Ray Moseley: Foreign Correspondent, Alumnus and this Year’s J-Banquet Speaker

By Heddish Connor

Ray Moseley, a UNT alumnus and award-winning international journalist, will share his experiences and adventures as a foreign correspondent at the annual C. E. Shuford Journalism Banquet on Saturday, April 9.

He hopes to inspire young journalists with stories of his 18 years as the Chicago Tribune’s chief European correspondent in London.

“I am always interested in talking to the coming generation of journalists about their interests and aspirations and their views on the future of journalism,” he said. “I hope this occasion will give me an opportunity to hear from as many [students] as possible.”

Moseley also authored two books, Mussolini’s Shadow and Mussolini: The Last 600 Days, and will have his “pen poised” to sign books at the banquet.

Moseley began his career at UNT as editor of the university newspaper, then called the Campus Chat. After his graduation in 1952, Moseley worked at the Arkansas Gazette where he covered the integration of Central High School in Little Rock. This was only the first of many historic events that Moseley covered as a newspaper reporter.

Focusing on international news, Moseley worked his way up to become bureau chief in Cairo, Egypt, for United Press International.

“While I didn’t set out to be a foreign correspondent, once I had become one I knew there was nothing else I wanted to do,” he said. It is important to keep the public informed on world affairs because of America’s worldwide influence, he said. Moseley enjoyed the freedom of selecting his own stories as a foreign correspondent and that experience led him to become bureau chief in Moscow. During his time there, he was arrested twice by the KGB, the former Soviet secret police, for taking photographs of an anti-government demonstration that were published on the cover of Newsweek.

Moseley’s achievements have not gone unnoticed. Queen Elizabeth II honored him for his service. See Moseley page 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February/March 2005

Feb. 14-18: Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Visit the Mayborn Institute office for refreshments and to receive your care package.

Feb. 28: Career Development. Tips on Business Etiquette. 9 a.m. Union-Lyceum.

March 4: Comprehensive Exam. Noon-5 p.m. GAB112.

March 14-18: Spring Break.

Journalism Banquet 2005

5:30 p.m. April 9, 2005 Gateway Center Ballroom

Tickets are $15 for students and $20 for non-students. The tickets will be available March 1- April 5 in GAB 207.

The event includes a reception, dinner and speaker, UNT alumnus and foreign correspondent Ray Moseley.
The Mayborn Institute’s COVER magazine will have Local Journalists Covered in 2005

The staff consists of 17 students who represent all four of the journalism department’s sequences and the Mayborn Institute. Students gain experience in multiple areas of the magazine’s production including advertising, promotions, editing and writing.

“We want to prepare students for real life experience in the field of journalism,” said Mitch Land, director of the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism and COVER magazine publisher. “Through the curriculum-driven course, students will be able to create a literary piece that reflects their skills.”

The concept for COVER magazine came about after former adjunct professor and Texas Monthly contributor Kathryn Jones suggested that students taking magazine production would learn more if they were able to produce a real magazine.

With less than a year in development, COVER magazine made its debut as a prototype in 2003. The first two issues of the magazine garnered several awards for its stories and photographs.

“We know we have a hard act to follow,” Griffin said, “but this year’s staff has some great ideas and is ready to go.”

Copies of the magazine will be available in the office of the Mayborn Graduate Institute, as well as the journalism office and various newstands around campus. The publication may also be ordered through the journalism department’s website, www.jour.unt.edu.

In addition, copies of the magazine will be mailed to UNT journalism alumni as well as news organizations throughout North Texas.

The Light of Day Project

A team of 15 journalism students, nine from the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism at UNT and six from Southern Methodist University, combined forces for an investigative reporting project last fall. The Mayborn Institute team included Elizabeth Lee, Lindsay Marshall, Brooke Scoggins, Hannah Seddelmeyer and Taylor Timmins.

The students compiled crime data from more than 100 Texas colleges and universities to determine which campus was the most dangerous. The team also compared data reported to the federal government under the Clery Act with the daily logs maintained in campus police departments. The results were startling. Students uncovered disparities in the crime statistics universities reported to the federal government. The article, published Dec. 2 in the Fort Worth Weekly, reveals these disparities.

To read the entire story please visit fwweekly.com http://www.fwweekly.com/issues/2004-12-01/feature.asp

Good Luck Diane

Diane Heuser (in blue) poses with UNT Journalism faculty, students and staff at her farewell party Jan. 26. Diane took promotion and job at UNT Rec Sports.
The Ups and Downs of a Career in Freelancing
Mayborn alumna Ruth Ann Hensley shares tips from her experiences in freelancing

B Y Ruth Ann Hensley

Not many jobs offer the rare and beautiful opportunity of sometimes working in your pajamas, setting your own hours and conducting business from virtually anywhere that has Internet access. And let’s not forget the exotic sense of panache that accompanies the title on your business card, which is often received with envious exclamations like, “Wow! You’re a freelance writer?” (Systems analysts rarely entertain the same response.)

