NT journalism best in the west at Homecoming

By Chemberli Greene

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This year’s Homecoming theme was “Mean Green Back on the Scene.” The journalism department expanded on the theme with “The Great Journalism Roundup.” Members of the department and the Mayborn Graduate Institute wore wide-brimmed cowboy hats and wide smiles as they walked along the parade route to the Mean Green Village tent, “Journalism Junction,” sponsored by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

At the department tent everyone enjoyed fellowship, door prizes and the “Best in the West” pie baking contest.

Nancy Eanes, career development specialist and event coordinator, said that this event brings alumni, faculty members and students together in a social setting, as no other event does.

“The whole goal of Homecoming,” she said, “is relationship building.”

Many student clubs participated to make this year’s Homecoming event a success by marching in the parade, planning the event and volunteering at the site.

NT’s Public Relations Student Society of America president, Chree Carr, said, “This is a way for us to come together on one event. Homecoming is something we can all celebrate.”

Robin Fletcher, a Mayborn Graduate Institute alumnus, has been participating in Homecoming for three years. He said he comes back every year because it is one way he can give back to the department, which has given so much to him.

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More Homecoming photos on Page Two.
MaybornFest brings the Mayborn Institute family together

By Alisse Wobser

Mayborn students, professors and staff members gathered at the home of Mitch and Lea Land Oct. 25 for the second annual MaybornFest.

MaybornFest strengthens bonds between students and staff. It draws in people who are new to the program and offers a chance for prospective students to meet current students and staff in an informal setting.

“I believe that people who play together stay together, and MaybornFest builds community,” said Mitch Land, director of the Mayborn Graduate Institute. “We need to make our students feel connected to us and to one another.”

Sixty guests enjoyed barbecue, corn bread and sweets at the Lands’ residence on the first chilly night of the fall season.

MaybornFest was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Sandy McKnight, Mitch Land’s assistant who recently took another position on campus. McKnight received several departing gifts including a live box turtle, “Scrappy,” for her garden.

“I could not ask for anything nicer,” said McKnight, “than to be around wonderful people who care.”
Mayborn Scholar Doug Pils wins two Katie Awards

By Molly McCullough

Associated Press writer and Mayborn Scholar, Doug Pils ('02), was recently awarded two Katie Awards for his outstanding reporting by the Press Club of Dallas.

“It was a proud moment,” Pils said. “It’s nice to know people in the profession think you do good work.”

Katie Awards are given annually for excellence in mass media communication in the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Pils was honored for two sports feature stories. “Life in Stripes,” about NFL referee, Walt Coleman, and “Broyles Going Strong,” about longtime University of Arkansas coach Frank Broyles.

Since being hired as an AP sportswriter, Pils has had to write at least two stories a day and interview all types of athletes from hometown heroes to legend Cal Ripken.

“One of my favorite things to do,” he said, “is select the high school player of the week. You always feel like you make an impact on somebody’s life by putting their name in the paper.”

Pils, an avid sports fan, admitted, “I got into journalism for the sole purpose of getting into games free,” but that his position has given him a new perspective on sports in general. Pils said, “Being a sports writer helps you see how much a game it really is.”

Pils acknowledged that having a master’s degree from the Mayborn Institute helped him get hired at the AP office in Little Rock, Ark.

“I think having a master’s degree is one of the things that helped set me apart,” said Pils.

Pils, who graduated in 2002, said he has fond memories of his academic career at the Mayborn Institute, many of which involved his job as a graduate assistant.

Pils newest job is that of father. Pils and Honny, his wife, recently had their first son, Cole Jensen.

Congratulations to Mayborn alumnus Doug Pils and Honny, his wife, on the birth of their first child, Cole Jensen. Pils is a sports editor with the Arkansas Bureau of the Associated Press.

Mayborn students Molly McCullough, Maike Rode and Janet Johnson presented research at the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in November.

The conference was held for scholars to share their research and to promote future research in mass communication and journalism. The Mayborn students were some of the few graduate students chosen to present.

“I was honored when my paper was selected to be presented,” said McCullough, “but when I saw that there were few graduate students presenting at the symposium, I felt even more honored.”

Alumni Notes

Daniel Bartel ('01), Mayborn Scholar, won first place for breaking news from the Texas Association of Press Managing Editors.

Elizabeth Clark ('02), Mayborn Scholar, received a Garden Globe Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers Association.
Susan Zavoina assumes the department chair position

By Margaret Myrick

Susan Zavoina, associate professor and head of the photojournalism sequence, became chairwoman of the journalism department Aug. 15.

Zavoina earned her journalism bachelor’s and Master of Fine Arts degrees from North Texas.

She said her job as chairwoman has given her more insight into the various sequences and how they complement one another.

Becoming chairwoman, she said, has given her a new range of responsibilities as well as opportunities.

“It’s actually made my job more interesting,” she said. “I take a lot more into consideration before making a decision.” Zavoina said she sees “the chair’s position as being a leader by consensus,” and relies on talented faculty members for advice.

One of her new duties is coordinating the curriculum from semester to semester, which is difficult with so many adjunct professors in the department, she said.

She also teaches undergraduate digital photojournalism in the fall and graduate-level visual journalism in the spring.

“I love teaching. I find myself putting more energy into my class. I don’t want to lose that aspect of my job. I do miss not having as much time to hang out in the lab with the students,” said Zavoina, “because that is where a lot of informal teaching takes place.”

Zavoina is taking her first year as chairwoman to “learn the lay of the land” before she considers making any changes in the department.

She is willing to hear suggestions about classes and scheduling from graduate students, and would like to see graduate students working with undergraduates more.

“As chair, I like hearing ideas from students and faculty, even off-the-wall ideas,” she said.

Congratulations to our fall Mayborn Graduates

Brad Andus
Laurie Cipriano
Shawn Florence
Maggie Hsia
Anna Marotti

Reggie McElannon
Maike Rode
Alisse Wobser
Gene Zipperlen

Diane Heuser joins the Mayborn family

The Mayborn Institute would like to welcome Diane Heuser, the Mayborn administrative assistant.

Diane is a mother of two girls and comes to the Mayborn after 15 years at Boeing Corporation.

If you call the Mayborn office, odds are you will talk to Diane; be sure to welcome her.