



ABBY CONNOLLY

The SJI class of 2015 takes a break from bootcamp at University of Missouri. Meet the class on pages 8-9.

Rodriguez makes history in L.A.

BY ALEX NIEVES

Throughout the long and illustrious history of the Los Angeles Times sports department, there has been at least one aspect of the newsroom that has stayed consistent — the paper's sports editor has always been a white male.

On March 20, that trend changed as Angel Rodriguez was introduced as the Times' new sports editor. It was a move that transformed him into one of the highest profiles Hispanic sports editors in American media in the process.

For Rodriguez, being at the forefront of change is something that has become the norm. Over a career spanning more than two decades, he has learned that more often than not, he is the only Hispanic present in a field dominated by white males. However, while it may not be a shock to Rodriguez that he is the first Hispanic sports editor at the Times, it still catches him off guard when he sees the title next to his name.

"I knew I was the first Hispanic sports editor of the Los Angeles Times, it wasn't like it's surprising, but when you read it you're still like 'oh yeah that's kind of crazy,'" he said.

Rodriguez comes to the Times from the Washington Post, where he was the deputy editor for mobile innovation. His roots in journalism, however, are far more modest.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree



Angel Rodriguez

in Latin American history, Rodriguez, a Houston native, worked translating travel brochures from English to Spanish as his first job.

It was at this first job that Rodriguez was introduced to Marcelino Benito, founder of the American sports division of EFE, a Spanish news wire service, and the person Rodriguez credits as his mentor.

During his five years at EFE, Rodriguez wrote game stories and breaking news, focusing on Hispanic athletes.

After EFE, Rodriguez found himself in Bristol, where he was part of the four-man team responsible for launching ESPNdeportes.com. Back then ESPN's Spanish-language juggernaut was just a website, and Rodriguez and his team were given the freedom to imprint their vision on it.

"It was really just four guys, it was two guys in Argentina and two guys in Bristol," Rodriguez said. "So it was really kind of cool to start at the beginning of this

thing and saying 'Okay, what sports are we going to cover?'"

Rodriguez moved to the Arizona Republic three years later, where he was an online sports producer and eventually the homepage manager until 2012. He held the role of sports editor at the Cincinnati Enquirer from 2012 to 2014, before making the move to the Post in June.

He was at the Post for less than

(continues on page 7)

In year of change, Byrne set to move up

ESPN editor ready to become ASPE's third female president

ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

A new ESPN editor has given young female journalists more reasons to believe it is possible to hold a prominent role in sports journalism.

Mary Byrne, the former USA Today Sports managing editor, will become the third woman to serve as president of

APSE at the organization's upcoming convention. She's also just beginning a new job at ESPN, where as senior deputy editor for NFL, NHL and NASCAR she will



Mary Byrne

oversee editorial operations for those sports in both the digital and print platforms.

"I'm a big believer in 'if you see it, you believe it,'" Byrne said. "It's very important for people to have successful role models and I think it's really important I was writing for USA Today Sports and now I'll be the lead editor for the NFL for ESPN."

Regardless of the media organizations she has worked for, Byrne has never been satisfied coming in second. Byrne said she would bring those high expectations to Bristol.

"I want us to be 'the' news source for sports fans, which

is already (ESPN's) mission, and I think we want to add to that and make sure that we're providing the best possible NFL, hockey and motor sports coverage," Byrne said. "I don't like coming in second so my goal is to make sure people come to ESPN and get what they need."

Byrne has more than 20 years of experience in journalism. The University of Missouri graduate got

her start as a copy editor for the

Oceanside Blade-oversee editorial operations for those sports in both the digital and print platforms. Citizen of California in 1991 and worked for the Waterbury Republican-American of Connecticut, the Charlotte Observer and the Miami Herald.

In 2004, Byrne joined USA Today and worked two years as the newspaper's Olympic editor. Then, after a six-year tenure at the Associated Press, Byrne returned to McLean, Va., in 2012 to help oversee sports coverage for USA Today.

"I'm so proud of the work we've done over the past three years to really elevate the brand and make it a great place for sports fans,"

(continues on page 3)

THE CLASS OF 2015

Chris Bumbaca
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Kansas City Star

Michelle Fenelon
University of Massachusetts at Boston
South Florida SunSentinel

Wilton Jackson
University of Southern Mississippi
ESPN

Zolan Kanno-Youngs
Northeastern University
USA Today

Colby Lanham
Clemson University
MLB.com

Alex Nieves
Occidental College
Los Angeles News Group

Vincent Peña
Northern Arizona
Salt Lake Tribune

Ashley Scoby
University of Kentucky
Sports Illustrated

Jaylon Thompson
University of Georgia
Houston Chronicle

Alysha Tsuji
Pepperdine
MLB.com

Wynston Wilcox
Ohio University
Pittsburgh Tribune Review

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University of Houston
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Sherman leaves office with legacy of increasing APSE members' recognition

CHRIS BUMBACA

When Mike Sherman became the Associated Press Sports Editors president, he likened it to being thrown into the deep end of a pool.

Sherman felt he had no choice but to get kicking and start swimming.

As his tenure as APSE president comes to a close, he reflected on his service and how he improved the organization.

"I learned that it's a great organization," Sherman said. "And the leaders before me built a great system that we just have to work."

That work started three years ago, when Sherman, sports editor at The Oklahoman, joined the APSE leadership as the second Vice President. (The APSE leadership is based on a three-year ladder, going from second Vice President, to first Vice President, to President.)

Last year, as first vice president, Sherman's goal was to enhance the annual contest APSE sponsors among its members, in categories such as column writing, breaking news, sections and features.

The contest was at a cross-

roads. Winners were not widely acknowledged and nobody saw the pieces and work that won prizes, just the name of the writer.

To help increase the recognition, Sherman sifted through article upon article and instead of simply listing the winners, like had been done in years past, he provided links to the stories and links to the author's Twitter pages, so those interested in the story could reach out to the reporter. In turn, this practice drove traffic to the APSE website.

As president, Sherman wanted to make sure the same practice was in place, and he continued to expand upon the project.

This year, he had each category and award's release scheduled at different times, so each winner had his or her own "moment in the sun." That will probably be his legacy as APSE president, he said.

"I never really thought celebrating the accomplishments of our member journalists, publicizing them, promoting them and then making them more accessible for everyone would be what I remembered for," Sherman said. "But that's probably what I'll be remembered for."

Mary Byrne, NFL Editor at ESPN and APSE first vice president, said it's no surprise Sherman took it upon himself to make sure everyone receives respect for their award-winning work.

"He's got a huge heart," Byrne said. "From the beginning, he worked really hard to make sure all of the members were represented and included and that everyone feels like a part of the organization."

Byrne will take over Sherman's role at the APSE convention in late June.

Sherman said that all he did was take advantage of the changing times and the rise of digital media to showcase the work of APSE members.

"That's something I'm really proud of," Sherman said. "I had no idea that was going to be the deal."

Going forward, Sherman said he'd like to see future leaders of the organization keep the focus on membership and continue to grow the public image of APSE, so other sports journalism organizations can see the work the members of APSE produce.

"Everybody in this organization can work together," Sherman said. "Tapping into that is key. We don't have any benchwarmers in our organization. Activating every region and every committee is a real opportunity for the president and all the officers."

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FILE PHOTO
Outgoing ASPE president Mike Sherman used technology to showcase members' work.

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APSE members.

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CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

Richard Deitsch
Sports Illustrated

Kristen Davis
Cleveland.com, Plain Dealer
Class of 1997

Eduardo Encina
Baltimore Sun
Class of 1997

Darnell Mayberry
The Oklahoman
Class of 2003

Anne LaBeaume
Disney campus recruitment

Amy Bennett
Disney Campus Recruitment

Ed Guzman
Seattle Times Class of 1998

Soraya McDonald
The Washington Post
Class of 2004

Alex Prewitt
The Washington Post
Class of 2010

Mike Sherman
APSE President
Oklahoman

Marcus Thompson
Bay Area Newspaper Group
Class of 1998

Jason Whitlock
ESPN

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VP Adams aims to increase membership

ALYSHA TSUJI

An unorthodox foray into journalism hasn't stopped Todd Adams from climbing in the sports media world. As a nine-year member of the Associated Press Sports Editors, Adams was elected second vice president on March 19.

Adams, the San Diego Union-Tribune Sports Editor, will serve as an APSE officer for three years. His first will be as the second VP, his second as the first VP and his third as the president.

"I honestly feel like I wouldn't be where I'm at in my career without APSE — the people that I've met, the professional development and the things that I've learned

through the organization," Adams said.

Adams has three main goals he would like to accomplish during his three-year term. First, he wants to increase membership by adding 30 new members each year, as he hopes to jumpstart the initiative at the 2015 conference in San Diego. Secondly, he wants to develop a web contest that lasts the entire year. Thirdly, he wants to amp up student involvement by expanding the number of student chapters, and possibly creating a contest for students "so the next generation is familiar with APSE."

When Adams got the news he had won the

position, he said he was excited, but even more satisfied when he received a call from a friend, Don Shelton from the Seattle Times, whom he'd beaten out to win.

"I think it speaks to the spirit of the thing," Adams said. "He was the first one to say, 'If you need anything, give me a call.'"

That sense of community drew Adams into APSE and has kept him a loyal member. While Adams earned his bachelor's in history instead of journalism, he started at a small paper that had a sports section opening after he graduated.

"I'd always been interested in sports and a pretty good writer," he said.

Adams never looked back and joined ASPE while working at the

Aurora Beacon-News nine years ago.

While there, he attended a convention and became hooked.

"What I like most about it were the friendships I've made," he said. "The professional involvement was huge, but the reason I was so eager to go back was because I met people I wanted to go back and see again and hang out with and reconnect."

One of those friends was Ron Fritz of the Baltimore Sun, who also served as a mentor to Adams over the years. He shared his optimism when asked how he thought Adams would fare in the three-year term.

"I've always thought he has great enterprise ideas, produces really creative sections and knows how print translates to digital," Fritz wrote in an email to the Bulletin.



