


MAYBORN INSIDER

January/February 2017



Graduating Mayborn photojournalism student Ranjani Groth displays the feeling of many of her fellow classmates at the December 2016 commencement exercises held at the UNT Coliseum.

Mayborn on the Move

If there's a word that describes the excitement around the Mayborn School of Journalism coming out of 2016 and into 2017, it is momentum. With more than 140 undergraduates and a half-dozen graduate students walking across the commencement stage in late December, and a variety of exciting new programs under development for the months ahead, the roll-over to the new year has brought energy, enthusiasm and excitement to the hallways of the GAB.

The more than 1,200 students of the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism are carrying momentum forward into the spring semester with new courses and programs designed to enhance learning experiences and sustain the relevance of journalism in today's fast-changing times.

From digital news and social media to traditional print and broadcast, the faculty of the Mayborn continues to stay in front of today's new dynamics in media and communications.

Everything is a story at the Mayborn. Whether that means creating advertising campaigns that truly deliver results for clients, public relations programs that inform and persuade, or photojournalism portfolios that prove that a great picture

Mark your calendars now for **First Amendment: Under Siege?**

This high-profile panel discussion brings together opinion leaders including legal experts, working journalists, constitutional scholars and others to discuss the importance of First Amendment freedoms to the health of democracy.

February 16, 6-8 p.m.
University Union Lyceum
FREE admission

is worth 1,000 words, every student's focus is on keeping up the momentum that makes the Mayborn special.

The Mayborn School of Journalism has a number of outstanding special events scheduled throughout 2017. From this year's Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference (reserve your seat now for July 21-23 in Grapevine, Texas), to insightful panel discussions on the First Amendment and our annual Celebrate Mayborn gala, we're set to make 2017 a year to remember. Keep a watch out for future issues of Mayborn Insider to stay abreast of the current events that matter to you.

Want to play a part in helping us build Mayborn Momentum in 2017? Contact us today.

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FRANK W. & SUE MAYBORN
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



A Message From Dean Dorothy Bland

Happy 2017! Spring semester classes start Jan. 17 and President-elect Donald Trump takes office Jan. 20. Yes, change is constantly in the air.

If his tweets since the November election are any indication of the future, then the White House press corps and education are facing a different world. Mobile, digital engagement, data visualization and analytics can no longer be perceived as novelties in journalism education. According to Katerina Eva Matsa and Kristine Lu of the Pew Research Center, “About four-in-ten Americans now often get news online.”

Also, “mobile is becoming a preferred device for digital news,” and Facebook has become “a common news source,” they wrote in a September 2016 Pew report titled “10 facts about the changing digital news landscape.”

In the words of the Newseum’s President and CEO Jeffrey Herbst, “This was supposed to be the information age. Instead we find ourselves in a swamp of disinformation, rumor, innuendo and fake news.”

In his *Wall Street Journal* column published in December 2016, Herbst cited the “false endorsement of Donald Trump by the pope on Facebook” going viral and the story of a North Carolina man arrested for shooting into a Washington, D.C., pizza shop after reading a “fake online news story claiming that Hillary Clinton and her campaign chief John Podesta ran a child sex ring in the restaurant’s basement” as examples.

Like many of my colleagues, I am concerned that far too many Americans don’t understand the First Amendment or the difference between opinion and fact. In an effort to help bridge the gap, the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism will be hosting a special program titled “The First Amendment: Under Siege?” Feb. 16 from 6-8 p.m. in the UNT University Union Lyceum.

Panelists – including journalists, academics, legal experts and media professionals – will discuss perceptions of media bias as well as ways to combat threats to the First Amendment freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. All are welcome to attend what will be a lively discussion with representatives ranging from conservative to liberal perspectives.



Event planning is a team effort. That’s why I owe a special thanks to program committee members Randy Loftis, Jim Dale, Tracy Everbach, Gayle Reaves-King, Neil Foote, Meredith Clark, Gwen Nisbett, Mark Donald and Brandee Hartley as well as student organizations such as the UNT chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists for their work.

