a journalism major at Patrick Henry College (Purcellville, Va.)

"As a sophomore, I was an editor on our very young student newspaper. It was a small-scale project, but I learned what it takes to build a newspaper from scratch," said Stanford.

Stanford has freelanced for the *Clarke Times-Courier* (Berryville, Va.) and completed a photography internship with the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* (Leesburg, Va.) She plans to spend the summer studying Spanish in Costa Rica before graduating from Patrick Henry in August.

After graduating, Stanford hopes to work for a daily newspaper as a metro reporter in Washington, D.C. A long-term goal of Stanford's is to work as an international correspondent.

Guest Teacher Manny Garcia

The Miami Herald

Manny Garcia has been the metro editor at the *Miami Herald* since June 2003. He joined the paper in 1990. Since



then he has worked as a night general assignment reporter, covered state criminal courts, covered Miami City Hall and reported for the *Herald's* investigative team.

Garcia has been a primary writer and reporter on two Pulitzer Prize-winning projects for the *Herald*, one which uncovered widespread vote fraud in a Miami mayoral race and the second for the coverage of the Elian Gonzalez raid. He has also helped uncover how a police chief used a children's charity to pay for his mistress and why foam insulation caused the space shuttle to disintegrate.

In 2005, Garcia and database editor Jason Grotto shared the Investigative Reporters and Editors' (IRE) top prize for a series titled "Justice Withheld," which showed how repeat criminal offenders were taking advantage of a little-known judicial break to dodge convictions. Florida curtailed the law's use after the series was published.

You may contact Garcia at magarcia@miamiherald.com.