Nathalie / remarks on education

Our educational programming in both secondary schools and universities , has become an essential part of our larger model and a critical pathway for us to advance our broader mission of raising awareness of systemic under-reported global issues.

And this makes sense: we believe one of journalism’s core purposes is to educate, and the journalists we support are naturally educators.

Throughout the academic year and in special summer programs, we bring our journalists into classrooms across the country. The goal of this work is three-fold:

1. We want to introduce places and issues students might otherwise never hear about: from water and sanitation crises in Nigeria to the challenges faced by women and children in Pakistan, or the local social and environmental consequences of the production of global goods like gold, chocolate and shrimp.
2. We want to introduce far away places, and topics that may seem distant, and help students recognize how these issues relate to issues in their own communities–and yet rarely get the attention they deserve. We want to help students make that connection between the global and the local, and recognize their own place in the larger global landscape.
3. And we also want students to think critically about what gets covered in the news and why, as well as what role they have to play in the larger, rapidly shifting, information landscape–as both consumers and producers of information

And “Chicagoland,” has become a major hub for some of our strongest educational programming at both the secondary school level and in the universities.

Thanks in large part to the support of the McCormick foundation, our secondary school programming has grown in both scale and depth of programming. So a special thanks to Mark Hallet, our program officer there, who has been an incredible ally to us since we started our work here.

We’re now active in dozens of schools throughout the city. We’re working with Chicago public schools and we’ve been an active member of the Why News Matters cohort, organized by the McCormick Foundation.

In just the last two days, as Jon just said, our journalists and staff have been scattered across the city. From upper-school assemblies to more specialized classes, the journalists presented work exploring the practice of journalism as well as topics like: education and resilience in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and a series of presentations about China: from the role of religion in the environmental movement to public health threats resulting from mining.

Last night, at the David Weinberg Gallery, we had the opportunity to showcase some of the schools and programs we’ve been most active with in Chicago, along with grantee/photojournalist Carlos Javier Ortiz, who has conducted a number of school programs with us, and whose own work, which explores the harsh realities faced by youth in cities like Chicago, and around the world, was on display.

We are lucky to have a number of our secondary school partners here with us this evening:

Tracy Crowley, integrated technology specialist for District 21, helped forge a partnership with three schools in the district that connects students with journalist Paul Salopek who, as many of you know, has embarked on a seven-year walk around the world. Last night, Tracy said the initiative has resulted in some of the most valuable learning she has ever seen.

Christina Benitez, Director Latino Media & Communication at DePaul University, who runs the Pasos al Futuro program with Chicago youth, integrated a photography workshop with Carlos, where students explored the themes in their communities that they felt deserved more attention.

Carmen Vidal Hallett, Mark Hallet’s wife, is also here this evening. Carmen used our journalists reporting to bring current issues into focus for her students studying URBAN PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

And Catherine Irving, from Northside College Prep developed an entire unit on global news literacy, drawing on the work of our grantees.

And representing FreeSpirit media, our longest-standing educational partner in Chicago, is Elizabeth Czekner, who has integrated our journalist visits throughout the school year with students from the Westside.

FreeSpirit has also been our partner on an intensive 6-week documentary program that we’ve been part of for the last 5 summers. Here we bring journalists in to introduce global issues like food security in Nigeria or education in Pakistan and homophobia in Jamaica, and then have the students explore what these issues may look like in their own communities.

The resulting videos have been amazing to see. Some of you had a taste of this last night, with a video exploring relationships between parents and teens. As one of the filmmakers said last night, the most rewarding part for her, was seeing her mother’s smile when she watched it. The program challenges the students to dig deeper and ask questions they might otherwise ignore.

It’s not always an obvious link for the students. I remember talking to one group of students about how Haiti was represented in the news and then asking them if they felt like there were any issues in their own communities that lacked the attention they thought was deserved.

It took some time, but one students finally spoke up and talked about how when a white woman is raped downtown the news reports on it for a month but that this happens in her community and it is never makes the headlines.

So the countries we introduce to these students may be far away, but the issues we explore rarely are.

We see tremendous potential to grow our secondary school programming and are now in discussions with the International baccalaureate program, in partnership with the graduate school of education at Harvard, to integrate our journalism more systematically into a global studies curriculum. We expect to begin piloting this initiative here in Chicago by next fall.

And we’re eager to develop new partners across the city so we welcome introductions and suggestions for new schools to reach out to.

In the secondary schools, our work is led by the amazing Mark Schulte, with the help of the equally amazing Amanda Ottaway, so I want to give them a special shout out.

And Chicago is also home to some of our strongest partnerships at the university level.