Todd Adams

Byrne moves up to ASPE president

(continued from page 1)

Byrne said of USA Today.

Byrne follows in the footsteps of Tracy Dodds (1999-2000) and Sandy Rosenbush (1992-1993), ASPE's only other female presidents.

Even though most of Byrne's roots are in print media, she said her experiences at USA Today and the AP will be valuable at ESPN.

Both outlets shaped a national perspective of stories and required her to work extensively on online platforms.

"I certainly understand USA Today is viewed as a print product but it's so much more than that," Byrne said. "And I think working at the AP, where you're dealing with a wire service is great."

She proved her savviness with the digital world when she led the transition of the APSE annual contest from print to electronic.

The only way sports editors used to be able to submit entries was by pasting articles on 8 1/2-by-11 pieces of paper. This past year, entries were submitted — and judged — on Google Docs.

Byrne said the transformation made the contest more efficient and it was without a doubt her proudest accomplishment of her vice presidency.

"We needed to join the 21st century," Byrne said. "It was long overdue so we had to make it happen. The contest is one of the most important things we do in the organization."

Byrne didn't shy away from challenges in transforming the APSE contest and she said she's not about to start backing down from obstacles that are sure to come with her new offices in Bristol, Conn.

"It's going to be very different, which is what's exciting to me," Byrne said. "It's a new, fresh challenge."

San Diego convention to leap into digital and social media

CAMERON WOLFE

You're never too old to learn. The adage is more of a reality than a cliché for many sports editors across the country. In an age dominated by digital and social media, newspapers can't afford to get out of date with the most common way people receive their news.

The classroom for sports editors is the Associated Press Sports Editors convention, which is holding its 42nd annual gathering from June 24-June 27 at the Westgate Hotel in downtown San Diego.

The four-day event will feature speakers such as retired Boston Globe sports columnist Bob Ryan, Los Angeles Times sports columnist Bill Plaschke and Facebook global head of sports media Rob Shaw.

Todd Adams, the sports editor for the convention's primary sponsor and host, the San Diego Union-Tribune, is in his 10th year with APSE. He says the experience is invaluable for him.

"I've learned how to plan and execute bigger projects. Before I started coming to APSE, my education had been a meat and potatoes journalism," Adams said. "I started coming to APSE and seeing the outstanding stuff and realized that stuff could be done if you attacked it the right way."

"I got to talk to people about how they did some of those things and was able to bring that back and really improve the wow factor; you want to surprise people."

The "wow factor" that

many of the attendees will take back this year will center on not only bridging the gap, but taking a leap into the world of digital and social media with a large focus on Facebook.

"Though we will have many, many excellent sessions, technology will be the theme. Fourteen separate sessions on emerging technologies will be available," APSE executive director Jack Berninger said. "Incoming president Mary Byrne came up with the idea for something called The Lab, a unique — at least by APSE standards — training opportunity for attendees."

Those developmental sessions, which are set to take place on the second and third days of the convention, are often where sports

editors pick up most of the material to bring back to their team. But it won't be all work and no play.

Adams is heading a trip to Petco Park to see the Padres play a game against the Arizona Diamondbacks on June 26. The following day, attendees will be able to enjoy the lovely San Diego weather with a 5K run and 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Adams also lists the San Diego Zoo and several historic military sites as must-see places for attendees. There's some fun to be had inside of the convention as well.

"We've added a bit of a twist to our keynote lunch this year. Instead of having a public official, our group (will) get a chance to see

The Chicken up close. He'll be working the crowd, then giving a short talk," Berninger said. "The whole thing is meant to be light and breezy and give the attendees a chance to kick back and laugh."

Last year, the convention was held in Washington D.C. with 124 paid attendees, and in 2013 Detroit was the host site with 131 paid guests. Adams says they expect similar numbers with "100-150 people" as a raw estimate, but he won't know the final number until the reservation deadline passes June 5.



ASPE file photo

Not every newspaper will send a representative, of course, but the ones that do will surely be in for a treat.

"What Mike (Sherman, APSE president) is trying to do is make sure everyone who comes to the conference leaves with four or five things you can really use," Adams said. "The way he put it is that he wants people to leave with more tools in their toolboxes when they go back to their papers."

Top columnist Sielski: Philly sports “is in my blood”

MICHELLE FENELON

Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Mike Sielski remembers everything about a Dodgers-Phillies game from 19 years ago. He remembers walking into the Phillies’ clubhouse and meeting the players as well as then-manager Jim Fregosi.

Sielski, then a 20-year-old and a college student, had attended his fair share of Phillies games, but this game was different. With an invitation to shadow sports columnist Bill Lyon, Sielski’s sports perspective changed forever, experiencing his first game as a member of the media and developing a professional bond with a respected writer.

“This was being in a big league clubhouse,” Sielski said. “This was seeing how other people did their job. This was meeting people

whose stuff I had read over the years, and that made it special.

“To be at the game, to experience what it was like because all I knew really was what I read in the paper the next morning, and to see how Bill did his job, to see these guys talk to the athletes, the coach...it was eye opening. It made me realize that yeah, this is it – this is what I want to do with my life.”

More than 19 years later, Sielski has authored two books – ‘Fading Echoes: A True Story of Rivalry and Brotherhood from Football Fields to the Fields of Honor’ and ‘How To Be Like Jackie Robinson.’

Most importantly, this year the former aspiring journalist won contest honors as the tops ports columnist in APSE’s highest category.

“[I was] very humbled,” Sielski said. “ [I was] very, very honored, especially when you look at the other finalists, a number of whom whose work I am very familiar with and respect very much.”

One of Sielski’s entries was a piece inspired by his 3-year-old autistic son, Evan, and his growing interest in the Phillies.

“It might be the piece of writing that I treasure most in my career, and of course, it means the world to me that Evan had a hand in my receiving this honor.”

Sielski began honing his sports acumen as a Philadelphia sports fan, learning about his favorite teams through his local newspapers, including the newspaper where he is currently employed.

It’s the job he’s always wanted.

“I’m big believer nowadays that you have to kind of specialize in something to



Mike Sielski

The Philadelphia Inquirer

really be successful in sports media and the media in general,” Sielski said. “I’d like to think that I specialize in Philadelphia sports. I know the market, I know the history – it’s in my blood.”

Before becoming an award-winning columnist, Sielski wrote for his local weekly newspaper during high school. Upon graduation, he attended La Salle University, where he caught on with the school newspaper, The Collegian, as a sports columnist, eventually taking over as the paper’s editor-in-chief.

“I went to La Salle thinking I wanted to be involved with either sports broadcasting or sports writing in one form or another,” he shared. “And then, once I started working on the paper, I discovered that’s where my love was

– it was in writing. I loved the thrill I got from writing something really, really good.”

He experienced those thrills throughout his career on many platforms, from an internship with The Intelligencer, a local newspaper in Doylestown (Pa.) to working as a stringer with the Inquirer covering high school football and college basketball. After receiving his Master’s from Columbia, Sielski settled into his first full-time position with The Intelligencer for four and a half years before moving on as the Philadelphia Eagles reporter for the Allentown (Pa.) Morning Call.

After a 10-month stint, he was hired as a sports columnist for Calkins Media, a group that includes newspapers (the Intelligencer, Courier Times, the Burlington County

Times, Beaver County Times, the Herald-Standard, and the South Dade News Leader), television stations and digital sites.

In 2010, Sielski ventured away from the Philadelphia sports scene to cover sports for the Wall Street Journal only to find his way back when the Inquirer called to offer his dream job.

With the 20th anniversary of that Dodgers-Phillies game approaching in August, Sielski reflected on his career and the help he has received along the way.

“I’ve been really fortunate,” he said. “I’ve had a lot of people help me along the way and I’m very grateful to the people who took time out to mentor me and to show me the right way to do the job and the right way to carry yourself as a professional.”

Earning Red Smith Award caps Ryan’s illustrious career

ASHLEY SCOBY

For legendary Boston Globe columnist Bob Ryan, a summer internship turned into a Hall of Fame career spanning four decades – and now a Red Smith Award, the highest honor given by Associated Press Sports Editors.

With this honor, Ryan joins former Globe co-worker Bud Collins, who won the same award in 1999. The Red Smith Award dates back to 1981, when Smith won it while working at The New York Times, and works to honor sports journalists who have made “major contributions” to the industry. “It really tops it off,” Ryan

said of this award, which he’ll add to a long list of honors he’s been chosen for in his career. “If you just look at the list of people who have won this award – to be in the same company as them, and people like my colleague Bud Collins, and then the Red Smith name itself, it’s really the highest honor.”

Ryan, who spent 44 years at the Globe after interning there in 1968, has proven that longevity in sportswriting doesn’t have to mean cynicism or boredom with the industry. He’s never gotten tired of a job that burns out many and still finds joy and intrigue in even the smallest

competitions.

“In 2012, as soon as (the Patriots) won the AFC championship and we knew they were going to Indianapolis, Bob was checking the college basketball schedule for that week,” said Dan Shaughnessy, a Globe columnist who worked with Ryan for more than 30 years. “IUPUI was going to be playing at home and he was so excited. He had the whole week mapped out.”

In addition to attending fringe Division I basketball games for fun, Ryan has covered his share of enormous sporting events, too: Olympics, Super Bowls, NBA playoffs. He takes perhaps the most pride, though, in his column from Game 7 of the 2003 ALCS



Bob Ryan

The Boston Globe

(the Aaron Boone home run off Tim Wakefield), which was included in the next edition of “Best American Sportswriting.”

“It just so happens, that was the last story that made the book that was a pure, old-fashioned, under-the-gun deadline story,” he said, citing the anthology’s turn towards feature and longform stories. “I was happy, I was proud, I didn’t think anything of it at the time. Well, 12 years later, there hasn’t been another deadline story. I’m very proud of that because to me, that’s what newspaper writing is all about.”

