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Sara Kate Parker is a senior in Journalism and Electronic Media. After graduation she is seeing where the wind takes her.

With technology bringing the world closer every day it is fitting that the School of Journalism and Electronic Media explore how these technologies are expanding our classrooms, getting us “ready for the world.” I would like to welcome you to the sixth edition of *Scoop* magazine.

Backpack journalism, multi-media news packages and on-line media are the new frontiers shaping journalism. News is infiltrating e-mails, text messages and Facebook pages. We, as journalists, must improve how the public receives this information.

Technology rules not only the news world, but also the classrooms at UT. With Skype teaching aids, up-to-date Mac computer labs, and advanced audio and video equipment the School of Journalism and Electronic Media is doing its part to prepare students for a future in new media.

Inside this issue you will be able to see what UT is up to, and also take a look into the lives of international students studying here. Ann Taylor of NPR shares tricks of her trade, we explore how the new advances in communication affect our relationships, and we provide a warning about social networking sites that all students and alumni should read.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue of *Scoop*, and check out our new Web site at cci.utk.edu/scoopmagazine.

Sara Kate Parker

Scoop

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Not Bound by Space

From numerous awards, to a shelf full of books, Mark Littmann is one accomplished guy

Story by

Jessie Lowery



Mark and Peggy Littmann on Mount Timpanogos near America Fork, Utah in 2004

Photo provided by Mark Littmann

When he is not studying the abyss of space, Journalism and Electronic Media's Dr. Mark Littmann is teaching students about the wonders of science and technology. He is a man of many talents and an amazing multi-tasker.

When he attended college, he had no idea what he wanted to do as a career. "I envied those who knew," Littmann said. He considered becoming a nuclear physicist because "it sounded neat."

Beginning at the age of 14, he had the privilege of learning to fly a plane and becoming a pilot. Since he loved flying, it seemed logical to become an aeronautical engineer. However, Littmann majored in chemistry with a co-major in literature at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He said he couldn't see himself in a white lab jacket in a

chemistry lab, joking that it might have been dangerous for him to be in a lab. He decided to continue school for another year at Hollins College to get his masters in creative writing and modern literature.

He then went to Salt Lake City to become the first director of the Hansen Planetarium. The only experience he had for directing the planetarium was one introductory course in astronomy during college.

"The planetarium medium is such a wonderful medium," Littmann said. "A lot of drama could be brought and made into a play." He knew he could make science interesting to the public by simply adding fictional characters.

He has written, directed and produced 34 programs for the planetarium. He said the programs "became highly sought after," and foundations started to give them funding because

of the grants he had written. About 650 other planetariums worldwide used his programs, which is rare for other planetariums to do.

While directing at Hansen, he taught at the University of Utah, Westminster College and Brigham Young University. He enjoyed teaching so much that he decided to get his doctorate in English at Northwestern University. He was still teaching and directing at the planetarium as well as writing while working on his doctorate.

"As I look back now, I can't imagine how I found the time and energy. I was working days, nights and weekends. But I was really enjoying everything I was doing, and the Hansen Planetarium was doing things no planetarium had ever done before," Littmann said.

Later, Littmann became a staff me-

teorologist and science reporter for broadcast. He worked there for two years while still directing.

Before his last year working for the planetarium, he received two awards for "Outstanding Contributions to the Planetarium Profession." He also became the President of Educational Publications and NASA contractor for Starmaster Co.

During his last year of teaching at the University of Utah, Littmann added to his broadcast and print journalism experiences. He hosted his own radio talk show titled "The Dr. Mark Littmann Show" in Salt Lake City at the now KTKK station.

Even though he has done a little of everything, he still chooses what he does the most. "I like to write. The chance to write about something I like is always a pleasure," Littmann said.

He co-wrote his first book in 1985 titled "Comet Halley: Once in a Lifetime," which was awarded Book of the Year by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He was also a distinguished lecturer for the next two years with the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics and became the Director of Public Affairs for the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

He then joined the faculty at Loyola College's astronomy department while continuing to write books and articles. Littmann was again awarded book of the year in 1988 by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for "Planets Beyond: Discovering the Outer Solar System."

In 1991, Littmann became a professor in journalism and astronomy at the University of Tennessee. He is the Chair of Excellence in Science, Technology and Medical Writing. He said he likes teaching UT students because they want to take the class, showing some interest in the subject, having a good attitude and being self-motivated. "I'm very, very

lucky. The students I see want to learn," he said. "I really like the students. I learn from them every day."

He is always excited about passing along ideas and the things he has encountered in his life. He likes all the classes he teaches but really enjoys Science Writing as Literature. "It's a very unusual, almost unique course," Littmann said. There were only three other versions of this class taught in

the world. He said he was pretty sure that he taught the first one that was established.

While teaching at UT, he continues his writing and position at Starmaster Co. He is co-writing his 3rd edition of "Totality: Eclipses of the Sun" and a play. "It's been some years since I've written a play, so we'll see if I can do it." He hopes to continue writing plays about Caroline Herschel and Edmund Halley, both important people in astronomy.

Littmann has received many awards and honors. "I'm really grateful," Littmann said. Of course, he knew he couldn't have achieved these without the help of others. "There aren't many publishers who would go the distance for you."

He has written four books, several booklets, many plays and many articles all while teaching. Littmann said, "One of the things I was taught in my

family is to give back to the world and not just take." He said he gives back to the best of his ability and hopes it makes the world a little better. He has seen his siblings, wife and children do the same.

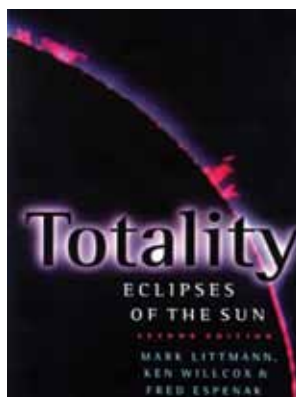
For someone who is busy teaching and writing, he still has time for his family and other hobbies. He said he loves flying, traveling and sports. Also, his family travels somewhere exotic ever summer for bicycling.

Littmann said he loves getting up every day for work, and he can teach while doing all his other hobbies. "Why retire early? I'd be missing teaching." 

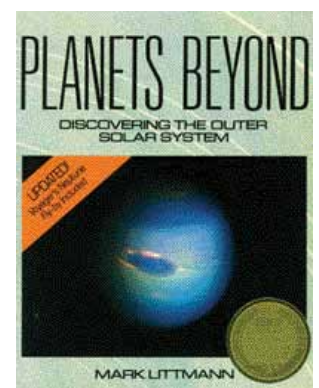
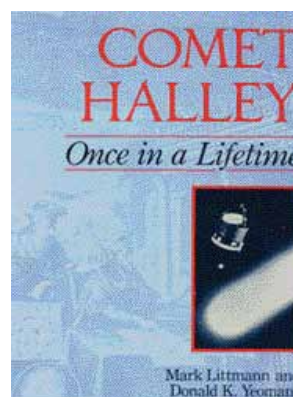
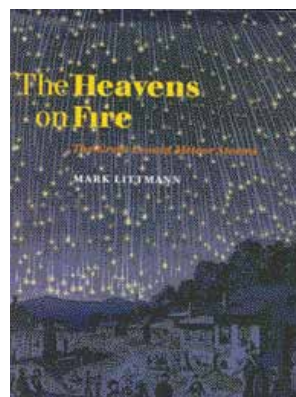


Photo provided by Mark Littmann

Littmann on a bike trip in Passau, Germany.



Books written by Littmann



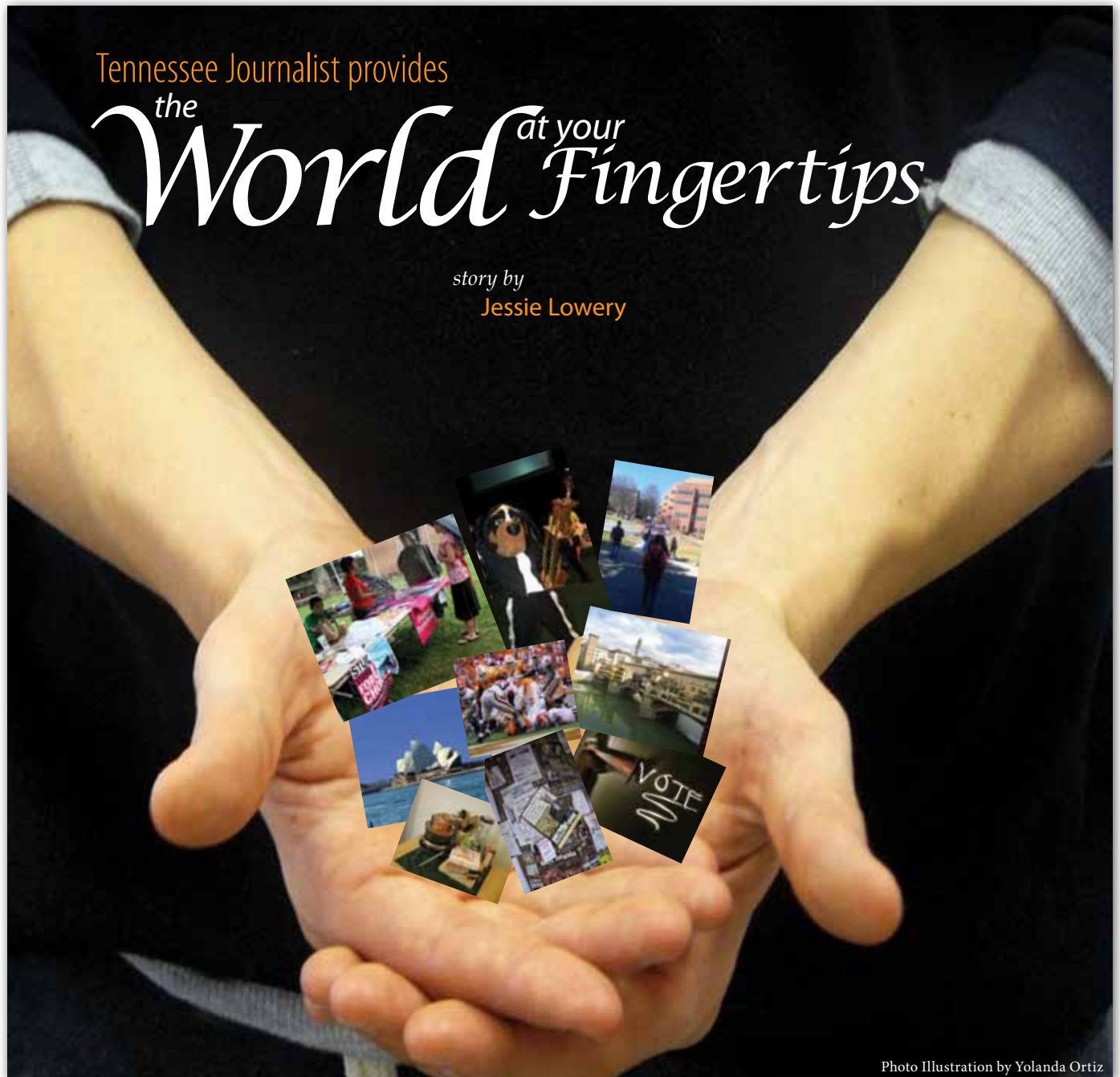


Photo Illustration by Yolanda Ortiz

Photos provided by Joseph Agreda, Samantha Thornton, Jessie Lowery, Sarah Euhler, Brandon Ball, Josh Richard, Caitlin Rockett and UT Sports.

The introduction of new journalistic mediums has caused excitement throughout history. That excitement reached the University of Tennessee October 2006 as the Tennessee Journalist news Web site, www.tnjn.com, was born. TNJN is one of few independently-run, student news Web sites and offers journalism students an opportunity to develop journalistic skills.

TNJN was created by Dr. Jim Stovall with the help of Staci Wolfe, a former UT graduate student, and Johnny Dobbins, TNJN's first operations manager.

An online journalism production is still a new concept for colleges and universities. "Most students think this happens everywhere, but it doesn't," Stovall said. "Students have an unusual opportunity." He said there are relatively

few independent Web sites like TNJN, but he would like to see an increase of such news sites on campuses.

The site allows the opportunity for all journalism students to have their work published, and it is entirely produced by UT students. The staff writes, edits and produces for the Web site, while students from other classes assist in contributing articles. "We get a lot of people that use it as a lab for 275 and 200. But then, we get a lot of people that hear about it from those classes and want to work for us, and we have people that stay on after they completed those classes," Editor-in-Chief Katie Rodgers said.

Contributing writer Franck Tabouring first heard about the site last spring in JEM 275. "My professor, Dr. Moore, always encouraged us to participate in campus media, and TNJN was one of the options to consider. I have always

been a fan of the Web and had been publishing my content online for several years, which is why I wanted to try this out. It turned out to be such an interesting experience that I decided to stay on board. And I still am.”

A few other journalism classes contribute their writings further into the semester, such as JEM 315. “We get a lot from the Online Journalism class and the Managing News Web Sites class as well, and what is great about that is they are online courses, so they understand the immediacy of the articles and the timeliness of it,” Rodgers said.

TNJJN is available for anyone to view. It offers many features to students, such as current events, arts and culture, sports and opinion. “I think a lot of people turn to us. We are gaining readers and viewers as we grow bigger,” Rodgers said. “I think we are keeping people in the loop because we are getting the stories out quick.”

According to Rodgers, the features that attract viewers to the site are videos, photos and sports. “Especially sports coverage because we do cover live during football games, and we have really good sport photography.”

Tabouring agrees. “Generally, I think it’s the diversity of the site that draws people to check it out. You’ve got tons of sports articles about all things Vols, you’ve got opinion pieces, social commentaries and art and culture reviews, which all contribute to the site’s attractiveness.”

A common feature with online journalism that attracts TNJJN viewers is the continued updates on news throughout the day. “We get the news usually before many other publications because we are on campus and we are online, so we have the availability to put things up very quickly,” Rodgers said. “We don’t have to print, so we can go through things and edit and publish to the site. We have the convenience to upload it to the site from our own home and have an editor edit it before it goes on the site.”

