

*Eugene Meyer's
Seven Principles for The Washington Post*

The first mission of a newspaper is to tell the truth as nearly as the truth can be ascertained.

The newspaper shall tell ALL the truth so far as it can learn it, concerning the important affairs of America and the world.

As a disseminator of news, the paper shall observe the decencies that are obligatory upon a private gentleman.

What it prints shall be fit reading for the young as well as the old.

The newspaper's duty is to its readers and to the public at large, and not to the private interests of its owners.

In the pursuit of truth, the newspaper shall be prepared to make sacrifices of its material fortunes, if such a course be necessary for the public good.

The newspaper shall not be the ally of any special interest, but shall be fair and free and wholesome in its outlook on public affairs and public men.

The Washington Post

Summer Interns

Simone Baribeau Zachary Berman Sindya Bhanoo Michael
Birnbaum Meredith Bowen Dominic Bracco Kyle Dropp
James Paul Hohmann Ben Hubbard Diamond James
Brittney Johnson Zachary Johnson Derek Kravitz Gabriel
Oppenheim Salvador Rizzo Missy Rosenberg Kameel Stanley
Steven Stein Rob Tricchinelli Christopher Twarowski
Mark Viera Jordan Weissmann Lamar Wilson Laura Yimei Yao
Matt Zapotosky Alyssa Appelman Andrew Astleford Simone
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Class of

2008



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Visit us at
www.washingtonpost.com/intern
for application form, details and updates.

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Nov. 1

Summer Journalism Internships for College Students

Twelve-week, paid reporting internships are available on the Metro, Business, Sports and Style staffs. Internships also are available in page and graphic design, copy editing and photography. The Editorial Department offers a writing and/or copy editing internship.

Requirements

Applicant must be a junior, senior or graduate student enrolled in a degree program on Nov. 1.
Previous internships and/or experience on a college newspaper are preferred.

The application form is available online at www.washingtonpost.com/intern. Completed forms must be accompanied by a typed autobiographical essay of at least 500 words, a college transcript, a résumé, two letters of recommendation and samples of your work.

(Some colleges and/or references may prefer to send transcripts and letters of recommendation directly to The Post. Those also must be postmarked by Nov. 1.)

Mail applications to:
The Washington Post
Attention: Summer News Program
1150 15th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20071-5508

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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Leonard Downie Jr.

Ohio State University

Executive Editor

I was an intern in 1964, the second year of The Washington Post summer intern program. Another intern that year was Bob Kaiser, who was back for his second summer. We were both on the city staff and found ourselves competing to get the most stories on the front page, which was easier then with an eight-column front page and a much smaller reporting staff. We wound up tied at the end of the summer. We were offered, and accepted, full-time jobs at The Post, the first of dozens of summer interns who have stayed at or returned to The Post newsroom for the rest of their careers. As a native Ohioan and graduate of a public university,

Ohio State, I would have had no chance, without that internship, of being hired out of college into what was then a mostly Ivy League Post newsroom. I worked for many years as a local investigative reporter before becoming an editor on the city desk. I was deputy metro editor during the Watergate coverage, which I helped edit. I later became assistant managing editor for metro news, London correspondent, national news editor and managing editor before succeeding Ben Bradlee as executive editor in 1991. For the next seven years, my summer intern rival was managing editor. As executive editor, I value the summer intern program more than ever as a source of exceptional talent for our news staff.



Alyssa Appelman

University of Missouri

Copy Editor

After four years at the Corral, my high school newspaper, I began to seriously consider a career in journalism, but I couldn't shake the feeling that the industry was better suited for aggressive go-getters than for me, the overscheduled to-do-list maker. Despite concerns, I enrolled in Mizzou's journalism school as a Walter Williams Scholar and immediately fell in love with copy editing. I realized my obsessive micromanaging could translate into a career! In the past four

years, I've spent countless hours editing at the Columbia Missourian, a daily newspaper; three years as editor of an online Jewish magazine, www.koach.org; and a summer at

The Washington Times as a Dow Jones Newspaper Fund intern. I'm also a teaching assistant for the magazine editing class at Mizzou. I published articles in the Missourian and in Vox, a weekly magazine, and received the 2007 Don Romero

Prize for magazine writing. An Honors College fellowship allowed me to conduct research in media law. Other experiences include traveling abroad with the J-school: a summer in Australia and a semester in France. I just graduated with a bachelor's degree in magazine journalism and am returning to Mizzou in the fall for graduate school.



