Our Aug ‘11, Jan ‘12, May ‘12 Grads in the Field:

BIANCA BENEVENGA, Freelance Technical Associate, News 12, Edison, NJ; SARAH BROTHERTON, PA, MTV NETWORKS, NEW YORK, NY; ANDREW CONTI, PA, WPIX, New York, NY; CRISTIAN DEMARCO, News writer, Telemundo, Fort Lee, NJ; JULIETTE FERNANDEZ, PA, My9 News, Secaucus, NJ; BRIAN HENRY, PA, Fox NewsChannel, New York, NY; BOB HOFFMAN, Media Manager, NJTV, Montclair, NJ; KEEGAN KINGETER, Set PA, Made in Jersey, CBS Television, NY; THERESA LEWIS, PA, NJTV, Montclair, NJ; RANDALL PAYTON, Technical Operations, Control Room/Studio Coverage, CNBC, Englewood Cliffs, NJ; RACHEL SEIDNER, Production Coordinator, Metrovision Production Group, New York, NY; ERIC TITUS, CBS Page, CBS Network, New York, NY; KYLE WILLIAMS, PA, CNBC, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

It’s been another year of great change here at MSU as the Broadcasting Department began its transition to join the Film and Communication Departments in a new School of Communication & Media. It is a bittersweet moment, however, as we are no longer a separate department, and are retiring the “Broadcasting” name. We do feel confident, though, that these changes will position us strongly for the future, given new technology and industry practices.

We have a new Dean of the College of the Arts, a new Director of the School of Communication & Media, and some wonderful new facilities. As we sit here in our newly relocated offices on the 2nd floor of DuMont, we look out over our old annex building, which is about to be demolished to make way for new university infrastructure, and eventually a brand new building to house the new school.

A new organizational structure is in place for the new school. There is no longer a separate chair of the department, but Marc Rosenweig will be coordinating the Television & Digital Media program for us in the coming academic year. We are all excited about the great possibilities in bringing together the Broadcasting, Film, and Communication Departments, and equally excited about the new leadership for the school and college. Permit us to introduce them to you...

Merrill Brown has joined us as Director of the School of Communication and Media. He comes to us from MMB Media LLC, of which he was founder and principal, and has extensive experience in traditional and digital media as well as journalism education. A former business reporter for The Washington Post, he was the founding editor-in-chief of MSNBC.com and was instrumental in the launch of Court TV, for which he managed programming, marketing, and business development. In recent years, he has advised, raised capital for and helped develop early stage digital media and technology companies on the east and west coasts. He has served on numerous corporate boards and advisory committees, including the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism Advisory Board and the Knight Foundation Journalism Advisory Committee.

Dan Gurskis, new Dean of the College of the Arts, comes to Montclair State from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York where he was a professor and chair of the Department of Film and a special assistant to the president. Most recently at Brooklyn College, he has overseen the creation of a new graduate school of cinema to be located at Steiner Studios, the largest...
For the first time, Montclair State University will honor two television professionals with the Allen B. DuMont Broadcaster of the Year Award. Sportscasters Bruce Beck and Ian Eagle will be co-recipients when the award is presented at MSU’s DuMont Television Center on (date and time TBA). As part of the ceremonies, they will be interviewed by assistant professor Marc Rosenweig for a special edition of Carpe Diem.

DuMont Award to Sports Broadcasting’s Bruce Beck and Ian Eagle

Beck and Eagle are long-term stalwarts on the sports scene. Beck is a sportscaster for New York’s WNBC-TV 4, where he has covered major events around the world, including the last five Olympic games. Beck has also worked for NBA-TV, MSG Network and hosted shows on New York Giants football and Rutgers University football. Eagle joined CBS sports in 1998 and is a play-by-play announcer for NFL football and the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. He is also play-by-play announcer for NFL Thursday Night Football on Westwood One Radio and for Nets NBA basketball on the YES Network.

For over a decade, Beck and Eagle have run the “Bruce Beck and Ian Eagle Sportscasters Camp” each summer at the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center on the Montclair State University campus. They have been instrumental in teaching many students who have gone on to broadcasting careers.

