

ShopTalk

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Editor, Lisa O'Donnell Connors, x4-6803

Funny Business

Despite the bleak damp weather, there was plenty of funny business on the 9th floor of the Northwest Building on Friday, Feb. 6. The Post Writers Group hosted the aspiring syndicated cartoonists who are the 2004 FineToon Fellows for a professional development seminar.

This year's fellows and their strips include Valerie Costantino, "V.J. and Company," the story of an unpublished romance novelist who moonlights as a bartender. "Steve" is a creation of Dan Killeen about a little blue guy with amazing powers of imagination. Todd Machen is the creator of "Attack of the Killer Soccer Moms," about suburban soccer moms (and dads), and "Loose Nuts" which was reminiscent of the "Far Side" is in development by Steve Skelton.

For Dave Killeen, receiving the

FineToon Fellowship this year has been a creative boost in the development of his strip. "It flipped on a green light for my writing," he said. "Just to know there are editors at The Post who like my strip has been empowering."

The fellowship, which began in 2000, provides the cartoonists with the opportunity to learn the business of comic strip syndication from Post staff and professionals from other publications. The fellows also receive a stipend of \$5,000 and are mentored by successfully syndicated cartoonists. At the conclusion of the fellowship, the Writers Group has the first right of refusal to syndicate the strips. A strip that was successfully developed through the FineToon Fellowship is "Out of the Gene Pool," a Writers Group syndicated strip which appears in The Post's comics pages. The strip is created by Matt



The 2004 FineToon Fellows include (l-r) Todd Machen, Dan Killeen and Steve Skelton. Not pictured is Valerie Costantino.

Janz, a 2000 FineToon Fellow. The fellowship is coordinated by Writers Group Comics Editor **SUZANNE WHELTON**.

Last week's seminar was the first of three FineToon Fellow seminars that will be held throughout the year. The cartoonist began the day meeting with the Writers Group editorial and sales staff learning about the syndication business. Topics included the role of the syndicate, promotion and marketing strategies, the editing process and deadlines. In the afternoon, the cartoonists met with **SHIRLEY CARSWELL**, assistant managing editor/administration and planning and Susan Bischoff, an associate editor for the *Houston Chronicle* in Texas. Carswell and Bischoff discussed and answered questions about the comics that run in The Post and *Chronicle*. ■



New Faces



BILL BROWN



**DANIELLE
CARPENTER**



MIKE FLAGG



MICHELLE GARCIA



OPESH GUPTA



SUSAN KINZIE



LIZ McGEHEE



**SEAN
McLAUGHLIN**



**BRENNA
NIELSEN**



ERIC PRISBELL



ERIC RICH



**IRINA
SHESTAKOVA**

BILL BROWN joined the Accounting Department in October in the position of collection manager. Before coming to The Post he was a unit manager for Capital Recovery Services. Brown earned a BS in geography from Penn State University. His interests include collecting comic books, reading and movies.

DANIELLE CARPENTER was hired as an advertising services representative this fall for the Recruitment Advertising Unit. She previously worked as an outside display advertising account executive for the Journal Newspapers in Alexandria. Carpenter has also held advertising positions with Network Publications and Gilden Integrated Advertising. She holds a BS in mass communications from Towson University and an AA in general studies from Prince George's Community College. In her spare time, Carpenter is the manager of a gospel band based in Fort Washington, Md.



BEATRIZ SZABO

CURTIS CHAMPION became a zone manager for home delivery in the Circulation Department in December. He had been an independent distributor. Champion's hobbies include basketball, bowling and skiing. *(Photo Not Available)*

MIKE FLAGG was named the Washington Business editor on the Financial Desk in November. Flagg has written for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Atlanta Constitution*, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among other publications. He holds a BA in history from Columbia University and in his spare time is a professional blues guitarist.



MARTHA WRIGHT

MICHELLE GARCIA was hired in September as a news aide based in the New York Bureau. Prior to joining The Post she was a features writer at the *Herald News* in New Jersey and was a reporter and producer for public radio programs distributed by National Public Radio, the BBC and Public Radio International. Garcia has a BA in journalism from the University of Texas in Austin.

OPESH GUPTA joined the IT Department in October as a programmer analyst. He came to the newspaper from Accolade Business where he was a software consultant. Gupta holds a MS in informa-

tion systems from George Mason University and a BS in engineering from the Regional Engineering College in Trichy, India.