A recently added feature for viewers is the abroad section. “We’ve re-



Photo by Samantha Thornton

Joseph Agreda tests his camera before shooting video

ally been covering more events on campus about international events for international students. We have international student profiles, and their families at home can log on and read about their child,” Rodgers said. “Also, people who go abroad from UT and write for us have readers follow them from campus or their hometown.”

The addition of the abroad section is only one way of changing TNJJN from its original creation. “I would like to see new templates for the homepage and for the section pages. That is in the works. It should happen soon,” Rodgers said.

When asked about the future of TNJJN, Stovall did not know how it would happen, but hoped it would grow. He said they may eventually have a print version of TNJJN.

As for the future of the TNJJN staff, Rodgers is looking forward to a media convergence lab that is supposed to be added in the Communications Building. “I’d like to see that function more like a newsroom where students can come in to use it for class credit or for us to have our meetings; looking for a more convenient way for us to work together and to help people,” she said. 

Tennessee Journalist Timeline

- **October 2006-** The first editorial staff consisted of students enrolled in JEM 422, Managing News Websites.
- **Oct. 12, 2006-** The first stories on the site appeared in the sports section from Professor Daniel Foley’s sports writing class.
- The first stories to have video and audio appear on the site were “Van Sickle would ‘run through a brick wall’ for Vol soccer” and “Rossi: a maturing ‘big time’ soccer player.”
- **July 2007-** The abroad section made its debut.
- **September 10, 2007-** Volcast made its debut. The name was changed to InSight.
- **November 2007-** TNJJN saw the highest volume of visitors at 84,709.
- **December 2007-** The politics section made its debut.
- Over 100 countries have had visitors view at least one page on the TNJJN site.

Taylor Made

Ann Taylor takes time to share her tips on
how she stays on top of the game.

story by

Andrew Horwat, Jessica Ayers and Lorato Powell



"Work hard, ask questions, go the extra mile," is the advice given to students by Ann Taylor, news-caster for National Public Radio for almost 30 years. The UT graduate and winner of the 2006 Notable Woman Award started working during a time when the industry was male-dominated and not so welcoming to women. Taylor quickly moved through the ranks starting locally with WATE broadcasting news, which gave her experience in everything from television to radio. Scoop Magazine asked Taylor for her thoughts and career tips, although Taylor says, "sometimes it's best not to state your opinions."

Q: You spent some time after graduation working at WATE here in Knoxville. How did your time there prepare you for your jobs in Washington at WTOP FM and WTOP-TV (now WUSA)?

A: I started out writing ad copy... then asked to follow along on a news story, and then was able to get into the News department - on a very low level, (I had some patient bosses). Taped my first newscast, until the news director said I had to do it live. At that time it was unusual to have women in news. Sent tapes to Washington and was rejected...until a man driving through Knoxville heard me on the radio and called me and told me to call a news director at the all-news stations in Washington. . . I did, flew up for an interview, and was hired.

Q: What is your motivation for doing the work that you do? What drives you, and what keeps you coming back?

A: Trying to do the best I can to make sure that the news I deliver is as accurate, fair and up-to-date as possible.

Q: What is the most challenging part about working for National Public Radio?

A: Getting it correct, the first time.

Q: What do you hope the next generation of journalists will bring to the profession?

A: An eye for truth and fairness... without bias.

Q: You won the second ever Notable Woman Award from UT in 1996. How did it feel being recognized by your alma mater for your achievements?

A: It was and is one of the things of which I am most proud - you have no idea!

Q: With the dawn of free-access media (due to the internet), what role do you see NPR, or other public radio, playing in the near future?

A: I think there are changes already here...and ahead, in the future of the news media...with the impact still uncertain...but people still want the news...especially when it's breaking news. As for radio, it continues to be a bit more personal.

Q: What is the best advice you could give to students approaching graduation?

A: Look for that first job. . . entry level if you must, and try to get it.

Q: What advice do you have for young women looking to break into the industry?

A: The same advice I have for young men: work hard, ask questions, "go the extra mile." And sometimes it's best not to state your opinions.

Q: It has been said that people often fall into complacency in today's world. How do you stay motivated after having achieved so much?

A: You are only as good as your last newscast.



HITTIN' THE BOOKS VS. HITTIN' THE FIELD

Story by

Beverly Adams, Wyatt Badger, Mary Faucette and Kelly Johnson

From supporting 16 different sports teams to our “Vol Pride” this campus has high regard for its athletes and their game performance. What about their performance off the field? Fans tend to forget that athletes must study, as well as practice.

So how do athletes balance their time between the big game and the final exam? Most athletes are occupied with practices and workouts, and many of them travel off campus for competitions and games. “We traveled as far as L.A. and as short as Johnson City,” said UT golfer John Rattan.

Not only that, but these students also have to maintain a good reputation, since they are often in the public eye.

One of the most important resources to athletes is the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center. The Thornton Center opened in 2001 and has been providing student athletes with the advice and counsel necessary to succeed in their classes. The center was funded by John Thornton after he recognized the need for an academic facility specifically available for athletes. “Let’s face it, we call these kids student athletes. They are students

first, they are athletes after that,” Thornton said.

Despite the belief that athletes aren’t as “academic” as non-athletes, this is not the case at UT. In fact, athletes are often more likely to be held to a higher standard than regular students. Thornton Center Associate Director Fernandez West explains, “Out of 16 teams, all but three have a team GPA of 3.0.” In addition to the requirements of individual teams, the athletes must also deal with additional academic pressures from the NCAA. To help them meet their goals and deadlines, the Thornton Center assigns an advisor to each athlete.

“Our students and athletes are a reflection of our university,” said West. “Competition and the expectation to do well is high. If they don’t do well academically, people notice.”

Students from a variety of sports and sports clubs express both positives and negatives that come along with being an athlete. Men’s Baseball head coach Todd Raleigh and his players have to deal with one of the most grueling travel schedules of any team at the university. In the spring, the team is either practicing, traveling by bus or playing games at least five days out of the week.

“They bring their books and laptops when we travel and study on the bus,” Raleigh said.

Raleigh is confident in his players and their commitment to academics. “I think they tend to be more focused ... when you get busier, you focus on what you’ve got to do.”

Vince Faison, a freshman in Legal Studies, has played professional baseball with the San Diego Padres, the Seattle Mariners, the New York Yankees and the Oakland Athletics. Now, he is playing football for UT.

Faison explains, “being a student athlete has its benefits. Kids look up to you as a role model, the students as well as fans. It gives you a sense of urgency to go out and be your best. It also has some drawbacks. The spotlight is always on you and everything you do, whether it be on or off the field. So you have to watch your P’s and Q’s every second



Photo provided by Jeffery Farrington



Photo by Beverly Adams

Studying in the Thornton Center, Lady Vol soccer players catch up on their class work.

because someone is always watching to see if you're doing wrong in the public's eye."

Faison knows how one's state of mind can affect performance. "Negativity is key in sports - if you're not doing well on the field it shows in the classroom," Faison said.

To keep him on the right track, Faison said, "I practically use the Thornton Center every day, and I use the writing center to make sure papers are correct and tutors if I'm having any problems with anything."

Jeffrey Farrington, a senior in Theatre, was on the football team for his first three years of college, and this year he is a UT cheerleader. Farrington says he misses somewhere between three to five days of classes a month, but when March Madness came up, he had to miss more.

Farrington explains, "certain teachers have offered extensions on projects and papers if we miss class for a sporting event." However, he says not all teachers are as understanding. "It can have a negative effect when teachers are not willing to understand that we will definitely miss some classes. It is discouraging especially when you explain to the teacher that you, as the student athlete, will take full responsibility for anything missed," he said.

Despite missed classes and difficult teachers, Farrington manages to get by. "I have always been good at managing my time, college has been no different with sports and academics. I know what has to be done, and I do it," he says.

Since the creation of the Thornton Center, Tennessee student athletes have achieved increasing levels of progress. From fall 2006 to spring 2007, the percentage of student athletes who achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher rose from 45 to 48. Although the Thornton Center has greatly added to student athletes' success rate, it continues to ultimately be on the shoulders of the athlete to find the balance between the classroom and the field. ■

“Let’s face it, we call these kids student athletes. They are students first, they are athletes after that.”

-John Thornton

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Welcomes



Dr. Elizabeth Hendrickson

Holder of Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of Missouri, Dr. Hendrickson has worked as an entertainment editor for magazines such as Glamour, Ladies Home Journal and First. Her husband Matt is a magazine writer and they have a two-year-old son, Alexander.



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MAKING WAVES

Story by

Jessica Thomas

It doesn't seem like someone living in Bangkok, Thailand would have much interest in Knoxville's classical radio station WUOT. But a UT alumnus and now Bangkok resident called into the station one day offering a donation to get WUOT to offer their programs online. Now, it is commonplace for radio stations to have their content online. Local radio stations, like WUOT and WUTK, have listeners from all over the world: Thailand, China, Japan, Europe, and across the United States. This worldwide radio connection has been made possible only very recently with advances in Internet technology. Radio has made some drastic changes since it began to be an important consumer medium, but where is it going now?

Streaming Internet radio, which allows users to listen to radio stations live from their computers, is one recent trend that lets people from almost anywhere listen to radio stations of their choice. Podcasting is another way to get media content from the Web. Podcasts are made available through syndication feeds, which allow audio or multimedia content to be transferred to a personal computer. This audio content can then be transferred to a portable media player such as an iPod or another mp3 player. Radios can use podcasting to put out local stories, interviews or programs that may or may not be used in their regular broadcast.

Satellite radio, which is broadcast by a communications satellite and covers a larger geographical area than traditional radio, is also gaining popularity. "Radio stations are using their radio signal as one of many ways to reach listeners," says Matt Shafer Powell, news director at WUOT. "As radio programmers, our mission is to figure out how we fit into that mix and reach everyone who listens in all these different ways."



Photo provided by Brenda Vanderhorst

WUOT does streaming and podcasting, but they are also in the beginning stages of using High Definition radio. HD radio allows AM and FM radio stations to broadcast digitally, giving them high quality radio as well as more space. HD radio can allow stations to air programs they might not otherwise have time for by allowing the stations to branch off into other stations. For example, WUOT 2 might still be part of WUOT but at the same time act like a completely new station. HD radios also have a capability to display messages, as satellite radio does. "Ideally, almost every FM radio station will be doing it. It's in its infancy right now," Powell says.

WUTK the Rock, UT's campus radio station, is also keeping up with technological advances. They stream their station online, offer podcasts, and have been offered an XM radio station, although there's nothing in the works with that quite yet. "We're expanding. You have to stay competitive to stay in the market," says Jay Lewis, music

“ You have to
keep adapting.
You’ve got to
change. ”

- Jay Lewis, music
director for WUTK



director for WUTK and a senior in public relations.

Some UT students are taking advantage of all this new technology available. For example, Grant Mitchell, a senior in Political Science, has a satellite radio and also listens to podcasts. He mostly listens to news and political stations like NPR. He says he likes his satellite radio, but listens to his iPod more often. “I just like playing what I want to play,” he says.

With all these ways of broadcasting and the greater control people have over what they listen to, it’s unclear whether radio as we know it now will even have a place in the future. There is nothing to do but speculate as to where it is going, but it’s sticking around at least for now. “Despite all this stuff, all these different ways people can get radio, listening has declined, but only by a little, which is surprising to people. In 2000, 94.9 percent of the public listened to radio, and by 2007 it declined only to 93.3 percent,” says Powell.

“With us, the non commercial radio stations, we’re the only ones that can provide a local flavor in our stations,”

Lewis says. The Rock, being mostly a student run station, has a very specific niche audience: students. However, it is also popular with people in Knoxville looking for local artists and an alternative music selection. “I mean where else can students run a radio station? People tune in because it’s different. You’ve got to target and figure out who is going to listen to you,” Lewis explains. “With the new technology, there’s no telling where it [radio] will go.” Lewis thinks that radio is likely to get more specialized than it is already, giving people a chance to listen to exactly what they are looking for. “I hope that college radio is still available and offers a place for up-and-coming artists to get their name out there,” Lewis says.

“Radio has constantly gone through this adaptation,” says Powell. He adds that the consumers will ultimately decide what the future holds for radio. “If something doesn’t make sense to consumers, they won’t get it. For example, film to digital camera: it made sense to people enough for them to say, ‘I’ll make an investment because it will make my life easier and my pictures better.’ And phones aren’t just phones anymore. The iPhones are just the beginning.”

Some radio stations may be intimidated by all the recent advances and the uncertainty of where radio is heading. Lewis and Powell, however, both seem excited by all the change. “It’s definitely a good thing. It’s the same as with print media. You have to keep adapting, you’ve got to change,” Lewis says.

“It is a real exciting time to be in radio,” Powell says. “It’s a time to be creative; it’s a time to be smart. And I think the people who use that creativity are going to find some interesting places the medium will take them in the coming years.”

Diversity

Redefining the UT experience

Story by

Jennifer Lyle, Janna Rudolph and Erin Tutt



Photos courtesy of Janna Rudolph and the Associated Press

Ensuring that our campus is a diverse, welcoming and supportive environment for all races and cultures is our highest priority,” reads a Diversity pamphlet in the Office of Student Admissions. But what is diversity?

In the 1970s, diversity was mainly defined as black and white. But over the years, this definition has expanded to include people of many different backgrounds. “Diversity is broader than just race and gender,” said Marva Rudolph, director of the Office of Equity and Diversity. “The University does work hard to address the issues of these historically under-represented groups, but diversity also includes other ethnic and racial groups along with: persons of different religions, sexual orientations/identities, disabilities, etc.”

America is described as a “melting pot” of many different cultures, and here at the UT, you can see the diversity in the student, faculty and staff populations. It is important to a large campus to have representatives

of different ethnic, religious, social, and economic backgrounds. It enables the learning community to be well-rounded educationally as well culturally. Eric Stokes, the Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment, has been employed at the university for the past four years. His job is to increase enrollment among African, Asian and Hispanic-Americans, as well as other minority groups. “I can tell a difference on campus,” said Stokes. “There are more diverse groups of people at UT than there were even four years ago.”

