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an Alaska Press Women publication

Local feature writer addresses student journalists at May luncheon



Alberto Enriquez, an *Anchorage Daily News* feature writer, addressed student journalists at the Alaska Press Women May luncheon.

Alberto was born in Cuba and grew up in Portland, Ore. He received a master's degree in English literature from Duke University in 1987. As a reporter, he has traveled to Chile and Romania, and participated in a science internship at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

by Bea Rose

Anchorage Daily News feature writer Alberto Enriquez regaled the audience with stories of how he became a journalist and some of his more interesting assignments at APW's May awards luncheon. The event honored the high school journalism contest winners and APW college scholarship recipients.

As one of the high school contest judges in the feature category, Enriquez talked about how difficult it was to choose the winners and how much he and the other two judges argued over the entries. "Many stories had that dazzle," he said, but added that many often weren't properly sourced. He told the students to write every day, to get out of their comfort zone, and to look for interesting stories in their communities. He told them to identify a large audience and ask themselves if the story was interesting and to whom it would appeal. "Look for original ideas, not canned," he added. "Keep a story list, check it often and add to it."

Enriquez was born in Cuba but raised in Portland, Oregon. He said he enjoys doing the work so much that he would do it without pay, "but don't tell my editor that." He confessed he once even abandoned his family in the middle of an earthquake to report on the scene.

Enriquez briefly gave up newspaper work for a two-year stint at writing a novel. After 200 agents rejected his work, he returned to feature writing. His advice to budding writers: "Get used to rejection and criticism; it comes with the territory."

He told the audience the worst thing a reporter can do is to get something wrong. "Reporters have the power to change society," he said. "Their mistakes may adversely affect someone. If you do discover you have made a mistake, tell your editor immediately. Don't cover it up. Don't wait to apologize to someone you may have harmed."

APW Bylaws Out for Review

All APW members are reminded that the deadline is June 14 to make comments on the draft Alaska Press Women revised bylaws. A vote on accepting the revision will be taken at the annual meeting on June 18.

The bylaws committee, Doris Thomas, Judy Griffin, Sherrie Simmonds and Elaine Williamson, have put many hours of work into this revision, drawing upon bylaws versions ranging back to the early 1980s that had been cut, pasted and amended to the point where, according to Doris, it was well time for a thorough overhaul.

All members with e-mail should have received the draft revision by e-mail on May 14 and those without e-mail shortly thereafter. Please address any questions or comments to:

Doris Thomas
16422 Marcus St.
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-3570 (evenings)
sethomas@alaska.net

Remember to Vote!

Reminder -- APW ballots are due by May 31st. Please take the time to vote for the slate of officers and make your recommendations for Spark Plug and Gold Nugget award recipients. Ballots should be emailed to:

ccrinehart@earthlink.net

or mailed to:

P.O. Box 104056
Anchorage, AK 99510-4056.

Diane Walters

The Prez Says

The May awards luncheon was a huge success. I was extremely pleased to see so many students come to receive their awards along with their parents and high school journalism advisors. One student and her mother traveled all the way from Valdez so she could receive her awards in person. As the high school journalism contest coordinator, I found it gratifying to know that students take this contest seriously and look forward to it every year. As one advisor has said over the years, ours is the only contest that recognizes high school journalists, to include photojournalism, graphics and cartooning.

With the year winding down, it seems like there's not much left to do. But there are two important upcoming events: the election of new officers and our annual meeting in June. If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to vote on the slate of officers.

The ballot was either e-mailed or sent to each member. Included on the ballot is a place to nominate members for either the Kay Kennedy Gold Nugget award or the Betzi Woodman Sparkplug award. This is your chance to recognize fellow APW members for outstanding work on behalf of the organization or accomplishments in their profession.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for the evening of June 18. We will be installing the new officers at that time and announcing the state winners of the Communications Contest. It promises to be a fun evening and I hope to see everybody there. A special thanks to Karen L. Lew and Carolyn Rinehart, chairs of the Communications Contest Committee and Nominating Committee, respectively, and their committee members for all their hard work on these last two events.

