



# THE Source

Society of Professional Journalists  
Oklahoma Pro Chapter

April 2000

## Gold mine of information available via the Internet

By Stan Ketterer  
Oklahoma State  
University

At last year's awards banquet, CNN's Tony Clark said computer-assisted reporting has become an indispensable skill for journalists.

Clark, an Oklahoma native, also said journalists now use the computer more for daily stories than for long investigative projects.

Oklahoma Web Resources was created at Oklahoma State University to help media professionals and students tap the resources of the World Wide Web. The School of Journalism and Broadcasting's site at [www.cas.okstate.edu/jb/faculty/ketterer/](http://www.cas.okstate.edu/jb/faculty/ketterer/)

**"Someone once said the Internet is the world's greatest library with all of the books thrown on the floor."**

—Stan Ketterer  
Assistant Professor, School  
of Journalism and Broadcasting  
Oklahoma State University

[index.htm](#) contains more than 1,000 links to local, state and national resources.

Unlike intranets, it can be accessed from anywhere and is designed to be a simple-to-use state resource.

Someone once said the Internet is the world's greatest library with all of the books thrown on the floor.

The Oklahoma Web Resources site shelves some of the most important Web resources into useful categories to

make using the Internet easier and faster.

Anyone who has used search engines knows you can waste time spinning your wheels looking for information. Once you find a site, you must then assess the credibility of the information before deciding whether to use it, which also can be time-consuming.

Moreover, each website owner determines the standards for accu-

*See "Site," p. 2*

## NEXT Board Meeting, May 12

Make plans to attend the monthly board meetings of the Oklahoma Pro chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, held the second Friday of each month.

The meetings are a great place to be heard and share ideas with other SPJ members or to become a member.

The next meeting is noon, May 12, at the OPA board meeting room located at 3601 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City.

Bring a brown-bag lunch including a drink and join fellow journalists.

SPJ needs you and your ideas so make plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Machine Gun Kelly trial filmed

By Ronna Austin  
SPJ Secretary

Recently, Oklahoma journalists battled for the right to televise the Terry Nichols trial.

However, cameras in the courtroom is not a new concept.

The trial of Machine Gun Kelly was captured on film decades ago.

Join the SPJ Oklahoma Pro chapter at 7:30 p.m. April 27 at Oklahoma City Community College in CU3 for a presentation highlighting the early days of cameras in the courtroom.

Video of the Machine Gun Kelly trial will be shown and hopefully, Judge Edgar S. Vaught, who presided over the trial, will be on hand to answer questions.

The evening's events are free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.

# Retired OU journalism director honored

By **Carter Bradley**  
SPJ Secretary

Graduates and many friends of the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism will honor David and Sue Dary Friday, April 28, marking Dary's retirement after 11 successful years as director.

The gathering will herald a time when SPJ members who have earned an OU news media degree may soon find their alumni status will change. Due to Dary's diligence, they would be listed as having attended the University of Oklahoma Col-

lege of Mass Communications rather than its School of Journalism.

The retirement party, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the OU Student Union, will be an opportunity to congratulate Dary personally for the pledge he got a few months ago from OU President David Boren.

Boren praised Dary's leadership and assured the crowd at the recent JayMac honors banquet the school will become a College of Mass Communications.

Many knew how Dary had worked to upgrade OU's academic standing in

**What:** *David Dary's Retirement Party*  
**When:** *Friday, April 28*  
**Where:** *University of Oklahoma, Student Union, Beard Hall*  
**Time:** *2 to 4 p.m.*

journalism. Boren's promise drew applause.

Dary says he is not retiring professionally. He lists several research and writing goals requiring time he has not been able to give them.

Come next Nov. 1, for instance, his latest book will be release by New York publisher A. Knopf.

"The Santa Fe Trail" will cover the history of a ro-

mantic and storied route. After many centuries, Dary says, the trail tied together cultures of the Old World and the New European to Native American.

Dary said he contemplates continued research and writing about the American West. He adds he expects to enjoy "peace of mind" once "free of the cares and worries" of academic administration.

## Oklahoma Web Resource site helpful to journalists

*"Site," cont. from p. 1*

racy and fairness, and those standards vary widely.

Even determining site ownership can be hazardous. Pierre Salinger, former presidential press secretary and ABC-TV reporter, was deceived by an official-looking website that accused the U.S. government of covering up the Navy's downing of a TWA jetliner off the coast of New York, killing all aboard. Salinger did not have the skills to assess the site, but he held a news conference to expose the "cover-up" anyway, misleading millions.

The Oklahoma Web Resources site helps journalists in two basic ways. It divides the links into useful categories, so journalists can go directly to them, which saves time. Additionally, the site contains links to credible in-

formation which means less evaluation. Although all sites are slanted in some way, these sites have been selected because of their utility for journalists and the believability of the information.

The site is divided into two parts. The top part contains categories with links to general information and the bottom part contains information about specific reporting beats.

The general links include Search Engines, Phone Directories, Other People Finders and News Sources, Media, Documents and General Reference, Sports, Calculators, Maps, Databases and Government Statistics, Vital and Other Records, Journalism, Jobs for Journalists, Academic, and Dictionaries, Thesauri and Quotations.

Most of these pages begin with Oklahoma links.

They also include national links and other categories. Near the top of the pages are internal links that allow you to click and go to the specific categories, such as Encyclopedias or Documents.

The beat pages are designed for beat reporters or someone who wants to know more about a specific area. Again, the pages start with Oklahoma links and generally include internal links to General Reference, Government Agencies, Organizations, Publications and Sources.

