

The Cal Press

High school support ranks high in survey

Funds for a high school journalism mentoring project were approved by the board of the California Press Association at its July 25 meeting following an online survey recommending the program.

Some 69 percent of the 56 people responding to the 13-question July survey said they favored Steve O'Donoghue's proposal of Cal Press providing \$20,000 to mentor high school journalism instructors as a way of ensuring that high school newspa-

pers thrive. About 31 percent said Cal Press shouldn't be involved with this project.



O'Donoghue

The complete results of the survey, plus comments by those taking the survey, are available on the Cal Press website. This was the second survey by the board; the first asked whether the organization should continue, as there appeared to be a lack of interest by its membership.

Citing support for continuance of the organization after the results of the first survey were tabulated, Cal Press

president Bruce Brugmann called for a second survey asking its membership and others where Cal Press should be focusing its energies.

Other questions included evaluating the association's role and mission statement and whether both were still acceptable, discussion on the group's December meeting in San Francisco, and how Cal Press should spend its money.

To view the survey results, including member comments, go to at <http://www.cnpa.com/CalPress/calpress/index.htm>

New mentor program launched

A contribution from Cal Press will fund four mentor-coach positions in the state to help train and support teachers assigned to journalism in the public high schools

Coordinator of the Cal Press Mentor program will be Steve O'Donoghue, a former Oakland high school teacher and journalism adviser. His work in recent years has dealt chiefly with the logistics of local support for high school advisers in the classroom.

The Cal Press contribution will help to expand this work.

O'Donoghue is looking for retired journalism teachers, journalists or publishers who want to work with new and inexperienced journalism

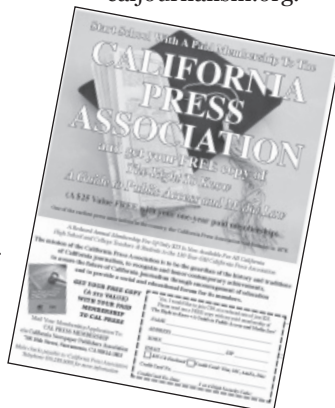


First Cal Press mentors include Rick Brown, left, and Bernadette Tucker.

teachers to help improve their practice and encourage them to continue teaching and advising student publications. There is a \$2,500 annual stipend for mentors. Contact O'Donoghue at (415) 509-1518 or steveod@caljournalism.org.

Your outreach opportunity

Cal Press extends membership to advisers of student publications, with a special offer of "The Right to Know" handbook. Invite an adviser to join. See insert.



California Newspaper Hall of Fame

The California Newspaper Hall of Fame honors deceased newspapermen and women whose outstanding devotion to their responsibilities resulted in substantial contributions to their regions and to the development of California. In 2008, we honor:

Carroll W. Parcher Glendale News-Press (1903-1992)

Carroll W. Parcher was born Sept. 13, 1903, in Glendale, the only son of Wilmot and Nanny McBryde Parcher. His father was the first mayor of Glendale.

Young Parcher attended Glendale schools and was student body president and editor of The Stylus yearbook in his senior year. He worked on the school paper, The Explosion, and, following his graduation in 1921, was an apprentice printer, pressman and stereotyper on the Glendale Press. He later was a reporter for the Los Angeles Express.

Parcher started the Crescenta Valley Ledger in Montrose in 1922, serving as editor, publisher, advertising manager, business manager, printer and pressman until its consolida-



Parcher

tion with the Tujunga Record. He stayed on as co-publisher with Wallace M. Morgan of The Record for 16 years.

In 1931-32, Parcher served as deputy for a county supervisor and again for a Los Angeles city councilman. He was one of the founders of the Tujunga Kiwanis Club and later served as a district lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis.

Parcher joined the staff of the Glendale News-Press as a columnist in 1939 after selling his weekly interests. He became associate editor in 1942, editor in 1944 and editor and publisher in 1948. Parcher served in

Make your plans for 131st Winter Meeting on Dec. 12

The 131st Annual California Press Association Winter Meeting will commence with the Cal Press Board meeting at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12 at the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel in San Francisco.

Following a no-host reception at 11:30 a.m., the awards luncheon will begin at noon. It will feature a follow-up on the 2007 presentation by the Chauncey Bailey Project, presentation of the Hall of Fame award and presentation of the Philip N.

McCombs Achievement Award.

The afternoon will include a report on the Cal Press-funded high school mentoring program, the California First Amendment Coalition Freedom of Information session and a meeting of past California Newspaper Publishers Association presidents.

