Mayborn alum captures 2008 Olympics in Beijing

By Rebecca Hoeffner

Greg Pearson, a photographer for the Shreveport Times in Louisiana, was one of the few journalists selected to cover the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. He’s also a graduate of the Mayborn Graduate School of Journalism. It’s because of his connection to the Mayborn that Pearson has the job he enjoys so much.

“UNT alumnus photographer at The Times contacted Photojournalism Professor Susan Zavoina to ask if she knew of any good photographers, and Pearson got the call. Despite the paper’s circulation of 50,000, Pearson covered the Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints and Louisiana State University football, as well as a few NFL playoffs, the Bowl Championship Series and the NCAA final four. He’s also covered notable news events such as Hurricane Katrina and troops training for Iraq deployment.

But the Olympic coverage was a first for Pearson, and even though he took more than 50,000 photos, a few moments stuck with him. “One of my favorites is a shot of a long jumper. I like

Undergraduate named to UNT System Board of Regents

By Elise Brooking

Meghan Vittrup isn’t your average college junior. In fact, she’s anything but. The 21-year-old has obtained a long list of accomplishments, recently being appointed to the UNT System Board of Regents as a student member to represent the student body at North Texas.

In May, Vittrup was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve as the voice of the students. She will hold her position for one year. She said the news came as a shock, but she, of course, welcomed it. “I was really excited and nervous,” Vittrup said, smiling. “It all happened so fast.” Although her position doesn’t allow her to vote, she is able to speak on
Goodbye our friends...

Nancy Eanes joined the Mayborn family in 2001 as a Career Specialist, but it didn’t take long for us to realize her abilities in alumni development and event planning. Nancy, as conference manager, did an outstanding job with our nationally acclaimed Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference, demonstrating her leadership skills to students and faculty alike. At the same time, she helped establish the journalism jobs/internships databank and has been an outstanding ambassador to commercial, public and nonprofit media establishments across the Southwest. We are proud that other departments joined us in this appreciation, which made possible an opportunity to lead the College of Education in its development and advancement goals. Nancy remains with us, but her UNT team has become much larger. You will be missed by students, staff and faculty. And we wish you God’s speed and much success in the coming days as director of development at the College of Education.

Our wonderful administrative assistant, Brandee Harrawood, has also been a valuable member of the Mayborn Family since 2004. She has been the students’ guardian angel through sometimes trying times as students go through the application process, register for classes, create degree plans and prepare for the dreaded comprehensive exam. Brandee’s indomitable spirit and pleasant countenance kept the Mayborn office steady, especially during the frenetic build-up to the Mayborn Conference. Both Nancy and Brandee, along with the wonderful graduate students and the conference maestro, George Getschow, provided an unstoppable team through four outstanding conferences that have placed the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference on the national map. We wish Brandee well as she begins a new life in Cambridge, England.

2008 Journalism Job Fair Success

Journalism department faculty from left to right: Prof. Nann Goplerud, Dr. Koji Fuse, Dr. Sheri Broyles, Career specialist Rachel Smith and Dr. Jacqueline Lambiase.

Calendar

Oct. 20 Early Registration for Spring
Oct. 20 Judea Pearl, father of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl to speak in the University Union Lyceum
Oct. 25 Homecoming
Nov. 15 Spring Admission Applications Due
Nov. 27 Thanksgiving
Dec. 6-12 Finals
Dec. 12-13 Graduation
Dec. 24- Jan. 20 Christmas Break
Jan. 20- Spring Semester
The 2009 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest will be held July 24-26, 2009 at DFW Hilton Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas.

Save the Date!

The 2009 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest will be held

July 24-26, 2009
at DFW Hilton Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas.

Congratulations from the Mayborn!

May Graduates!
April White
Sarah Junek
Pablo Lastra
Candace Carlisle
Meg Gupton
Amber Elliott
Lisa McCollough
Andrew Rogers
Sarah Whyman

August Graduates!
Wendy Moore
Jocelyn Foster
Vance Gonzales
Kelly Honzell

Most of the time, Pearson said he had to take whatever food could be obtained.

“I ate McDonald’s or in the cafeteria in the Main Press Center because after an 18- to -20 hour day, you just want to get something in you and get to bed. There were a few times where I had to choose: food or sleep,” he said. Pearson said he’s fortunate to have had these opportunities, and has great aspirations for his photography career.

“I’d really like to make it to the Super Bowl,” Pearson said. “My pop played in the NFL for 14 years and played in the Super Bowl five times.”

Pearson also said his experience at the Mayborn has helped him with choices in his career, especially media ethics.

He said “I think what has been most useful in my schooling at the Mayborn was our discussions on ethics,” he said. “I still practice what I learned almost everyday, whether it’s out in the field or in the newsroom when discussing how to cover certain assignments.”

| MEGHAN. Continued from cover. |

behalf of the students and address their concerns.

“The student regent brings a unique perspective because Meghan Vittrup knows the academic and student life of the university, in ways that former students and older leaders do not,” Chancellor Lee F. Jackson said.

Vittrup knows there’s a possibility to make a difference. “I want to be a good representative of the state, university, and the students,” she said.

Her route to the board has been anything but ordinary. Growing up the daughter of a military father, Vittrup was used to being on the go. She considers La Plata, Md home, since she lived there the longest. All the time she spent moving around the country helped her prepare for everything she faces today. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Vittrup has ventured into the professional world, interning at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. for the past two summers. She wrote for the American Forces Press Service (AFPS), an organization within the Pentagon that distributes and publishes news stories related to the U.S. Department of Defense.

“It was great to have the opportunity to work in government in a professional environment,” Vittrup said. “And I was able to use what I learned here at North Texas.”

Vittrup’s advice to other students who might be hoping to take that same route? “Don’t give up,” she said. “Work hard and hold leadership positions. There are always people who take notice.”
Alumni Updates

• Mayborn Scholar and UNT alumnus David Ndirangu Wachanga, a PhD assistant professor of Journalism at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, chaired the panel discussions titled ‘Kenyan Vernacular FM Stations: The small Worlds of media ethics and economics’ at Yale University Language in African Performing and Visual Arts Conference in New Haven, Conn., in October 2008.

• Linda Jacobson received a 2008 Clarion Award from the Association for Women in Communications for migrating public relations from a web 1.0 to a web 2.0 environment in Washington D.C., in September 2008.

Lisa Rollins, a graduate of the University of North Texas, was awarded one of four competitive grand prizes in the 2008 communications contest sponsored by District III of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education at its annual conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Rollins, a journalism professor at Middle Tennessee State University, graduated from the University of North Texas in 1996. She accepted the award Feb. 19, according to an article published in the Denton Record-Chronicle.

Rollins won the award for a partnership between students in her reporting class and The Daily News Journal in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Rollins attributes much of her success to former professors at UNT. “Everything I learned in my undergraduate classes; those are the things I’m still using,” she said.

Rollins worked 11 semesters at the NT Daily, where she first began assisting others in the journalism field. She said Dr. Richard Wells always sent students to her for tutoring – and he saw a future teacher in her, even when she swore it wasn’t for her.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else now,” Rollins said.

Educating others is nothing new to Rollins. Her grandmother was a school teacher, and when Rollins was 6, she started her own newspaper with her assistance. She has been writing nonstop since.

Rollins said she wants to eventually return to the Denton area. Although she has two degrees from MTSU, she said she will always be a “mean-greener.”