

From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to our first alumni newsletter and thanks for reading. The goal of this newsletter is to provide you with news about what your former paper is up to, as well as a spot to reminisce about the past and catch up with former *Gateway* friends. This issue contains a profile of former *Gateway* Jaro Malanowski, who is now the head of Avatar Media, as well as a section called “*Gateway* legacies” and facts about *The Gateway* in former years compared to what it’s like now. This newsletter will be coming out once per semester, and ideas for submissions are always welcome and should be sent to eic@gateway.ualberta.ca.

Now, to update you on what the newspaper is up to these days, as we’ve gone through a lot of changes in the past year. We’ve gone from a twice weekly, publishing Tuesdays and Thursdays, to publishing once a week on Wednesdays. I’m sure many of you remember the insanity of publishing twice a week, without time to catch your breath. The Wednesday schedule is a lot less hectic, but editors still keep busy, and I think it’s given us the chance to really increase the quality of the newspaper and look at everything going into it very carefully.

Another major change this year was a redesign to both print and online, courtesy of our current Graphic Designer Vikki Wiercinski. This was the first redesign in a decade, since the post-autonomy redesign. It’s a less serious look than the *Gateway* of old, but it’s been well-received by readers and the editorial staff is happy with the way it turned out.

In other news, we’re still causing a stir within the Students’ Union with opinion pieces every so often. The dark room is now a kitchenette, so the editors make food using a Foreman Grill we’ve acquired. Their latest creation was s’more hot dogs — hot dogs smothered in chocolate chips, marshmallows and crumbled graham wafers. The couch room still serves as a bedroom for hard-working editors every once in a while, although we recently purchased some snazzy new Ikea couches for them to sleep on. We also hosted a CUP regional conference in October, which was a great success! While things have changed, based on what I’ve heard from speaking to *Gateway*ers past, things have also stayed the same in many ways, and I hope that the same can be said when I’m an alumna reminiscing about my time here.

Alexandria Eldridge, Editor-in-Chief 2011/12

Head of Avatar Media reflects on *Gateway* experiences

Andrew Jeffrey

GATEWAY STAFF ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

After graduating and leaving university, it’s only natural that some of the lessons learned are forgotten and only the most valuable experiences remain. But for Jaro Malanowski, his time at *The Gateway* is more memorable as any other university lesson.

It’s been over a decade now since Malanowski worked for *The Gateway*. He attended the U of A to attain a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English, minoring in Art and Design in the late 1990s. At the newspaper, he volunteered for two years before becoming photo editor in 1996-97.

“What drew me (to *The Gateway*) was I just read it and I thought ‘Well this is kind of a cool place’, and I wanted experience in a newspaper environment. It just seemed like a good fit,” Malanowski explained. “I always knew that I wanted to be in some sort of storytelling-like (business).”

Since graduating, he’s started the production group, Avatar Media, a company based in Edmonton that assists clients in bringing their ideas to life. What this means is that Avatar Media helps clients create their respective projects in a variety of mediums like creating 3D multimedia and game simulations, developing websites, producing videos, and much more.

Avatar Media evolved from Malanowski’s first venture, Avatar Photography, which he was able to start using skills he honed working as photo editor.

“We were all working as a team, so even though I was helping to mentor some of the younger photographers (as photo editor), I always learned from them quite a bit too,” Malanowski said. “You always learn something new and we would always critique each other’s work.”

Malanowski still vividly remembers some of the daily challenges he faced as editor, many of which prepared him for his future venture starting Avatar Media. Challenges like working on a deadline with a limited staff or working with



BLAST FROM THE PAST Malanowski in 1998.

now outdated methods of photographing with film that’s a far cry from the luxuries of modern, digital technology. Malanowski has also taken elements of his experience in the newsroom and incorporated them into this work today.

“We just moved into a new bigger office, a big studio and we set it up so it’s like a big, open newsroom. Instead of everyone being cordoned off into their own little offices, we just have a big, open concept. A lot of that came from my own positive experiences in that kind of environment,” he said.

Working at *The Gateway* has also helped Malanowski connect with people after graduating, whether its past generations of editors or fellow students who were regular *Gateway* readers.