The history of diversity on UT’s campus dates back to the late 1890s when UT, an institution open only to white males, began accepting female students. Gene Mitchell Gray became the first African-American to be admitted to UT in the early 1950s. Almost 20 years later, the Geier Stipulation of 1968 challenged the higher education system and its stance towards racial segregation. Rita Geier, an alumnus of Vanderbilt School of Law, argued that predominately white institutions were apportioned greater resources than predominately black institutions.

As a result of this landmark decision, Tennessee state universities must receive equal funds from state governments in order to provide the same level of education to minorities. In 2001, UT reached the final stage of the Geier Stipulation when the U.S. District Court ruled that UT was in compliance with the law.

To accommodate the growing diversity on campus, programs designed to increase not only minority groups, but also international student enrollment have been established. The UT Diversity Plan is a comprehensive initiative to enhance diversity. One goal of this plan is to create and sustain a welcoming, supportive and inclusive campus climate. The UT Diversity Plan is closely linked to the university’s “Ready for the World” initiative, which aims to internationalize the university and enhance students’ intercultural experiences. Anton Reece, Director of Student Activities, focuses on the programming offered to students at UT. “We receive the largest allocation of money for student programming on campus,” said Reece. “We provide about

80 percent of the major programs for students.” There are roughly 200 student activities that range from traditional events to concerts, to women’s issues and cultural attractions.

The Office of Equity and Diversity offers workshops, open to all students, faculty and staff, to help train the community on diversity in various environments. From the classroom to the workplace, these programs address the bias and stereotypes of various minority issues. In addition, support centers like the Black Cultural Center and the International House serve as places where students of all backgrounds can experience cultural activities and receive help from students and faculty in an open and warm environment. “The BCC always offers various programs and events that allow students to get together, and learn, and experience culture,” said Merri Shaffer, a junior at UT. Lee Rhea, assistant director at the I-House, wants the center to be a “home away from home” for international and minority students, a place where they feel comfortable being themselves. Even tradi-

tional students enjoy the atmosphere at the I-House. “It’s fun being here,” said Charlie Erickson, a UT sophomore from San Diego. “The people at the I-House are always interesting, and it’s been a big influence on me being here. Now, I want to go all over the world.”

Recruitment is a big part of how UT maintains its diverse atmosphere. Programs like Join the University’s Minority Program and Spring Fling recruit African and Hispanic-Americans every year. Eric Stokes says the process of recruitment covers everything from looking at potential students’ socio-economic status to the geographic location of their homes.

Over the years, diversity has taken on a new meaning here at UT. Students currently enrolled are from every state in the nation with the exception of North Dakota, as well as 91 countries. With such programs like “Ready for the World” and facilities such as the Black Cultural Center and the I-House, students at UT receive a better education and gain a more insightful view of the world around them. ■

“ There are more diverse groups of people at UT than there were even four years ago. ”
-Eric Stokes

Photos courtesy of Thiru Murugan, Caboindex, MDK, UT’s Thai Student Club, UT’s Strange Fruit on Stage Productions and UT’s Indian American Association.



“One New Notification”

“You have been fired!”

story by

Andrew Horwat, Jessica Ayers and Lorato Powell



photo illustration by Jessica Ayers

Cell phones, computers, the internet, smart phones -- is it possible to be too connected? A phenomenon called social networking may lead you to believe it is possible. Social networks allow a person to present themselves on an online page, find others with pages to befriend, and keep in touch with long lost buddies. They can also serve as networking resources, a place to blog and share personal thoughts.

However, the networks are also becoming a venue to post pictures from last night's wild outing with friends.

Becoming a member of sites like MySpace and Facebook, while at first a seemingly harmless networking tool, is becoming a liability in today's workplace. Membership has not only kept graduates from getting jobs, on rare occasion it has resulted in termination. Many members have discovered nothing on the inter-

net can be kept completely private. Employers are also apt to use current employees as tools to find out more about their other employees' private lives.

It is becoming more common for employers to check up on their workers through social networks. According to "Facebook the Complete Biography" by Sid Yadav, a staggering 85 percent of college students are members of Facebook. It is the second largest social network, second only to MySpace, which has more than 100 million members.

Calvert Collins, a former employee of a news station in Omaha, Nebraska was fired from her job after posing for a picture, posting it on Facebook and making a donation to Democratic candidate Jim Esch's campaign. Collins declined to be interviewed by Scoop, explaining that she wanted to "put the incident behind her." Nevertheless, the situation stirred up national coverage and begs the

question, did she deserve to be fired?

UT student Brendan Japp says, "I believe there should be separation between business and personal lives. If she had a picture taken with her preacher and then gave money to the church, would management have acted in the same manner? Of course not, their actions would be deserving of a civil lawsuit."

Dwight Teeter, Journalism and Electronic Media professor, responded to the question by saying, "Reporters like Peter Jennings may not even vote because this information could get out to the public... it looks like they can't be fair."

Involvement in these social networking sites has also created problems in the UT athletic department.

In a 2006 article by Mike Strange, published on the Go Vols Extra Web site, a list of football players' MySpace and Facebook sites appears with a warning that reads, "Please note that some of the MySpace sites may contain explicit content." Since the story ran, many of these players' sites have either been deleted or marked as private.

Facebook boasts features like giving its' members the ability to post notes on other members' pages, send messages, put up unlimited pictures and videos, and blog, just to name a few. Many people migrate to Facebook because of the ability to set strict privacy settings for their page. Members can control who sees their page and what others can view on their page.

The bottom line for graduates is to prepare for the possibility that the information on a social network page maybe the deciding factor in whether or not you get the job. Being smart about what to put on a page is important and should be taken seriously. Whether you are posting pictures of last night's run-in at the local bar or voicing your political preferences, all can be equally dangerous. At the end of the day, be smart and represent yourself in a light you would want your employers to see you in. 

facebook smarts:

What can you do? Are "Facebook Firings" fair? Should companies be allowed to hire or dismiss employees based on their pages on Facebook or MySpace? If you are fired for something on your profile, what are your rights? What about other social networking sites?

Facebook's recent transition from a student-only Web site is part of the problem. Collins was not fired for having the photo on Facebook, but for publicizing her political opinions.

Facebook's privacy policy and Terms of Use state, "[users] are solely responsible for...User Content," and "The Company is not responsible or liable in any manner for any User Content...posted on the Site."

Similar documents can be found at other social networking sites, such as MySpace.

While you may not have read each of these documents when you registered for the site, by creating and maintaining a profile, you agreed to all the rules and regulations contained in both. Keeping potentially career-damaging content off profiles is the sole responsibility of the user. Although it may be aggravating to have to overhaul your profile, the alternative could be losing your job or not getting an interview.

Here are a few tips for keeping your Facebook profile worry-free:

1) Read Facebook's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. The information contained in these documents outline exactly what the site is, and is not, responsible for.

2) Use the privacy controls Facebook has provided. These settings work just like the internet options on your computer allowing you to set thresholds for other users such as who can befriend you, who can see your pictures, and who can post on your profile.

3) After changing your privacy settings, remove any photos, posts, tags or applications from your profile you think an employer would see as unacceptable.

4) Ask friends to crop you out of photos taken in unprofessional situations.

5) Use common sense. If you think there are any pictures, posts or messages that could be damaging to your career goals, leave it off your profile.



Photo provided by UT Spirit Office

Smokey

A UT Tradition

story by

Jennifer Lyle, Janna Rudolph and Erin Tutt

around campus. His unique personality has made him a star here in Knoxville. Adults love him just as much as children, and his infectious spirit causes even the most serious fan to crack a smile.

Smokey has seen a lot come and go over the years, and his fashion repertoire proves that. One of Smokey's first outfits was an orange and white head-to-toe suit which made him look more like a rabbit than a hound dog. The disastrous costume probably landed him on some worst-dressed lists years ago. As the decades have flown by, Smokey's looks have become more polished, and his outfits have evolved, following the trends. A few years ago, Smokey even wore an orange "pimp" suit. Now he wears everything from jerseys to overalls to tuxedos, which he saves for fancier occasions.

This hound dog's schedule is very hectic, and he rarely has a minute to spare. When he is not making appearances at home football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, and soccer games, he is on the road traveling to away games. In addition to UT sports, Smokey makes appearances on behalf of the university at different functions around the city. Smokey also stays busy by competing in tournaments against other mascots. He has won the Universal Cheerleading Association

Mascot National Championship three times, in 2000, 2001, and 2008. As part of the All-American Mascot Team, Smokey has had some unforgettable experiences, from appearing on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" to "Wheel of Fortune." He has even filmed commercials for ESPN and ABC.

Smokey's role as a local celebrity lends him the special ability to excite and motivate fans. During games, his comedic skits and stunts keep fans involved in the action. "He is the best mascot," said Brian Clifton, senior in Political Science. "He's an original. His costumes and props make him stand out. He can really entertain a crowd."

Smokey has left his fans with plenty of memorable moments over the years. "I loved to watch him slide down the stairs in Thompson-Boling [arena] on a boogie-board," said Frank McCarter, a lifelong UT fan. "My favorite Smokey moment was when he bit a University of Georgia player during a basketball game a few years ago," said Ryan Pendleton, a UT alumnus.

As far as mascots go, UT could not ask for a better representative of school spirit. He embodies true loyalty and dependability, making him top dog in every Vol's heart. No other mascot works as hard as our Smokey, but even with his crazy life, this is one hound dog that ain't crying all the time. 

Whenever cheering fans gather to support UT athletics, there is always one fan who outshines the rest. He loves his team and he is there for them through thick and thin. He stays until the clock runs out, and his enthusiasm for the orange and white inspires sports fans young and old. He may not be the most handsome fan to have ever graced the sidelines, heck, he may not even be housebroken, but Smokey is the most passionate sports enthusiast UT has ever seen.

In 1953, Smokey the dog became UT's official mascot after winning a Pep Club howl-off contest during a football game. When it was the bluetick coon hound's turn to howl, the crowd went wild, and Smokey has been a UT legend ever since. Several years later, his two-legged counterpart came onto the scene unofficially, according to Bud Ford, Associate Athletic Director for media relations. It is this Smokey that is seen at every sporting event



Canine Confessions

1) What is it like to be a national champion?

It's great to be "Top Dog." Even though I'll always be a champion at UT, it has been great to earn the title of best mascot in the nation again.

2) Out of all the SEC schools' mascots, who do you like the best? Who do you like the least?

There's one mascot that has won the national title more than me, and that's Aubie the Tiger from Auburn. For that, I like him the least, but I also respect him. It's a lot of give and take at the top.

3) What's your favorite movie? Music?

There's a lot of good ones out there, but I'm a sucker for "Homeward Bound." As far as music goes, I like everything, but can never get enough of "Rocky Top."

4) What attracted you to UT in the first place?

UT is in my blood. I was born into it, there was never an alternative.

5) What's your favorite outfit?

That depends on the situation. The ladies love the tuxedo, maybe it's the tails, but they go crazy for it. But game time situations always call for a jersey, be it basketball, baseball, soccer, softball or football, you gotta have the jersey.

6) Do you have any pre-game traditions?

There are a few things I'm always sure to do, but those traditions are on a strictly need-to-know basis. You understand.

7) Who is your celebrity crush?

Lassie. She had it all...sigh.

8) Snoopy or Scooby-Doo?

I'm not picking favorites on this one, but Snoopy's alter ego, Joe Cool, is an inspiration to all us dogs.

9) If you could have dinner with anyone, past or present, who would it be?

It'd be great to see General Neyland again, he was a dog's best friend. A real man's man.

10) As far as the ladies go, do you prefer blondes or brunettes?

Well there is that saying, "Golden Retrievers have more fun"... but I really can't say...

