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Second guest lecturer to explore press freedom

By September L. McIntyre

The Mayborn Graduate Institute's second guest lecturer, Pius NjawŹ, owner and publisher of Le Messenger group of newspapers in the Cameroon, was named in May by the International Press Institute (IPI) one of 50 World Heroes of press freedom.

During his residency at the Mayborn Institute in the spring of 2001, he will share the challenges facing independent newspapers in repressive nation-states.

In September, NjawŹ was awarded the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Having received the highest honor the school of journalism bestows, NjawŹ will join the ranks of Christiane Amahpour, Tom Brokaw, Winston Churchill, Walter Cronkite, George Gallup, Marvin Goode, Gordon Parks and Helen Thomas.



Pius Njawe, journalist.

For years, international press organizations have awarded their top prizes to this publisher, including the *Prix de la Libre Expression* from the *union internationale des journalistes de presse de langue francaise*, the Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York (1991) and the *Plume d'Or* award for Freedom of Expression from the Federation of International Editors and Journalists in 1993.

Njawe has drawn praise from such dignitaries as Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa and George Bush of the United States. Since 1989, Njawe has represented Africa in the organization Reporters without Borders.

He established his newspaper in 1979 and has survived two repressive regimes, a remarkable feat in a region that still includes a majority of one-party nation-states, Dr. Mitch Land, Director of the Mayborn Institute said.

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Mayborn Institute is putting big smiles on little faces

Once again, Mayborn Institute students and faculty members have the opportunity to share the Christmas spirit by giving to those less fortunate.

The Mayborn Office, GAB 207, is a designated drop site for the Silent Santa program.

Silent Santa, started in 1992 by Officer Greg Hedges of the Denton Police Department, depends on community participation to gather toys and other items. Last year more than 22,000 toys were donated.

Working in conjunction with help NET, Silent Santa collects toys so agencies can concentrate on other services such as clothes, shelter and food.

Debbie Wrenn, Silent Santa Project Coordinator, said donated toys will go to the following institutions: Denton County Toy Store, Owsley Christmas program, Denton Housing Authority, Denton ISD Christmas Assistance, Ponder Christmas program, Sheperd Store House, and DentonPolice Association's Shop With a Cop.

Wrenn said that girls and boys ages 12-14 are the most difficult to collect for. She said that the most important thing to remember about Silent Santa is their motto: "Putting big smiles on little faces."

"By participating in Silent Santa, individuals are going beyond themselves to help

themselves," Wrenn said.

Nonperishable food or monetary donations will go to the Denton Community Food Center.

Silent Santa also needs volunteers to sort toys. Volunteers may call Debbie Wrenn at (940) 383-9442 for more information. Silent Santa donations can be made in the Mayborn office, GAB 207, through December 18.

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Student Profile: Emily Bryant says journalism blends her many interests

By Elizabeth Clark

The Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism is the best place Emily Bryant could have chosen to land at NT, and it didn't take her long to realize that a journalism degree would blend her multitude of interests.

Arriving in Denton with an undergraduate degree in anthropology and a year of graduate work behind her, she was already accustomed to digging up information about people, their origins, social habits and traditions.



Her undergraduate minor was in film at the University of Southern Mississippi Honors College in Hattiesburg.

As an artist who enjoys a wide range of media including painting, drawing and collage, she discovered at NT that journalism "has an interesting and satisfying way of bringing my diversified interests together within a context of writing and graphic design."

Bryant is anticipating a May 2000 graduation and is hard at work on her master's thesis, which focuses on the World Wide Web aspects of the popular Harry Potter series of books. She relaxes by playing guitar and the Irish bouzouki in a traditional Irish band, Idle Road and by dancing.

"I know I'm known for the Irish dancing, but I also love other kinds of dancing," she said.

"When I was in Ireland on a Rotary scholarship (1997-98), I spent most of my time learning ballroom and Latin dance! That was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I hardly learned any Irish dance while I was there."

Bryant said she appreciates the diversity of students at the Mayborn Institute, and has enjoyed getting to know the professors.

"I've been inspired by their work," she said.

"Since we all come from different academic disciplines, I think that has added to our collective graduate experience," she said.

"I learned about the (Mayborn) scholarship, as did many, by stumbling into Dr. Land's office. I had been working as a clerk in the NT political science office, and was about to go nuts wanting desperately to go back to school. I had a flash of inspiration that journalism might be something I'd like, so I took a coffee break and rushed over to the department where I found Dr. Land. Within 30 minutes he had convinced me to try for the scholarship."

Following her flashes of inspiration has served Bryant well, and she has no shortage of ideas for the future. Ultimately, she said, she'd like to meld all her interests into a professional life as a freelance writer and artist. Writing and illustrating children's books is "way up there on the list."

As the daughter of an art professor and bookstore manager in Natchitoches, La., Bryant enjoyed growing up in a small Southern town.

"It's the same town of *Steel Magnolias* fame; they shot the movie there, and the script is based on a true story in Natchitoches (pronounced "nakatish"). It's a very beautiful town - lots of history - it's the oldest permanent settlement of the Louisiana Purchase, founded in 1714 by the French."

For more information about Natchitoches, the Louisiana Purchase, Harry Potter, Irish dancing, journalism, graphic design, painting, crafts, film, Irish bouzouki, ethnic food stores in Denton or Martha Stewart, just contact Emily Bryant.

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Student Profile: Pils gets promotion at *Arlington*

Morning News

By Elizabeth Clark

Doug Pils, a first-year grad student at NT, has made a rapid ascent in journalism since graduating from Texas A&M University in 1992 with a B.S. in journalism and economics.