It’s fitting that Ryan is so loyal to the newspaper industry after spending his entire career at the Globe. He became the paper’s Celtics beat writer at just the right time, helping turn that position into a high-profile one, and Boston into a basketball town. Although he’s now known by many as a face on ESPN, it all started with a newspaper.

That never stopped Ryan from exhibiting his boisterous personality on camera, though, even before he became an ESPN regular. Joe Sullivan, who was Ryan’s sports editor at the Globe

for two decades, remembers seeing Ryan for the first time on television.

“I’m watching a New Jersey Nets game, and I think if my memory serves, it was at Utah,” Sullivan said. “They bring Bob on to interview him at halftime. I don’t even know what he’s doing there; he covered the Celtics. But I just remember them asking him a couple questions, and he was loud and opinionated. I was fascinated by this guy.”

Thanks to four decades of work put in by Ryan, that fascination is shared by the rest of the country.

Doyel puts twist on trend, going from digital to print

VINCENT PENA

Gregg Doyel, former CBS Sports columnist, is in the first year of his job as the columnist for the Indianapolis Star, and he's trying to bring a big name to the Indiana capital.

After 10 years at CBS, and an increasing level of boredom with writing from his couch, Doyel knew exactly where he wanted to be, and when given the opportunity, he jumped ship to work in his dream city, albeit not without some difficulty.

Doyel replaced longtime sports columnist for the Indy Star, Bob Kravitz, who spent some 14 years as the main spots columnist, and he's been working to establish himself as the new guy in town ever since.

"Just like in coaching, it's hard to be the guy that follows 'the guy.' It's hard to follow Dean Smith, or Wooden or Bob Knight," Doyel said. "And not only did I follow 'the guy,' but the guy didn't even leave town. I mean he's still writing here in town, so that creates a lot of — it gives readers a very easy way to try and hurt my feelings."

But Kravitz doesn't think Doyel needs to worry about that as much as he thinks.

"He probably felt like he had to fill my shoes, and they're really not all that big to be perfectly honest," Kravitz said. "If he's worried about filling my shoes I don't think he's got to worry about that anymore."

Even though he and Kravitz are friends, Doyel admits it was annoying to hear his predecessor's name every five seconds, and has made concerted efforts to

stop hearing Kravitz's name.

"He'd love for my name to be taken out of people's mouths and I'd love for his name to be taken out of people's mouths," Doyel said.

While Kravitz admitted this probably went on for a little bit, he likes the relationship he has with Doyel, and thinks it benefits both of them mutually.

"I think it's a good professional competitive relationship. I was hoping the Star would find somebody good to replace me and I think they've done that with Gregg," said Kravitz.

On top of trying to separate himself from "the guy" in the workplace, Doyel acknowledged that the transition from a national columnist to a newspaper columnist has many other challenges, most notably the workload.

"This work here is very satisfying, but it's wearing me out" Doyel said. "It's not a complaint. You can't have it all, you can't bust your ass and also have a bunch of free time, you've got to make a choice, which one do you choose? I choose to bust my ass and be worn out."

And so far it's working out for him. He enjoys his work at the Indianapolis Star more than his couch gig for CBS.

"At CBS I was writing at people, because the whole job is about trying to get attention, Doyel said. "I was writing at people, and after 10 years that wasn't so fun anymore. Here at the Indy Star, I'm writing for people, I'm writing for them, and I

can't tell you how great that feels."

Additionally, writing for a metro news organization means a more intimate connection with the audience than on a national level, which comes with praise as well as much criticism.

"There's a lot more accountability at a paper because I'm being read by pretty much the same people every day. Online you might be read by the same people everyday but you don't have a backyard," Doyel said.

He added, "Here I'm read by Indiana people every single day so there's a lot more accountability because if you screw up here... in the old job if I was too harsh or too mean, then maybe I lost the state of Oregon for a year, but there's 49 other states. Here, I can't lose the state of Indiana, I just can't do it, there is no other state, so there's a lot more accountability."

It's working so far, because this isn't Doyel's first rodeo, and despite all the challenges, he's truly enjoying his work, and it's paying dividends with the community.

"I've always suspected if you read me every day, or at least most of what I write, if you really pay attention to me consistently, odds are you're going to like me," Doyel said. "People here read me everyday and I can already see they know, and they're very graciously embracing me."

Added Kravitz, "I just think it's great for the city of Indianapolis to have two columnists, two voices that they can read on a semi-daily basis. I think it's all been good for a city that deserves multiple voices in its local media."



Gregg Doyel

Thanks to Byrne's efforts, ASPE contest goes paperless

ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

Judging the work of your peers in a matter of three days can be a little stressful. But until this year, the real source of stress for the Associated Press Sports Editor members was the preparation for the organization's annual contest.

For years, editors cut and pasted articles on 8 1/2 by 11 pieces of paper, then carefully cut off any identifying features (since entries have to be anonymous) such as bylines or logos.

No more, thanks to APSE first vice president Mary Byrne. Byrne, a newly appointed senior deputy editor of ESPN.com, required that writing entries be submitted through Google Drive for the 2015 contest, which occurred this past March in Orlando.

"She did an incredible job," said Ruben Luna, associate sports editor for the Detroit News and 14-year APSE contest judge. "She said she went a little crazy putting this together but she did a great job getting this started. I think it's heading in the right direction."

As the organization's first VP, Byrne was in charge of the contest this past year, when Google Drive was used as the platform for the contest for the first time. Judges agreed the transition was long overdue.

Before the change to online, Luna said it would take around a week to prepare approximately 30 entries for the eight different categories of the contest.

Editors had to scissor out headlines, bylines, taglines and anything that identified their organization. They then had to mail the packages to a "catcher," someone near the contest site who would number the entries and deliver them for

the three days of judging.

"Certainly, it made preparing the entries a lot faster and easier," said Jim Luttrell, the assistant sports editor for the New York Times and APSE judge of 10 years.

The judges went from tools and glue to a couple of hot keys.

"You still have to remove the byline but it's a couple keystrokes as opposed to using a scissor and a piece of newspaper copy somewhere," Luttrell said.

"You don't have to paste it to an 8 1/2-by-11 piece of paper, which was kind of insane, you felt like you were in kindergarten."

The change proved to make the actual judging also much more efficient.

Groups of three or four judges have always been

required to meet each day and read over a writing or sectional category. In the past, judges were given their stories in the form of a stack of papers. Each judge in the group was required to read each story so the time of judging was dependent on each judge's reading speed.

With Google Drive, judges don't have to wait for each other to finish — they can read entries simultaneously.

"You can sit there and go 'I'm done with 30, I'm going to take a break but then I don't have to wait for anybody else to give me their 30 because I can jump right in and keep going,'" Luna said.

Judges also don't have to stay in the same place while they read entries. Mike Szvetitz, the sports editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, sometimes judged from his room and his hotel

lobby by reading on his laptop.

"You can read on whatever you're comfortable with," Szvetitz said. "You don't need to sit in one area, you don't need a table. You can do it anyway you want to do it."

Of course with any change as big as this one, there are always some complications.

"There were a lot of tedious instructions that had to be relayed and you had to be sure you paid attention to all of it but it was nothing that caused us problems along the way," Luttrell said.

While the writing entries moved to the digital age, the submissions for sectional

categories for daily, Sunday and special sections remained traditional. Editors said holding an actual newspaper is crucial when judging a sectional piece.

But the change already has judges thinking about potential growth of the contest. Not all newspapers have the budget to send someone to a contest every year and Google Drive opens up the possibility of judging remotely.

"Maybe if people can be judges at their desk, at work or on their couch at home, to a certain degree, that would be more beneficial to the group as a whole," Luttrell said.

For Byrne, the successful transition would not have been possible without the support of her colleagues.

"I give credit to everyone who participated," Byrne said. "They took the time to do it the way that I asked. If they had a question, they asked. People were very conscientious and that was a tremendous help to me."

'She did an incredible job...it's heading in the right direction.'
RUBEN LUNA
Detroit News

World-Herald is all world

Staffer Chatelain honored with 4 APSE Top-10 writing awards

JAYLON THOMPSON

Omaha World-Herald sports writer Dirk Chatelain didn't envision himself as a journalist.

Growing up in Rising City, Neb., he wanted to be a math teacher. It wasn't until he took an elective that put him to work with the school newspaper that he fell in love with the writing process. His drive and curiosity for compelling stories that made him pursue a career in journalism.

Fast forward to this year, and Chatelain is now the winner of four Top-10 awards from the Associated Press Sports Editors. He picked up accolades in the writing divisions of beat writing, breaking news,

feature stories and special projects. While the awards are a great honor, Chatelain believes the recognition comes from the hard work that he puts in each day.

"It makes you feel good on the work that you have done," he said. "As a journalist that commits a lot of time, creativity and energy into these stories, it makes you feel good that others recognize and appreciate it."

Sometimes those stories alluded to controversial topics. It was in those

moments that Chatelain grew as a writer. He realized that not being afraid of conflict was critical in sports writer.

One example of controversy that Chatelain faced was in college when he was critical of Kansas State football coach

Bill Snyder. Kansas State defeated the Nebraska Cornhuskers by 28 points, and Chatelain wondered why Snyder kept playing his starters on Senior Day.

"I thought it was sort of a classless move, and I asked him about why his backups

didn't play on Senior Day," he said. "It sort of angered Bill Snyder, and it was the first time that I kind of poked the bear."

Chatelain eventually wrote a column on the situation, and it solidified him as a reporter who wasn't afraid to ask the tough question. Tough questions need to be asked in order for the facts to be heard.

"It's the journalist's responsibility to ask the questions and address the issues that the public wants to know more about," he said. "The readers and fans are just as curious. They want their voices heard and their questions asked."

Another thing that has

helped Chatelain as a writer, is the freedom he receives from the Omaha World-Herald. He is able to be independent and search for stories that are important to the people.

One instance that Chatelain says that sticks out in his mind, is when he wrote a story on a six-man high school football team in Nebraska.

The story focused on rural life in America, and he sees it as one of his best works. The story took a lot of time and effort, and Chatelain said he believes the World-Herald's ability to be flexible helped him create a story that reached national headlines. For this reason, he credits

his newspaper as a big reason for him winning his awards from the APSE.

