

J-School *insider*

June 2011

J-School in This Economy?

| by Pam Gleason

The financial meltdown of 2008 – 2009 was one of the worst times for journalism, yet a recent survey of our 2008 graduates showed 50 of 53 of them are successfully employed as journalists. Some of their positions include: senior producer for Youth Radio, Middle East reporter for AP, associate producer for Frontline, New York Times columnist, web producer for Thompson-Reuters, ABC News correspondent, and Wall Street Journal regional reporter in China. I'd argue that J-School is more important for a journalism career than ever. It used to be that newsrooms were a place where interns or entry-level reporters could learn the trade. These kinds of apprenticeship positions are very rare now; interns are often used for clerical work and not given the mentoring they need. Today's media employers expect their new hires to do it all: find unreported stories, research public records, conduct interviews, collect video, audio, and photos, put together data sets and charts, and post it all immediately online. We'll teach you all of this and more at Berkeley.



Members of the J-School's graduating class of 2011 at our commencement on May 7, 2011.

Financing Your Master's Degree

| by Joanne Straley

As you prepare your application for the December 1 deadline, take some time to consider how you will pay for two years of graduate school. Planning ahead will help you avoid accumulating too much debt. Pay attention to the deadlines that are coming up for outside or 'portable' funding. 'Portable' funding can be used at whichever school you decide to attend. You will want to work out a budget for yourself that includes housing and living expenses. Current fees for California residents for one year of school is just under \$15,000, for non-

residents current fees and tuition totals just under \$30,000. Visit <http://journalism.berkeley.edu/admissions/costs/> to learn more about the estimated budget for the 2012-2013 year. Any outside funding you bring with you is an immediate reduction in these costs. Many students also buffer the costs with partial fee remissions from teaching or research assistantships. I would be happy to talk with you about your financial aid options, please email me at jstraley@berkeley.edu or call me at 510 643 5058.

Admissions FAQ

| with Cory Welch

1. What does the admissions committee care about most? The most important parts of your application are the work samples, the two personal essays, and the three letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should be requested several weeks in advance. It's a good idea to contact your recommenders now, and start making time to write your essays, and decide which work samples you will submit. The strongest work samples are previously unreported stories that show your dedication to journalistic integrity.

2. Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation? Ideally, senior journalists, editors, or producers who can write about your reporting abilities and work ethics.

3. Should I attend Open House on October 10? Yes! I can't encourage you enough. It's the best opportunity for prospective students to learn about life at the Berkeley J-School. Participants sit in on classes, meet current students, alumni, and faculty. RSVP to cwelch@berkeley.edu.

J-School On The Road

June

NAHJ Convention (Orlando, FL)

July

NAJA Conference (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

August

NABJ Career Fair (Philadelphia, PA)

AAJA Convention (Detroit, MI)

September

Joint Information Session with
CUNY Graduate School of
Journalism (New York, NY)

Joint Information Session with
Columbia Graduate School of
Journalism (New York, NY)

ONA Conference (Boston, MA)

SPJ Conference (New Orleans, LA)

October 10

Berkeley J-School Open House:
All are welcome! (RSVP to all events:
cwelch@berkeley.edu)

For more info:

<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/>