The DuMont Award was established in 1985. Past winners include Inside Edition anchor Deborah Norville, WABC-TV senior correspondent N.J. Burkett, My 9 News anchor Brenda Blackmon, WCBS radio’s Tom Kaminski and Bob McGrath of “Sesame Street.”
Department of Broadcasting 2012 Award Winners

REBECCA LAMB, Bill Puskas’ Most Promising New Student Award; JONATHAN ARONOFF, Achievement in Production; SARAH BROTHERTON, Achievement in Production; BRITTANY CLEMENTE, Achievement in Production; MAGDALENA DORIS, Achievement in Production; ROSE LAMELA, Achievement in Production; THERESA LEWIS, Achievement in Production; ASHA MCKENZIE, Achievement in Production; CRISTIAN DEMARCO, Achievement in Production; JASMINA POLANCO, Achievement in Production; TANJA REKHI, Achievement in Production, KEEGAN KINGETER, Broadcasting Faculty Award; RACHEL SEIDNER, John D. Sharkey Award; RACQUEL FOSTER, Carol J. McCracken Returning Student Award; JACQUELYN LODER, Mary C. Lozada Travel Award; IAN ELLIOTT, LINDSEY HRESKO and LINDSAY RASSMANN, Radio Club of America Scholarship; ROBERT DICKERSON and JACK SMITH IV, Angelo and Margaret J. DiFlauro Scholarship; ANDREW JUPINA, Leo Kiely Scholarship; VINCENT RESCINITI and MICHAEL PANEPINTO, Cento Amici Scholarship. KEN SPOONER, Stephanie Wood Public Service Award.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 19th Annual Alumni Party will be held during Homecoming, on Saturday, October 13 from 10:00am-12:00 noon
DuMont Television Center
Please register by Friday, October 5.

You may register by calling 973-655-4141 or by email at montclairconnect@mail.montclair.edu.
It’s an unexpected twist of events on how I came to work with Matt Bernaldo, ’93. This very newsletter “introduced us” 4 years ago. Matt was promoted at WBBH in Fort Myers, Florida and wanted to share his success with his former broadcasting classmates. As an aspiring news reporter, I took note and emailed him right away. He responded and passed along my resume tape to his wife (executive producer of special projects), so she could give me feedback on it. While I was hoping to be hired, I was told I didn’t have enough experience for market 62. Cut to 3 years later and an unexpected, unsolicited phone call from the station’s assistant news director who hired me on the spot (without knowing I knew Matt). Ironically, I now work with Matt and his wife (who’s now my boss!). It was a career move (to Florida) I had no idea I was going to make until I realized it was fate. Matt’s career was fate, too. It took him down an unexpected road, full of twists he never envisioned. In this interview, Matt shares his journey to success and how it’s okay to stray from the intended path (and New Jersey).

LS: At the time of graduation from the BDCS department, what career did you want to pursue?
MB: I just wanted a job. I honestly didn’t care [what it was], as long as it was in TV.

LS: What was your first job out of college?
MB: I worked for a small corporate video production. I did a lot of office work and went on a few shoots. I wasn’t very happy there. I think it was the pacing. The big corporate accounts lacked excitement, lacked ‘new,’ and lacked change. I was fired after six months. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. I’ve never told that to the guy I was working for. So Peter Kean, if you’re out there, thank you ... getting fired turned my life around.

LS: Where did your career path take you? Did you expect it?
MB: I did a little work for CNBC, then for America’s Talking (which became MSNBC.) I met a girl, got tired of New Jersey (sorry, NJ, I still love you!) and moved to Florida to figure out what I was doing with my life. I was still interested in news, but it was time to go.

In 1998, by sheer coincidence, I ended up working in a building in Fort Myers where my MSNBC paychecks came from. I met a guy who taught me computers inside and out and introduced me to HTML code. That’s where I finally found my place. I coded a few websites for fun, because I was curious about what I could do with that code. I kept it up as a hobby when I went to work for a small accounting/management software company.

Then it all came together in 2000. Shortly after we got married, I got a call saying the news director at the TV station where my wife worked wanted to talk to me about fixing their website. I thought it was a code problem of some
kind, but it turned out he needed someone to focus on growing it. And that was finally the right fit -- I did websites and news in one job. It was nirvana.

It took me eight years to find it, but this was what I was supposed to be doing, despite the fact this didn’t exist when I was at MSC (yes, MSC... I’m old school).

LS: Describe your current job.
MB: My title is Director of New Media. It’s 75% news and content, 25% revenue projects. Journalists typically draw very clear, impenetrable lines between sales and news. I have long believed that’s unhealthy for new media, because there’s a closer relationship there. To make the whole thing work, those running it need to be involved in both and learn how to make them work together.

