Mayborn student reporters snag *Dallas News* exclusive

Six students in Dan Malone’s advanced reporting class got real-world experience last semester when they followed leads on an Arlington man from Saudi Arabia who was arrested Sept. 13.

Anwar Mohamed Almirabi, an automobile exporter who was initially jailed on a minor immigration charge in Denton County, was questioned by federal agents during the nationwide terror investigation following the tragic events of Sept. 11.

Malone, a staff writer for the *News* and visiting lecturer at NT, was lead writer on the story in which Almirabi’s attorney, his wife and a U.S. Marshal Service spokesman were quoted. Almirabi was not implicated in the terrorist attacks, according to the Dec. 1 *News* story.

“The students’ unglamorous digging resulted in a bona fide exclusive in the *Dallas Morning News* that the paper would not have had if it weren’t for their hard work,” Malone said.

Malone and fellow *News* staffer Howard Swindle, an NT journalism alumnus, taught the advanced reporting class in tandem last fall following the Sept. 11 tragedies in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. They have collaborated on several other projects including a book, *America’s Condemned: Death Row Inmates in Their Own Words* (Andrews McMeel Publishing, Kansas City).

Laura Short, a member of the student reporting team, commented on the class:

“Advanced reporting was an incredible opportunity to study Dan Malone and Howard Swindle’s investigative journalism on the death penalty while practicing what we were learning through a parallel assign-
Looking for an internship or job? Amy Sandling Crawford, NT journalism alumna, says studies have shown that 80 percent of people obtain jobs through networking and connections.

One of the simplest ways you can start networking is by joining a student or pre-professional group, she said. Sandling is a senior account executive for C. Pharr & Company, Inc. in Addison. She spoke about networking at a Mayborn career development lunch last fall.

By joining now, one can get a student rate and, in some cases, freebies such as professional magazines. NT sponsors these groups:

- Ad Club. Crystal Mireles, president (565-2854). Beth Koehler, faculty adviser (ekoehler@unt.edu). Meets Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
- NABJ (National Association of Black Journalists). Jarrod Fitch, president (Jarrod_Fitch77@hotmail.com). Meta Carstarphen and Jacque Lambiase, faculty advisers (meta@unt.edu; lambiase@unt.edu).
- NAHJ (National Association of Hispanic Journalists). Carmen Mitchell, adviser (carmenm@unt.edu).
- NPPA (National Press Photographers Association). Marcus Laws, president; Susan Zavoina, faculty adviser (zavoina@unt.edu). Meets monthly, third Thursday.
- PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America). Michelle Owens, president (owensmmowens@aol.com). Dick Wells, faculty adviser (wells@unt.edu). Meets alternate Mondays/Tuesdays.
- SPIJ (Society of Professional Journalists). Marie Eschenfelder, president. Keith Shelton,
Helping America get back to business

Second in a series about Mayborn alumni who are making their mark in Texas journalism and across the U.S.
By Elizabeth Clark

From local to global, business reporting follows the same basics as any other beat, NT alumna Sandra Zaragoza says: dedication to accuracy, truth and timeliness.

“There’s definitely a need for business writers,” she said. “Business is such an integral part of our society and the driving force of our nation.

“Admittedly, business journalism has a reputation as being more sedate than other types of writing,” she added. “But it doesn’t have to be. It can be interesting and challenging, and if you choose it as a career path, I think it can be pretty fulfilling.”

Zaragoza, a 2001 Mayborn graduate from Del Rio, didn’t set out to become a business writer when she began her graduate degree in news-editorial, but she took some classes in the College of Business Administration that sparked her interest. After interning with the Dallas Business Journal and participating in the Mayborn’s Study Abroad program in Europe, she gained new perspective on global economic systems. Upon her graduation, she was invited by the Journal to return as a full-time staff writer.

During her internship with the paper’s Dallas office and its Tarrant County bureau, Zaragoza wrote breaking news and features. Her current position, special sections writer, enables her to do in-depth features along specific themes that examine business’ effect on society, and vice versa.

“One of my most memorable stories was on the status of older workers in job searches and their difficulties in trying to re-enter the work force,” she said. “I spoke to a wonderful career counselor at Jewish Family Services who gave me insight into the current realities facing older workers. I enjoyed working on the story because not only was it timely, but it also shed light on a topic — older workers — that is so easily overlooked by the press.