Diane

Park Volunteers Needed

It's spring and time to start doing our civic duty by helping clean up Suzan Nightingale McKay Park on Government Hill. We need volunteers to trim the grass, pick up trash, pull weeds from the sandbox and in general perform light upkeep. If interested in helping APW in our Adopt-A-Park project, you can either visit the park on your own as your time permits, or join a work party. We would like to have at least one work party each month during the summer. Anyone who happens to have a gas-powered weed cutter is particularly invited to join us, because there are a couple small areas the Municipality's big mower can't reach. Rakes and small digging tools are also sometimes needed. The city provides us with leaf bags.

Please e-mail me at sethomas@alaska.net or call me evenings at 694-3570. Thanks to all those who signed up at the last luncheon; I'll be in touch about our first "party!"

Doris Thomas, Chairman,
Suzan Nightingale McKay Park Committee

Ann Secrest

by Amy Murphy

Ann Secrest started working in radio in 1976, has 20 years of experience in television news, and has an extensive background in fundraising for non-profit organizations.

Ann moved to Kotzebue from the Midwest in July 1979 and worked for the non-profit Maniilaq Association. She also volunteered her time at KOTZ radio for a year, until she moved to Fairbanks to complete her bachelor's degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Ann went to school part-time for many years, while working two jobs, and completed a BA and an MBA.

While attending UAF, Ann was the senior news anchor for the Fairbanks Evening News on KTVF Channel 11 from April 1982 until October 2001. "After 20 years of anchoring the 6 p.m. television news, you realize how much the media touches peoples' lives," Ann said. "Viewers would often tell me I was part of their families; after all, I came into their homes every weeknight. One woman told me I 'cooked' dinner with her in the evenings - she cooked while I delivered the news."

Ann said she loved talking to groups about how the role of women has evolved in the media. She told one junior high class that when she started in the broadcasting business, women would often be the weather girls; now they

"After 20 years of anchoring the 6 p.m. television news, you realize how much the media touches peoples' lives." — Ann Secrest

have become anchor women. Ann took her responsibility of representing women in the media in the best professional light very seriously.

Ann began working as the associate state director for the Alaska State Office of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) in Anchorage in November 2001. AARP is a non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization for people 50 and over. Ann's primary responsibilities are to coordinate and respond to inquiries from the media on AARP issues, enhance AARP Alaska's profile in the state, act as spokesperson, oversee the communications budget, and make presentations throughout the state. She works with the staff, volunteers, government agencies, policy makers and community leaders, legislators, AARP's Washington, D.C. headquarters, and the public. Ann said that when she left the [KTVF] anchor desk last fall, she had the sense that she would be doing something that ultimately would have a bigger impact on more Alaskans. She feels that her intuition is turning out to be accurate.

"Just as the media touches so many lives, the same is true for AARP," she said. "There are very few people whose lives are not somehow affected by aging - themselves, their parents or their grandparents. To be part of the new expansion of AARP into every state and territory is wonderfully exciting."

Ann loves to fish, whether it's dip-netting in Chitina, taking a king salmon out of a stream in Willow, or halibut fishing out of Homer. Having a fishing pole in her hand and being outside makes her happy. She also enjoys quilting and playing cards.

Amy Murphy is a student at UAA.

Lorraine Topping

by Ann Carr

Lorraine Topping has been a member of the Alaska Press Women for the past six years. She brings a variety of attributes to APW including her expertise in the Alaska health care industry, educational system and the field of photojournalism.

Topping, an Alaska Native from Kenai, attended high school in Kenai and moved to Oregon shortly after her marriage in 1949. She received her BS in education at Oregon State University and taught basic education in a K-12 pilot program for several years before returning to Alaska in 1971.

Upon her return to Alaska, Topping settled in Anchorage and became the evening director at Anchorage Community College. "I did everything the dean did," says Topping. "I organized everything from courses, rooms and teaching materials to settling fights from 2 to 10 a.m. My position was very demanding."

