1909-1929

(1909) - The Holcad, named for an ancient sailing ship, begins weekly publication of a student newspaper.

(1910) - An editorial in The Holcad calls for the establishment of a journalism course to prepare students as writers and editors in agriculture and engineering, the most prominent majors at M.A.C. at the time.

(1910) - In April of this year, the first journalism course was offered at the Michigan Agricultural College, called “English 2k – Agricultural Journalism.”

(1912) - Journalism students have two classroom typewriters to share.

(1917) - Instructor James B. Hassleman renames the first course to “Writing for the Press.”

(1922) - Students build a radio station that later becomes MSU’s official radio station, WKAR. Hasselman does agricultural broadcasts and home economics broadcasts.

(1923) - Hasselman broadcasts the first MSU football game to be heard on radio. The radio is made from a telephone booth wired to a pole on top of the stands at Old College Field.


(1929) - The Department of Journalism and Publications is born. Hasselman chairs the new unit, and ten courses are developed.

1930-1950

(1931) - The first graduate of the department is James Haskins. He goes on to become public relations director for American Oil Co. in New York City.

(1932) - Albert Nelson succeeds Hasselman as chair. Nelson organizes the Press Club, which sends student-written stories about the college for Michigan’s weekly newspapers.

(1935) - Nelson dies and a search begins for a new chair.

(1936) - Albert A. Applegate is appointed chair, effective Jan. 1. He begins elevating the scope and reputation of journalism education at M.A.C.

(1937) - First radio writing and newspaper management courses are added.

(1938) - First annual High School Journalism Day had attracted 900 students and advisers to MSC.

(1938) - Applegate establishes an internship program, the first of its kind in the nation.

(1938) - An M.A.C. chapter of Sigma Delta Chi is founded. The national journalism fraternity dates to 1909.

(1942) - The Department of Journalism stood alone for the first time, as publications became a separate non-academic unit.

(1942) - The State News becomes a daily newspaper- Volume 1, No. 1, dated Sept. 26, 1942.

(1943) - Theta Sigma Phi the national journalism sorority is founded and Applegate's daughter, Roberta Applegate, helps set up the MSU chapter.

(1944) - Journalism joined nine other professional subjects to form the School of Business and Public Service.
1949 - The department has grown from three faculty members to 16 under Applegate. Its news-editorial sequence is accredited by the American Council on Education for Journalism. The department has 312 journalism majors, fifth in the country.

1950-1970

1952 - Journalism finds a real home in the remodeled Botany Building, built in 1892. Since the early days of World War II, the department had five locations including the Student Union, postwar Quonset huts and the Union Lit Building, later the site of the College Library. Members of the Michigan Press Association, who had been seeking a new building for journalism, said that with the Botany Building, "the journalism boys and girls have a quarters fitting the importance of their training."

1952 - Applegate establishes the Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame.

1955 - In its 100th year, the college name is changed to Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science and the journalism program achieves new stature as the MSU School of Journalism.

1955 - Applegate retires.

1955 - Gordon Sabine does double duty for a year as dean of the new college and head of the journalism school. He remains as dean until 1960.

1957 - Frederick Siebert succeeds Sabine as journalism director.

1958 - WKAR wins the Peabody Award.

1962 - Frank Senger succeeds Siebert as journalism director. Siebert serves as dean until 1967.

1962-65 - The State News wins the national Pacemaker award annually.

1963 - A new state constitution shortens the university’s name officially to Michigan State University.

1966 - Pioneering journalist Mary Gardner joins the MSU journalism faculty. For 20 years, she trained and worked with El Norte and helped turn it into a model in Mexico for a new tradition of independent, ethical reporting focused on truthfulness and protecting the public.

1968 - Pulitzer Prize: National reporting, Howard James, '58, for the Christian Science Monitor.

1968 - The Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame suspends activities.

1969 - Journalism students carry 15 manual typewriters to the Administration Building to protest the state of journalism equipment and facilities.

1970-1990

1971 - The State News becomes independent from MSU.

1972 - Pulitzer Prize: Local general or spot news coverage, Richard Cooper, '69, for New York’s Rochester Times-Union.