Andrew Astleford

University of Missouri

Reporter, SPORTS

I remember their breath. It lifted like fog into the lights above. It was early November, state playoffs time. What appeared to be all of Hanston's 400 residents shivered around the field, this crucible of Kansas eight-man high school football power. The first quarter passed. Then the second, the third. From my perch in a plywood press box I began to paint the scene in my memory for a less innocent time. Orange jackets hugged grown men. Boys in black jerseys dreamed. I wanted the night to last forever.

One's mind tends to wander on the capacious southwest Kansas plains, and mine was no exception. I was 17 and as bright-eyed as a toddler on Christmas morning. For the past three months I had darted along the region's highways in a 1985 Buick Century to places where tumbleweeds outnumbered people. This was my first serious newspaper job, and I would never forget it. I wrote about eight-man football in towns without stoplights. I filed from strangers' basements when disaster struck on deadline. With stories sent, I dodged deer and prayed that I wouldn't die before arriving home. Beginnings are hard.

Now, three years later, when I am on assignment and no one is looking, I still stick my fist out the driver-side window and pump it in dry wind as if to scream, "Yes! I want to do this for the rest of my life."

Most of all, I love the memories. I love my mind's journey back to places such as Hanston, Kan. Back to the plywood press box and to the seedlings of a dream. This is my life. I wouldn't have it any other way.



Matt Zapotosky

Ohio University

Reporter, METRO

Jewish people, gang members and charter schools are the three main reasons I am a member of the 2008 intern class at The Washington Post. Just a few weeks into my internship at The Post's Southern Maryland bureau last summer, I broke onto the Metro section front page with a story about the expanding Jewish population in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties. Midway through the summer, I cracked the front page by helping cover the arrest of a prominent MS-13 gang member who was accused of killing three college students in Newark. At the end of the summer, I wrote what some might consider my biggest story: an analysis of all the charter schools in Maryland. Now I'm back, hoping to find more Jewish people, more gang members and maybe some new information about charter schools to help further my journalism career in Washington, D.C.

Before my internship at The Post last summer, I worked as a reporting intern for the Columbus Dispatch and the Toledo Free Press — two newspapers in my home state of Ohio. Most recently,

I was the editor of a different newspaper called the Post — the independent, student-run daily at Ohio University. By the time you read this, I will have graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and minors in economics and African American studies. I was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., but I lived in Toledo, Ohio, from age three until college. My dad is a photographer at the Toledo Blade and my mom works at a hospital in Toledo. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking and discussing the since-ended television show "The O.C." with my sister.



Laura Yimei Yao

Yale University

Reporter, *STYLE*

In Tallahassee, where I'm from, curiosity is discouraged; it's a complacent place with no questions and no new ideas.

Moving to the Northeast opened up worlds for me, and journalism has been a way to explore them. I've written for many campus publications and was editor in chief of the *Yale Herald*, and I've interned at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *New Haven Advocate*. Over the years, I've ridden in a World War II bomber, covered murder and rape trials, become friends with a transsexual drag show host, and learned more about the Pennsylvania health-care system than I'll probably ever need to know. I think I fell into journalism in my freshman year because I wanted to be so many other things — a chemical engineer, a lawyer, a concert pianist. So, on a purely selfish level, journalism has given me an excuse to follow up on all the things I'm interested in, without having to pick one. Last summer, while I was working at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, a reporter said to me, "Get out while you can. Be a plumber, or a welder, or anything else." I asked her why she stuck to newspapers when she could just as well quit and go to welding school. "It's in my blood," she said. That's the answer I've been looking for — because as an economics and math major who could be going into finance, I've been looking for answers lately. (Upon learning of my major, an editor at the *Post-Gazette* said only, "Oh, good, so you can help us count stuff!") I guess the point is that we do it because even though we know there are more lucrative jobs out there and less stressful ways to live, we just can't help it.

It's in our blood.