SUSAN KINZIE took the position of staff writer for Metro based in the Southern Maryland Bureau in January. She had been a health reporter for the *News & Observer* in Raleigh, N.C. Kinzie has also written for the *Charlotte Observer* in N.C. and the *Bangor Daily News* in Maine. She earned an MS from Columbia University's School of Journalism and a BS in psychology from Brown University. Kinzie's interests include reading and skiing.

LIZ McGEHEE was hired as a copy editor on the Metro Tab Copy Desk in December. She was previously a copy editor for the *Baltimore Sun*. McGehee has editing experience at the *Winston-Salem Journal* in N.C. where she was a copy desk chief, as well as the *News & Observer* in

Raleigh, N.C. and the *News and Record* in Greensboro, N.C. She earned an MA in American history from the College of William & Mary in Virginia and a BA in American studies from Salem College in Winston-Salem, N.C. McGehee enjoys reading, music, old movies and travel.

SEAN McLAUGHLIN was hired in December for the position of production coordinator in the Advertising Department. Before coming to The Post, he was an account executive for *Education Week* in Bethesda. He has also held advertising positions with SGI Publications and TSN Publishing. McLaughlin earned a BA in illustration and design from the University of Delaware in Newark.

BRENNIA NIELSEN joined the Human Resources Department last month as an administrative assistant. Previously, she was a staffing coordinator for G&S Staffing Services in

Willmar, Minn. She has also worked for the software company Virtual Access Networks based in Lawrence, Mass. Nielsen holds a BA in psychology with a minor in business management from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Her interests include hiking, volunteering, traveling and song writing.

ERIC PRISBELL recently was hired by The Post as a staff writer for Sports. He was previously a sports investigative/enterprise writer at the *Fresno Bee* in California. Prisbell has also worked for the *Newark* (N.J.) *Star-Ledger* and the *Trenton* (N.J.) *Times*. He has a BA in journalism from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

ERIC RICH joined Metro last month in the position of the criminal justice reporter based in the Annapolis Bureau. He comes to The Post from the *Hartford* (Conn.) *Courant* where he was a free-

lancer, suburban reporter, court reporter and most recently an investigative reporter. Rich has also run a homeless shelter in London, England. He earned a BA in philosophy and psychology from Grinnell College in Iowa.

IRINA SHESTAKOVA is the new compensation manager in Human Resources. Before coming to The Post in October, she was a human resources consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers. Shestakova holds an MA in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a BS in business administration through a joint program of the University of Maryland and Irkutsk State University in Siberia, Russia. She enjoys cooking and cross-stitch.

BEATRIZ SZABO was hired as a technician for the Photo Desk last month. Previously she worked for Gazette

newspapers. She has also had her own graphics art business and worked for the Brazilian Aeronautical Commission and Martin Marietta. She has an AA in advertising art and is certified in computer art and animation. In her free time Szabo enjoys gardening.

MARTHA WRIGHT joined the Style copy desk in December. She came to The Post from the *Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and was previously a National Copy Desk intern for The Post in 2002. Wright was a Dow Jones Newspaper Fund intern for the *Sun-Sentinel* in 2001. She has a BA in print journalism with a minor in women's studies from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. Her interests include comic books and "all things Macintosh." ■

Pensinger Wins Zone Manager Award

Vice President of Circulation **DAVID DADISMAN** announced that **JOSEPH PENSINGER** was

Patterson Zone Manager of the Year on Friday, Jan. 30 at the annual Vice President's Manager Appreciation Luncheon. The award's namesake Jack Patterson, a retired Post assistant president and senior vice president of circulation, was a special guest at the luncheon held at the University Club in the District. The 2003 award marks the 20th annual presentation of the award. ■



the recipient of the 2003 Jack Patterson and awardee **JOSEPH PENSINGER** at the awards luncheon.



The two decades of Jack Patterson Zone Manager of the Year awardees include (front row, l-r) Spyros Loukas (1994), Buddy Houghton (1987), Timothy Mangum (1991), Joseph Pensinger (2003), Rinell Randolph (1986), Zosimo Monzon (2002), and Charles Love (1998), (second row, l-r) John Mallory (1997, 1999), Michael Dewey (1984), Lee McAdory (1988), Theodore Roorda (1999), Michael Green (1993), Frank Mihalovic (1990) and William Benner (1996). Not pictured are Thomas Alder (1985), Richard Hodgins (1989), Edward Brown (1992), Robert Rawl (1995, deceased), Sandra Simonsen (2000) and Glenn Dana (2001).

Bloodmobile at Northwest Building

The Northwest Health Center will host the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on Wednesday, March 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Blood supplies typically teeter at dangerously low levels this time of year plus a spike in holiday traffic accidents have caused an even greater demand. A bitter flu season and bad weather have also added to the usual winter time donation deterrents. Call the Health Center on x4-7192 to schedule an appointment. Your participation is appreciated!

