

Spring 2008

www.threesixtyjournalism.org

Teens respond to new online magazine

By Rebecca Dallinger

Since ThreeSixty's online magazine debuted in November at threesixtyjournalism.org, teen journalists have explored teen drinking, school dress codes and teens' reaction as school officials peruse Facebook pages for evidence of underage drinking.

They've explained how precinct caucuses work, why standardized tests are so prevalent and how to file taxes.

Teen readers are responding. They're commenting on articles, voting in online polls and participating in monthly writing competitions. A whopping 72 students submitted essays for our first Your Turn competition – which asked teens to describe a coach who made a difference in their lives. (Read the winners on page 3.)

[Threesixtyjournalism.org](http://threesixtyjournalism.org) is becoming a place for students to hone their journalistic skills, have their work published and talk with each other. The number of unique visitors has doubled to more than 1,500 each month. Local news sites, including MinnPost.com and the

Hot Topic: Breaking Out of poverty is the lead story at threesixtyjournalism.org.

Planet, regularly publish students' work.

For Tanya Bui, who attended the ThreeSixty summer camp in 2005 and is now a member of the Youth Editorial Board, the Web site gives her a chance to write about topics she cares about, including a profile of the Walker Art Center's teen council and a hard look at the social divisions between teen drinkers and non-drinkers.

"Being on the editorial board signifies that teens have a voice and that we have the power to explore and find stories that

matter," she said.

When ThreeSixty editor Priya Kailash wrote about the challenges faced by teens who emigrate to America, she was delighted when readers saw themselves and responded:

"I remember when I came to the U.S., it was so hard, but good thing I started from first grade. Imagine that you just start something new, everything new and not know anything about it? That has to be the hardest thing for anyone to do." — Queen

"There is so much hardship when it comes to crossing borders and people who truly went through that experience know that. Many people do not realize how hard it is to cope with a new environment, language and place." — Ahmed

To solicit feedback and ideas from their peers, Youth Board members Tiana Daun and Dannah Waukazo hosted a focus group for 14 students at their high school, Patrick Henry in Minneapolis. Students liked what they saw and wanted more video and photos, more stories on the upcoming election, more music and the opportunity to blog. We're working on it!

Early graduate Denise Johnson now serves ThreeSixty as board member

Ben Katzner

In 1971 Denise Johnson became one of the first graduates of the Urban Journalism Workshop, a teen journalism program now known as ThreeSixty. Since being appointed to ThreeSixty's board of directors in February, she's back where it all began.

"I'm excited and honored to be able to give back to the program that gave me my start," she said.

After her two weeks at the Urban Journalism Workshop, Johnson attended Carleton College, where



Johnson

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Students benefit from new media hub



By Lynda McDonnell,
Executive Director

Last month, when ThreeSixty's youth editorial board gathered in our new office for the monthly planning meeting, teen editors clearly felt at home. They filled plates with food, flopped onto couches and fired off story ideas.

Afterward, some of them sat down at a computer to do online research, send an e-mail or tweak a story. A couple of editors sat at the conference table to talk. In the past, we've had staff offices but have used classrooms to meet with students; now ThreeSixty has a home.

The space – about 800 square feet in the basement of the O'Shaughnessy Frey Library on the St. Thomas campus – is part office, part newsroom, part clubhouse. It's a great place to work on stories or host a meeting, a place where serious work merges with high spirits.

We're here because Dr. Kristie Bunton, chair of the Communication and Journalism Department at St. Thomas, envisioned creating a student media hub in the library's basement, a place where print, TV and radio ventures could rub elbows and share ideas. Next door to ThreeSixty is the Aquin – St. Thomas's award-winning student newspaper. Next to the Aquin is Campus Scope, the student television broadcast.

The proximity gives our high school editors a clear view of the next step on their career ladder – right through the swinging doors, working for college media. When ThreeSixty alums like Michelle Berry – a Minneapolis North graduate who now reports for the Aquin – stop by, our teen editors see that move in action.

Moreover, cross-pollination among media is the way of journalism today. Driven by on-line readers who crave sound, words and photos, newspaper reporters carry camcorders, radio journalists snap photos and TV reporters write stories for the Web.