LS: What should our current broadcasting majors looking to get into the news or production field realize as they start their career journey? Is it okay to stray from the intended path?
MB: You never know where an opportunity is going to present itself. The argument could be made that I am where I am because I happened to meet someone when I was somewhere I had no intention of being one particular night. But there it was. You can try to plan things out, have goals - those are good things. But don’t let them act as blinders. Things change.

LS: Advice to stay successful and keep moving up the ladder?
MB: Expect to pay your dues and work hard. You don’t start at the top. No one does. You’re not going to toss your cap into the air and be anchoring the 6 & 11 next week. Be the one who volunteers for the extra shift, the one who picks up a weekend assignment. The one who has what they need to cover breaking news packed and in their car right now. Be the one they remember. You may not make your own luck, but I think you can certainly influence it. Most importantly, don’t be afraid of change.--Leigh Scheps, ‘08, Reporter, WBBH, Fort Myers, Florida.
Alumni in Pictures
HEATHER ALTSCHULER, ’10, tells us she was recently recognized in the JAM Video Festival Awards, receiving first place for her documentary, Sold Out by Mother Nature. The JAM Festival Awards are given by the Jersey Access Group (JAG) and the Alliance for Community Media (ACM).

NICK CLUNN, ’01 was recognized by two journalism associations this year for exposing improper overtime payments that were made to the Paterson mayor and other city officials after the Hurricane Irene disaster. The series of stories, which appeared in The Record, led to the return of $50,000 in overtime payments, scrutiny from state officials and reforms to city policies. The stories won First Place, Local News, from the state chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and Second Place, First Amendment, from the New Jersey Press Association. Clunn has been a staff writer at The Record since 2007.

VALARIE HARPER COSTELLO, ’02 and her husband Scott celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on March 25...and on March 26th welcomed a healthy baby boy, Benjamin Raymond. He weighed 8 lbs 13 oz, was 21 inches long, and had a full head of hair! He joins big puppy brother, Jack Magoo.

VINCENT DESIDERIOSCIOLI, ’92 celebrated his 20 year anniversary with Marriott International on August 17th. He’s the Production Manager at Marriott Creative Services. He’s also working on a unique documentary based on a one-on-one laser tag tournament and is currently soliciting crowd source funding. www.indiegogo.com/lsufc.

MICHELE M. DUPEY, MLIS, ’75, a graduate of Montclair State’s first class in Broadcasting, married Ray Robinson II on June 28. Michele and the son of famed prize-fighter Sugar Ray Robinson met at the Jersey City Free Public Library, where she is Public Information Officer. Ray II was scheduled for an author’s presentation in February 2005 at the Pavonia Branch Library, of his book on his father, “Pound for Pound: A Biography of Sugar Ray Robinson,” written by Herb Boyd, with Ray Robinson II, though a major snowstorm closed the library system before the presentation could happen. They extensively met via phone and e-mail four years later, and conducted a long-distance relationship from San Francisco for two and a half years before Ray came back East to be with Michele.
LINDA SUSLOWITZ FEDERMAN, ’90 and Evan Federman are enjoying several family milestones in 2012. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and 15 years in their NJ house. Son Ben is entering his senior year of film school at SVA and completing his seventh internship. Son Mitchell is starting his freshman year at the University of Maryland, College Park.

TIMOTHY FEELEY, ’09 tells us, “as of right now I am the Edit Room Assistant on the new Coen Brothers’ movie called “Inside Llewyn Davis”. My job is to help organize visual effects shots, assist in the turning over of picture and sound to our Re-recording mixer/Sound Editor, assist in turning over picture to our Colorist, and also assisting Joel and Ethan Coen who also edit their own films with whatever they need.”

“It was a dream of mine to one day work with the Coen Brothers and now I actually am and it is amazing!! I recently left my previous full time job at Sound One back in October to work on a pilot directed by Spike Lee.”

“I worked for NBC Sports as an Associate Producer on a Bob Costas show for the Super Bowl, and I also worked with NBC Sports as an Associate Producer on the Westminster Dog show. I was asked to go to London for the Olympics but I had to turn it down when I got the job on the Coen Brothers film back in March. Though the Olympics was a dream as well, my heart is with feature films and I couldn’t give up the job I am on now.”

