



THE Source

Society of Professional Journalists

Oklahoma Pro Chapter

January/February 2002



Journalism job fair great place for editors, students

By Sue Hinton
SPJ member

New York Times reporter Kelly Crow, 25, will talk about her journalism experiences while covering, and surviving, the biggest news event of the year. Crow will headline the annual SPJ Job and Internship Fair on March 8 in Norman.

Crow, an Edmond native and 1998 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, works for The City, a weekly section of The Times, printed on Sunday.

She played a part in covering the Sept. 11 destruction of the World Trade Center towers. That must have provided a haunting reminder of her experi-

ences reporting on the bombing of the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, while she was a high school student. She covered the first anniversary of the bombing as a student at UCO.

Crow is in her second year at The New York Times and provided the keynote address at last year's job fair.

Those who heard Crow's excellent presentation last year agreed it would be good to have her back. She offered helpful suggestions to aspiring journalists about how to chart their career paths.

This year's panel discussion on workplace realities will include editors and reporters

from Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Panelists will include Christy Goelz, copy editor, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Bryan Dean, reporter, The Daily Oklahoman; Cary Aspinwall, police and general assignment reporter, Tulsa World; Nick Jungman, copy desk chief, Wichita Eagle; and David Morris, NewsOK.com.

As always, the job fair will conclude with an opportunity for students to meet with editors from Oklahoma and regional news outlets about job openings and summer internships. Job seekers are encouraged to bring copies of their résumés

See "Job Fair," p. 7

NEXT Board Meeting, Feb. 8

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, Feb. 8, 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!

Awards banquet Feb. 23

If you haven't done so already, it's time send in your reservation for the journalistic event of the year — the 2002 SPJ banquet.

This year's event is Feb. 23 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1815 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. with a cash bar. Dinner is served at 7 p.m.

Newspaper, television, radio, public relations, magazine and website people will all be in attendance, ready to pick up awards or cheer on friends and co-workers on as they receive theirs.

The night's festivities include a spectacular meal.

After a fresh garden salad and rolls are served, dinner plates will arrive, filled with a double entrée of filet mignon and chicken dijonaise, twice-

See "Banquet," p. 6

Journalists offered site to help with stress

By *Lisa Tatum*
SPJ secretary

When Roger Simpson began developing the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at the University of Washington School of Communications, he discovered few journalists were interested in talking about emotional injury and trauma. Today, that's not a problem, Simpson said.

"The urban myth that journalists aren't affected by trauma — that they are superhuman — has disappeared," Simpson said. "Journalists are now understanding that they are affected by the people they meet, the things they see and the pictures they take."

The Dart Center is a unique organization developed to teach journalists to understand trauma victims and to help those journalists learn to better deal with their own emotions during and after facing difficult assignments involving massive destruction, death and victimization.

And never before have so many journalists faced the job of reporting on traumatic events.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington have dealt reporters a challenge few could conceive of before the assault that claimed nearly 5,000 innocent and unsuspecting Americans. Prior to Sept. 11, the Dart Center had focused largely on helping reporters in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing of the

Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and the killings at Columbine High School in Colorado. Simpson called those events learning tools that enabled the center to refine the ways they will help journalists cope with their emotional stress as well as to understand better ways of handling their reporting on trauma survivors.

Dr. Frank Ochberg, chairman of the Dart Center executive committee, has written extensively about the syndrome known as post-traumatic stress disorder. When a reporter meets a survivor of trauma, Ochberg says, there's a chance the journalist will witness the disorder. Mishandling the interview of such a person can put them at risk of further injury, he says. Understanding the disorder can help journalists develop good relationships with victims while practicing responsible journalism.

Migael Scherer, of the Dart Center, has firsthand experience in being interviewed after surviving a trauma. Ten years ago, Scherer, a rape victim, began speaking to journalism classes about being a victim. She offered insight about what journalists can expect to see in trauma victims:

- Lack of concentration—images reoccur and victims re-experience the trauma event via flashbacks.
- Heightened startle response—victims are al-

"The urban myth that journalists aren't affected by trauma — that they are superhuman — has disappeared."

