

Pioneer in Journalism Teaching

Having offered journalism as early as 1916, St. Bonaventure was among the pioneers in journalism education in America and was one of the first three Catholic institutions in the nation to teach the subject. Its Department of Journalism was instituted in 1949.

The University's teaching traditions actually go back several centuries to the first universities. Members of the Franciscan order which conducts St. Bonaventure played a leading role in the early histories of such renowned seats of learning as the first universities at Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Bologna and Salamanca. St. Bonaventure, founded in 1857, today stands as the only Franciscan university in the world for general study. Fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, it offers degree programs in the sciences, business and education in addition to the liberal arts, of which journalism is a part.

An Emphasis on Writing

No profession makes more demands upon a sound education than does journalism. Processing the news of an increasingly complex world is an appalling responsibility, requiring that the student be thoroughly grounded in the humanities, the natural sciences and the social sciences. Journalism must be regarded as one of the most difficult of all studies in higher learning today.

The journalism student at St. Bonaventure follows a curriculum embracing modern and classical languages, philosophy, science, and history and other social studies. In addition to this fundamental education, he must acquire an advanced knowledge of communication — its theories, its arts, its practices. This implies a realistic emphasis on sound thinking and on writing, the basic skill of the communicator. Writing is stressed in all journalism courses.

The journalism student thus is expected to gain not only a mastery of his liberal arts courses, but in addition he is asked to put his knowledge to work and to demonstrate proficiency in these courses through writing. The aim is to produce an educated communicator not as a post-graduate desideratum but as an accomplished fact while the student is still at the University.

*Louis H. Wacker, renowned
City Editor of the Buffalo
Evening News, conducts
a class in editing.*