

AEJMC Adds Link to CIIJ Web Site

By Cristina L. Azocar

At the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) mid-winter meeting in San Antonio last December, the Task Force for Diversity decided to link AEJMC's site to www.ciij.org to provide its members with program information for underrepresented groups.

One of the goals of the Task Force for Diversity is to make this type information readily available to any journalism student or educator looking for resources that serve minority groups. It asked CIIJ if it could link to us, thereby adding the potential to reach AEJMC'S 3,500 members.

AEJMC can now also quickly provide its

members with a reliable, reputable source for all diversity related information.

Our web redesign allows us to update our website daily with information on programs, scholarships, internships, jobs and events for journalism educators and journalists of color, GLBT journalists, and disabled journalists. We receive this information from journalism organizations nationwide. Visitors to ciij.org can gain immediate access to all postings by registering.

Each registrant can also opt to have updates sent directly to them via our RSS feed. We know the use of our website will only continue to grow as journalism students and educators and journalists look to us for the latest on diversity.

NLJGA Founder was Everybody's 'Brother'

By Erna Smith

The first time I heard of LeRoy Aarons was when I was cub reporter on the Waco Tribune-Herald in 1975. He ran a job search service called JobNet for "minority journalists," as we called ourselves then. I assumed, as many others did, that he was a brother. Who else but a black man is named Leroy?

Fourteen years later, I met Roy in person when he hired me to work for the summer on the copy desk of the Oakland Tribune after I accepted a position to teach journalism at San Francisco State University.

We'd chatted on the telephone a few times before we met face to face. To me, he sounded like a New Yorker, which is to say his accent betrayed his geographical fault line but nothing more. So you could have knocked me over with a feather when this slender, white-haired and well-dressed white man bounded across the newsroom like an overgrown puppy to greet me.

"Erna, I'm Roy Aarons," he said, his eyes twinkling.

A few days later he took me to lunch where he wolfed down his food as if he hadn't eaten in days and talked to me, or rather at me, as if we were old friends.

Afterward, I raced to keep up with him as he charged back to the Tribune with a mustard stain on his elegant tie, courtesy of his unique brand of power lunching.

Roy Aarons will be remembered in journalism history for founding the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association in 1990. But long before he bust open the closet for countless lesbian and gay journalists in newsrooms across America and, even the world, he worked tirelessly to break through the color line for countless African American, Latino, Asian American and Native American journalists.

He was, quite literally, everybody's brother and that is his legacy to us.



LeRoy Aarons

SFSU Journalism Students on the Go

Congratulations! This is a partial list of S.F. State University journalism students who secured jobs and internships over the past year.

Spring 2004

Jordin Althaus
Photography Intern
Telegraph Herald
Dior Azcuy
Photography Intern
Modesto Bee
Steve Babulijak
Photography Intern
Santa Fe New Mexican
Michael Chu
Sports Editorial Intern
San Mateo Daily Journal
Kari Lynn Dean
Editorial Intern
Assistant Research Editor
Freelance Writer
Wired News
Misha Rosiak
Assignment Editor
KRON 4 TV
Janet Turley
Editorial Intern
Diablo Magazine
Sara Wolfram
Image Desk
ANG Newspapers
Craig Young
Photography Intern
Aberdeen American News

Summer 2004

Jordin Althaus
Photography Intern
Boston Globe
Martin Jimenez
Photographer
The Pinnacle
Sean McCourt
Editorial Intern
7x7 Magazine
Lianne Milton
Photography Intern
Florida Times Union
Michael Schennum
Photography Intern
The Post-Crescent
Poh Si Teng
Reporting Intern
The New Straits Times
Scot Tucker
Photographer
Napa Valley Register
Elvira Viveros
Reporting Intern
Kaiser Media Internship
in Urban Health
Reporting
Atlanta Journal Constitution
Christine Yee
Copy Editor Intern
The Oregonian

Fall 2004

Gina Apodaca
Editorial Intern
Nob Hill Gazette
Eugenia Chien
Editorial Intern
Asian Week
Sajid Farooq
Reporter
Tri-Valley Herald
Lianne Milton
Photographer
Orange County Register
Erin Pursell
Editorial Intern
Palo Alto Weekly
Reinalyn Ramos
Editorial Intern
Asian Week
Yamina Washington
Editorial Intern
San Francisco Daily Journal
Winter 2004/Spring 2005
Allison Bloch
Editorial Intern
Newsdesk.org
Reporting Intern
CBS
Omar Vega
Photography Intern
Oakland Tribune

