

THE WJI TIMES OBSERVER

SEPTEMBER 2002

THE VOICE OF THE WORLD JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

ASHEVILLE, N.C.

May Term in Washington, D.C.

At our May term course in the Washington area, we had 15 students from around the country. This was our second May course, and Regent University's campus in Old Town Alexandria is ideally suited for strategic programs for political-minded journalists. Dr. Doug Tarpley, director of Regent's fine journalism program in Va., was our host and one of our faculty members (see p. 3 for more on Dr. Tarpley).

The class component ran two weeks (May 20-31), Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In the evenings after lectures, students had homework—either reading or reporting short articles to be edited the next day.

Instructors came from *The Washington Post*, *Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader*, *USA Today*, *World*, *The Baltimore Sun*, as well as several colleges. During Regent professor Michael Smith's class, students had the pleasure of doing live interviews with George Archibald (*The Washington Times*), Cal Thomas, and Steve Siler (*U.S. News & World Report*).

One afternoon, the students went to *The Washington Times* and sat in on a 4:00 p.m. editorial meeting during which the *Times'* editorial staff planned the next day's front page. What a rare privilege this was! Another evening, Regent hosted us for a dinner at the National Press Club, which honors the great names of American journalism. Wonderfully, our dinner was held in the John Peter Zenger room, named after the fine Christian colonialist who was an early hero for freedom of the press.

We also had luncheon speakers, including David Byrd, a news reporter for the Voice of America, and Cal Thomas, America's most syndicated columnist (Thomas mentioned his visit with our students in his recent newsletter).



An enthusiastic group of May term journalism students at the National Press Club in D.C.



Os Guinness signs a copy of his book for Tony Mator of Geneva College.

In addition, a group met with us from Gegrappa, the international fellowship of Christian journalists in Washington, D.C.

For the May term closing banquet, we invited Dr. Os Guinness to speak, and we distributed a copy of his book, *Time for Truth*, to all the attendees. Guinness spent an hour autographing all the books.

After the class component was

complete, the students did their four assigned stories, which were edited by WJI faculty. Their stories were to be done with a particular publication in mind in order to create a portfolio of clippings. The students had six weeks after the classes ended to complete the reporting assignments. We are pleased (and proud) to inform you that several of our students have had articles printed in local and regional newspapers. On the basis of post-class achievement, we awarded several students with paid internships at daily newspapers. These cub reporters may well be on their way to a Pulitzer Prize! □

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Summer Term in Los Angeles

In order that WJI might have a truly national educational presence, it was decided that we need to have a West Coast course. Clearly, Los Angeles is the West Coast media center, so we began negotiations with The Master's College in the L.A. area. In June, we mounted our first course at Master's. While the number of students was not what we had hoped for, the Lord raised up some outstanding young journalists to train with us.

As is our pattern, we housed the students in a commercial hotel and used the host campus facilities for classroom instruction and lunches. The students stayed at the Fairfield Inn in Santa Clarita, and it was only a short drive to Master's beautiful suburban campus. Our Master's host was Dr. Jack Simons, an extraordinary teacher and faculty member. Outspoken and flamboyant, Simons has worked for newspapers, has a literary background, and has engaged in extensive academic research. (To learn more about Simons, see his biography on p. 3.)

In addition to teaching a component for us and giving us two terrific journalism students, Jack also hosted a barbecue at his home. That's southern California hospitality at its finest. The rest of the Master's College folk were gracious and welcoming, as well, and made our stay in Santa Clarita a great experience. In fact, we are returning to Master's for our January term course. Incidentally, Master's grants six hours of academic credit for students who successfully complete our January term.

Our daily class schedule was basically the same as our May term course. In addition, the students visited the spanking-brand-new Seventh Day Adventist Media Center in the L.A. area, courtesy of Mark Kellner (*The Washington Times*), one of our faculty members. Other local faculty members included Skip Bayless (*San Jose Mercury News*), David Dixon (Azusa Pacific University), Jody Eldred (freelance TV producer), Roy Rivenburg (*Los*



Russ Chandler (left) with our smiling, determined summer students at the final banquet.

Angeles Times), Lynn Vincent (*World magazine*), and Dan Wooding (ASSIST Communications).

Our closing banquet speaker was Russell Chandler (*Los Angeles Times*, retired), considered by many to be the dean of American religious writers in mainstream journalism. If you're interested in receiving a complimentary copy of Chandler's speech in booklet format, contact the institute.

Those students who complete the two-month course (two weeks of classes, six weeks of reporting) receive a certificate of

completion. Those students who excel (receiving an "A" grade) are awarded the designation of "Fellow" and are eligible for a six-month paid internship at a daily newspaper. Customarily, only about a third of our students receive the "Fellow" designation. Ours is a rigorous program. We mention this because our California course produced a very high percentage of Fellows, and a number of the students had articles published in their local newspapers. One foreign student is doing international reporting for *World magazine*.

We have the students do an extensive course evaluation so that we might make necessary changes. The evaluations indicate course trends, strengths and weaknesses. One student wrote, "This was a terrific, inspiring program. Thank you! Very professional. World JI is awesome." Another student commented, "Inspiring, challenging, rewarding. WJI superceded my expectation in all areas: worldview, education, faculty. Thank you for having a vision—your banner is high." With that flying banner, we look with anticipation to the year ahead. □



Final banquet speaker Russ Chandler (right) with WJI Director Robert Case.

2003 Schedule

WJI is pleased to announce that we will be having four courses in journalism next year. The courses are as follows:

- **JANUARY TERM:** Jan. 5-17 at The Master's College in Santa Clarita, Calif.
- **MAY TERM:** May 18-30 at Regent University in Alexandria, Va.
- **JUNE TERM:** June 8-20 at The King's College in New York, N.Y.
- **JULY TERM:** June 28-July 25 at the WJI headquarters in Asheville, N.C.

