

# E-Media Holiday Newsletter 2013

## HEAVY INVOLVEMENT = RELAYS TELECAST SUCCESS BY ERIN HASSANZADEH, 2013 RELAYS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Our 2013 Drake Relays involved over 50 students. The best way to describe our coverage was "collaborative."

My first priority was to include and give responsibility to younger students to give them the opportunity to learn from older students and get some experience! Our production included first-years, sophomores, juniors and seniors. While many journalism students were involved we had several non-journalism major students take part in our production.

We had a team of four producers (all junior E-Media students) and two first-year assistant producers. We also had a decent sized marketing team of students recruited from the business school. This added a different perspective to our broadcast.

Three students handled play-by-play and color commentary. We also had one person doing statistics and assisting the accuracy of our play-by-play coverage. We also had a team of six reporters. Not to mention our fearless camera crew and all those who contributed to our pre-produced packages and other content.

From covering the hometown favorites like Lolo Jones to other Olympic athletes, to Iowa high school events our crew enjoyed the experience and the beautiful weather (for once!).

We also created a 30-minute Relays "Pre-Show."

Students created about 12 hours of live coverage that included tape-delayed athlete interviews and pre-produced packages. I couldn't have asked for more enthusiasm, dedication or hard work from the 2013 Relays crew. Best of all, we collaborated and learned from each other which is what we are trying to do as students after all.

#### R.I.P. TAPE-BASED CAMERAS By David Wright, Associate Dean

Progress marches on in the basement of Meredith Hall. We made the transition this fall to SD card-based Panasonic cameras.

While we have been shooting HD for a number of years on DV tape, we decided it was time to shift away from head clogs, tape ingest time, and expensive machines. The instant availability of clips on the editing computers has been a boon in classes like JMC 100.

We are especially excited to see how it changes DrakeLINE production in the spring. The Panasonic AG-AC90 AVCCAM units have proved remarkably reliable, and have even impressed Jeff Nichols with inclusions of elements such as color bars and user-friendly lens controls. They are very energy efficient, and we use a single case to hold camera, batteries, light, and stick and lav mikes for checkout. Gone are the days of weightlifting 40-pound battery belts.

We continue to integrate Adobe Premiere Pro into our production classes. After taking a detailed look at both Final Cut X and Premiere we chose the later for a variety of reasons, including input from many alumni. Thank you for your help and guidance.

Premiere has proved a robust choice, and this fall saw JMC 114 integrating Adobe After Effects with Premiere in their E-media promotional video.

The new version of iMovie will continue to be taught in JMC 31 to incoming first-year students across the school. This introduction includes use of the green screen in the studio.

The "Digital Palace" (Room 2) has seen increasing use by a variety of classes including the J31 students this fall. We hope you stop by and see the activity if you are in the vicinity.

## EDITOR'S CAVEAT

Most of the alumni updates remain in the form you submitted, with an occasional edit for brevity. Apologies for bugs I missed or created.

Please keep us posted on professional and personal changes. Our present and future Radio-TV Producing and Broadcast News students love the opportunity to contact real world alumni.

E-M

## **E-Media** 2013

#### 94.1 ANNOUNCERS BUSY By Mariah Lewis, Program Director

The Dog has been barking up the right tree!

At the Activities Fair in August, over 75 Drake students signed up to be Dog DJs. From that list, we scheduled 38 live DJs who produce their own specialty programming that ranges from country, to hip-hop, to alternative jazz, to oldies and so much more!

The Dog also stepped up its promotional image around campus. For the first time, 94.1 The Dog had remote broadcast appearances at several of Drake's home football games. The remotes included live music, appearances by DJs, our Program Director, and our Operations Director, and free 94.1 The Dog gear.

We pumped up the tailgating scene and cranked the tunes for more music unleashed!

Also, for the first time, 94.1 The Dog engaged in a promotional workshop. All the DJs got together with me, Operations Director Amanda Horvath, volunteers from the audio production class, and some additional creative minds to mass-produce 30 second DJ promos.

The entire event created a unique branding experience for The Dog and its DJs. The workshop a tradition we hope

to continue every semester!

As the fall semester winds down we look forward to the biannual 94.1 The Dog midnight pancake breakfast in honor of Finals Week. 94.1 The Dog's music plays in Drake's dining hall and students get the chance to interact with DJs and enjoy pancakes and prizes!

Specialty programming with live DJs returns in late January for the spring semester and we

greatly look forward to that! Until then keep listening to 94.1 The Dog for more music unleashed with your favorite top 40 hits!



The FCC has renewed 94-1 The Dog's license through February 2021.

KDRA-LP signed on before fall semester 2006. It operates year-round between 4 p.m. and 4 a.m. weekdays and all day Saturday.



An FCC computerderived 80 watts provides reliable reception within about 4 miles of campus. When students enjoy vacation, iMedia-

Touch automation and a very part-time student programmer keep things on track.

During the academic year, newscasts, continuity and PSA production, and hourlong air shifts are class requirements.

Many non-majors also produce hourlong specialty programs for the station. The Dog streams 24/7 using iCastCenter as its host.

#### STUDIO RENOVATION COMING BY DAVID WRIGHT, ASSOCIATE DEAN

A school-wide SJMC committee began work this fall on a massive redesign of the television studio. The plan includes

HD studio cameras, a hard seamless green cyc wall, and presentation capture space. Expansion of the light grid and renovation of the studio walls and floors will also



be included. The control room will also see some loving. On a parallel front we have been working with Drake development staff on the fundraising efforts for this transformation. We have appreciated the input of our advisory board members on this undertaking.





FULL SCHEDULE OF RADIO SPORTS UNDERWAY By Ben Wildner, Sports Director

The Dog continues to offer the community live coverage of Drake home men's and Women's basketball and conference tournaments as well as Roosevelt High School Football, home and away.

We've included some outstanding new broadcast talent from across campus, and like the Drake basketball program, we're showing continual signs of improvement.

Students get the opportunity to demonstrate a wider skill set for their reels, experience professional sports media situations and gather technical knowledge.

Younger students have found board operating to be a good way to begin to become familiar with radio operations.

We look forward to what looks to be an exiting spring schedule. Sports broadcasts continue independent of Drake's academic calendar.

## DMRG ROAD TRIP



Producer Brian Whittaker was among several Des Moines Radio Group staffers who explained their work to fall semester J67 class members.

In what's become a twice-a-year tradition, students also visited briefly with two announcers in the midst of their afternoon shifts at the seven-station operation.

The visit was coordinated by Ryan Patrick Houlahan, Group marketing manager and Lazer 103.3 brand manager/program director. Houlahan earned his master's in Communication Leadership from Drake in 2009.

# **E-Media 2013**

## LYTLE NAMED LEVITT MENTOR

John Lytle, Ellis and Nelle Levitt Distinguished Professor of Journalism, received the 2013 Madelyn Levitt Mentor of the Year award during Commencement, May 18.

Mary Edrington, associate professor of practice in marketing, received the 2013 Teacher of the Year award.

The awards represent the highest honor a Drake faculty member can receive.



They were recognized for their positive impact and commitment to student success.

#### 114 TAKES ON SJMC MARKETING CHALLENGE By Todd Evans, Professor



This semester, JMC 114, Advanced Video Production, decided to take a shot at producing a promotional video for the School. This year's class was the smallest in recent memory, which insured everybody would play a substantial role. For the first time in history, primary footage was shot with Canon DSLRs, with audio captured on a Zoom H4N. B-roll was shot on our Sony HDCams (the last to use tape) and the School's GoPro Hero 2. As expected,

audio sync provided some of our biggest challenges, though the occasional frame size and format incompatibility caused a few primal basement screams (remember those?) too. This program also marks our first originally composed and



performed score. Premiere Pro 6 handled the mixed media like a champ. When you get a chance, take a look. *Emerging Media: Framing the Future of Journalism* can be viewed at vimeo.com/81353145.

#### E-M

## DRAKELINE CELEBRATES ITS 15TH PRODUCTION CYCLE

Electronic Media's capstone news magazine DrakeLINE completed another successful 12-program series during spring semester.

The live, quarter-hour weekly newscasts air in Greater Des Moines on The College Channel and stream worldwide on the Internet.

Typically, our Drake Relays newscast times to 28:59.

DrakeLINE.com includes the director's script for each week's program plus behind-the-scenes pictures.

DrakeLINE 2014 hits the network Feb. 6.



## FREDRICKSEN VISITS E-MEDIA



Iowa Public Radio's **Rick Fredricksen** made his annual pilgrimage to the J73 Radio News class during fall semester.

He joined IPR in 1995 after 13 years abroad including 10 years as CBS Bureau Chief in Thailand. He received a Peabody Award in 1989 for CBS Radio coverage of the Tianammen Square protest in China.

These days Rick focuses on feature reporting for the Iowa Archives series.

## 2013 IBNA NEWS WINNERS



Drake was well represented in the Iowa Broadcast News Association's student awards contest. Three first-place awards recognized depth reporting for "At Issue" stories produced in the Radio News class.

These segments replace 4-minute 94-1 newscasts during Finals Week and the week following.

