Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of the CMS Newsletter. As ever, we have a lot of news to report – profiles of interesting alumni, cool projects our current seniors are doing, updates on our growing program, information about our many on and off-campus programs. CMS continues to thrive, and we’re proud to give you a glimpse of some of what we’re doing.

Inside this Issue

CMS and Alumni News (pages 2-4)

“A Match Made in Medford” An interview with alums Todd Kessler (A80) and Sharon Hall (J86) (pages 5-6).

Alumni Profiles Chad Matlin (A07) and Aaron Mehta (A07) (pages 6-7).

Student News (page 8)

“Self Discovery” Sarah Sorcher (A09) travels to the Middle East to find her own stories (page 9).

Fall 2009/Spring 2010 Events Listing (pages 10-11).

Burke Intern - Jessica Bidgood (A10) (page 12)

CMS Internships (pages 13-14)

Send us your news!

Changed jobs? Gone back to school? Moved? We want to hear from you. Email us at cms@tufts.edu.

Do you know someone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Feel free to pass it along.

And please visit our Web site at http://asc.tufts.edu/cms

Our offices (photo on left)
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Superheroes in a Globally-Connected World

In January 2009, CMS co-sponsored a panel entitled “Superheroes in a Globally-Connected World.” The panel featured alum Naif Al-Mutawa (A94), founder of “The 99” (a wildly successful comic book series featuring Islamic characters), psychology graduate student Neil Cohn, and Chip Gidney, Associate Professor of Child Development (pictured L-R). The lively discussion focused on why comic book and cartoon characters matter in the lives of children and adults and why it’s so important to have an ethnically and religiously diverse cast of characters. A link to a broadcast of this panel may be found by visiting our new website here.

Fourth Annual Murrow Forum on Issues in Journalism

There wasn’t a seat to be had in Barnum 008 in April 2009, when the Fourth Annual Murrow Forum on Issues in Journalism took place. MSNBC “Hardball” host Chris Matthews, former Governor and former Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis, and WCVB TV political reporter Janet Wu took on each other and the audience in discussing “Digging too Deeply? Headlines, Politics, and Public Service.”

Inside the Activist’s Study

Amy and David Goodman kicked off our newest series, “Inside the Activist’s Study,” on March 9, 2010. Amid humorous and revealing reflections on family life, the Goodmans discussed their work, their hope for a more active and engaged media in the future, and the need for aspiring journalists to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Both audio and video links of the event are now available.

The ongoing series, co-sponsored by CMS and Peace and Justice Studies, continues on April 5, pairing Amy Goodman with environmentalist and author Bill McKibben.
CMS Events with the Office of Alumni Relations

CMS Director Julie Dobrow traveled to San Francisco, Miami, Western Massachusetts, Vancouver, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C. with colleagues from the Office of Alumni Relations to put on alumni events in coordination with local Tufts groups. Several of these events featured screenings of student films, and a large crowd in San Francisco gathered to screen “War, Inc.” directed by Josh Seftel (A90) and discuss the film with Dobrow and Seftel.

In D.C., New York, and Boston, she helped one of the new alumni interest groups, the Tufts Journalism Society, put on events of particular interest to those who’d been members of campus media, those who currently work in the press, and those simply interested in aspects of journalism. The Fall 2009 event at the National Press Club in D.C. focused on the changing nature of journalism. Featuring NY Times reporter Stephen Labaton (A83), Congressional Quarterly executive editor John Dineen (A75), Washingtonian Magazine editor Jill Hudson Neale (J91), and ABC News State Department Producer and Off-Air Reporter Kirit Radia (A05), this panel discussed the move from print and broadcast to Web-based journalism and what reporters, editors, and publishers are doing to keep up with it. A podcast of this event may be heard by clicking here.

P.T. Barnum Awards for Excellence in Entertainment

The 2009 P.T. Barnum Awards took place at the offices of the Creative Artists Agency in Los Angeles. Emcee Adam Felber (A89) took a break from his gig on NPR’s “Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me” to introduce 2009 awardees Andrea Nelson Meigs (J90), a talent agent with ICM, and television writer/producer Jeff Greenstein (A84). Jon Levin (A74) gave a special surprise award to fellow CAA talent agent Charles Melniker (A73).

