



Monday, February 9, 2004

Student completes fashion magazine internship

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

While Oakland University students were caught in the hustle and bustle that marks the beginning of fall semester, senior Andrea Zarczynski was involved in the daily frenzy of publishing a major fashion magazine.

Zarczynski, a print journalism major, began a three-and-a-half-month internship in September with “**Women’s Wear Daily**,” which has its editorial offices in Manhattan, N.Y. For Zarczynski, the internship was a dream come true – writing bylined feature articles on the industry and beauty products, attending editorial meetings, assisting with cover photo shoots and attending launch parties nearly every night. Besides the glitz and glamour, the opportunity could lead to a future career.

“I’ve always wanted to work for a fashion or beauty magazine,” Zarczynski said. “During the summer, I did some research on different magazines and applied for internships. ‘Women’s Wear Daily’ is known in the industry as the fashion bible. Its sister publication is ‘Vogue.’ I understand that out of 1,000 applications only two were selected for internships.

“Magazine publication is a tough market to break into, but a high percentage of ‘Women’s Wear Daily’ employees are former interns.”

One of Zarczynski’s internship highlights was attending Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week: Spring 2004 and going backstage to interview makeup and hair stylists while models were being prepped for the catwalk. She also attended a launch party hosted by Donald Trump Jr., son of the famous hotel and casino magnate. Contrary to what you might think, Zarczynski didn’t encounter the larger-than-life egos you might expect when dealing with the jet set.

“The people I encountered were all very nice,” she said. “Their attitudes were totally different from the common perception. The people at ‘Women’s Wear’ were really great – it felt like a family. No one ever came across as having an attitude.”

When she wasn’t working, Zarczynski had easy access to New York’s finest shops. Her 35th Street apartment, which was around the block from “Women’s Wear Daily” editorial offices, literally faced Macy’s and the Empire State Building.

“I have a love for writing, and the internship allowed me to combine that with my love for fashion,” said Zarczynski, who also did some magazine modeling in 2001. “In the future, I’d like to try working for a publication in the Detroit area where I can use my journalism skills.”

Zarczynski has written news and feature stories for the “Detroit Free Press,” “The Oakland Press,” and “The Oakland Post,” OU’s student newspaper.

“I believe magazine and newspaper writing is interrelated,” she said. “My passion is magazine writing, but I’m open to whatever opportunities are presented. I don’t want to limit myself. I want a career that is reliable, but also one that is different every day and evolves.”

In January, Zarczynski received the **Michigan Press Association Foundation Award** and a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of her accomplishments. She was one of ten students from Michigan universities to receive the award. Those honored must have shown an interest in community journalism, have scholastic achievement, demonstrate financial need and have journalistic potential.

“I’m honored to have received the award,” Zarczynski said. “At the awards ceremony, I met a lot of editors from papers all over the state. It’s inspiring to see their work and dedication to the field. Meeting them also opens me up to various

journalism opportunities.”

Now that she's returned to Michigan, Zarczynski is back to taking classes and writing an occasional feature for “The Oakland Post.” She also is the special events coordinator for Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority and newsletter editor for the OU chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society. She also participates in the French Club, Polish Club and Association for Women in Communications.

SUMMARY

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