FRANK FLEMING, ’00. writes in, “I was unable to find a job in the broadcast field, but I have taken the knowledge from MSU and it helped me in developing one of the most extensive websites dedicated to the history of sports. I have been working on Sports E-Cyclopedia.com since 2001. The site which I make some money through advertisers features team by team history for every team in MLB, NFL, NHL, NBA, MLS and recently I have completed a history of the ABA. Each of these pages also features an extensive photo gallery of players, stadiums and legendary teams, including all championship teams. I update each team page yearly. I also update the front page daily for the day’s biggest story. Professionally I work as a Court Clerk at the Essex County Courthouse, in the criminal division, one of the busiest courts in the Nation. My website is located at http://www.sportseencyclopedia.com/.

TANIA IVANOVA, ’08 Tania continues as Associate Producer of New Jersey’s critically acclaimed public affairs series devoted to issues of public policy, law and justice, “Due Process,” now a unique production of Rutgers Law School-Newark airing weekly on NJTV.

Tania shared in the success of New Jersey’s most esteemed public television program when she won her first EMMY during the 2011 NATAS Mid-Atlantic EMMY Awards. Tania and the “Due Process” team picked up the Emmy for Outstanding Interview/Discussion Series, bringing the show’s total to an unprecedented 19 New York and Mid-Atlantic Emmys.

“Due Process” was honored again this year with 6 more EMMY nominations, of which Tania received 3. The 2012 EMMY awards will be held on September 22 in Philadelphia.

On a personal note, Tania is pleased to announce her engagement to Richard Bentley this Summer.
ADAM KOWALCZYK, ‘11, was hired by Merrill Corporation (NYC) in August 2012 as a full-time Legal Videographer who will shoot depositions/testimonies/litigations for the company, among other tasks. He previously worked for DeCheser Media as a freelance videographer shooting legal matters consisting of depositions/testimonies/litigations. He tells us he couldn’t be happier in his chosen career path.

WILLIAM ANTHONY KING, ’07 is currently working as a Media Scheduling Coordinator in the Cable On-Air Scheduling Department at NBC Universal in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. William continues to enjoy working and learning in Broadcast Operations and hopes that his former classmates are doing well.

LISA MARIE LATINO, ’06 writes in that she recently moved her production company, Long Shot Productions, to Fairfield! The pre- and post-production facility opened this summer, and many MSU alumni, students and staff attended the grand opening event on June 22nd!

Since its inception in 2009, Long Shot Productions has had the opportunity to work with many outstanding corporate clients in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, including McGraw-Hill, Federal Credit Union, Torcon, Inc., High Noon Entertainment, The Hip Event, Market Technicians Association, Write On Sports, Inc., Advanced Health Media, Stage Presence, Inc. and Montclair State University. In addition, LSP has many television and writing endeavours in various degrees of pre-production.

Lisa Marie and Long Shot Productions owe a great deal of gratitude to the Montclair State University Broadcast Department for teaching and support over the past three years!

ASTRID MARTINEZ, ’05 has recently relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina. She has accepted an anchor/reporter position with WBTV-CBS affiliate. For the last two years Astrid was the 5pm anchor/reporter for KGBT in Harlingen, Texas. Astrid and her 8 year old daughter Jolie are looking forward to being back on the east coast and excited to be a little closer to New Jersey.

BRIAN JUDE, ’95, produced and co-directed the pilot episode of the courtroom comedy “Erroneous Convictions,” starring Tom Bartos, Kim Director (Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2) and Judge Jerry Sheindlin (The People’s Court).
JENNIFER DE STEFANO MCTIGUE, ‘00, tells us, “my husband Sean and I, who were married in November of 2010, just welcomed a new addition to our family: Meghan Rose McTigue, on July 27, 2012. “

ROBERT PASHMAN, ‘93, Robert’s band 3RDegree-who reformed in 2005 after a long hiatus-has followed up their successful 2008 Narrow-Caster CD with THE LONG DIVISION coming September 4th at www.3RDegreeONLINE.com, iTunes and elsewhere. The album’s concept and subject matter lend insights into Blue State/Red State America, the political vitriol and mayhem during election years and even has a song written from the point of view of a TV political strategist! Perhaps one of the best things Robert has ever edited was a promo clip featuring his son promoting this new album viewable here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24nkHt5R3DI

JENNIFER NEIDENBERG RUBIN, ‘04: Jennifer and her husband Josh welcomed their son Miles Solomon Rubin on March 28, 2012.