The 2010 PT Barnum Awards rotate across the country to New York. On June 7 at Lincoln Center, we’ll be giving this year’s honors to choreographer/dancer Art Bridgeman (A72), television/film producers Lisa Lax (J86) and Nancy Stern (J86), and actor Oliver Platt (A83).

Overwhelmed by the job search process?

Check out joblessjumbos.wordpress.com, a blog specifically for Tufts alumni. Laura Patterson (A09) created the blog to connect alumni on both sides of the job market. From interview tips to video tutorials to personal stories, Jobless Jumbos has a wealth of resources for alumni. The blog uses social media sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter to find and share job postings and job search advice. Patterson encourages alumni of all ages, employed or unemployed, to get involved by “writing an entry or two, a column, e-mailing in job leads, sitting down for a phone or coffee interview, or even sending in feedback and making sure that we’re putting up things that are useful in [your] lives.”

Are you our Facebook friend?

The CMS Facebook group is the place to go if you want to connect with alumni, discuss internships and classes with other students, and make sure you don’t miss exciting events. Check out the photos of internships, networking nights, recent speakers, and award recipients by clicking here.
News From Alumni

Jonathan Adler (A08) is working as a television assistant at Creative Artists Agency in New York City.

Allegra Anderson (A08) is working as the Office Manager at This Old House Productions based in Concord, Massachusetts.

Amanda Brower (A09) is an Editorial Assistant at Penguin Group in New York.

Sarah Butrymowicz (A09) and Jeremy White (A09) are students in the Master’s program at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Michael Cerundolo (A09) is an Account Coordinator for Small Army Advertising in Boston.

Bekah Gilbert (A09) is a Coordinator at the Lincoln Center’s Atrium Visitors Center and a Performance Coordinator at Juilliard Jazz.

Lisa Granshaw (A09) is a page in the year-long NBC Page Program.

Justin Greenbaum (A08) is now a first year student at Duke Law School.

Heather Hauswirth (A07) is an on-air reporter for KUAM News 8 TV on Guam. She moved there from a producer position at NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) in Washington, D.C.

Mari Homma (A09) has secured a position at Fujisankei Communications International, a division of Fuji TV, in New York City.

Kei Okamura (A05) is the Tokyo Reporter/Producer for Reuters Television.

Amy Palmieri (A07), Carmen Rincon (A08), Eileen Zhou (A08), Joel Aranson (A03), and Amanda Sung (A08) are working at Digitas in New York.

Sara Sorcher (A09), a freelance journalist, has had several pieces published by abcnews.com and GlobalPost.

Kelley Vendeland (A09) is working as an Account Coordinator at Bite Communications in New York City, after doing a post-grad paid summer internship for the company.

Elyse Weissman (A09) is working as an Assistant Account Executive at Rubenstein Communications in New York City.

Josh Wolk (A91) is now the Entertainment Editor of Vulture, New York Magazine’s entertainment blog.

New Website!

Check out our new website at www.ase.tufts.edu/cms.

This website began as a CMS Senior Project with original design work done by Jenny Rose (A09). CMS Staff Assistant John Ciampa is our webmaster; send him your news and updates at john.ciampa@tufts.edu.
A Match Made in Medford

Todd Kessler (A80) and Sharon Hall (J86) occupy a unique place in CMS’ extended family. Though both would likely scoff at the term, they are indeed a superstar couple, sharing impressive resumes that include writing and producing for both television and film.

CMS asked the couple a number of questions for our newsletter, and they responded with a series of insightful and candid anecdotes.

**CMS:** Could you each take a few moments to summarize your careers since leaving Tufts?

**Todd:** We actually met at a cocktail party thrown by Tufts alum Jon Tisch, for those of us in the media (before the CMS program existed). Sharon was looking for a new job and I was looking to hire a new staff person at Scholastic Productions. We took an immediate disinterest in each other. It took many months -- and Sol Gittleman’s uberpresence -- to bring us together. Sharon didn't take the job because I had a bigger agenda. We married two years later.