Simone Baribeau

New York University

Reporter, *FINANCIAL*

I graduated with an economics degree from Cornell University and thought, "Now what?" I had enjoyed getting the degree and loved my first job working at an economic think tank. But what fascinated me about the field — what would leave me wrapped up in spreadsheets of economic indicators for hours — were the stories behind the numbers. Unemployment climbs, and somebody loses a job. The price of grain spikes, and people go hungry. The price of oil rises, and the approval ratings of once unpopular politicians soar. And I had my answer: I was going to tell these types of stories. Working as a reporter has brought me to places from Syracuse to Venezuela. It's been a chance to explore and an excuse to spend my days being nosy. Last December, I graduated from New York University's business and economic reporting program. While in New York, I interned on the *Work and Money* section of the *Christian Science Monitor*. I'm now working as a reporting assistant at *TheStreet.com* and as an intern at Upstart, Mansueto Ventures' upcoming magazine.



Zachary Berman

Syracuse University

Reporter, SPORTS

As one of six children, I drew Tuesdays and Thursdays to pick up the Philadelphia Inquirer at the end of the driveway on grade-school mornings in suburban Philadelphia. This incited an appreciation for newspapers — particularly the sports section. My decision to pursue sports journalism as a career resulted from my English teachers finding me more promising than my basketball coaches. When choosing a college, my criterion was to find a school that produced some of the best sports reporters. That led me to Syracuse University. I spent a semester as sports editor for the campus newspaper, the Daily Orange, where I covered football and men's lacrosse

for a season and men's basketball for two seasons, and wrote a weekly column for two semesters. During off hours,

I majored in magazine journalism and political science with a minor in history. During summers, I interned for the Philadelphia Eagles, ComcastSportsNet.com and, eventually, the Inquirer. And I still anxiously fetched the newspaper at the end of the driveway, except I volunteered more often than Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Lamar Wilson

Virginia Tech University

Copy desk

I began studying encyclopedias as a child, mostly to feed my obsessions with Greek mythology and Oscar-winning films. Those were two of many topics that were integral to winning local radio trivia contests each month, and I considered those games training for "Jeopardy!" (Still on my to-do list.)

In this way, I grew up with a hunger for knowledge in a family and a rural North Florida community where I was expected to tell of our four-generation rise from slavery to land wealth with aplomb and where I learned to appreciate the stories of others. My knack for oral storytelling transferred well to the page, and I've been writing my way all over this country ever since as a journalist and now a poet. My photographic memory, sensitivity to tone and audience, command of mechanics and grammar and awareness of everything from Aristophanes

to Poe to 2Pac have led to two Dow Jones internships and features editing and reporting gigs at the St. Pete Times,

Philadelphia Inquirer, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Last year, I decided to branch out from journalism to my first love: creative writing. I'm an Alfred E. Knobler poetry fellow working on an MFA at Virginia Tech with mentors Nikki Giovanni, Fred D'Aguiar, Bob Hicok, Lucinda Roy and Erika Meitner, among others. Music is my muse, and my Pandora.com jukeboxes cover the spectrum from Leadbelly to Bjork, the Manhattan Transfer to Donny Hathaway. A keen reporter can find some of my original music on MySpace.



Jordan Weissmann

Northwestern University

Reporter, FINANCIAL

I was about 6 the first time I said I wanted to be a reporter. I'm a little hazy on what put the idea in my head, but it probably had something to do with my abiding passion for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, or specifically, my crush on their den mother, TV news correspondent April O'Neil. Then of course there was my own mother, a self-described "news junkie" who figured out that if she threw a tape recorder down in front of me, I would entertain myself by making up stories for the thing. I'm sure that contributed. But part of it may have just had to do with growing up a kid in New York City, where the local papers all had a kind of pseudo-sacred aura about them. Either way, 15 years later I'm still going at it. After getting started at my high school paper, I shipped off for journalism school at Northwestern, and have since bounced around from Birmingham to Milwaukee to Cape Town on reporting internships. Norman Mailer is my personal hero. I'm a music geek. I'm addicted to political blogs.

And I make a hell of a wild mushroom risotto.



Sindya Bhanoo

University of California at Berkeley

Reporter, METRO

In a previous, slightly traumatic lifetime, I was a computer science student and then a patent examiner for the U.S. Patent Office. On a whim, in 2004, I turned in an autobiographical haiku to The Washington Post's "Life is Short" section. Surprisingly, it was published, and I was paid a satisfying \$100 — my first clip ever. When the Style editor called to say she was running my piece, I was thrilled. "One day," I said, "I would love to be a journalist and work for The Post." After that, I moved to Bangalore and worked for a nonprofit. I also freelanced stories about cyber-security and cyber-crime in India. I'm completing my master's degree at UC-Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism in May, and last summer, I interned on the Baltimore Sun's Health and Science Desk. I've come full circle, back to the paper that got me started on this journey. I'm looking forward to an exciting summer on the city desk!



