

**U.S. Department of State's Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists  
Private Partnerships Testimonials**

**Dr. Albert R. Tims, Director, School of Journalism & Mass Communication,  
University of Minnesota**

<http://www.sjmc.umn.edu/>

**On the value of the Edward R. Murrow Program for the international journalists  
that visited his campus and also for the university:**

“The Murrow Program offers an opportunity for us to highlight the University of Minnesota and the School of Journalism & Mass Communication. The School has a long-standing connection to the East Asian Pacific region and we feel especially equipped to provide valuable experiences to the journalist given our proximity to a range of media outlets, journalism professionals, the Minnesota Trade Office, and the Minnesota State Capitol, among others. The President of the University is enthusiastic about our participation in this program and the value of working with other communicators from around the world.”

**Dr. Peter Gross, Director and Professor  
School of Journalism and Electronic Media  
College of Communication and Information  
University of Tennessee**

<http://www.cci.utk.edu/jem>

**On the value of the Edward R. Murrow Program for the international journalists  
that visited his campus and also for the university:**

“In many ways, the visit was an eye opener for our foreign visitors. They met faculty members who expressed differing points of view on a variety of issues, and saw a relationship between students and faculty that was far less formal and stilted than the one that exists in their home countries. And they were exposed to a journalism education system that goes well beyond teaching mere theory or technique and deals with the grander roles and expectations of a free media and journalism in a democracy, with ethical expectations and legal protections. More than anything else, the visitors were exposed to one unique little sliver of the U.S. of A., East Tennessee, with its own history, values, behaviors, habits and tastes. The visits to local media, I believe, were equally as enlightening for the journalists who, quite naturally, made comparisons with their own media outlets.”

For UT and, specifically, for our School and the College that houses it, the visit was part

of our augmentation of the internationalization of the journalism program. Students were exposed to and made aware of our foreign visitors and their professional experiences. The visit also offered the opportunity to build a continuing relationship with foreign journalists; we have provided some of them with specialized journalism books and have asked them to make contact with journalism schools in their own countries, with an eye on building some collaborative ties.”

**On the most memorable experience from this year's Murrow Program:**

“From my perspective, the most memorable experiences were the informal events we held in the homes of our faculty and friends. Our visitors were rather amazed at how Americans live, their homes, the easy going relationships between varied people from very diverse backgrounds, and the openness and sincerity everyone here displayed.”

**Tommy Thomason, Professor of Journalism, Schieffer School of Journalism, Texas Christian University**

<http://www.journalism.tcu.edu/index.htm>

**On the value of the Edward R. Murrow Program for the international journalists that visited his campus and also for the university:**

“The Murrow program allows visiting journalists to view American culture and American media from a variety of perspectives. They talk with academics, newsmakers, journalists, and American citizens, and in the process can begin to piece together a mosaic of America. They get small pieces from many different sources and gradually put together their view of the United States and the way Americans get their news. The amazing thing is watching them make their connections. Most came with a "textbook" view of America, or a view heavily reliant on their consumption of news media. It was amazing to watch them make connections as they separated the real from the perceived. They seemed to appreciate the fact that we presented American news media warts and all, and that we gave them a view of news as it is really covered outside Washington and New York City.

For us, it was a wonderful opportunity to see ourselves as others see us. We learned as much from their questions as they did from our answers.”

**On the most memorable experience from this year's Murrow Program:**

“Our most memorable experience was the building of community in that diverse group of journalists. I told them on the first night that we came from different linguistic backgrounds, different cultures, and different religions. But there was one thing that united us: We were all journalists. It was fascinating to see them arguing collegially with each other and with our guest presenters -- and coming to new insights in the process. They really did become a community of learners during the few days they were with us.”

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<http://exchanges.state.gov>