**Sharon:** At the time we met Todd was a TV production executive and I was a writer. Today, I am the production executive at Sony Television, and Todd is a writer. We have both hopscotched between producing and writing roles in our careers, often blurring the lines between the separate functions. It helps us both to understand how the "other side" thinks.

**Todd:** Immediately after Tufts, I got lucky to be hired for producing magazine show segments at CBS in New York (with Bill O'Reilly!), which later led to jobs at Entertainment Tonight, and then as an executive of specials and reality programming at CBS. Later, I segued into producing children’s and family television (no, the Todd Kessler of Blues Clues is not me) for Scholastic, and after moving to Los Angeles to develop feature films, I quit the executive ranks altogether and began writing.

Sharon and I worked together briefly when she was an executive for MTM Television, producing a drama series about NASA Space Shuttle crews. I wrote for that series. Later, I landed work for David E. Kelley on The Practice and spent four years there as a writer/producer. When I moved on, I wrote for Crossing Jordan at NBC (where I made sure that Tufts was prominently featured in the main character's story), then three seasons on David Mamet's The Unit for CBS, and now as co-executive producer on the CBS drama series The Good Wife, starring Julianna Margulies.

**Sharon:** I developed TV series for MGM Television, notably The Young Riders for ABC, then a few years later became (the youngest) vice president at BBDO Worldwide Advertising, overseeing programming, including “Rock the Vote,” which won a duPont-Columbia Award for excellence. From BBDO I returned to developing drama series for MTM. I took off seven years to raise our two sons, Jack (12) and Levi (8), before getting sucked back into the craziness of television production at Sony Entertainment. I am currently executive vice president, overseeing Sony's drama development and current programming departments. Our shows include Damages, Breaking Bad, and Rescue Me, and many others.
**Todd:** As a writer in television, producing comes with the territory. Unlike feature films where the director has the final say on most creative matters, writers in television have the last word. For me, producing is a writer's way of protecting the original vision for the script. Writing is a solitary, internal experience. Producing is the opposite. Producing is all about working with others to collectively see what you see in the story. Both are crucial and use different parts of my brain. Hopefully, both parts work well together.

**Sharon:** My father was very good about keeping his work life and his family life separate. Living in Beverly Hills we were generally protected from the culture of celebrity. No one in chicken outfits showed up at our front door looking for a game show host. My father mostly emphasized hard work and giving back to others. Those values stayed with me more than anything else.

**Todd:** We worked together briefly on a short-lived drama series called *The Cape* about astronauts. Sharon was the executive and I was one of the writers. We also wrote a screenplay together -- which wasn't the easiest collaboration. We work best together when we have a separation of labor. Sharon is very good at giving criticism and I am used to receiving it! Seriously, we bring different skills to the creative process and usually they connect well. We also share a very similar sensibility.

**Sharon:** Todd and I are currently developing a television pilot based on Boston’s own Robert Parker and his *Spenser* series of detective novels. Sony is the studio, TNT is the network. Steven Spielberg’s Dreamworks is the producer and Todd is the writer/executive producer. That’s a lot of pedigree going in. We are very hopeful about its prospects. We’ll see.

**CMC:** Our records indicate that you were at Tufts at different times (class of ’80 (Todd) and ’86 (Sharon), respectively). Did you ever cross paths while at Tufts? If not, what role (if any) did your shared experience of the school play in your lives together?

**Sharon:** Aside from introducing us through the New York Tufts Alumni Association, we have an eerie coincidence in that Todd’s dorm room in Bartol House became my Torn Ticket office! We were in the exact same space every day, only six years apart.

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**Spotlight on 2007 Graduate Chad Matlin**

Chad Matlin was not discouraged by a tanking economy and the unsure future of journalism. Instead, he joined the ranks as a staff reporter at *The Big Money*, Slate.com’s sister site.

“I had no business background going in, so it was a new challenge. I am attracted to things I don’t know anything about, which is the journalist in me.”

As part of his CMS minor, the 2007 graduate’s first interaction with hands-on media production was in Roberta Oster Sachs’s class, Producing Films for Social Change, which was followed by internships at ABC and WBUR (Boston’s NPR affiliate).