"I have a lot of freedom to dig into a story and spend a lot of time on it," he said. "Not a lot of newspapers allow you to do that. The World-Herald gives me a long leash to work with."

In his career, Chatelain has accomplished a lot in a short period of time. Being named among the best 10 sports writers in the country is a testament to his dedication as a journalist.

"I want to be known as someone that is a fair and hardworking journalist that tells rich and creative stories," he said.



Dirk Chatelain

Newspaper's unique approach leads to success

JAYLON THOMPSON

The Omaha World-Herald is the heartbeat of Nebraska.

Founded in 1885, the newspaper is unique, as it happens to cover all of Nebraska and parts of Iowa. It is also a rarity as it still relies heavily on a bevy of resources to help produce the bulk of its content.

Over the years, the newspaper has been a prominent figure at the Associated Press Sports Editors awards. The Omaha World-Herald has been a recipient of 23 top 10 section awards since 2007. Also, it has won the daily, special and Sunday sections as a trio six times. This feat is a testament to their ongoing success.

"We have very good photographers, artists, editors and designers," said sports editor Thad Livingston. "I think where lots of papers have cut into those resources in the last 10 to 15 years, we continue to go at full steam."

This year, the Omaha

World-Herald has been honored with 11 awards as a paper. The sports department finished as one of the APSE's Top-10 papers in four categories, including: Sunday, special, daily and online sections. Also, the paper had seven writers win individual writing awards. Dirk Chatelain had the most awards by a writer with four and Matthew Hansen finished with an award in feature writing.

The recognition made the sports department one of only four newspapers to receive the APSE grand slam joining other established papers like the Oklahoman, Buffalo News and the Boston Globe.

The Omaha World-Herald sports department credits their success to their organizational structure. The staff is in constant contact

with each other and is highly motivated to perform at an optimal level. Writers work during different parts of the day and there are few formal meetings. The sports section accommodates the preferences of the staff by always having ongoing discussions. In a sense, the staff works in one huge meeting.

That style of constant communication and community is credited to Livingston.

"My job is to foster an atmosphere where people like to come to work and do a good job," he said. "We have a healthy environment where we try to set it up so that our reporters and editors can thrive."

The results of the fluid conversation hinge on the expertise of the World-Herald's sports writers.

This is a huge advantage for the paper, as writers are empowered to write and produce content from what they know best.

"There are things most people on our staff know intuitively because they grew up with it," Livingston said. "In our profession you are not starting from square one.

We can cut to the chase really quick because we all know what works, what to do and how to get it."

Another thing that makes the sports department flourish is its layered coverage. The writers have the freedom to write stories and take their time with them. The staff is big enough to cover other daily aspects of the job, and writers don't necessarily worry about rushing to complete content.



FILE PHOTO

Omaha World-Herald newsroom.

With an audience that requires a lot from its writers, they work to establish a standard of performance each day. The expectations of the readers keep the staff on track to produce good content.

"Nobody here wants to fail," Livingston said. "A lot of people feel the pressure to do a really good job. It is that pressure that helps us do a great job."

The Omaha World-

Herald has continued to do well and the awards symbolize a benchmark on how the staff is performing each year. It serves as a reminder to the staff how it must perform each day in order to stay consistent. For Livingston, it is a way of seeing how his sports section is regarded among the best in the nation.

"It's one of the things that show us that we are doing a good job," he said.

LANG Pulitzer winners fulfill Anastasi's challenge

ALEX NIEVES

Standing in front of a modest sized staff in the newsroom of the Daily Breeze, a newspaper with a circulation of about 63,000 in Torrance, Calif., Michael Anastasi, executive editor of the Los Angeles News Group (LANG), held up a glass of freshly uncorked champagne and started his toast.

"Every journalist gets into this business for one reason, to make a difference in the communities that they serve, every single one," he said to his staff. "It is an extraordinary privilege for us that we are able to do that."

On April 20, reporters Rebecca Kimitich and Rob Kuznia, and city editor Frank Suraci were awarded the Pulitzer Prize — the first for a LANG newspaper — in local reporting for their investigation into corruption in a small

Southern California school district. For many at the Daily Breeze and around the country, the Pulitzer was a shock.

However, for Anastasi, who from his first day as executive editor told his editors that they should aspire for Pulitzer Prize-level stories, the honor was just a sign of hard work.

"We didn't set out to win the Pulitzer. I think that happened as a consequence of what we did set out to do, which is to pursue excellence in our journalism and to pursue excellence in all things that we do," Anastasi said.

This drive to aspire for excellence has been the motivating factor for two of Anastasi's missions as a leader in media, to be a difference-maker in his community and to push for increased diversity in the

newsroom.

Anastasi, who hails from Knights Landing, a town of roughly 1,000 people in Northern California, earned his first editor role at the age of 21. While studying international relations at the University of California - Davis, he was tabbed to lead the sports section of the Davis Enterprise, a newspaper with a circulation currently around 8,000.

In 1993, Anastasi became the assistant sports editor at the Los Angeles Daily News and was named the sports editor of LANG just two years later.

He held this role until 2004, when he moved to the Salt Lake Tribune as managing editor, where he

stayed for eight years before returning to LANG as executive editor.

Along the way, Anastasi never relented in his efforts to increase the diversity of his newsrooms. He has played an integral role in supporting the Sports Journalism Institute, a program that helps to train and place aspiring female and minority sports journalists in professional newsrooms, hosting interns and helping to teach classes since the program's inception in 1993.

His biggest impact likely came in 2011, while Anastasi was president of the Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE).

At this time, he founded the APSE's Diversity Fellowship, a program that trains professional female and minority sports

journalists for roles as managers.

"We have a dearth of diverse candidates for leadership positions," Anastasi said. "I'm a doer. I'm a person that wants to have an action plan. I don't want to debate why that is, because we can talk for hours and hours about it.

"It seemed the most obvious way to do that was to create more candidates so that no one can say, 'Well I would like to hire an African-American, but I just don't know of any.'"

Gerry Ahern, Vice President of Content for the USA Today Sports Media Group, served as vice president of APSE during Anastasi's tenure. He said that Anastasi's success as both an editor and a champion for diversity comes as no surprise to those who know him well.

"I don't know that you can ever envision it, but you could see from his passion that he was going to be a success at whatever he put his mind on," Ahern said. "This business is one that really fuels itself on desire and passion and hard work, and there's not a person in the country that works any harder."

Despite the hard work of Anastasi and those like him, the makeup of sports departments around the country continues to be dominated by white males. While the road to change is always fraught with difficulties, Anastasi said the he will not be satisfied until the diversity in sports newsrooms matches that of American society.

If his past success is any indication, Anastasi's goal may not be as idealistic as it may seem.



Michael Anastasi

L.A. Times hires first Hispanic sports editor

(continued from page 1)

a year when the challenge of a lifetime appeared in front of him.

"[The Los Angeles Times] is a huge challenge," Rodriguez said. "What I've always tried to do in my career is kind of find that next challenge.

"I haven't worried too much about the salary or the position or anything like that. It has always been 'Is this a cool project, do I want to do this?'"

At every stop along the way, Rodriguez's focus has been on the digital aspects of journalism. He realizes that it is this digital background that earned him the sports editor position at the Times, and not just his last name. What he hopes to bring to the Times is not just development of its digital platforms, but a new, audience-driven approach to producing stories.

"That's what I really hope

to bring to the Times, is really just the idea that we're thinking about the audience and trying to think of new ways to tell stories," Rodriguez said.

While Rodriguez admits that the pressure of leading the sports department at one of the largest newspapers in the country has at times kept him up at night, he relishes this sort of pressure.

To this day, he still points to an important piece of advice that he received from Benito while at EFE, as the philosophy with which he has approached his career.

"He just said 'Look, someone is always going to be a better writer than you, someone is always probably going to have better access than you, but you shouldn't let anyone outwork you.' And that's really sort of the mantra that I've had the whole time."

Selig brothers finding success in sports journalism on separate paths

VINCENT PEÑA

Much like many other successful combinations of brothers in sports, such as the Manning brothers in football, the Uptons in baseball, or the Sedin twins in hockey, David and Mark Selig are making a name for themselves in the journalism world, moving up quickly and paving the way for a very bright future for the brothers from Boston.

They've already had success, both together and as individuals, and like most of these aforementioned pairs, the Seligs followed similar career paths initially, and then went their own way.

David, 31, recently took over as sports editor at the South Florida Sun Sentinel, replacing sports editor Greg Lee, who left for NBA.com. Prior to moving to Fort Lauderdale, David served

as deputy sports editor and reporter for The Baltimore Sun since 2011 and was a reporter and sports editor at the Winchester Sun in northern Virginia from 2007 to 2011.

While at the Sun, he worked under senior editor, Ron Fritz.

"David is an outstanding journalist," Fritz said. "Hiring is usually the hardest thing we do, but hiring David was a no-brainer."

Mark's path has taken him back to school, where he is currently a graduate student at the University of Missouri, all while still being on staff at the Columbia Missourian as assistant sports editor. But before going back to school, he was a college basketball beat writer for the Daily News Record in Harrisonburg, Va. He was recently awarded first place in the APSE 2014 contest for columns

in the under 30,000 circulations category. Among his winning body of work was a column he wrote about playing pick-up basketball with Missouri quarterback Maty Mauk.

Mark, 27, is trying to establish his own identity despite following his older brother, whether on purpose or by accident.

"To be honest, I've always had that in the back of my head, like 'oh, I don't want to be seen as just doing the same thing as my brother,'" Mark said. "It just turned out that we are in the same industry, and we've gone down similar paths and... I'm not going to change what I love just to be different than him."

The two have always shared an interest in sports. Whether it was playing, watching, or talking about them, sports always seemed

to be the main topic of conversation in the Selig household in Stoughton, Mass.