Michael Birnbaum

Yale University

Reporter, METRO

Journalism works differently when you live in an isolated community of 40 people. I spent my first year of college at Deep Springs, a tiny school in the deserts of eastern California that's also a cattle ranch. It was a shock coming from Chicago, where I had edited my high school's newspaper; most of the news at Deep Springs could fit on one side of a weekly sheet of paper. I've covered steadily larger communities since, first in New Haven for the Yale Daily News Magazine, then in Pittsburgh last summer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. I've written about the longest-working typewriter repairman in America — Manson Whitlock started in 1930, when Herbert Hoover was president, and still comes into his shop five days a week — and the ongoing mystery over the disappearance of lobsters in Long Island Sound. Until I graduated from Yale in May with a degree in history, I was the violinist of the Yale Klezmer Band.



Mark Viera

Pennsylvania State University

Reporter, SPORTS

In high school, I dreamed about becoming a sports reporter so I could watch big sporting events and hang around high-profile athletes. These days I'm less interested in the X's and O's than in trying to tell stories about people, to explore issues or personalities connected to sports. I did that in my coverage of this year's Penn State football team for the Daily Collegian, the university's student newspaper. I reported a number of different stories on the beat and along the way visited Joe Paterno's backyard, attended a black-tie dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria and worked in press boxes around the country. I have worked for the Patriot-News of Harrisburg, Pa., and the Daily Record of Morristown, N.J., and I have had articles published by the New York Times, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Associated Press. I grew up in Randolph, N.J., where I sat dreaming about a career focused solely on watching games for hours and hours and studying stat sheets. I graduate from Penn State still loving sports, but also with a passion for journalism and an eye for stories that will resonate past a box score or TV highlight.



Christopher Twarowski

Columbia University

Reporter, FINANCIAL

A passion for the written word is in my blood. My father taught English before his long career as a U.S. customs inspector. My grandfather delivered newspapers for a living after returning home from World War II. His father worked at a newspaper distribution plant. My love affair with newspapers began in college, where I worked as a writer, co-editor and distribution coordinator at my school's paper. In 2002, I applied for a job at an upstart new publication. I've been hunting down stories ever since. Reporting for the Long Island Press, I exposed in 2004 what became known as the Newsday circulation scandal. Shedding light on environmental crimes, corporate wrongdoings, political misdeeds — I made investigative journalism my forte. I describe the past two years I've spent at Columbia Journalism School as a period of intense enlightenment. It has sharpened my skills. It has taught me better techniques. It has strengthened my resolve. It is an honor and a dream come true for me to have been accepted into The Washington Post's internship program. While here, I'll continue to remind myself of the words a veteran investigative reporter once told me: "Never lose your sense of outrage."



Meredith Bowen

Syracuse University

Assistant News Editor, NEWS DESK

I just graduated from Syracuse University with degrees in magazine journalism and chemistry, so I can name 10 celebrity gossip magazines and the noble gases off the top of my head. Useful skills.

At the end of my first semester of college, I had to make a choice: take a job as an assistant editor at my college paper, or apply to be a research assistant in a chemistry lab. Late nights, getting called out of class to cover stories, working in an office that probably didn't pass building codes to gain skills in a field I still wasn't entirely sure I was cut out for vs. cutting-edge research that could help the Defense Department or medical research, or help build a résumé perfect for dental school applications, like I had always wanted.

Clark Kent or Bill Nye.

Despite the alluring eyewear of the chemistry lab, I opted for the paper and never looked back. When I got to cover the case of a student charged with homicide — the first in the school's history — I knew I had made the right decision. Though I switched into the design department the following semester, my love of storytelling in all its forms—and of being the designer who pulls them all together—has continued to grow. My practical education came from four years of designing, writing, editing and shooting photos for the Daily Orange and from internships at the Star-Ledger in beautiful Newark, N.J., and here at the Post.



Dominic Bracco

University of Texas at Arlington

Photographer

Danny was a drug user and had been in prison for four years.