PHIL MCCRICKARD, ’11, is currently working as script coordinator for ABC News- Good Morning America. He began work this past winter, after meeting one of Montclair’s fellow alums Craig Viechec, ’07 during the Senior Seminar networking project in April ’11. Phil has been able to participate in both the weekday, weekend and afternoon versions of the number one morning show for the majority of the summer of 2012. Phil also works as a part-time audience coordinator when needed. He hopes to focus on the second hour/entertainment portion of the program.

CRAIG VIECHEC, ’07, tells us that, “ I’ve been working as a Directors Guild PA/AD for the last 2 years. I’ve been at GMA for 5 years now total. I’ve also recently been pulling double duty and working with ABC’s newest show, Good Afternoon America. And on a personal note Javier and I were married on June 15th of this year in NJ. And on August 7, 2012, we were legally wed in NYC!”
When sitting out on the quad at Montclair State University, many students are planning for a bright future. They have an idea of where they see themselves in a few years, but sometimes the outcome is very different. Tracy Rowland, ‘89, remembers hanging out on the quad, thinking about working as a news reporter. She began her career at My9 News after an internship there, but along the way she found herself drawn to more creative pursuits. With her bubbly personality, humorous wit and work ethic, Rowland has made a name for herself in the media world.

After her internship, she was offered a 13 week job on the Howard Stern Show. Tracy took this opportunity to learn about something new and as a prop girl, working with Howard Stern was definitely an experience. Not long after, she applied to a new network at the time. “The Cartoon Network” was interested, and she interviewed for a job in promotions and got it. She moved to Atlanta and never looked back at news again. Many of us know The Cartoon Network, especially for the funny quick promos in between shows that can sometimes be more memorable than the shows themselves. That was Tracy’s job.

Over the years, Tracy’s career has taken her as far as Los Angeles to Hong Kong. She writes, edits and has worked on sales videos for the Olympics in Beijing to producing promos for “The Hub.”

Something else called to Tracy, and that was storytelling. After being introduced to it one night in New York, she was hooked. For Tracy, storytelling is a creative outlet that gives her time to herself. She explained to me how important it is to tell a story that is funny or sad, but mostly something that people can relate to. “Storytelling is much slower than television and it can feel like an eternity when you are used to only having 30 seconds,” Tracy said.

These days, Tracy’s television work can be seen in a music video for the band “Cake.” She produced, wrote and edited the video, “The Winter.” Tracy is also writing a half hour show for the Game Show Network. “I like to create,” she said. Tracy is a perfect example of how sometimes our career paths may not always end up how we originally intended. Some of us may see where we want to be but can sometimes miss out on other opportunities that may come our way. As Tracy shared with me, it is important to take risks because you just never know where they may lead you.—Brittany Clemente, ‘12

Tracy Rowland is a writer, editor, and storyteller, whose work can be seen on NBC, The Cartoon Network and The Game Show Network. She performs as a storyteller when she can, in New York and LA.
DuMont Television Center
UPDATE
FROM THE DESK OF JEFF FRIEDMAN

Those who have been following the DuMont Television Center on Facebook know that it’s been a busy and successful year at the center. The high definition upgrade is complete, our beloved students are shooting multiple television programs and projects, NJTV is producing “NJ Today” for daily broadcast and it’s full speed ahead as the fall semester commences.

DuMont, now fully equipped to go live on-the-air, has done just that during the past year. I’m pleased that we were the production house for the governor’s State of the State, governor’s budget message, “Christie on the Line” with Steve Adubato and the governor’s keynote speech from the Republican National Convention in Tampa. At DuMont, we received the live remote feeds for each event, via fiber, which were wrapped around with live studio segments and field packages. What a terrific feeling to see it all happen successfully, telecast right from the DuMont Television Center.

In the coming months, DuMont will add ten more high definition field cameras. This brings our total field complement to 19 HD cameras and 9 digital units. We’ll also install a major SSL audio recording console in DuMont’s sound recording facility. Add a new MAC with PRO TOOLS and several high-end microphones and our digital audio upgrade will be complete for now. That’s right, we always need more!

I am extending an invitation to our alumni to visit. DuMont is now one heck of a tour. Have a great year.