"The Boston Globe was always on the breakfast table (and) there would be arguments about who could read the sports section first," David said. "We'd go out and play sports, we'd read about sports or we'd watch sports, and we always had Sporting News or

Sports Illustrated both coming to the house, so it was always something in our lives that was a common interest that we shared and we talked about."



David Selig



Mark Selig

MEET THE CLASS OF 2015

CHRIS BUMBACA

University of Wisconsin, 2017
Kansas City Star

Sports and family are two of the things Bumbaca loves most, and he finds sports journalism combines the best of both those worlds. An avid reader from a young age thanks to the popular book series “Magic Tree House” by Mary Pope Osborne, Bumbaca quickly became interested in writing and storytelling. He was also influenced by New York Post writers like Mike Vaccaro and Steve Serby, whom he read on a daily basis back home on Long Island. Soon, he wanted to be a storyteller like those he read on the back page of the New York Post. “I want my writing to sound [to readers] like I’m sitting next to them,” he said. “A page isn’t a barrier between myself and the reader.” Bumbaca finds sports the perfect vehicle for such communication because they are a “uniting factor—we’re always watching them and talking about them.” Bumbaca will continue to express his passion for the unifying power of sports as he becomes the sports editor for the Badger Herald this fall.



—Colby Lanham

WILTON JACKSON II

Southern Miss, 2015
ESPN.com

Although many young boys dream of a career in the NFL or NBA, Jackson learned early on how precious life is and decided to abandon his athletic aspirations for academic ones. His dad, Wilton, served two tours in Iraq and was gone for eight years of his childhood. When Jackson saw his dad risking his life for America, he decided he wanted a career that would have an impact on others. “I don’t want to be average,” Jackson said. “I always want to keep learning and get better.” Influenced by journalists such as Michael Wilbon and Tony Kornheiser, Jackson leaped at the opportunity to cover stories no one else wanted while working for the Golden Eagles’ newspaper, the Student Printz. His true passion, however, lies in broadcast, and he’s been able to parlay two campus host gigs into a collegiate correspondent opportunity with USA Today. He also is the recipient of scholarships that will cover his bill for graduate school, which he will begin at LSU in the fall.



—Cameron Wolfe

COLBY LANHAM

Clemson, 2016
MLB.com

Lanham didn’t have a choice about becoming a Clemson fan. Both of his parents attended and now teach there, and he grew up 10 minutes from campus, so his college decision was easy: Lanham would be a Tiger. He remembers his father detailing the technical aspects of football games, helping Lanham get a deeper understanding of sports and an appreciation of analyzing games. He realized he had a future in writing after his mother found a book report he wrote during his freshman year of high school and assumed it was plagiarized because it was so well written. A career was born, and now Lanham combines his skills for analyzing games and writing by covering Clemson sports for the school’s athletic department, writing columns, features and blogs. In his first two years on campus he worked for the student newspaper, the Tiger, and even earlier he covered Clemson and college football years earlier for Bleacher Report, writing live blogs and post-game reactions. It all served as a foundation and a spur for his growing desire to work in sports journalism.



—Chris Bumbaca

MICHELLE FENELON

UMass-Boston, 2015
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

When Fenelon was growing up, a career in sports journalism was the last thing she could have imagined herself pursuing. In fact, she would often grow frustrated with her many cousins as they constantly watched sports on their one TV. That all changed with the 2001 NBA Finals, when she fell in love with an unlikely hero, Shaquille O’Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers. After that, Fenelon was all about sports—playing basketball and taking every opportunity to watch the Celtics and Patriots. Journalism jumped onto Fenelon’s radar her junior year of high school, when she received an assignment to watch and recap a Patriots game. “My mom was yelling at me to go to the kitchen and cook and I was like ‘I can’t, I have homework,’ and I was so happy,” she recalled. Fenelon, a high school sports correspondent for the Boston Globe, loves writing and can imagine a future behind a keyboard, but her heart lies in television. “Deep down, I’m still that 12-year-old girl that said she wanted to be on TV.”



—Alex Nieves

ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

Northeastern University, 2015
USA Today

For as long as he can remember, Kanno-Youngs has possessed a fondness for storytelling. Then, in high school, he developed a love for sports, becoming the football team captain his senior year. Around that same time, his great-aunt, an NPR anchor, encouraged him to pursue a career in journalism. At that point, Kanno-Youngs knew he wasn’t going to have career as an athlete, so he decided to follow his aunt’s suggestion, realizing that sports journalism would combine his two greatest passions. In college he looked for a wide range of experiences—from covering inner-city sports for the Boston Globe to writing about news during a three-month stint abroad in South Africa, where his coverage topics included crime, education and the arts. It’s back to sports this summer, and when fall comes around he will take part in a news writing internship with the Wall Street Journal. Moving into the future, he hopes to continue writing in both news and sports.



—Alysha Tsuji

ALEX NIEVES

Occidental College, 2015
Los Angeles News Group

With two sports-crazed parents, Nieves grew up watching and playing sports. He took his love for the San Francisco 49ers from his mother and his hatred for the Yankees from his father. But while sports play a big role in Nieves’ home, he began college with more interest in diplomatic affairs than those involving sports journalism. He changed his career path after working as a sports reporter for the Occidental Weekly, finding that “something clicked” when he wrote his first article. “Sports journalism was the first time I could go into the newsroom and be completely engrossed in what I was doing,” he said. Nieves is excited about the opportunity to cover a few Dodgers games this summer during his internship. Eventually, the Santa Clarita native wants to become an editor for a major metro, and his dreams don’t stop there. Nieves wants to push for diversity in the newsroom: “Once the newsroom is a model of our society, that’s when I’ll be comfortable that our work is done.”



—Michelle Fenelon

ASHLEY SCOBY

University of Kentucky, 2015
Sports Illustrated

Scoby has always known she wanted to be a sportswriter. As a child, she would paste clippings of stories and box scores from Kentucky games in a notebook. In junior high, she would debate about who would be a better pro, Kevin Durant or Greg Oden. After doing freelance writing in high school, she decided that rather than writing for the school paper in college she would go out on her own to write for a variety of publications. She covered UK sports for a number of daily and weekly papers around her home state, interned at the Seattle Times and covered the 2015 NCAA Final Four for the website KyForward.com. Now the Glasgow, Ky., native has bigger plans in mind. Scoby is motivated by the idea of giving a voice to those who might otherwise not have one, and uses sports as an avenue to do so. “Sports are a great prism of the very best and the very worst of people,” Scoby said, and it’s that notion that drives her as a journalist.



—Vincent Peña

VINCENT PEÑA

Northern Arizona University, 2015
Salt Lake Tribune

Not many elementary school students could finish a Roger Clemens biography by lunchtime, but that was a typical day for Peña, who started rapidly absorbing sports knowledge early on in his life. Every day, he read the Arizona Republic’s sports section, relaying to his family the news they’d missed. Simply put, sports consumed Peña’s life.

“Then I figured out I could get paid for this,” he said.

Peña took his first journalism class in high school and decided to make it his career. At NAU, he’s been the men’s basketball beat writer, editor-in-chief and the “everything man” for his student newspaper, the Lumberjack. Women’s rugby, men’s basketball, swimming and diving—he’s written about it all.

Peña said he’d love to be a beat writer at some point, as well as a sports editor and a college journalism professor. He’ll begin a master’s program in journalism and mass communication this fall at Nebraska, then decide if he wants to go directly into the industry or teach first. “There are a lot of things I want to do in this industry,” he said. “I want to do it all.”

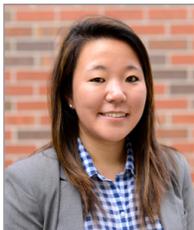


—Ashley Scoby

ALYSHA TSUJI

Pepperdine University, 2015
MLB.com

When Tsuji was in high school in southern California, she wrote a letter to SLAM Magazine asking what she needed to do to be a sports journalist. The answer—practice every day—pushed her down a path that has included reporting at a magazine in London and interning in Los Angeles at Grantland. Tsuji has loved literature and sports since she was a child. She played in a Japanese-American basketball league from kindergarten through high school and some of her earliest memories are of her father reading to her. After serving as sports editor at her high school paper, Tsuji worked her way up from writer to executive editor of the Graphic of Pepperdine. While at Pepperdine, Tsuji also found joy in “telling stories people don’t necessarily think about” in work she did at the Malibu Surfside and the Pacific Citizen, a Japanese-American paper of Los Angeles. She’s most proud of a story on the Pepperdine baseball field groundskeeper and his son, a red-shirt player on the team.

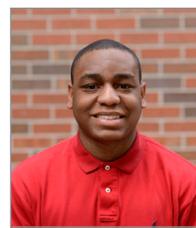


—Zolan Kanno-Youngs

JAYLON THOMPSON

University of Georgia, 2017
Houston Chronicle

Very few people know what they want to do at age six. Most times, if you ask a child that age, the answer you hear is police officer, firefighter or athlete. But after going to an Atlanta Braves baseball game, Thompson knew his calling: sports journalist. Thompson could recall all the statistics for the players in the Braves’ lineup and figured, “If I can remember all this, I can be a sports writer.” Seven years later, a broadcasting camp came his way and opened a career path for him to consider broadcasting. He heard about SJI through a professor at UGA and now he’s hoping to use the opportunities that this summer brings to build a better network as well as a better understanding of sports journalism. Thompson already has the experience of writing for the Georgia student newspaper, The Red and Black, as well as his work volunteering at Grady News Source, where he has helped with producing news stories.



—Wynston Wilcox

CAMERON WOLFE

University of Houston, 2015
Denver Post

Wolfe’s passion for sports started at an early age. “Instead of watching cartoons or playing with Legos, I wanted to read the sports section of the daily newspaper,” Wolfe said. In addition to reading the newspaper, Wolfe began watching shows on ESPN, adding a broadcast perspective to his sports passion. He also played basketball and football from middle school to high school. However, once he got to college, Wolfe focused on writing about sports, a career goal that could combine his desire for sports and journalism. At Houston, Wolfe worked as a reporter and later the executive producer for the show In the Game, and as an online reporter and sports editor for The Overtime Page. He also worked and interned professionally at KTRK ABC-13, ESPN Radio 97.5 and the Houston Chronicle. A native of Jackson, Miss., Wolfe has moved frequently, from Louisiana, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Texas. In every stop, he has continued to tell the stories of others.