ThreeSixty is teaching students to figure out the best way to tell a given story and to develop the skills to produce it. When our editors covered MacPhail Center's first battle of high school bands, they captured movement and sound with a video story. When they wrote about social divisions in school lunchrooms, they let students speak for themselves in recorded interviews. This summer, we plan to do some interactive mapping as part of an online project on youth and violence.

St. Thomas supports ThreeSixty generously, with \$25,000 in cash support and more than twice amount that as in-kind



help – including our office space. And our list of donors is growing. Last fall, Minneapolis-based Dolan Media Company contributed funds and equipment – camcorders and the laptop we needed to make short videos for our online magazine.

And the Carl and Eloise Pohlman Family Foundation is supporting ThreeSixty for three years, giving \$15,000 a year in direct support and another \$15,000 to match with new and increased donations. We'll tell you more about that soon in a letter asking you to help us earn that match.

Visit us online at www.threesixtyjournalism.org and see our students' fine work. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by our new offices – Room 13 in the basement of O'Shaughnessy Frey Library . Call ahead – 651-962-5282 – so we can guide you through the tunnel. I think you'll feel at home.

Donor Form: This gift will support the ThreeSixty, a youth journalism program based at the University of St. Thomas. Please make checks payable to the University of St. Thomas. Donations are tax-deductible.

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Send to: ThreeSixty
2115 Summit Ave. Mail 5057
St. Paul, MN 55105

Yes, I would like regular e-mail updates on the ThreeSixty Web site and activities.

Yes, I'm interested in volunteering as a mentor, classroom speaker or some other role.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check VISA Mastercard Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Students explain how coaches helped

Teen editors chose the following two essays from the 72 entered in ThreeSixty's first Your Turn writing challenge. Each winner received \$100. Six other essays received honorable mention. You'll find them at www.threesixtyjournalism.org/node/374

Life is too hard

Ahmednur Abdi Hudle, 17
Ubah Medical Academy, Hopkins

My boys came over to my house Monday the week before school started. As we always do, we went to the park and played football.

"Man, Ahmed, you can catch!" said my friend. As the day went along, this tall, black, strong man came to watch us play. It was hot that summer day so we stopped playing ball early. As I was leaving, the man came up to me and started talking.

"What's your name, kid?" said the man.

"Ahmed," I replied.

"You can play football, kid," said the man. "And my name is Mike," he added.

"Nice to meet you," I responded.

"I'm a coach for a football team and I would like you to play for me," he said.

I was happy and took the offer. I played for his team. That summer my father passed away so I needed someone to look up to, so Coach Mike would be there for me and gave me someone to look up to and become the male role model in my life.

He would always take me places, but Coach Mike had to move to a different city. But before he moved, he said to me, "Life is hard." I always remembered that.

Not just a blind kid

Kris Mitchell, 15
DeLaSalle, Minneapolis

In the 7th grade, I was viewed as the blind kid who couldn't play sports. I always dropped passes and shot wrong in basketball. I kept air balling shots and getting lucky on some.

I started to think for myself that I sucked at sports and never would be good. I stopped believing I could do anything right. My dad was angry with me because the year before I moved back

with my family after a huge fight. Life at home was not that great and I was just getting back to knowing people in the community. I just was down on myself all the time.

Nate Travis, my football coach in 7th grade, gave me a chance to shine. I put my love into the game and often put out my frustrations on any running back who crossed my path.

At the times I was down, he would show me techniques to get my mind off my family and entertain me from my unhappy thoughts. He was a role model to me. He kept me on my feet. He pushed me harder than anyone I know and he didn't let my poor vision get in the way of it. He treated me as an individual that needed shaping up.

That year I made a big difference for his team in return. I was one of the best DEs he has ever had. We went all the way to the state finals in the Metrodome. We lost, yet he expected nothing out of that game. He just made sure we had fun.

Kris Mitchell attended ThreeSixty's summer camp in June 2007.



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she majored in urban studies and was the first Carleton student to do an off-campus internship for credit. As a sophomore in college she worked with the Minneapolis Tribune.