The most recent addition to his resume was being named sports editor at the *Arlington Morning News* in November, 2000.

Does this mean Pils will become a hard-nosed management type?

"Nah," Pils said.

He'll remain the same thoughtful, good-natured guy who spends long hours putting together the Arlington paper and, on Monday nights, helping his shorter-statured classmates in Dr.

Carstarphen's class reach the projection screen for their weekly presentations. As a matter of fact, Pils may someday teach future generations of students at NT.

"My ultimate goal, after another 15 to 18 years in the business, is to teach journalism at a university," he said.

"That means at some point I'll need to find time for a doctoral program somewhere."

Those are strong words from someone who hated high school English classes and sweet-talked his Mom into typing his research papers.

During his final semester at A&M, Doug supervised a 65-member staff as editor of the *Battalion* campus newspaper.

Since graduation he has worked for the *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*, *Waco Tribune-Herald*, *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* and, for the last four years, the *Arlington Morning News*.

He has worn several hats at various times at the *News*, first as sports writer, then assistant sports editor; then, assistant night city editor, night city editor, business editor, back to sports writer and now, sports editor.



Doug Pils, sports editor, *Arlington Morning News*. Photo courtesy of *Dallas Morning News*.

During his tenure as assistant sports editor, Doug helped the paper garner the Associated Press Sports Editors' Triple Crown for Top 10 daily, Sunday and special sections in 1998.

While business editor, his section was recognized by Suburban Newspapers of America as "the best in North America in 1999."

So far, Pils has missed only one of Dr. Carstarphen's classes to get married to the former Honny Bee Ball, on Oct. 8, 2000.

They wed in an outdoor ceremony at Eureka Springs, Ark. Honny is a graphic artist for *The Dallas Morning News*, and in 1999 won a Katie Award from the Dallas Press Club for newspaper graphics.

In addition to the readings class with Dr. Carstarphen, Doug is honing his investigative reporting skills with Pulitzer Prize winner Howard Swindle, who teaches advanced reporting techniques on Wednesday nights.

Typical of grad students and journalists, Pils thrives on juggling several projects at the same time.

"All I know is, I came back to sports so I could attend school and get back to writing. That lasted all of about two months and now I'm an editor again, trying to balance school, work and life. Somehow, I'll get all three accomplished," he said.

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Student Profile: Journalist Colin Allen

By Peggy Heinkle-Wolfe

Ever since his trans-Siberian train trip last summer, Mayborn Scholar Colin Allen said he's been hoping that a half-dozen people in Europe and Asia think there's at least one cool American.

"That was actually told to me by one person I met," Allen said. "It was almost as if those two words don't go together."

Last summer's trip was not his first excursion abroad.

Allen is still eager to see more.

"America is not the only place in the world," he said.

Americans traveling to other countries must remember they are ambassadors to other people who may never come here, he said.

Allen earned his bachelor's degree in political science from NT in December, 1998.

But he said, "I had no desire to be a politician."

"I'd rather write about it than be a theoretician. And after talking with Dr. Land in the journalism department, I realized the Fourth Estate was where I wanted to be."

Allen said he grew up in a family of "nerds." He attended high school in Edmond, Okla., until his senior year when his family moved to Houston. His mother is a geologist, and his father is a geophysicist. Their talk around the dinner table was pretty free-form, Allen said.

He was encouraged to do whatever suited him after he graduated from Kingwood High School in 1994.

Allen recently turned his desire for writing into publishing, and has created his own magazine, *The Nubian*.

Allen said it's about Denton for Dentonites.

"I took a class in African history," he said. "Nubia is a region of southern Egypt that the African, European and Arabic cultures all point to as the basis of their cultural history."

He sees the Denton community as a diverse place, and that living in Denton can be a unifying element.

He said the Nubian means one sees commonality from whatever the cultural background.

Allen doesn't have a dream job, but wants to be happy with what he ends up doing.

"I like politics and that whole scene in Washington, D.C.," he said.

"The place fascinates me and I love talking about it. But I could go backpacking around the world and write about that, too."

Allen said that the two may seem contradictory, "but we're all filled with contradictions."

Perhaps so, but Allen's unifying element lies in his fundamental belief about writing: journalism can change things.

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Journalism faculty makes us proud

Keith Shelton presented a session at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Public Affairs National Training Conference in Dallas on Aug. 17. Shelton addressed a group of public affairs officers from VA medical centers, regional benefits offices and national cemeteries.

Sheri Broyles was elected to the Advertising Division Executive Committee for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). á

Broyles presented two papers at the AEJMC Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., in August: "A View from the Ivory Tower to the Real World: A survey of those who teach advertising creative courses" and "Teaching creativity in the new century: Opportunities and challenges." á

She also presented a paper, "Generational considerations for recruiting Navy personnel," at the Virtual Education and the Future Role of the University Conference, Monterey, Calif. in August. The conference was co-sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School and the White House.

In September, Broyles's student creative team was named Grand Prize Winner of the 2000 National Creativity Contest sponsored by the American Advertising Federation, the University of Florida Ad Society and Sea*Doo.

Mitch Land presented a paper, "Interpersonal Influence and self-persuasion in a binge-drinking scenerio in a university context" at the National Communication Association Conference in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 9-12.

Tom Reichert's and **John Mark Dempsey's** recent study was featured in the Nov. 10 issue of the *USA Today* newspaper.

Reichert also presented a paper, "We need to talk: The role of topic avoidance following

sexual activity in cross-sex friendships," at the National Communication Association Conference in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 9-12.

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