



THE SPOKESMAN

Department of Mass Communications
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Savannah State University

ACEJMC Accreditation Site Visitation

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January 21-24, 2007

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John F. Kennedy Fine Arts Building

Message from the chair

The department is in the final stages of applying for Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) accreditation. A four member ACEJMC site visit team will come to the department January 21 – 24, 2007 to assess its curriculum, faculty, facilities, and to ascertain if the department meets ACEJMC's nine accreditation standards. This site visit is the culmination of a five-year process (2002 – 2007) to prepare the unit to meet ACEJMC accreditation standards. A successful accreditation visit would place the department in a strategic position to apply for and receive more grants for instruction, facilities, and equipment. Additionally, it will be a value added to the degrees of all mass communications alumni, continuing students, and prospective new majors. The task of seeking accreditation was a total team effort, spearheaded by an administration that allocated over \$1.5 million from 2000 – 2006 to the effort. The actual self-study document was developed under the leadership of Dr. Carlton E. Brown, former president; Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr., former vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Jane M. Gates, interim vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Johnnie D. Myers, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Novella Cross Holmes, associate professor; Reginald L. Franklin, associate professor; Kai C. Walker, assistant professor; and Karen R. Conner, administrative secretary were the driving force behind the successful compilation of the final self – study document. Students were also an integral part of the self – study process as they were educated as to the importance and benefits of ACEJMC accreditation. Professor Cross Holmes was extraordinary in her direction of the completion of the self – study document in its final form. She was also a driving force in directing and attending to the minute details that precede an ACEJMC site visit. The motto of our department is that students and the team comes first. The department has totally reconfigured its laboratories and how they deliver instruction and learning outcomes that benefit mass communications students to meet the demands of the modern job market. In 2006 – 2007, the department added a new I MAC laboratory with each computer having the latest Adobe Creative Suites software. In short, the department is preparing students to be successful in the technology driven work force of the 21st century as well as equipping them with a solid liberal arts education as espoused by ACEJMC. As chair, during this accreditation process, it has been my humble privilege to work with a faculty and administration so devoted to the welfare of its students – academically, economically, and socially.

Charles J. Elmore

Updates Continue on Mass Communication Students and Grads



Nefeteri “Egypt” Richards, a 2005 graduate, works as operations assistant at Clear Channel in Savannah and is an on air personality on 94.1 FM and “The Beat” on Love 101.1 FM.



Kaytrina Sharp, a 2005 graduate, recently graduated from the Public Affairs Qualification Officers Course at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Maryland. Currently, she is the program manager for Marne Television, Fort Stewart, Georgia and Hunter Army Airfield’s command channel.



Rhonda Rawls, a May 2005 graduate, served as a contract senior administrative assistant to the assistant general manager of engineering and infrastructure at Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) in Atlanta, Georgia. Currently, she works full-time as an advertising assistant with the Atlanta Journal Constitution, a division of Cox Communications.



Crystal M. Boggs, a 2004 graduate, has been promoted to program manager at the Urban Sports and Entertainment Group in Cornelius, North Carolina. She is pictured with a BET personality.

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Mahreon “Dartise” Johnson, a 2004 graduate, was hired by WNCN (NBC) channel 17 in Raleigh, North Carolina as a video journalist in 2004. In December 2006, he was nominated for a 21st Midsouth Regional Emmy Award for his work on NBC17’s news special “At Issue: Inside Durham’s Gangs.” In January 2007, he became a video journalist for WFLD – TV Fox 32 in Chicago, Illinois.



Janea Robinson, a 2003 graduate, began her career as a video editor at WJCL (ABC) – channel 22 in Savannah. In 2004, she joined the WNCN (NBC) – channel 17 news team in Raleigh, North Carolina to edit regular newscasts and NBC17.com podcast. In June 2006, Janea received an Ovation Award for her editing efforts for NBC 17’s “Hurricane: Quest for the Cup” coverage.



Midshipman Joseph T. Newkirk, a December 2006 graduate, was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy August 11, 2006. Ensign Newkirk is now serving on board the USS CARNEY (DDG 64) out of Mayport, Florida.

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He is pictured with Mrs. Martha Middleton, his mother.

Christopher Middleton, a 2002 graduate, received his J.D. from Vermont Law College in South Royalton, Vermont, at the 2006 June commencement. He was elected as one of six class marshals to lead the graduates to the degree ceremony. He was selected by dean of the law college to receive the 2006 Alumni Association Award for outstanding contributions to the law school during his tenure as a student.

Dana Patmon, a 2005 graduate, is working part-time for ABN AMRO – LaSalle Bank in the Real Estate Capital Markets – Commercial Conduit Group Department, while attending Roosevelt University as a full – time graduate student pursuing an master’s degree in integrated marketing communications (IMC).

Christopher Corinthian, a 2004 graduate, worked with the Savannah/Chatham County School System in 2004, and, in 2005, began work as an admissions representative, University of Phoenix. In January 2007, he began a new job as information specialist II at the Savannah Technical College in Savannah, Georgia.

Continuing Students

MaSovaida Salemo Morgan is editor-in-chief of The Tiger's Roar, Savannah State University's student newspaper. She is a junior and a mass communication major with a concentration in print journalism.



Morgan was one of thirty students selected for The New York Times Student Journalism Institute, which she attended in May of 2006 in New Orleans. She and other Tiger's Roar staff members will represent Savannah State University at the 2007 HBCU Newspaper Conference in Tallahassee, Fl. She most recently attended The American Society of Newspaper Editors Readership National Seminar, sponsored by the Savannah Morning News, in December 2006. Morgan was accepted into the 2007 Chips Quinn Scholars Program and will begin an internship as a copy editor/page designer at the Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal in June of 2007.



Michael Cherry, a prospective May 2007 graduate, attended the Hearst – Argyle Television, Inc. News Leadership Symposium May 22 – 25, 2006 at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Rayna Ogletree, a junior mass communications major, attended the American Society of Newspaper Editors meeting December 2006, which was held at the *Savannah Morning News* in Savannah. She received a scholarship to attend the seminar through the efforts of Julian Miller, publisher, *Savannah Morning News*, and current advisory board member of the department of mass communications.

SRPI 55th Annual **Students Publication** WINNERS



The 56th annual
Southern
Regional Press
Institute
Feb. 22-23, 2007

Theme: "Beyond Blair: Media Ethics on Stage"

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*Designed by
Karen R. Conner*