

# THE IRREGULAR

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1      JUNE 2009

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY THEY LEARNED IN 2008

Students in the 2008 Upward/TRiO "Community Journalism class" had a final in-class speed essay to write entitled, "What I have Learned about Community Journalism." Here are some selected statements from their essays:

"I learned that community journalism takes time, patience and a certain knowledge of your community. You can't just start writing things in your local newspaper. You need to learn what to write about, where to get the information, how to get it, why you write about and who to write about. You also have to learn the Code of Ethics, which many practicing journalists don't even know exists." -- **Grant Mroz**

"I love to write but news and gossip has never really interested me. But this class has opened my eyes to other things - like fighting back and getting involved. Don't like things they way they are? Stop complaining and do something about it. Voice your opinion, because it is our con-

stitutional right. Tired of corruption in politics? Dig up the dirt, reveal the evidence and expose them." - **Laken Herd**

"As a member of this class the one thing I will take away is the importance of knowing who, what, when, where, why and how." - **Jessica Light**

"Doing community journalism right means being honest because the work is very important to the community." - **Darla Vance**

"Community journalism is a standard of journalism that fairly, ethically and independently covers important news events going

on in that community. ... It is hard work that involves much more than just writing an essay about how you think things out to be done." - **Sam Cunningham**

"My knowledge of community journalism has greatly expanded. It is the art of journalism that requires the journalist to be ethical and honest." -

**Brooke Iler**

"I learned that community journalism is a lot harder than I thought. I also now realize that journalism is not for me." - **Tyler Bueno**

"I have learned that here is much more to journalism than just getting the stories and publishing them." - **Dianna Ruedlinger**

The 2008 class was a good group of students. The 2009 class is smaller but equally talented. Next months issue will take a close look at social networking, freedom of the press, plagiarism and a few other TRiO/Upward related topics.

## Community journalism is...

- Ethical and professional
- Independent and accurate
- Fair and balanced
- Committed to openness and transparency
- Investigative and resourceful
- Fiercely local in coverage
- Willing to give a forum to the community voice
- And, may be the answer to the future of journalism...

Original list by David Burton. To learn more visit the Citizen Journalism Academy online at <http://extensionl.missouri.edu/greene>.

## PARTICIPATE

*Do you want to participate in this publication? Do you have something to say about a timely topic, or want to share a news item related to the TRiO/Upward program at MSU? If so, please send your information via e-mail to publication advisor David Burton, [burtond@missouri.edu](mailto:burtond@missouri.edu).*

*The newspaper staff will decide what material is used in our final publication and to what extent.*

## INSIDE ISSUE

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**Meet the Staff**

**NORTH KOREA STILL AT WAR WITH SOUTH**

**By Tiffany Carsten**

Are Kim Jong Il's threats to send missiles toward the United States worth worrying about?

Timothy J. Burk, an Air Force military police officer currently stationed in South Korea, says life near the demilitarized zone (area separating North and South Korea) remains pretty much the same.

"The general feeling of recent events on the Korean peninsula for the U.S. military is no different than it has been in recent memory. No additional training or force protection measures have been put into place here. No additional restrictions as far as travel or work schedule changes either."

**Q: Are we well prepared if North Korea does decide to strike?**

A: "We conduct more training here than any other location on Earth due to the continued threat of North Korea and their unpredictable dictator. This extensive training keeps us prepared for a possible attack from the north, so we are prepared for the worst, and have hoped for the best since the Armistice in 1953. North and South Korea are still technically at war; therefore the U.S. and South Korean forces have to remain at a constant level of alertness. This is why it does not seem out of place to us that North Korea is posing a possible threat; we have trained as though they do for 56 years."

**Q: So this is a regular thing then?**

A: "It seems to be that every few years North Korea poses some sort of threat to us, such as the incidents in 2001 and 2003 when shots were fired at the demilitarized zone on the 38th parallel, the border between North and South Korea and the missile tests in 2006 and 2009 of rockets that could reach Hawaii."

**Q: What about those missile tests? Were they really a success?**

A: "North Korea has called them a success; however, the U.S. has viewed them as failures that were unable to reach their objective even if they could get past our far superior missile defense system. My opinion and FYI: North Korea has used nuclear technology as a bargaining chip for decades now, and I think that the U.S. is actually the largest provider of food to aid them. North Korea is starving, and its government needs to justify its legitimacy by feeding their people. Nuclear threats are the easiest way .... The U.S.'s typically accepted policy is ... we will use diplomatic relations to convince them to remain

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**Tiffany Carsten**  
Parkview



**Shelby Nowlin**  
Central



**Cassie Walters**  
Hillcrest



**Josh Radosavlevici**  
Hillcrest

All staff members are enrolled in the Community Journalism class offered during the summer as part of the TRiO/Upward program.



Republic of Korea (ROK) and United States (U.S.) soldiers monitor the Korean Demilitarized Zone from atop Observation Post (OP) Ouellette. View looking north from south. April, 2008.

## ALTAR BOYZ ENTERTAINS WITH MUSIC, LAUGHS

By **Josh Radosavlevici**

After attending “The Altar Boys” musical at Missouri State University’s Tent Theater, I gathered many different opinions about the production from people and students.