1975 - George Hough becomes journalism director, succeeding Frank Senger.

1979 - M. Ray Cullen is acting journalism director, following Hough.

1980 - Elizabeth Yamashita becomes chair and is the first woman to direct the School of Journalism. She is among the first women in the nation to head a journalism school.

1981 - Opening of the Communication Arts Building.

1981 - Capital News Service is created, offering student-produced stories to Michigan newspapers.

1981 - The first London Reporting Program is held. It is based at City University.
1981 - The School of Journalism hosts the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention.

1981 - The Minorities in Journalism program is established and includes Focal Point, a student newspaper.

1982 - Stan Soffin succeeds Yamashita and is director for 16 years, the longest tenure so far.

1982 - The Michigan Interscholastic Press Association moves from Central Michigan University to MSU.

1983 - The Applegate Reading Room is dedicated in the Communication Arts Building. His daughter, Roberta, a journalist and journalism professor, said her father "taught not so much by words but by example. I once asked him what was the secret of his influence. He said, 'I don't know. I just tried to bring out the best each student was, and had.'"


1985 - The Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame is re-established by the school and the Michigan Press Association.

1986 - Former journalism director and creator of the Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame Albert A. Applegate is elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

1988 - School establishes first networked Macintosh computer lab.

1989 - A grant by the Gannett Foundation established the Hispanics in Journalism Program.

1990-2010

1990 - A Dart Foundation grant establishes the Victims and the Media Program.

1991 - W. Cameron “Bud” Meyers, an MSU journalism professor for 22 years, is elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

1993 - The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation awards $1 million to fund the Knight Chair in Environmental Journalism. Jim Detjen is chosen as director.

1994 - Pulitzer Prize: Beat reporting, Jim Mitzelfeld, '84 and Eric Freedman, later a faculty member, for The Detroit News.

1995 - The Knight program in environmental journalism is established.

1996 - James D. Spaniolo, a former State Newser, is named dean. He will serve until 2004.


1998 - Steve Lacy becomes acting director of the School as Soffin is named university ombudsman.

1998 - Mary Gardner is elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

1999 - The Knight Center for Environmental Journalism is officially established with a $500,000 endowment grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

1999 - Stan Soffin is inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

2000 - Lacy is named director of the School.

2000 - Mary Gardner Scholars program begins.

2000 - Knight Center hosts the national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

(2001) - Lostutter Computer Lab, in honor of former J-School professor Melvin Lostutter, is dedicated.

(2001) - School establishes Neal Shine Fund for Ethics in Journalism with a $100,000 grant from the *Detroit Free Press*.

(2002) - *EJ* magazine is created by two master’s students who revamped the four-page newsletter, *EJ News*.

(2002) - A $100,000 gift from Alejandro Junco de la Vega and the El Norte and Grupo Reforma newspaper chains creates the Mary Gardner Scholars honor society.

(2003) - Jane Briggs-Bunting is named to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame and becomes director of the School of Journalism.

(2005) - The Knight Foundation awards $2.2 million grant to expand the efforts of the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism. It's the largest grant in 95 years of journalism at MSU.

(2005) - **School of Journalism celebrates its 50th anniversary.**

(2005) - Stafford Multimedia Lab established, named for three generations of Stafford Family journalists.


(2007) - The Knight Center produces its first documentary, “Dying to be Heard.” The student-produced program is named one of the top three student-produced documentaries in the nation and wins an Emmy. Lou D’Aria oversaw production.

(2007) - Professor Sue Carter, a news broadcaster for 17 years before joining MSU in 1991, and Cheryl Pell, executive director of MSU’s Michigan Interscholastic Press Association, are inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

(2008) - The Knight Center hosts its first environmental film festival, screening more than 30 films.

(2008) - In a study presented to the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, MSU is No. 2 in producing graduate student publications.

(2009) - Visiting editor in residence Joe Grimm is inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

(2009) - Lucinda Davenport is named interim director of the J-School.

(2009) - Reporting for the Media, co-authored by Lucinda D. Davenport, in its 9th edition, continues to be the No. 1 News writing textbook in the country/world.