

## All About Our Courier Student Publications

A perennial award-winner for content and design since its inception in 1967, the Courier student newspaper print edition circulates on Fridays during the regular academic year to more than 30,000 readers on campus.

The Courier has won national and state honors, including the prestigious 2007 Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) national Pacemaker award for excellence in the two-year college newspaper category, and the Pacemaker finalist award in 2006.

At the state level, the Courier also has won Overall Excellence awards dating back to 1967 from the Illinois Community Journalism Association, in addition to similar awards from the American Scholastic Press Association and the Southern Illinois University School of Journalism.

Mostly supported by advertising revenue, and supplemented by student activities fees, the Courier student newspaper operates with total budget of approximately \$300,000 for printing, supplies, travel, general office expenses and salaries.

The weekly newspaper is produced on Macintosh iMac computers and averages 24-28 pages from August to May, a total of 27 issues. Each student workstation includes a phone with voicemail, an individualized college e-mail account, Internet access and appropriate software.

The Courier staff uses QuarkXPress page layout software in addition to Adobe PhotoShop, Illustrator and Acrobat, and Dreamweaver.

This system has positioned the Courier as the largest community college newspaper in the state, and a premier college newspaper in the nation.

The Courier editorial staff consists of



seven paid student editors: Editor-in-Chief, Arts/Entertainment Editor, Features Editor, Graphics/Web Editor, News Editor, Photography Editor and Sports Editor.

Each editor is responsible for reporting, interviewing, copy editing, proofreading, page layout, graphics and photo selection, and reporter supervision.

The printing network consists of two



Hewlett-Packard Laserjet 11"x17" black ink printers, and an HP full-page color printer.

Student editors are paid 20 hours a week with flextime built around core hours and their course schedules.

An Open House to

interview prospective staff members for all publications is held each August a week before the Fall Semester starts. Editors must have and maintain a minimum grade point average at COD of "C" and be currently enrolled in at least six academic credits at

COD.

Many former editors and staff members have gone on to careers in reporting, editing, graphic design, Internet magazines, freelance writing, photography and marketing, in addition to finishing baccalaureate and even master's degrees in related fields.

Student editors and other student staff members may enroll in Journalism 1110, a repeatable one-credit elective course, as part of their internship on the newspaper.

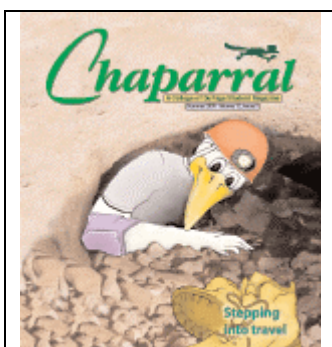
In addition, qualified students can earn college credit and a weekly salary on the Courier through the Cooperative Education work/study program. During the summers, qualified students may work for area newspapers, broadcast and cable stations, public relations agencies and other communications outlets.

To be eligible for the Courier's competitive editorial jobs and prepare for other journalistic writing, students should enroll in Journalism 1105 (News Reporting and Writing) and Journalism 1130 (Basic News Editing).

Journalism 1105 is offered year-round through flexible learning and online classes, and in a computer lab setting in the Fall term.

Other related courses include Journalism 1100 – Introduction to Mass Communication, Journalism 1120 – Introduction to Broadcasting, Journalism 1115 – Feature Magazine Lab. Students also can learn electronic publication skills through COD courses in advertising design, graphic arts, photography and motion picture/television.

Based on student demand to meet a growing freelance writing interest, the Courier staff added Chaparral student magazine in 1994.



The original 32-page magazine funded entirely through advertising funds grew to a tri-quarterly publication over the years. It has evolved into a 52-page twice-annual publication staffed by students enrolled in the one-credit repeatable course, Journalism 1115 - Feature Magazine Writing.

Chaparral students meet in a workshop setting in the Courier office once a week to develop journalistic human interest assignments from idea to publication under the guidance of the faculty adviser.

Feature articles have covered influential DuPage area millionaires, worldwide travels to exotic countries and heartfelt personal topics of love, achievement and death.

Selected Courier staffers edit and design the publication at the end of the regular academic terms. Many students have gained freelance interviewing and writing skills in preparation for professional publications.

Another publication is the annual new student and welcome back issue, COD Today. Selected Courier editors are chosen to photograph, edit, draw, report and write for this full color 12-page publication distributed to new and prospective students. This publication also is funded entirely through advertising.

Students gain a thorough appreciation for the complexity of updating hundreds of facts and checking with numerous sources for publication.

Current and archived editions of the Courier 24/7online are published at [www.cod.edu/courier](http://www.cod.edu/courier) in PDF files. In addition, COD Today and Chaparral also are published at this site.

Recent additions to the Courier family of publications iCourier, a short video magazine, and the Summer Courier with news in a multimedia format from content provided by summer Journalism 1110 students.

Student writers and editors spend a lot of time in the office and on campus so the Courier office also maintains a light lunch area with a refrigerator, coffee pot and

microwave. Students also can view videos and DVDs on the office video monitor while they relax between assignments.

The Courier has played host for more than 10 years to the Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA) annual spring conference, in which professionals from College of DuPage team up the Chicago Tribune, Sun-Times, Daily Herald, and various Chicago area TV and radio stations in workshops presented to more than 800 high school students.

In addition, the Courier hosted the Illinois Community College Journalism Association annual spring convention with Pulitzer Prize keynote speakers in 1995 and 2000.

Student editors, reporters, illustrators, cartoonists and photographers work under the guidance of Faculty Adviser and Journalism Professor Cathy Stablein, a former editor with daily and weekly newspapers in Illinois for more than 10 years. Stablein was named the 2006 COD Cooperative Education and Internship Program Faculty Adviser of the Year and 2007 COD Outstanding Faculty Member in Liberal Arts.

A graduate of Governors State University with a bachelor's degree in communication science, Stablein also holds a master's degree in public affairs reporting. She started teaching and advising at College of DuPage in 1987. In addition, she has co-chaired the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) Mass Communication Field Panel, where she has worked with the Illinois Community College Board, and more than 30 colleges and universities, to build transfer courses in journalism and other areas of mass communication.

She also served in 2004-2005 as the faculty co-chair of the Curriculum Conversion Steering Committee that led efforts to move more than 3,000 courses and programs from quarter to semester credit.

Stablein has served on COD's Institutional Effectiveness Council, Quality Improvement Council, and Degree Requirements Committee. She is a member of the Illinois Community College Journalism Association,

College Media Advisers and Society of Professional Journalists.

Stablein speaks nationwide on media issues, serves as a consultant for college newspaper staffs and journalism programs, and is co-host of a weekly College of DuPage radio program called "Journalism Shop Talk."

Since 1988, Joanne Leone has been the Courier's full-time professional advertising and business manager. She sells and manages advertising sales for more than



100 accounts worth more than \$200,000 for the Courier, Chaparral, COD Today and the Courier Web Edition.

Leone holds a bachelor's

degree from National-Louis University and continuing education hours in management, marketing and related fields. She also has taught newspaper production and feature magazine writing.

She has spoken at state, regional and national conferences on issues of advertising and marketing, and helps coordinate the annual high school conference hosted by the Courier.

For updated information about the Courier or other student publications, please e-mail Cathy Stablein at [stablein@cod.edu](mailto:stablein@cod.edu) or call 630-942-2650.

Or, drop by our office in the Student Resource Center, SRC 1560.

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