Prime Time Chat

By VALERIE ORLEANS vorleans@fullerton.edu

Brent Foster, right, works with Shelley Jenkins, lecturer in radio-TV-film, behind the scenes of “OC Insight.”

New ‘OC Insight’ program created and produced at Cal State Fullerton is the first fruit of partnership with public television station

By BRENT FOSTER, assistant professor of communications, is pacing back and forth, answering questions, peering at TV monitors over students’ shoulders and working with technical crew. For months, Foster has been preparing for this day in the studios located in the Pollak Library basement, where Cal State Fullerton, in partnership with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) station KCET, is filming a show to be launched on the new KCET Orange digital channel.

After more than a year of planning, the CSUF-KCET partnership was officially launched with the taping of two original episodes that will be broadcast on KCET-Orange this month. The program, “OC Insight,” features a panel of experts who discuss national issues and their impact on Orange County. Roger Cooper, former host of KCet’s award-winning “Life & Times” series, moderates.

“Our Point of View” The new 30-minute talk show will immediately follow the airing of a documentary, a series called “Point of View,” or “POV,” sponsored by PBS. The first two documentaries to be featured on “OC Insight” are “Made in L.A.,” a film about immigrant women organizing for change in Los Angeles’ fashion industry; and “Waging a Living,” a look at low-wage earners coping with the demands on their meager paychecks. Following the airing of each “POV” segment, an “OC Insight” episode, featuring a panel of three experts, will address some of the issues in the documentary. Future editions of “OC Insight” may be stand-alone shows, meaning they will not tie in to a documentary. Following the airing of each “POV” segment, an “OC Insight” episode, featuring a panel of three experts, will address some of the issues in the documentary. Future editions of “OC Insight” may be stand-alone shows, meaning they will not tie in to a documentary.

For the first shoot, crew members from KCET arrived on campus to work with the broadcast faculty and students, who will, at some point, take over much of the production on subsequent “OC Insight” episodes.

“KCET has very high production standards and they wanted to ensure that our students would be able to produce these types of shows down the road,” Foster said. “It was a great learning experience for the students to shadow the professionals and acquire the hands-on experience that will help prepare them for the future.”

Camera Ready The first guests arrive and are directed to makeup. They meet with Cooper, who, as on-air host, will ask questions and lead the discussion.

“We’re having fun,” he tells them. “Just pretend we’re sitting in the living room having a discussion about the issues.”

As they settle into studio seats, the second panel of guests goes to makeup. Directly outside the Cal State Fullerton studio, students, faculty members and KCET crew view the scene on monitors.

Cooper introduces the guests and the conversation begins.

What’s That Noise? Cooper is pacing back and forth, answering questions, peering at TV monitors over students’ shoulders and working with technical crew. For months, Foster has been preparing for this day in the studios located in the Pollak Library basement, where Cal State Fullerton, in partnership with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) station KCET, is filming a show to be launched on the new KCET Orange digital channel.

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“What’s That Noise?” asks a sound technician in the control room.

A vent is blowing directly above the guests and interfering with the sound quality. In short order, a crew member climbs up a ladder and stuffs a sheet in the vent to muffle the noise.

“Problem solved,” Foster says. “Now we can get back to the show.”

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