The beats are Agriculture, Business, Criminal Justice, Cities and Counties, Education, Energy, Environment, Entertainment, Food, Government, Health Care, Native Americans, Politics, Religion, Transportation, Travel and Weather.

Professors at Oklahoma State University use the site for nearly all of the

classes in the news editorial sequence, including beginning reporting and editing.

Students from the broadcasting and public relations sequences also attend some of these classes.

Each semester the students in the computer-assisted reporting class evaluate web resources and add a link to the site. This year they added the Entertainment and Travel pages.

The site is designed to be a resource for the state. If you know about a site that you think should be added, please send a message with the web address to the following e-mail address: [kstan@okstate.edu](mailto:kstan@okstate.edu). Because the site has a simple design, links can be added in minutes.

*(Stan Ketterer, assistant professor of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting at Oklahoma State University, can be reached at (405) 744-8096.)*

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## From the President



By *Jim Campbell*  
SPJ president

# Judging benefits all

entries in the Utah SPJ newspaper competition.

We read a lot of outstanding work, giving us an opportunity to see the issues important in another state and to glean ideas that might be applied here. We also saw some really astonishing photography.

It was a sunny, balmy day with little wind to ruffle the clippings spread out on the front porch, where a good portion of the judging was done.

Taking part in the judging were Tim Talley, Brian Ford, Diana Baldwin, the Hintons, Ronna Austin, Kim Morava, Carter Bradley, Ralph Sewell, Harry Culver and Paul English.

Talley whopped up a jambalaya and others brought side dishes for a hearty feast following the work.

Our thanks to them all and to our gracious hosts.

We hope other chapters had as much fun judging Oklahoma contest entries.

Contests benefit the judges as well as the contestants.

Members of the Oklahoma Professional Chapter spent a Sunday afternoon in March at the home of Sue and Mick Hinton in Norman judging

# Student journalists given job pointers

By *Evon Siegel*  
OKCCC Student

"Go in guns a blazing. Keep a fire in your belly when you go out there," said Tulsa World Feature Writer Jason Collington.

"Newspapers are looking for someone with a spark."

Collington was part of a panel of editors and recent journalism graduates who discussed, "Workplace Realities," at the Society of Professional Journalists Internship and Job Fair held Feb. 25 at the University of Oklahoma.

In a world where thousands of journalists are competing, Collington said he separated himself from the pack "by actually doing something."

Collington said, at the beginning of his career, he spent a few sleepless nights writing a seven-page proposal of ideas for his editor in response to a memo in the newspaper break room requesting suggestions. He said he was surprised to discover he was the only person to

respond to the memo.

Nevertheless, his ideas were taken seriously and implementing them earned him a promotion.

Also on the panel were Metro Editor of The Daily Oklahoman Carla Hinton and Managing Editor of the Tulsa World Susan Ellerbach.

Ellerbach told the group what employers look for in applicants and new employees.

"Know what you want and go after it," she said. "Stay current because we are always looking for new people."

Ellerbach said working for a smaller newspaper to progress as a writer is an excellent way to gain experience leading to a job at a larger newspaper.

"Please realize you're starting over," she told the room of student journalists, some of whom hold top positions on their college's student newspapers. "You're not going to be a columnist [to start]. You have to pay your dues."

Hinton said the ideal candidate should be flexible and willing to start humbly at the bottom and work their way up.

She said good qualities include a hunger for news, curiosity about the community and being available for other stories.

"I think you get in trouble when you lose curiosity," Hinton said.

"You should have a passion for what you are doing. Don't think of it as just a job."

The panel answered questions regarding what job applicants might expect in their first job as a journalist.

Staff Writer for The Wichita Eagle and 1998 University of Oklahoma graduate Nicole Hughes told the crowd, "You've got to love what you are doing. Work hard and you will succeed."

Hughes also encouraged the student journalists to get involved with SPJ because networking with the professionals is invaluable for getting a job.

# *tidbits...*

## **Convention Time**

•May 13 and 14 is the date to mark on your calendar for the SPJ Region 8 Conference/National Writers Workshop in Austin, Texas.

To learn more about the fun to be had, visit the official website at: [www.austin360.com/nww](http://www.austin360.com/nww)

For more information, e-mail Austin chapter president Kathy Walt: [kathy.walt@chron.com](mailto:kathy.walt@chron.com) or call her at (512)478-3495 or (877)900-9080.

## **Surf our web site**

•The Oklahoma Professional chapter SPJ website can be found at: [www.angelfire.com/electronic/SPJ](http://www.angelfire.com/electronic/SPJ)

Soon, the domain name, or website address, will be [www.OklahomaSPJ.org](http://www.OklahomaSPJ.org)

It's a great place to keep up with the local chapter and find helpful links to the national chapter.

College chapters should send links to [raustin@okc.cc.ok.us](mailto:raustin@okc.cc.ok.us) so they can be added to the site.

## **Ohio or bust!**

•Oct. 26 through 28 are the dates set for the 2000 SPJ National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Those wanting to attend may register at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Columbus.

For more information online, visit the National SPJ website at: [www.spj.org](http://www.spj.org) or contact: Bruce Cadwallader, local conference chairman at: [bcadwall@dispatch.com](mailto:bcadwall@dispatch.com)

Additional numbers are listed at the website.

## **Time to update?**

•Do you need to update any or all of your SPJ membership information?

National headquarters has made it simple!

On the Internet, go to: [www.spj.org/membership/membupdate.htm](http://www.spj.org/membership/membupdate.htm) and fill out the form.

While you're there, look around at all of the helpful information SPJ has to offer today's journalists.

Let SPJ work for you by getting involved!



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**NEXT SPJ MEETING: NOON, MAY 12, AT OPA, 3501 N. LINCOLN BLVD.**