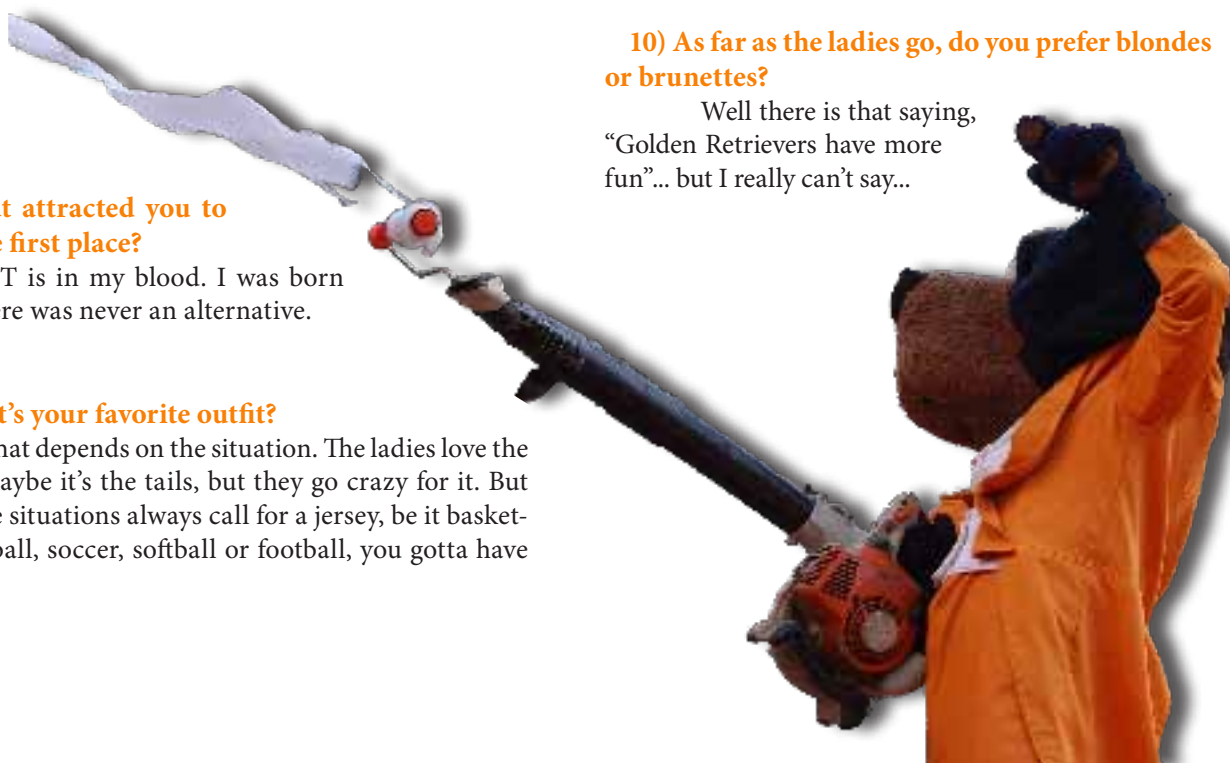


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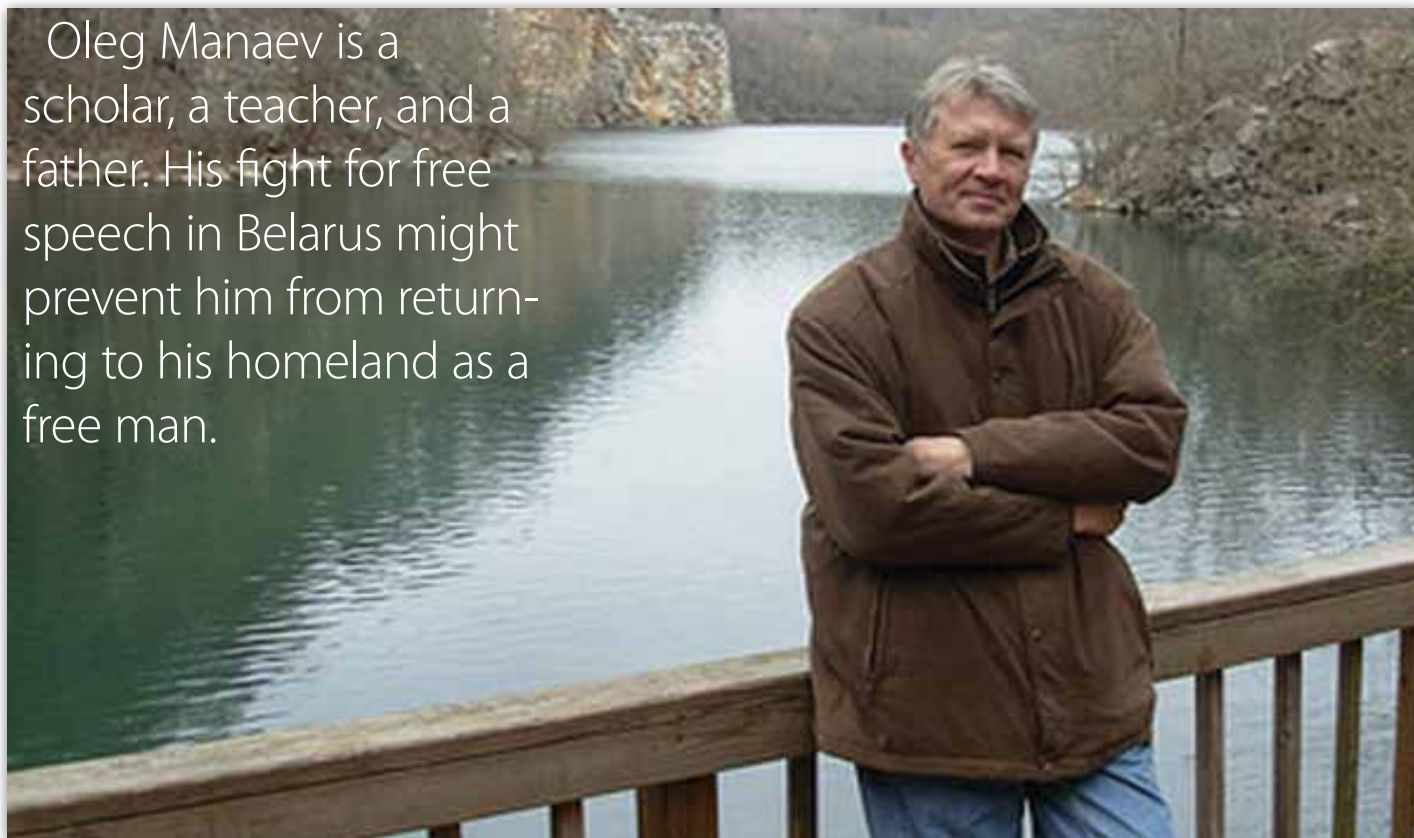
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FreedomWriter

Oleg Manaev is a scholar, a teacher, and a father. His fight for free speech in Belarus might prevent him from returning to his homeland as a free man.



story by
Kate Humphrey

Photo provided by Oleg Manaev

Think of your last vacation. Do you imagine hand-held walks on a downtown path and balconies overlooking sunsets? What would happen if the time comes to go home and you leave not knowing if you can ever freely come back?

This might be the case for Professor Oleg Manaev and his family.

Who is this expatriated scholar who, once back in Belarus, might not be allowed to freely return to America? Why did this shrinking world bring him to Knoxville?

Manaev, founder and Director of the Independent Institute of Socio-Economic and Political Studies, came to the University of Tennessee this year to be free of repressions in his native Belarus. He published the results of a public opinion poll about an election that was not liked by the

government of President Alexander Lukashenka.

"I tried to apply for many scholarships here in the US," Manaev said. "Even if I do get some scholarship, I'm not sure I could freely live in this country next time... will it be possible for me to leave [Belarus]? I don't know," said Manaev.

In 2004, Lukashenka organized a national referendum about changing the constitution to abolish the time limit during which politicians could serve in office so he could serve for an extra term. Manaev and his colleagues conducted an exit poll of the Belarusians.

"According to our polls, less than

half the population, 49 percent, voted in favor of deleting [the term limits] from the constitution. The next day, the central electoral committee announced that almost 80 percent voted in favor of it," said Manaev.

After this poll was published, Manaev knew he would have many challenges to face. The police conducted night searches of Manaev's office. It was eventually shut down and moved to Lithuania.

"A senior investigator told me that if my colleagues and I continued our work, I could be imprisoned for two years according to the special article of the criminal court," said Manaev.

"I'm not sure I could freely live in this country next time... will it be possible for me to leave [Belarus]? I don't know." -- Oleg Manaev

So what is he doing in America? The scholar, director, and Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Think Tanks (BTT) is teaching graduate classes with Dr. Ben Bates and Dr. Peter Gross, spending time with his daughter and wife and using Skype to talk to friends and family back home.

Technology is obviously an important part of Manaev's professional and personal life but he believes it has different pros and cons depending on the culture that surrounds the media.

"A good example is my country, Belarus," Manaev explained. "The country spends millions and millions of dollars supporting state run media, both in research and practical terms. For what? To limit the citizen's picture of the world and to prevent citizens from getting information from the outside."

Despite growing up in a communist state where both media and education-

al institutions were state-controlled, Manaev harbored a strong desire to question authority. Earning degrees in journalism, sociology and philosophy, and with training in research methodology, Manaev gained the tools he needed to understand the reality of the

"We are free from Communism, but to overcome all this negative cultural heritage, we need at least one generation of change before a change can really begin."

-- Oleg Manaev

state of his homeland. Once he understood the reality, he was able to effectively communicate it to others.

Manaev has called himself a, "civil constructor," citing that through his work with IISEPS and BTT he has made attempts to reorganize the foundation of Belarusian society.

Manaev ultimately thinks that anyone has the ability to be a 'civil con-

structor'. To the scholar, 'civil construction' is when someone responds to a public issue and actively expresses their opinions through mediums such as media and debates.

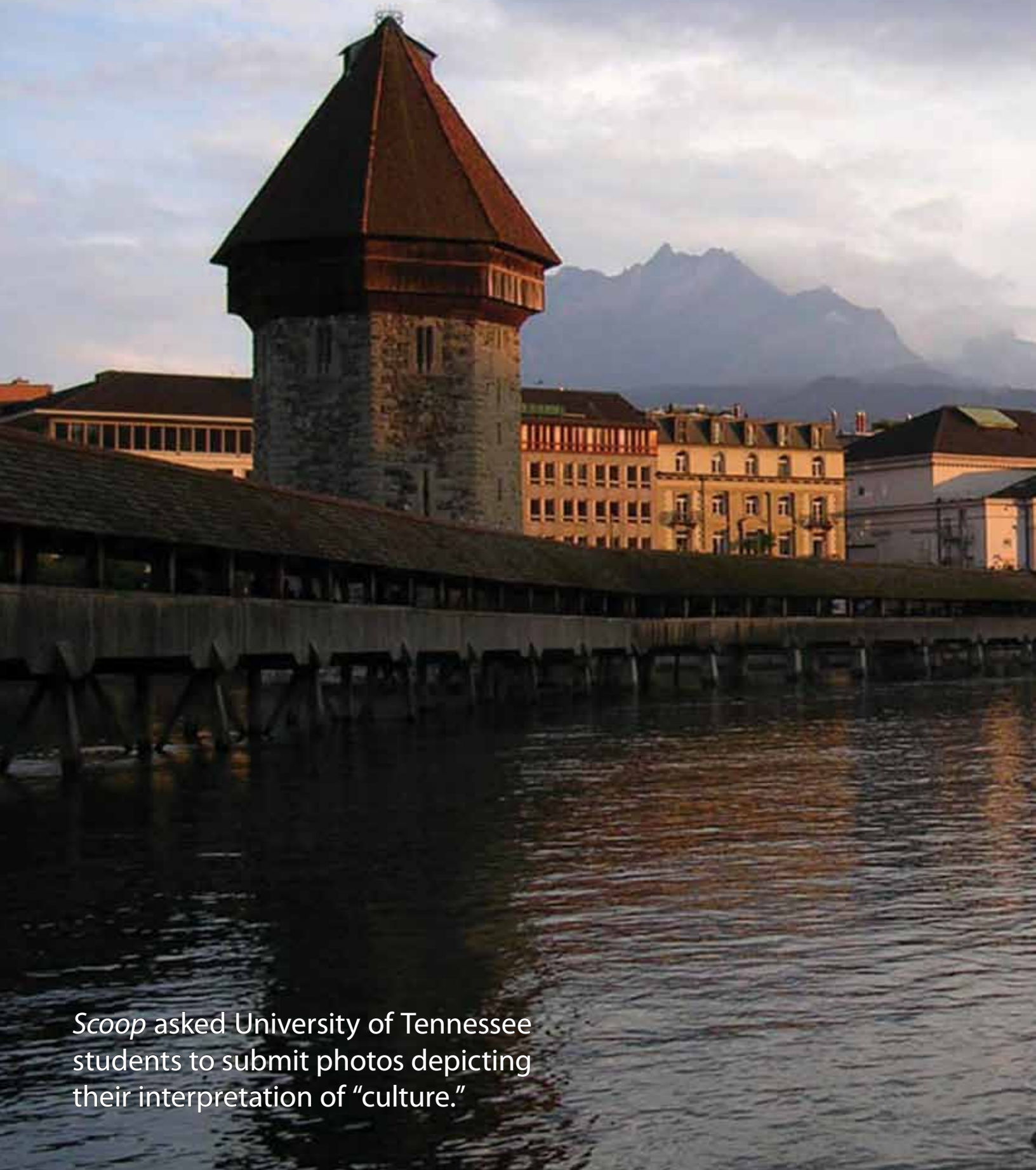
"There were many structures, not only political but also business, research, and media that I was involved in initiating," said Manaev, "All this means civic construction: constructing some foundation for a new society at the institutional, mental and cultural level."

The Western perception of technology exists on a narrow field. With the world at our fingertips, all types of information seem to always be within reach. The 'shrinking world' applies to all places with modern technology, but in countries like Belarus that are still emerging from Communism, the changes are slow. 



Dr. Oleg Manaev and Dr. Peter Gross discuss their journalism graduate class.

Photo by Caitlin Rockett



Scoop asked University of Tennessee students to submit photos depicting their interpretation of "culture."

Culture





Photo credits: Yolanda Ortiz (top left)
Nick Miller (left) Jessica Thomas (top right)
Previous spread: Kimberly Hood



“Culture is to know the best that has been said and thought in the world.”

