

ACROSS THE YEARS

2004

Alum comes full circle after travels

BY RYAN WINGFIELD

While many University of Idaho graduates have gone on to successful careers, very few can say they helped rebuild a nation. That is what Matt Shelley, a 1975 graduate, is doing. He is in Kosovo working with the International Research Exchanges Board (IREX), a nonprofit organization specializing in education, independent media and civil society programs.



MATT SHELLEY

Shelley is the senior media advisor in charge of two national channels and a wire service. Prior to the 1999 Kosovo war most media was controlled by Serbia. Now Shelley is working with IREX to establish an independent media environment that provides all citizens of the region

with objective news and information.

"I believe strongly in what we do," Shelley said. "I feel like I am doing what I should be doing. I live in a dynamic place, face a great challenge and have an opportunity to help people who really need it."

Shelley's career began in Moscow as the first full-time news director for KRPL-AM. Soon Shelley was working for KHQ-TV in Spokane as a general assignment reporter. He would shoot and edit his own film and tape and occasionally do some weekend anchoring.

"I learned some tough lessons," Shelley said when referring to his work at KHQ. "Early on I was assigned to interview Sen. Henry Jackson at a hotel downtown. I was not prepared. I asked him some vague question like, 'How are things in D.C.?'

He said, 'Son, why don't you turn off that camera for a moment. I am a busy man and I don't have time to do your job as well as mine, so next time we talk I expect you to come prepared with some intelligent questions. Now turn that camera on and I will give you something we can use tonight.' That was a lesson I never forgot."

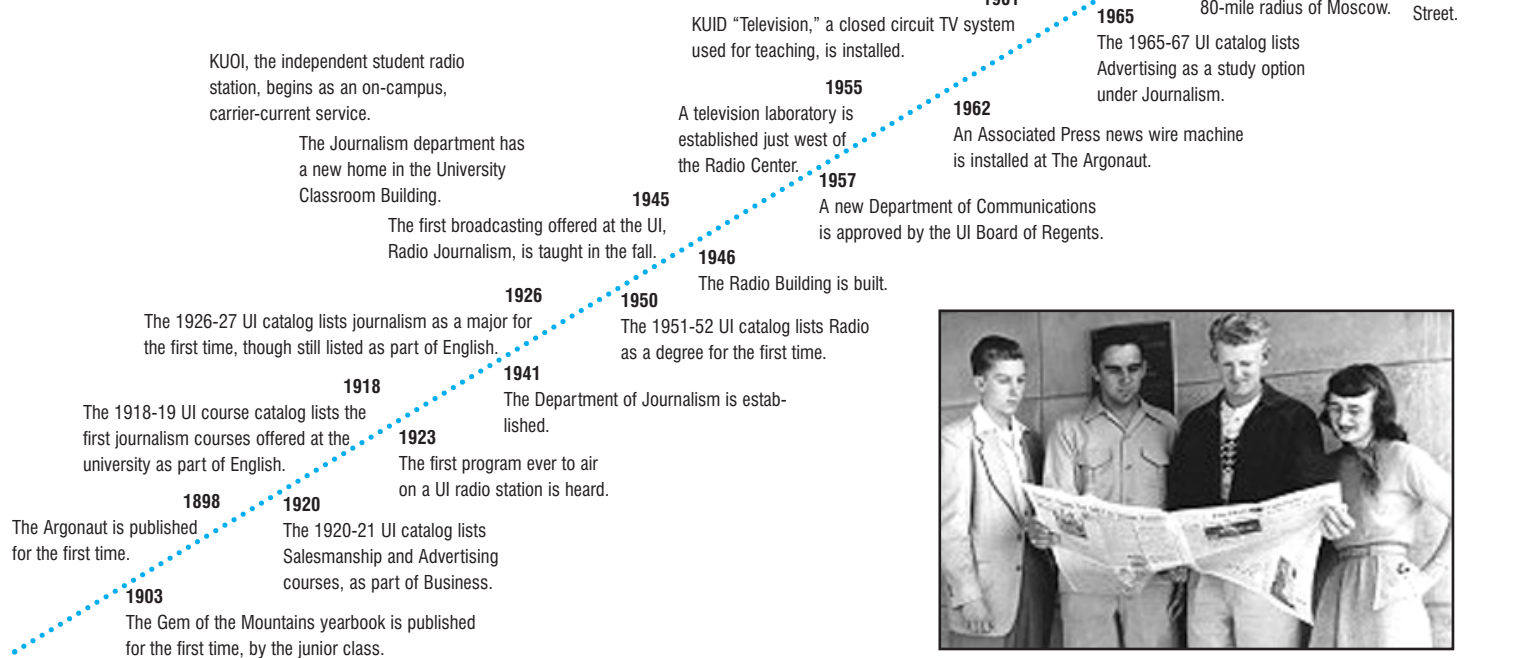
After KHQ, Shelley moved to KGW-TV in Portland where he got his first taste of major market television. Shelly worked as an assignment editor and was responsible for up to 14 crews a day, including a helicopter, live trucks and a virtually unlimited budget. During this time Shelley traveled to China, Europe and Southeast Asia produc-

