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LEADING *by Example*

By Justin Harrelson

Media entrepreneurs from the KwaZulu Natal province of South Africa met together for the first time July 9-10 at a workshop in Pietermaritzburg, co-hosted by the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, African Media Online and the Independent Media Alliance of South Africa.

Since the end of apartheid in South Africa, privately owned magazines, newspapers, news services and broadcast media have emerged in record numbers at the regional level.

The workshop was held at Project Gateway, once a prison facility that housed Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. The remodeled site was a place for the emerging media entrepreneurs to share ideas and to find solutions to common problems.

Mitch Land, Mayborn director, spoke at the workshop. The workshop coincided with time spent visiting his children, who serve as missionaries in Africa. For Land, it was an opportunity to promote the core values of journalism.

"The developing world is usually shown through the lens of the so-called developed world," Land said. "But more needs to be done to help developing nations tell their own story."

"This workshop is in keeping with one of the journalism department's four pillars of excellence: international outreach.

In fact, it's also consistent with one of UNT's five strategic initiatives, globalization."

The institute has been involved with other international initiatives, such as the fast-track journalism training effort in Mozambique in 2000-2001 and the Nigerian Azikiwe Program funded by a U.S. State Department grant in 2001-2002. The Mozambique effort was funded by the University of North Texas and the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique.

As a result of the July workshop, media owners in KwaZulu Natal are finding ways to challenge the unfair practices of the big media conglomerates. One such effort was the merger of the Independent Media Alliance with South African News Services and the Community Press Association.

"It's exciting to see that a small effort on our part can lead to such practical benefits in a short time," Land said.



photo by Rick Gershon

Mitch Land and representatives from South African media groups listen to a workshop speaker. The workshop in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa brought independent media entrepreneurs together for a two-day journalism think-tank July 9-10.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Oct. 1: Party with the Mayborn. Come to MaybornFest, a dinner and social for graduate students and faculty members at the Environmental Education Science & Technology Building from 6 to 9 p.m. Students and faculty are free and guest tickets are available through the Mayborn office (GAB 207) for \$10 each.

Oct. 19: Prepare for Midterms.



Oct. 23: Homecoming, UNT vs. New Mexico State. Support May-



born and the journalism department at the parade, beginning at 11 a.m. Sponsors are John Deere Inc., the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* and Watermill Express.



Oct. 27: Attend the Mayborn career development workshop titled "Preparing for Today's Job Market." The program begins at 8 a.m. and will be held in the Union Lyceum.

Nov. 25, 26: Enjoy Thanksgiving break.



Holding onto a dream

By BETSY LEE

Her serene demeanor reveals little about Jameela Sayed Ali's inner strength. She smiles often, is elegant and complimentary, but behind her animated eyes lies an uncommon level of determination.

Ever since the age of 10, Sayed Ali dreamed of becoming a reporter. As a teen she wrote articles for various children's magazines. In college, she tried to fulfill her father's wishes by going into medicine, but she could not abandon her goal. Now, with a family of eight children and after a 12-year career at the Kuwait Ministry of Education, Sayed Ali is one step closer to becoming a journalist.

Sayed Ali is currently pursuing her master's degree in journalism. She came to UNT at the urging of several colleagues in the Kuwait Ministry of Education.

"They knew I wanted to be a reporter more than anything," Sayed Ali said. "So they told me go, go."

The Minister of Education recommended UNT because he'd heard it was a good place for international students, and Sayed Ali convinced her husband.

"At first he wondered why I still wanted this after all these years," Sayed Ali said. "But now he's very proud of me."

Sayed Ali said she is not exactly sure why journalism captivated her, but she loves the fact that journalists are always learning. Her desire to continue learning is propelling her through her degree program as she works toward a career as a professor



photo by Matt Frye

Jameela Sayed Ali (middle) poses with four of her children; ((left to right) Zainab Al-Sayegh, 14; Ali Al-Sayegh, 11; Mousou Al-Sayegh, 7; Mohammad Al-Sayegh, 15. Sayed Ali, who is an international student currently pursuing her master's in journalism, has four other children attending college at various U.S. locations.

in journalism.

Sayed Ali's career at UNT began in 2003. She spent a year working on her language skills while her children stayed with her husband in Alabama. He is a colonel in the Kuwait army and was training in Montgomery, Ala., for six months.

