

# Pulitzer winner brings experience to Truman

Assistant professor talks about her passion for writing, teaching, researching and filmwatching

BY JESSICA RAPP  
Staff Reporter

Marilyn Yaquinto has a lot to talk about. "I would die if I couldn't talk to people," she said.

Yaquinto has a Bachelor's degree in political science and communication as well as a Master's in journalism from the University of Michigan that have taken her around the world as a journalist, writer and recipient of a Pulitzer Prize.

Before Truman, Yaquinto taught third world cinema and ethnic studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she received her Ph. D. in 2006.

She said she decided to come to Truman because the University values both teaching and research.

"Every year I would learn something from students," she said. "They see something different. It's just awesome."

Yaquinto started out as a stringer, selling her stories to the local media as she worked on her graduate degree at the University of Michigan.

For a grad school project, she and a co-writer did an investigative journalism piece on Native Americans called "White Lies" for The Detroit News. Her work earned her a Michigan Associ-

ated Press Editorial Association award.

This helped her land a job as a staff reporter with the Los Angeles Times in its Washington, D.C. bureau, where she did general assignment, she said.

Her job at the L.A. Times coincided with the L.A. riots, spurred by the Rodney King trial in 1992 that instigated the burning of the L.A. Times building in California. Many of the reporters at the L.A. Times in D.C. could not cover the resulting echo riots in their area because they were tracking major candidates in an election.

Editors assigned Yaquinto to cover the echo riots, throwing her into a mass of angry demonstrators.

"It was one of the most frightening experiences I've ever had," Yaquinto said. "I was the little person with a giant L.A. Times badge, so they were particularly interested in coming after me."

She said the stories that resulted from her interviewing won her a co-Pulitzer Prize in the L.A. Times' Award for spot news reporting.

Her articles for the Times continued to achieve top spots in the paper and she said keeps some of the issues framed in her office.

"One time, my co-workers were all teasing me because I got on the [Times'] front page, and there was a picture of the L.A. Times [masthead] under George Bush's armpit, so my story was under George Bush's armpit," she said.

From news reporting, she started working on



Rachel Tharp/Index  
Marilyn Yaquinto, assistant professor of communication, talks with her COMM 367 class Monday afternoon.

in-depth feature pieces and spent four months in Belize writing the story of a woman who did an apprenticeship with one of the last shamans, titled "My Apprenticeship with a Maya Healer."

She also has covered many other parts of the world, including Istanbul, Turkey, England and much of eastern Europe.

Her travels led her to both journalism as-

signments and the study of international and third-world films.

In 1998, she published a book on gangster violence in films called "Pump 'Em Full of Lead: A Look at Hollywood Gangsters on Film," which currently is being used in the University of Missouri's film department.

Yaquinto said her first impression of Kirksville was drastically different from her hometown of Detroit. However, coming to Truman makes Kirksville work for her.

"[Truman students] are very motivated with smaller classes," Yaquinto said. "I want to see the whites of the students' eyes when I'm teaching."

With Yaquinto comes a well-motivated passion for writing and for continuing to explore her interests with international films.

She said she is interested in feature-length filmmaking as a source of political journalism and activism.

She hopes to travel to North Africa this summer for the Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou.

So when Yaquinto went to see "The Nanny Diaries" at the tiny Kirksville theater, she surprised herself by sitting back and simply watching the movie.

"My friends don't want to go to the movies with me because they think I will want to see a foreign film and analyze it," she said. "I'll often go to see a movie with people to see how they react and why it is popular."

"The Nanny Diaries" gave Yaquinto a feature-length break to a lifelong career of a journalistic-driven mind. And she likes it that way.



## Health Talk



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## Hospitalist physicians add to patient care team

Hospitalist physicians are improving hospital medicine all over the country. They are increasing the amount of contact patients have with doctors while in the hospital and making hospital care more efficient. However, despite the considerable benefits hospitalists offer patients, many people do not know who they are or what they do.

The term hospitalist was first used in 1996 to refer to doctors who work exclusively in hospitals. They differ from physicians, who practice in an office setting, because hospitalists treat only patients who are in a hospital.

Once a patient is admitted, the hospitalist and the patient's regular doctor operate as a team. They communicate frequently to ensure proper care based on the patient's preexisting conditions and unique needs. Patients return to the care of their regular physicians once they are discharged.

For example, if a patient is admitted to the hospital for hip surgery, an orthopedic surgeon, who is an expert in the human bone structure, performs the operation. Following surgery, hospitalists are uniquely qualified to partner with the surgeon in caring for the patient during the remainder of his or her stay. The hospitalist also communicates regularly with the patient's physician during this time and can be available if the patient needs immediate care.

