

Inside: Mayborn students explore freelancing, journalism job Web sites, updates on the annual Journalism banquet, alumni updates and more.

Student reporting spurs legislation in Austin

By Candace Davis

Trevor Goodchild sat down on a sidewalk in Austin and strummed his guitar. He said he was sitting alone, belatedly celebrating his birthday with a song. However, his reverie didn't last long.

Goodchild didn't have a license to play in the streets, and within minutes, he was approached by city police. Soon, he was convulsing—he had been repeatedly shot by an officer with a Taser gun after allegedly resisting arrest.

Exhaustive research by journalism students at the University of North Texas and several other universities in the area unearthed stories such as Goodchild's in 2005, and last year, the research earned a number of national awards and was featured in prominent news reports. Now, the research is providing state Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, the ammunition to propose a bill restricting the use of Taser weapons by Texas law enforcement.

"The work of the students at the University of North Texas to compile information from around the state about Tasers was extremely

helpful to me in preparing the legislation I filed to limit Taser usage," Burnam said.

According to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Burnam's bill would limit the use of Tasers to "situations in which an officer is justified in using deadly force under the state's penal code."

Taser use in Texas has risen in recent years as more police officers are being issued these nonlethal weapons. To control suspects, law enforcement officials are expected to use Tasers in lieu of deadly force. The students reported that Tasers have been linked to at least nine deaths in Texas.

"These people have real faces, and it could be any one of us," said Mayborn graduate student Reyna Gobel, who participated in the research.

The Taser project, a Mayborn Distributed Reporting project, was conceived three years ago under the direction of Dan Malone, a Mayborn Institute adjunct professor at the time.

Students in Malone's classes submitted more than 500 open records requests to 254 sheriffs and several hundred police chiefs in Texas for documented records of Taser use and records of prisoner deaths in police custody.

"These journalism students have done the



PHOTO BY DON JONES
Mayborn alumnus Jacob Taylor ('06) sorts hundreds of documents recording Taser and stun gun usage in Texas in 2005.

Related Web sites and articles

- **Mayborn Distributed Reporting Project:** http://mayborninstitute.unt.edu/dist_rep.htm
- **Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas:** <http://www.foift.org>
- **Light of Day Project:** <http://www.lightofdayproject.org>

- **"Record Shock"** by Mayborn Institute students Jake Taylor and Reyna Gobel, *Fort Worth Weekly*. (March 15, 2006)
- **"A Stunning Toll"** by *Fort Worth Weekly* staff writer, cites UNT journalism student research. (March 8, 2006)
- **"Insecurity on Campus"** by *Fort Worth Weekly* staff writer, cites UNT journalism student research. (Dec. 1, 2004)

sort of reporting big news organizations used to do," said Malone. "Because of cutbacks in these organizations, students have been filling the void."

The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas through its Light of Day Project offered legal and logistical support for the students, even employing lawyers to pursue law enforcement departments that did not provide information.

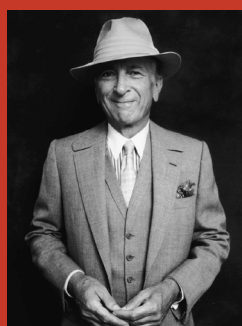
"This issue [Taser restriction] will continue to be an important one around the capital this session," said Burnam.

Candace Davis is a Mayborn Scholar and a news-editorial student at the Mayborn Institute.

Mayborn Calendar

- February 12-16 • Student Appreciation Week at the Mayborn, GAB 207
- February 16 • Last day to file for spring graduation without a late fee
- March 2 • Comprehensive Exam, noon to 5 p.m., GAB 550
- March 9 • Last day to file for spring graduation
- March 19-25 • Spring Break

A word from Gay Talese



The Mayborn Conference is the gathering place in the country for serious nonfiction writers who want to deeply explore the craft and learn how it's practiced at the highest levels. And that's why I'm encouraging every journalist and nonfiction writer I know to attend this summer's Mayborn Conference and to submit their articles, essays and booklength manuscripts to the Conference Workshops. My wife, Nan, and I will be there. We're looking forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
Gay Talese

STRONG WORDS

Volume 5, Issue 3

Alumni write from home to keep balanced life

By Candace Davis

On due dates, journalist Elizabeth Clark looked more frazzled and frenzied than sleek, calm and professional. Before email and fax machines, Clark would find herself behind the wheel, “driving the story” to the newsroom, because the post office took too long. Deadlines were always upon her, she said.

