

Courier The Press Club

Special 2009 Media Person of the Year Edition of Metropolitan St. Louis

Vickie Newton and Larry Connors Awarded 2009 Media Persons of the Year



Photo by William Greenblatt

More than 450 St. Louis industry leaders, media professionals, and business innovators filled the Khorassan Ballroom in the Chase Park Plaza on April Fool's Night to honor the 2009 Media Persons of the Year, news anchors Larry Connors and Vickie Newton. "We are thrilled with the spectacular turnout," said Press Club President Dick Weiss, "and especially the opportunity to recognize Vickie and Larry for their outstanding contributions to the St. Louis community." The program placed the spotlight on Vickie Newton's nine years of broadcast journalism for KMOV (Channel 4) news and Larry Conner's commitment of 35 years of service to both KMOV and KTVI.

Following precedent for the occasion, event co-chairs Joan Lee Berkman and Debra Hollingsworth filled the 20th annual Media Person of the Year gala with an impressive ensemble of roasters including KMOV-TV Chief Meteorologist Kent Ehrhardt, St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Deb Peterson, and KMOX Radio Personality John Carney. Dr. Phil from the Dr. Phil Show, CBS News Anchor Katie Couric, "Face the Nation" Host Bob Schieffer, and KMOX Radio Personality Charlie Brennan also made appearances, offering their jabs at the KMOV anchors via video. KMOX Radio News Anchor and Host of "Great St. Louis" Carol

Daniel served as program emcee and unofficial scorekeeper of the roasts. As a grand finale, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay rode a Doc's Harley Davidson motorcycle on stage and announced April 1st, 2009, as Larry Connors and Vickie Newton Appreciation Day.

The night, however, was not complete without a chance to get even. While Newton gave a gracious acceptance speech, thanking The Press Club and many individuals in the room that night on behalf of the team, payback for the roasters was left in the capable hands of Connors, who gave as good as he got.

Proceeds from the event go to further The Press Club's support of journalism education through scholarships to future professionals in the field and internship opportunities. Event Advisory Chair Alice S. Handelman announced the establishment of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis David Lipman Scholarship during the gala, in memory of the Post-Dispatch's former managing editor. The Press Club has increased its efforts to support aspiring journalists by increasing scholarships, such as the David Lipman Scholarship, from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

At the close of the evening, both recipients expressed their appreciation to the Press Club. Vickie Newton shared her gratitude and expressed her desire to remain a part of the vibrant St. Louis community while Larry Connors said simply "I have been very blessed."



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David Lipman Remembered with Scholarship

Immediate-Past President Alice S. Handelman announced the establishment of The Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis's newest scholarship fund, the David Lipman Scholarship, at the organization's Media Person of the Year event at the Chase Park Plaza. The \$5,000 award will support undergraduate students committing themselves to the field of journalism through their studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Journalism.

The scholarship is named in memory of David Lipman, who served as managing editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from 1977 to 1992. An active member of The Press Club, David Lipman mentored young journalists and guided senior writers as newspapers headed into the digital age. Mr. Lipman is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism and was recognized in recent years with the university's Honor Medal for Distinguished Service to Journalism. Mr. Lipman retired from the Post-Dispatch in 1996. He died last year at age 77.

Handelman said David Lipman was and will continue to be an inspiration to young men and women seeking to use their talents to produce first-rate journalism. "He was a St. Louis treasure," she remarked.

"David loved Mizzou and the School of Journalism," said James Sterling, Acting Chair and Professor of the University of Missouri-Columbia's Strategic Communication Department. "He was a student at Mizzou and later a great friend. He always had time to help his alma mater and served on more committees at the school than anyone could imagine. He was a great supporter and the scholarship in his name is a wonderful way to honor his memory."

The scholarship is one of many programs offered by the Press Club supporting the education of aspiring journalists, one of the key goals Press Club president Dick Weiss has set for the organization in 2009.



(from left): Brian Brooks, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Administration, Missouri School of Journalism; Alice S. Handelman, immediate past president, Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis; Benjamin Lipman, son of the late David Lipman and Press Club treasurer; Irv Harrell, Director of Community Outreach, St. Louis Post Dispatch; Marilyn Lipman, wife of the late David Lipman; James C. Sterling Professor and Missouri Community Newspaper Management Chair, Missouri School of Journalism; and Richard Weiss, Press Club President.

New Board Member



Whether it's a major celebration such as Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology's 60th Anniversary celebration, an "April in Paris" dinner which raised more than \$100,000 for Rotary's Polio Plus, "A Toast to Joan Dames," which brought in more than \$200,000 for St. Patrick's Center, St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors Annual Gala for St. Louis' best and brightest over 70 years of age or an elegant summer society wedding in Ladue, **Virginia Trent** has "been there and done that."

However, one of her most successful events was chairing the 1998 Media Person of the Year Dinner honoring Charles Brennan with 650 guests in attendance and a net profit of \$40,000. After a brief hiatus, Virginia is back on the Board of the Press Club, always "at the ready" with her extensive experience in PR and fundraising.

Welcome New Press Club Members

Layi Sobomehin,
Stephen Gray,
Susan Kerth,
Mike Sherwin
Mary McHugh



Press Club and PRSA members network and socialize at CJ Muggs April 22. From left, Tina Carroll, Del Schwinke, Roberta Duyff, Terry Barber, Dick Weiss.

Ruth's Chris Steak House Hosts Media Persons of the Year Patron Cocktail Reception

photos by William Greenblatt



Press Club Congratulates Quest Award Winners

photo by Colene McEntee



The Missouri Professional Communicators (MPC) held its 28th annual Quest Awards luncheon on April 18, honoring outstanding communicators in the St. Louis area. Press Club members in bold: From left to right, back row: Program emcee, Christine Buck, Winners are: **Suzanne Corbett**, Dan Martin, Art Silverblatt, Avis Meyer, **Margaret Gillerman**. From left to right front row: Kay Quinn, **Mary Ann Wagner** and **Bill Fronczak**

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Scholarship applications for fall semester due *May 15*

For scholarship application and information, go to www.stlpressclub.org

Summer internship scholarship winners are:

Emily Schmutz of Webster University, interning with Dreyfus + Associates Photography

Sarah Scully of University of Missouri - Columbia, interning with the *St. Louis Beacon*

Rebecca Gilberg of Southeast Missouri State University, interning with the Press Club

Exciting news! The Community Public Relations Council's (CSPRC)
annual conference is coming up!

Spectrum 2009

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Viking Conference Center

10709 Watson Road.

Since the Press Club is a Gold-Level sponsor of the event, you can get access to all the workshops and sessions throughout the day as well as two full meals for the CSPRC member rate of \$100.

To register visit csprc.org