Two Recent Alumni Working in Television

Mallory Duncan ('10) currently works as a production associate at ABC NewsOne, the affiliate news service of ABC News, in New York City. NewsOne provides video content (live feeds and edited pieces), to local ABC stations and all ABC News programs including *World News Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, and *Nightline*. Her responsibilities include researching, editing, and distributing video as requested by stations and ABC News programs; shooting stand-ups and b-roll; and occasionally editing packages (which is a big responsibility for a PA!).

One among several memorable moments Mallory has had at her job so far occurred very soon after she took the position. She was sent on her first field producing assignment to a bone marrow drive that took place in light of *Good Morning America* Anchor Robin Roberts’ recent illness. There, Mallory interviewed GMA anchors Robin Roberts, George Stephanopoulos, Lara Spencer, and ABC News President Ben Sherwood. From those interviews she then selected sound bites and video to send to their local stations to use in their newscasts.

Reflecting on her experience, Mallory said, “I am so grateful to have gotten a job in television production. While the hours are unconventional, long, and at times very stressful, I wouldn't change it for the world. I'm even more grateful I had the hands-on experience at the University of Hartford working at the Student Television Network. Because of the training I received in college, I was able to confidently take on assignments and I'm looking forward to the future possibilities at ABC.”
Aly Mackler (’11) began her job as a Page at CBS in New York in October of 2012. This 18-month program is a foot-in-the-door for those trying to break into a career in television at CBS. Pages are given assignments in various departments and with specific programs. Aly is currently working with Audience Coordinators for Anderson Live and BET’s 106&Park, both of which tape at the CBS Broadcast Center. She also works in the Green Room of CBS This Morning Saturday, where she assists talent and guests by bringing them to the green room when they arrive at the Broadcast Center and then to hair and makeup. She makes sure that all guests are taken care and ready to be on air before the stage managers bring them on set.

Aly, excited about her position as a page, said, "The CBS Page Program is a great way to get started in the television industry. As a page, I have the opportunity to work in many different departments and meet many people who work behind the scenes as well as in front of the camera. Ultimately, I hope to work in production in the entertainment field. I enjoy many different aspects of production and this program is a great way to help me discover where specifically I would like my career to go."

Communication Students Abroad

There is an exciting upward trend in the number of Communication undergraduates choosing to participate in study abroad programs. In the Fall 2012 semester, six students attended programs in Italy, France, Ireland, and Amsterdam.

Nicole Callender (’14), Joana Amoyaw (’14), and Kevin Mehler (’14) were in Cannes, France at the College International de Cannes, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. All
took intensive instruction in the French language and culture, and also took courses in art history and international business. While there, they had the opportunity to visit Barcelona, Paris, and London. Speaking about their experiences, Kevin reported that “the reality surpassed my dreams,” and Nicole said, “I am truly grateful that I even received the opportunity to go abroad. The last 4 months have been more than dramatically life changing. I met people from all over the world. We created bonds that I know will last a lifetime.” Joana said, “I was initially intimidated by the idea that I would be in a foreign country for 3 months, but sometimes you have to ask yourself, ‘When was the last time you got to do something for the first time?’”

Veronica Lopez (’13) attended Richmond University in Florence, Italy, where she took Italian and Photography courses and completed an internship at The Florence Newspaper, where she reported on and wrote stories on fashion and the arts. Her portfolio now includes pieces such as, “Francis Bacon and the Existential Condition in Contemporary Art” and “Italian Designers Showcase at New York Fashion Week.” Veronica said, “It was amazing having the chance to learn another language and work/study in a culture that differs from the American culture. I have learned a lot about myself while in Italy and will forever carry with me the memories I’ve made throughout my time abroad. As a result of interning for The Florence Newspaper, my love for journalism has immensely grown and I look forward to utilizing the skills I have learned in the workforce soon.”

Eager for a study abroad experience, sophomore Samantha Pulley (’16) spent the Fall semester in Limerick, Ireland. She took courses in the sociology of media, history, and fulfilled two AUC requirements by taking Irish Folklore and Irish Music and Dance. Pictured here next to a statue of Oscar Wilde, Samantha summed up her experience: "Studying abroad has taught me more about the world, my country, and myself in one semester than I have learned in all my years of schooling.”
Wrapping up her college career with a semester in Amsterdam, Andrea Wojcik ('13) attended SIT's program, International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, with topics such as sex education, feminism in the Netherlands, prostitution, trans-identity, and same-sex marriage. Andrea took Dutch Language and Culture and completed an independent study project in which she looked at the representation of lesbian women in the Netherlands by conducting a content analysis and interviewing readers of the Dutch lesbian magazine Zij aan Zij: This Is Us.

