

Cruise plans set
Final plans have been made for the first huge Newsstreak alumni activity! The cruise to Bermuda will sail on July 12 out of the Port of Baltimore. All cruisers will need to arrive at the port early to go through the check-in procedures and security. Final payments are due April 27, 2008. If you haven't applied for your passport yet, you need to do so immediately!

Alumni can receive free Newsstreaks!
If you aren't already on our mailing list, please email Penton your address and you can begin receiving the Newsstreak every two weeks for free!

Where are they now?
We are planning to do a story for each issue of alumni notes that profiles a Newsstreak alumni or two. Please get in touch and let us know your story! (Every person has one, remember?)

Newsstreak.com
Not since the days of Daniel Chong have we entered the realm of online publishing, but hold onto your seats! We plan a comeback for the spring of 2008!!!

Riner has come full circle

paul riner '00

A perfect season for the football team in the Valley District. Waiting to hear back from colleges. Scholarship applications. The last Homecoming. The last Prom. The Senior Issue of the Newsstreak. The end of being a high schooler. The beginning of a new chapter. The year: 2000.

It's funny how it seems as though graduation from Harrisonburg High School was so long ago. Seven years, in the grand scheme of things, really doesn't factor in as much as I'd like to



think it does. It's not as though so much has changed (other than a new high school building, new sports district, more students, new teachers, and new athletic director) that I can't remember those days. It's sad to know that new Harrisonburg students will miss out on the old building (unless they go to JMU and have classes at 'Memorial Hall'), but my time there was great.

It helped me get to the next level of my life; a place I can truthfully say shaped the person that I am today.

After graduation, I enrolled at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. It was a big jump to make from small-town Harrisonburg (everyone there asked how Pennsylvania was) to big-city Columbia. The accents were weird, the KKK marched on the Statehouse grounds a week before I got there, the number of churches outnumbered the number of restaurants, and SEC football was

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Knight working at Northern Virginia Daily

preston knight '00

Almost like that book "Everything I Learned I Learned in Kindergarten," everything I learned about journalism I learned during my time at the Newsstreak.

OK, that's a lie, and, in this profession, that's something you sort of want to avoid. But the groundwork to get me into journalism was laid at the Newsstreak, where, as sports editor, I learned that I did enjoy putting thoughts into words that then became a printed story for the public to read. You lose the thrill that comes from writing, or if you never have it, you are toast as a journalist.

I'm glad to say I'm not toasted yet. My time at the Newsstreak led me to study journalism at the University of Richmond. While that major wasn't my first choice, I discovered that it made sense for me

to pursue something that I enjoyed and was good at. It didn't hurt that some of the competition was calculus, which I failed, art history, which I slept through, and philosophy, which I think may have just been a bad dream the whole time.

During my time at UR I joined the campus newspaper, starting out as a writer and climbing the food chain to editor my senior year. The responsibilities of editor were great and I'm sure it looks good on my resume, but I didn't get to write enough in that capacity. There's a lot more to the job than writing, though, so I still took a lot from the experience. When people call for your head to resign, which I can thank our daring opinion editor for, you have no choice but to be educated.

I complemented my campus newspaper duties with journalism jobs on the outside. I worked in the business

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calendar of events

December 14:
Newsstreak published
December 22:
Social Hour at Ham's
5:00 p.m.
January 4:
Newsstreak published
June 2: Newsstreak
Banquet, 6:30 p.m. Cost
\$7/person
July 12: Cruise leaves
from Port of
Baltimore

memory of the month



In the spirit of the season....don't forget Aaron and Justin German still go to the mall to get their picture taken with Santa for the family Christmas card each year.

where are they now?

Preston Knight '00:
Staff reporter for the Northern Virginia Daily
Carolyn Dunahoo '02:
Special events coordinator at Hel's Kitchen in Chicago
Josh Sundquist '02:
Working on a Master's Degree in Communications at USC in Los Angeles and giving motivational speeches
Emily Reifsteck '03:
teaching first grade in Green County public schools
Kate Heubach '04:
Senior SMAD major at JMU with an emphasis in print journalism

Riner working as real estate agent in family business

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a religion in and of itself. I was in for culture-shock.

While the first semester can be characterized as somewhat rocky, it wasn't all bad. Learning to adapt and be flexible was the name of the game, something

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Recently, someone came into my office asking about advertising. It was the Newsstreak. Talk about coming full circle!

