Mayborn Scholarship application due April 15

By Justin Harrelson

Up to $200,000 in Mayborn Scholarships are awarded each spring to journalism graduate students for the following academic year.

To qualify, students must indicate an intention to pursue a career in the news industry, submit an application with letters of reference and fulfill other criteria listed on the application, available on the Mayborn Institute Web site, by April 15.

The Mayborn Scholarships are made possible through a generous gift from the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn Foundation Advise and Consult Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc.

This academic year 17 Mayborn Institute students each received the $10,000 Mayborn Scholarship, several for their second year.

Ruth Ann Hensley, a two-time recipient of the scholarship, said the Mayborn Scholarship “allows me to focus on school as my primary job.”

The Mayborn Scholarship and the required responsibilities that come with it open doors for student entering the news industry.

David Wachanga, a student from Nairobi, Kenya, said that without the Mayborn Scholarship, pursuing a graduate degree in journalism simply would not be possible.

Daniel Bartel, award winning journalist and regional reporter for the Wichita Falls Times Record News, said the internship he completed as a Mayborn Scholarship recipient at the Temple Daily Telegram helped him get his start as a reporter and opened the door to his current job.

Former Mayborn Scholarship recipients work in the news industry across the nation from the Associated Press to the Denton Record-Chronicle.
By Chemberli Greene

The career development program at the Mayborn Graduate Institute provides students with critical tools they need to take advantage of the recovering economy.

The program includes monthly career workshops, special events and an online job database with up to 400 jobs and internships posted to it.

Nancy Eanes, career development specialist for the Mayborn Graduate Institute, is the force behind making such resources available to students and alumni. Eanes takes her job seriously and works diligently to maintain the online job database, schedule workshops led by industry professionals and create partnerships with local companies.

“Our goal is to help students find positions they’re passionate about,” Eanes said. “When you’re passionate about your job, it ceases to be work.”

The online job database features job listings and internship opportunities from companies such as the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, D Magazine and the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“I search for jobs and internships that are of particular interest to advertising, public relations, news editorial, broadcast news and photojournalism students,” said Eanes.

Eanes, along with the Mayborn Graduate Institute and the Journalism Department, is committed to constantly improving services for students. The Institute is currently revamping the database. This semester, the system will be redesigned by journalism graduate assistant Sai Boddul to make it more functional and appealing to students.

The database and numerous other resources offered by the career development program have proven to be effective for both students and alumni. Since it was created in 2001, the program has reached more than 900 students through its various workshops and more than 75 students have indicated that the job database successfully led them to a job or internship.

With the support of local professionals, the career development program has also hosted annual Career Day events, which include one-on-one mock interviews.

“Career Day gives our graduating students the opportunity to practice their interviewing skills,” Eanes said, “and allows companies to preview our students.”

Shea Mayberry, a Mayborn alumna, said that taking full advantage of the career development program helped her find her internship at EDS and her current job. Mayberry works in the marketing and communications department at Ernst and Young.

There are many reasons to participate in career development programs, but probably one of the greatest is that it is free. Most universities with similar programs charge a fee. The Mayborn Graduate Institute and Journalism Department finance the Career Development programs through a gift from the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn Foundation Advise and Consult Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc.

Any NT journalism student, Mayborn graduate student, or alumni in need of career assistance should call Nancy Eanes at (940) 565-4778 or e-mail her at neanes@unt.edu. To view the job internship database go to: www.jour.unt.edu and click on Jobs/Internships.

Nancy Eanes, career specialist, and Sai Boddul, Mayborn graduate assistant, work hard to design the new job search database for students and Alumni.
Mayborn graduates are professionals and educators

Earning a master’s degree at the Mayborn Institute, the only nationally accredited professional master’s program in Texas, gives you more than excellent practical training. It makes possible a distinct career advantage: the credentials for teaching at the university level.

Josh Baugh, Mayborn alumnus and full-time reporter for the Denton Record-Chronicle, teaches a freshman reporting lab at North Texas.

“Teaching this class, I’m going back over techniques that I take for granted,” said Baugh. He said the class is a way for him to relearn the basics and reinforce skills and values journalism demands. “It’s a career goal to go back into higher education,” he said. It is Baugh’s first year to teach reporting.