—Roger Simpson
Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

ways ready for something to happen to them again. They are agitated.

•Numbing detachment — Saying "I'm fine" protects a victim and enables them to go on for a while. Eventually the detachment will wear off, leaving the victim to face their emotions.

"These aren't stages," Scherer said. "They can all happen at once. For trauma victims there are only two stages: Who you were before, and who you were after."

The Dart Center works to promote understanding of victims' stress as well as ways to ease the emotional stress journalists incur covering violence and tragedy.

"Reporters and editors need to find ways to make it comfortable in the newsroom to discuss emotions," Simpson said.

The Dart Center offers help to newsrooms through its website, publications, workshops and seminars. Six Dart Fellowships are offered each year to give journalists intense training on the effects of trauma on those they cover and on themselves.

Simpson has co-authored a book that gives students and journalists a comprehensive guide to respectfully and sensitively dealing with victims and their families. Covering Violence: A Guide to Ethical Reporting about Victims and Trauma, profiles journalists whose work represents the best in responsible and compassionate reporting. More information about the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma is available on the Internet at www.dartcenter.org, or by calling 206-616-3223.

dart center for journalism & trauma

**Need to renew your
SPJ membership?
It's simple!
Go to www.geocities.com/oklahomaspj
Need more information?
Call one of the board members
listed on page 3.**

**Got the 411 on a great website?
If you know of a site that others in
the field would benefit from, please
pass it along to: raustin@okccc.edu**



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From the President

Chapter seeks feedback



By *Kim Morava*
SPJ president

The Oklahoma Pro Chapter is spearheading exciting efforts for members over the next year. Professional development series, seminars and other ideas are being pondered by the SPJ board.

The challenge is knowing what programs would most benefit chapter members and encourage others to attend.

The Oklahoma SPJ board needs active participation and ideas to help plan these future programs. We also need to begin recruiting new members.

If you or someone you know has an idea, please share it with us.

Oklahoma SPJ each year works to plan activities, such as a statewide contest for all journalists, as well as a job fair for college students.

The chapter also strives to keep up with freedom of information and access issues.

As a chapter, we could do even more. The SPJ board has discussed future project ideas, such as a spring professional development series or program.

As members, I ask you to tell the board what kind of programs would most

benefit you. Would it be a refresher in reporting or tips on better writing? Or would it be suggestions for Quark Express or other computer applications? Or maybe something totally different?

Along with the challenges of providing programs to our members, we also need to begin to address new memberships. Future programs may spark an interest for new members.

While the chapter continues to move forward with current annual projects, membership is remaining somewhat steady, with no influx of new members.

As your new chapter president, I'd like to encourage you to ask someone to consider joining SPJ.

Currently, the Oklahoma Pro Chapter's paid local and national mem-

bership is less than 50 members. Although several others are members of the national chapter, they have not paid the extra \$10 to join Oklahoma's chapter.

If every member recruited one person, our chapter size could double.

As we begin working toward new endeavors as a chapter, I am asking all members two questions: First, "What do you want to do for your SPJ chapter," and more importantly, "What can the chapter do for you and other journalists?"

Let your voices be heard.

Please answer the following questions and return them by e-mail to kmorava@news-star.com or mail them to me, Kim Morava, The Shawnee News-Star, P.O. Box 1688, Shawnee, OK 74801. Your input is greatly appreciated.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What would you like to see the Oklahoma Pro chapter of SPJ do in the form of programs and other projects over the next year?

2. What professional development topics would most interest you?

3. Do you enjoy reading the Oklahoma SPJ newsletter? Why? Would you like to be a contributing writer on occasion?

4. Have you visited the Oklahoma SPJ Website? The National SPJ Website? If so, what feature do you enjoy. If you haven't visited the sites, then why?

