

Paul Conti Retired

Education (*in reverse chronological order*):

Master of Liberal Arts: SUNY: Empire State College. Degree awarded July of 2005. Thesis: How has local TV news changed: An analysis of the economics, technology and the personnel decisions affecting local television news. The degree program encourages interdisciplinary study.

Bachelor of Arts. Special Studies in Communication. SUNY: Fredonia. May 1974.

Teaching Experience:

Assistant Professor: College of Saint Rose starting fall 2006. Teaching 4 courses dealing with media production. Retired June of 2020.

Adjunct Faculty Member: College of St. Rose. Teaching a section of TV field production during the spring semester of 2006.

Instructor. New Visions in Communications. This high school career exploration internship is run by the local BOCES. High school students who have an interest in either print or broadcast journalism spend an entire academic year engaged in the program for 3 hours each morning. The students are usually academically superior. The students receive up to 9 advance placement college credits for successfully completing this coursework, depending on the academic institution.

Visiting Instructor: Siena College. Filled in for Dr. Doug Lonnstrom, Siena College business professor. Conducted classes discussing the various business aspects of the TV industry and how it uses statistics. Fall 2005 and Spring of 2006.

Instructor: Career exploration internship program for Columbia and Mohonasen High Schools. Taught three high school seniors the basics of TV story construction. Each created one TV news story about subjects important to them.

Instructor: Senior Project, Albany Academy for Girls. A senior class member in good standing, who elects to study journalism and / or communications, works with me for about 4 weeks. In 2005 this student learned about alternative energy automobiles and prepared a special TV story about them for presentation to her class.

Lecturer: Various High School and College Classrooms in the Albany, NY Region. I am a frequent guest lecturer on a variety of topics related to my field.

Instructor: Schenectady High School. I created a cooperative of TV, Radio and Newspaper organizations in the Albany area to collect election returns. We use 45 high school students from Schenectady to input the data. As part of our arrangement with the school district we not only teach them the basics of the software being used but we also give them a lesson in government and some background on the candidates seeking office.

Research Experience:

I served as the Governor Mario Cuomo's media appointee to study the issues related to permitting cameras in courtrooms of New York State. Our committee conducted two separate studies which were forwarded to the State Legislature.

As a board member of the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters I headed a study of ways to promote more diversity in local television newsrooms. Our recommendations included the creation of a scholarship for minority students who wish to pursue a career in broadcast journalism.

As a news director of a local TV station for the past 8 years I have commissioned and participated actively in various studies of our audience and market place.

Publications:

Conti, Paul, The A Plus Initiative in Albany Schools. An informational video prepared for the Safe Schools / Healthy Students initiative. Fall 2009.

Antico, Alfred; Conti, Paul; The City of Albany's Truancy Abatement Program. An informational video prepared for the city that examines how the program works. Fall 2008.

Antico, Alfred; Conti, Paul; et. al. The Family Court and You. An instructional video prepared for LaSalle Institute of Albany and The Albany County Family Court. Fall 2007.

Conti, Paul. The Time is Now. An educational video examining the infrastructure of the Niskayuna School Central School District. Spring 2006.

Conti, Paul. Various dates. I have written a number of articles for the RTNDA (Radio and Television News Directors Association) Communicator on subjects including Cameras in Court, The Value of Web Sites for Local TV News, Hiring Practices and Weather Equipment.

Baker, Victor and Conti, Paul. The Age of Chautauqua. 1973. A film documentary about the history of the lake in New York's Chautauqua County. The documentary is kept at the Reed College Library at SUNY Fredonia

Presentations:

Guest and/or Host: The Media Project, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, Various dates 2011, 2010 & 2009

Guest: Vox Pop, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, Spring 2009

Panelist: Digital and Multimedia Storytelling for Newspapers. The New York State Associated Press. May 2009

Presenter: "The Future of Newspapers." New York Associated Press Editors. May 2009

Interviewed: "How to Finance Newspapers." OurBlook.com. March 2009

Moderator: "Post Election Analysis." PRSA Albany Chapter. November 2009.

Panelist: "Your Right to Know: Open Government or Access Denied." Associated Press Managing Editors Society. September 2005.

Panelist. "How Much Local News is Too Much?" New York Academy for Television Arts and Sciences. September 2004.

Panelist. "The Indecency Statute and Enforcement." American Women in Radio and Television. August 2004.

Panelist: "Media and its Interaction with History." New York State Society of Social Studies Teachers. February 2005.

Panelist: "Ethics in Media." SUNY New Paltz. April 2005.

Speaker: Hudson Valley Community College Graduation for associate's degree in communications, May 2005.