Spring 2005

Karim Amara
Multimedia Editor
Loud Magazine
Somer Flaherty
Associate Editor
Loud Magazine
Jorgen Gulliksen
Photography Intern
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Michaela Lev-Ram
Associate Editor
Loud Magazine
Jason Speck
Associate Editor
Loud Magazine
YaVaughnie Wilkins
Editorial Intern
California Lawyer Magazine
Dawn Withers
Helen Thomas
Reporting Intern
Chicago Tribune
Washington D.C.
Bureau
Craig Young
Photography Intern
Modesto Bee

*List compiled by
Caroline Perez*

Beverly Kees Left Us Before She was Finished

By John Burks, Chair, Journalism, SF State

She was busy creating a News Museum to chronicle the proud and quirky history of San Francisco journalism, something along the lines of Freedom Forum's Newseum back east, which she'd also had a hand in bringing to life.

She was preparing to travel all over the country to oversee training in newsrooms, a role she had successfully developed years earlier.

In a month or so she was to begin teaching our Newspaper Editing course, an assignment superbly in keeping with her life experience as a newspaper editor. She'd already taught our journalism history and journalism ethics courses with aplomb.

And God knows how many other projects and causes were brewing for Bev when she was crushed and killed by a truck on Dec. 10 while walking her

neighbor's epileptic terrier near her downtown San Francisco apartment.

At her memorial service a week later, many of us were astonished to discover the full range of her accomplishments.

I knew only some of them and they seemed like a lot to me: newspaper editor in Fresno, impassioned and outspoken champion of diversity in journalism, program director for Freedom Forum West Coast, president of the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, writer, consultant.

But who knew that Bev had also been a newspaper editor in Minnesota, North Dakota and Indiana and a pioneer at that: first female executive editor in the 35-newspaper Knight-Ridder chain and mentor to scores of women journalists.



Beverly Kees

Nor did she simply speak out on behalf of diversity; lots of us do that. She edited a "best practices" book on diversity for the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, to help

colleges meet diversity standards. She co-authored "Nothing Sacred: Journalism, Politics and Public Trust in a Tell-All Age." And she chaired the Minorities Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. "She was very passionate and really wanted to make a difference. She had a great deal to face--a mainly white male industry--but she stayed focused on wanting to make a difference!" wrote Neil Foote, ASNE minority affairs director.

Beverly did so much more. But this is intended to be an appreciation, not a resume. I want now to focus on the essence

of this remarkable woman, who, with her glorious (an somehow mischievous) smile, could fix those bright blue eyes on you after not having seen you for a couple of months and continue a conversation you'd all but forgotten: "John, I've been thinking about what you said about [name the topic] and it occurs to me."

Bev had the knack of making me and I'm sure countless others feel like the most important person in the room.

Media Continues to Lack Diversity

By Bob Butler, KCBS Radio Reporter, BAJA President and AFTRA National Board member

Diversity has become a buzz word from the 21st century, with most corporations talking the talk about supporting it, but many failing to walk the walk to achieve it. Take the broadcast news industry for example.

The 2004 RTNDA/Ball State survey finds people of color comprise about 32% of the national population, but only about 22% of television newsroom and 12% radio newsrooms. The radio numbers are very misleading. That 12% translates to an average of .4% people of color on radio station news staffs. That's right, less than a half person per staff.

In conversations about station staff diversity, many news directors say they'd like to hire more people of color but can't find anyone qualified. In fact, they can find few young people at all who want to work in radio news. They all "want to be on TV." I don't believe there are no qualified people out there, but I do believe many of these same news directors don't know where to look.

The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the Bay Area Black Journalists Association and the Center for the Integration and Improvement of Journalism at San Francisco State University held the first College Radio News Workshop in March 2004. Fifty students from five Bay Area colleges and one high school listened to radio anchors, reporters and editors explain the inner workings of radio news. The students were also encouraged to approach the panelists and ask



CBS5/KPIX TV anchor, Barbara Rodgers, talks with students at the second annual College Broadcast News Workshop on Sat., March 12 at S.F. State University.

for internships.

And it worked: one student secured a coveted spot on the Unity: Journalists of Color student radio project held in Washington, D.C. Another became an intern at KCBS and is now working there as a production assistant. AFTRA is now using the workshop as a model for other cities around the country. Our second workshop on March 12th included television and drew 57 students from City College of San Francisco, Fremont Media Academy, S.F. State University, San Jose State University and Sonoma State University. For companies to increase diversity, but they have to do more than talk the talk. They also have to walk the walk.



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Founded at San Francisco State University in 1990 by Betty Medsger, the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism believes that accurate and responsible journalism reflects the changing demographics of the society it serves. We develop programs and conduct research aimed at recruiting, retaining and revitalizing journalists and journalism educators. We seek to make journalism more inclusive from the classroom to the newsroom.