Each course has a multi-week reporting component following the class instruction.

Due to the generosity of our supporters, we are now able to offer our shorter courses for \$250 and our longer course for \$500.

Faculty Speech Booklets

Since the institute's inception in 1998, our courses have culminated in a final banquet featuring a renown journalist or theologian. We are pleased to announce that we have reissued our banquet speakers' speeches in booklet format, and we are able to make them available to you free of charge. You may choose from the following options:

- Robert Drake's "Speaking the Truth Without Mentioning God"
- Carl F.H. Henry's "Journalistic Truth in a Postmodern Age"
- John McCandlish Phillips's "Faith in the Daily News Chase"
- William Proctor's "Combating Culture Creep"
- Russell Chandler's "The Power of Words in an Age of Image"

Within the next month, we look forward to printing the speech made by Dr. David Aikman (international chairman and founder of Gegrapha) to our 2002 summer/fall students. □

Faculty Profiles

Doug Tarpley

Doug Tarpley is a professor of journalism, as well as the director of the Washington Graduate Journalism Center at Regent University in Virginia. In addition, Tarpley is the national director of the



Tarpley

Association of Christian Collegiate Media, which provides professional guidance for Christian collegiate journalists, their advisers, and their journalistic broadcasts and publications. Dr. Tarpley earned an M.A. from Southwest Missouri State University in 1972, an additional M.A. from Central Missouri State University in 1976, and a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University in 1983.

Jack Simons

Jack Simons is the head of the Communication Department at The Master's College. He earned a bachelor's degree in Bible Theology from Moody Bible Institute, an interdisciplinary Master's degree from Andrews University, a Master's of Fine Arts in Creative



Simons

Writing and Master's degree in Expository Writing from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in English from Bowling Green State University. Simons worked as a feature writer and copy editor for the *Waco News-Tribune*, copy editor and arts and entertainment editor for *The Daily Iowan*, and editorial page editor for *The Iowa City Press-Citizen*. During this time, he received numerous awards for editorial writing, including state awards from the Iowa Press Association, Gannett monthly awards, and second place in a Gannett yearly contest. □

Meet the Chairman of the Board

The World Journalism Institute is a division of God's World Publications, Inc. Chairman of the board is Robert F. Singleton, the retired chief financial officer of Knight-Ridder Corporation, the second-largest newspaper chain in North America. K-R oversees 32 daily newspapers, 25 non-daily newspapers and 56 regional websites. For more than 20 years Singleton was at the highest levels



Singleton

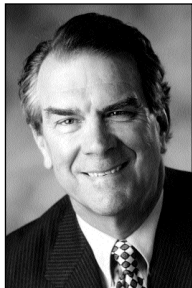
of financial management of K-R, being controller and then CFO and senior vice president of the media giant. As the chief financial officer of the Knight chain, Singleton was responsible for all treasury functions, controller activities, audits, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. K-R owns such major papers as *The Charlotte Observer*, *Detroit Free Press*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*. With that background, he provides a unique perspective in leading the governing board of the institute.

Singleton is currently on the boards of directors of Evangelism Explosion International and Covenant Theological Seminary. He has his degree from the University of Florida, and is married to Dokie (they have two married daughters and five grandchildren).

The leadership Singleton has brought to the board over the last decade is very special, as he is both a media insider and a leading Christian statesman. His media experience and contacts blend with his Christian educational activities to form a counselor of unique perspective and insight. □

Case in Point: A Note from the Director

“A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word.” So goes the proverb (15:23). Every journalist knows it’s fundamental to be armed with a broad vocabulary in order to be effective. If you’re feeling



Robert Case

crunched by a demanding schedule, you can still learn a word a day via e-mail.

Go to www.wordsmith.org and join “a community of more than 500,000 linguaphiles in 210 countries.” Anu Garg, originally from northern India and now residing in Columbus, Ohio, sends forth a new word into cyberspace every weekday. Anu is an internet engineer by day, but when he’s not computing, he’s perusing the Oxford English Dictionary.

While the World Journalism Institute does not sponsor wordsmith.org, it recognizes that for those seeking to be more articulate writers and speakers, “a word a day” is

an excellent tool. Each word in a given week ties into a theme. For example, the theme for the week of July 1 was “terms coined after characters from a cartoon, novel, pop song, theater or newspaper.” On that Friday, the featured term was *yellow journalism*. The phrase refers to journalism that utilizes exaggeration and scandal to entice readers. Anu explained the historical background, “From the Yellow Kid, a character in a wildly popular comic Hogan’s Alley that appeared in the *New York World*, a newspaper owned by Joseph Pulitzer. The Yellow Kid was the object of a circulation war between the *New York World* and its competitor, the *New York Journal* that eventually resulted in both newspapers engaging in journalistic practices characterized by hyperbole, melodrama, and even manufactured events.”

Knowing how easy it is for journalists to slip into this pitfall, WJI seeks to train students to master words, that they might write with fairness and integrity. The Master of Truth has called us to do no less. □

Faculty Reflections



“In 28 years in the newspaper, TV and radio business, I haven’t had a more meaningful and rewarding experience than my three-hour sessions at WJI. . . . I came away as enlightened and uplifted as I hope the students were.”

—SKIP BAYLESS
San Jose Mercury News

“The World Journalism Institute provides opportunities for Christian students to study, reflect, and interact with some of the best scholars and practitioners in our country.”



—MICHAEL CROMARTIE
Ethics and Public Policy Center