Topping's job at ACC lasted a year before she joined the state's Division of Emergency Services. She was part of a 25-member crew who would report disaster scenarios and teach state-wide courses on disaster prevention. It was this job that sparked her interest in the photojournalism field. "We saw, we wrote and reported to our division director," says Topping. "We worked closely with the Civil Air Patrol, Army and Air Force. We would coordinate training sessions together and fly together."

Topping developed her skills as a photographer. She shot a 35mm

Canon and did reconnaissance from the air on radiological monitoring and other natural disasters.

From 1979 to the early 90s Topping spent the majority of her time working with health care officials in Alaska. From 1979-1984 Topping assisted her friend Katherine Johnson, who founded the Della Keats Program, an Alaska Native health care program. Her responsibilities included working as program specialist and lead PR official. In 1990 she assisted CIRI and later transferred to Alaska Native Health Careers where she advised and recruited young Native students into health-related careers. For Topping, the most rewarding aspect of this career was finding and awarding funding to bright and promising students.

Lorraine has led a life of caregiving and thrives on helping others improve their lives. She has shaped her skills from the example of her mentors Donna Broderick, the Academic Dean at UAA, and her aunt Rika Murphy, who was the first female president of the Kenai Native Association.

In her free time Topping enjoys archaeology, photojournalism, writing and reading her favorite poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Topping is an independent journalist and would some day like to have a private business and travel the world.

Ann Carr is a student at UAA.

Member News

Recently transplanted Barrow writer **Elise Patkotak** took second place as Best Columnist in a daily paper in this year's Alaska Press Club Communication Contest. Patkotak writes a column for the Voice of the Times section in the *Anchorage Daily News*.

When asked her reaction to the honor, Patkotak said, "I'm proud to put the compassion in their conservatism." Patkotak admits she is a closet liberal but says that has never damaged her relationship with the editors at the *Voice of the Times*. She did note, though, that she's never actually been invited to their offices to meet them.

Rhonda McBride, with others at KTUU Channel 2, won three first place awards in the Society of Professional Journalists Excellence in Journalism Competition. Winners were announced May 13. The judging was done by professional journalists from SPJ chapters in Minnesota, Oklahoma and Colorado, and the competition included entries from throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

In the contests for television stations in Anchorage's market size, Rhonda and Phil Walczak of KTUU won first in the General News category with "Alaska's Silent Epidemic." Rhonda won first in the Feature category with Walczak and James DeCrane for "Search for Sobriety."

In the Health and Science category for television stations of all sizes, Rhonda and Walczak won for "Meningitis: an Alaskan Serial Killer."

High School Journalism Contest Winners



High school journalism contest winners pose with their certificates at the May luncheon.

Opinion

1st Place: Grace Lippert, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, "A heart breaking experience was well taught"

2nd Place: Amy McNulty, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Trash: whose responsibility?"

3rd Place: Cassandra Kochendorfer, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, "Patriotism, what does it really mean?"

Honorable Mention: Stephanie Wonchala, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, "Health vs Taste" and "It's perfectly normal to have an opinion"

News

1st Place: Bill Edwards, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "One more lesson and black eye for Service"

2nd Place: Susan Nielsen, Valdez High School *Valdez Vanguard*, "Valdez High School parking spots becoming more difficult to find"

3rd Place: Meghan Mackey, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, "Terrorists attack United States, awaken nation"

Feature

1st Place: Tara Kirt, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Navel piercing becomes stylish"

2nd Place: Nikki Trombi, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Cars have become outlaws"

3rd Place: Conor Montague, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Check out the chess club mates"

Honorable Mention: Carrie Schuckerow, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "Ecstasy: A high with a deadly price"

Honorable Mention: Susan Nielsen, Valdez High School *Valdez Vanguard*, "Homegrown bands share members"

Review

1st Place: David Mehring, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "'Revoke Miss Congeniality's title'"

2nd Place: Melissa Ayerdis, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "Monsters aren't just for little kids anymore"

3rd Place: Jeri Stenberg, West High School *Eagle's Cry*, "Cuddy Dining Room"

Honorable Mention: Jasmine Webber, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "Gotta Cut Loose: Broadway show amazes Anchorage"

Honorable Mention: Joshua Sopko, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "The Mummy Returns wraps up box office"

Sports Reporting

1st Place: Amy McNulty, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Wild about snow machining"

2nd Place: Kelly Rae Snider, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "Traditions uplift ski team morale"

(continued on page 6)

Acknowledgments...