“There’s a sort of kinship there. I remember meeting Joe Clark who worked at *The Gateway* too ... We both had this connection and he’s laughing about how we have it so easy now, how back in his day there were these big cameras and typewriters,” Malanowski said. “It’s like as generations continue, the torch gets passed on.”

Malanowski himself has passed that torch now, though he reminisces about his days of taking photos in “no man’s land” in the front row of punk concerts.

A father and daughter Gateway legacy

Kaitlyn Menard

GATEWAY STAFF

As a teenager, Chris Menard enjoyed wrestling, horses, and spending time with his three pets. He also really enjoyed taking photos of whatever caught his eye.

In September 1984, Chris joined the University of Alberta's student newspaper, *The Gateway*, in his first undergraduate year. He spent most of his time either in the darkroom developing photos or out on campus taking them. About 20 of them were published, including a few cover photos. Chris loved being close to the action — getting the perfect shot at the perfect angle, so it complimented the story in a way that captured the reader. He loved being a photographer and even today he has hard-copy proof of his accomplishments that he is so very proud of. He opens the pages covered in his pictures, and shows them off to me, his daughter, more than 25 years later.

On my first day of school at the University of Alberta in 2010, he brought me to the third floor of SUB. Before my eyes was *The Gateway* office, where we met the Photo Editor, Dan McKechnie. He briefly explained to both of us what he did, what *The Gateway* does and how I could contribute to the paper. As we turned to leave, I looked at my father and I could see in his eyes how proud he was of me, and how many



memories came flooding back to him — he missed volunteering here. A week later I found myself back on the third floor of SUB sitting in my first photo meeting, picking up my first assignments. Coincidentally, that year was the Gateway Centennial Celebration, so my father and I attended the banquet together as two generations of proud *Gateway* photographers. My dad even brought his first cover photo, as did I, and we showed them off to everyone all night long.

After seven-and-a-half years at the University of Alberta, Chris Menard graduated with his Bachelor of Science and his MBA. He went on to work for Environment Canada as well as

the Bank of Montreal. He worked hard, married a beautiful girl, and raised four amazing children. Now he works as the Regional Director of Specialized Sales of Western Canada for the Bank of Montreal. Even today my father still snaps photos and he shows them off to me. *The Gateway* has impacted his life in such a way that it will stick with him forever. He looks back fondly on *The Gateway*, and everything that it allowed him to explore and discover.

I am truly so proud of my father. He has accomplished and overcome so much. We don't make it easy for him, but if he can handle us, he can do anything.

the gateway through the years

COMPILED BY **Alexandria Eldridge**

- A. E. Ottewell was appointed the paper's first Editor-in-Chief in October of 1910 at a meeting of U of A students at the house of Liddy Lloyd.

- *The Gateway* stopped publishing during World War I due to an influenza outbreak.

- In September 1954, *The Gateway* switched from a broadsheet to tabloid format.

- In 1972, in response to Students' Council's decision not to abide by the staff's election of an editor-in-chief, *Gateway* staff went on strike and created a new publication called *Poundmaker*. This was published for two years until it experienced financial bankruptcy due to a lawsuit as the result of a joke ad allegedly encouraging theft.

- After reporting on a case of arson in SUB in October 1981, *The Gateway* was confiscated by the police. The editorial staff sued and won \$3,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

- *The Gateway* won autonomy from the Students' Union on March 7, 2002 by a margin of 71.4 per cent. *Gateway* staff subsequently set up the Gateway Student Journalism Society to administer the publishing of the newspaper.

- *The Gateway* hosted a centennial celebration on Nov. 20, 2010, recognizing 100 years since the founding of the newspaper.

This information is taken from The Gateway's digital archives, available at <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/newspapers/GAT/>

Have you got a *Gateway* story that you'd love to share? Maybe you flooded the SUB basement with a fire hose, or caused the university to lower their flag to half-mast by faking the death of an editor? Either way, we'd love to hear about your shenanigans! Email eic@gateway.ualberta.ca to get involved and share your favourite *Gateway* story!

This newsletter is compiled by the EiC and will be released once each semester in the fall and winter terms. To subscribe, please contact eic@gateway.ualberta.ca.