Hospitalists are the fastest-growing group of physician specialists in medicine today. Approximately 15,000 hospitalists currently practice, compared to just 2,000 in 1996. Experts say that by the end of the decade the number of active hospitalists

will swell to 30,000, which would make this specialty group as large as cardiologists. The rapid growth of hospitalists in America is due, in part, to the many ways they benefit hospital patients.

Hospitalists can increase the efficiency of hospital treatment. They can request, receive and analyze tests results immediately and administer care if necessary, reducing wait time. Studies show hospitalists can reduce the length of a patient's stay, sometimes as many as two days shorter than normal. This means that families make fewer trips to the hospital and that their loved ones are home sooner.

Hospitalists also can help patients and their doctors feel more comfortable about hospital visits. It is reassuring for patients, their families and their physicians to know that a doctor will be close at hand at all times. Hospitalists are regularly available to assist nurses in making timely treatment decisions, and they take pressure off private practice physicians, who cannot be present at a hospital 24 hours a day.

Hospitalists help connect the dots in inpatient care, making hospitals operate more efficiently and assuring patients and their families that there is a doctor in the house. In the end, the goal is efficient, high-quality care.

For more information about Northeast Regional Medical Center's Hospitalist Program, call 660-785-1726.

## 'Nothing' fights can lead to less-than-'fine' relationships

I have this friend – and let me assure you he is a real, live, breathing friend and not some literary allusion to myself – who has this adorable, blonde, nice and incredibly moody girlfriend.

Supposedly her favorite words are "nothing" and "fine."

He'll ask, "What's wrong?"

Nothing.

"Are you OK?"

I'm fine.

"Well, you don't seem fine.

What's up?"

Nothing.

Supposedly this continues on and on until he, once again, supposedly tells her, "Well, great. I'm glad nothing is ever wrong and you are always fine despite your apparent pouting, which is annoying me and giving you wrinkles."

I don't know if I really believe this story – he just sounds like a jerk, and she just sounds like a spineless ninny.

However, I undoubtedly believe that "nothing" and "fine" are tossed around in the start of every argument. For that matter, I believe that "nothing" and "fine" are tossed around in the start of any couple's every argument.

It's as if we expect our significant other to understand that "nothing" means "I hate the way you ignored me last night," or "You left dirty socks on my bed" or "I think that Shelly has a crush on you, you flirted back and now I'm upset."

The telepathy you have with your significant other about dinner options and television channels does not work with relationship problems. The pissed-off emotions block our ability to effectively communicate, silently or out loud.

This is why "nothing" and "fine"

should be banned in any argumentative proceedings.

For someone who spends 90 percent of her time avoiding confrontation, "nothing" and "fine" seem like the best words to use to avoid greater problems.

They work well with parents and quasi-friends who cannot really tell the difference between "fine" and "I am ready to hurl something at all the world hoping it will cause a massive explosion." But, with any sort of fairly significant, significant other, he or she can tell what "fine" really means. And, as in my friends' case, their use usually just causes bigger problems.

"Nothing" and "fine" serve as cop-out answers. When I tell The Boy that I am "just fine," I am really looking for him to give me a big hug and say whatever it is I need to hear, whether it is a declaration of love or an offer to switch from ESPN to VH1.

At these times, the avoidance of conflict simply creates more conflicts.

Now, the original problem still exists, but so does a new problem. How do you bring up an issue when you just said you were "fine?" And how come your significant other doesn't just know?

Although my friend seems to act slightly harsh toward his girlfriend (note: Never tell your girlfriend she is getting wrinkles), I have to applaud his straightforward approach.

The story never includes her response to his wrinkle remark, but they are still together, so I assume they usually talk out whatever the problem is at that point.

I know if The Boy ever claimed I was getting wrinkles despite being "fine," I'd buy some wrinkle cream



Lauren Miller

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and explain that "fine" really means "I'm upset because you are a jerk."

Being honest in a relationship is important. Everyone knows this.

You don't have to be honest about everything, but it is important to be honest when some decent-sized problem continues to bother you. Otherwise, all the little things start to become problems, the whole situation spirals out of control, and eventually a problem about communication has become a problem about communication, insecurities, ex-lovers, bed-hogging and TV channel choices.

Being upfront in a lot of situations helps every relationship. Just make sure the words "nothing" and "fine" are reserved for when nothing is really wrong and you really are just fine.

"Being honest in a relationship is important. Everyone knows this."

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