Gene Zipperlen, another Mayborn alumnus, instructs at Texas Christian University.

After working at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for 20 years in various positions, senior copy chief being among them, Zipperlen decided to return to school and obtain a master’s degree in journalism.

“My experience at the Mayborn Institute helped me be a better journalism teacher,” Zipperlen said, “certainly in the obvious ways, through the added knowledge and exposure to different ideas about journalism. But beyond that, it exposed me to different ways of teaching as well.”

Margaret Myrick, social club president, said, “The social club creates an environment other than the classroom for graduate students to meet each other, network and talk about subjects besides journalism. We meet close to campus, and friends and family are invited too.”

Along with scheduled get-togethers, the group often meets impromptu for special local events.

Get on the e-mail notification list by contacting Margaret at margaretmyrick@charter.net.

Social Club Schedule

Meetings at Riprock’s 9:30 p.m.

- Feb. 11
- Feb. 26
- March 10
- April 8
- April 21
- May 6

Special events will be announced by e-mail.

Social club brings Mayborn students together outside of the classroom

Mayborn graduate students, alumni and friends pose for a photo at a recent get-together. (Left to right) Jason Goodman, Justin Harrelson, Michelle Daniels, Jeff Ryder, Margaret Myrick, Stefani Martin, Maike Rode, Jake Martin, Tom Bevins, Arne Schwettman.
Kim Vetter, Mayborn alumna, spends a night lost at sea

By Julian Aguilar

According to Mayborn graduate Kim Vetter, all one needs to succeed in journalism are three ingredients: an open mind, a desire to work and a life preserver. Wait, a life preserver? “Yes,“ she repeats.

Last Memorial Day weekend, Vetter, the business editor at the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, found herself “lost at sea” after what was supposed to be a brief trip off the coast. “All went well at first, then 30 minutes later we capsized,” she said. “We weren’t wearing life jackets, so we crawled back onto the pontoon and waited.”

And wait she did--for 15 hours! Vetter had only her soaked clothing and two other disgruntled editors to accompany her through the night. “We finally washed ashore at six the next morning,” she said. “Photos ran in the paper and everything.”

Still, Vetter was able to create a metaphor from her experience. After earning a bachelor’s in communication from St. Mary’s College in 1996, she wasn’t sure which path to take. She lived in Dallas for a year, teaching aerobics and traveling with the Dallas Chamber Orchestra as a public relations representative. She reflects on her experiences positively, but admits she was searching for something she had the ability to do with passion. “I knew I wanted to write,” she said. “I wanted to combine my love for health and personal training with writing.” She credits both degrees with giving her the tools to be a journalist.

“A liberal arts degree is good in the sense it makes you a well-rounded person,” she said. “It gives you the ability to talk about a lot of subjects.” She said that you need to know a little about a lot of things to be a journalist, especially journalism. “It was grad school that made me a journalist.”

And a journalist she is. After leaving North Texas, Vetter was the health/environmental reporter at the Killeen Daily Herald for almost three years, owned by Publisher Sue Mayborn. She moved to the Caller-Times more than a year ago and has been promoted twice. She now works at the business desk.

If the trend continues, the future looks welcoming for the former Eagle. However, she will not soon forget what she learned at NT. “I admire Ms. Mayborn for keeping the spirit of the private newspaper alive,” she said. She speaks not about the hardships of the profession, but instead defends it with vigor. “There is an ideology about journalism,” she explains. “To expose businesses or people that are doing wrong, to inform people about what is going on, that is important. A lot of people complain about it, but imagine people without news. They’d miss it.”

Here’s to wearing life jackets so that doesn’t happen.

Facility in print


Richard Wells and Mitch Land won the “Best of Texas Award” from the Texas Public Relations Association for special publication for True Tales of a Tall Tower: KCEN-TV 1953-2003, Fifty Years and Beyond.

STRONG WORDS Staff: Editor: Justin Harrelson Adviser: Nancy Eanes Contributing Writers: Chemberli Green, Julian Aguilar, Margaret Myrick Mayborn Director: Mitch Land Mayborn Professor: Richard Wells Contributing Editor: Keith Shelton Photos courtesy of Justin Harrelson, Robin Fletcher, Kim Vetter