He said, “What’s very nice about CMS is that it’s constantly reaching beyond the sort of abstract academic stuff that college often throws at you. It’s rooted in the reality that you’re going to graduate and you’re not always going to sit in seminars discussing theories.”

After graduation, Matlin jumped into the media world as a Dutko Fellow in the political division in the Washington D.C. office of Slate.com, a daily online magazine. With no political experience, Matlin had a daunting task ahead of him. Matlin prepared himself by creating mapthecandidates.com, a website allowing users to track political candidates’ campaigns virtually that quickly became a popular tool for voters. Matlin transformed the 2008 primaries into an interactive experience with polling features, an election scorecard, and the “delegate calculator,” which estimated how many delegates the Democratic presidential nominees had won based on the popular vote.
Of his venture into politics, Matlin said, “You read a lot of newspapers. It’s a process of feeling completely lost for a month and a half, and feeling stupid for at least that long,” he said. “You read a lot, interview people when you can, make mistakes, have editors who can help you out, and you figure it out because it’s your job.”

After Matlin’s fellowship at Slate.com, he joined The Big Money, where he writes articles about finance with enough bite and wit to appeal to non-economics majors.

In “Recessionary Road,” a 12-part series that Matlin described as “a glorified road trip across the country,” he investigated the impact of the stimulus package on real people. The three-week trip took him from Lansing, Michigan to small-town Illinois to Richland, WA and everywhere in between as he shared the story of the stimulus’s effect on local politics and education.

Matlin enjoys writing for The Big Money because it does not cover the trend stories like mainstream media outlets; instead, the magazine approaches every story from a different angle. “It’s more like, given that there is a recession and given what’s going on, what can we write about? It’s more about chain reactions and the new landscape that we find ourselves in.”

Spotlight on 2007 Graduate Aaron Mehta

Ask Aaron Mehta about the power of media literacy and active citizenship. The 2007 graduate puts these CMS tenets into action every day as a staff reporter at the Center for Public Integrity.

Mehta discovered CMS when he learned he could receive credit for his internships at the Democratic National Convention and with Boston Mayor Tom Menino’s campaign.

After an internship at CREW (Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington) in D.C., and a stint working on John Connolly’s race for City Council, Mehta interned at the Center for Public Integrity and was hired full-time in August 2008.

In addition to his typical assignments of “long-form investigative journalism projects,” Mehta’s daily work ranges from “writing up a blog post to cleaning up data from a government database or spending the whole day online researching some random, little known government agency.” He said, “One of the things I enjoy about [the Center] is that there’s always a lot to do, so I can do a variety of things.”

Recently, Mehta’s work has covered everything from foreign countries’ funding of military personnel’s trips around the world to investigating the financial backers of the Blue Dog Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The latter story put him on the radar of the international press, earning him interviews on a variety of media outlets. “(The Blue Dog story) has been a lot of fun, as I’ve done a number of radio interviews on that piece, including bits with the BBC and NPR.”

Mehta recognizes Tufts’ and CMS’ impact on his approach to journalism and the media. “Tufts, and CMS in particular, has always been good about pushing active citizenship and being aware of the world around you. I’ve personally always seen the media as something that’s a force for good, and a vitally important cog in the way American democracy works.”

With such an optimistic outlook on the media, it’s a good thing Mehta is working for CPI, an institution that embraces these ideals. “Our stories are non-partisan and all contain some form of public service aspect to them, whether it’s dealing with money and politics, the environment, defense, or one of the many other subjects we cover.”

Mehta said, “(the Center’s) goal is to let the widest number of people know about what the truth is. We don’t advocate, we’re non-partisan, and we’re non-profit. We come out with what the true story is and say, ‘Here you go, folks... enlighten yourselves.’”

Mehta clearly views the media as a way to accomplish bigger goals. “The media’ is just a toolkit,” he said. “It’s all about how you use it.”

- Sarah Fleischmann (Ao8)
Student News

Senior Project Preview

Every year, CMS seniors create and produce original films, magazines, and marketing campaigns for their senior projects. These projects cover topics from music recording to environmentalism and allow students to investigate areas that are particularly meaningful to them. This year is no exception, and we have a preview of several projects that are currently in the works.