ing documentaries.

"It was for me the golden era of local news," Shelley said. "We had all the money we wanted and very skilled and dedicated reporters, producers and photographers."

Through contacts at KGW Shelley was introduced to Frank Magid Associates, an international consulting firm. Magid was building a new national TV station in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia and asked if Shelley would like to build the News Department.

SEE SHELLEY, PAGE 16



Above: The 1951 Argonaut staff.

Compiled by Glenn Mosley. Sources include *The Argonaut*, personal interviews, "This Crested Hill" by Keith C. Peterson, UI course catalogs and department files at the University of Idaho Library.

Photography/Film is a study area listed in the UI catalog for the first time.

KUID-FM becomes known as "Radio Free Moscow...the rare medium that's well done."

The Idaho Legislature zero-funds public broadcasting in the state and KUID-TV loses most Moscow-based personnel.

The former Agricultural Education Building on Line Street, also known as "The Alamo," is renovated one floor at a time and the School of Communication moves in.



Above: Spring 2003 Argonaut editor Matt McCoy (far left) and 2003-2004 editor Brian Passey (standing, right) talk with Scripps-Howard Multicultural Journalism Workshop participants in the Arg's third-floor SUB office. (photo: Karin Clifford)

Writer, photographer looks to new vista

BY REBECCA CONRAD

The editor of the Argonaut has spent the last four years writing about his travels from the Olympic Peninsula to the Great Smokey Mountains and everywhere in between. During the summer of 2002, Argonaut editor Brian Passey wrote and photographed a weekly, 10-part series about scenic drives in southern Utah for the St. George newspaper.



BRIAN PASSEY

Passey said his ideal career is arts and entertainment reporting combined with travel reporting and photography.

"Just driving around in my car listening to music and taking pictures," he said.

In his immediate future, Passey is heading to the Poynter Institute for Media Studies on a six-week fellowship beginning in May.

Only 16 students were selected for the fellowship out of 125 applicants. Passey is the first student from UI to be accepted.

Passey's fellowship provides him a good avenue to pursue his interest in diversity issues, specifically American Indian issues.

He said this interest began when he served his Latter-day Saints mission in the Philippines and learned first hand what it is like to be a

minority. His interest developed further when he covered the diversity beat for the Argonaut in the fall of 2002.

Passey won second place in the 2003 Bess Myerson Campus Journalism Awards for an article he wrote on American Indian students at UI, and he cites this as one of his biggest accomplishments.

The prize earned \$1,000 for him and \$1,000 for the Argonaut. With the money the Argonaut received, he hopes to set up a diversity writing scholarship.

Passey said that being the editor not only involves reading every article published in the Argonaut, but also running the newspaper in its daily activities, such as hiring and firing.

It's the latter that is hard to imagine sitting across from the mild-mannered, soft-spoken editor.

But he did, and he said it was one of the hardest things he has had to do as an editor.

Passey said he will leave UI in May with favorite memories of Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, but especially of the Argonaut.

"The Argonaut was basically my life for three years. The people on staff were not only co-workers, but friends," Passey said.