Following a no-host reception at 6 p.m., the dinner program will include guest speaker Kathi Austin, followed by

presentation of the Jack Bates Award for Distinguished Service to Cal Press and the Justus F. Craemer Newspaper Executive of the Year Award.

Pianist George Michalski again will entertain Cal Press members during the receptions preceding lunch and dinner.

For more information on the Winter Meeting, see the inserted registration form or contact Diane Donohue at (916) 288-6017 or diane@cnpa.com.

THE MISSION of the California Press Association is to be the guardian of the history and traditions of California journalism, to recognize and honor contemporary achievements, to assure the future of California journalism through encouragement of education and to provide a social and educational forum for its members.

The Cal Press

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Awards from Page 1

that role for 25 years.

After his retirement, Parcher was drafted to fill a vacancy on the Glendale City Council in 1975. He was re-elected twice, serving a total of 10 years and an unprecedented four terms as mayor.

Parcher served as president of the California Newspaper Publishers Association in 1959 and as president of Cal Press in 1971-72.

Parcher died March 31, 1992 in Glendale. He was 88.

The Philip N. McCombs Achievement Award

The Philip N. McCombs Achievement Award honors distinguished publishers who are no longer fully active in the industry but who have served their communities well for an extended period and have made lasting contributions to the newspaper industry. For 2008, we honor:

Martin Weinberger

Claremont Courier

When Martin Weinberger and his wife Janis acquired the Claremont Courier from Stanley Larson in 1955, they became only the second owners of a weekly that had been founded in 1922. The Weinberger family continues to operate The Courier some 53 years later, with son Peter as publisher.

The Courier has long been known for its graphical bent, with large photographs and bold use of fonts. For this, Martin Weinberger has had no apologies.

"I don't want to denigrate how words are used," he told California Publisher in 1998, "but I do think that for the format of the newspaper, it should begin with working around the graphics. Instead, we almost work universally around words, and that's why we end up with a space four columns wide and half an inch deep and then asking a photographer if he has a picture for it."

In another profile, from 1983,

Weinberger debunked one view of the small-market owner-operator: "People seem to think that you run a small newspaper from a rocking chair or something. We have a slogan at the paper. We always tell people that it is relatively easy to put out a newspaper, but very difficult to put out a good newspaper."



Weinberger

And here is Weinberger again, from 1998: "I believe a newspaper publisher — and this also applies to a reporter — is the last person in modern life who has to know something about everything. ... Most newspaper publishers are essentially businessmen, and one of the nice things about a small newspaper is that even though you have to attend to business — or you don't have a newspaper — the fact of the matter is you can do all kinds of things and diversify."

Weinberger once dabbled in politics with a run for state Assembly, and he has worked closely with the local Chamber of Commerce. He has supported young journalists through internships at The Courier and has served on several CNPA committees to promote professional and student training and information.

Weinberger served as CNPA president in 1998.

The Justus F. Craemer Newspaper Executive of the Year

Newspaper Executive of the Year recipients are publishers, editors-in-chief or equivalents who have involved themselves in the directions of the editorial and news side of their newspapers by showing exceptional editorial achievement.

At press time, the 2008 honoree had not been determined. The winner will be named Dec. 12 at the 131st Annual California Press Association Winter Meeting in San Francisco.

Thrown off the deep end, Ventura intern survived

By ALEXANDRA WILCOX

When I arrived at the Ventura County Star this summer, I was gently thrown off the deep end with countless coaches around me, willing to shout advice whenever needed.

Surprisingly, I managed to stay afloat. I was given my own desk in the newsroom and was set up as a freelancing general assignment reporter

The editors assigned complex stories with real deadlines. For me, it was stories revolving around national chains declaring Chapter 9 bankruptcies and how the rising



Wilcox

cost of oil is affecting the surfing industry.

We were included in the rotating weekend cops beat, where we listened to the scanners and called all the watch commanders in the county.

As any professional journalist would, I dealt with reader calls and e-mails both praising and criticizing the stories I wrote, forcing me to re-evaluate how my writing is perceived so I can better write for the public.

Overall, I've learned my strengths and weakness as a reporter and writer. I've learned the thrill of the daily deadline and the high of getting a story skyboxed on the front page.

Most of all, I got a taste of a large, professional and well-oiled newsroom that's embracing the industry's transition to online, a taste satisfying enough to continue in journalism.

