

David Carr

of the *New York Times*
to Join COM

→ *First Lack Professor will start teaching next fall*

IN A MOVE THAT Thomas Fiedler, dean of the College of Communication, describes as potentially transformative, *New York Times* media columnist David Carr, one of the most knowledgeable and widely read authorities on new media, joined the COM faculty in January as the first Andrew R. Lack Professor. The role of the professorship, named for the Bloomberg Media Group chairman, focuses on the analysis of new business models for serious journalism in the years ahead. Carr, whose weekly “Media Equation” column is a must-read for media

executives and editors and writers working in print and online, will continue to work at the *Times*.

Fiedler (COM’71) says he knew that Carr was the right person for the post when his name came up at a lunch meeting to discuss the professorship with Lack (CFA’68), William McKeen, a COM professor and chair of journalism, Christopher Daly, a COM associate professor of journalism, and Charles Kravetz, general manager of WBUR.

“The question we asked was, ‘What kind of person did we imagine would best fill the



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position?” says Fiedler. “And the answer was, ‘Somebody who was on David Carr’s speed dial.’”

The professorship was created in 2012 by Lack and a gift from the Sherry and Alan Leventhal Family Foundation. After the meeting, Lack made another lunch date, with Carr, and the two media bigfeet talked about how neatly Carr fit the Lack Professorship. Carr then contacted Fiedler and asked if it would be possible for the Lack Professor to maintain a job at the *New York Times*.

“We told him it would be better for everyone if he could

do that,” says Fiedler. “This is the kind of course where David could walk in Monday and give a lecture based on his column that appeared in the *Times* that day.”

Carr says he hopes his efforts at BU will “make students a little wiser, and that BU students will make me a little smarter.” He will continue to work at the *Times* for the foreseeable future.

Fiedler says Carr will spend the spring semester developing his curriculum for two classes to be taught next year, one in the fall semester and one in spring 2015.

“One course will be straight-up media

New York Times media columnist David Carr (second from left) hopes his efforts at BU will “make students a little wiser, and that BU students will make me a little smarter.” With Carr is Bloomberg Media Group chairman Andrew Lack (CFA’68) (from left), Christopher Daly, a COM associate professor, and Thomas Fiedler (COM’71), dean of COM.



CYDNEY SCOTT

criticism and the other will be more of an exploration of the information economy by participating in it," says Carr.

New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson says Carr "will be great," and his professorship will benefit both his students and him. "He knows every aspect of the media and journalism," says Abramson. "And he is a terrific speaker." She says Carr will also discover some lessons similar to what she did when she first taught at Princeton in 2000. "That was when I first learned who Jon Stewart was," she says. "David will learn more about how young people consume news and information. He will be the first one to learn who the next Jon Stewart is."

Since he arrived at the *New York Times* in 2001, Carr has been a business reporter covering publishing, a general assignment reporter, and for the past eight years a media columnist.

He is a former editor of the now-defunct *Twin Cities Reader* and the *Washington City Paper*. His memoir, *The Night of the Gun: A reporter investigates the darkest story of his life*. His own, chronicles his personal struggle with cocaine addiction and his recovery. ART JAHNKE

*Students
celebrate the
culture of
South Asia*

Passage to India

Members of the India Club perform at their annual fall show, *Rangeela*, held in October at the Tsai Performance Center.



Rohan Vaswani (CAS'15) (right) gets some help with his headdress backstage before the show.

DAVID GORDON (2)

When it was organized 32 years ago, the BU India Club (BUIC) hoped to bring together people of South Asian descent from around the Boston area to meet and network. Today, BUIC is the largest cultural group on campus, with more than 250 active members and over 1,000 alumni.

The club hosts meetings, community service events, dinners, basketball tournaments, and festivals. But its flagship events are the cultural shows that members stage each fall and spring. This year's fall festival, *Rangeela*, drew a crowd of several hundred. The event showcased Indian dance teams performing classical Indian dance, as well as other styles, such as garba raas, bhangra, and hip-hop fusion. The Hindi-fusion a cappella group Suno also performed.

WEB EXTRA Watch members of BU's India Club rehearse and perform their annual fall show at bu.edu/bostonia.