Sara DeForest and Scott Silverman’s project, a documentary that investigates the local food movement in the Boston area, will be comprised of interviews with local farmers, consumers, activists, and even restaurateurs who support the local food movement. The filmmakers hope that, “Armed with knowledge about local food and awareness of their eating behaviors, viewers will be empowered to eat responsibly, helping their communities and the environment.”

Amy Rosenbaum’s project allows her to get inside the heads of TV characters she has loyally followed since high school by writing her own television script for an episode of Grey’s Anatomy. “Bringing them to life in a script of my own was intimidating and thrilling, but I couldn’t think of a better vehicle for my first venture into television writing.” Her script will be accompanied by an analysis that studies “how to write for television, how Grey’s Anatomy works as a hit television show, and how Grey’s Anatomy fits into the continuum of medical dramas.”

Ally Gimbel’s project will combine media literacy with environmentalism as she examines eco-marketing and leading a sustainable lifestyle. “Lately we’ve been seeing a big push to market products and businesses as ‘green,’ ‘eco-friendly,’ ‘all-natural’ and ‘socially conscious,’ and I would like to examine how these products are marketed and what their actual effect is on the planet.” Gimbel will address the issue by developing a marketing plan that promotes sustainable habits.

Sports fanatic Zach Groen’s project investigates the effect of social media on sports journalism and professional sports. “As social media have started to blossom, many sports journalists, especially beat writers and reporters, have taken sports journalism to another platform. News is broken via Twitter, and there is hardly a need – or a demand for that matter – for traditional journalistic articles.”

Maddie Garber, a self-described foodie, is producing a mini magazine that explores our relationships with food in the 21st century. “My magazine will explore issues around food as entertainment and a part of pop culture, as well as with food as a social and political movement and the ways in which active citizens are trying to reform food policy.” Garber plans to interview the Director of the Slow Food Movement, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and other important players in today’s food world.

Katie Weiller’s thesis transforms America’s obsession with reality TV shows into academic material. By examining three shows – American Idol, Survivor, and Project Runway – Weiller will analyze “how producers manage to keep audiences coming back season after season. I’m looking at changes made from season to season and how the shows stay fresh. Additionally, I’ll be discussing what the popularity of these shows says about the American public sociologically.”

Did you know that you can designate a contribution to Tufts for CMS? We are in need of funding so that we can continue to offer cutting edge courses, and continue to put on the variety of events that have become a CMS hallmark. We are grateful for your support in any amount.

Left: The 2009 Senior project winners.
Awards were given in radio, media and public service, print journalism, screenplay, advertising, media literacy, photojournalism, multimedia arts and Web design, music/marketing, broadcast journalism, and research.

(See page 12 for more student news.)
Sitting in a hotel room in Israel, barely three months since donning a cap and gown on the Hill, Sara Sorcher (A09) pondered her first move, wondering how she could get from the front door of her building to her first story. The blueprint was there. She was multilingual, versed in the languages of the area. She was also semi-experienced – fresh off internships at ABC News and GlobalPost.com, so she knew the drill. But most of all she already possessed several of the essential items of the journalist’s tool kit – namely resourcefulness, curiosity, and passion. Within two weeks she had her first byline, and then a half-dozen more before the next two were up. Her topics were varied and ambitious, covering the death of an astronaut’s son, refugees celebrating Ramadan in the West Bank, and the impact of the olive harvest on Israeli/Palestinian relations, to name a few.

At this point, her pitches landed primarily at her two former stopovers, ABC and Global Post, but eventually she branched out. Utilizing her video and photography skills, in addition to her already incisive prose, she presented a formidable skill set, and was now a bona fide triple-threat poised to rise to the top of the 21st Century journalistic food chain.

“Everyone in the bureau (at Global Post) told me at the end of my internship to just graduate, learn video, and come back and see where it took me,” she said. “So I made my 30-minute documentary, A Nation of Soldiers, shot in Israel and edited in the Talbot Avenue basement, fumbled my way through Final Cut, and booked my ticket.” Since then, Sorcher’s steadily expanding her Web site with an increasing stockpile of multimedia clips and photographs. More recently, her interest turned to the topic of mandatory military service in Israel, citing that one of her favorite pieces is about a young Israeli man’s pre-army “combat fitness” program that trains kids for their army selection tests to get into the nation’s elite units.