4. Would you be willing to help plan projects or programs? Yes or No.
If yes, what would you like to do to help?

5. Comments about the chapter.

Resolutions adopted at National Convention

By **Mark Hanebutt**
SPJ board member

Delegates to the 2001 SPJ National Convention last October in Bellevue, Wash., adopted 11 convention resolutions, three of which concerned media coverage of America's were on terrorism.

"This is not only one of the most momentous events in the history of this country, it is just as momentous in the history of journalism in this country," said Al Cross, SPJ President-elect and political columnist for The Louisville Courier-Journal.

"We must be careful not to get so caught up in the national cause that we lose our independence, which is the basis of our credibility, or our abilities to gather and disseminate the information that citizens want and must have."

SPJ's actions included:

—Resolution on press coverage on the war on terrorism

SPJ resolves that the Bush Administration:

- make public information concerning the identities and charges against persons arrested and detained as suspected terrorists,

- promptly release identities of all victims of terrorism,

- adhere to the mandates of the current Executive Order on Classification, which instructs that if there is any "significant doubt about the need to classify information, it should not be classified,"

- reaffirm Pentagon guidelines on coverage of combat operations, providing journalists with access to all major military

units and to special forces where feasible, permit news organizations to use their own communications systems and to use press pools only when specific circumstances so require,

- consult with news representative to establish clear ground rules,

- prohibit prior security review of news reports by military officials,

- expedite review of Freedom of Information Act requests,

- mandate secrecy only when it directly serves national security or foreign policy,

- allow the media and public to observe or photograph evidence of terrorists assaults,

- lift the nationwide ban on helicopters or other media aircraft and eliminate obstructions to news gathering,

- exert pressure on allies and other governments to grant visas to U.S. journalists wishing to cover military and diplomatic events and tell foreign governments in the strongest terms that threats to censor journalists will not be tolerated.

—Resolution on journalists response to terror

SPJ resolves that journalists shall reaffirm their commitment in the Code of Ethics to:

- seek the truth and report it by providing the public with as much information as possible from a variety of sources,

- minimize harm by being sensitive to the suffering of victims and families and avoid stereotyping entire groups because of ethnic or religious background,

- make independent

news judgments that serve the public's right to know, while withstanding the temptation to pander to national passions, prejudices and jingoistic displays of patriotism,

- expose journalistic practices that abandon independent, fair and dispassionate reporting.

—Resolution on diversity in the face of terrorism

SPJ resolves that journalists shall:

- use language that is informative and not inflammatory,

- portray religious fundamentalists, Muslims, Arabs and Middle Eastern Americans in the richness of their diverse experience.

- seek the truth through a variety of voices and perspectives.

—Resolution supporting release of the identities of jurors

SPJ resolves that the identities of jurors not be

withheld from the public and the media, and that the Utah Judicial Council rescind its rule authorizing judges to withhold the identities of jurors.

—Resolution condemning the jailing of writer Vanessa Leggett

SPJ resolves to call upon the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn her contempt citation and send Vanessa Leggett home.

—Resolution condemning the subpoena of a journalist's phone records

SPJ resolves to condemn the U.S. Department of Justice for obtaining the telephone records of AP reporter John Solomon without his knowledge and calls upon the Justice Department to refrain from examining journalists' phone records without their knowledge and instead notify journalists of such subpoenas so that they can challenge this action.

Pulliam/Kilgore FREEDOM OF INFORMATION INTERNSHIPS

The Society of Professional Journalists annually awards two Pulliam/Kilgore Freedom of Information Internships. One intern works in the offices of the

Society's First Amendment legal counsel in Washington, D.C. The other intern works at the Society's National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

The interns research and write about freedom of information issues while assisting the Society's Freedom of Information Committee and First Amendment legal counsel in preparing SPJ's annual Freedom of Information Report.

Interns receive a stipend of \$400 per week and work during a mutually agreeable 10-week period during the summer. Recipients are notified in mid-April and should arrange to start their internships in late May or early June. For more information, visit www.spj.org.