- Matthew Arnold



“No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Left: Jessie Lowery



Above: Jimmy Wilson



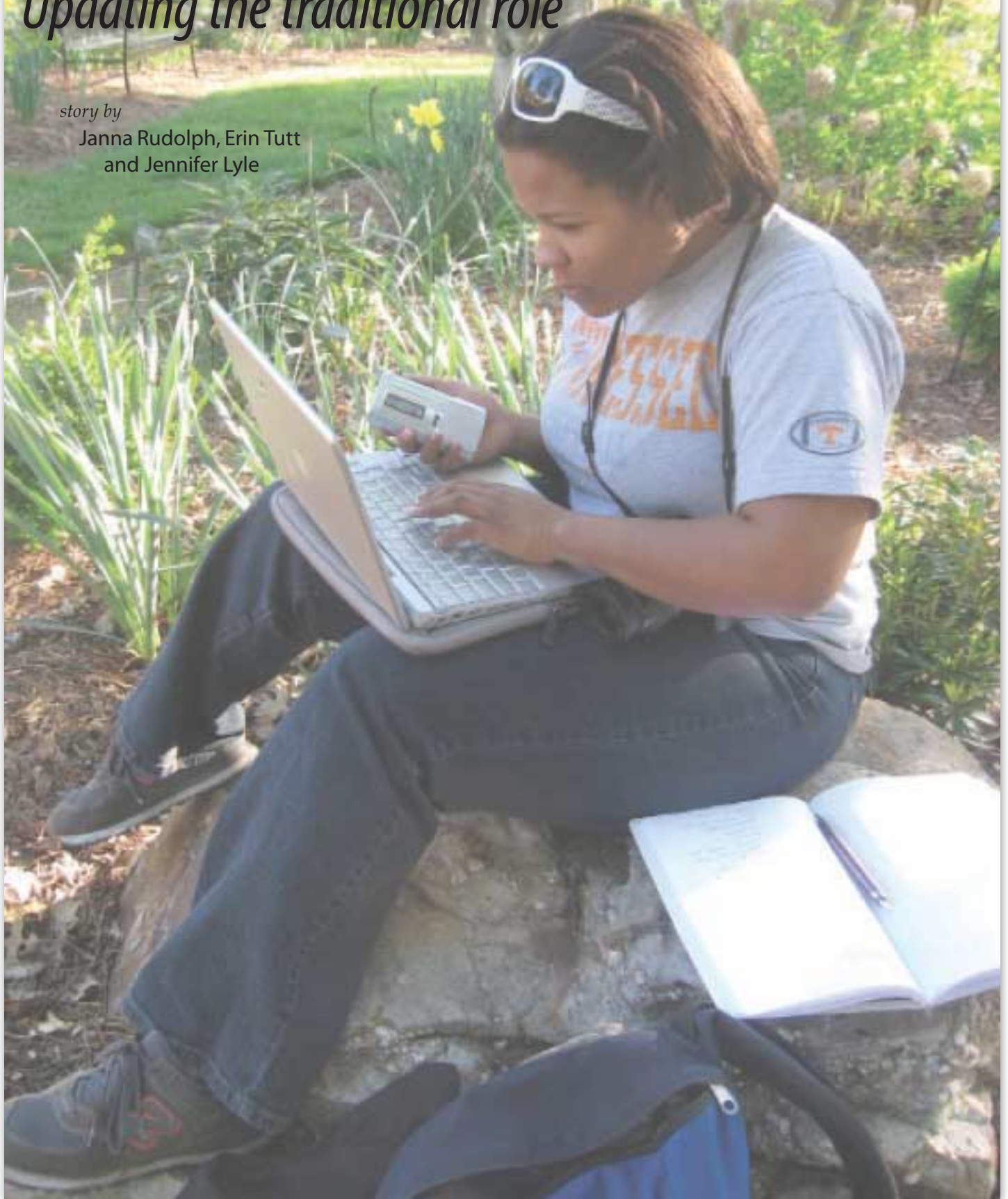
Bottom: Sara Kate Parker

Backpack Journalism

Updating the traditional role

story by

Janna Rudolph, Erin Tutt
and Jennifer Lyle





All photos by Janna Rudolph

Journalism has always been adaptable from the newspaper to the radio and television. But now, our society has become dependable on technology. From mobile communication to Internet news sources, it seems we want up-to-the-minute news, from reliable sources as quickly as possible. After all, that is the American way. So what is next for journalists to adapt to modern media?

According to Jim Stovall, professor at University of Tennessee's School of Journalism, backpacking journalism is the way of the future. In terms of profession, journalists will need to know how to operate all of the equipment themselves.

"The career is changing, and we'll need to know how to be versatile on the job. Not only will journalists need to write the story, they will have to shoot, produce and design the web page. They will now become reliant on the newest technology, diminishing the use of the traditional pen and paper."

The key word for the backpack journalist is "digital." With the fast success of the Internet into our modern society, it is easier to send a story complete with audio, visual aid and edited to the news outlet rather than sending just the paper and notes through the mail. Are we getting in over our heads?

The convergence between the profession and the Internet

was a way to save money for many media companies. According to Professor Ed Caudill, also at the School of Journalism, the term is an old concept, with a new name.

"I think it started with media economics. Media companies saw this as a cheap way to get journalism," Caudill said. "It's not a bad idea, but I think that it is pretty demanding."

The term does seem like a vague concept, saying it is the new thing for journalism. However, shouldn't it be a requirement for students to know what goes into producing a well-written article that will appeal to both eyes and ears on the internet?

"How many great journalists do you know that are also cinematographers, editors and photographers? I know of none," continues Caudill.

From the media economics aspect, Caudill seems to feel as backpacking journalism is a money-saving concept that is somewhat unattainable for every journalist to be knowledgeable about the equipment. It looks at the revenue and cost structures of the industry, as well as the production, distribution and the consumption of the area. It looks closely at the [things] that change the profession, especially the changing behavior of the consumers and the new technologies that are having content changes in the work.

So where do we begin to examine this phenomenon? The origins of backpack journalism are unclear. It probably began 10 years ago, when the Internet was about to explode with

social networking. The first signs of backpack journalism blossomed from the field reporters, those covering war overseas. Usually, there was only the cameraman and the reporter, who carried all their gear on the danger lines of war to get the story. Stemming from that idea, many reporters have learned how to operate the camera as well as edit their footage.

Before, people used the Internet for information, research and learning. You could search for recipes for a nice dinner, what parts you may need to fix up a car, or what hotels were close by if you wanted to jet to a city for vacation.

Many accredited reporters began their start with the backpacking idea. For starters, Anderson Cooper is now a household name. But it was not until he covered the conflicts in Burma between students and the government. Currently, Kevin Sites is a backpacking reporter who has a devoted section on Yahoo.com. He got his start covering war and disasters around the globe. He and a team of reporters travel to every war zone in the world and report on the developing stories there. These two are examples of how far backpack journalism has come.

Since the boom of social networking, MySpace, Facebook

paper or magazine. He is worried that the quality of the writing may decrease. Writers are rushed to get the facts, quotes, pictures, edit the story and then put it up for the world to see, sometimes baring errors and all. Many stories are not ready after only a day of research and talking to one source. Sometimes you need weeks of research, planning, and editing to get a reliable, well-written story.

Another threat to the journalism convergence is its first cousin and possible enemy, blogging. Blogging loosely means, “web log”, or online diary. It is a website usually maintained by an individual about opinions they have on the world. It includes regular entries, description of events and feedback from anyone who encounters a log of that individual. Blogs are ruling the internet today. Every second, it seems a new blog is started on something: celebrity gossip, sports, business, or even arts and culture.

Everyone can have their opinion on something, but blogs may belong to many people without the journalistic training that is provided in universities worldwide. Yet, the latest thing for professors and professionals to tell journalism students is to make a blog about whatever they are interested in. Mainly, to keep up with their writing skills as well as



The career is changing, and we'll need to know how to be versatile on the job. ¶¶

—Jim Stovall

and blogging, the internet has become a stronger source of information and communication. It is easy to understand why journalists jumped on the bandwagon. It is faster to get the information and people can respond or critique the topics brought onto the screen.

“I don’t think it is anything to fear, necessarily. There are a lot of things that need to be figured out,” continues Stovall. It makes sense to have news sites built specifically for the web, where people can receive updates at anytime on the bus, in class or in their home.

However, others think that it is a great concept, but it should not move as fast as it is going until the concept is made legit and concrete.

“There are some traps here I think people will need to be aware of,” says Caudill. “I think media companies need to be attentive because I think you’re getting pushed into more and more.”

Caudill believes revenue and production will increase because the Internet will provide a faster way for people to consume the news at once, rather than buying an individual

being able to learn how to edit, set up photos or graphics.

There is competition between name-brand news sources, like the *New York Times* or *The Washington Post* compared to an average Joe and their blog. Both can write on the same topic, the name-brand outlet would have a better written story and concrete facts and sources, where as the average Joe could talk to an expert, but not have the same editorial resources as a journalist. However, it seems as if people would read just as much of the blog as the more prestigious news source article.

Stovall continues, “In our previous world, brand names were more important. People tended to trust it. Current and future roles in journalism, I don’t think I know how that’s going to shape out. I think brand names are going to be important, but maybe it will be different brand names.”

“There is a distinction here between journalism and blogging. It’s not that we don’t acknowledge the person as a public service in that way. But I’m not sure that a blogger could have a journalistic point of view, that is if you think

“ Media companies saw this as a cheap way to get journalism ”

–Ed Caudill

of journalism as a profession, “ says Caudill. “Blogs are giving you opinions about things and are inviting a range of other opinions. Maybe a blogger can have an informative perspective and can provide information, but I’m still not sure that is a journalistic approach.”

Caudill asks whether bloggers are trustworthy as journalists. He thinks that there should be some flags of warning that need to go up in this distinction between the two concepts.

However, with sites like those mentioned, it is the work of backpack journalism that has helped the popularity of online news sources. And at the rate we are relying on the internet, backpacking journalism is a term that will probably be around for years to come.

Still, there is hope that journalism is not getting in over its head with the convergence move. Journalism is still a concrete business, and convergence will only help. Journalism jobs will most likely change in the next years. There will be specific jobs for people who are tech-savvy,

putting up-to-the-minute updates on sporting events, breaking news coverage, etc.

Today, some schools see backpack journalism as a way of the future. At Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, the School of Journalism has dedicated a whole course to backpack journalism. Each student receives a backpack full of the tools of trade: a Macbook laptop, a digital camera, a digital video camera, a digital voice recorder.

Teachers are pushing backpack journalism as the new ideal. However, we need the resources and the types of programs that combine all forms of journalism. It is more difficult to understand the concept of backpack journalism when you take classes that do not incorporate all aspects of the concept.

Backpack journalism fits into the American ideal of wanting everything at once in the quickest way possible. But this concept is only the beginning of what is expected from students coming out of school with a versatile knowledge. **S**



BLOG *to the* *FUTURE*

Story by
Jimmy Wilson and Brendan Rogak

For centuries, journalism has played the vital role of recording and relaying information, for the edification of the public and for posterity. In doing so it has also helped shape the world. The global culture and economy has become increasingly information-oriented, new media have been created, and the news has begun to reach different people and places.

Prior to the advent of the Internet, the news had been almost a one-way medium – call it “We Report, You Absorb.” The Web introduced new means of communication for media outlets, combining traits of traditional print and broadcast media and allowing a story to be accompanied by video or audio.

The Internet changed journalism in another, more consequential way. It allowed the audience to have its say. What was once a monologue became a conversation. Suddenly, anybody with a computer became a potential reporter, pundit or media critic, using message boards, comment pages and blogs to get their points across.

Blogs – personal Web sites on which users post and discuss information and opinions on a variety of topics – first surfaced in the mid-1990s. Bloggers used programs such

as law at the University of Tennessee. “Bloggers can help to set the national political and news agendas.”

Dr. Paul Ashdown, a professor of journalism and electronic media, echoed Teeter’s sentiments.

“Blogging certainly is legitimate,” he said, “but that doesn’t mean a blog is reliable. It’s what I would call a high-risk source. But some of the best sources are high-risk.”

Critics accuse blogging of undermining the journalistic ideals of objectivity and neutrality. Others, like Dr. Ed Caudill, professor of journalism and electronic media, see this very aspect as a positive trait.

“Of course, it is based off of individual opinion. So its ‘objectivity’ is compromised,” Caudill said. “But so is much of what we see in mass media. Blogging has the virtue, usually, of being a little more transparent about prejudices.”

Though blogging is a relatively new phenomenon, the type of writing that has come to characterize blogging has been around for quite some time and has had an impact on American history. In 1776, Thomas Paine distributed a pamphlet called *Common Sense*.

Like most blogs, *Common Sense* was written with minimal outside editorial input and self-published. The pamphlet also

“Blogging certainly is legitimate, but that doesn’t mean a blog is reliable. It’s what

as WebEx and LiveJournal to publish their thoughts on the Internet.

The earliest blogs tended to be individual diary entries on personal matters. Such weblogs were composed by anyone who wished to voice their opinion on a given subject. As news mediums evolved, so did blogging. Blogs took on the role of bringing original information to the attention of mainstream media or society.

This development, though hugely popular, has not met with universal acclaim. The unrestricted ability of an individual to voice opinions on issues has led some to question the legitimacy of blogging.

“Blogging is a legitimate source of news if the journalist will do his or her own independent investigation: check, question, verify,” said Dr. Dwight Teeter, a professor of media

achieved wild popularity through what might justifiably be called viral distribution; enthusiasts of Paine’s work took it upon themselves to reprint it and “link” their neighbors.

Following the American Revolution, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay authored a series of 85 articles, which advocated the ratification of the United States Constitution. Seventy-seven of these articles, which would later become known as *The Federalist Papers*, appeared in various American newspapers.

Much like contemporary blogs, *The Federalist* was authored by citizens who, though possessed of considerable writing ability, had no journalism credentials. Additionally, *The Federalist* and *Common Sense* were both published under an anonymous byline, so the authors were not immediately accountable for their content.

However, these documents proved significantly influential in ushering the passage of the Constitution that is still in force in America today.

If the comparison between the Founding Fathers and the folks at their computers posting to Blogspot and Wordpress seems like something of a stretch, the spirit of the writing is similar – that of concerned, civic-minded individuals determined to have their opinions considered in the public forum.

“So far, I can’t think of a blogger who helped start a revolution as did Paine,” Teeter said.

Many would agree the blogosphere has yet to produce a Paine, or a work comparable in stature and influence to *The Federalist*. But that certainly doesn’t preclude the possibility of ideas initially posted by amateurs on the Internet someday changing the world in a comparable manner.

While newspapers only print a page’s worth of reader comments a day, most blogs offer viewers the opportunity to immediately respond.

Though some see this new two-way dynamic as risky or even threatening, Teeter regards it as advantageous to journalism in general: “One of the benefits from bloggers is that errors get pointed out and sometimes even corrected. This is especially valuable during a political campaign season.”

Even in its relative infancy, blogging has brought stories to the forefront, which traditional media in previous eras would have likely ignored.

The Drudge Report site broke the story of the affair between President Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky after Newsweek declined to publish the story.

It is believed by some that Dan Rather’s dismissal from the anchor desk at the CBS Evening News was due to a small group of right-wing bloggers. One eagle-eyed commenter on



News readers and bloggers both have responsibilities in the blogosphere.

Photo by Jimmy Wilson

Today, everyone is getting in on the blog act. Even *The New York Times* has blogs on its Web site, updated several times daily. Yet there remains a committed and vocal resistance to the normalization of blogs into the pantheon of journalism.

University of Georgia Journalism Professor David Hazinski caused controversy last December when he wrote an op-ed titled “Unfettered ‘Citizen Journalism’ Too Risky” for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He argued that the growing popular acceptance of blogging as a news source constitutes a threat to all news media, and invites the reporting of hearsay and gossip as news by lowering reportorial standards.