“I mostly work alone, or with a photographer I met when we sublet from the same apartment, but it’s a pretty isolated and structureless work process,” she said. “Day by day I have a general idea of what I’ll work on, but I’ve come to learn that working alone in a foreign country means that I have to build something from nothing in every sense. I have to find the topics and ideas — from asking around or reading the news wires and local papers — and then sell them and try to convince people I somehow know what I’m doing” Sorcher currently has two longer pieces in the works – topics that she’s keeping under wraps to preserve her angle.

Such is the life of a freelancer.

For more of Sara’s remarkable work, you can visit her Web site by clicking here.
### CMS Events: Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

**“Chemical”**  
**September 9**  
Special test screening of Andrew Nisker's new film, *Chemical*. This film focuses on what a chemical free existence would really be like. Students were asked their opinions of the film and responses were given to the filmmaker to use in making changes before completion of the final cut and its commercial release.

**Media as a Non-State Actor in the Pursuit of Peace**  
**September 21**  
A discussion that featured Columbia University journalism professor, playwright, and former executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Anne Nelson.  
Co-sponsored by CMS and the Peace and Justice Studies Program.

**Communications Internship Panel**  
**October 20**  
Tufts students who have done media internships in Boston, New York, and Los Angeles gave advice about finding internships and getting the most out of them.  
Co-sponsored by Career Services and CMS.

**Jobs in the Media: “Tips for Seniors”**  
**November 18**  
Expert media alumni from PR, marketing, advertising, as well as print, broadcast, and online journalism discussed their careers with Tufts seniors and offered strategies for breaking into media jobs.  
Co-sponsored by Career Services and CMS.

**Producing Films for Social Change Film Screening**  
**December 14**  
An evening of student films! Created during the class, Producing Films for Social Change, this annual event featured a screening of each film followed by a question and answer session with the filmmakers. Each of the evening’s four films addressed important social and regional issues, and were thought-provoking, insightful, and entertaining.  
Co-sponsored by the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, the Experimental College, and CMS.

**“Consuming Kids”**  
**February 3**  
Film screening of the documentary, *Consuming Kids*. Josh Golin, of Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood, was the scheduled guest speaker.  
Co-sponsored by CMS and the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development.

**Brown bag lunch with alumni**  
**March 1**  
A visit from Rebecca Plofker (A05), creative and events director for Endeavor, a global non-profit supporting entrepreneurs building medium to large size enterprises in emerging markets around the world. Plofker spoke to students during a brown bag luncheon.

**Communications Networking Night**  
**March 3**  
CMS's Annual Networking Night, where students had the opportunity to engage alums who are currently working in various media fields.  
Co-sponsored by CMS and Career Services.

"**Inside the Activist's Study**"  
**March 9**  
Featuring Amy Goodman, host of “*Democracy Now!*” and David Goodman, investigative reporter. This new series brings together prominent journalists, actors, filmmakers, and a wide-array of activist leaders. The Goodmans had a lively discussion centered on how the promise of media can bring about social change.  
Co-sponsored by CMS and the Peace and Justice Studies Program.

**Caitlin Flynn**  
**March 12**  
Flynn is an Account Planner at Ogilvy & Mather, an international advertising, marketing, and public relations agency based in New York City, and she spoke about careers in advertising.
Lost comes to Tufts
March 16
Students had an opportunity to watch an episode of *Lost* with Chad Matlin (A07), the instructor of the ExCollege’s class on *Lost* and currently the *Lost* expert on the online magazine *Slate.com*.

**Coming Soon!**

"Inside the Activist's Study"
April 5
This second installment will feature Amy Goodman and Bill McKibben, an educator, environmentalist, and the author of more than a dozen books, including the influential work *The End of Nature*.

CMS presents *Trumbo*
April 12
Screening of the 2007 documentary *Trumbo*, which documents the life of Dalton Trumbo, the blacklisted screenwriter who re-emerged in the aftermath of the Second Red Scare to have a successful film career.