Mary Wachtel investigated the HPV vaccine controversy. Erin Hassansadeh explored the governor's education proposal and was also awarded "Best Newscast." Katherine Fritcke was rewarded for her story about the UN Secretary General's visit to Drake and her report about political campaign exhaustion.



## **E-Media** 2013

## Alumni

## Sami Richmond (RTV'12)

After graduating last December and having a short stint in radio sales, I work as a full-time morning DJ on KIX 101.1 in Marshalltown. We had an opening in our news department when I started, which was right around the time of graduation for the class of 2013. I called up my Drake "partner-in-crime" Katherine Fritcke to see if she'd be interested. She came in for the interview and was offered the job on the spot. I'm proud to say my employer vis convinced that all Drake grads are hard-working individuals. It's been a very exciting year! I'm still getting used to working the morning shift hours, but I adopted a kitten who wakes up at 3 a.m. with me! E-M

#### **Bob Gillies (BNews'89)**

I am approaching six years at The Woods at Parkside for addictions treatment and I have nine years in recovery myself on 1/8/14. All is well and I will see you at Relays. I will have my 16-year-old son Coburn there on a college visit.

**Sarah Stokes (BNews'00)** is making a major change! After spending 13 years in TV news, she's leaving the studio to run her own regional women's magazine. Sarah anchored evening



newscasts at WEAU in Eau Claire alongside her husband for 8 years, but wanted to run her own business and stay home with her 2-yearold son and 1-year-old daughter. An opportunity to buy Queen of the Castle magazine came along and she's going to publish her first issue in February. Sarah is excited to give the publication a makeover and continue her "mommy blog" but will have a hard time saying goodbye to her faithful viewers and to the news career she's built in places like Fargo and Springfield, MO. She's happy to use her creative writing skills in a new way and hopes to incorporate television specials into her new business as well. Now she wishes she would have enrolled in some business classes while at Drake! E-M

**Chris Rooney (BNews'04)** works for Medtronic's Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management unit in Minneapolis. He's a Professional Relations Specialist.

#### Jennifer (Slesnik) Schaeffer (RTV'00)

2013 has been a rough year for my health, but I seem to be doing better. I had a stint at a local animal shelter before I got too sick. Josh and I just bought a new house in Wayne, NJ, just outside of NYC. Avi turned 3 this year and I enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom for parts of the summer. Looking forward to getting back in media and/or animal welfare in a healthier 2014!



**David Mossner (BNews'84)** is enjoying life in Madison, Wisconsin where he serves as Development Director at the Oakwood Foundation. He writes extensively in his position, meets with donors and potential donors, and helps organize events. The biggest news in 2013 is that their youngest son Mark graduated from college and joined the work force. In his free time, Mossner likes to bike the roads and trails of southern Wisconsin.

E-IVI

Heidi Ritt (BNews'11) graduated from Drake Law School in May. She took the July 2013 Bar Exam in Illinois and in August was hired as an associate attorney for the Law Offices of Nelson David Blocher in Chicago, IL. Heidi has since passed the Illinois Bar and will be sworn in and admitted to practice law in Illinois on October 31st. Heidi became a member of the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and handles Estates, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Heirship matters.

#### John Walters (RTV'84)

I just completed my first year as Director of Broadcasting for Cyclones.tv, which is Iowa State's digital sports network, while continuing my duties as the play-by-play announcer for Iowa State football and men's basketball. In August, we also debuted a 24-hour-a-day TV station on Mediacom cable, which carries our live events, coach's shows, call-in shows, features, etc. I love being home at night most of the time (something that wasn't possible as a local TV Sports Director).

### Jeremy Scavo (RTV'10)

Video producer, Two Rivers Marketing, Des Moines.

## Larry Burkum (RTV'80)



After winning the Edward R. Murrow award for Best Newscast in the nation, I've left KSPR in Springfield, Mo, and returned to my roots, producing news for KCRG, the number one operation in Cedar Rapids, IA. I work in a newsroom shared with The Cedar Rapids Gazette, which presents some interesting opportunities. We're an all-digital HD station with the largest touch-screen video monitor in North America and the 3rd largest in the world. Lots of opportunities for new and interactive ways to tell stories. The business has come a long way from splicing film and synching it with an audio cart, as we did in the 70s. When I started at TV9 I Made my mother happy. She's in West Des Moines with my brother. Maybe I'll put my Michigan State Ph.D. to use again some day. E-M

#### Sarah (Reinwald) Guldalian (BNews'03)

I took my position back as Exec Producer of Evangelism/Outreach programs at Lutheran Hour Ministries. I love it too much. In fact, my brother (Jordan Reinwald FA'01) and I produced a multi media event, The Five14 Revolution, in midtown NYC with bands, media and as speakers. We did a tour of these in a year span including St. Louis, Chicago and NYC.



I have been married to Justin Guldalian (FA'05) for seven years; and we have a handsome son, Zane, 4, and gorgeous daughter, Maddie, 1.

#### Denise (Mock) Nazzaro (BNews'01)

Communications/PR work at the Red Cross continues, despite a leave this fall to care for our first-born! Baby Annalise joined the world in August, and we are enjoying every minute with her!

After about a year reporting in southern Iowa, **Maureen McKamey** (**BNews'11**) is enjoying being back in her home state of Minnesota.



She's working as the 9 p.m. news anchor and producer at KEYC in Mankato. Maureen says she loves learning what the current B-News crew at Drake is up to each year, especially when DrakeLINE rolls around.

#### Tiffany (Abell) Tauscheck (BNews'01)

There is a lot more pink in our house these days. Our daughter, Tennyson, arrived in May. Big brother Ty, 3, loves making her laugh. My hubby, Mark, is now at KCCI 8 News reporting and anchoring during the week. I've taken on some additional duties at work as VP of Marketing and Development, and in the community serving on several more boards. We look forward to (hopefully) getting some rest in 2014. Fellow alumni: If you plan to visit Des Moines, let me know! I will let you know what you have to "catch" while you're here. **E-M** 

#### Jenna DeLong (BNews'11)

I took a new gig as the Assistant Softball Coach at Texas A&M University-Commerce where we are currently building a new program. This involves traveling all over the U.S. to recruit 18 talented players to small-town Texas. I plan to get my graduate degree from TAMUC in the next two years and I have officially hung up my cleats. I am loving life and the southern hospitality of Commerce!

#### E-M

#### Ann (Kaatz) LoBue (RTV'97)

2013 was another busy year. We bought a house in Los Angeles earlier this year, so I'm here for the long haul. I'm starting a new job as the IT Director for Home Entertainment & Digital Distribution at NBCUniversal and I'll be responsible for application support and business engagement. I'm excited to grow my career in Media & Entertainment and move around the company. I'm also the proud mama of two amazing and adorable boys: Charlie is 3 and Casey turns 1 in November.

**Kuebari "Austin" Lemea (RTV'10)** released his mystery romance book "Minus 16" late in 2012. He presided over a book signing during February in Urbandale.

## **E-Media 2013**

#### Amanda Lewis (BNews'01)

Still at KCCI 8 News. Almost 12 years now. I've anchored the weekend morning show for almost 8. The hours are great for a work/life balance with two little ones at home. Nominated for a Midwest Regional Emmy for a series on drones I traveled to Syracuse, N.Y. to cover earlier this year. I was also appointed by the Iowa Supreme Court to a special committee to update rules governing media coverage in Iowa's courts. Our changes should please a lot of the industry. I also continue to represent KCCI on the Des Moines Metro Media Council. It's been very rewarding work building relationships with emergency responders and public information officers and troubleshooting communication problems that arise in the field.



6-year-old Elliot is just starting to notice people look at his mom funny in public and asks why strangers strike up conversations with us at the grocery store. He's much more impressed by my ability to make homemade applesauce. E-M

#### Cara (Stein) Rinkoff (BNews'03)

I never thought it would happen, but I have left television behind. I am still living in the DC suburbs (Montgomery Village, MD). But I am now an Account Representative at Daly Computers, a company which provides IT Solutions to the public sector (schools, government, healthcare). On a personal note, my husband of 8 years and I are expecting our first child around Memorial Day.

#### Tony Lorino (RTV'03)

My wife Kate (AS'05) is in the 4th year (home stretch) of her surgical residency at KU Medical Center. Married life is good, and our dog, Max, is the most spoiled pooch in the state of Kansas. The Point KZPT-FM had a breakthrough year: our station was named "Radio Station of the Year" by the Kansas City MediaMix advertising organization. Our team has worked very hard, and we've started to break through with a few #1 months in our target demo for the first time EVER, which is very rewarding. We're looking forward to having some of our family and friends in town around the holidays. Fellow Drake grads are always welcome for Kansas City BBQ, too.

#### Kelly Nass (BNews'99)

I returned as the Production Coordinator for Season 3 of the CW's "Hart of Dixie" at Warner Brother's Studios in Burbank. During my hiatus between TV seasons I challenged myself to "30 Hikes in 30 Days" - no repeats - in the Los Angeles area. I succeeded!



When I'm not hiking I spend the rest of my free time promoting animal adoption, attending animal rescue fundraising events, and volunteering for local pug rescues.