Wilcox, from Santa Barbara City College, was recipient of the California Press Association Philip N. McCombs Fund scholarship.

Expectations met in San Diego

By MONICA UNHOLD

Before my internship, writing a story about the Fourth of July livestock auction at the county fair and having it ready well before fireworks displays seemed impossible, but my editors at The San Diego Union-Tribune assured me that it could and would be done.

By working to meet the high expectations of the talented editors at The Union-Tribune, I learned a lot about reporting and writing.

The Union-Tribune set me up with a desk, phone line, email and records-access account just like any other reporter. I really got a taste of what it's like to work in a newsroom, and I grew a lot through the



Unhold

help of my editors and veteran reporters.

My internship prepared me for a career in journalism and gave me a leg up in my job search, which is important with the current state of the industry and economy.

I feel privileged to have had this opportunity and I know that it would not have been possible without the grant I received from the CNPA Foundation.

Unhold, from California State University, Chico, was recipient of the California Press Association Lillian McPherson Rouse Fund scholarship.

Cal Press internships are provided by the McCombs and Rouse funds, augmented by direct contributions to the CNPA Foundation from Cal Press members. For more, contact Joe Wirt, CNPA Foundation secretary-treasurer, at (916) 288-6021.



Investigator Kathi Austin

Evening speaker has story to tell

Kathi Austin, the evening speaker at the Cal Press Winter Meeting on Dec. 12, is a human-rights investigator who helped to flush out a notorious global weapons trafficker and war profiteer.

The story of Austin's decade-plus effort to expose Victor Bout, who was arrested in March, will soon be a major motion picture starring Angelina Jolie as Austin.

Austin has helped document Bout's network since about 1994, first as a consultant for Human Rights Watch and later as arms and conflict director for the Washington, DC-based Fund for Peace, according to a San Francisco Bay Guardian profile.

In Memoriam

Helen McGee

Cal Press member Helen M. McGee, co-owner of The Union Democrat in Sonora for nearly 40 years, died Feb. 15, 2008, in Sacramento at age 83.

Helen was born in Los Angeles and raised in Vallejo. She attended the University of California, Berkeley, but her college education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II.

Helen and her husband, Harvey C. McGee, bought their first newspaper, The Folsom Telegraph, in 1950, followed by ownership of the Placerville Times from 1954 to 1958. In 1959,

the McGees purchased The Union Democrat, which has been publishing continuously since July 1, 1854. The sale included the Tuolumne Prospector. The McGees also owned the Amador Dispatch for a short time, with Helen delivering the papers from Sonora to Jackson by airplane.

After The Union Democrat was sold to its current owner, Western Communications, in 1998, McGee dedicated herself to her family. Harvey McGee, Cal Press president in 1987-88, died in 1998.

Journalists still working Bailey case

By ROBERT ROSENTHAL

In the months since its presentation at the 2007 Cal Press Winter Meeting, the Chauncey Bailey Project has reported a number of significant stories that have raised serious questions about why more than one person has not been charged in Oakland Post Editor Chauncey Bailey's murder. It has also reported on a pair of unsolved homicides, one in 1968 in Santa Barbara and another in Oakland in 1986, which appear to be linked to the bakery and the family that founded it.

One of the highlights of the reporting by the project was when it obtained a secretly recorded video by the police of four members of Your Black Muslim Bakery.

In the video, Yusuf Bey IV, who has not been charged in Bailey's murder, describes Bailey's killing and talks about how he was able to manipulate



the police investigation of the killing because of his connections to the Oakland Police Department.

In a unique collaboration, which has been one of the hallmarks of the project, the story and video were broadcast on three Bay Area television stations, two radio stations and in The Oakland Tribune and Contra Costa Times. The San Francisco Bay Guardian ran the story on its website, as did all the television stations.

Other coverage and honors:

- The American Journalism Review wrote a lengthy story about the project in its August-September 2008 issue.
- Journalists Without Borders cited the work of the project and called for

a thorough police investigation of the killing of Bailey.

● Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. gave the project an award for its work, as did the National Association of Black Journalists.

The Chauncey Bailey Project continues to investigate the circumstances of Bailey's killing and expects to report significant news in the near future. Some of the journalists working on the story continue to volunteer without pay, working hundreds of hours.

A new website for the project was also launched, chaunceybaileyproject.org.

Robert Rosenthal, executive editor of the Chauncey Bailey Project, is a former managing editor of the San Francisco Chronicle. Rosenthal is now executive director of the Center for Investigative Reporting in Berkeley.



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