Students have made it clear that they want some more online offerings. That’s why we are working to add media literacy to UNT’s core curriculum as a 100 percent online class in the fall 2017. I offer a special thanks to Jim Mueller, interim journalism director, and Sara Blankenship, an adjunct instructor and Mayborn alum, for collaborating to bring this concept to reality. Lecturer Dave Tracy is expanding NT Daily radio offerings, and we also will be expanding graduate program offerings in the coming year. More details will be provided in the coming months.

Onward and upward,

Dorothy Bland
Dean



NT Daily TV News anchors Jake Haimowitz and Paige Schnorbach prepare to deliver real-time election results as part of the Mayborn School's election night news coverage.

Students Cover the 2016 Presidential Election

The 2016 presidential election gave Mayborn students a rare opportunity to cover a major political event in real time. NT Daily TV and the *North Texas Daily* both covered election results live, providing audiences with poll results and news analysis.

Under the direction of Senior Lecturer Michelle Redmond and supported by Media Technology Manager Chuck Weatherall, students Jake Haimowitz and Paige Schnorbach anchored the news desk throughout the evening, providing up-to-the-minute national election results.

The staff of the *North Texas Daily* also tallied results as they were announced and were primed to run the story on the paper's website as well as the upcoming print edition.



Mayborn Superfan: Cynthia Paulis

From the ER to Journalism

Dr. Cynthia Paulis finds stories everywhere – and finds Mayborn programs inspiring.

By Rawan Shishakly, Mayborn Scholar



The back of her star-spangled jacket was immediately noticeable in the sixth row of the auditorium. Cynthia Paulis had flown more than 1,600 miles from Long Island to attend the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism's event: "A Century of Excellence: the Pulitzer Prizes and Journalism's Impact at UNT," held on Sept. 29 at the University Union

Lyceum. With an infectious smile, Paulis's strong voice is especially passionate when recalling her extraordinary adventures.

Cynthia Paulis, 63, is a writer for *Long Island Weekly*. She's also a retired emergency room physician, a licensed pilot, trilingual in Japanese, Spanish, and English, and a former Wall Street businesswoman. In 2009, she was also involved in a major car accident that nearly took her life.

Paulis was just four short blocks away from her home in Long Island, New York, on a trip to the library when a Mercedes going 70 miles per hour slammed into her Chevy Blazer.

The young driver totaled his father's car and flung Paulis's car upside down and into the opposite lanes of traffic.

"As I was going airborne I said, 'Oh dear God, please don't let me die!' and I felt angel wings wrap around me," Paulis said.

Earlier that day, Paulis had written a story about her late mother on the beach they often visited together. The angel wings, she felt, were her mother's.

"I almost died that day, but I didn't," Paulis said. "That changed my life. I looked back at my life and said, 'What would I want to do if I died today? What would I regret not doing?' And I would have regretted that I was not a writer. I would have regretted not telling the stories that I wanted to tell."

On the day of the accident, Paulis had resigned her job as an emergency room physician and made the decision to go back to school to pursue her passion of writing. She became involved with Mediabistro, a resource website for media professionals, and soon pitched her own column to the *Long Island Weekly*, writing stories on a variety of topics and eventually winning awards for her work.

A passion for storytelling has enabled Paulis to meet people from all walks of life. Like the doctor who went to Jordan to work with Syrian refugees, and the man whose dream to run an Iron Man marathon finally came true. "Life is an adventure," Paulis said.

Paulis attended the 2016 Mayborn Literary Conference and plans to attend the one in 2017, as well.

"I think the Mayborn Conference is extremely important," Paulis said. "They have brought the very best of the best here to these conferences. What a gift it is to the students!"

For Paulis, the Pulitzer event was a testament to great journalism and the legacy of the Mayborn School of Journalism itself.