“That interview also awakened me to the fact that our business paper is not only a tool for companies and businesses, but also for individuals. For example, it may not seem important to know that a new company just leased 30,000 square feet of space, but when taking into account the number of jobs that the company may be hiring for that new space, the story takes on a whole new meaning. Those looking for jobs benefit from early knowledge about what companies are building, leasing or moving.”

Zaragoza’s determination as a journalist has helped her meet the daily challenges of covering a roller-coaster economy.

“This is a good situation for becoming a better reporter,” says Sandra Zaragoza of her job as special sections writer for the Dallas Business Journal.

Press Freedom International: Pius Njawe chapter at NT

Students, faculty members and alumni are invited to join the Pius Njawe chapter of Press Freedom International, a local chapter founded last spring at the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism. The chapter will inaugurate new members at the NT Journalism Banquet April 27. One need not be a journalist to apply for membership.

Mayborn students formed the chapter as an outgrowth of Dr. Mitch Land’s class, “Media Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Pius Njawe was a Mayborn visiting lecturer during that semester and spoke to students about his first-hand experiences with press censorship and government corruption as editor of Le Messager in Cameroon.

The purpose of Press Freedom International, he said, is to “join our voices with others all over the world to defend and promote press freedom, human rights and democracy.”

For information on joining the Pius Njawe chapter, contact Joy Waldron: jgw0007@unt.edu.
Mayborn achievements and honors

Faculty
Dr. Dick Wells, Mayborn Professor and director of the Center for Community and Environmental Journalism, was guest lecturer in December at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. His topic: “Military-media relationships.” Wells is first vice president of the Texas Public Relations Association and will become president March 3.
Dr. Mitch Land, director of the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, will speak to the First Amendment Institute in Houston March 23 about international press freedom.
Dr. Jacque Lambiase presented a paper in Tulsa at the November symposium of the Southwest Education Council of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her topic: “An ethnography of using problem-based learning to address the ‘skills’ vs. ‘theory’ challenge in a public relations course.” In December she finished co-editing a chapter about sex in advertising in a communication series to be published in 2002 by Erlbaum as part of its communication series. Her own chapter is “Sex — Online and in Internet Advertising.”
Dr. John Dempsey has contracted with the UNT Press to produce a history of the Light Crust Doughboys, “probably the most popular Texas radio performers in the 1930s and 1940s and a very influential Western swing musical group,” he said. Expected publication date is fall 2002.

Students
Congratulations to Doug Pils, sports writer for The Dallas Morning News, who was nominated last fall for a Katie award from the Dallas Press Club.
Greg Campbell, co-editor of Strong Words, has been named editor for the 2002-2003 academic year. He is doing an internship as Web site manager for the Associated Press Photo Managers.
Congratulations to Karen Lim, who landed a summer internship with The Denver Post. She will write general features and arts-related features.
Feature stories by Elizabeth Clark, editor of Strong Words, have been published recently in the Christian Science Monitor, Dallas Morning News and Neil Sperry’s Gardens magazine. Her essay on a historic garden in the Czech Republic is included in Encyclopedia of Gardens: History and Design, published in December 2001 under the auspices of the Chicago Botanic Garden by Fitzroy Dearborn of Chicago and London.
Mayborn students in internships: Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe, Fort Worth StarTelegram; Zarlacht Atiqzoy-Patenaude, D Magazine; Charles Siderius, Dallas Observer; Lesa Swimler, Hall Agency, Inc.; Elizabeth Clark, Boeing-Corinth.

Attention
alumni, faculty, students:
Send us your news and address changes
Nancy Eanes
Career Development Specialist
(940) 565-4778

Maymester courses available
• Arts Reviews and Criticisms (JOUR 5350.001). Mondays and Thursdays, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. during Maymester 2002. Additional evenings and weekends required to experience and write about the Metroplex arts scene. An opportunity for those interested in the arts to get rigorous practice and guidance in creating short-form reviews — on deadline — of creative works. Some online work included. Undergrads may enroll with permission of the instructor, Dr. Meta Carstarphen.
• Creative Writing (JOUR 4310). Monday-Thursday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Open to graduate and undergraduate students. Until the 2002-03 catalog comes out, graduate students may take up to two 4000-level courses for graduate credit. After the catalog comes out, they still may take the courses but must sign up under a 5900 number. Instructor: Dr. Mitch Land.