

Exploring Careers in Television

JACKIE BULLOCK
Staff Writer

The newsroom at WRAL-TV is an environment that vibrates with incessant activity—change is constant, deadlines are measured in seconds, expeditious behavior is paramount. It takes many elements—as well as many people—to make a newscast happen. The following is the first in a series of articles that will explore some of the jobs and people at WRAL who make news happen, starting with the News Production Assistant.

Diane Richardson has a background in finance. She came to work at WRAL-TV on a three-month assignment, filling in for someone who was on maternity leave. That was ten years ago. As an Administrative Assistant, Richardson supports over 100 newsroom employees, as well as oversees News Production Assistants' schedules. Richardson says that the position of News Production Assistant (NPA) offers a good overview of all aspects of news. The NPA assists producers, directors and assignment editors with the daily preparation of newscasts, including

organizing news scripts and news rundowns. Additionally, a NPA also is responsible for archiving news scripts, watching other newscasts, listening to scanners, and doing legislative, police and fire department beat checks. Richardson says that NPAs also work on special projects and participate in field-producing assignments, such as the NC State Fair and First Night Raleigh.

According to Richardson, the NPA position originally was an internship and a way of networking with local universities to give prospective broadcast journalists insight into the broadcast news atmosphere. It has since evolved into several part-time positions that are structured around newscasts. The position also can serve as a catalyst to other careers; Richardson knows of former NPAs who have gone on to be producers and associate producers as a result of their experience with WRAL.

Although the News Production Assistant position offers practical experience, the job also can be highly stressful and demanding. Richardson stresses that a potential NPA "cannot be thin-skinned.

People can be direct. A News Production Assistant must be flexible, be a great listener, have a great memory, and hear and respond to direction quickly." Mediocrity is not a desirable trait; adaptability and an openness to change also are necessary, as well as keen insight and the ability to assimilate material. Richardson also says that it is necessary for a NPA to be current on what is happening in the news today. One should be connected with what is happening in the world by reading a newspaper, watching a 24-hour news channel, or listening to the car radio on the way to work. One "should not come into a newsroom cold," says Richardson.

According to Richardson, the NPA is the entry-point to the newsroom; a NPA is given the opportunity to cross-train in all aspects of news, from cueing tapes to writing stories. Richardson says that WRAL-TV has versatile employees who find a way to make the viewer care about the product that they deliver. Richardson also says that she enjoys her job and the "phenomenal people" with whom she works.

Honor and Integrity Week

MEGAN DONAHOE
Freshman Member-at-Large

As some of you may know, this past week, February 13-17, was Honor and Integrity week. This week was to make students more aware of the Honor Code at Meredith College.

On Monday, February 13, the Honor Council held a mock trial to show students what goes on in an actual hearing. The cases are not open to the Meredith community, so this gave all who wanted to watch the hearing an insight into a real trial. The case was a student pleading guilty to plagiarizing a portion of a paper. During the hearing, the student explained herself, witnesses testified, the Honor Council questioned the student. Shannon Walker, Honor Council Chair, explained that in a real hearing, the Council would discuss the evidence, look at past cases, and decide the appropriate outcome.

On Wednesday, February 15, a drop-in dialog was held discussing issues such as plagiarism detection websites/software, and how faculty and students can


get a more open dialog about issues such as plagiarism. Also, that evening, students had the opportunity to visit the Tunnel of Oppression which is an experience where participants travel through a series of sensory experiences witnessing forms of oppression and discrimination within our society.

Throughout the week, a large pledge card was displayed in the lobby of the Cate Center for students, staff, and faculty to reaffirm their commitment to the Honor Code. Two cards were entirely filled with signatures.

Although Honor and Integrity week is over, next week the Honor Council will be presenting Shattered Glass, a movie based on the true story of Stephen Glass, a writer whose award-winning work was found to be fabricated. This will be shown February 21, at 7 p.m., in Kresge Auditorium and February 22, 7 p.m. in the Oak Room.

Jill's Beach

Luxury Tanning



Free Mystic Tan
Buy 1 Get 1 Free!
*We spray only premium solutions resulting in darker longer lasting tans.

Rainbow Sandals
\$5 off any pair

Lucky you!
Jill's Beach is owned by an Angel!



816-8500
NCSU Area
Corner of Western Blvd.
& Jone Franklin
5535 Western Blvd.

834-TANN
Inside the Beltline
Near Whitaker Mill
1844 Wake Forest Rd.

\$45.00
1 Month unlimited tanning in our Gold beds
*Reg. \$60

Beach Bum Club
\$29.95/ Month unlimited Gold tanning
*No contracts, No enrollment, automatic payment

\$75.00
1 Month unlimited tanning in our Titanium beds
*Reg. \$125