"One thing that struck me was when they talked about changing the world," Paulis said. "Journalists change the world."

She recalls many pivotal points in history that were influenced by strong journalists, such as Dan Rather's days as a war correspondent in Vietnam and his coverage of the Watergate Scandal.

As journalism continues to evolve, the Mayborn School of Journalism continues to produce award-winning reporters in all fields. As a writer and a lifelong student of storytelling, Paulis said it best:

"If you're around excellent writers, it raises the bar for you to become excellent," Paulis said. "What a credit to the school to have produced people like this who think so highly of the school, and who want to come back and share that knowledge with the students. That's extraordinary."

Mayborn Students Learn From the Pros and Work With the Pros



Mayborn students continually work directly with seasoned professionals in the fields of journalism and communications.

In the photo above, senior public relations students under the direction of Visiting Lecturer Rebecca Pointer presented end-of-semester concepts to the class client, Dandy Bridges of Carry the Load, a Dallas-based nonprofit. Over the semester, students outlined a variety of media initiatives to Carry the Load, including social media, event planning and national public-outreach concepts. The students presented “exceptional concepts, tactics and ideas that really wowed us,” said Bridges.

In the photo at right, Mayborn broadcast student Alex Lilley earned the privilege of being the first of our students to participate in an internship with the Dallas Cowboys organization. Competing with many others, Lilley participated in a lengthy interview that provided opportunities to show skills with cameras, audio recording



equipment and also basic interview techniques. Longtime sports anchor and reporter George Riba offered solid reviews on Lilley’s performance. Lilley (in blue, holding boom microphone) is interviewing the Dallas Cowboys’s star quarterback Dak Prescott.

Other Mayborn broadcast and sports students have recently earned high-profile internships. Caroline Wright will be working at CBS Sports in New York and Christa Irvin will work for the national network program Dancing with The Stars in Los Angeles. Both internships begin this spring.

Students, Faculty and Alumni Updates

Students

- Congratulations to the more than 140 undergraduate students who earned bachelor's degrees in December. Kudos to **Candace Allison**, **Amber Reece** and **Kali Ah Yuen**. All three are winners of Outstanding Undergraduate Student Awards for the fall 2016. Allison for advertising, Reece for broadcast journalism, and Yuen for public relations.
- We salute the six graduate students who completed their master's degrees in December. They are **Jim Dale**, who works full-time as the Mayborn's marketing director, **Ulrich Nonyu Moutassie**, **Kate Skinner**, **Chandler Hodo**, **Lindsey Bacon Bertrand** and **Elvia Limón**.
- Kudos to **Kate Skinner**, who successfully defended her thesis "The Castle/Nikki Heat Phenomenon: A Detailed Examination of Female Representation in Entertainment Media." She was selected as recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Fall 2016.
- *The Dallas Morning News* interns for fall 2016 were **Tiffany Ditto** and **Adalberto Toledo**. Also, **Elvia Limón** and **Caleb Downs** had extended internships this fall from summer 2016. **Eline DeBrujin** and **Dalton LaFerney** were also interns over the summer 2016. Matt Peterson, breaking news editor for the *The Dallas Morning News*, wrote, "The past few classes have been well-prepared and excelled so much that we asked them to stick around. Three UNT grads were in the building over the summer, and two remain here on extended internships. The most crucial training for this gig can only come on the job, and most of them have been up to that challenge."