—Wilton Jackson

WYNSTON WILCOX

Ohio University, 2017
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Wilcox is no stranger to new beginnings. He got his start in journalism by doing PA announcing for a youth league in his home state of Ohio. Without any experience, he announced 24 games over two seasons. However, journalism wasn’t in his immediate future. He wanted to work in the computer technology field. It wasn’t until his mother encouraged him to go to journalism camp that he changed his tune. Over the course of one summer, Wilcox fell in love with the writing process and got experience posting weekly stories all summer long, an experience he calls eye opening. It also was door opening, and helped him land a position at the Post (an independent newspaper covering Ohio University and Athens) reporting on track and field and cross country. He also has grown by writing his first full-length feature and column. Wilcox has learned that new challenges are essential to growth and he has one this summer, as he prepares to head to Pittsburgh as an intern for the Tribune-Review.



—Jaylon Thompson

SportsManias Digital Summit to facilitate sharing ideas

COLBY LANHAM

It's a well-established fact that the media industry's landscape is changing, and with the evolution comes new challenges and expectations. There's social media, blogs and analytics to think about, not to mention an audience that's quickly trending digital.

But along with the challenges come opportunities for collaboration. That's the main idea behind the inaugural SportsManias Digital Media Summit later this summer, a program that aims to facilitate sharing of ideas in a shifting journalistic landscape of tweets, blog posts, quick hits and audience

engagement.

Presented by the Knight Foundation and co-hosted by the Miami Herald, the summit looks to bring together digital media leaders, journalists and others in the sports media for a one-day forum on the evolution of journalism and its intersection with social media. Former APSE president Tim Stephens, who's the VP of Strategic Partnerships for SportsManias, is the architect of the seminar.

"This is an opportunity to bring decision-makers and influencers together to share ideas and viewpoints at an important time in

sports media," Stephens said. "For SportsManias, this is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to that discussion."

The idea for the summit came about when Stephens was approached by SportsManias co-founders Aymara Del Aguilla and Vicente Fernandez about joining their company. Stephens' involvement in planning conferences for APSE made the summit a natural discussion point.

After Stephens joined SportsManias, the talks intensified, and the result is the program that will roll out

in Miami in August.

At SportsManias, Stephens works closely with newspapers and digital publishers to position their content to a wider audience. His knowledge of both print and digital helped Stephens shape the seminar, where discussion topics will range from blogging and the digital landscape, to social media, to evolving career expectations for sports journalists.

But don't ask where you can sign up. The Inaugural Digital Media Summit is an invitation-only event limited to 125 confirmed RSVPs. The event will feature sports

writers such as ESPN's Jemele Hill, Woody Paige of the Denver Post, Dan LeBatard of the Miami Herald, and Executive Sports Editor Lisa Wilson of the Buffalo News as panelists for session discussions. Session moderators will include outgoing APSE president Mike Sherman, the Knight Foundation's Jennifer Preston and Miami Herald sports editor Jorge Rojas.

"I could not be more proud of the lineup and we are thankful to all of those who are participating. We are very excited about our lineup of panelists, and, of course,



the generous support of the Knight Foundation and the Miami Herald," Stephens said.

The summit will begin with a reception on Aug. 20 at the Conrad Miami Hotel before business gets serious the next morning with the day-long seminars.

Undeclared to promote mutual understanding on race

ASHLEY SCOBY

Race has always been, and likely will always be, part of the conversation in America. The goal of a new site being launched by ESPN is to continue that conversation in a more layered and thoughtful way that provokes mutual understanding of racial issues.

Already the site has made headlines and started conversations, most notably in early June when ESPN announced that the writer who had been at the forefront of the project, Jason Whitlock, would move from leading the site to being, in ESPN's words, "focused on what he does best: creating distinctive and compelling content, which will live across various ESPN platforms." ESPN announced that Leon Carter, the site's editorial director, would replace Whitlock on an interim basis.

In a statement issued June 12, ESPN said it had "collectively decided to make some structural adjustments that will maximize the skill sets and strengths of our team, leading to the best possible output for the site and for all of ESPN."

The site is called,

perhaps appropriately, The Undeclared (a name inspired by a Maya Angelou passage), and is expected to launch this summer. It will focus on examining race through the prism of sports.

Before his change in jobs, Whitlock had met with SJI students via Skype and said his hope was to provide longform pieces once or twice a month, as well as daily content that "makes people think, 'Oh, man, I never thought of it that way.'" Multimedia will also play a role, with The Undeclared expected to use video, podcasts, social media and other platforms to tell stories and interact with its audience.

To begin to tell the story of the black experience — through sports — a site must employ those who can best understand that story. That would include Carter, an ESPN VP and formerly executive editor at ESPNNewYork.com. Before coming to ESPN, Carter was the longtime sports editor at the New York Daily News. Others onboard at The Undeclared include senior editor Danielle Cadet, former editor at blackvoices.

com; senior writer Jerry Bembry, a former ESPN The Magazine senior writer and editor and former college professor; senior writer Jesse Washington, former entertainment writer at the Associated Press; senior writer Mike Wise, former columnist at the Washington Post; and staff writer, Ryan Cortes, a former Florida College Press Association College Journalist of the Year.

Even with the emphasis on longform (defined as stories 2,000 words or more) journalism, most daily content of The Undeclared is likely to be in the 400 to 1,500-word range.

In his conversation with the SJI class, Whitlock said diversity — a focus of The Undeclared — is crucial for journalism as a whole. Without differing perspectives, readers have the same view of the world validated over and over again. "You can't tell stories with great nuance and context and fairness without diversity, or it's much more difficult," he said. "As African-Americans, it's highly important for us because a lot of times we get frustrated because the issues

we want discussed are not discussed because we haven't taken responsibility for telling those stories and framing those issues in a sound journalistic fashion."

That vision seems integral to The Undeclared, regardless of a leadership change. ESPN said in its statement making the change in Whitlock's role that it was pleased with the "blueprint" he had provided for the site. "Jason has been instrumental in assembling the foundation of a strong editorial team, formulating the vision for the project and collaborating with our digital product team to develop the blueprint for the site," the statement said.

By early June a few pieces had already been published under The Undeclared name: staff writer and former law professor Brando Simeo Starkey's story about the state of boxing, which was published before the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight; Washington's look into Charles Barkley's rise from Leeds, Ala.; and Mike Wise's piece on John Wall rising above a tough background.



GREGORY LEE

Those are the kinds of stories Whitlock said he hoped readers would see when the site officially launches. He also pointed to Ta-Nehisi Coates' piece in The Atlantic last year about African-Americans deserving reparations after centuries of slavery, segregation and discrimination. "For decades there was talk about reparations, but Ta-Nehisi Coates did the actual journalism to frame the discussion that made America talk about it," Whitlock said. "We need to do more of that."

At the end of the day, the conversation about race is not going away, and it hasn't for hundreds of years — "since

Christopher Columbus came up with the fiction that he discovered this country," Whitlock said. With that in mind, he said his dream for the site is simple: "The site would be essential for African-Americans and anyone interested in the African-American struggle."

Even with Whitlock's exit, that dream remains alive and well, and true to the words that inspired the site's name. "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated," Maya Angelou wrote. "In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."

Farewell to a friend: SJI remembers legacy, insight of Burwell

WYNSTON WILCOX

Bryan Burwell, who lost his battle to cancer last December at the age of 59, was known by newspaper readers around the U.S. for his insightful columns and stylish writing. Within the classrooms of the Sports Journalism Institute, he was known as a teacher and a mentor who had no problem sharing the experience and knowledge he had garnered from his time in the field.

Burwell always looked forward to passing on tips he had gathered with the people who could make the most of it: young minority men and women. He was passionate about working with young

journalists and making them better writers.

From the moment that the idea for SJI was first discussed (at the 1992 NABJ convention in Detroit), Burwell was part of the program. In recent years, with SJI's boot camps in residence at the University of Missouri and Burwell living and working in St. Louis, he made personal appearances to speak about column writing and creating your own voice, offering unparalleled insight.

"He embodies what we teach our students," said Greg Lee, a board member of SJI and editor of the SJI

Bulletin.

Lee said that it helps to have a guy who knows how to write as an instructor, but noted that Burwell was also familiar with multimedia reporting. Lee called Burwell a "pioneer" in multimedia journalism.

Burwell was a longtime columnist at the St. Louis Post Dispatch whose byline also appeared in USA Today, Newsday and the Detroit News. He also was a frequent contributor to ESPN's "Sports Reporters" show.

One thing Lee remembered from his days as an SJI student in 1994

was a lecture by Burwell on writing. He recalled Burwell saying: "Interviewing is about being in a conversation... When you write, write with conviction."

Lee decided to take the editing route rather than writing but has held dear the insight from Burwell.

Someone else who enjoyed hearing Burwell's insight was Nick Creegan, part of SJI's 2012 class at Missouri.

"The first thing that caught my attention was how approachable he was,"

Creegan said. "He was aware of the fact that we were young and inexperienced, and he was a very good-spirited person."

Creegan also remembered Burwell talking to him and his classmates about formulating their own voices. He remembered Burwell saying it wasn't going to be easy as a black journalist and telling them that not everyone would like them.

Column writers are often challenged for their opinions, so Burwell told the 2012

class that a writer's voice has to come across clear to make one's opinion heard. "Once your voice is formed, follow it and that is what makes you a good column writer," Creegan recalls him telling the class.

This year, as the SJI class of 2015 visited Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Burwell was on the minds of more than one. The Cardinals, too, remembered him. On opening day, they saved an empty seat in the press box that was labeled BRYAN BURWELL.

"We miss him, and it's too sad that this class won't get to hear his insight," Lee said.



Bryan Burwell

SJI co-founders to be awarded Missouri Honor Medal award

CHRIS BUMBACA

When Sandy Rosenbush first heard she would be honored with the Missouri Honor Medal, her first instinct was to focus on the impact the Sports Journalism Institute has had in the field.