Keynote Speaker: Saratoga County League of Women Voters annual meeting, June 2005.

Presentation: Empire State College, Fall Residency, September 2005
Presented an electronic, multimedia version of Chapter 3 of my graduate thesis.

Expert Opinion: Opinion sought from various publications on a variety of media issues including the Times Union and the New York Times.

Professional Service:

Judge. NERIC / BOCES media awards contest 2009, 2010&2011

Judge:Bethlehem Film Festival2011&2010

Judge. Schenectady Film Festival, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

Judge. Television Awards. Academy for Television Arts and Sciences. As a two time Emmy winner I am asked to participate in local judging panels. Recently, I was a judge for awards for the state of Minnesota.

Judge. Television Awards. New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association. As a board member of the organization I annually judge award submissions from either Pennsylvania or Michigan.

Judge: Schenectady Film Festival. I've judged the festival as a Saint Rose Faculty member for the past two years and I will judge it again this year.

Board Member: New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association. I have been a board member of the organization since I was a student in college and served twice as its president.

Host: RTNDF (Radio and Television News Directors Foundation) Fellowship. We host a college professor in journalism or communications during the summer so they can get first hand experience of what is new in the field.

Areas of Special Skills:

Expert Video editor in both linear and non-linear formats. I usually edit using Adobe Premier Pro but can and have used others.

I can use and teach virtually any piece of video equipment in a television station including field and studio cameras, character generators, switchers, audio consoles, editors, video tape machines and a variety of computer based equipment.

I have over 30 years of practical experience in broadcast journalism. I can teach ethics, writing, delivery, production, practical and theoretical communications or any other subject area related to the profession. As requested I run seminars for private organizations on media production, including video editing, using PhotoShop, public speaking and on camera performance.

I created CDES, the Capital District Election Service collects election returns from 11 counties in New York State for newspaper, radio and TV in the Albany, NY area. The consortium is over 20 years old at this point and was the first fully computerized elections system for local TV from gathering at the polling place to display on TV by the character generator.

I also created The School Closings Network, which is a unified system of reporting closings and delays to one central location for all public and private schools, daycare and after school programs. This cooperative saves the schools from having to make several calls and it also saves all of the participating media the expense of collecting the same information individually.

I own a small, private busy which specializes in “family” video production. For a small number of clients each year I create special presentations honoring a high school graduate, a special anniversary or some other noteworthy event. CSP Video also creates productions for a select number of high school musicals.

I spearheaded an effort by WNYT TV to raise money for the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York to aid Hurricane Katrina Victims. To date we have raised almost one million dollars. I also supervised a similar program to raise over a million dollars for the Tsunami victims.

I serve as a consultant to some area public school districts that are developing media curricula. Currently I am working with the Niskayuna Central School District.

Professional Affiliations:

RTNDA The Radio and Television News Directors Association
NYATAS The New York Academy for Television Arts and Sciences

Honors:

Recipient NY Emmy Nomination for Best News Series
Recipient NY Emmy Award for Best Local Newscast
Recipient NY Emmy Award for Best Spot News Coverage
Recipient NY State Associated Press Awards for Best Local Newscast,
Best Spot News Coverage, Best Investigative Reporting and Best Feature Reporting.

Recipient NY State Broadcasters Association Awards for Best Local Newscast, Best Sport News Coverage and Best Hard News Story.

Recipient United Press International Award for Best Local Newscast

Recipient Columbia Dupont Journalism Award. Silver Certificate for Investigative Reporting

Recipient New York State United Teachers. Golden Apple Award for Best Coverage of Education Issues.

Professional Experience:

News Director. WNYT TV (1998 to 2006) Responsible for running all aspects of the News Department of the TV station including supervision of 60 person staff and administration of a 4.5 million dollar budget. My duties also require that I analyze and make the final decision regarding all equipment purchases for the news department including all editing equipment.

Assistant News Director WNYT TV (1988 to 1998) Assisted the news director in running the news department. Responsible for scheduling all staff members and supervising all special coverage events. Checked and edited copy from staff for newscasts. As Assistant News Director one of my primary responsibilities was to identify and research new equipment needs for the department. The news director retained final purchase approval.

Various other positions WNYT TV (1978 to 1988)

Assignments Editor

Capitol Bureau Chief

Producer

Special Projects Producer

Reporter

News Director. WGNA Radio. 1976 to 1978. Anchored the morning drive radio segment. Supervised three person staff.

Staff Reporter. WTRY Radio. 1975 to 1976. Anchored afternoon drive. Reported on state capitol.