"I was alone for the first time in my life," Sayed Ali said. "It was very stressful."

This year, four of her eight children are living with her; the youngest is 7 years old. Of her other children, two are in undergraduate programs, and two are working at the graduate level. Sayed Ali said she is competing with her older children to see who will earn their degrees first.

"I find it astonishing that she has the energy to do all that she is doing," said Hussan Al-Sayegh, one of Sayed Ali's six sons. "She's an inspiration to me personally because we're both trying for our master's."

She plans to work as a journalist for a while before going for her doctorate in journalism. Eventually, she hopes to return to Kuwait as a journalism professor at Kuwait University.

"My country has helped me so much, so it is my turn to give back," Sayed Ali said. "Also, by teaching journalism, my career doesn't stop when I retire. It keeps going through those I have taught."

For Your Information

Travel and Learn

Mayborn students will have the opportunity to study abroad in England and the Czech Republic this summer. Mitch Land will escort the group. Participants may earn up to six hours college credit. The group will leave in June 2005. Interested students should contact Dr. Land (GAB 207) at mland@unt.edu.

Class Spotlight

This spring the Mayborn Institute will offer Science and Environmental Reporting. The course will be taught by a media professional from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "It's just so practical," Mitch Land said of the course. "We have to have reporters who are capable of making science information accessible to readers." Call (940) 565-4564 for details.



James Madison Award

photo illustration by Betsy Lee

Howard Swindle to be honored

By BETSY LEE

The news business relies on the ability to access all kinds of information. One UNT alumnus, who worked diligently in support of an open government, will be honored Oct. 1.

Howard Swindle, who died June 9 after a five-year battle with cancer, will posthumously receive the James Madison award from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

The James Madison award has been given annually since 1987. The honor awarded in recognition of a demonstrated respect for the First Amendment and open government. His daughter Ashley will accept the award on his behalf.

"It's not an award that our organization gives out lightly," said Katherine Garner, director of the Freedom of Information Foundation. "We really put a lot of thought into who should receive it. In Howard's case, it wasn't one specific action, we were honoring his career."

Swindle's journalism career began at UNT. He graduated with a journalism degree in 1968 and went to work for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*. After a stint with *The Dallas Times-Herald*, Swindle ended up at *The Dallas Morning News*. He remained there for more than 20 years.

During his time at *The News*, Swindle edited and directed a series titled "Abuse of Authority" that won the Pulitzer Prize for excellence in investigative reporting. Swindle won a total of three Pulitzers during his career.

For the Abuse of Authority project, Swindle and other reporters aggressively used Texas' open records act to obtain details about

the abuse of citizens by law enforcement officers.

"Bureaucrats sitting on public information nearly always wished they hadn't by the time Howard was through with them," said Dan Malone, a former colleague.

Malone described Swindle as a driven and inspiring individual, relentless in pursuit of a story. Swindle once crawled through sheep manure with Malone to help secure a story.

Throughout his career, Swindle never forgot his UNT roots. He remained in contact with several professors, including Roy Busby.

"He may have been the most tenacious reporter I've ever known," Busby said.

Swindle was in one of Busby's introductory writing courses. Busby describes the young Swindle as an eager reporter who always sat at the front of the room. Busby said Swindle remembered the course because

he earned a C, the only one in his journalism classes.

"He would joke about that from time to time," Busby said.

When Swindle won his first Pulitzer Prize, he wrote to many of his UNT professors and thanked them for their part in his success. Swindle also returned in 2000 as an adjunct professor to launch Advanced Reporting Techniques for the Mayborn Graduate Institute. He later gave up teaching when he was diagnosed with cancer.

Ashley Swindle will accept the award at the 2004 Bernard and Audre Rapoport Freedom of Information State Conference at the InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin, Tx.

Malone said Swindle doted on Ashley and his two grandsons. Malone believes Swindle would be proud that they were able to share a moment in the spotlight intended for him.



: "Journalism is like crawling through broken glass. If it was easy, someone would have already done it." -Howard Swindle

Years of reporting lend unique expertise

By TAYLOR TIMMINS

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Dan Malone knows a thing or two about multitasking.