#### Karen Fuller (RTV'89)

I passed the 10-year mark here at KCTV5 in Kansas City. Also, our main anchor team rose to #1 in the 5 o'clock half hour and we are in the running for first place at 6 p.m. We have a new News Director coming to town. Larry Perret joined us in late October. Our new set was unveiled for the November book. It is designed like the CBS This Morning show set. Very space age-y and sleek. Personally, both of my children (daughter/Blaise, 13 - son/Quinn, 11) made the Honor Roll at school! So proud of them.



E-M

Molly (Nelson) Petersen (BNews/RTV'03) I work in Marketing and Public Relations at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). I produce and host "Discover DMACC," a 30-minute program that airs on FOX local. I also work on video and written communications featuring DMACC alumni, educational programs and students. I enjoy doing color commentary for Drake Women's basketball on 1350 KRNT. I also help coach a 4th grade girls basketball team. My husband, Kole, and my 3-year-old son, Joseph, help on the Bulldogs! Drake's Intercollegiate Athletic Council recently named Molly as its alumnus member.

## Ellie Bastian (RTV'10)

This year I moved to Missoula, Montana. Video work took me to Russia (again), this time with a team of surgeons. The non-profit in charge of that assignment is having me shoot and edit a series of videos for their website. I've also started a job with a different nonprofit to digitize and archive their massive trove of 16 mm film reels. Imagine that, real film. In between those things I worked the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally again and started flying falcons with some local enthusiasts. The birds



dive-bomb on live prey at 200 mph. Exciting stuff. Just found this "action shot" while working through the footage from the recent Russia trip (in hospital scrubs, Sony camera mounted on tripod, etc.).

#### Melanie Fielder (BNews'12)

I returned to Drake to begin a Master's degree! (Missed Meredith Hall.) I'm in the MCL program and loving every minute thus far. I'm working in marketing at Sammons Retirement Solutions in West Des Moines, a branch of the Sammons Financial Group. I coach four soccer teams for West Des Moines Soccer Club; this is my fourth year with the kids, and age 12 girls keep me on my toes, undoubtedly. I underwent yoga teacher training during the summer, I'm now an RYT-200 and teach power yoga at Power Life Yoga. And because I didn't think I was busy enough, I begin training in November to teach power sculpt yoga. 2013 has been a fantastic year for me - and I'm so excited to be back on campus.



Fielder and **Aaron Gernes (BNews)** met during the reception preceding the Iowa Broadcast News Association convention in Johnson, April 20. At the time, Gernes was news director of KNIA/KRLS, Knoxville/Pella. He's since moved to Jacobson Companies in Des Moines as a marketing assistant.

# **E-Media 2013**

It's been a busy year for **Kyle Lobner** (**RTV'05**), who was elected in April to serve a two-year term on Appleton, Wisconsin's, City Council.



His campaign was a success partially due to the efforts of fellow RTV alum J.D. Fox, who designed the campaign flyers, yard signs and business cards. Kyle has spent most of the last six months working to keep his constituents informed about city government activities while running back and forth between council and committee meetings. Kyle also still serves as the Managing Editor of Brew Crew Ball (brewcrewball.com), where he covers the Milwaukee Brewers. His wife Laura (a 2007 Pharmacy grad) continues to work for Thedacare in Appleton but recently moved to the organization's Plan of Care team, where she works to develop and improve ambulatory care programs. E-M

## Aliza (Reisberg) Bolton (RTV'09)

I got married this October to Sam Bolton, who has just been admitted to the Iowa Bar!



I am still working at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as my day job, though I did finally get to do some video editing there. I also got to spend a few weeks in New York as part of the HUD Disaster Volunteer Team after superstorm Sandy last December. I am also still doing video production at the Basilica of St. John every Sunday, which I've been doing for the past 5 years. I have also been working (okay, volunteering) as a sound technician for Tallgrass Theatre and (worked) with them on The Odd Couple in November, my third production with the company.

**Chris Nettleton (BNews'01)** has served as Sports Director for KBOI-TV, Boise, since September 2011. I'm approaching 15 years working in TV, and I've loved it.

## Tricia (Polhert) Hoffman (BNews'98)

Still selling real estate for over eight years. Enjoying helping new and repeat clients with their housing needs! I try to use my degree by writing local blog articles about new businesses, restaurants and real estate trends. The website is www.TriciaHoffmann.com. David is coaching men's soccer at the University of Dallas in Irving. Trinity (8) loves soccer, art, and fashion. Beckett (4) will be our soccer star. Loves FC Dallas games and really anything that involves a ball. Keane (2) is our thinker and loves puzzles and shapes and how things work. My parents moved around the corner from us a little over two years ago and we love having them here. Anyone ever coming to Dallas? Make sure they look me up!



(Photo of T-P and Trinity from September's campus visit.)

### Emily Brady (RTV'10)

This year I was hired into the Marketing Department at BH Management, one of the top 25 largest apartment management companies in the US. I work as the web and electronic media specialist, managing, updating web pages and creating electronic communications pieces for over 160 properties across the nation. I also write and assist managers with annual marketing plans. When that doesn't keep me busy, I design print material, pitch promotional ideas, and assist specific properties who need a little extra help on the marketing of their communities. Luckily BH Management's corporate office is located in Downtown Des Moines, but I will get to travel for the company in the coming year! E-M

#### Erik Bilstad (RTV'99)

I continue to work at 620 WTMJ in Milwaukee as the co-host of Wisconsin's Afternoon News. It's been fun talking with newsmakers and come up with creative story ideas as we transition AM talk radio into the digital age. I also get to talk with TODAY's TMJ4 anchor **Mike** Jacobs (RTV'73) every day! E-M

**Tedd Peso (BNews'99)** again served as a judge of Drake's National Alumni Scholarship program during February. Peso earned his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School in 2007.

### Shelley (Russell) Skuster (BNews'08)

I'm already into my second year reporting at the NBC affiliate in Waterloo, KWWL. It's nice to be "home" in Waverly even if it means a slower news pace than Omaha! I'm even dabbling a bit with anchoring. My husband, a police officer-turned-social worker, and I just adopted our sweet daughter, Olivia.



I've been blogging about our family's journey to adopt since the beginning of the process (Spring, 2013), and have racked up more than 60,000 followers! It's been an awesome experience using my platform as a journalist to advocate for children and families across the globe. Read more about our experience and Olivia: addins.kwwl.com/blogs/journey E-M

## Clay Paciorek (RTV'10)

In addition to marrying Ellie Ritscher, in June, I had a career change two weeks after the wedding and am transitioning from college to high school, but still continue to produce videos. I got a job in the marketing and communications department at Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Faribault, Minn., producing promotional videos, as well as working on graphic materials and writing. On the side, I also started my own production company and make all sorts of videos in my free time.

## Debbie (Bernstein) LaCroix (BNews'97)

I'm busy writing and selling books (debbielacroix.com). I also spent the last year traveling all

over the country teaching writing workshops to students. The Children's Museum I am working on (Sioux City area)



just broke ground! When I'm not reading or writing, I love hanging out with my family.

Treyva Estler (RTV'02) edits reality video for television and cable in the Los Angeles area. Among other projects she has most recently edited episodes for *I Used to be Fat*, *Naked and Afraid*, *Alaska: The Next Frontier* and *The Next Iron Chef*. Thanks to Treyva for sending updates and links to her work for class viewing!

# **E-Media 2013**

#### Adrianne (Traxinger) Michele (RTV'96) I am still in the Pentagon, working for North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command, which are responsible for Homeland Defense and Department of Defense Support to Civil Authoritics. I work with the Department of Homeland

ties. I work with the Department of Homeland Security (particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA) quite a bit, and we have a national-level "exercise" coming up in March that will test the nation's ability to respond to a magnitude 9.2 earthquake in Alaska -- much like the one that hit 50 years ago. Hopefully we won't be plagued by further budget issues! No photo this time... It's hard to take pictures with no cameras allowed. :(

## Jess Hoffert (BNews'11)

This past August marked two years of working as a contributing editor at Midwest Living magazine. The job involves sitting at a desk about 90% of the time and getting to scout new Midwest restaurants, hotels and attractions the remaining 10%. I continue to savor that 10%.



One of the work highlights of the year was getting to take my mom on a week-long scouting trip to the Lake Erie shore of Ohio. I also co-produced the magazine's annual holiday gift guide, which is on newsstands now. Buy a copy and keep me employed!

## Heidi (Biedermann) Gojkovich (BNews'98)

I just completed my 16th year at KCCI. I continue to EP the morning newscast. It's provided a great new professional challenge for me as viewers and news organizations continue to increase their focus on morning news. It's also provided good opportunities personally to pick up my girls from school everyday and be with them until they go to bed. Hailey is 8 and in third grade, Riley is 5(by the time you read this), in preschool and will start kindergarten next fall. In case Scott Gojkovich (RTV'97) forgets to chime in, he continues as Operations Manager of the Des Moines Radio Group. He's also Brand Manager of Star 102.5 and Lite 104.1. E-M

**Paige Hulsey (BNews'11)** is employed by WAOW (TV), Wausau, as a multimedia journalist. Following graduation she taught English in China.