"My immediate reaction was 'What an honor this is for SJI,'" Rosenbush said.

Leon Carter's reaction to receiving the award was a mixture between subdued shock and excitement, he said.

"I took a long pause because it was an extraordinary honor from a very, very respected journalism school -- one of the best," Carter said. "I didn't expect it. It was a tremendous surprise."

Each year, the University of Missouri School of Journalism awards the Missouri Honor Medal award, reserved for those who have had a significant impact in the journalism industry.

This year's recipients

include seven individuals and two organizations. The groups are CNN Digital and SJI. Carter and Rosenbush are accepting on behalf of SJI, which they helped found. NABJ previously awarded the duo the 2009 Legacy Award for their SJI work.

The Missouri Honor Medal, which has been given out since 1930, carries great weight. Gregory Lee, a 1994 SJI alum, received the award in 2013.

The relationship with Missouri's J-School began about four years ago, when Greg Bowers, an associate professor in the school and sports editor of the Columbia Missourian, reached out to SJI and expressed an interest in forming a partnership, Rosenbush said.

"When Missouri approached us four or five years ago, it just made a lot of sense for us to explore it and we've been very happy there," she said.

Since 2012, SJI has held its

summer workshop sessions in Missouri classrooms, a long way from Norfolk State University, which is where the first classroom sessions were held more than 20 years ago when Carter was teaching there during a one-year professional-in-residence.

Carter eventually assumed the role of sports editor at the New York Daily News for 11 years (1999-2010) before moving to executive editor and Vice President at ESPNNewYork.com. Now, he lives in Los Angeles and is laying groundwork for a new, ESPN-affiliated site called The Undeclared, which deals with topics such as sports, race and culture.

Like Carter, Rosenbush also went back to teaching. After stints at The Washington Post and The New York Times, she worked at Sports Illustrated for 13 years.

But for Rosenbush, who said she doesn't like to be anywhere too long, it was

time to move on. One day, while riding the subway in New York, she saw a sign for the NYC Teaching Fellows Program and signed up.

"It was a lot different than sports writing," she chuckled.

After three years of teaching, Rosenbush landed in the sports journalism world once again, this time at ESPN, where she has been serving as an event news director since 2008 and has covered the last two World Cups.

Ohm Youngmisuk, an SJI alumnus and now at ESPNNewYork.com, sees Carter's and Rosenbush's impact every day and in his and other alumni's careers.

"Their impact, I don't really think can really be measured," Youngmisuk said. "I think it's still kind of evolving. All you have to do is look and see the people that have come underneath them."



Carter and Rosenbush with the class of 2015.

ABBY CONNOLLY

"We've tried to spread their beliefs and their words and their vision by taking other young writers underneath our wing and trying to diversify newsrooms and staff and even carrying that into story ideas. We try to bring a unique, diverse perspective that might not have been there before Sandy and Leon."

Rosenbush is adamant that the award is less reflective of the program leaders, but a testament to

SJI as a program.

"It's really a credit less so to the three of us and more so to the graduates," Rosenbush said.

To Carter, SJI's accomplishments wouldn't have reached the level they have if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of Lee, Rosenbush and himself to diversify sports newsrooms.

"SJI has continued because of these three individuals," Carter said. "This is our stamp on what we have accomplished."

Promotion of one SJI alum opens door for another in Bay Area

ALYSHA TSUJI

Since 1993 the Sports Journalism Institute has been helping minorities and women enter and advance in the journalism world. Nothing better illustrates that mission than a change of reporters covering the Golden State Warriors.

Last year, SJI alumnus Diamond Leung (03) jumped from the Michigan State basketball beat (which he covered for MLive.com) to reporting on the Warriors for the Bay Area News Group. In his new job, he fills

a vacancy left by another SJI alumnus, Marcus Thompson (98), who moved up to a column writing slot.

Thompson worked as the Warriors beat writer for nine years, but he's been at the Contra Costa Times (part of the Bay Area News Group) since he moved on after SJI. In 2003, he and Leung first crossed paths at the Contra Costa Times when Leung interned there as part of SJI. At that time, Thompson was a sports reporter. Now, the two are good friends reporting on the same team and primed to cover the NBA Finals for the first time.

"We wouldn't see each other everyday [when they met at the Contra Costa Times], but he definitely helped me along just to understand how to be a professional and go about your business," Leung said. "He was a helping hand, a mentor, someone you could talk to, a guy in the business

who had already been there." Thompson said he feels compelled to help up-and-coming journalists like Leung because it's in the spirit of SJI.



Marcus Thompson



Diamond Leung

"The whole thing started because professional sports writers decided to help out youngsters trying to get in the game."

Thompson wants to carry on the tradition. When Leung stepped into his current role, Thompson made himself readily available for questions and to provide tips.

"It's great to have a guy like that to bounce ideas off of," Leung said.

Both Leung and Thompson grew up in the Bay Area, so they share a lot of memories. The main differences are their ages and depth of experience. Leung began the Warriors beat gig in January 2014 while Thompson, as Leung puts it, "knows this team from that locker room perspective better than anyone."

Thompson said it was initially tough to decide how to go about reporting on his hometown team. "I could have either been a fan reporter or too hard on them to

prove that I'm not biased," he said. Ultimately Thompson figured things out, while also balancing his work and travel hours with family life. He is married, and he and his wife have a daughter who was born a few years after he took the Warriors job.

"All of this is hard, none of this is easy," Thompson said. He added that he and his wife work together to find a rhythm, but that the difficulty of constantly being on the road is something unavoidable that comes with the beat reporter territory. As a columnist, he's now on a less rigorous travel schedule.

However, no matter what challenges the job poses—whether it be the hours or the success of the team itself—Thompson said he'll never take these opportunities for granted.

"When [the Warriors] were bad, when they were good, for me, either way it's a dream job," he said. "I get to write, I get to watch

basketball, I get to have fun and I get paid for it."

Leung echoed that sentiment. "I love this job," he said.

As for future goals, Thompson and Leung are both set on concerning themselves only with the task at hand and performing it to the best of their abilities.

Leung said he has grown up wanting to be a beat reporter, and that covering an NBA team is a dream come true. "I just really like the challenge of going into a locker room and following along, telling people about the ups and downs," he said.

Thompson says he understands that he's in a privileged position.

"I don't want to waste it by looking ahead," Thompson said. "I just trust I'll be taken care of and whatever opportunities I deserve will come my way. If they don't come, that's fine too. I can't complain about the job that I have."



Former Warriors beat writer Thompson is now a columnist.

Graduate of first SJI class wins APSE multimedia award

WYNSTON WILCOX

When Duane Rankin stepped onto Norfolk State's campus in 1993 as a member of SJI's first class, Multimedia journalism was not a part of the curriculum and it would not be for many years. At that time, one medium was about all any journalist worked at mastering, but of course that's all changed now.

Rankin, a columnist for the Montgomery Advertiser, is the winner of this year's Multimedia D Category award from APSE. The award honors his compilation of videos of three game-changing moments from sports around the state of Alabama. He will be recognized with other contest winners at the APSE Convention.

Rankin really likes the fact that APSE has a multimedia category.

"I think the category is great," Rankin said. "It's a phenomenon because people can create their own videos and let the world see it."

The journalism field is demanding a lot more involvement in multimedia because

of the continued growth in technology, and Rankin said that he hopes APSE has more multimedia categories in the future.

The three videos Rankin chose were: Auburn quarterback Nick Marshall's touchdown pass to beat Georgia, Alabama's Trevor Releford hitting a 50-foot shot to beat Georgia, and G.W. Carver basketball player Antonio Nelson's half-court heave that proved to be a game-winner.

How did Rankin get all three of these miraculous moments in Alabama sports on film?

"It was luck, you know," he

said. "I was just at the right place at the right time."

Being at the right spot at the right time was what got him the APSE award, but it all goes back to 1993 when he took part in the first SJI class.

One of the takeaways he remembers from being part of that first class was that he was getting an opportunity to talk face-to-face with big shots in the sports journalism field.

He also remembers being pushed by SJI co-founder Leon Carter during the two-week boot camp. And through the strict criticism, he saw himself become a better writer.

"How (SJI) helped me over the years is really with confidence," Rankin said. "Knowing that you are able to do things and that you are capable of doing things."

Another positive, Rankin said, is that the institute continues to thrive today. He said it's nice to see that what his class did in '93 is still working and that others are improving on what he and his classmates learned when he was in the program, as well as seeing how SJI molds some of the best journalists in the field.

"That's huge to me because it lets me know that what we did in '93, it started something far greater than what we were initially thinking at the time," he said.

Certainly being able to cover the 50th anniversary of Selma in Alabama would classify as something "far greater" than Rankin's original plans. That assignment had nothing do with sports but everything to do with history.

"That was one of the big things for me that came from that program," he said. "It's that I can write more than sports."



Duane Rankin

Lee goes digital in moving to NBA.com

COLBY LANHAM

Digital has become a main part of the journalism landscape, and Greg Lee has joined the club. After nearly two decades of working in print and three years as executive sports editor of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Lee made the jump to digital as editorial director for NBA.com. Lee's first major run as editorial director has been mainly through the NBA playoffs, and he is excited for the opportunity of a fresh start on a different media platform.

"The gig is fun and exciting," Lee said. "I got here at the end of the season and the start of the playoffs, so I'm excited to be here. It was just time to go into a space where the focus in a newsroom is sports, which is my love."

With NBA.com, Lee is in his first full-time digital position // -- although he worked on the web sites at the Boston Globe and the Sun-Sentinel. // As audiences have begun shifting more towards cellphones and tablets to find their stories, Lee felt it was time for a change of scenery. NBA.com was the perfect opportunity to spread those stories across the digital landscape.

"I wanted to be a part of growth opportunities for myself professionally and on the job," Lee said. "It was just becoming too difficult in newspapers to do excellent journalism with dwindling resources."