Both of these personal conflicts made him the stereotypical junkie in others' eyes. But after spending five years with him under the Texas sun, working for my family's construction company in Corpus Christi, I learned that Danny was more than what others perceived him to be — he was a good father,

honest employee and loyal friend. As a photojournalist, I want to break through stereotypical barriers that I saw while growing up. Rather than focusing only on visual journalism at the University of Texas at Arlington, I chose a second major — Spanish — to broaden my cultural perspective and communicate with the Hispanic community. I started my journalism training at UTA's student publication, the Shorthorn, where I worked as a photographer and photo editor for three years.

Last summer I interned for United Press International in Washington, D.C., covering city news and Capitol Hill.



Rob Tricchinelli

University of Maryland

Copy Editor

I'm from Upstate New York: born in Albany, raised in Schenectady, educated in Troy. As an undergraduate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, I did a little bit of everything: pep band, intramural sports, hockey broadcasting. I even found time to go to class. I was on the Poly, our weekly student paper, where I also did a little bit of everything, but mostly I covered the hockey team (even following it all the way to Anchorage, Alaska) and copy edited. While RPI is known for its engineers, scientists and NHL players, it's not really known for turning out journalists. With a desire to do professionally what I spent so much time doing for fun, I got my master's in journalism at Maryland. I've been living in the D.C. area since

August 2006, and I interned and worked on the Baltimore Sun's sports copy desk for nearly a year. When not copy editing, I like playing ultimate Frisbee, tracking RPI hockey, solving crosswords and reading. I also like sleeping until noon, which a copy editor's hours (thankfully) allow me to do.



Steven Stein

Emory University

Writer, EDITORIAL

The ultimatum came early my freshman year of college: "Get a job or forget about us paying tuition!" my mother frostily exclaimed. Having no discernible talent other than the ability to string sentences together semi-coherently, I sought refuge in the Emory Wheel, my university's student newspaper. Three years and more than 150 articles later, I'm preparing to make journalism a career. I've interned as a reporter at the Garden Island (Kauai, Hawaii), where the governor of Hawaii publicly criticized one of my first articles. I've also interned as an editorial writer at the Austin American-Statesman, where a tongue-in-cheek blog post about San Antonio left the Alamo City up in arms. Needless to say, my goal at The Washington Post is to practice hard-hitting journalism — even if it means infuriating a high-ranking politician or the residents of a major city. Besides writing things that anger people, my interests include playing bad basketball, playing worse golf and raving to anyone who will listen about the genius of the film "Being There."



Kyle Dropp

University of Wisconsin

Assistant Polling Analyst, POLLING

It makes me laugh sometimes to think how two of my childhood passions, writing and working with numbers, set me on the path to where I am today. After school each day, like any typical second- or third-grader, I endlessly wrote and rewrote long-winded stories about my "adventures" with Glenn Robinson and the rest of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. From picking up multiplication in kindergarten to counting and recounting all of my baseball cards, I was equally passionate about working with numbers. And I haven't put the pen down or stopped thinking about numbers yet. I majored in journalism and political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, worked in the press offices of state and national politicians, and wrote in a number of capacities for the campus newspaper, the Daily Cardinal. Also, I have analyzed hundreds of polls under a number of nonpartisan pollsters and have had the opportunity to conduct research on political advertising and local news for the past few years. As The Post's first polling intern, I hope to put my passions for writing and working with numbers to good use.



James Paul Hohmann

Stanford University

Reporter, METRO

I love the stain of newsprint on my fingers. Paging through a stack of papers each morning is as important as coffee to my morning routine. Journalism attracted me from an early age because it provided a handy excuse to learn about worlds different from my own. Whenever I get a chance, I travel, usually on a road trip. By 17, I'd been to all 50 states. Now I'm closing in on goals of getting to all 50 state capitol buildings (just two left) and all 435 congressional districts (a little more than two years until the next reapportionment). The first thing I do when visiting towns — big or small — is to find the local paper. I'm struck by how many fascinating stories emanate from the nooks and crannies of America. As a reporter at the San Jose Mercury News, the Dallas Morning News and the Los Angeles Times' Washington bureau, I worked overtime to take my readers to places they might not know well and to bring them new insights. As editor in chief of the Stanford Daily, I emphasized content that did the same.



Kameel Stanley

Central Michigan University

Reporter, METRO

I knew as soon as I got into this business that I was a goner. It just took me a few years to come to grips with it. Journalism was an afterthought while I was growing up in the knuckle of Michigan's thumb. Despite my love for writing and my natural nosiness, I was convinced I was going to be a neurosurgeon, an archaeologist, a ballerina — anything but what I was meant to do.