## Adam Ghassemi (BNews'04)

Crystal and I purchased our first home together and Carson is now an into-everything toddler. Professionally, I still report and fill-in anchor for WTVF/Nashville. She remains the PR Manager for Dollar General Corporate.



Summer storms dumped lots of rain on Middle Tennessee. It attracted the attention of the CBS Evening News. Doing a national hit from time to time is nice change of pace. I got emails/texts from Drake friends across the country. E-M

## Frank Carioti (RTV'84)

I'm now in my seventh year editing content for Harpo Studios in Chicago. Since the sunset of The Oprah Winfrey Show, I've been working on programming for the OWN Network. Along the way from camera to output, I'm cutting show elements, editing music (which I love!), mixing audio and color correcting shows for mastering. Harpo also utilizes my switcher skills as Technical Director on some studio productions. We often use two TD's, one for the show's line cut and one to switch inputs to the various screens on the set.



The kids are now 15 and 11, heavily involved with music and theater in their schools. I'm following them around and helping the groups transport their gear, much as my dad did for me when I was their age! Full circle, for sure! E-M

## Dave Melone (RTV'67)

Moved back to Des Moines area after almost 30 years in Chicagoland. Now retired, my work life took me from Chief Engineer at Fox-17, Des Moines, to corporate video and 9 years with Quantel as Midwest field engineer. Lots of travel. We now have 3 grandchildren here in Iowa.

#### E-M

Alex Kuberski (RTV'13) works as a photojournalist for KCCI.

#### Katherine Fritcke (BNews'13)

I have moved from one radio station in a basement to another. I have joined the news team at 1230 KFJB in Marshalltown, IA as a reporter and assistant news director. Even with the junior reporter status I have been able to interview and report on everything from the local library to the Governor. Maybe I should stay at radio stations in basements? They seem to treat me well.



The E-Media faculty selected Program Director Fritcke as 94-1's "Top Dog" for 2012-13.

#### Stephanie Angleson (BNews'00)

I am celebrating my 9th anniversary at WOI in Des Moines. I am still anchoring the (early) morning and midday shows. That's 3 hours of solo anchoring Monday through Friday! And I have recently been paired with Fellow Drake grad, Abraham Swee. Abraham is a very talented producer and overhauled our entire morning show. The result have been wonderful and I am enjoying the faster pace. Our company was recently bought out by Nexstar Broadcasting, so I anticipate some big changes! I have two young daughters and a bulldog, who keep me and my Husband, Jon, well entertained and occupied!

#### Paul Borucki (RTV'95)

Living in Muscatine Iowa, working as a Group Leader at HON Company. I'm back working with wood, automation, and in a management role at a great furniture manufacturer since July 2013. Prior to that I was with John Deere for over 2 years in Ankeny. I'm management's shop floor representative on 3rd shift, and the most senior manager on the overnights for the entire company. I'm in my 24th year of running my DJ business, focusing on weddings and live events across the midwest. I still do MC work, PA work, and hosted the Des Moines ADDY's a couple of years ago. I've been training as a kickboxing instructor (a new hobby) and lost over 50 pounds this year. This year's plan includes international travel, instructor certifications, more time with my family, and readjusting to a bachelor's life. E-M

**Luke Braland (RTV'13)** edits video as a production assistant for ESPN in Bristol, mainly producing game highlights.

# **E-Media** 2013

#### Marc Donnelly (RTV'96)

In May I left Target after 15+ years for a new exciting role at Cisco Systems. I'm a Network Consulting Engineer helping our customers design and implement their data center and cloud projects. I think the biggest challenge moving jobs was now my position was remote – e.g. my home office! It was a little bit of adjustment for the whole family this summer when I first started working from home. However it's been very nice and I'm enjoying it. On the family front, Paige is in 5th grade and Sam's in 2nd grade. Also both my wife Jennie and I also turned 40 this year.

#### Abraham Swee (BNews'11)

This last year at ABC5 has been a bit of blur. Moving from weekend to the five, to finally moving to the dark side this June - taking over the morning show! We completely redid the format upon my arrival and while I'm still trying to figure out my meal schedule, I thoroughly enjoy mornings. It helps that I worked with a talent team - Drake grad Stephanie Angleson and, once Drake student, Meteorologist Chris Conoan.



We're looking forward to the year ahead, what with a new owner and planned changes just around the corner. Thanks to Abraham for visiting with the 2013 DrakeLINE capstone producers.

Sara (Danzinger) Cooley (BNews'99) works in public relations at Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys where she enjoys working to give girls more opportunities to define their own futures. She and her husband Burt added to the ranks of future Girl Scouts with the addition of daughter Harper in 2012. Now a toddler, Harper and big brother Caleb keep her laughing and in need of a nap. My work also recently put me in contact with Girl Scout and current Drake Board Member Cyndi Lesher. We are planning on attending an Drake Alumnae event in the Twin Cities this year.

Since 1989, Lee Muntz (RTV'78) has served KMCD-KKFD, Fairfield, as its sports director and a weekday "combo" announcer. Muntz previously worked for KOKK, KKSI and KCII, all in Iowa.

## Keith Laug (BNews'82)

I'm turning 55 this year and having the best time. 30 years with AT&T. I'm a project manager for our Wireless Network. I've managed to keep my 'TECHNOLOGY' up to date.



Best advice I ever got from Drake was to"Stay Technical." I remember when Lytle predicted that Telephone and TV would merge. Ya know, it's not too far away when we will all be watching our favorite TV shows out of the palm of our hands on our wireless devices. Wireless TV, right to our houses. Also, me and the Mrs. downsized into an "Over-50's" community for Active Adults. That means no more grass cutting or snow shovelling. I'm proud to announce a second grandson will be born in February. **E-M** 

#### Melanie (McEwan) McDonald (BNews'93)

Early last year I was selected to be trained as a Lean/Six Sigma Green Belt, and I've been leading process improvement teams at Indiana University Health Goshen while maintaining my full-time responsibilities as public relations manager for the health system. I was recently named one of two people who will lead continuous process improvement projects full time beginning in January. It's a great challenge and a completely new direction for me.



Megan, believe it or not, is 17 and a senior. We've visited colleges and she's been accepted to IU but really wants to go to either Ohio State or Purdue (those decisions come in mid-December). She plans on becoming a math teacher. Sean is in third grade and loves Cub Scouts, building things, climbing trees, etc. **E-M** 

**Kayleigh McCullough (BNews'12)** left her Web Editor position at WHO-TV for a marketing job in St. Louis with Southwestern Hearing Centers. She wrote that they're just getting into social media and online marketing. She'll buy time for TV commercials.

## Amber Schindeldecker (BNews'03)

After applying for a master's degree program overseas and getting accepted but not qualifying for the scholarship, I decided it was a good time to start anew. I left WINK-TV in Fort Myers, and moved home to Minneapolis. I now work as a freelance producer at KARE 11 and have every intention of securing a contracted position within the coming months. In the 4 months I've been here, they've quickly plugged me in as the fill-in producer for our #1-rated 10 p.m. newscast. I've also become quite the runner over the past year and finished my first 10-mile race in October.



During October I traveled to Washington to attend a dinner and reception at the German ambassador's residence as part of RTDNA's RIAS Journalism fellowship reunion. Still not married and I still have no kids. Taking advantage of my free time while I have it.

## Darrell (RTV'83), Vicky, Kyle and Blair

**Ewalt** have called Denver home for the past 17 years. Darrell is Vice President of Production for Mark Cuban's AXS TV. He oversees production facilities in Denver, Los Angeles, Dallas and New York City. The network also produces over 500 hours of live sports and concerts each year.



Vicky is the talented Journalist in the family working on many high-level national and international news and documentary projects. Kyle attends the University of Kansas Journalism School and Blair is a high school sophomore. Ewalt visited SJMC during a business trip to Des Moines in October.

**Ben Sabal (RTV'12)** works as a seasonal shooter with the Chicago Bears video unit. Sabal was previously a videographer at KCCI, Des Moines.

# **E-Media** 2013

Kevin Waetke (BNews/RTV'86, MA'93) was named Vice President of Strategic Communications for the National Pork Board in mid-2013.



Kevin leads internal and external communications efforts. As a member of the senior management team, he also plays a critical role in defining and leading communications strategy, and delivering clear and consistent messages to the organization's 60,000+ pork producers, opinion leaders, consumers, national and trade news media and other key audiences. This fall Kevin taught a graduate workshop on crisis communications and reputation management for Drake's Masters in Communications Leadership (MCL) program.

## Tammy (Erlandson) Votava (BNews'08) and Greg Votava (BNews'09)

Greg left his job at Simpson College after 3 years for a new position as Digital Marketing Director at Des Moines Performing Arts. He is enjoying the new challenges so far as he develops and manages all digital and online communications for the Marketing Department. Tammy is a Digital Content Manager at Link Strategies, where she conducts traditional and video research on political candidates across the nation and manages the digital asset management system. We are enjoying our new home and recently celebrated our one-year anniversary as Johnston residents. **E-M** 

## Brittany Weiss (BNews'09)

Baton Rouge has been my home for a year and a half. I was named 4 p.m. anchor and nightside reporter at WBRZ in August. Playing golf year-round in shorts surely is nice.