Hazinski and others have proposed the idea of a licensing system for journalists, reasoning that requiring anyone who aspires to report news to go through a certification process would provide a safeguard against flagrant falsehoods or partisan rancor passing as news. Any blogger would need to

I would call a high-risk source. But some of the best sources are high-risk.”

the conservative website FreeRepublic.com questioned the authenticity of documents shown on a CBS newscast, which seemed to indicate that President George W. Bush went AWOL from his service in the Texas Air National Guard during Vietnam. The commenter noted the machines in use at the time could not have produced the font and spacing of the text. The documents were later determined to be forgeries.

More recently, Talking Points Memo, a liberal blog, highlighted the dismissals of eight U.S. Attorneys under suspicious circumstances. Josh Marshall, the site’s proprietor, alleged that political considerations had sealed the Attorneys’ fates. The Columbia Journalism Review lauded Talking Points Memo as being “almost single-handedly responsible” for breaking the story, which implicated top Justice Department officials and White House aides in illegal activities.

pass a battery of tests and receive some sort of diploma before starting up a news site.

This idea was met with nearly unanimous condemnation among political bloggers, and a great deal of skepticism among establishment journalists and academics.

“The Internet is free from prior restraint in the U.S. Journalists can’t be licensed, nor should bloggers be licensed,” Teeter said as credentialing system for bloggers.

Ashdown concurred: “Absolutely not. ... [Freedom of the press] is a First Amendment right.” He argued the track record of a publication serves as an ample mechanism for separating the wheat from the chaff.

“Ultimately any medium, the *Wall Street Journal* or Jim Bob’s Blog, will have value based on performance. If Jim Bob gets it right consistently, and the Journal tanks on big stories, then Jim Bob’s my boy.”

A Career Abroad

Covering Africa from Civil War to Genocide.

Story by

Andrew Horwat, Jessica Ayers and
Lorato Powell

“[I’ve learned] that my capacity for curiosity is still strong --- and, like patience, essential to doing good journalism in the field. ”

-Alex Belida



International news is available at our fingertips. Information from every continent is condensed into briefs from outside our borders.

However, it is a rare occasion for us to know how much work goes into reporting this information.

Foreign correspondents live a life different from the local reporters that we watch on the evening news. Their news is based on the specific location they are reporting from.

One major difference is foreign correspondents take into account that the viewer will have little knowledge of the journalistic climate of other countries. To bridge this gap, the reporter will often give a considerable amount of context and talk about personal experiences.

Foreign correspondents are expected to be very knowledgeable about the area so that he or she can appropriately portray the events

that are taking place.

Scoop magazine interviewed foreign correspondent Alex Belida, Managing Editor of Voice of America News, to get a better idea of what life as an American journalist in another country is really like.

In the world of foreign information, news from Africa often takes a backseat to news from Europe or Asia. However, for nearly eight years, Belida lived, worked and reported from various countries on the African continent. His nearly three decades of experience in international broadcasting has given him greater insight into the continent of Africa.

While overseas, Belida quickly discovered the differences between his life in the U.S. and the tasks before him. "The key to adapting to life abroad is accepting that things are different from life in the U.S. and relishing those differences," he says.

The U.S.'s emphasis on everything needing to be faster, better and more complete was one of Belida's biggest challenges.

"In Kenya, where I lived for three years, there was a saying, 'You Europeans have the watches, we Africans have the time,'" Belida said. As far as barriers to reporting were concerned, needing patience was the least of Belida's problems.

When trying to gather information and cover stories, Belida says the biggest obstacles were "AK-47s, machetes and Rocket Propelled Grenades." He ran into these "problems" in many countries including Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Angola.

Through all his hardships, Belida says he has never had much difficulty adjusting to life abroad. He stands by the assertion that it all depends on where you are. Aside from the cultural differences, the part of the job that Belida says does present some trouble is logistics.

"In Africa, you couldn't necessarily assume that you could get from one story location to another quickly (or at all)," Belida said. He also remembers the cultural divide between the U.S. and African air travel. "I was once asked by an editor how quickly I could get to Burundi. Even though I was in Nairobi, a major air hub, I had to tell the editor I had just missed the once-a-week flight. He couldn't believe there weren't hourly shuttles. He then asked if I could drive there. I could only laugh."

When in such a remote part of the world, Belida says new technology has made it easier to do his job. "The biggest technical help for me was the satellite telephone. Many places in Africa that I went to had no communications systems; with a satphone, you could dial the home office from anywhere, even us-

ing solar power or a car battery."

Not all trouble was dealt with as easily as logistics, however. Much of the region of Africa where Belida was stationed was ravaged by warfare, and even in the relatively safe confines of the journalist's hotels, danger lurked around every corner.

Belida was in Mogadishu, Somalia in March 1993, on a short trip to get his bearings prior to moving to Africa full-time. He was eating dinner at his hotel when machine-gun fire ripped through the wall.

The barrage of bullets did not last long, and was discovered to have come from a military truck outside the hotel. This excerpt from Belida's blog, *Regrets Only*, tells exactly what happened:

"Unbeknownst to me, a Nigerian soldier, part of a peacekeeping contingent stationed at the Sahafi hotel, had a bad day. He was pissed about something, about someone, about who knows what. Witnesses say after visiting the unit's post on the hotel roof, he stormed into the parking lot and hopped up into a military vehicle where a machine gun was mounted. They say he gripped the weapon and pulled the trigger, as if he were thinking 'oh, if only I had so-and-so in my crosshairs, I'd let him have it.'

Only the weapon was loaded. And when he squeezed the trigger, he actually fired off five rounds of 7.62 ammo. (Officially, it is said he had an accident while clearing the weapon.)"

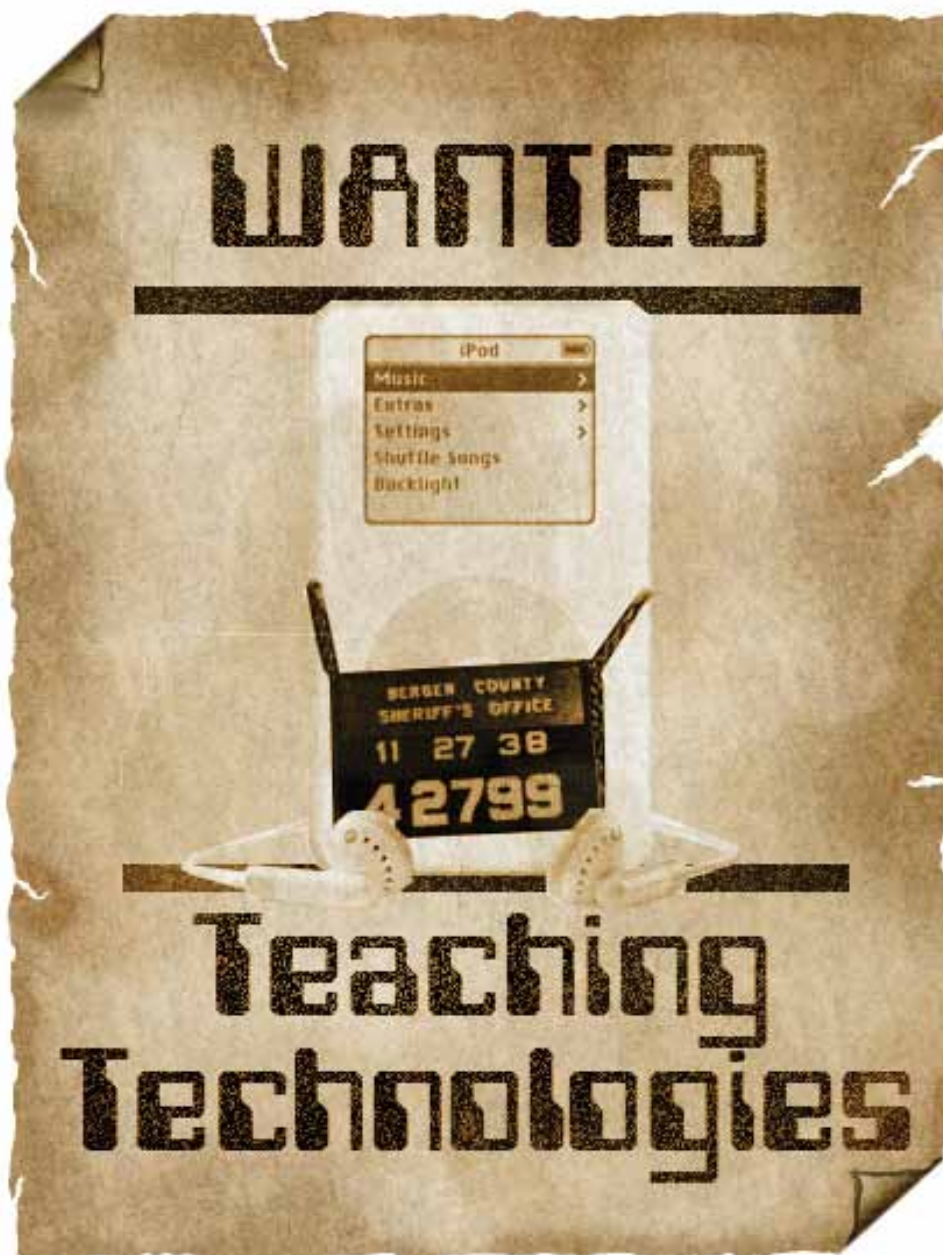
Such is the risk of being embedded in a war-torn area, but Belida says being shot at was far from the most important thing he experienced in Africa.

He says the event he covered that has had the greatest impact on him and how he views the world is undoubtedly the Rwandan genocide. "The Rwandan genocide... Why is it we keep saying 'never again' and yet it keeps happening?"

Through all the good and bad memories from his work in Africa, Belida has enjoyed the 25 years he has spent working abroad. He says his time in Africa has taught him a great deal about himself, and about the world around him, and admits there is still much for him to learn.

"[I've learned] that my capacity for curiosity is still strong --- and, like patience, essential to doing good journalism in the field. My years in Africa were especially invigorating and the exposure there to some of the worst excesses of mankind have made me more conscious of the need to help give a voice to all those who are themselves voiceless." 

For more information on Belida's travels check out his blog at <http://reporterregrets.blogspot.com>



Graphic by Wyatt Badger

story by

Beverly Adams, Wyatt Badger, Mary Faucette, Kelly Johnson

Innovations in classrooms have made communication easier for students, teachers and staff alike. Technology in education allows students to explore a variety of activities related to all areas of study. The skills taught through these media involve problem-solving strategies and work habits that will benefit most students in later careers.

The Innovative Technology Center is at the core of these developments. Its goal is to "improve the practice and process of teaching, learning and research."

Jean Derco, Executive Director of ITC, says the faculty used to have to do a lot of workshops before becoming more comfortable with new technology. "There is a workshop required to get a Blackboard account that covers many questions our staff might get. So we started developing projects for faculty," Derco says. "If faculty have an idea of how to use

technology, but they don't exactly know how to do it, and maybe it involves creating a database or something beyond their skill set, we'll do that for them for free. So, the time we used to spend developing all these workshops, we now actually create materials."

At UT, as well as other universities nationwide, students and faculty use The Blackboard Learning System. Blackboard is an online application developed by Cornell University that allows faculty and students to interact. This system has opened a new avenue for the teacher as well as a new learning method for the student.

"In the fall of 1997 we started looking at different products that were available. The faculty selected Blackboard, which at the time was called Course Info," Derco said.

Teachers post lecture outlines, assignments, grades and assign discussions for students to participate in. Some teach-

ers also post tests/quizzes and power points to engage the students. This leads to the question: What are some of the benefits to using the system for faculty and students?

Blanche O'Bannon from the Department of Instructional Technology, Health, and Cultural Studies said, "Blackboard allows 24/7 accessibility for students and allows faculty to design the test with time options, as well as if the test gives the student feedback, etc. No class time is taken to administer the test and no faculty time is taken with grading," she said. When asked about concerns with students being more apt to cheat, O'Bannon responded by saying, "We set random distribution of the questions so that students do not receive the questions in the same order. Because of the timed environment, I do not worry about cheating."

Dr. Marianne Breinig is a UT Physics professor and a recipient of the ITC Spotlight on Innovative Faculty. Breinig frequently uses technology when teaching her students. "I think the most important part is to communicate nowadays using technology like a classroom management system like Blackboard. Most students are quite well-versed and know how to use any kind of modern gadgets," she said. "I hope the technology gives the students more opportunities for hands-on work," Breinig added.

Students also find Blackboard helpful. "It's useful for the classes that use it. Being an art major, most of my teachers don't use Blackboard," says Bethany, a junior in Studio Art. Most students use Blackboard at least for basic things like checking grades and assignments. Chris, a sophomore in History, said, "It is good for sending mass e-mails and class discussion. I have a religious studies class that does quizzes." When asked if he preferred taking quizzes on Blackboard verses in the classroom Chris said, "I really don't have a preference but there is less pressure on the quizzes on Blackboard even though they are timed."

Blackboard has become a vital tool at UT. With the advances in technology, we will continue to see upgrades with this and other tools, like clickers and iPods, to enhance the learning process for students.

Clickers are a new technology that teachers are beginning to use in larger classrooms. Christina Goode oversees clicker technology at ITC. She says the clickers have been most helpful in assessing whether students are learning or not in classes with 200 or more students. In these classes, teachers can ask a question and students will input their answers into the clicker, a hand held device. For many teachers, it took a while to learn the basics. "This semester in particular, I know there were a lot of faculty that wanted to use the clickers, and they were new to that, and it took a little time to get it all smoothed out. But basically, when they see that it's an advantage they persevere and work through with us," Derco said.

The latest trend is the use of iPods. Podcasting is the ability to make audio and video files which can also include graphics or PDFs, and publish them to the Internet. These files are then available to download onto a computer or mp3 player.

The defining feature of podcasting is the 'subscription' model of content delivery. Using iTunes or another RSS



Photo by Beverly Adams

One of the clickers in action.

feed aggregator on a Mac or PC, you can subscribe to a podcaster's site. You can then customize the settings in iTunes (or your RSS aggregator) to download new episodes every time the aggregator connects to the Internet. Instead of having to go check multiple sites for new content, new content is brought to you.