A blurring of lines between news and editorial, has led to a credibility struggle that has made journalists seem monolithic, arrogant and unreachable to the public, a syndicated columnist for the Washington Post told those attending the SPJ National Convention Oct. 6, in Seattle.

Geneva Overholser said journalists must better understand their audience. Changing ownerships make the task difficult.

The major project of journalists used to be the news, but now it's profit, she said.

Newspaper coverage of foreign affairs dropped from 10.2 percent in 1970 to 2 percent in 1995. Television incurred a bigger decline falling 70 percent,

Overholser said.

Despite an improvement in minority reporting in recent years, reporters need to learn about minority groups first-hand to avoid disseminating cultural ignorance, panelists at the SPJ National Convention agreed.

The most often repeated advice was for reporters to leave the newsroom and seek out the communities they want to report about.

"You've got to include people of color, people of different cultures, people of different age groups in your everyday coverage," said Catalina Camia, diversity fellow for the Freedom Forum in Arlington, Va.

The panel also questioned reasons — such as a lack of diversity in their

communities—editors and publishers give for lacking diversity in their staffs.

"I want a newsroom that reflects its community," said Richard Luna, an editor for the Statesman Journal in Salem, Ore. "But I don't think that not having a large minority should preclude you from having a diverse newsroom."

First Amendment attorney Bruce Sanford, discussing the future of access laws and their perception in the public, told SPJ conventioners that personal privacy is the most powerful trend of the 20th and 21st centuries.

"What media need to do is a better job of explaining to our readers what it is we are trying to do," said Tim Franklin, managing

editor of the Orlando Sentinel.

Franklin's paper was engaged in a high-profile access case earlier this year when it tried to obtain autopsy photos of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt. The paper was trying to clarify reasons for Earnhardt's death.

Earnhardt's family sought to keep the records private despite the fact they are public under Florida law.

Since the case caused uproar from both privacy advocates and freedom of information proponents, Franklin's state newspaper association has begun advocating the use of marketing campaigns and lobbyists to promote to the public the importance of access to public information.

SPJ National TIDBITS

—SPJ installed a new national president during the national convention Oct. 4 through 7 in Bellevue, Wash.

Al Cross will head the journalism society. Cross told delegates that journalists must continue to stand up for their profession's principles.

"We aren't in this business to be popular," he said.

Cross, a political writer for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky., said he will dedicate his term to meeting the challenges that face journalists in the wake of the terrorist attacks. "We will lead the fight against restrictions on journalism."

—A \$228,303 budget deficit for fiscal year 2001 raised some issues for members of the national

SPJ board during the convention. The board asked tough questions about the line items in the budget that were more than 100 percent overspent.

However, executive director James Gray, said most budget problem can be attributed to uncontrollable and unexpected expenses. Those include: a hike in utility and postage costs; declining SPJ membership and poor stock market conditions.

Other unexpected expenses were incurred when headquarters in Indianapolis flooded three times.

Insurance did not completely cover repairs and the Society also had to replace parts of the sewer system and repair heating and air conditioning systems at headquarters.

Despite the expenditures, things aren't as grim as they seem, said Gray. "The loss we had was largely a paper loss, not an actual loss," he said. "The total deficit number incorporates paper expenses such as depreciation. When you take that out, we actually have a cash surplus of \$7,770."

—Next year's National Convention will be held in Fort Worth, Texas.

The convention is scheduled for Sept. 12 through 14 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel. The Fort Worth Pro Chapter (which won Regional Outstanding Chapter this year) will host the convention.

With almost a year of fund-raising left, \$71,000

has been raised for the convention. That's 60 percent of the \$120,000 goal. The company which owns the Dallas Morning News contributed \$30,000 to the convention, while Knight-Ridder and the Fort Worth Star Telegram donated a total of \$25,000.

Haynes and Boone, a Texas law firm, donated \$10,000 to help sponsor the Legal Defense Fund Luncheon at the convention.

"Luckily we got big sponsors nailed down several years ago before the big economic crunch," said Todd Gillman, Region 8 director. One focus of the convention will be to attract younger members.