## Sara Van Aernum (BNews'01)

I'm a year & a half into my stint as Executive Producer of *Good Morning Washington*. We've gone from 4th place to 3rd place. Two days into the November 2013 book, we're a strong #2. I continue to travel the world. This year my big vacations took me to Maui for 10 days and on safari in South Africa for a week. I look forward to seeing where 2014 takes me. **E-M** 

Mark Stevens (BNews'10) was promoted to investigative reporter at KWQC-TV, Davenport. He reads more obscure documents than he knew existed, crunches data sets that shouldn't exist, and pesters people to make television. He's still a one-man band, which can be challenging, but he loves the reward of having complete creative control over his final product. Mark plays the tuba in his free time and proudly wears the Tubachristmas hat every winter. He wears a plain blue Carhartt hat on TV during snowstorms for those who are wondering.

## Alexandra (Sweet) Bayer (BNews/RTV'95)

I'm still with a biotech company in South San Francisco called Prothena Biosciences and I am the Contracts Manager and the sole member of the Legal Department. Husband Al and daughter Madison are doing wonderful. Madison just turned 2 years old on October 21st.



E-M

## Robert Garon (RTV'12)

Since graduating from Drake I have been working as an independent contractor. I work for multiple production houses and theaters. The highlight thus far has been working main stage video crew at Rocklahoma 2013 music festival. Fifteen bands performed on the main stage and included Gun N' Roses, Alice in Chains, Cheap Trick and Korn.

Jim Ashton (BNews'68) visited campus with his wife and son during summer 2012 and has maintained contact since. Ashton reports he won the Spring Training Correspondent Contest sponsored by KMOX, St. Louis. Jim was scheduled to help the station cover Cardinals spring training by interviewing players, attending news conferences and otherwise becoming immersed in the process.

## Alexa Horwart (BNews'08)

This past summer I married the love of my life, earned a master's degree in public policy, and started my dream job. I am the Health Equity Organizer for a nonprofit in Minnesota that uses community organizing methods to work toward racial and economic equity in the state. I still use journalism skills learned at Drake to effectively communicate a vision for a better Minnesota through my work (i.e. lots of writing, website, and social media work!).

## Cameron Good (RTV'13)

I've had the great opportunity to work for my hometown Chicago Bears as a Seasonal Video Editor/3D Graphics Designer.



My main roles include: Creating content for the videoboard at Soldier Field on game days, Editing segments for our TV shows and Chicagobears.com, and assist in producing Live TV programs in our brand new Broadcast studio. Specifically, my productions range from creating highlight videos, player sit-down interviews, TV Show segments to building 3D Graphics for stadium fan prompts, sponsored advertisements and Show elements.

## Mark Carlson (BNews'10)



I am entering my fourth year at KCRG-TV in Cedar Rapids. This past year my title was changed to "Iowa City Bureau Chief." Essentially I continue to cover southeast Iowa and work out of the Iowa City office located in downtown. The town never seems to sleep and when hard news is slow odd news is not. It has been a great place to work and live! I still love the job. Every day is different and I don't mind getting up for work, unless I get stuck on a story about gas prices.

# **E-Media 2013**

## Zach Tecklenburg (BNews'09)

In August I left KSHB, Kansas City, for a job in consumer research in the Twin Cities. That got old really fast, so I returned to news.



I'm producing at KSTP in St. Paul and trying to survive my first Minnesota winter.

#### In August, J. C. (Jerome) Crane (RTV'91)

was inducted into his Mendel Catholic College Preparatory High School Hall of Fame. This was J.C.'s second nomination for the Chicago school's Alumni Hall of Fame. He became the first of his 127-member graduating class to be inducted. Other notable Mendel High School alumni include Peter Cetera, the former lead singer of the rock group Chicago, and Bill Callahan, the current Offensive Coordinator of the NFL Dallas Cowboys.



## E-M

## Lindsay Reinert (RTV'04)

I've been in Denver for a little over a year now working as the Marketing and Promotions Director for Hot AC Alice 105.9 (KALC-FM). I work with Matt Haeger (RTV'06) who is the Creative Services Director for Entercom Denver. I'm so thankful that I had the opportunity to move out here – there is so much to love from the beautiful weather, powder days, Red Rocks and Peyton Manning!



## Laurel (Bower) Burgmaier (BNews'95)

Things have been great at Iowa Public Television. I completed the documentary I'd been working on for a few years about the Farm Crisis of the 1980s. This past July, there was a premiere at the State Historical Museum. The program was well received with a standing ovation at the end. The best part was seeing the reactions of people who were in the documentary, and, the narrator, NBC correspondent Harry Smith surprised us all with an appearance! It was the best experience of my career.



I am busy with another one-hour documentary about the Sidey family and the Adair County Free Press, a four generation newspaper in Greenfield, Iowa. It will debut in March 2014. My family is doing well. Our daughter Halle turned 4 in August and fills our days with much joy.

## Joe Scavo (RTV'10)

I received a bachelor's degree along with my youngest son, Jeremy. July marked my 31st year of employment at Drake. Job titles and departments changed over the years, eventually settling in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 1995, as Systems Administrator. This is a great time to be working with technology that is only limited by our imagination. Who would imagine 15 years ago the concept of Facebook could be used to constructively contribute to an instructional program? Taking 27 years to complete a degree seems like a long time, and it is. It took a lot of encouragement from faculty and staff. By the way, that work helped me figure out why it's important to take history or geography. Currently I'm a Masters of Public Administration candidate in the College of Business and Public Administration at Drake.

E-M

Jennifer Marnowski (BNews'89) is a News Booker/Researcher/Producer for McGraw-Hill Broadcasting's KUSA, Denver.

Jamie (Dorrell) Skluzacek (RTV'08) passed her real estate license during September. She's a fashion and pageant runway coach for The Peak Agency, Des Moines.

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**Allie LeClair (RTV'12)** works for the 2013 Super Bowl-winning Baltimore Ravens.



Yes, that's the real trophy.

**Stephanie (May) Bidney (RTV'99)** married in 2009 to Sarah Bidney and they're rearing 3-year-old Katelynn. Stephanie at last report was Digital Project Manager for MC Interactive in Urbandale.



E-M

**Tom Kroeschell (BNews'82)** has new responsibilities at Iowa State University. He moved from Athletics Communication director to the new position as director of Broadcast Scheduling with Cyclones.tv.



Kroeschell visited Meredith Hall while conducting some Relays business during April. E-M

During June, **Sharyljit Kaur (BNews'12)** was hired as an assistant editor for BFM 89.9, Malaysia's only independent radio station, focusing on current affairs and business news. BFM operates multiple transmitters in the region. She previously worked for Penang Monthly Magazine as an assistant editor.

**Cassie Bishop (BNews'13)** works for Teach For America in San Antonio, Cassie spent the summer in a training institute.

# **E-Media** 2013

**Christy (Callahan) Pfiefer (RTV'78)** and daughter Kelsey (RTV'16) visited during a March production day for the capstone newscast DrakeLINE. Pfiefer left the world of TV news anchoring for Northern Base Enterprises, Milwaukee, where her work includes marketing and media relations.



E-M

#### Chris Parrish (BNews'05)

I'm the 5 p.m. producer at WHDH-TV and it's been a wild year. The craziness began in April with the Boston Marathon bombing. I was the producer in the booth as soon as the blasts went off and spent the next four hours trying to figure out what happened. I was also in the booth the moment they captured the surviving bomber. I've never witnessed something like that in my life and I hope I never do again. We stayed busy the rest of the year. The trial of Whitey Bulger captured the nation's attention. We also had a couple of championship-level sports team (Bruins and Red Sox) with one of those making it to a championship parade. When I wasn't in the newsroom, I was spending time with my wife Catie (Bielecki, SJMC'08) and our 2-yearold rescue dog Gus.



Chris visited with J173 Broadcast Reporting students during April to describe his work. Lest they forget, Parrish played offensive line for the Bulldogs and as a senior co-anchored the DrakeLINE capstone newscast.

I have just graduated AGAIN with a paralegal degree, wrote **Kimberly (Smith) Terry** (**BNews'93**) during May. Kim and her brother, Sam, own a semi-pro football team in the Dallas area. They also operate Laud Jewelers, Addison, Texas, and other enterprises. **Paul Ellis (RTV'89), Kyle Martin (RTV'90)** and Rob Sobkoviak (RTV'90) met for a mini-reunion during Relays at George the Chili King. Ellis sells real estate in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area, Martin program manages and announces for KFJB, Marshalltown, and Sobkoviak toils for Discover Financial Services in Riverwoods, Ill. Thanks to Paul for sharing the link to WHO-TV's first *Eyewitness News At 6* in August 1977, with **Phil Thomas (RTV'68)** at the controls.



E-M

Peter Taylor (RTV'94) has operated PCT Productions in the Chicago area for 10 years. He shoots, edits and produces various videos. He also serves as a Game Day video assistant for the Chicago Wolves Hockey Team.