Our Campus Consortium partnerships have grown to include over 20 universities and colleges across the country. With these partners, we conduct journalist visits, often in tandem with our secondary school outreach, and provide fellowships to a student in each school to conduct an international reporting project.

Beyond financial support, the students receive mentoring from Kem Sawyer, our contributing editor who wroks with the tsudents to shape their reporting and help find outlets for it. And the students work has been recognized with numerous SPJ awards as well as a Robert F Kennedy award fro human rights reporting so a testament to the value of Kem’s contribution.

The University of Chicago partnership was made possible thanks to Byron Trott, a U of Chicago alum, and his partner of Bill Bush, who serves on our board. The University has been a fantastic partner, helping us organize events like the one we just concluded. So a special thanks to Andy Graan and Ben Waltzer for all their help making the partnership thrive in the way that it has.

This past year’s student fellow, Eric Shoemaker is with us this evening so I hope you’ll have a chance to talk to him about his reporting on climate change and its impact on venetian artisanship.

We also have two of our fabulous interns from University of Chicago: Jason Huang and Rachel Bolte, who were essential parts of our team while they were with us.

Loyola University has been another fantastic university partner for us since 2012 so a special thanks to Kathleen Maas-Weigert who helped forge the partnership and to Don Wycliff and Jessica Brown for their support moving it forward.

2013 Student fellow Shirley Coenen is here as well tonight so please talk to her about her reporting on the youth protests in Chile around education as a citizen's right.

We have a number of friends here with us this evening from Northwestern’s Medill school of journalism, not yet a campus consortium partner, but soon to be I’m sure!

Our Campus Consortium partnerships are led by the indefatigable Ann Peters, who has also been instrumental in pulling together the events over the last few days, including this evening’s dinner. So a very special thanks to her.

And to all of you for your interest in the Pulitzer Center and your support for this important work we do.

Enjoy your dinner and your company.

Table 9
Jon Sawyer
Wendy Paulson
Marty Kaiser
Emmy Pulitzer
Toby Volkman
Jianqiang Liu
Tracy Crowley (Wheeling middle schools/ Out of Eden)
Dali Yang (U Chicago, ex head Confucius Institute)
Elspeth Revere (MacArthur)

Table 8
Kem Sawyer
Joe Pulitzer
Elizabeth Keffer
Eric Shoemaker
Katherine Moore
Gary Marcuse
Mary Evelyn Tucker
Dawn Shapiro
Don Wycliff (Loyola/ex Tribune/ McCormick board)

Table 7
Nathalie Applewhite
Joel Motley
De Gray (art gallery / HRW connection)
Mark Hallett (McCormick
Leslie Thomas (Art Works)
Fred de Sam Lazaro \*\*
Ana Santos
Carmen Vidal Hallett (Mark’s wife, teacher)
Jim O’Shea

Table 6
Ann Peters
Bill Bush
Sim Chi Yin
Hank Paulson
Steve Schlaikjer
Jin Ding
Ian Johnson
Kristina van Dyke

Table 5
Tom Hundley
Marjorie Benton  (married to Charles Benton, Benton Foundation, Britannica)
Steve Kloehn (U Chicago, ex Tribune, Tom friend)
Betsy Dietel
Andy Graan (U of Chicago)
Michelle Pilota, BDT
Tim McNulty (Northwestern national security/ ex Tribune)
Cristina Benitez  (DePaul, works with kids)

Table4
Mark Schulte
Adrianne Furniss (nee Benton; Marjorie’s daughter; exec director Benton Fdn)
Jason Huang (U Chicago student, ex intern)
Shirley Coenen (Loyola University Chicago)
Carlos Ortiz
Meg Jones
David Rohde
Erica Mathews (BDT Capital)

Table 3
Steve Sapienza
Mary Field (WTTW/ Linda Winslow connection)
Craig Duff (Northwestern / former NY Times)
Linda Winslow
Marty Moe?? (CPS social studies) \*\*\*
Eileen Bush
Emily Baumgaertner
Paul Gray (art gallery/ HRW connection)
Nancy O'Shea

Table 2
Zach Child
Jessica Brown (Loyola University Chicago)
Margaret Brennan  (college friend Mary Evelyn)
Steve Franklin (ex Tribune; grantee)
Kathy Hundley
Jon Lowenstein (maybe)
Rachael Bolte (UC / intern)
Amanda Ottaway
Bob Rowley  (Northwestern/ ex Tribune)

Table 1
Meghan Dhaliwal
Jeff Lowenstein
Kathleen Maas-Weigert (Loyola)
Lauren Shepherd
Ted Brzyski (married to Margaret Brennan)
Elizabeth Czekner (Free Spirit Media)
Katherine Doyle
Catherine Irving (NCP teacher who developed global news literacy unit)
Ben Waltzer (U of Chicago)