Sam Cunningham, the leader of Upward PAC, said the show had “good flow, a lot of energy and overall was a good show.”

Tyler Bueno, another Upward student, enjoyed the performance also. “The performers were really good, they worked hard and they became the characters they were supposed to be,” said Tyler.

“Even if you weren’t religious you would find it funny and you would love them. The music was incredible, even though it was religious. They were really good at singing and

were excellent dancers,” said Upward student Zoe.

It is the opinion of this writer that the “Altar Boys” is a very touching, humorous and professional performance that makes you think about the afterlife.

As you can see, there are a lot of good opinions about the “Altar Boys” so when there is another play at Tent Theater, don’t forget to attend. It will be worth your time.

*Upward Bound students will also get to see the Tent Theater production of “Miss Firecracker Contest” and “Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat” as part of their summer experience at Missouri State.*

## PROFILE: BILLY SCHROEDER’S WIFE, HEATHER

**Q: How did you meet Billy and what to you enjoy most about him?**

A: Billy’s best friend, Tuck, set us up on a blind date. We went to see “*A Bug’s Life*.” We’ve been married six years as of June 2009. I enjoy knowing that no matter what, Billy always got my back.

**Q: What do you do?**

A: I am a graphic artist, and I do freelance designing. I recently did the artwork for a new scrapbooking business that will be carried in stores here in Springfield.

**Q: Why don’t you ever come and visit the Upward students?**

A: I don’t know, really.

Maybe Billy will bring me in for Show & Tell sometime.

**Q: Do you really exist and can you prove it?**

A: I do exist and my mother has the wrinkles to prove it!

**Q: What do you think of the Upward program?**

A: I think it’s a great opportunity for students to get focused about their education and prepare for college. The field trips sound like fun too.

**Q: What was your inspiration for the Upward shirts you designed?**

A: Mostly, it was a combination of Billy’s ideas and my own. But I do try to read up on the current



**Heather is a fan of American Idol. Here she is getting an autograph from 2008 winner David Cook.**

trends in graphic design, so that I can learn about new things, and incorporate it into my work.

## What is TRiO/ Upward Bound?

Upward Bound is a federally-funded TRiO program. The initial, four-year Upward Bound grant came to Missouri State University in September 2003. This program serves 50 students in three area high schools: Central, Hillcrest, and Parkview. You can learn more at these websites:

[www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us) and [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov). This TRiO Upward Bound Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and in part, by Missouri State University.

## UPWARD TALENT SHOW IN JOPLIN GAINS LOCAL DUO

**By David Burton**  
*Publication advisor*

Under his quiet exterior, Tyler Bueno is a performer. He is putting that interest to the test by joining with Sam Cunningham, an Upward Bound student from Central High, as a local duo/entry in the Upward Bound talent show at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 30 in the Taylor Performing Arts Center on the campus of Missouri Southern State University, Joplin.

This is the first time student acts from the Upward Bound program at Missouri State have participated in the talent show at MSSU. Students in the Upward program at Northeastern Oklahoma College were also invited but had to cancel.

"We just thought it would be fun," said Tyler, explaining why he and Sam signed up to dance and sing, "Guys and Dolls" in front of other students.

The duo has practiced the act for about one week. Tyler feels pretty

confident that the duo will perform well. As a sophomore, he performed in the musical "Guys and Dolls" at Hillcrest High School.

Although Sam also has some drama experience he seemed a little less confident prior to the performance.

"The more I talk about it, the more nervous I'm getting," said Sam. "I hope this doesn't end up being one of those things that people remind me of for years to come."

Kevin Walker, academic advisor for Up-

ward at MSSU, says MSU and NEO were both invited since the institutions all have small programs.

"We like to let the students mingle and give them insight into how other UB programs work. We actually call this our occasional annual talent show because it does not happen every year," said Walker.

## NORTH KOREAN STORY CONTINUED ...

**From page 2**

peaceful. Large scale plans to increase the number of accompanied military members in this area have gone on without notice across South Korea. This is a signal that the threat of North Korea is not substantial enough to prevent families from living here."

**Q: Are there any major concerns for the U.S.?**

A: "Yes, one major concern of the US is that even if North Korea does not have or use nuclear weap-

ons, they could trade the technology needed to create one to another rouge nation. Our concern can be seen in President Obama's speech given a couple of weeks ago when he announced that our Navy will now be tracking North Korean ships to try and prevent shipping of nuclear parts abroad. You must keep in mind as well, that North Korea is actually called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Even though there is nothing democratic about them, and South Korea is the Republic of Korea. All in all, the U.S. is really

in no more harm than it was and there really is not a lot to be concerned about."

So TRiO/Upward students need to keep in mind that the Korean War technically never ended and that our country is well protected and prepared, What is there to worry about? Nothing really since worry doesn't change anything.

Understanding the perspective of a U.S. Air Force policeman in South Korea on this issue may help us all to see it a little different than the news on television or radio.



**Missouri State**

*TRIO/UPWARD BOUND  
STUDENT NEWSLETTER*

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