"I think that it's an area that's going to grow," says Derco. "It started out slow. We started working with faculty in the summer of 2006 in podcasting, and we took an old Mac and made it a podcasting server. We only worked with people who came to us because the server was old and didn't have a lot of space. We needed to get an agreement in place with iTunes U, and we've done that and now we're working on a UT branded iTunes U. It should be up by the fall. Now we're trying to advertise that more, and I think we'll see more of an expansion of that when that resource is in place," she said.

Brenden McConville, a UT lecturer in Music Theory, says he does not regularly use iPods in the classroom, but often has his students do outside work through them. He uses them to teach his students how something should sound and what it looks like. McConville believes the use of iPods in teaching will only increase, so teachers and students should learn to embrace them. When the price of the devices starts dropping, McConville says, "let's not kid ourselves, everyone will have an iPhone." McConville says using new technology like iPods to teach can be "scary and exciting at the same time" for teachers.

UT is embracing new technology that continually emerges every day. The goal is to enhance and reach students with the best possible tools and support that is available. ■

Home is where the VOL is



illustration by Nick Miller

story by
Caitlin Rockett

For most young adults, leaving home for college presents a new world of freedom, ideas and responsibility, but what about students who choose to leave their native countries to embark upon higher education? Four of UT's international students let Scoop magazine in on what it's like for them to study abroad at UT's flagship campus.

Franck Tabouring, Jasmin Räisänen, Pablo González and Philip Holte are all from different countries in Europe. Each is receiving a bachelor's degree in a different field of study, and all have different post-graduation plans, but despite the many differences in their backgrounds and collegiate careers, all are culture-savvy and ready for whatever the future holds for them.

Who's who?

Tabouring is a 23-year-old junior in journalism and electronic media. He hails from Luxembourg, and has been studying at UT since August 2006.

Räisänen, also 23, is a native of Vaasa, Finland. She is an American Studies scholar with a concentration on American History at Kent University in England, and because of her major, was eligible to spend one year abroad in the United States.

González, 21, left the University of Navarre in his hometown of Pamplona, Spain, to study electrical engineering at UT.

Holte calls Reichenburg, Switzerland, home, but the 23-year-old ski instructor finished high school as an exchange student in Pulaski, Tennessee, before coming to UT. He will most likely pursue a degree in accounting.

Educational culture shock

There is resounding agreement among the students about how education differs between European universities and American universities like UT.

"It's a lot more work here," ex-

plains Räisänen. "Here you have many more books to read for each class, more quizzes, papers and exams. In my classes at Kent, I would have two essays, and maybe a final exam. It's harder to get good grades that way."

Tabouring and González echo Räisänen's sentiment, both adding that they enjoy that many of UT's professors don't give cumulative exams. Tabouring, who had never taken a multiple choice test before his time at UT, also finds differences in the way students are conditioned for the career world they will enter after college.

"Two years ago, I had a professor tell me for the first time, 'Hey, look, this is how it is: The job world is out there. It's not going to be easy. No one cares about your grades later, so you've got to get out there and get some experience.'"

Holte never attended college in his native country, but he did attend high school in Switzerland. The Swiss begin higher education much earlier than Americans, and only



Jasmin Räisänen, left, and Frank Tabouring, below, are two international students who have chosen UT for their undergraduate careers



photos by Kate Humphrey

the top 20 percent go to universities right after they finish high school at age 16. The rest attend technical school two days a week while working three days a week for three years. After this they have the opportunity to attend a university. Holte also enjoys the freedom of the American university system.

"In America, you can choose the direction you want to take in school. I'm really strong in some subjects. In Switzerland I was supposed to speak four languages, and I didn't understand why I had to do that."

Each of the students are at least fluently bilingual, but most are trilingual, exposing another glaring difference between American education and European education. Räisänen, who speaks Finnish, Swedish and English fluently, regrets she is only trilingual.

"Three languages are the bare minimum we have to learn in Finland. I can't get into diplomacy school unless I speak four languages fluently. Three is not enough in Europe," she says with a sigh.

Good ole' Rocky Top

"I like the campus. I like the football. I went to the SEC game in Atlanta. I was true orange all the way!" Räisänen said. She also enjoys hitting up the pool at T-RECS.

All have enjoyed their classes despite the increase in course work from their native countries.

Tabouring and Holte both feel that the campus gives them access to everything they need and want. Tabouring, like so many of his American peers at UT, spends most of his school days at Hodges Library.

"There's a very positive attitude among the students here," adds Tabouring, "I don't think that students in Luxembourg are as motivated as students are here."

Holte, a member of the UT Men's Crew team, enjoys the college sports that American universities offer.

"In Switzerland, college students don't walk around wearing university shirts. They don't have the same spirit. That's one aspect that I love here."

González reflects on the famed Southern hospitality: "What I like most are the people. They are really friendly. I've met so many people that have offered me a place to sleep or a place to go, so that's what I will remember the most about UT."

But, no place is perfect. González has not enjoyed the famed Southern cooking, or at least not the food he has been able to obtain with his meal plan on campus.

Tabouring has been displeased with the amount of general education classes he has had to take before being allowed to take classes he enjoys, and Räisänen has found that many of the American students shy away from international students for multiple reasons.

Holte laments what he describes as the lack of nightlife variety in Knoxville.

"The bars close at three a.m. here. It's more like four, five or six in Switzerland." He also complains, with good-nature, that, "at least once a day someone calls me Swedish."

Keeping in touch

Though none of the students harbor strong feelings of homesickness, all agree that keeping up with family and friends has been made much easier through the advent of advanced mobile phones and the cross-platform programs that are beginning to dominate every aspect of the Internet. Skype, a free download that allows users to communicate by way of a webcam, is a favorite among those who need to keep in touch with loved ones far away, though Holte admits that he uses the telephone to communicate with his family most often.

"I talk on the phone a lot, because my dad still doesn't understand Skype," he says with a hint of exasperation. He explains that the phone costs aren't a problem, though, as it is cheaper for his family to phone him in his dorm room than it is for them to call his Swiss cell phone while he is in Switzerland.

As it is with millions of people around the globe, these travel aficionados love to use Facebook.

E-mail presents a simple way to communicate with distant relationships on a day-to-day basis, but Räisänen reminds that there is nothing that can bring a smile to someone's lips quicker than a post-card.

"I still love receiving snail-mail. I also like sending post-cards as a way of saying, 'Be jealous! I'm here!'"

A few of our favorite things

With all the new technology available, what do these students put at the top of their list of "Things I Can't Live Without?"

Before the question is even finished, Holte answers, "My iPod." Räisänen couldn't narrow it down so easily.

"I can't pick a favorite. I never leave my house without my cell phone and iPod, and when my laptop was broken for two months," she sighs, shaking her head sadly.

Facebook dominated the list of Internet sites the students enjoy using.



Switzerland's Philip Holte always tries to make the most of his time at UT.

Global journalism

As aspiring journalists and members of the media world, the staff of Scoop magazine is interested in knowing what the field of journalism is like on the international scene. The international students shed some light on the subject.

González explains that the paparazzi culture is as strong in Spain as it is in America, with Spanish shows structured like the American "TMZ" that follow the every idiosyncrasy of celebrity life. Räisänen agrees that there is a tabloid culture in Finland, but argues that it is simply not as extensive as the American prototype. She was shocked when she first heard the way crime news is reported on American newscasts.

"American television tells the name of the victim, hometown, address, even the name of who was arrested for the murder. That doesn't happen in Finland." England, however, is more in line with American tabloid culture in Räisänen's opinion.

“I still love receiving snail-mail. I also like sending postcards as a way of saying, “Be jealous! I’m here!”

—Raisanen



Pablo Gonzalez gives the thumbs up during a trip to Florida.

Tabouring feels that media coverage varies among European countries, but there is usually a strong focus on domestic issues.

“Europe focuses most on what is going on in their country and less on international news. In Luxembourg, a newscast is 20 to 30 minutes long, and two minutes of that are devoted to international news. This is usually a two-minute compilation of video of clips of international news.” With his studies focused on news journalism, this isn’t acceptable to Tabouring.

Holte points out that Switzerland has more political parties than the U.S., a fact that drastically changes the way they cover political campaigns. “It’s not just one side or the other,” he explains, adding that American culture is very evident in Switzerland.

“[Swiss people] know what is going on with the American presidential race, but in America, the coverage of international politics is less present.”

The future

All the international students have very different plans for their lives after they leave UT. Tabouring and Holte are planning to finish their bachelor’s degrees at UT while Räisänen and González are heading back to their home institutions at the end of this semester.

González plans to finish his degree in electrical engineering and then secure a job in Spain. His hometown of Pamplona has a strong renewable energy program that González is interested in being a part of.

Räisänen has aspirations of learning a fourth language so she can attend diplomacy school in Europe. She also has long-standing dreams of becoming a member of either the CIA or the FBI. The Finnish native will have to earn her U.S. citizenship and attend police academy to achieve this goal.

Holte will finish his bachelor’s degree at UT, but he wants his world travels to continue after that.

Tabouring plans to not only receive his bachelor’s degree at UT, but also to earn his master’s degree at the home of the Volunteers. Though he could return to Luxembourg and work at RTL, the nation’s only television station, he claims that this would simply not be challenging enough to suit his tastes.

No matter what these globetrotting scholars pursue in their personal lives and careers, it can be assured that they will forever carry with them the memories and teachings they received at UT. Those lucky enough to have met them can carry with them the knowledge that they too can learn another language and step outside their comfort zones and experience another culture. 

“ I talk on the phone a lot, because my dad still doesn’t understand Skype. ”

—Holte



Having cancer is hard.

Finding help shouldn't be.



"After Ralph was diagnosed with cancer, he called me late one Tuesday night. He and his wife, Gerri, were still a little in shock. They had a lot of questions and they didn't know where to find the answers. So I helped them understand his treatment options. We also talked about what kinds of questions to ask his doctor and how clinical trials work. And then I helped him get in touch with a support group that is close to where they live. By the end of the call, I could tell they felt a little better. They said it was nice to know that someone's available any time, day or night."

Cathy — Cancer Information Specialist



Get Help Now: 1•800•ACS•2345
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Love that goes the distance

story by

Whitney Vairin



English writer Thomas Hayes Bayly once wrote, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." For those in long-distance relationships, this saying rings especially true. Couples have endured the hardships imposed by long-distance relationships for centuries, but now with the introduction of technology, people are finding the distance between them easier and easier to overcome.

Gone are the days of hand-written letters; e-mails and text messages have become the new norm and serve as the quickest and easiest way to communicate with absent loved-ones. With this instant communication, one could argue

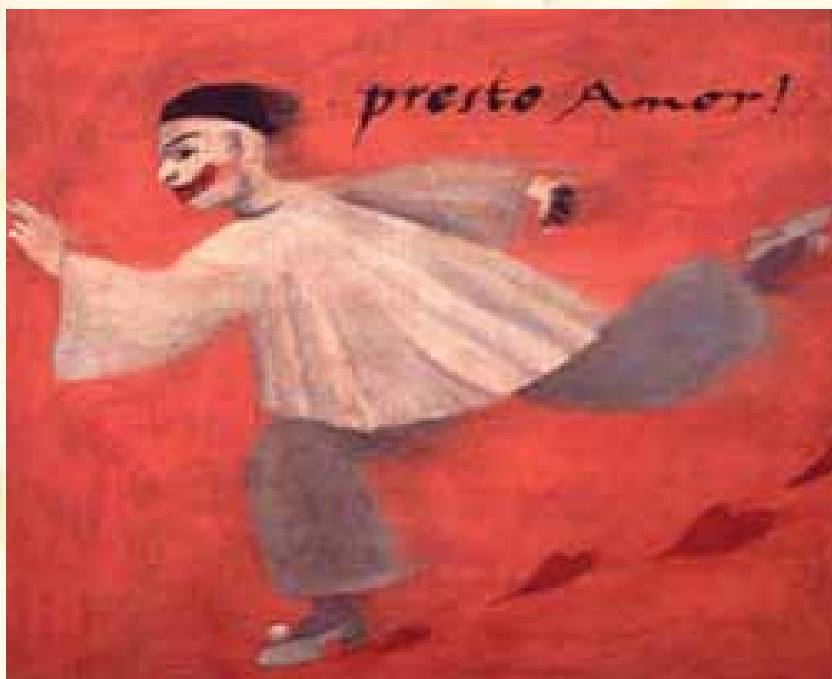
that along with letters, intimacy has been lost with the introduction of this new communication technology.

Even though handwritten love letters have taken a back seat to e-mails, the fate of relationships is not lost. The following four love stories take place in different time periods, and under different circumstances. They all ended differently, but the men and women in these personal accounts used long distance communication to stay together.

Two of the couples were separated because of college, one during the time of instant communication, the other when letters and long bus rides were the standard. Both couples communicated with each other frequent-

ly, but it seems more effort was needed to maintain a relationship when the Internet was not at their fingertips.

Sadly, war has separated another couple, but their dedication to staying in touch has made them even closer. And in one story, the internet has not only kept their relationship afloat, but was what brought them together in the first place. Their relationship is quickly becoming the new norm with internet sites dedicated to helping people find love popping up everyday. No matter the circumstances that surround each romance, it is without a doubt that these relationships were in some way helped by communication technology.



DISTANCE HAS A WAY OF MAKING LOVE UNDERSTANDABLE --WILCO

Growing up and growing apart

story by
Whitney Vairin

For the past four years, I have been one-half of a long-distance relationship. It saddens me that I am familiar with the angst and yearning associated with a relationship set apart by hundreds of miles; however, I am happy to say that those miles were made up for time and time again with the help of modern-day technology.

It all began during my 16th summer when the boy of my dreams walked into my life. He was perfect, we fell in love within weeks of our first meeting, but there was a hitch: he went to boarding school in New Hampshire, while I was set to continue my education in Tennessee. I felt hopeful that our bond could conquer the trials and tribulations posed by long-distance relationships. After all we both had cell phones.