April 14
Panelists include: Casey Murrow, Lynne Olson (author of *The Murrow Boys* and *Citizens of London*), Arnie Reisman (writer for Academy Award-nominated film, *Hollywood on Trial*.)

Showcase for Student Films
May 3
A two-day affair highlighting the finest Tufts student films of the year.

CMS Senior Celebration
May 5
Come join us for our annual recognition of CMS seniors and their year-long senior projects.

“Tips for Seniors,” was another new CMS event that began in 2009, and is designed to help students on the cusp of graduation develop a better handle on the job market in a more intimate setting than our typical networking nights. To the left, Geoff Edgers (A92), Arts Reporter for the *Boston Globe*, is shown speaking to students during the inaugural event last spring. Please see the [audio section](#) of our Web site for a recap of the event.
This year marked the third year of the David Burke Media and Public Service Internship Program, which gave one student from the class of 2010 the opportunity to intern at WBUR, Boston's NPR affiliate. Alumni John Davidow (A77) generously hosted Bidgood during the summer and fall. The program is a collaboration between the Communications and Media Studies Program and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, in honor of Tufts alumnus David Burke, former president of CBS News and former vice president of News at ABC.

In a change of pace, CMS opted to allow Bidgood to share her own experience personally for the CMS community. What follows is an inside look at her internship experience.

It is Friday morning, and I am sitting in a hallway on the ninth floor of Suffolk County Superior Court. I’ve been chatting with lawyers and policemen, writers and cameramen, and audio guys who like to read books about Orcs. I’ve been talking with the family of a man on trial for homicide. Mostly, I’ve been waiting.

I’m waiting for the verdict in the trial of the man who calls himself Clark Rockefeller. I’m covering the trial for my summer internship, the David Burke internship, as a member of the Newscast Unit for WBUR, Boston’s NPR news station.

Although I have considerable experience in student journalism, this was my first experience in a professional newsroom—and my first experience with radio. I was immediately struck by how everything seemed to move: writers and reporters constantly making calls and updating their stories, engineers mixing new sound and features, anchors getting new scripts.

I have spent the last 8 weeks learning how to contribute to this motion, and how I fit into it. I have been writing radio scripts on news events, making calls and reporting my own stories, heading into the field to do interviews and take photos, and aiding reporters on long-term stories and projects. In the process, I have learned a great deal about what it takes to produce quality journalism—and that I want to dedicate my own career to doing just that for public radio.

I’ve gotten the chance to attend big press events, like the press conference announcing the indictment of Sal DiMasi for his corruption charges centering around the Canadian corporation, Cognos. After listening to US Attorney Michael Louks explain the complicated ring in which DiMasi was allegedly involved, I was utterly confused. I had a heavy indictment in one hand and a press release in another. Not familiar with the legal jargon, I was completely lost and worried. On my T ride back, I started mapping out what I was reading, as it was the only way it made sense to me. Two hours later, an editor and I had turned that little map, borne out of worry that I wasn’t being a good reporter, into an informational graphic for the web, and the newsroom was thrilled.

The lesson? There are a number of ways to approach reporting any story. It is the job of a reporter to embrace and work through confusion, and that process can actually be helpful to readers and listeners.

Part of the reason that I have learned so much at WBUR is the willingness of the writers, editors, and directors there to trust me — knowing that I will make mistakes and learn from them. I go out on my own to get sound and do interviews, and I have been able to source, report, and write my own stories. Each time, I think about what other questions I might have asked, how I could have improved the story or done it differently.

I like to say that journalism is evolving (other words people use are ‘spiraling down’, ‘imploding’, ‘crashing and burning’). As WBUR re-launches its website, the station is in the midst of a very significant transition — from a radio station to a news organization that balances radio and web journalism. Some of my work has allowed me to understand the challenges inherent in this transition. I have done interviews and recorded sound for the radio, with a camera slung over my shoulder so that I can take photos for the web.

I am extremely grateful both to WBUR, and to the Communications and Media Studies program for making this opportunity possible, and helping me discover my long-term career goals.