A former president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), Lee earned his bachelor's degree at Xavier University of Louisiana and worked at various newspapers, starting as a sports copy editor for the Times-Picayune. Lee served as deputy high school sports editor for the Washington Post and senior assistant sports editor for the

Boston Globe before becoming executive sports editor for the Sun-Sentinel.

Now, as editorial director for NBA.com, Lee has the opportunity to narrow his focus and specialization to one sport, compared to his previous positions, in which he had to focus on multiple sports.

As his position dictates, Lee is responsible for working with reporters around the league to develop original content for NBA.com -- which is run by Turner Sports, Lee's employer. Thus, Lee can mix his staff's original content with content from NBA teams and content from other Turner properties such as TNT.

Lee also is responsible for editing that content and presenting it properly on the league website. Lee has had his own adjustments to the position, namely the work schedule and the means through which stories have to be produced.

"The biggest difference is that there are far fewer meetings and no hard, fast deadlines to file and

produce stories. Space is not an issue in digital space," Lee said. "I also worked days in Florida (as executive sports editor), but now I work nights."

Lee brings great experience from his run through print.

"The organization skills I accumulated over the years (in print) in juggling multiple tasks will serve me well here," Lee said.

Outside of his role with NBA.com, Lee is an active member of the journalism community, as he is a professional advisory board member of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and a board member of the Sports Journalism Institute. Lee also served as president of NABJ for two years.



Greg Lee

SJI grad named NABJ's top student journalist

MICHELLE FENELON

In 2012, student Tierra Smith found herself scrambling to put together an article on a Friday night after news broke that Grambling football coach Doug Williams was suing the school.

Smith decided she wanted to be a journalist during a Louisiana State University journalism summer program, but at that moment -- the moment she sat down late Friday night typing the Williams article -- it hit her that being a journalist was the right career path.

"I broke the story, and that's when I really realized that this what I want to do," Smith said. "I never get bored of doing journalism. If I had to stay up all night and do my homework, I would hate it. But if I had to stay up all night and sleep in the newsroom to get the paper out on time, I wouldn't complain once."

Her long nights, devotion and passion for journalism is

why she is the recipient of this year's National Association of Black Journalists Student of the Year award.

"I was really shocked because I didn't know I was nominated, so to actually win it was a big blessing," Smith, 22, said.

She has been an active member of NABJ since attending her first conference in her freshman year of college. She also built relationships with two past NABJ presidents, Gregory Lee and Will Sutton.

"What I like most about Tierra is she's an independent, strong, smart young journalist, yet she realizes that though she has more going for her than some other students, she still has lots to learn," Sutton said. "She's willing to do what it takes to put in the time and to go at things again and again if she doesn't get it."

I'm proud of Tierra and all she's done. I'm really excited

about watching what more she'll be doing in the coming years."

Lee introduced Smith to opportunities such as the Sports Journalism Institute when he visited her campus in 2012.

Her first application was rejected.

When Smith learned she wasn't accepted, she contacted her mentor and school professor, Sutton, with one question: "What was I missing that didn't allow me to get this opportunity?"

"Any time I wanted something I looked at those who had already received it and looked at what they were doing to make sure I was matching up to them," Smith said.

When she did get the nod the following year, Smith relished the opportunity to spend a week with aspiring sports journalists.

"I'm striving to be the best...and when you're in a room with some of the other best it pushes you harder," she

said.

While the students pushed each other to be better journalists in just one week, they built something that will last a lifetime.

"You know, we're really a family and in that week we built something that was very, very, very strong. We could really depend on each other, so it was really cool to meet other students that were trying to make it in this field just like me," Smith said.

Aside from Lee and Sutton, Smith acknowledges that many people, including Gramblingite adviser Wanda Peters and ESPN.com editor Mary Byrne, have been instrumental in her development.

As a recent college graduate, Smith will spend her summer as the Dow Jones News Fund business reporting intern at the Denver Post.

In the fall, Smith will enter graduate school at the very place she fell in love with journalism -- LSU.



Tierra Smith

Lights! Action! SJI alum Creegan steps up

WILTON JACKSON II

Finding your niche in the sports media industry can be difficult, but for Nick Creegan, hard work, patience and commitment has allowed him to move one step closer to his dream of being the next greatest sportscaster.

Creegan, a 2012 graduate of the Sports Journalism Institute, beat 500 contestants in the "AOL Sports Search" in November 2014.

The contestants were vying for the right to host an AOL show.

The search required contestants to make an individual video that showcased their personality, knowledge and passion for sports at the AOL Studios in Los Angeles

or New York.

Creegan is starting out as a co-host for the AOL show "2 Point Lead", which combines humor with sports. He conducts interviews with comedians and athletes such as Kevin Hart and Derek Jeter, produces daily web content and participates in various on-camera skits.

Winning the contest, said Creegan, "was a feeling like no other ... It was the greatest feeling I ever felt since graduating from college."

The opportunity is what he appreciates most. "I didn't have as much on-camera experience as a seasoned host; so, there was

a learning curve," Creegan said. "The people at AOL set me up to win, allowing me to use my strengths to my advantage."

In addition, Creegan serves as host on the AOL morning show "Rise", a 90-second show providing mobile users with the latest headlines in news, sports, music, finance, weather and lifestyle. "These shows are not your typical daily journalism," Creegan said.

Before becoming an on-air host with AOL, Creegan worked for FOX Sports Los Angeles as a multimedia sports journalist and an NBA page editor. He was also a freelance blogger for ESPN New York.

After completing SJI in 2012, he interned for ESPN.

com. He credits SJI with giving him the tools he needed to get started.

"SJI helped me to polish my writing skills but also taught me to not limit myself to a specific emphasis in journalism," Creegan said. Gregory Lee, director for editorial content at NBA.com and Turner Sports, and also one of SJI's co-directors, said Creegan serves a textbook example of preparing for the future.

"Back when he was an SJI student, he dressed the part of being what he is today on AOL," Lee said. "Nick has always had confidence in his abilities, is dedicated to his craft and is willing to do what it takes to get better."



Nick Creegan

Sports editors weigh in on one thing they would change

WILTON JACKSON

Nearly 30 years ago, journalists in the media industry could do one simple job to share the latest news with citizens in society. Fast forward to 2015, things are a lot different.

Journalists are asked now more than ever to do multiple duties as a journalist. Whether working in print, broadcast, radio or online, it is not uncommon for a journalist to do any of these duties plus their main job.

Various APSE sports newspaper editors weighed in on the state of the media industry and offered their thoughts on one thing they would change about it.

“

More and more these days, we see coaches or organizations limiting the access of journalists, so its harder to tell stories and give sports consumers the more in-depth information they seek and deserve. The better we are able to talk to those we cover, the better we can do our jobs and serve news readers.”



—Tommy Dees, sports editor,
Tuscaloosa News

“

Newspapers continue to struggle with the fine line between print and electronic, and how to make money on the electronic side. If I could change anything in the sports media industry, it would be a smarter and more forward-thinking approach to web and digital platforms.”



—Robert Gagliardi, senior sports editor,
The Wyoming Tribune Eagle/Laramie Boomerang.

“

I miss the bigger sports sections where there were nearly 20 pages and larger staff sizes.”



—Larry Graham, executive sports editor,
San Diego Union-Tribune

“

The golden age of newspapers has changed over the last 30 years and pay walls constrict things, but I cannot control what is expected on the corporate level. I cannot really change anything but I am trying to stay to create the best journalism possible.”



—Phil Kaplan, sports editor,
The Knoxville News Sentinel

“

I believe that our industry's reluctance to institute pay walls at a time when the web was really becoming completely integrated into our lives was a fatal error for our business. We had a wonderful commodity in the digital space, but we undervalued it.”



—Jeff Rosen, assistant managing editor/sports
Kansas City Star

“

I wish the skill and art of writing could return to its prominence it once had. Businesses focus too much about social media and which organization reports the news first.”



—Joseph Sullivan, assistant managing editor/
sports,
The Boston Globe

2016 convention, with ESPN backing, likely for Charlotte

CAMERON WOLFE

The rebranding of the Hornets returned the buzz to Charlotte, but now APSE is buzzing about the Queen City. That's because the 43rd annual APSE Convention is likely to be coming to Charlotte in June 2016.

The recommended hotel, pending an executive committee vote, is the Omni Hotel, located in Uptown Charlotte.

The big factor in 2016 is the sponsorship of ESPN.com. Charlotte, is home to ESPNU

as well as ESPN's newest partner venture, the SEC network.

The presence of an organization outside of the newspaper norm emphasizes APSE's focus on centering its conferences around learning and digital media.

“When APSE, which was a newspaper editors group for the longest time, expanded, we went where the market is digitally,” APSE president and Oklahoman sports editor Mike

Sherman said. “And getting ESPN was long overdue and gradually ESPN became a bigger and bigger part of our organization.”

This will be the first year ESPN has played host to the APSE convention and the two-way partnership will be a unique opportunity to share techniques for a business moving more away from traditional media to digital, mobile and social platforms. Sherman says ESPN has been an active sponsor for

APSE at Disney events in Orlando and APSE breakfasts in the past. But this conference will be its biggest imprint yet on APSE.

“ESPN.com has benefited from its membership in APSE and from the relationships with colleagues across the organization, and we look forward to continued, mutual success,” said Patrick Stiegman, vice president and executive director of ESPN digital and print media.

For APSE, Charlotte will be a return to the East Coast and a location that would be a reasonable driving distance for most editors in three of the four major regions. And the benefit to have what many fans call “the worldwide leader” in ESPN as the host for media outlets of all sizes can only be a positive for those striving to appeal to the new wave audience.

“It's possible for every one of us to provide live coverage, even if we're not rights holders

to provide live coverage of events; ESPN that's what they do,” Sherman said. “We are also fascinated about their marketing and promotion, what we can learn about selling ourselves, reaching our audience and engaging sports fans.

“They have a lot to teach us and I think that conference in Charlotte will be a place where we can roll that out way more than we have in the past.”

If Charlotte is confirmed the conference will take place June