The program also included travel to Morocco for two weeks to explore the topics of gender and sexuality within Moroccan (and Islamic) culture. Reflecting on her experiences, Andrea said, “I went to the Netherlands to study gender and sexuality, but I learned about a whole lot more. The people I met challenged me to think outside of my American upbringing and I also learned a lot about myself. The experience has permanently changed me, for the better I think.”

**Santa Bears Remarkable Resemblance to Professor Roger Desmond**

Showing his Christmas spirit, Professor Roger Desmond donned Santa garb to brighten the day of scores of preschool children from Hartford who attended the annual Preschool Holiday Party, held on December 6, 2012, in Gengras Student Union. At the party, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs, the Center for Community Service, and a long list of other departments and student groups, children receive teddy bears that were collected from student organizations, staff, faculty, and community members. Dr. DeLois Lindsey, Assistant Vice President for Student Development, spoke of the purpose of the party: "We strive to instill the notion of higher education at the earliest possible age. We want these children to know that college is possible for them; what better way to do this than a huge celebration of cultural holidays. One of the University's best community service initiatives."
Public Relations Campaigns Class Pays Visit to Sikorsky

Each spring students in CMM 471 Public Relations Campaigns work with clients in the community to develop a strategic communication plan. This year the students are working with Sikorsky Aircraft and the Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE). The course integrates many functions of public relations practices including critical analysis, client relationships, team dynamics, product development and presentation skills. The class is split into teams and each team will develop a plan for the clients. At the end of the semester the client selects which plan better meets their needs based on the strategic plan and client presentation. On February 6, 2013, the students made a site visit to client Sikorsky in Stratford, Connecticut.

Woody Woodyard, Sikorsky Aircraft’s Vice President of Communications, welcomes the students to their initial client meeting.

School of Communication students kick off their tour of Sikorsky Aircraft in the facility’s lobby. Front row, from left, Eugenia Martinez, Samantha Sulzer, Jessica Baker, Briana Livingston, Katelyn O’Sullivan, Rebecca Lazarus. Back row, from left, Matt Singer, Emily Burns, Kayla Washington, John Chappell, Andrew Gregor, Tyler Losure, Dr. Susan Grantham.
In today’s tough job market, students need to stand out among their peers by having opportunities to participate in special experiences like attending professional conventions to network and learn about industry trends, landing internships in major cities like New York, competing in the AAF’s National Student Advertising Competition, and more.

The School of Communication has created a fund, the Communication Students Special Opportunities Fund, to provide financial support for these kinds of activities. Only in existence a few years, the fund has helped send a graduate student to an international conference to share her research, enabled an undergraduate student to attend a national convention to present her Honors thesis, covered the costs of transportation for a student to complete an internship at an editing house in NYC, and for a group of students to attend a presentation by former CBS news anchor Dan Rather, among other activities.

Please consider a gift to the Communication Students Special Opportunities Fund. To make a contribution you can go to www.hartford.edu, click on “Giving to U of H,” select “Make a Gift,” and where it asks for “Designation,” select “Other” and indicate Communication Students Special Opportunities Fund. If you prefer, you can send a check payable to the University of Hartford, and in the memo section indicate Communication Students Special Opportunities Fund, and mail to Institutional Advancement, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

Faculty Updates

Dr. Jack Banks has returned from a Fall 2012 sabbatical during which he made substantial progress on his book project focusing on gender and sexuality in television. An article called, "Class and Social Status in the Lydia Pinkham Illustrated Ads, 1890-1900" by Professor Elizabeth Burt is scheduled to appear in the Winter 2013 issue of American Journalism.

On sabbatical this spring, Dr. Roger Desmond is working on readership research with a network of content providers of news (Independent Media Network), addressing questions about what readers/viewers want from Internet-based news. He is also helping LIFE publications expand their web presence, and writing a few stories for print and web.


Alumni: We would love to hear from you so please send updates we can share in newsletters (e.g., job news, weddings, birth announcements) to kelly@hartford.edu.