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When Jon Hughes talks about the early days of UC's journalism program, he doesn't start with curriculum changes or faculty meetings. He starts with *The News Record*.

"I'm always proud of *The News Record*," Hughes says.

Hughes started as a professor at UC in 1972, at a time when the student newspaper was already successful— but the academic program was not at the same level. Students were producing stories, editing and running the newsroom but had no outlet at UC for formal journalism training. Hughes saw UC's paper as the heart of everything the program would become.

"There may have been a basic editing course but there were no visual related courses, no advanced courses and there were no seminars," Hughes said.

Hughes built courses and curriculum with The News Record in mind. "When I got here, I thought, 'What do News Record students need to know?'" he said. "What kind of courses are going to help them?"

That led to the creation of media law and ethics, advanced copy editing, and feature writing, all classes meant to feed directly into students' work at the paper.

Internships, however, were harder to implement. With difficulty placing students in internships, Hughes found a loophole.

“We added the internship class, which we had to do back door and we couldn’t call it an ‘internship’. We called it ‘individual study,’” he explains.

At the time, students were required to complete the “individual study” at *The News Record*. The result, Hughes says, was immediate. Students who might have seen it as just another class began to see it as professional experience.

“They had to write and report stories and eventually some of them became editors. Once they got a taste of The News Record, they wanted to do it outside of campus,” Hughes said. “They were beginning to realize that these steps are really important to learn your craft and make you more valuable as a future employee.”

For Hughes, *The News Record* was more than a teaching method, it was a community. “There’s been some remarkable people who have come out of that,” he says, remembering the energy of the newsroom. “I have fond memories of *The News Record* newsroom”

Even as the program grew—from certificate to major to full department, the student paper has remained a central turning point for students. As *The News Record* has now become mostly digital, Hughes still imagines it in print. “I miss that it’s not a hard copy,” Hughes said. “I understand the costs. But if the university really wanted to, it could be a hard copy.”

In the end, his legacy is written not just in courses and departments, but in the experiences and opportunities made in that newsroom.