News from the Centre for Journalism

CfJ News Spring 2019

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Triple win at NCTJ awards
Centre hosts global congress
A day in the life at KMTV

Sophy Ridge
Join us to hear Sky’s senior political correspondent give the annual Bob Friend Memorial Lecture at the CfJ
A Centre for Journalism graduate scooped a national award for his moving documentary about a group of wounded soldiers who formed a motor racing team.

Michael Haffenden spent his final year at the University of Kent interviewing veterans of conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq who now race for Team BRIT.

His 15-minute film won student project of the year in the National Council for the Training of Journalists' Awards for Excellence in 2018.

It was the second year running that the prize went to a CfJ graduate – in 2017 it was claimed by Boglarka Kosztolanyi for an interactive project about the treatment of Holocaust survivors in Hungary.

Since his graduation in July 2018 Michael has been working as a social media producer for Jeremy Clarkson’s new project, Drive Tribe, and as a reporter for Touringcars.net – both dream jobs for the motorsport fan.

He was not the only CfJ student celebrating at the NCTJ awards. Fellow graduate Indya Clayton was highly commended in the same category for her 15-minute film about a shortage of black blood donors. She now works at the Oxford Mail.

Current third year student Isabel Mueller Eidhamar was also commended in the features category for her interviews with conservationists dealing with plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and a survivor of the Utoya terror attack in Norway.

All smiles: Indya Clayton, Michael Haffenden and Isabel Mueller Eidhamar

See work by all three students in the Showcase at www.centreforjournalism.co.uk
Sophy Ridge to give Bob Friend Memorial Lecture

As host of Sky News’ flagship Sunday politics show, Sophy Ridge has had a front row seat for an extraordinary period of political theatre.

The guest list for Sophy Ridge on Sunday in 2018 was a Who’s Who of Brexit, including an exclusive interview with Theresa May in the week she published her deal with the EU and lost two cabinet members.

On Wednesday, March 6, Sophy will share stories from behind the scenes of British politics when she delivers the 2019 Bob Friend Memorial Lecture at the Centre for Journalism.

The talk is an annual highlight of the CfJ calendar, held in partnership with Sky News in memory of its first and most recognisable news anchor, Bob Friend. Previous speakers include Alex Crawford, John Humphrys, Stephanie Flanders, Jon Snow, Adam Boulton and Amol Rajan.

Sophy started her career as a trainee reporter at the News of the World before becoming a political correspondent at Sky News in 2011. Her reports there included travelling with Prime Minister David Cameron to Afghanistan and New York. In 2015 she was one of the main faces of Sky’s coverage of the General Election which ended with the resignation of leader Ed Miliband and the rise of Jeremy Corbyn. Since 2017 she has hosted Sophy Ridge on Sunday. In July 2018 the show moved to a new time slot, between 9am and 10am.

In 2017 Sophy also published her first book, The Women Who Shaped Politics, which explores the influence of women from royalty to Suffragettes, from Prime Ministers to campaigners. Writing in the British Journalism Review, author and journalist Julia Langdon said: “If I were education secretary I would make it a set book for A Level politics. And if I chaired a major political party I would send copies to everyone on the candidates list. Chaps included.”

Scholarship

Sophy will also present one Centre for Journalism student with the annual Bob Friend Memorial Scholarship – a unique and immensely valuable prize.

The winner will spend a month with Sky News on a fully-funded work placement. They will also receive a £3,000 contribution to their tuition fees. Previous Bob Friend Scholars have gone on to start their careers at Sky News, Daily Mail, CNN and the Kent Messenger Group.

It is a competitive scholarship. Students must pitch a detailed, multi-platform story proposal for a topical news item suitable for Sky News. Shortlisted candidates are then invited for interview at Sky’s Millbank studio in Westminster.

Where:
Dockyard Church
Church Lane
Chatham Historic Dockyard
Chatham Maritime
Kent
ME4 4TE

When:
Wednesday, March 6
7pm

Applicants to the centre and their families are welcome to attend

NEWS IN BRIEF

CfJ research gets Westminster launch

Four academics from the Centre for Journalism will present the findings of research into BBC Radio 5 Live’s news output to MPs in January.

The report, produced following the award of a research grant by News UK and Ireland Ltd, examines Radio 5 Live’s output against its Ofcom commitments.

Research was carried out by the head of the Centre, Prof Tim Luckhurst, deputy head Ian Reeves, director of research Dr Ben Cocking and director of education Rob Bailey.

It will be presented to the All Parliamentary Media Group in the Palace of Westminster on January 29.

STUDENT VOICE

“I always use a Harry Potter reference to describe the Centre for Journalism. Just like Hogwarts, help is always available at the Centre for Journalism for those who seek it.

“If you need academic advice, journalism tips, emotional support or you are simply homesick, you should just reach out and people are always there for you. I am not exaggerating when I say CfJ is like a family.”

Mina Joshaghani
Journalist at BBC News
MA International Multimedia Journalism (2017-18)

NSS 2017/18
Centre for Journalism satisfaction ratings in the National Student Survey.

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As an intern at KMTV I have had an incredible opportunity to work in a real newsroom and develop my journalistic skills, while still studying at the university. The internship has given me invaluable experience and made me realise which path in journalism I would like to take in the future.

The most fun and exciting thing about the internship is that there is no such thing as a typical day. Most of the time I am out of the office, filming TV pieces and assisting with breaking news coverage. But there are also times when I spend all day helping to produce a programme.

I have been fortunate to try out a lot of exciting opportunities during my internship. I got to fly on a helicopter to do some filming from above and I also went to Belgium and France with a KMTV reporter to cover Brexit. In addition, I have frequently appeared on screen as a reporter to report news stories, and one of my pieces about IVF was a leading story on KMTV’s Kent Tonight programme.

Apart from that, I have also learnt how to run a TV gallery, assisted reporters during live broadcasts and managed the channel’s social media accounts.

KMTV internships usually last for more than a year, and the progress I have made during my time with the channel has been incredible. I had a good understanding of the basics when I started, but now I can turn around stories in just a few hours to hit a tight deadline and feel confident doing the same daily tasks as the channel’s full-time reporters.

KMTV is a truly fantastic place to learn, and there is no other opportunity to gain experience of producing live and pre-recorded television alongside professional journalists.

The progress I have made has been incredible.

‘The progress I have made has been incredible’

Support: Students work alongside professional journalists at KMTV

Have your lunch with KMTV - and eat it

A daily lunchtime news bulletin has been added to KMTV’s schedule, helping to establish it as Kent’s unmissable local television station.

The station has also expanded into special one-off programming, including Kent Cooks featuring Bake Off star Chetna Makan which was premiered in December.

The station – jointly owned by the University of Kent and the KM Group – gives students a unique opportunity to gain experience of producing live and pre-recorded television alongside professional journalists.

The lunchtime bulletin goes live daily at 1.45pm. Its flagship news programme Kent Tonight airs weekdays at 5.30pm. Students also help to produce regular shows including Paul on Politics, Based in Kent, Team Talk and Chris & Co.

In 2018/19 its staff includes 30 paid student interns, who work regular shifts alongside their studies.