Freelance journalists face an undetermined paycheck without the comforts and perks of a staff position. Clark, a Mayborn Scholar who graduated in May 2002, was able to see the possibilities freelancing could provide through a friend who freelanced for the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. She decided to freelance while parenting, even if this meant the occasional bout of fevered driving.

In 1983, Clark’s friends at the *DRC* led her to write features for *Texas Gardener* magazine and book reviews for the *Dallas Times-Herald*.

“Just dive in and meet with people,” Clark said, advising journalists on entering

the field. “Friendships develop into more contacts.”

Margaret Myrick, also a Mayborn Scholar and alumna, called newspaper editors with hopes of finding freelancing

News and the *Austin American-Statesman*. Often, she reviews a concert she plans to attend “off the clock,” she said, and sends the articles in later, hoping they will be published.

Learning how to network is important in any job, but it is vital when freelancing. Networking not only helped Clark when she needed freelance work, but it also helped her obtain a staff position. When her children grew older and Clark decided to go back to work full time, a contact at *Texas Gardener* magazine helped her become editor of the magazine, a role she filled for seven years.

Clark suggests that journalists should write about what they love and be dedicated to their work. Clark developed a niche as a feature garden writer. Her work has been published in *The Christian Science Monitor* and many magazines.

“Always be dedicated to the quality of your writing,” Clark said.

Candace Davis is a Mayborn Scholar and news-editorial student at the Mayborn Institute.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH CLARK
Mayborn alumna Beth Clark ('02), second from right, visits Old Salem, Mass., a restoration of the historic village, with her family in December 2006. Clark worked as a freelance writer in the 1980s and '90s so she could spend more time with her children, Alison and Owen (right). She and her husband, Tom (left), currently live in Winston-Salem, N.C.

opportunities. She had nothing to lose, she said. Following her passion for playing the guitar and listening to music, she provides concert reviews for *The Dallas Morning*

Local entertainment slated for journalism banquet April 21

To celebrate the *NT Daily's* 90 years of news, the Department of Journalism and the Mayborn Institute will host the UNT Mariachi Aguilas and Dallas-based improvisational comedy group, Pavlov's Dogs, at the C.

E. Shuford Journalism Banquet. The banquet will be at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at the



Gateway Center. A cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a Tex-Mex buffet, and honor students in an award and scholarship presentation ceremony. Dress business casual.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, March 1. Call the Mayborn office at (940) 565-4564.



The UNT Mariachi Aguilas will bring Latin music to the Journalism Banquet April 21 at the Gateway Center. The improvisational comedy group Pavlov's Dogs also will perform.

In Loving Memory

James Rogers, PhD (1926-2006)

James "Jim" L. Rogers died Dec. 3 following complications from a stroke and pneumonia. Rogers served the University of North Texas for 43 years as a professor of journalism, vice president of administrative affairs and director of university planning.



JAMES ROGERS, PhD

Building in the 1990s and renovated the lab in 2003. They donated the display case on the first floor of the GAB and dedicated it to the UNT Department of Journalism. They also provided scholarships for journalism students and supported the annual C.E. Shuford Journalism Banquet.

In 2002, Rogers published a history of the campus, 'The Story of North Texas'. Although never a student of UNT, he said "I like to think that [the university] ... read into my actions the same enthusiasm and love for North Texas that you genuine natives have."

This information was provided by Mayborn student Mandi Wallis and the NT Daily.

Rogers and his wife, Sue, dedicated their time and money to the education of students at North Texas. The couple created the Mac lab on the third floor of the General Academic



Are you ready to clock in again? Your next employer could be looking for you on one of many job search Web sites created solely for the journalism industry. It's time to start clicking.