Johnson went on to be a newspaper reporter, columnist and editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and an editorial writer for both the Pioneer Press and Minneapolis Star Tribune. In 1986 she took a two-year leave from the Pioneer Press to serve as diversity director for the American Society of

Newspaper Editors in Washington, D.C.

Johnson has won many awards, most recently the 2007 Frank Premack Career Achievement Award for her contributions to public affairs journalism. She also received ThreeSixty's Widening the Circle award last November. She is a member and former vice president of the National Association of Black Journalists. Johnson has traveled to several foreign countries, including Chile, and 10 African nations. She lives in her hometown, St. Paul, with her husband, Laurence Oliver. They have a daughter, Vanessa, who lives in Los Angeles.

Alumni updates

2001

Damon Maloney traveled to DeKalb, Ill., to cover the deadly school shooting at Northern Illinois University, and filed a report for OSTN.TV. The Web site produces weekly webcasts featuring student work from around the country. Maloney is a senior at Columbia College in Chicago, where he produces one of the college's news shows.

Sara Boyd is a reporter for the Green Bay Press-Gazette, the third largest daily newspaper in Wisconsin, where she is a member of the diversity committee.

Amanda Shafer graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., in December with a B.A. in child and family studies and minors in Spanish, English writing and religion.

2002

Laura Lee interned last summer at KARE 11, where she helped cover everything from the I-35 bridge collapse to the Minnesota State Fair. She graduated with a broadcast journalism major from the University of St. Thomas in December and is now looking for a job. Meanwhile, she has been on-air talent for the pilot of a parenting program on Twin Cities Public Television's Minnesota Channel.

Emma Carew is a junior at the University of Minnesota, where she works for the Minnesota Daily as a reporter. She will intern at the Star Tribune this summer. Carew is active in the Asian American Journalists Association and was chosen for the first AAJA/AZN television Internet writing internship last fall. She spent eight weeks in Korea last summer and plans another trip this spring.

Leslie Kruempel graduated from the University of Chicago last spring.

2003

Sarah Kirby will graduate from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., this May with a B.A. in history and political science. She is starting a campus chapter of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, which

trains college students in such principles as limited government and free markets. She also blogs for GOP3.com. After she graduates Kirby hopes to move to Washington, D.C., and attend law school.

Dhomonique Ricks is a junior at the University of Missouri. Last semester she was a reporter for KBIA radio, the local NPR station, and plans to be a reporter at KOMU TV, an NBC affiliate serving central Missouri. Ricks will intern again this summer at KMSP Fox 9.

2004

Mike Peden is majoring in journalism at the University of Minnesota. He does play-by-play announcing for locally televised high school girls' basketball games and has produced two documentaries on autism.

Elizabeth Ohito is at the University of Chicago and is studying Spanish and Latin American history in Oaxaca, Mexico this semester. She's looking into law programs and internships for nonprofits for this summer.

Iman El-Sawaf is a freshman at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

2005

Emilie Wei is a freshman at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, where she is the administrative beat reporter for the Daily Northwestern.

Tanya Bui will graduate from St. Paul Academy this spring and start at Carleton College in the fall. She works for KARE 11's Whatever show and is active on ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board.

Sage Davis is studying at Leech Lake Tribal College, where she's taking her basic courses and studying Ojibway culture and language. After she finishes her two-year degree, she plans to transfer to a four-year school and study journalism and maybe biology. She also enjoys beadwork and traditional dancing.

2006

Mercedes Akinseye was editor last fall of the Eagle Talon, the online student newspaper at Apple Valley High School, which was

named one of the country's 10 best student newspapers by the National High School Press Association. Akinseye also works for KARE 11's Whatever show and just joined ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board.

Katie Schleiss remains the editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper at Normandale Community College. She will graduate from high school this spring.

Frank Bi is a junior at Eden Prairie High School. He is active on ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board.

Angelica Birch is a freshman at the University of St. Thomas, where she plans to major in public relations.

2007

MySee Chang is an editor for Hmoob Teen Magazine.