Most people would crumble under the workload of simultaneously managing a full-time journalism career, working on a graduate degree and instructing a graduate-level class. Fortunately for the students at the Mayborn Institute, Malone did not hesitate. Malone's journalism career has been both long and rewarding.

After studying journalism and serving as editor of the *Daily Texan* at the University of Texas, Malone spent what he refers to as a "misbegotten" year working on his MBA. He realized that he was not interested in crossing over to what he refers to as the "dark side," and instead pursued an internship with a chain of small Texas newspapers.

Shortly thereafter, he was offered two jobs, one of which was in East Texas, the other in Corpus Christi. He accepted the job on the coast.

Malone later worked as a reporter at

the *Star-Telegram's* Austin bureau, its Fort Worth office, *The Dallas Morning News* and his current position at the *Fort Worth Weekly*. Malone met Howard Swindle at *The News* and it was their friendship that brought him to the Mayborn Institute.

When Swindle was diagnosed with cancer, Malone took over teaching Advanced Reporting Techniques and began work on his master's. He was highly qualified to teach. In 1992, he and a colleague, Lorraine Adams, won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism for a series about the poor civil rights record of Texas police called "Abuse of Authority." The stories took more than three years to research and write and were released at the apex of the Rodney King controversy.

People often ask Malone what such an accomplished journalist could expect to get out of going back to school. Malone insists that his work as a graduate student has allowed him to hone his writing and reporting skills and opened his mind to new ways of thinking. Despite a lengthy resume

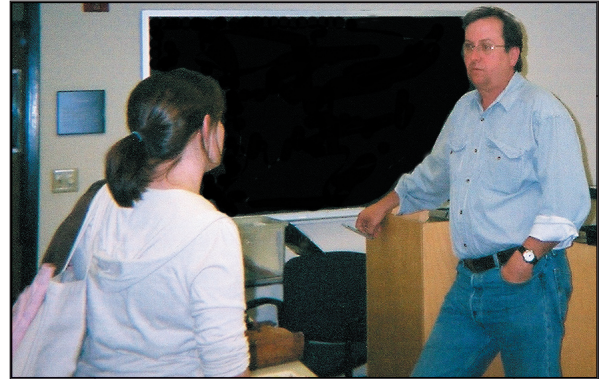


photo by Taylor Timmins

Dan Malone interacts with a student from his Advanced Reporting Techniques class. Malone is teaching, working full-time and pursuing his master's degree in journalism.

of professional reporting, Malone said he has also learned much as a teacher, thanks to the free-flowing exchange of ideas that are discussed in his classes.

As for advice for aspiring journalists, Malone related words from his high school English teacher, Susan Cochran. It's a line from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Hitch your wagon to a star. Nothing's gained by thinking small."

Congratulations to August 2004 Graduates

Julian Ignacio Aguilar
Jason Eugene Goodman
Thomas Gunyon Harrison
Christopher Joseph Hawkes
Nicole Renee Hernandez
Molly Louise McCullough
Angela Josephine Orozco
Kelli Jo Pierce
Jeffrey W. Ryder
Julee Dawn Sooter
Chia Chia Tsui
David Ndirangu Wachanga
Jason Brent Womack

Changing Gears Alumni accept new jobs

- Daniel Bartel, 2001 Mayborn graduate, has accepted a post with the *Dallas Business Journal* in its Fort Worth Bureau. He was formerly a reporter with the *Wichita Falls Times-Record*.
- Shea Mayberry, 2001 Mayborn graduate, has been transferred to Los Angeles. She works at Ernst and Young, an accounting firm.
- Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe, 2002 Mayborn graduate, has accepted a post as the Publications Director for UNT Marketing and Communications.
- Maike Rode, 2003 Mayborn graduate, has accepted a job as a photographer with the *Enid Herald* (Okla.).
- Anita Varghese, 2003 Mayborn graduate, has accepted a post as an education reporter with *The Argonaut Weekly* in Los Angeles.
- Jason Womack, 2004 Mayborn graduate, has accepted a position as a reporter with the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.
- Mike Drago, 1990 UNT journalism graduate, has accepted a job as the Texas Southwest Editor of *The Dallas Morning News*.
- Jennifer Robertson, 2000 UNT journalism graduate, has accepted a post as an assistant editor at *Spirit Magazine*.