Lauren Ehrler (BNews'13)



I made the move out to Washington in July to begin a six-month desk assistant program at the PBS NewsHour. I work with the online team to get each night's broadcast content from on-air to online. The online team has made a lot of changes since I started, so it's been fun to be a part of the process as they strive to restructure how NewsHour posts their content. (Side note: NewsHour's Creative Director spearheading the online team's endeavors is SJMC Magazines alum Travis Daub!) My time is up in January so I'm seeking another opportunity in D.C. post-PBS. My lease tells me I am in Washington until September 2014. **E-M** 

Jerry Vancini (RTV'91) directs newscasts for KUSA (TV), Denver. For a 14th consecutive year, 9NEWS captured the Colorado Broadcasters Association Metro Market Station of the Year award for 2013. KUSA received 31 awards including 18 first place awards, more than any station in the CBA's history. Stephanie (Pettit) Coy (BNews'05) visited campus during September. Yes, she's still teaching piano lessons.

**Dan Bolsem (RTV'97)** left KCCI to open Top Deck Media in Des Moines, a full-service production house.



Bolsem visited SJMC and J114 students during October.

Katie (Willeke) Cothron (BNews'02) has recently transitioned out of the world of TV news she'd been living in 11+ years. She recently accepted a job with Northwest R-I School District in Jefferson County, MO, a suburb of her beloved St. Louis. She not only loves having a Monday through Friday 8-4 job, but the opportunity to enjoy spending time with her husband, Shawn, and nearly 2-year-old daughter, Sydney. A favorite time together this summer included a trip to Europe. They spent two weeks in southern Germany and Paris. The family looks forward to freedom away from the newsroom!

#### J.D. Fox (RTV'05)

I am in the midst of my fourth year as the Operations Manager at Stretch Internet, now based in Gilbert, AZ, and our audio/video streamingbased company continues to grow exponentially. We just completed our new 3,000 square foot network operations center, which I was heavily involved in the architectural layout of, and also oversaw all aspects of construction. My calling card on the project was the QAM video distribution system that basically turns the entire building into a sports bar (all controlled via iPad Mini). We have also exceeded 400 colleges and universities served with our product on either the athletics or institutional side, including 17 (at last count) inside of Iowa, and two inside the Des Moines city limits (AIB and Grand View). I will be at NAB if anyone wants to catch up. E-M

Dave Zawilinski (RTV'05) has entered his second year as sports director for WOI-TV, Des Moines. Joey Donia (BNews'07) also reports and anchors sports for ABC5.

# **E-Media** 2013

Jill Zwagerman (BNews'99) works for Newkirk Law Firm, Des Moines, as a civil rights and employment law attorney. In a full-column opinion piece published July 18 in The Des Moines Register, Jill urged all of us to assure that the Iowa Legislature write laws that protect citizens from discrimination and retaliation. She was commenting on two Supreme Court cases that interpreted Iowa's 1965 Civil Rights Act. E-M

#### Ankita Dhussa (RTV'13)

I moved to Los Angeles to join the online streaming company, Hulu, full-time after spending summer 2012 with them as an intern. Work has been fun, challenging and incredibly rewarding. A very different side of video, but definitely the direction in which the industry is going and it's great to be part of the changes and learn the new tricks of the trade. Slowly getting settled and used to life in LA, but having a job I love and being surrounded by good people makes that much easier! Also, I can't complain when I run along the beach in the mornings before work and it's in the 70's mid-November.

**David Lubbers (BNews'86)** visited J100 class Nov. 13 to discuss his work as a full-

class Nov. 13 to discuss his work as a full-time contract producer for ESPN and show his latest work featuring one-time quarterback Bobby San Jose whose life had turned sour.



Lubbers' investigations appear on *Outside The Lines*. He also serves on SJMC's National Advisory Council.

Audrey (Reed) Grainger (BNews'96) is a cofounder of 70kft marketing and public relations in Dallas. While in Des Moines on a business trip Oct. 7, Audrey and two employees briefly stopped by SJMC.

Neil Rubenstein (RTV'81) works as executive producer for the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, especially with video, television and AV support. Neil reminds us he played in the band Outfit in the late '70s and in 1979 produced a music video in the Meredith TV studio. SJMC's first? **Paul Taylor (BNews'84)** visited SJMC while in Iowa to attend his dad's Sept. 4 funeral in Grinnell. Noel Taylor was 96.



#### Alice (Keefer) Edwards (BNews'93)

Sadly, I divorced a couple of years ago, but, I'm still a mom to my BRILLIANT 1st grader, David. I tease that I am raising Sheldon from Big Bang Theory. He started doing long division prior to 1st grade. They've put him in special math classes and he's in the gifted program (usually they do not put them in this program until 3rd grade). He's extremely creative too; he loves to write ghost stories and the kids in his class always request that David read what he writes.



I am seriously dating a guy I went to high school with, Jason Beers (Davy loves him and his two kids). Jason is a teacher and a musician/composer. I thought you might enjoy the documentary. He composed and performed the music. He is about to compose some music for a independent feature movie. I'm still plugging away as an attorney for the Army Corps of Engineers. I was hit by the sequester cuts/ furlough this summer (which means I did NOT get retroactively paid as the ones who were furloughed in October). First time I was not happy with my job in 13 years!

Chuck Reed (RTV'85) continues as Radio Voice of Drake Football and PR manager for the American Cancer Society in Iowa. E-M

Tami Wiencek (BNews'84) directs the Digital Communication program at William Penn University, Oskaloosa. She also manages the related Commuication Research Institute which among other endeavors produces a weekly hyper-local cable TV newscast.

## Check out 941thedog.com

### Tony Tandeski (BNews'08)

I'm the executive producer at WBAY-TV in Green Bay. I've worked at the station for over three and a half years, first as a producer. I'm really enjoying my experience on the news management track and am currently focused on expanding the station's digital and social media presence. Outside of work, I'm loving the Wisconsin life and taking in a Packers game here and there when I can. Though I thought my time as a student had passed, I've recently continued my educational experience in web design and development, and social media. Besides that, I keep busy by volunteering for several community organizations, exploring the outdoors and traveling.



#### E-M

Natalie Linville-Mass (BSales'92) visited SJMC during March to attend Prof. Dorothy Pisarski's advertising media class and discuss her company Media Link's products.



Natalie reported business is good in Rock Island.

#### Tisleen Singh (RTV'10)

I'm in my fourth year in the Office of Admission at Drake and still loving it just as much as I did the first year. This year I've gotten heavily involved in recruiting for football and men's basketball. It's been a very fun addition to my job and learning about NCAA recruiting is a new world for me! I've also found myself getting more involved around campus and in the community. I'm finishing up my masters at Drake this summer and am excited to see what's ahead. In other news, my sister gets married over the Thanksgiving holiday and it's been a fun experience as I've been relying on my Radio/TV friends to get back into editing some videos for the couple. That love for video will never go away!

## **E-Media** 2013

Jessica (Roberts) Lown (BNews'04) recently changed jobs. After more than 6 years as the primary public information officer for the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Jessica accepted a job at Des Moines-based advertising agency, ZLRIGNITION.



She serves as a PR Account Supervisor, helping clients create dynamic content for their web-based and social media platforms, as well as conduct media relations. Jessica is also pursuing her Masters of Science in Journalism and Communication at Iowa State. Her thesis will focus on the intersection between citizen journalists and public relations professionals. Thanks to Jessica for serving on SJMC's National Advisory Council.

## Eric Michel (RTV'08) and Abbie Hamilton

(RTV'09) have started new careers in Washington, DC. After graduating law school and passing the bar exam this past summer, Eric started a new job as an attorney for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency that regulates all civilian use of nuclear materials. The work is exciting, and right in line with the long-standing interest I've always held in environmental and energy policy. I've also continued to write in areas outside of my job. In the past year I've had two legal articles published and will hopefully have a third early next year that discusses federal antitrust and labor law within Major League Baseball. Abbie writes that it was difficult leaving the production company in Chicago where she'd spent four years. In hr words, I'm using this opportunity in our nation's capital to hopefully return to my journalism roots. Right now I'm searching for non-profit or television news full-time opportunities, but have been freelancing in various digital media roles. For example, I recently spent a week at the World Bank in downtown D.C. working as a digital media technician during the online broadcast of their annual meetings. E-M

#### Ramona Palmer-Eason (RTV'93)

Alphonso and I welcomed the birth of our third son, Nehemiah, this summer. I am still employed as Counsel for Payless ShoeSource, focusing on Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation, Labor and Employment and Corporate.

#### Amy Schmelzer (RTV'96)



Still working at KCCI in Des Moines. Still directing the 6 & 10 p.m shows. Won another Upper Midwest Regional Emmy (3rd). And I'm pretty sure I got officially old this year when I hired Arthur Wright and realized I'd known his dad longer than he had. Thanks to Amy for serving on SJMC's National Advisory Council. She joined a National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences-sponsored panel at Drake April 19 that focused on new technology. NPPA President and WHO-TV Chief Photojournalist **Mike Borland (RTV)** helped organize the session.



Thanks to Borland for leading another critique session of J100 Field Photography stories during October.

Van Harden (RTV'73) hosted J73 Radio News students during fall semester.