Andrew Worrall is a freshman at the University of Missouri, where he is an associate producer/production manager for a new broadcast called MUTV News Now.

Kyla Riley is attending St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and works on campus for the TRiO program, which helps low-income students overcome barriers to attending college. She also is a member of the basketball team.

Priya Kailash is the producer/director of Eden Prairie High School's weekly news broadcast, "Eagle Vision." She also is part of ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board.

Dannah Waukazo is a senior at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis and the editor for the daily online school newspaper. She's also involved in National Honor Society and ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board.

Tiana Daun is a senior at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis and a member of the ThreeSixty Youth Editorial Board.

Murder and more at the Communications Career and College Fair

Ben Katzner

Dave Orrick popped his head out of the doorway to his classroom, shouting “I’ve been murdered!” or “Find out who shot me!”

For the St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter, outrageous proclamations were a good way to lure teens to learn what newspaper reporters do. As part of ThreeSixty’s fourth annual Communications Career and College Fair, Orrick and fellow reporter Fred Melo hosted a mock press conference, where teens could ask questions about the fictional murder.

More than 150 students from eight Twin Cities high schools attended the Jan. 11 event, where they met with representatives from more than 20 careers in journalism, public relations and advertising and eight colleges with communications programs.

Students came from South, North and the City Inc. high schools in Minneapolis, Harding and Highland Park high schools in St. Paul, Eastview High School in Apple Valley and St. Francis High School in St. Francis

Orrick and Melo weren’t the only presenters who used creativity to keep kids interested.

Representatives from KARE 11’s Whatever show gave students their own 15 minutes of fame by letting them do on-camera interviews with each other. From the boisterous to the mild-mannered, kids smiled as they channeled their inner journalist and soaked up the limelight.

Heather Schwartz of the Maccabbe Group, a Minneapolis public relations firm, showed teens how the world’s largest rubber band ball helped sell office supplies for a client.

Lynda McDonnell, ThreeSixty’s executive director, said the annual fair is an easy way for a wide range of students interested in writing, broadcast or visual arts to learn about jobs that use those skills and colleges that offer training in those areas. Speakers came from radio and television stations, newspapers, mag-



Top: KARE 11’s Whatever show brought cameras to the career fair and invited teens to interview each other on camera. Above: Juniors Ja Yang, Stephanie Yang and Mai Ka Lor from Harding Senior High in St. Paul planned their career day schedules. Right: Wendy Paulson of WCCO Radio described the jobs and roles required at a radio station.

azines and online publications, public relations and advertising agencies.

“Most teens have a vague sense of what they’re interested in but no clear idea of what the possibilities are. This helps connect the dots,” McDonnell said.

Two St. Francis students were so

impressed by Schwartz that they called her later to set up job-shadowing. St. Francis career counselor Lisa Erickson said she tries to help students find jobs they’ll love to go to each morning.

“It was an awesome experience because you get so many key people in from so many different industries,” she said.

ThreeSixty! Growing Journalists. Expanding Perspectives.

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ThreeSixty applications available online

ThreeSixty's camps this summer will focus on two of the year's big stories: the upcoming election and local efforts to curb youth violence.

Sixteen high school students will be chosen for the two-week residential camp. Students will live and work on the St. Thomas campus and produce articles, as well as video, online and radio reports. The workshop will run from June 15 to 27 at the University of St. Thomas.

Their assignments will range from a video profile of a first-time voter to an overview of the political issues that matter most to young people this year. Some pieces will relate to the Republican National Convention, which will be held in St. Paul the first week of September. ThreeSixty will send a team of three youth reporters to cover the convention.

Another 16 students will learn basic journalism skills at the July day camp, which will run Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., from July 7 to July 31. They will produce an online project focused on how North Minneapolis neighborhoods are affected by youth violence and efforts being made to reduce it. Students will map crimes involving youth as victims and perpetrators as well as neighborhood programs working with youth to prevent violence. They also will profile residents and public officials, asking how violence affects their lives and what they're doing to reduce it.

The application for both camps is available at the ThreeSixty Web site: www.threesixtyjournalism.org. Application deadline is April 28.



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