It all caught up with me in a high school journalism class. When I got to Central Michigan University in 2005, I threw myself into the student newspaper, where I've been a reporter, a news editor and, most recently, managing editor. And when professors told me I was too young and inexperienced to get an internship, I set out to prove them wrong. The summer after my freshman year, I convinced the Jackson Citizen Patriot to take a chance on me. The following January, I packed my bags, dropped a full load of classes and moved to the other side of the state to do a five-month internship at the Grand Rapids Press. Last summer, while at the St. Petersburg Times, I fell even harder for this profession as I saw the power of storytelling and started on the path to finding my voice as a reporter. I hope to continue that process at The Post this summer. And of course, a few shopping trips here or there wouldn't hurt, either.



Missy Rosenberg

American University

Copy Editor

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then my life story can be told with a photograph taken of me years ago, dressed in pajamas with The Washington Post sports section spread out in front of me. Most people laugh at the picture because at the age of 4, I was smaller than the paper I was reading.

This internship at The Post is the product of a lifelong passion for sports journalism that has included sports reporting jobs on school newspapers, at my hometown weekly (the Reston Times), and internships at the Washington Examiner and the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Since September 2006, I've worked in The Post's sports department as a news aide, freelance writer and part-time copy editor. After graduating from American University in December with a bachelor's degree in journalism, I'm looking forward to a summer of focusing on headlines instead of term-paper deadlines.



Ben Hubbard

University of California at Berkeley

REPORTER, METRO

I studied history in college. I joined the Peace Corps. I spent the next two years in Togo (find it on an unmarked world map and I'll give you a prize). I slept in a mud hut, grew peanuts and hung out with villagers who drank beer for breakfast and killed goats for their ancestors when the rains were late. I wrote a book about the village but couldn't get it published. So I moved to Cairo, where I spent my days learning to decipher al-Jazeera and my evenings getting beat by the neighborhood kids at chess, billiards, backgammon and ping-pong.

It left me fluent in the Arabic that politicians speak and in the Arabic that keeps you from getting ripped off by Egyptian cab-drivers. I have spent the past two years — with the exception of a summer interning for the Associated Press in Jerusalem — at UC-Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, where I've written about homicide detectives, Muslim liquor store owners and feral cats, among other things. I decided to become a journalist because I've sung enough bad karaoke to ruin any presidential bid. I'm excited to be at The Post, and I'm hoping the experience will make better use of my background than, say, working for a predatory lender would.



Diamond James

Northwestern University

Assistant News Editor, NEWS DESK

I didn't know a thing about editorial design when I was my high school's yearbook editor during my senior year, but after many long nights of designing, I grew to really enjoy how I could merge my art skills into something practical to tell a story. When I arrived at Medill, Professor Susan Mango Curtis pushed me to jump right into campus publications and soak up all the knowledge from student mentors at the Daily Northwestern. My first mentors were Post staffers — Sara Klieger, Marianne Seregi and Lindsay Minnema.

I have moved around the country to intern at the Miami Herald, the Charlotte Observer and the San Jose Mercury News in news, sports and feature design. In the summer of 2007, I won the Moneta J. Sleet Design Competition at NABJ's Las Vegas conference. For two years, I was also section leader in the Northwestern Community Ensemble, and while standing on the stage at my eighth and final concert, I had an epiphany. With teary eyes and runny mascara it hit me that I really love music, singing and my gospel choir. When I am singing, I feel that is when I am most clear and can be best understood. That night, standing under the lights with the rest of the ensemble, I realized that I was leaving a place and a family that let me be my silliest and most energetic self, that put up with me. I am sad to depart. I am honored to move to Washington to work with a great group of people who I hope will allow me to learn and grow professionally while accepting me into The Post family, if only for a short stint.



Salvador Rizzo

Emory University

Copy Editor

In high school, my proudest moment probably came when our literature professor — widely feared and notoriously hard to please — singled me out for writing a couple of good papers on Greek tragedies, which I had never read before and have never read since. It was a small thing, but it made me realize, for the first time, that I might be able to make a living off words. From there, the question was what kind of words: books required too much talent, and everything else seemed boring.

And then journalism became the clear choice for me right after I became a copy editor at my college newspaper, the Emory Wheel. The people were smart and funny, and since I'm a grammar nerd, the work was right up my alley. As time went on, I started writing news and doing more things for the paper, and eventually I wound up as the editor in chief. I've loved every second of it, and I couldn't be happier to pursue a career in which I get to absorb so much information about the world and help others learn about it as well.