In what's become tradition, Harden conducted a tour of the Clear Channel facilities on Grand Avenue followed by a question-answer session in the facility's blue-hued "Drake Conference Room." (Yes, there are Cyclone and Hawkeye rooms.) Van has served WHO-AM and Sports Station KXnO 1460 as program director for 26 years. He's also a multiple Marconi Award co-host of WHO's highly rated morning drive program.

#### Kristen (Foster) Fink (BNews'06)

We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of our move to Vladivostok! Our first Russian winter was exactly as cold as we thought it would be, but the warm Russian summer was delightfully unexpected. We have done a lot of traveling recently, beginning in August when we arrived home just in time for me to spend an evening handing out water bottles in the Drake tent at the Iowa State Fair. Since then I have added four new countries to my list of visited places, with another expected in February.



My husband has enjoyed his first year+ of work for the U.S. State Department, and I have kept myself busy with a part-time job at the Consulate and volunteer teaching two days a week at a local Russian school. My journalism skills have also come in handy as I have been shooting a monthly cooking show about American foods made with local Russian ingredients. (You can find it on the U.S. Consulate Vladivostok YouTube page if you're interested in a good laugh.) We also still update teguciwhat.com. Photo shows Chris and me on a recent trip to Hong Kong.

## Lee Carey (RTV'77) operates

Carey+Company media consulting ("We do it all") following a 20-year producing career with Twin Cities Public Television.



Lee's also a loyal member of SJMC's National Advisory Council.

Donna (Kubis) Tweeten (RTV'85) Vice President, Marketing/Communications, Hy-Vee, Inc. West Des Moines.

Erin (Moody) Kiernan) BNews'96 anchors 5, 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts for WHO-TV, Des Moines. She also reports, as time permits.

# **E-Media 2013**

### Jill (Lingwall) Farmer (RTV/BNews'91)

had her first book published this year. *There's Not Enough Time... And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves* debuted in the Top-10 of Amazon's "time-management" category when it hit the

shelves. Jill spent 2013 helping people learn the secrets to peaceful productivity. In early 2014, Jill has been asked to speak at a national event with Maria Shriver and Martha Beck. Jill and husband John (AS '92) will bring their 17-year-old daughter to tour



Drake. Her parents are very happy DU is on the short list.

## Sheldon Ripson (BNews'83)

My update would involve completing an Executive MBA at Washington University in St. Louis in May. The class voted me "Most Inspirational" for some reason and then made me deliver the student commencement speech. While in the midst of that 20-month endeavor, I hung out a shingle to help companies with communications strategy. That involves applications of the many things I learned at Drake and in the 30 years (ugh) since. The three kids are growing like a batch of weeds and Jacki is the rock that keeps our brood on solid and grace-filled footing.

## Jonathon Quinn (RTV'10)

In March of this year, I began working at Sundog Studios in Des Moines as Multimedia Producer and Videographer. In my position, I direct the department and produce, shoot and edit videos and multimedia projects for external clients and in-house marketing. I've already hired a few Drake Students as PA's. Before taking this new job, I ran my own company, Quinn Digital Media, and traveled throughout the Midwest and the U.S. for my work. The switch has allowed me access to equipment and clients that I could only dream of before. When not working, I enjoy racing my Mazda Miata and spending time with my wife, Rachel Vogel Quinn (Mags'10). We live in Des Moines with our two kittens.



## Rebekah Maxwell (BNews'10)

Almost seven years ago, Professor Lytle asked if anyone was interested in a part-time gig at WHO Radio, minimum wage, good experience. I raised my hand. Now, I work in the same city, for the same show, on the same station...along with about 70 other stations across the country each night. My business card says "Executive Producer" for the nationally-syndicated Steve Deace Show. We're broadcasting our unique blend of politics and world view in six of the top ten markets now (and we're working on the other four). We get the excitement of the first-in-the-nation caucuses all year long, as the whole world is already waiting on 2016. And I've got a front-row seat and a microphone? I couldn't ask for much more. E-M

#### Andrea (Froehlich) McMaster (BNews'98)

I am beginning my third year at the Minneapolis agency Media Minefield. It's the perfect job outside of TV news and the job gives me more time with our growing family (we now have 3 girls).



Media Minefield's clients range from non profits and ministries to a theatre production company and financial professionals. Our company has clients all over the nation so I've worked with several Drake alumni in different television markets, and I'm always appreciative of the Drake connection.

## E-M

### **Tony Tracy (BNews'10)** My fiancee Hannah and I are rapidly approaching our final semester at Creighton University School of Law. I have just completed an exciting semester-long internship in Health Care Compliance at Nebraska Methodist Health Systems. Health Care law is changing drastically under the Affordable Care Act, and getting to know the details of the ACA has been very rewarding! Hannah has recently accepted a law clerk position for next semester with the United States 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, and I'm very proud of her! Our dog Harvey is now about 1.5 years old and continues to entertain us among our busy days of studying! We are both excited to become practicing attorneys, but the Bar exam is a constant reminder that we aren't quite there yet.

## Anamarie Rebori (BNews'09)

Hello again from Washington, DC. This past year has been an eventful year, both personally and professionally. I continue to work for Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, and at the beginning of the year moved into the role of New Media director. As director, I've had the opportunity to help improve and grow Sen. McCaskill's online presence through social media, videos (putting that broadcast degree to work!) and photography. I've been with the senator for nearly four years now, including her exciting reelection in 2012. Needless to say, every day is different and I'm still learning along the way.



On a personal note, I've slowly taken up photography and blogging as hobbies. I also manage to spend time chasing after my newly adopted puppy. Oh, and I was lucky enough to get engaged to my boyfriend-turned-fiancee of three years. Jeff and I are planning to wed in the fall of 2014.

Kelly Shoff (BNews'90), executive producer, KETV, Omaha.

Todd Jones (BNews'83), director of Marketing and Public Relations, Des Moines Area Community College.

#### Stephanie Sanyour (BNews'12)

In 2013 I joined Gannett as a contributing reporter and have been writing about a wide range of topics for Juice magazine. I also went to Chicago for a conference for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and had interviews with CNN, Telemundo, Univision, and The Chicago Tribune. I'm currently looking to make my return to TV.



# **E-Media 2013**

## Melissa (Gundlah) Hintz (BNews'86)

Media Director, Trone Brand Energy, High Point, North Carolina. Trone was recently named Small Agency of the Year for the Southeast Region by Advertising Age.



Melissa visited SJMC during her Thanksgiving break in Iowa.

#### Jaime Thies (BNews'10)

2013 was a year of change. In February, I moved from producing at ABC5 in West Des Moines to a Marketing Communications Coordinator position at Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield. It has definitely been a transition, but in the end, I'm still doing what I love to do on the "dark side"; writing and keeping people informed. I will admit, however, that on days where a big news story is developing, it's hard for me to pull myself away from my AP Alerts and memories of my days in the newsroom.

## **David Miller (A&S'82)** hosted JMC100 students during fall semester, marking the 20th time this class has visited Iowa Public Television. Miller's 30 years' experience at IPTV included studio and field production.



One of David's greatest responsibilities these days involves producing the nationally syndicated *Market To Market*. IPTV recently completed a \$40-million HD conversion.

Neil Kyer (RTV'95), video editor, Iowa Public Television.

Autumn Moore (RTV'12) relocated to California and edits for MEGA MACE production house. The company specializes in fitness videos.

## Scott Lindgren (BNews/RTV'95) owns

Videofoot Productions in Kane County, Ill. His company offers video and photo transfer, wedding video and other services.

#### Jennifer Maniscalco (BNews'95)

I am on the leadership board of the Chicago Chapter of Chicago+Acumen. It's a group that stands for alleviating poverty by tackling big issues in the developing world and leveraging the buying power of those communities to drive the change. Can you see how having everyday staples like running water, healthcare, and education provide you with a sense of DIGNITY? On a separate but in my mind related note, I am proud to inform you that I've contributed to the newly released book Raising Global Children. The non-fiction book delves into the education of our children in the U.S. and explains how closing the gap that we have today in global thinking will allow our children to be better problem solvers and leaders in the future.

#### E-M

## Angie Hunt (BNews'98

Communication specialist, Iowa State University News Services.

## E-M

## Christy Wittmer (RTV'12)

Producer-announcer, KLMJ (FM), Hampton, IA.

## E-M

### Joe Barlow (BNews'10)

Since August 2011, WCIA-TV, Champaign, storyteller and fill-in host. Joe produces what he terms "engaging long-form stories." His original franchises include "On the Spot" and "Joe, Do My Job."

E-M

#### Geoff Greenwood (BNews'88)

I'm now in my third year as the Communications Director at the Iowa Attorney General's office, after a long, great run at KCCI. While I miss the breaking news adrenaline rush, I very much enjoy riding out the winter in a warm office! I also enjoy interacting with reporters from all over the state and beyond on myriad topics. My son John is a freshman, and my daughter Mollie is a senior. So my wife Carrie and I have been spending some time with our daughter on the college trail.

Mary Milz (BNews'83) serves as Citybeat reporter for WTHR, Indianapolis. Mary's first professional TV reporting experience came in Midland, Texas, before returning to WHO-TV, Des Moines. Her last stop before WTHR was in San Francisco.