Faculty & Staff

- Kudos to Interim Journalism Director **Jim Mueller** who earned a top paper award at the SWEJMC Southwest Symposium in November for his paper titled "This Act of Brutal Savageism: Press Coverage of Native Americans at the 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas."
- Did you know Mayborn faculty members **Neil Foote**, **Gwen Nisbett**, **Tracy Everbach**, **Jim Mueller** and **Meredith Clark** participated in a Mayborn Conversations podcast about the November election? Here's the link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-537546190/2016-post-presidential-election>.
- Congratulations to Associate Professor **Tracy Everbach**, who has been elected chair of the UNT Women's Faculty Network.
- Assistant Professors **Gwen Nisbett** and **Sara Champlin** both have been selected to receive a \$1,000 micro research grant from UNT's Mayborn School of Journalism.
- Kudos to Assistant Professor **Gwen Nisbett** and her team of research students who collected data at the Alamo City

Comic Con Oct. 28-20 in San Antonio. She also won a \$500 travel stipend during the Fall Convocation. Nisbett was elected the National Communication Association secretary for the Environmental Communication Division.

- Thanks to Associate Professor **Koji Fuse** for serving as co-conference planner for the Japan-U.S. Communication Association's affiliate organizations. He'll help plan UNT's presence at the NCA Convention, which will be Nov. 17-19, 2017, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. At the NCA Conference in Philadelphia, he presented a paper titled "Japanese-Tortured POWs: A Fantasy Theme Analysis of Unbroken and The Railway Man," which was co-authored by Interim Journalism Director James E. Mueller and graduate student Tyler Hicks. Fuse also chaired the JUCA session titled "Civic Callings From a Japanese/U.S. International Perspective: Where You Stand Depends on Where You Sit" at the 2017 NCA Conference.
- **Ashley Fisher** has been hired full-time as the grammar spelling and punctuation coordinator for undergraduate students.

Alumni

- Baby Alert! Congratulations to **Tyler** and **Allie Cleveland**. They are the proud parents of Joshua, who was born Oct. 15.
- Congratulations to **Mike Mooney**, M.J. 2009, and **Tara Nieuwesteeg**, B.A. 2006, who were married in Wales in September. They're both contributing editors to D Magazine. Mike is also co-director of the annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference.
- **Graham Douglas**, B.A., 2005, a creative director in New York City is working on a Super Bowl commercial. He married Casey Dalporto on Sept. 17, 2016, in Brooklyn, and they had a terrific honeymoon in Sri Lanka and India.
- **Judge Ken Molberg**, B.A. 1973, has been re-elected as an appeals court judge in Dallas.
- **Jonathan Soto** is now a Fox Sports SW producer.
- **Randy Romero**, B.A. 2012, is a social media strategist with Digitas in Chicago.
- **Becky Kimbro**, B.A. 2009, is the vice president of marketing for the Texas Rangers.
- **David Barber**, B.A. 1982, has been named senior reporter at the *Van Zandt News* in Canton area.
- **Camille Grimes** is the executive director of The Dallas Morning News Charities.

Among many field trips taken by Mayborn students in the fall of 2016, broadcast journalists visited the studios of KXAS NBC 5 in Fort Worth. While there, students participated in programming meetings, toured the facilities and watched actual broadcasts take place.



Life @ the Mayborn



Andrea Czobor provided a live broadcast from the Denton town square during the homecoming parade.



Mayborn students play as hard as they work; visitors to the Mayborn tent at the 2016 homecoming game give the UNT eagle claw.

Upcoming Events in 2017

January 17
Classes Begin

February 16
Panel Discussion:
"First Amendment Under Siege?"

March 1
Internship/Career Fair

April 13
Barbara Jordan Media Awards

April 20
Mayborn Agency Showcase

April 27
Celebrate Mayborn

April 29
Dallas Book Festival
Literary Nonfiction Conference Exhibitor

May 12
Spring Commencement

July 21-23
Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference

Conference Co-Director Neil Foote introduces the 2017 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference theme: **The Power of Words.**



Save the dates
for next year's
Mayborn Literary
Nonfiction
Conference.

July 21 - 23, 2017

Register now at
themayborn.com/registration

Consider a gift to the Mayborn School of Journalism

For your convenience give online at journalism.unt.edu/about-us/support-mayborn. For more information contact Myrshem George at myrshem.george@unt.edu or call 940-369-7260.



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