At the beginning, both of us spent hours glued to our phones, talking about anything and everything, learning about each others' likes and dislikes, our hopes and dreams, and of course the mundane drama that

all teenagers face. During the next two years, we began to employ other types of technology to help us maintain a strong connection despite the 1,200 miles between us. We used text messages during the day to let each other know we were thinking of each other, we got on the instant message bandwagon and exchanged thoughts via AOL instant messenger, and while he spent several months in France we emailed each other frequently as a way to avoid costly phone bills.

It's funny, most would assume that this kind of communication technology would stifle a relationship, cutting out all intimacy; however, I found this type of transmission very liberating; I was able to open up and share ideas with him that I might have been too embarrassed to do otherwise.

After graduation, we again separated, I to the University of Tennessee and he to the University of Georgia. For the next two years we stayed together, but found the distance, even though it was less than when we were in high school, to be more trying on our relationship. The freedom enjoyed by both of us was probably more responsible for the rift in our relationship, than the four hours between us. We still used the technology that had always kept us close to one another, but with less frequency.

At the beginning of our junior year we decided it was time for a break from the long-distance relationship we at first saw as easy, but now found demanding. I don't think we loved each other any less than we had when we could make our long-distance relationship work; however, I do believe our tolerance for the strain and the ever-present loneliness forced us to succumb to life without one another. This truth broke my heart--it seemed unlikely that a love like ours was struck down by something as trivial as a car drive. I find solace in that I know it was more than the effort to see one another that caused the destruction of our love, but I believe the blame lies with all those lonely nights spent apart, all those once-in-a-lifetime moments shared with friends and not our partner, and all those milestones reached unaccompanied by the one person we wanted to share them with most. The sad truth is that we grew up without each other, leading us to grow apart.

Lovers separated by war

story by
Patricia Shoemaker

Being away from a loved one is never easy; especially a spouse and especially when a war is the reason for the separation. My husband and I have been apart for about 13 months now,



Photos provided by P.S. Photography/ flickr.com

and it is almost time for our reunion.

Matt and I began dating when I was 15 and, aside from a brief breakup, have been together ever since. We both graduated from UT in 2005 and were married a week later. He was in ROTC and I was, and still am, very supportive of his choice to serve his country in the US Army.

I was an Army brat (my father retired before my sixth grade year) and now am an Army wife and proud to have been called both. My father served in Desert Storm for about six months and I remember my heart hurting for his return. My heart now yearns and aches for my husband's return, but with even deeper passion. There is not a minute that goes by that I don't picture his face and look forward to the day I get to kiss it again.

Technology has improved since my dad's deployment 17 years ago. We only

spoke with him twice and the delay on the telephone made it difficult to have a conversation. My brother served two tours in Iraq and during his first one in 2004 we noticed a slight delay. During his second one two years later the delay was nearly unnoticeable. Now when I talk to my husband, you would never guess we are thousands of miles apart.

The Internet is another good source of communication for many military families. My sister-in-law and brother spoke often during his second deployment through an online program. My husband, however, can rarely access the Internet so that is not how we typically communicate. He bought an Iraqi cell phone that has on it a preloaded amount of minutes. I bought an international calling card so he calls when he can, tells me to call him back, and hangs up. It is a routine we have mastered, I have even memorized the 37 digits it

takes to reach him. We talk an average of two or three times a week. There have been weeks we talked almost daily and there have been weeks I haven't heard his voice. Those are the times when my mind races and I wince even more upon hearing another US soldier has been killed. I can't describe the relief and joy hearing that Southern voice again saying, "Hi Honey!" after not hearing it for what seemed like years.

As I said earlier, separation is never easy and many marriages do not survive. At the same time, many marriages not only last, but are strengthened by the long absence and sweet reunion. I have an amazing family, wonderful friends, and a faith that have gotten me through this deployment. But something else has given me great comfort and made me press on. That is the realization that the day will come when I will see my hero step off that plane and back into my arms.

An unconventional love story

story by

Rabecca

“I started to have feelings with a friend of mine named Matthew, the thing about it was that Matthew and I met in a chat room. I began online chatting because at the time my parents were going through a divorce and naturally I turned to the computer, because things at home were pretty shabby. I had over protective parents so I wasn't allowed to go out much with my friends and I also had a special needs brother to take care of, so the computer became my refuge.

Matt and I began to court each other. He was always there to talk to. Matt is the kind of guy who will listen no matter what the problem is and actually pay

attention. He was the big brother that I felt I could count on and eventually around Valentine's Day we started to grow feelings for each other. Which is odd, you'd think that text would be so straight to the point that there wouldn't be much underlying meanings behind them, but there were. The way he would address me as an equal, he'd just be that emotional shoulder that I had always wanted. He was a great person to have around and there came a point where I faced some pretty trying situations and Matt would call me on the phone to comfort me. That was a changing point in our relationship, because the minute I heard his voice I knew that I could never see him as just a friend.

That was February of 2005, present day we're still going pretty strong. I'm currently enrolled at the Art institute of Seattle and Matthew is in Bradford, Pennsylvania. Once I graduate I plan on moving to Pennsylvania and getting engaged or married. I wanted to

wait once I was done with college to get truly serious with someone, but I can't help how I feel for Matthew.

We communicate mostly by phone and instant messaging on MSN. We go back and forth; however, my favorite is using the webcam, because the whole visual aspect of it is great. You get to see them smile and react to what you're writing. I visit him every couple of months or he visits me and it gets pretty expensive. You learn how to budget though.

This all seems perfectly normal to me, but I'm sure it would seem kind of odd to the normal dating world. Matthew and I were brought together through technology, and we continue to rely on it to sustain our relationship. We are very thankful to live in an age that allows us the opportunity to meet and fall in love with someone across the country. All this technology makes the world seem pretty small.”



Photo by Caitlin Rockett



Photoprovided by Kevin White Images/flickr.com



Photo provided by gtj-45/flickr.com

“ No email, Facebook messages, cell phones -- just days of trying to find numbers. Weird, when you think about it. ”

A virtually technology-free romance

story by

Nancy Humphrey

Our love story began at a convention in St. Louis. Our long-distance relationship differs greatly with current long-distance relationships, particularly with how we first contacted each other after the convention. We had exchanged names, but stupidly forgot to exchange things like addresses and phone numbers. Mark forgot my last name so all he had to work with was my first name; however, I remembered his first and last name so I had more to work with when trying to contact him.

We both left the convention thinking we might not ever see the other again. So, we both went back to our schools, Mark back to Iowa State and me back to Western Kentucky. After telling my mother about Mark, she reminded me we had an extra Kentucky Derby ticket and I could invite him if I wanted. I called Iowa State, found his phone number, and called him. It took a few tries to find him, and when I did, I asked

him to the derby, but he couldn't come. He told me he had sent me a letter, but I didn't believe him. But he had.

He had called the Journalism department at Western, he spoke with the secretary, who knew me, because I was on the newspaper staff that worked right outside her office. She gave him my last name, but wouldn't give him my phone number. Mark then called Western and found my address and wrote me. I still have that letter.

No email, facebook messages, cell phones -- just days of trying to find out names, addresses, phone numbers. Weird, when you think about it.

He came to visit me that first summer after we met in April, and I went to visit him (him by Greyhound, me by plane) that first winter. Between those times we wrote each other everyday and called pretty often, too, but wrote, mostly. They were LONG letters, filled with all we were doing, thoughts we had, learning about each other.

Some days I would get two or three from him at once. They would come in long, legal envelopes with letters that were handwritten, not typed. Pages and pages in each envelope. It took a lot of devotion and dedication on both of our parts to sit down every single day and

write all that. Mark's were very funny and interesting. Mine were probably more whiny and boring, but we both wrote them every day. It took a long time. I used to have all of the letters, but I think we got rid of them along the way. It would have been nice to have kept them though.

After the first year, we still wrote a lot, but started calling more. This was even before answering machines, too, so there were lots of calls and callbacks, then talking for a long time about nothing, but about everything. We both had phone bills that were enormous. My parents were paying mine, so Mark would make most of the phone calls. He would have hundred dollar and more phone bills every month.

After we got engaged, he was spending money on his phone bill, the monthly bills for my engagement ring, and for gas in a gas-guzzling old Ford to come and see me. It had to be true love for both of us to have invested that much money and time into our relationship.

Long distance romances aren't easy though -- the time spent making up for not being there (writing letters, making phone calls, etc.) can make for lots of frustration. But I'd say it was worth it. Definitely. ■



Photo provided by Beverly Adams

The Rock has been a UT tradition since the 1960s. It first stood as a small stone protruding from the lawn of the Calvary Baptist Church. In 1968, the Yale Avenue Urban Renewal Project expanded the university. The A.B. Long Company unearthed the massive boulder when clearing land for construction of new university buildings and roads. UT's president at the time, Dr. Joe Johnson, made the decision to keep the Rock - relocating it to the corner of the property where it remains today.

The tradition of painting the Rock would not begin until the mid-70s. Knoxville police sandblasted the first works of art found on the Rock

almost daily. It wasn't until 1978 that the paintings would be allowed to remain, unless obscene or offensive. The issue of free speech arose, and the selective removal of messages by the university was stopped.

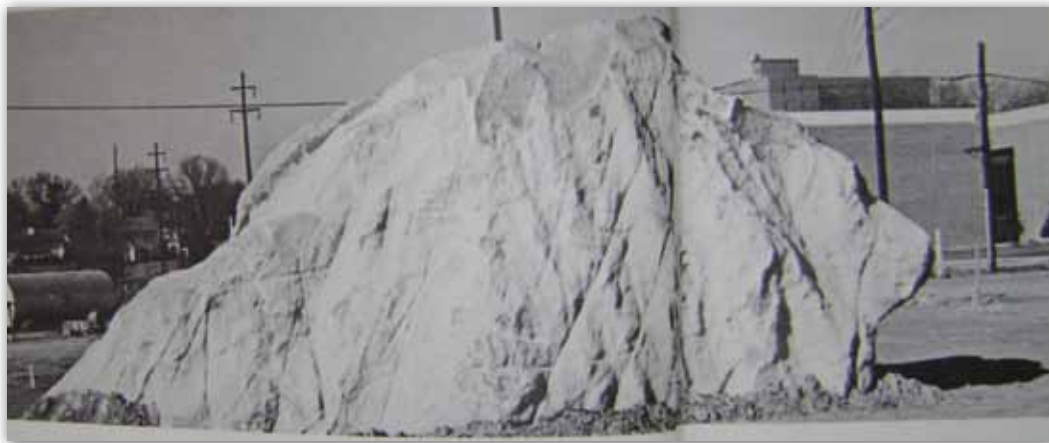
Chip Faucette, an alumnus from 1965-1969, said, "the Rock went from a focus of punishment to a focus of art." Today, the Rock remains an open forum, and anyone who finds a message offensive can just paint over it.

Students have been painting the Rock for over 30 years now. Its size has grown with the constant coats of paint being splashed on its uneven face. The Rock is used as a canvas where students write personal messages, announce campus events and advertise information about clubs, jobs, and other opportunities around Knoxville.



The Rock from the side.

Photo by Mary Faucette



One of the last times The Rock was seen with a clean face, 1965.

Photo from The Volunteer, UT's Yearbook, 1965

Many sororities and fraternities participate in painting the Rock. Sarah McMichael, a senior in Communication Studies, painted the Rock as a freshman with her sorority's pledge class. "It was fun because our pledge class bonded while painting the Rock together," McMichael said.

The Rock is used daily for the free expression of student hearts and minds, and sometimes as a reminder of home for students abroad. Jackie Clowers, a senior in Journalism & Electronic Media, and Garrett Evans, a senior in Electrical Engineering, decided to paint the Rock together in 2006 for their girlfriends who were studying abroad in Swansea, Wales. Evans said he wanted to let his girlfriend know he had not forgotten about her even though she was miles away, so he posted the pictures of the painting onto Facebook.

"It was so exciting and special because I had always wanted someone to paint it for me," said Katie Gwin, Evans' girlfriend and a senior in Journalism & Electronic Media. "It's a UT tradition and everybody wants to have something painted for them on it," Gwin said.

Some people even make painting the Rock a routine. Elizabeth West, a senior in Logistics, has painted the Rock the past three years on Mother's Day. She takes a picture of her work and frames it for her mom. "She likes it because she's a UT graduate and still enjoys Tennessee traditions like the Rock," she said. Last year, she and her younger brother, UT junior William West, grew closer while painting the Rock for their mom.

Many students have taken part in painting the Rock before they graduate because it has become such a big part of UT traditions. Jennifer Rose, who majored in Journalism & Electronic Media, made sure to do one last thing before leaving UT: paint the Rock. She wrote, "this is the last thing on my to do list," and a picture of her work was featured on UT's website in spring 2007.

Today the rock gets painted one to three times a day, making the layers of paint remaining on the Rock uncountable. This university tradition is not only a forum for free speech and expression, but it has become a custom for the students - one that is set in stone. 



Jennifer Rose completes her final task at UT

Photo provided by Jennifer Rose



Each year Sigma Kappa pledges paint the Rock.

Photo provided by Andrea Eades



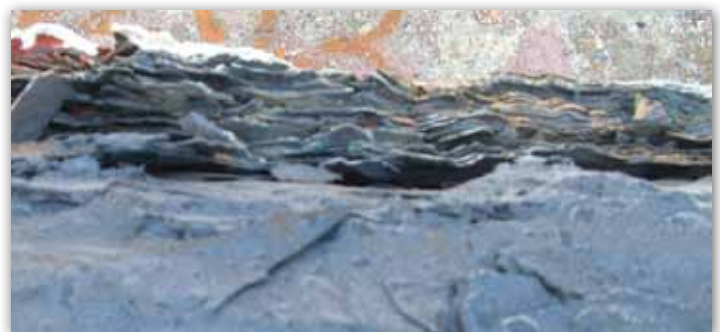
William and Elizabeth West beside their gift.

Photo provided by Garrett Evans



Garrett Evans and Jackie Clowers' special message.

Photo provided by Elizabeth West



Aerial view of the Rock reveals its age.

Photo by Mary Faucette



Thank You



from the Scoop staff
Spring 2008

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