Thank you to the following staff at the Anchorage Daily News who judged the 2002 APW High School Journalism Contest: Debra McKinney, Alberto Enriquez, Natalie Phillips, Ann Potempa, Warren Rhodes, Mike Jakiemiec, Ron Wilmot, Mike Doogan, Frank Gerjevic, Marc Lester and Peter Dunlap-Shohl.

The UAA spring semester JPC 329 Publication Design and Layout class, Stephen Nowers, instructor, judged the Single Page Layout category.

2002 Scholarship Winners



Dianne Barske (right), presents a scholarship check to Tataboline Brant. Brant is one of two 2002 Alaska Press Women scholarship winners.

Tataboline (Ta) Brant is a journalism major at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She has put herself through school on loans and scholarships, and by working full time as an editorial employee at the *Anchorage Press*. She has been vice-president of the Alaska Press Club for the past year, and chaired the committee for last month's J-Week conference. She is a past recipient of the APW Scholarship (1998) and received first place awards from the Press Club for feature stories and reporting. Ta returned to college this year after two years of travel and some time writing and editing in the Bush. As an itinerant editor for Alaska Newspapers, she edited the *Bristol Bay Times* in Dillingham for six weeks and the *Dutch Harbor*

Fisherman in Unalaska for two months. She plans to graduate in December 2002.

Sharice Walker is a journalism major at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is a recipient of the Ward Sims Memorial Scholarship and a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society. She also is an intern with the UAF campus newspaper the *Sun Star*. Sharice attended Ricks College as a freshman in 1993 on a full scholarship. Since returning to college at UAF she has been on the Dean's List and most recently was on the Chancellor's List in fall 2001. She is a single parent with two young daughters. Sharice plans to graduate in May 2004.

The Alaska Press Women Memorial Scholarship

In 1981, our organization decided to do something to help Alaskans pursue their education in the communications field. Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded in memory of Alaska Press Women, including Betzi Woodman, Kay Kennedy, Phyllis Carlson, Jimmy Bedford, Chris McClain, Jo Ann Wold, Natalie Gottstein, Elizabeth Plank, Mae Martin, Pat Oakes and Suzan Nightingale. Their spirits live on in our scholarship winners.

High School Journalism Contest Winners

(continued from page 5)

3rd Place: Kristen Johnson, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Reed shoots for the stars"

Honorable Mention: Amy McNulty, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Knight shines bright with gold stars"

Single Page Layout

1st Place: Erin Nesheim, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, Nov. 30, 2001 Front Page

2nd Place: Jasmine Webber, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, Nov. 28, 2001 Page 3

3rd Place: Jasmine Webber, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, Oct. 29, 2001 Front Page

Honorable Mention: Alyssa Adamick, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, Feb. 14, 2001, Front Page

Feature Photograph

1st Place: Caitlin Bidinger, Dimond High School *Igaramkin*, "Making waves for Mother Lawrence"

2nd Place: Erin Nesheim, Chugiak High School *Pegasus*, "Lunch, Chugiak Style"

Cartooning

1st Place: Robert Schrooten, Service High School *Cougarosity*

2nd Place: John Clayton, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Politically Incorrect"

3rd Place: Robert Schrooten, Service High School *Cougarosity*, "Senior Class of 2001 graduates"

June luncheon

Thursday, June 6

Watch E-Mail Express
for news about the
scheduled luncheon
speaker.

Luncheons are held the first
Thursday of every month,
11:30 a.m.

Golden Lion Hotel, 36th and
New Seward, Anchorage

\$15.00 members, \$16.00
guests, \$6 coffee & dessert

Reservations: 274-4723



Wanted:

Submissions
for *Articulation*

Got some news, an anecdote,
a grammar point?

Email Diane Walters:

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poa02.usace.army.mil
753-2640 (work) • 338-1966 (home)

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