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- Paul Riner

that was a great lesson to learn early. By second semester freshman year, I had hit my stride and USC is where I belonged. The lessons I learned while working with the Newsstreak were absolutely integral in my success in college. I'm sure many of you experienced the same. The deadlines, writing revisions, group work, and sometimes stressful work environment all helped me to thrive when put back into those situations in college. It was easy to see that a majority of my classmates did not have the same training I did.

I majored in Sport and Entertainment Management, and it was refreshing to CHOOSE classes based on what I

wanted to take. A year turned into two, two turned into three, and after three and a half years, I had accumulated enough credits to graduate a semester early. Deciding it wasn't yet the time for my years in South Carolina to end, I enrolled in USC's Graduate School of Sport and Entertainment Management and a year later was the first graduate of the newly formed program; a Master in Sport and Entertainment Management (what does that even mean?).

I took about six months in Columbia to work part time and spend time with friends before getting serious about the job search. As I started to look, the strangest thing happened: Harrisonburg called my number once again.

So now, having gone back to school (it never ends) to attain licensing as a real estate agent in the state of Virginia, I am working with the family company, Riner Rentals, as a property manager in Harrisonburg. Recently, someone came into my office asking about advertising. It was the Newsstreak. Talk about coming full circle. I almost laughed out loud, but the feeling I got when I was able to give back was great. I'm even more excited about forming a Newsstreak scholarship fund, where we, as alumni, can give future Newsstreak journalists a better chance to fulfill their dreams through higher education.

If you are proud to have been a member of the Newsstreak and would like to see the dream of such a fund become reality, we would love to have you along for the ride. Until then, here's wishing everyone in the Newsstreak family a very happy holiday season and new year. I hope to catch up with many of you that I know and meet those of you I don't know in the very near future. GO STREAKS!

The Top 10 Reasons Why We Miss the Newsstreak

emily reifsteck & britt conley '03

- 10 ♦ Going on super cool trips!
- 9 ♦ Getting a snack from the Newsstreak store (which no longer includes fun things like candy bars)
- 8 ♦ Making fun of Penton
- 7 ♦ Having inside jokes such as the "Bee Swatter"
- 6 ♦ Meeting new people and breaking down barriers
- 5 ♦ Being superior to the yearbook staff
- 4 ♦ Getting lunch from either El Charro's, Spanky's, Mr. J's or New China (and never stepping foot into the cafeteria)
- 3 ♦ Practically owning HHS
- 2 ♦ Producing one of the top newspapers in the entire country!
- 1 ♦ Being belittled, criticized and reprimanded by Penton, only to realize that she loves us and can't possibly live without us.

Knight uses college experience at UR to learn ropes of reporting

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section of the Richmond Times-Dispatch one spring, covered high school sports for a local county newspaper around Richmond for two years and spent two summers in the features department of the Daily News-Record. The variety of assignments that comes with this job is, by far, what makes it fun.

After college, I was fortunate to find a job close to home. I've spent more than three years as a staff writer for the Northern Virginia Daily, which is based in Strasburg but operates in a bureau system. I'm in the Woodstock bureau, covering courts, the Shenandoah County School Board, the towns of New Market and Mt. Jackson and more. Again, it's the variety and the certainty that every day will be different that keeps my interest at a high level.

Ultimately, I would like to return to being a sportswriter. At the Newsstreak, I did that, writing columns, stories about HHS and more. If I can go full circle, then I can call Newsstreak my kindergarten. We never had snack time, though.



Remember your Newsstreak wardrobe? Add to the collection!!!

Order this year's Newsstreak Shirt!

Just \$7!!! Send a check made payable to HHS in care of Ms. Penton to Harrisonburg High School, 1001 Garbers Church Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Include your size and the color you'd like! (Available in deep purple, lavender, light pink, fuschia, light blue, navy and teal.



Olivia Quach and Simone Giovanetti, 2007-08 Editors-in-chief, model this year's shirt. Quach has been accepted to Princeton and Giovanetti to William and Mary, both through early applications.

Newsstreak Scholarship Fund

Members of the Newsstreak alumni are interested in forming a scholarship committee to raise money for HHS students to attend journalism conventions and/or college scholarships. If you would like to serve on this committee or you're willing to donate to this effort, please contact Ms. Penton.