—courtesy www.spj.org

National SPJ website features industry job bank

INDIANAPOLIS – SPJ's newly designed website now features a media industry job bank.

The new section allows any media organization or institution to post a listing for a job, internship or fellowship free of charge. Only SPJ members can view the postings, a benefit for all Society members.

SPJ President Al Cross, political writer and columnist for The Courier-Journal in Louisville said employers will "use the bank as a way to find valuable employees."

To post a listing in SPJ's job bank, log on to http://www.spj.org/careers_jobpost.asp and complete the online form. SPJ Headquarters staff

will verify the material, and listings will be posted online for 30 days.

"Anyone who has looked for a job lately knows they're not that easy to find right now," said Julie Grimes, acting executive director of SPJ and the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. "With the jobs database, we have made the search process simpler for SPJ members and the employers out there who are looking for top-notch journalists to fill their positions."

In September, the Society of Professional Journalists unveiled its newly-enhanced website (www.spj.org) with features for journalists, students, the public and SPJ members. The site and its

ongoing upkeep are paid for by a \$120,000 grant from the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. The educational arm of the Society, InetSolution Inc. of Utica, Mich., redesigned the site in eight months under the supervision of SPJ Headquarters.

People with questions or concerns on posting listings may contact SPJ webmaster Ben Everson at (317) 927-8000, ext. 205 or beverson@spj.org.

Founded in 1961, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that those who carry on the tradition of a free press are prepared for the challenge. Its goal is to support the educational programs of the SPJ and to serve the professional

needs of journalists and students pursuing careers in journalism.

The Society of Professional Journalists works to improve and protect journalism. The organization is the nation's largest and most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior. Founded in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, SPJ promotes the free flow of information vital to a well-informed citizenry; works to inspire and educate the next generation of journalists; and protects First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and press.

Reservations for SPJ banquet due February 9

"Banquet," cont. from p. 1

baked potato and chef's fresh vegetables.

For those who still have an appetite, New York cheesecake will round out the meal.

For those with special dietary needs, a veggie plate is available.

The cost per plate is \$30. Guests are welcome.

To make reservations, please fill out the form on this page and send it, along with a check payable to SPJ or a purchase order number for billing, to: Ronna Austin, 828 Windermere Dr., Moore, OK, 73160. The deadline is Saturday, Feb. 9.

Special room rates of \$89 also are available for banquet goers.

Don't miss the fun!

R.S.V.P.

Please reserve ___ seats for me and my guest(s) at the **SPJ** annual awards banquet on Saturday, Feb. 23. I have enclosed \$30.00 per person for this event.

My Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

If possible, I would like to be seated with: _____

Of total, number of veggie plates requested: _____

**Please return RSVP card, along with payment,
no later than Saturday, Feb. 9, 2002 to:
Ronna Austin, 828 Windermere Dr., Moore, OK, 73160**



Students should plan to attend Job Fair

"Job Fair," cont. from p. 1

and news clips to leave with prospective employers.

The job fair will run from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 8. The panel discussion will run from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. and Crow's speech will run from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Frontier Room of Oklahoma Memorial Union on the University of Oklahoma campus.

The event is sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists Oklahoma Pro Chapter and OU Student Chapter, as well as the OU Gaylord College of Journalism.

Journalists from all walks of life can benefit from an SPJ membership...

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ANNUAL SPJ JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

12:30 TO 4 P.M., MARCH 8

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UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA CAMPUS

2002 McMahon Symposium

Cost: **Free**
(with registration)

Feb. 25-26, 2002

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Oklahoma Memorial Union

University of Oklahoma campus
Norman, Oklahoma

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Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication Presents...

TERRORISM, THE MEDIA AND NATIONAL SECURITY: BEYOND GROUND ZERO

Keynote speaker:

Mike Boettcher — CNN's war correspondent returns from covering the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan

Additional speakers deliver first-hand reports on the Sept. 11 attacks:

Charles Hoff — CNN New York deputy news director

Tom Kent — Associated Press New York deputy news director

Four exceptional panels loaded with experts!