Sign Up for OD&T Classes

The Organization Development & Training Department has classes available throughout February, including the following:

Lotus Notes Training

Wednesday, Feb. 18

9 a.m.-noon

Sousa PC Training room

Word 97, Level I

Monday, Feb. 23

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sousa PC Training room

Promoting an Outstanding Service Culture

Tuesday, Feb. 24

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: TBA

For more information or to register for a class, call the OD&T hotline at x4-5425.

Employee Discount to Wine & Food Festival

The Post is the presenting sponsor of the upcoming Washington D.C. International Wine & Food Festival

and discounts are available to employees. You can save \$16 off the regular one-day admission (\$45 instead of \$61) or \$16 off the regular two-day admission (\$66 instead of \$82) if you order by February 20th. After that date, all prices increase by \$10. The Festival takes place February 28 & 29 at the Washington Convention Center. Special features include tastings, seminars, celebrity chef demonstrations and an Australian vintner dinner. For information on the Festival visit www.wine-expos.com.

To order your tickets at The Post employee discount visit <http://www.wine-expos.com/dc/wpe/>.



Notice About Northwest Building Water

To All Employees:

Because of recent reports about lead in the D.C. water supply, here is an update about the water in the Northwest building. A number of years ago, filtration systems were installed on the building's water fountains and in some other areas, and those filters are designed to be effective against lead. Drinking water in newly renovated areas of the building will be filtered as well. The cafeteria also has a filtration system for its cold water supply, including the ice machine and drink machines. Tap water in the building's restrooms is not filtered in that way. There is no information indicating that there is a problem with lead in our water, but water quality tests are being conducted to gather more information. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

—Mary Ann Werner,
Vice President/Counsel

x4-6575

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Ride-on Soft Rock'n Bounce Zebra by Today's Kids. Barely used (Amazon price \$59.99, selling for \$25). Medela Breast Pump, includes two adaptors one for the car and one for regular outlet, \$85. Graco Baby Swing, w/ three speeds and three reclining positions, \$25. Classic Baby Carriage by Saks Fifth Avenue, English style in Navy, \$60. Tanita Digital Baby Scale, w/ large LCD display, 20 lb. capacity, \$50. Graco Baby Saucer, \$20. Avent Microwave Bottle Steamer, \$5. Britax Car Seat, navy blue, with checked pattern, 35 lb. capacity, \$20. Call Irene at (703) 655-8846 after 3 p.m., or Carlos at x4-7738.

FREE: "World Book" World Atlas, 35-years-old, outdated, but I can't bring myself to just throw it away. Call Margaret at x4-4053 or at home (301) 622-2272.

FOR RENT: Dupont (17th & T) 1BR - Large, luxurious, recently renovated condo, hardwood floors, high ceilings, terrific light, CAC, DW, WD. Great location, walk to Dupont or U Street metro. \$1,600/month + elec. Available March 1. Call Seth at (202) 332-4717.

FOR SALE: Almost new ice hockey equipment, including men's size 9 skates and everything else you need to play ice hockey, good condition, prices negotiable. Call A.K. at (301) 856-3841 or x4-7792.

BEACH HOUSES: 4 BR house in Outer Banks' wild horse and nature preserve; pools, tennis, fishing lakes. Also, two BR condo on Seabrook Island, SC, with nature activities, kayaking, golf, tennis and pool. Call Larry at (301) 946-0249.

MYRTLE BEACH RENTAL: Spend seven days in Myrtle Beach this summer at a beautiful Crown status resort located on a championship golf course. Two BR, two full BA, full kitchen and LR, can sleep up to six people. Walk to the Olympic size pool, just 1 mile from the beach. Close to everything else that Myrtle Beach has to offer, \$850. The dates are flexible. Call Joe at x6-1994 or (540) 659-5122.

FOR SALE: The Definitive Lynyrd Skynyrd Collection 3 CDs (47 classic recordings including 16 rarities from first demo "Free Bird" in 1970. Includes a colorful photo-filled 64-pg. booklet w/two sets of liner notes (biography overview) and Led Zeppelin 4 CDs includes a 36-page color booklet w/complete track-by-track credits, three essays, and discography. Both sets have never been opened-NEW, \$60 for both sets/OBO. Call Cannie x4-6550 or (301) 793-8282.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon Fridays. Please include your name, extension and home phone number. Ads are for Post Employees only. Send ads to Shop Talk, 7th floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963; via e-mail send to shoptalk. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.