

2011 Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

Phil Bremen

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Nomination of Phil Bremen for Induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

I would like to nominate Phil Bremen for the Hall of Fame. While Phil was not born in Indiana, he has spent much of his professional life within the Hoosier state. Currently, he is teaching in the telecommunications department at Ball State University, where he is pursuing a graduate degree as well. From January 1997 until January 2001, he was the Press Secretary for Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon. For the seven years prior, he was an anchor and reporter for WRTV in Indianapolis. During his years at WRTV, he served as co-anchor and writer of the weekend evening newscasts, served as a weekday reporter and co-host of "This Week in Indiana," and won a number of awards for his efforts, including a Cleveland Regional Emmy.

From March 1987 to June of 1990, he was co-anchor and Chief Correspondent, New Jersey Network, Trenton, New Jersey. While there he was the recipient of a New York Emmy Award and an award sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

From 1979 to 1987, Phil was a network correspondent for NBC News. He covered Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia (based in Frankfurt and London). He also covered the Southern United States, Caribbean and Latin America. In El Salvador, he was the first correspondent to report the murder of American nuns and to substantiate a massacre of peasants by government "death squads." He also covered the Iran-Iraq war, Arab-Israeli tensions and peace efforts; civil warfare in Jamaica, Guatemala, Lebanon, and Northern Ireland. He covered the upheaval over U.S. missile deployment in West Germany, martial law in Poland, and racial turmoil and spy scandals in Great Britain. Additionally, he was Acting Bureau Chief in Moscow.

His other journalistic experience includes stints at the *Columbia Missourian* newspaper, and at television stations: WTHR in Indianapolis, KMSP in Minneapolis-St. Paul; and KOMU-TV in Columbia.

He received his bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia and has done graduate work at Butler University and the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He is a board member of North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and serves as lay communications adviser for the Indiana area for the United Methodist Church. He has been active in the Indiana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, where for a number of years he served on its board of directors.

I believe that Phil Bremen would be an excellent and deserving addition to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Jonna Kane

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News center. Latest Campus Headlines

Ball State telecommunications professor refreshing skills in Omaha

(6/16/2005)

After several years of teaching Ball State University students about telecommunications, Phil Bremen is currently refreshing his broadcast journalism skills as a member of KETV in Omaha, Neb.

Bremen, a Ball State telecommunications instructor, is working at the station during June as part of a program sponsored by the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation. Each summer the program places university-level broadcast educators in radio and television newsrooms for four weeks to refresh their skills and master new technologies.

The project is designed to improve the flow of information between journalists and educators necessary for sustained, high-quality journalism education, said Bremen, who is making his first visit to Nebraska.

"So far, though, I'm mainly observing," said Bremen, who was an NBC News foreign correspondent and local television news anchor before joining Ball State. "I've tagged along with various people, given a hand where I could and tried to absorb a lot of new names and procedures.

"I've worked for several local TV news organizations around the country as well as a national network, but every shop does things a bit differently," he said. "News gets on television through many interrelated — and sometimes conflicting — human interactions and physical processes, and some of the least conspicuous may be hugely important to the outcome."

Omaha's KETV, an ABC affiliate, began broadcasting in 1957 and has the most watched television news programs in the market, which is ranked 76th in the nation with 396,460 television households.

"In competing with three other stations, KETV delivers a high-quality news product, has high morale and rapport, attracts and keeps smart, conscientious employees, and garners the highest ratings among the most sought-after viewers," Bremen said. "So, I'm especially interested in trying to figure out how the folks here accomplish all that."

Nancy Carlson, chair of Ball State's telecommunications department, believes the time spent by Bremen on the front lines of television will be beneficial when he returns to the classroom in the fall.

"He'll bring fresh perspectives to his students after living and working in Omaha," she said. "He'll have a renewed confidence that what he has been teaching his students is both accurate and appropriate, and he'll be able to give fresh examples of why."

(Note to editors: For more information, contact Bremen at pbremen@bsu.edu. For more stories, visit the Ball State University News Center at www.bsu.edu/news.)

By Marc Ransford, Media Relations Manager



Phil Bremen

Assistant Professor of Telecommunications

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Profile:

As a correspondent for NBC News, Phil Bremen has covered stories on five continents -- including war zones in Iraq, Iran, and elsewhere in the Middle East.

He won multiple Emmy Awards as a local TV anchor and reporter. And as press secretary for Indiana's late governor, Frank O'Bannon, Bremen experienced firsthand what it's like to help shape public policy rather than report on it, then answer the questions rather than ask them.

Since joining Ball State's telecommunications faculty in 2001, Bremen has tried to impress students with the principles of thoroughness, accuracy, and fairness in reporting.

COURSE SCHEDULE

COURSE	NO.	SECTION	TIME	DAYS	LOCATION
ANALYSIS CRT	204	005	1400-1515	T R	LB 267
CRIT ISSUES	288	001	1100-1215	T	LB 265
CRIT ISSUES	288	002	1100-1215	R	LB 265
PRACTICUM	399	002	0000-0000	ARR	SU SU
ADV RTV NEWS	420	001	0800-0915	T	BC 130