- The Many Faces of Terrorism
- Media Response to a New War
- Counter-Terrorism as a Priority in American Foreign Policy
- Freedom Fighters and Martyrs: Inside the Terrorist Mind

Plus, join panelists in a **Question-and-Answer** session.

2002 McMahon Symposium Registration Form

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>— Register via telephone: (405) 325-6543</p> <p>— Online at http://jmc.ou.edu/McMahon/</p> <p>— Mail registration to:</p> <p>McMahon Symposium c/o Gaylord College 860 Van Vleet Oval Norman, OK 73019-2051</p>	<p>Day One: Feb. 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Panel #1: The Many Faces of Terrorism 9:20-11 a.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Panel #2: The Media Response to a New War 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: Charles Hoff, deputy news director, CNN 12:30-2 p.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Panel #3: Counter-Terrorism as a Priority in Foreign Policy 2-3:30 p.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Panel #4: Q&A With All Panelists 3:30-5 p.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dinner: Mike Boettcher, war correspondent, CNN 6-8 p.m.</p> <p>Day Two: Feb. 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast: Tom Kent, deputy news director, AP 8:30-9:30 a.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Panel #5: Freedom Fighters and Martyrs 9:30-10:45 a.m.</p>
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For more information or accommodations on the basis of disability, call (405) 325-6543. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.



Automated e-mail lists provide latest news

Through the volunteer efforts of some of SPJ's members, there are two automated e-mail lists to which you can subscribe.

Keep up with the latest developments in journalism ethics and professional journalism by subscribing to one or both of SPJ's automated e-mail lists.

SPJ membership is not necessary, but will give you some insight into the discussions. Choose from the following:

SPJ-Ethics is operated by SPJ member Staci Kramer and was started to discuss changes in the SPJ Code of Ethics as well as the discussion of journalism ethics.

You can subscribe by sending a message to:

majordomo@ccrc.wustl.edu and in the body of the message type: subscribe spj-ethics your address.

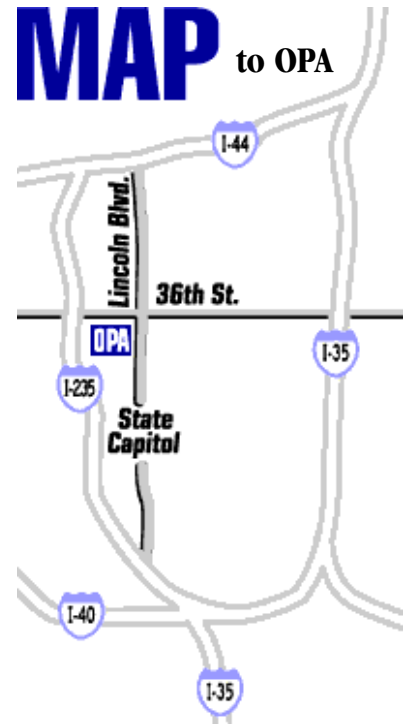
SPJ-L, once known as SPJ-Online, is a mailing list created as an information resource for journalists by the Society of Professional Journalists' New Information Technologies Committee. Discuss issues, share tips, communicate with headquarters and national leaders, find out about SPJ news, or whatever. Make it fun and, especially, make it useful.

To subscribe, visit: <http://f05n16.cac.psu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=spj-l&A=1>

Fill out the online form, and then respond to the confirmation e-mail that will be sent to you.

This way to the next SPJ board meeting!

Follow these directions to the next SPJ meeting Feb. 8 in the OPA board room. Bring your lunch, your great ideas and invite your fellow journalists! See you there!



Society of Professional Journalists
Oklahoma Pro Chapter
860 Van Vleet Oval
Norman, OK 73019-2051

NEXT SPJ MEETING: NOON, FEB. 8, AT OPA, 3601 N. LINCOLN BLVD.