



University of Maryland Capital News Service Annapolis Bureau

Philip Merrill College of Journalism

College Park, MD

Partnership

The University of Maryland's Capital News Service Annapolis Bureau is one of five bureaus operating from the college. All journalism graduate students are required to take the course, whereas undergraduates have to apply for it as a capstone

Lead faculty

Martin Kaiser, Managing Director, wmkaiser@umd.edu

Collaborators

[Associated Press](#)

[Virginia Commonwealth University](#)

The bureau distributes stories to the AP and all its clients. A lot of their clients are not AP subscribers, so additionally they push it out via email and also put it up on their website, www.cnsmaryland.org. The AP doesn't pick up everything that they push out. Finally, there is a content-sharing arrangement with Virginia Commonwealth University's capitol news service where they share each other's stories to clear a Virginia-Maryland overlap, which there often is.

Impacts

Stories number around 50 to 60, or more depending on the size of the class. The bureau has around 30 clients. They charge between \$100 to \$200 per semester, depending on their size, and that money goes toward student stipends for travel. They also give content to the AP.

Students

30,200 at the University of Maryland

500 in the College of Journalism

4-9 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Students don't have the sources or background, so faculty give students a beat area like transportation or crime. The bureau chief will start them off, then as they develop they come up with ideas. Kaiser will sometimes get involved with stories. When they had a busy time last year with the legislature, they had some contracted copy-editing help to deal with the amount of work.

This semester, they have four (full-time) graduate students working four days a week, and no undergraduates (part-time). Some semesters they might have as many as eight or nine with that number split between four-day and two-day-a-week students.

Faculty/staff

Ron Harris is the statehouse program bureau chief, Martin Kaiser will occasionally get involved with stories, and faculty will assign students a beat. However, a majority of the work is done by students.

Funding sources

Funding comes from the college budget and pays for faculty and rent for its bureau, which is a block away from the statehouse. Students get a small stipend to defray some gasoline and other travel costs.