There is no doubt that freelance writing is an attractive career option, particularly for recent graduates like myself who are facing a sluggish job market. The start-up cost is minimal, and the opportunities abound in a fiercely competitive print media market, where a rapidly growing number of publications rely on freelance writers, commonly referred to as contributing editors, to fill their editorial space. But the competition to fill that space is steep, and many times the pay isn’t. From national newspapers to trade journals, the print media industry is reaping the benefits of cherry picking contract labor from a tree of talent with branches that extend nationwide. To ensure a successful freelance future, the time is ripe for freelancers to steer clear of the industry pitfalls and chart a course for the cherry bowl.

The double-edged sword of freelancing is that in order to get work published, you must be published. Sometimes this can create a financial burden and tremendous stress as most first-time gigs aren’t lucrative, and lesser-known publications don’t have the best payment record. The more work you can get published while you are pursuing a degree or working another job, the more bargaining leverage you will have when acquiring assignments down the road.

Internships and writing for a local newspaper, company newsletter or specialty publication in which you have an area of expertise provide an excellent vehicle in which to build your portfolio before pursuing a full-time freelance career. And it’s important to remember that “freelancing” isn’t limited to writing. It also includes, fact checking, editing, research, page proofs and more. Not only do these functions expand your menu of services, the ability to perform these tasks well will make you a better writer.

As with any business, networking and telling friends and acquaintances what you are doing is an invaluable tool. Sending query letters is vital, but a referral or personal contact is hard to beat.

Joining a professional organization and circulating your name among peers provides another way to get your name in front of the right people. And – it’s a great excuse to get out of your pajamas, eat at a real table with other people and discuss the glamorous life.

Ruth Ann Hensley is a Mayborn Scholar, a former Mayborn Scholarship recipient and a freelancer for several publications, including American Way and The New York Times.

Three Ways You Can Give Back
“The real strength of the Mayborn lives within our alums.” - Richard Wells

1. Keep in Touch
Keeping your contact information current and updating the Mayborn Institute on your awards and achievements are important. Your success reflects our success. Update your information by visiting the Mayborn Institute Web site (click Alumni). mayborninstitute.unt.edu

2. Become a Mentor
This year NT Journalism is starting a mentoring program for graduating students. Encouraging emails and tips from former students go a long way toward comforting students through a stressful time. To give your time contact, Justin Harrelson. jjh5388@unt.edu

3. Sponsor an Event
The Journalism Banquet is just around the corner. If you or your company would be interested in sponsoring a table at the department’s largest fund-raiser of the year, contact Nancy Eanes. neanes@unt.edu

“Hot lead can be almost as effective coming from a Linotype as from a firearm.” - John O’Hara
Dr. Koehler: Professor and Student

Professor Beth Koehler currently teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes at the University of North Texas and is pursuing a law degree at Southern Methodist University (SMU).

“I felt a little schizophrenic. It was really strange at the beginning of the semester,” Koehler said, “shifting gears between a student by day and a professor by night.”

Some of the days get really “rough and tough,” she said, but her motivation lies in the joy of teaching and a passion for law.

Growing up, Koehler had always planned to use her skills as a writer and public speaker to teach, and by high school she decided on a career in journalism. Being a professor at UNT appealed to two of her passions, but she always maintained a love for law.

“Legal study is something I have always had a passion for, and I have wanted to go to law school since college,” Koehler said. Koehler’s mother always said she would be a terrific lawyer. And recently she decided to put away her excuses of no money, no time and no experience to chase her dream.

Even in high school, Koehler said she was preoccupied with legal and ethical aspects of journalism, researching and writing when she had the chance. The obsession continued, she said, while in college. Her senior honor thesis was on the circularity of the newsworthiness defense in lawsuits brought under the disclosure of private facts tort. She spent time teaching herself legal research in what she called one of the best libraries in the country.

“I never get tired of it. It’s like I was created to explore this stuff,” Koehler said.

The competition in law school is fierce, stressful and sometimes the subject matter is difficult. “When I think of giving up I just think about my plans for the future,” she said. Her vision is the driving force to her dreams, and she believes this first year of a three-year law school program is just the beginning of an extraordinary new chapter in her life.

Moseley continued

Moseley’s contributions and services in journalism with an honorary Member of the British Empire during the queen’s 2003 birthday celebration. He is also a five-time winner of the Chicago Tribune’s Edward Scott Beck Award for outstanding reporting, along with winning several other awards including a spot in the UNT Journalism Hall of Honor.

“It wouldn’t be true to say there has never been a dull moment, but for the most part this has been a privileged life on the front line of history,” Moseley said in an interview. “I have covered eight wars, the revolution in Iran, civil conflicts in Northern Ireland and Basque country, the death of two popes and the election of two others, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the death of Princess Diana.”

Banquet tickets will go on sale March 1—April 5 and are $15 for students, $20 for non-students. Tickets will be available at a booth outside GAB 102 and in the Mayborn office. Table sponsorships are available for $250. For more information, contact Nancy Eanes at (940) 565-4778 or neanes@unt.edu.

Mayborn Updates

Christopher Hawkes ’04 recently took a reporting job with the Seguin Gazette-Enterprise.

Karen Cohick ’04 is the new marketing manager for the Omaha Royals, a minor league baseball team in Nebraska.

Jeff Ryder ’04 took an editing position with the Texas House of Representatives in Austin.

Lei Zhang ’02 recently had her first child, a boy.