When I'm not at the campus newspaper (and that is not often), I like to play bass guitar, write music and read fiction and history.



Renee Rigdon

Ohio University

Graphic Artist, NEWS ART

Prior to last summer, my first and only brush with journalism came when I was a junior in high school. I was the copy editor for the school newspaper, and the editor in chief was a student whose debut story told the tale of her bad haircut and the resulting emotional turmoil. In college, my interest in the sciences took me on quite a different path. As an undergraduate, I majored in math and meteorology at Ohio University, and even served as associate director of the Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis, the university's student-run weather lab. Along the way, I acquired quite a bit of experience with mapping and GIS. Realizing that my true interests were in cartography, I decided to stay at OU to pursue a graduate degree. After receiving my master's degree in 2007, I came to The Washington Post for a summer internship in the News Art department. I absolutely loved applying my skills in such a challenging, fast-paced environment. I learned an incredible amount not only about cartography, but about the field of journalism as well. This led me to a freelancing job at the New York Times, where I contributed to graphics for major news events, including the California wildfires in October, the New York City marathon and Super Tuesday. The freelancing position will end at the end of May, just in time for another great summer at The Post.



Brittney Johnson

University of California at Berkeley

Reporter, HEALTH

While growing up as an only child in Charlotte, N.C., I took advantage of almost every opportunity to meet and talk to other people. When I got frustrated because I couldn't understand why others didn't behave, dress or think the way I did, my mom would only say, "Everybody's different" in her "because I said so" tone. I believe one of the major reasons I fell in love with journalism is that it allows me to explore and better understand these differences. I began reporting at Howard University, where I served as Life & Style editor of the Hilltop and interned at ABC, BET and the Voice of America. In addition to the daily excitement of discovering something new, I was hooked to the fast pace, the flavored coffee and the sense of accomplishment that followed filing. So much so that during my sangria- and siesta-filled semester abroad in Spain, I looked forward to returning home to research stories inspired by the racism, poverty and other universal social issues that I witnessed abroad. At UC-Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, I'm also learning a lot about tree sitters and trying my best to be "green."



Derek Kravitz

University of Missouri

Reporter, INVESTIGATIVE

Transient. That's the answer I give whenever someone asks me where I'm from — a question that seems to come up in conversation far too often. I had moved more than 30 times by the time I was in junior high school, living in not-so-exotic locales including Philadelphia, Phoenix and the Northern Virginia suburbs, as well as in Jamaica and Japan. I graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pa., in 2003 before deciding to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. I spent the summer of 2004 working with kids for Children's PressLine, a nonprofit program in New York that teaches journalism to 8-to-18-year-olds. Being a camp counselor wasn't my finest hour: At the Democratic National Convention, the Secret Service spent the better part of a night trying to find my students after an unfortunate incident in Al Gore's suite.

I also spent a semester in the London bureau of the Associated Press, a summer as a state and regional reporting intern at the Omaha World-Herald and another semester as an intern at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's state capitol bureau.

I worked as a reporter, news editor and managing editor at the campus newspaper, the Maneater, and as a reporter and assistant city editor at the journalism school's "lab" paper, the Columbia Missourian. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism in December, I covered courts and cops for the 20,000-circulation Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune. I enjoy basketball, trying in vain to grow a beard and going to dog parks with my traveling companion, a 3-year-old mutt, Jack. He's a cross between a Corgie and a Jack Russell terrier (I think) and he doesn't mind moving. Now, I just have to come up with a better answer to the hometown question.



Gabriel Oppenheim

University of Pennsylvania

Reporter, STYLE

I'm Gabriel Oppenheim, a 20-year-old rising senior at the University of Pennsylvania. I've always wanted to write, since at least kindergarten, when I spent hours drafting a "book" about a very big fish that, if I recall correctly, ate a smaller fish. I caught the journalism bug in high school, gripped by the breaking news that the kitchen manager had once again fired her chef. I wrote a column for a year and a half for my college paper, and for the past 14 months, I've been working on an independent study project on the history of boxing in Philadelphia. I'll be working on the Style desk this summer. I'm originally from Scarsdale, N.Y., and I'm a big Mets fan. I hope that by the time I arrive in Washington, they're comfortably in first place and Delgado's batting .400.

Hey, you gotta believe.