Journalism jobs just a click away

When it comes to job searching, the more resources the better. In addition to your network of family, friends and professionals, there is a Web of journalism job search sites a click away.

Visit these sites to scroll through job and internship listings ranging from advertising to writing, photography to publishing, teaching and beyond.

- **American Copy Editors Society:** www.copydesk.org
- **Book Jobs:** www.bookjobs.com
- **International Association of Business Communicators:** www.iabc.org
- **I Want Media Jobs:** www.iwantmedia.com
- **Journalism Jobs:** www.journalismjobs.com
- **Mayborn Job Databank:** web2.unt.edu/journalism
- **National Association of Black Journalists:** www.nabj.org
- **National Association of Hispanic Journalists:** www.nahj.org
- **The National Diversity Newspaper Bank:** www.newsjobs.com
- **National Press Photographers Association:** www.nppa.org
- **Newslink:** www.newslink.com
- **Occupational Information Network:** online.onetcenter.org
- **Public Relations Society of America:** www.prsa.org
- **Society of Professional Journalists:** www.spj.org
- **U.S. Department of Labor:** stats.bls.gov
- **Wet Feet:** www.wetfeet.com

Wachanga, Land address African Studies Association in San Francisco



Mayborn lecturer David Wachanga (second from left) visits the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco with fellow educators Mahiri Mwita (left to right) of Princeton University, Leonard Chacha of the University of California-LA, Susan Nangwala of the University of Minnesota and Susan Bantu of St. Lawrence University. Wachanga and Mayborn Director Mitch Land (not pictured) led the discussion "Rethinking Ethics in African Media Systems: A Utilitarian vs. a Communitarian Approach" at the African Studies Association 49th Annual Meeting Nov. 16-19.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DAVID WACHANGA

Alumni Updates

• **Dahlia Denton ('04)** recently accepted a job with the Texas Association of Realtors in the governmental affairs department. She is now a field representative.

• **Deidra Welsey ('06)** moved to Fort Myers, Fla., after graduating in December to begin

work as a television news producer at Waterman Broadcasting.

Calling all alumni! Please email your updates—new jobs, promotions, moves—to neanes@unt.edu or call us at (940) 565-4564. We look forward to hearing from you.



The Mayborn *photo* Album

Journalism Internship Fair

Nov. 29

Right, Career Development Specialist at the North Texas Career Center Rachel Smith (left) and Mayborn Career Development Specialist/ Program Coordinator Nancy Eanes greet students and employers at the Journalism Internship Fair in the General Academic Building Nov. 29.

Below, graduate and undergraduate students interact with employers from a variety of companies including Southwest Airlines, Star Community Newspapers and marketing firm Weber Shandwick.



PHOTOS BY MEG GUPTON

Fall Graduation

Dec. 16



Above, Mayborn Institute graduates (left to right) Katy McDaniel, Allison Mabry, Britney Porter, Timothy Solano, Deidra Wesley and Vanessa Gallegos are ready to walk the graduation stage at the UNT Coliseum Dec. 16.

Right, Department of Journalism graduates Paul Knight, a Mayborn teaching assistant, and Nancy Kihenia, a Mayborn intern, pose before entering the ceremony where graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Library and Information Sciences were recognized.



PHOTOS BY DAVID WACHANGA

Holidays at the Mayborn

Dec. 11-15

Right, students and faculty stopped by the Mayborn office during finals week in December to enjoy holiday treats.

Far right, Mayborn staff (left to right) Meg Gupton, Nancy Kihenia, Diedra Wesley, Randene Hulstrand, Nancy Eanes, Brandee Harrawood, David Wachanga and Mayborn Director Mitch Land (not pictured) wish you a happy new year in 2007!



PHOTOS BY MEG GUPTON



Mayborn Director: Mitch Land. **Adviser:** Nancy Eanes.
Editor: Meg Gupton. **Writer:** Candace Davis. **Photos:** Don Jones, Elizabeth Clark, David Wachanga, Meg Gupton.

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