NABJ wins big at national conference

Members of the UNT NABJ accept the National Chapter of the Year award from NABJ President Condance Pressley and Convention Chairman Mike Woolfolk. (Left to Right) Lesilie Obinegbo, Condance Pressley, Tiesa Leggett, Mike Woolfolk, Ashley Hyder.

By Justin Harrelson

The University of North Texas chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists was named Chapter of the Year at the NABJ national convention in Dallas this August.

The NT chapter was chosen as the most representative of the NABJ’s mission from chapters across the nation, including several traditionally black universities.

The annual NABJ Convention, Aug. 6-9, was held for journalists to strengthen ties, unify in the cause of furthering black journalists and to recognize the achievements of organization members.

Tiesa Leggett, NT chapter president, attributed the chapter’s success to consistent support from the university and chapter adviser, Dr. Jacque Lambiase.

“The key to a good organization,” Leggett said, “is your executive support.”

The chapter was named NABJ region VII Chapter of the Year and NT’s Student Organization of the Year.

Continued success is the goal of the chapter. Leggett said the chapter’s motto has become “We’re not a one-hit-wonder.”

Leggett said hard work by everyone has led to the success of the organization. She added that membership is at an all-time high, 32, and that the up-and-coming underclassmen intend to keep the awards rolling in for years to come.
Study Abroad offers great opportunities for Mayborn students

By Margaret Myrick

Journalism students, accompanied by Mitch and Lea Land and Sue Mayborn, publisher, traveled to England and Ireland this summer in the journalism department’s Study Abroad program.

The program offered students the chance to meet foreign media professionals in their environment and earn credit in creative writing and international communications.

Participants visited television stations in London and Dublin and the Galway Now magazine. They also met with professionals in public relations, promotions and communications technologies.

In Dublin, they attended the World Newspaper Congress, where newspaper journalists from Europe, Africa and India spoke about the print media’s role in the future.

The students stayed two weeks in the homes of Dublin residents and two weeks on the western coast of Ireland in Galway, attending Dublin City University and Galway University.

“The Study Abroad trip,” said Shawn Florence, a news editorial/public relations graduate student, “was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. It gave me the opportunity to see different countries, learn about different cultures and make life-long friendships.”

The journalism department offers Study Abroad programs every other summer.

Contact the Study Abroad Office in 115 Kendall or log on at www.international.unt.edu.sac. for more information about future Study Abroad programs.

Mayborn Institute welcomes record student numbers

By Chamberli Greene

The Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism welcomed 89 students to its program this fall.

For two consecutive semesters, new student enrollment has been at its highest since the institute began in 1999.

“Our program is growing every year,” said Sandy McKnight, Mayborn administrative assistant.

Additionally, a large number of students come from academic disciplines other than journalism. Christina Jancic, a news/ed graduate student, intends to use a master’s degree from the Mayborn to supplement her bachelor’s degree in biology.

“I chose to attend the Mayborn Institute,” Jancic said, “because of the institute’s reputation and its generous scholarship programs.”

The Mayborn Institute offers the only nationally accredited professional master’s degree in journalism in Texas.

McKnight said, “Accomplished faculty and adjuncts combined with the opportunities we offer our students with internships and job placement set us apart.”
Coffees keep alumni linked to the Mayborn Institute

By Jeff Ryder

The Mayborn traveled through the Metroplex in September to reinforce connections with alumni at local news organizations.

The Mayborn Institute organized two alumni coffees Sept. 11-12 at The Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram. NT alumni Bob Ray Sanders of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Steve Blow of The Dallas Morning News were hosts to the coffees and encouraged NT’s professional alumni to become more involved with the university.

At the visits, Dr. Eric Gormly, NT professor in broadcast news, highlighted some of the department’s achievements and mentioned numerous student awards of the past year.

Susan Zavoina, department chairwoman, said, “The alumni enjoyed hearing about all the awards current students are winning.” She also said that the alumni were glad to hear that NT journalism traditions such as “slash” (weekly NT Daily critique) still continue.

The coffees were organized to build job and internship connections with the two papers, recruit alumni mentors for journalism students and increase alumni participation in NT journalism events.

Ribbons cut to updated labs

The Jack Tinsley Reporting Lab along with the department’s Mac lab were dedicated Sept. 3 by treasured members of the university community, Jack Tinsley and Jim and Sue Rogers.

The labs received several improvements totaling more than $30,000.

Jack Tinsley serves on the journalism department advisory board and endows a news/editorial student scholarship.

Jim Rogers is professor emeritus and a generous supporter of the journalism department.
Jones and Malone travel from Miami to Los Angeles (Texas) for *Texas Highways*

By Margaret Myrick

Rambling through the middle of Texas stirred up red sand and visions of Americana for journalism adjunct professor Kathryn Jones this May. Jones, Dan Malone, her husband, also an adjunct professor for the department, and their dog Wonder hit the open road in a red 2003 Ford Thunderbird convertible. The travelers took U.S. 83 and some Texas back roads for a *Texas Highways* travel story published in the October issue.

The magazine editor asked Jones to document her journey from Miami, Texas, to Los Angeles, Texas, after seeing her work in the *New York Times* and *Texas Monthly*.

Along the way, Jones and Malone spoke with Border Patrol agents and watched American flags wave over a war memorial. The three covered 700 miles for the story, but put 1,700 miles on the car by the time they returned home to Dallas.

The journey was a “wake-up call” for Jones. “Many of the towns where we stopped were charming and vibrant, while others were dying,” Jones said.

“It was sad to see restaurants closed and storefronts on many main streets boarded up. I felt as if I were watching part of Texas’ rural past die.”

Jones, who reported for the *New York Times* after 9/11, said the assignment was not as intense as the work she was used to, but she gained an appreciation for light-hearted stories.

“I realized that it’s important to do this kind of story. To get off the interstate and take a less-traveled path is a mind clearing experience,” Jones said.

Jones teaches feature writing for the department, and Malone teaches advanced reporting techniques for the Mayborn Institute.

Congratulations to our graduates

May
Melanie Barry
Joshua Baugh
Robin Fletcher
Ellen Kuechner-Ward
Christina Mercurio
Stephen Moffatt
Gregory Pearson
Brittani Pruitt
Natalie Redle

Charles Siderius
Jennifer Wegman
Emily Callahan

August
Latoya Harris
Jennifer Hudson
Christina Koutalis
Jon O’Guinn
Amy Rosellini
Anthony Spencer
Anita Varghese

Richard Wells and Mitchell Land
*True Tales of a Tall Tower: KCEN-TV 50 Years and Beyond*, Channel 6 Inc.

Jacque Lambiase

“Plagiarism: An overview for our disciplines,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Media.

STRONG WORDS Staff: Editor: Justin Harrelson; Adviser: Nancy Eanes; Contributing Writers: Chamberli Green, Jeff Ryder, Margaret Myrick; Mayborn Director: Mitchell Land; Mayborn Professor: Richard Wells; Contributing Editor: Keith Shelton; Photos courtesy of: Dan Malone, Maike Rode, Ruthanne Brockway, Tiesa Leggett