- Jessica Bidgood (A10)
Internships

The CMS Program provides guidance and credit to more than 100 Tufts students who participate in media related internships throughout the country. The nearly 20 year old CMS program lists more than 500 potential internship sites where students can gain experience and also receive credit in the fall, spring or summer semesters.

Through the CMS Internship Program, Tufts students have received credit for jobs ranging from work on Late Night with David Letterman to the PR office of the Boston Red Sox to the communications office for the Governor of Massachusetts, from work on the Truth Campaign at Arnold Worldwide to reading scripts at Walden Media, and from opportunities at major newspapers and community newspapers to opportunities at the last summer Olympics working for NBC in Beijing. Thanks to our loyal alums and friends, internships have been made available in print journalism, book publishing, broadcasting, video/film production, the recording industry, advertising, marketing, public relations and digital/multimedia companies.

The excellent liberal arts education students receive at Tufts is enhanced by the opportunity to get “real world” experience where the benefits include gaining self confidence, honing communication skills, learning better time management and adding a new set of skills specific to the individual internship.

During the academic year, students average 12 to 16 hours a week at the internship site, accumulating a minimum of 150 hours over the semester in order to receive CMS course credit. Students are also required to write several papers reflecting on the internship as well as meet regularly with the CMS internship coordinator. Although this opportunity is also available during the summer, it does require paying the summer school tuition fee and for some this presents a financial burden.

Some internships come to us through Tufts alums who work in innumerable media industries. Other positions become available through Boston-area media outlets, political operatives, non-profit and for-profit organizations that have communications-oriented positions. If you might have an internship opportunity for one of our Tufts students, please email us at cms@tufts.edu.

The CMS Internship Program continues to grow with dozens of new internship sites being added each semester and more Jumbos signing up to participate in these invaluable for credit work experiences.

- Glenda Manzi
**Winternships**

January 2010 saw almost 40 current Tufts students working at 30 different media organizations in 3 cities for a week. Working with alumni mentors in a variety of settings, students got an intensive immersion into what life in media industries is all about. Among many other sites, students worked at *The Boston Globe*, Walden Media, WBUR, Arnold Worldwide, Fred Friendly Seminars, Young and Rubicam, *All You Magazine*, WW Norton Publishers, ICM, Bona Fide Productions and many other sites. Thanks to all the alumni who graciously sponsored and mentored our students. If you are interested in hosting a Tufts wintern in January 2011, please contact CMS Director Julie Dobrow. Below is this year’s list of locations and alumni sponsors.

**Boston**

Arnold Worldwide (Meg Siegal J99)

*Boston Globe* (Neil Swidey A91)

New England Cable News (NECN) (Brad Puffer A95)

David Sutherland Productions (David Sutherland A67)

Walden Media (Micheal Flaherty A90)

WBUR (John Davidow A77)

**Los Angeles**

Bona Fide Productions (Albert Berger A79)

Holford Productions (Erin Holford A97)

International Creative Management (ICM) (Andrea Nelson Meigs J90)

Outlaw Productions (Mike Glassman A01)

Paramount (Mike Bartok A80)

PRbuzz (Jann Berman P06)

Ted Schachter Entertainment (Ted Schachter A76)

*TV Guide Network* (Matt Singerman A88)

**New York**

*All You Magazine* (Diane Oshin J77)

Fred Friendly Seminars (Barbara Margolis/Ruth Friendly)

Lookalike Productions (Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern J86)

Random House (Amanda Munoz A04)

Seftel Productions (Josh Seftel A90)

*The Big Money* (Chad Matlin A07)

Trickle Up (Bill Abrams A75)

WNET (Neal Shapiro A80)

World Leaders Entertainment (Ben Stein A01)

WSHU (Craig LeMoot A98)

W.W. Norton (Jennifer Cantelmi A06)

Young and Rubicam (Belle Frank J76)

**Elizabeth Ross (A12) "winterning" at Fred Friendly Seminars in New York City, January 2010.**

Ally Gimbel (left) worked with Meg Siegal (J99) on the “Truth” campaign during her 2010 Winternship with Arnold Worldwide, while Patrick Lee (below) tinkers with the Starship Enterprise while interning at Paramount in L.A.