Brendan Mark (BNews'06) is executive producer for WSMV, Nashville, since May 2010. Pat Parris (BNews'87), anchor-reporter, Fox Sports Midwest, St. Louis. E-M

#### Ciera Lundgren (BNews'12)

It's been more than a year since I walked across the stage and I'm happy to report I'm doing what I love. I'm still a producer at WHO-HD in Des Moines. This past year I have gone through a few schedule changes. I got off the early morning shift and started producing the weekend evening shows. Now I just got promoted to producing the 6 o'clock newscast Monday through Friday and finally got off the weekends. I feel fortunate and blessed to work with some of the best people in the business and can't wait to see what next year will be like.

## E-M

## Julie Mann (BNews'89)

In my 3rd year as Managing Editor, we were honored with the NAB's Marconi Award for Legendary Station. The news coverage in 2013

was as diverse as the Chicago area itself and the resignation and election of a Pope and the



high profile murder of a 15-year-old Chicago honor student who had just returned from the inauguration of President Obama. Her death eventually placed Chicago into the national spotlight for its gun violence. In May we were pounded by record breaking flooding on top of the breaking news of the bombing at the Boston Marathon. Illinois Senator Mark Kirk ascended the steps to the Senate after a year away recovering from a stroke. The Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup for the second time in three seasons. The owner of the Cubs fought their neighbors over renovations to Wrigley Field and the title of the country's tallest building went from Chicago's Willis tower to New York's One World Trade Center. Illinois Congressman Jessie Jackson Jr. and his wife Alderman Sandi Jackson were federally charged and sentenced to time in prison. We also lost two international icons, film critic Roger Ebert and more recently renowned chef Charlie Trotter. I love covering the news and Chicago is the best place for it. I admit, I miss street reporting. And yes, I could use a vacation. E-M

#### Katherine Rupp (BNews'09)

After working at Midwest Living magazine in Des Moines for about five vears (with fellow BNews-er Jess Hoffert for the last two). I decided - rather than getting my Masters for Sports Journalism in England (for which I had been accepted) - to take an offer from TMP Worldwide in Chicago. I have enjoyed my work as Social Media and Content Specialist at the marketing and advertising agency. I also started writing a weekly column for Soccer Newsday.

## **E-Media 2013**

Randy Beamer (BNews'81) is the awardwinning co-anchor on four weekday newscasts and a photojournalist for WOAI, San Antonio. Beamer has shot and reported worldwide. A National Merit Scholar at Drake, he's won five Emmys, an Edward R. Murrow Award and many other awards for reporting, anchoring, photography and commentary. E-M

University of Texas Assistant Journalism Professor Mary Bock (BNews'86) is a former journalist with research interests that include photographic practice and digital media. Mary reported for KCCI then she joined WPVI (TV), Philadelphia, as an assignment editor and field producer. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009. E-M

## Danielle Sauka (BNews'09)

I'm moving to Milwaukee! I've accepted a producer position at Today's TMJ4 starting January 2nd, producing weekends and associate producing my other three days! I've spent two and a half years producing a mix of morning and weekend newscasts at KCCI. It's been a great experience, but I decided it was time for a new adventure! E-M

Dave Kelly (BNews'81) continues as Director of Advanced Media Production at Cal State Long Beach. Kelly supervises a staff of media professionals producing documentaries and public affairs programming for Southern California's educational cable TV audience.



A documentary Kelly wrote and produced about the current expansion of the Panama Canal won a 2012 national award from the Alliance for Community Media. The award winning documentary has been featured on the California Channel and on Colorado Public Television. Recently, Kelly has begun hosting a new talk show about innovative academic research, community service, and important issues that affect Southern California's communities. In his spare time he continues to train and compete in 5K fun runs for charitable causes. E-M

Scott Huskey (RTV'75), vice president, Rusty Walker Programming Services.

#### Jack Doles (RTV'86)

Grand Rapids WOOD-TV's Sports Director has covered every major sporting event since joining 24 Hour News 8 in 1990. He's covered four Olympic games plus the Rose Bowl, the NCAA Final Four, the NBA Finals, the Ryder Cup and two baseball All-Star Games.



Jack has won three Edward R. Murrow awards for sports reporting. He's also won five Emmys and numerous AP and Michigan Broadcasters awards. Jack began as an intern at WHO-TV. E-M

## Kailyn (Reid) Watson (BNews'05)

This was a fun year in the Watson home! My husband and I welcomed our first child, Macy, in June and have loved every minute with her.



On the job front, I just passed six and a half years as a public relations specialist for the Omaha Public Schools. We have a great deal of new leadership this year, so the district is working on formulating a strategic plan, which will include changes to our communication strategies. We've already started using social media channels more frequently, introduced a smart phone app to more easily communicate with parents, and are working closely with the IT department to revamp the district's website. E-M

Tad Unruh (RTV'13) and Catherine Moede (RTV'13) teach this year in Chongquing, China. Drake University's Teach in China program places graduates from all disciplines in five cities. E-M

DRAKELINE.COM ARCHIVES We've invested considerable time and energy to archive our capstone newscasts DrakeLINE and FOCUS (remember that one?). Take a look.

#### Barbara Kao (BNews'03)



I took a year off from the company and stayed in Mexico till April. It was a great year to refresh my mind and have some moments for myself. I returned to Taipei, quit my job and decided to do something more. So, here I am in Dubai, working as an Ad sales manager in ITP Publishing Group focusing on Asian Technology market. It's very challenging and fun. As a newcomer, I always try to find out where to go and what to eat, so far I enjoy the life here. Dubai has won the bid to host World EXPO 2020! I am looking forward to have more fun! **E-M** 

### Noelle Smith (BNews'13)

With degrees in Broadcast News and Politics, I wanted to merge my interests as a political communicator. I moved to Washington, DC. and work as a Press Intern for my home district representative, Tim Walz (MN-01). I collate daily press clips, draft tweets and monthly newsletters, compile press reports and maintain press lists. I also write event briefings and constituent letters on a regular basis. I've learned a lot about policy making and constituent communications. My internship wraps up in December so I am looking for another pressrelated position in D.C.

**Glen Biermann (RTV'89)** works as a photojournalist for KCCI (TV), Des Moines.



The picture shows me and reporter Eric Hanson in DC accepting a National First-Place award from the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi for Feature Reporting. Our story "Who are those guys?" documented a Simpson College fraternity that cheers for small-town football teams. Thanks to Glen for his regular visits to J100 to share hints about lighting.

# **E-Media** 2013

Jeanette (Hofer) Kreutner (BNews'80) is the Quality Assurance Manager for Syncbak, Inc. Syncbak is a media technology company that has created products that empower television networks and TV stations to distribute licensed content over the Internet to viewers on all mobile devices. Its investors include CBS, the National Association of Broadcasters and the Consumer Electronics Association. Syncbak's customers reach households in 97% of the United States. It employs 25 top notch engineers and technology specialists in its headquarters in Marion, Iowa.

#### Austin "AJ" Harrison (BNews'12)

After working for a year at the University of Tulsa in its media relations department, I received a chance to return to the Midwest to work in the athletic communications department at the University of Wisconsin.



I'm the athletic communications contact for the four-time national champion Wisconsin women's hockey program along with the track and field and cross country programs. It's been different going from a school that was the size of Drake to a school with more than 40,000 students, but I have enjoyed every second in Madison. I've learned a lot about hockey, and am looking forward to traveling with our track team to the Drake Relays this year.

**Ray Atwood (BNews'89)** was ordained for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in 1994. He is pastor of Prince of Peace Cluster consisting of St. Paul's Parish, Traer, St.Mary's Parish,

Eagle Center, and Sacred Heart Parish, LaPorte City. Father Ray authored two books on the history of preaching: Masters of Preaching: The Most Poignant and Powerful Homilists in Church History (2011), and Masters of Preaching: More Poignant and Powerful Homilisits in



Church History. Volume Two (2013). I have used my Drakeacquired editing skills in writing and speaking for years. It is a tremendous asset.

**Bob Uhlar (BNews'78)** teaches, preaches and writes in his position as senior minister for Unity Church, Indianapolis. Long road from your radio news position in Le Mars following graduation, Bob! Popular SJMC instructor Rick Tapscott died Dec. 1 of complications from a fast-growing cancer. Tapscott taught reporting and writing classes at Drake since 2007 after retiring from a career that included the Washington Post, the Des Moines Register and the Wilmington, Del., News Journal. The qualities that made him a successful editor also made him a much-loved teacher and mentor: intelligence, patience, wisdom, kindness, integrity and a dry, wry sense of humor.



Family, colleagues and students, past and present, met in Meredith Hall Dec. 6 to share memories. Rick's family asked that memorial contributions be directed to an SJMC scholarship fund in his name.

Shannon Kerr (BNews'13) works at Pioneer in Johnston as an HR Assistant while Jacque Grewe (RTV'13) works in sales support for the seven-station Des Moines Radio Group. Shannon and Jacqueline live in Des Moines but they aspire to move to Colorado.



Jax would love to be a ski instructor in her free time and Shannon would just like to learn how to ski.



We processed photos for this newsletter at 72 dpi. They'll look terrible printed.

# **E-Media** 2013